
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Bulletin

A Monthly Newsletter for RAL Staff

July 1993

Andrew gets "the best job at RAL"

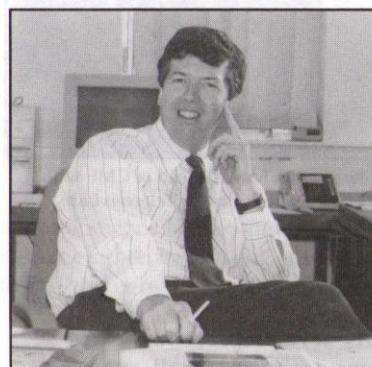
Dr Andrew Taylor, newly-appointed Associate Director for Science and Head of Science Department, talks about his work with such conviction and passion that it's difficult not to agree with his view that he has "the best job at RAL."

Andrew, 43, has been appointed to the post following the retirement of Bob Voss. Involved with ISIS since its conception, he has made a significant contribution to the development of this pulsed neutron source into the world-leading facility it has now become. In that time, Andrew has played a prominent role in many of the facility's successes; building the MARI spectrometer as part of a UK-Japan collaboration, pioneering novel neutron scattering techniques and, more recently, helping

to demonstrate the unexpected power of such spectrometers as MARI in the study of crystal excitations.

Dr Paul Williams, Director of RAL, is delighted with Andrew's appointment. "Andrew is the youngest member of the RAL Management Board. He carries the responsibility for one of the Laboratory's major programmes. He has a world-wide reputation for his work on the uses of neutrons to study materials and his appointment as an Associate Director will further enhance the already excellent reputation of the Laboratory in this field of research."

And after "the best job at RAL"? "To build the European Spallation Source", says Andrew, "somewhere near Stirling in Scotland!" ■



Newly-appointed Associate Director for Science and Head of Science Department, Dr Andrew Taylor

The White Paper and RAL

As many will already know, the White Paper on the future of Science was published on 26 May. The next day, Paul Williams presented his view of the document to a packed R22 lecture theatre and by video link to the overflow meeting in the R22 coffee lounge.

Sir Mark Richmond, Chairman of SERC, which will cease to exist after March 1994, gave his view of the situation to a similar meeting of

RAL staff on 8 June. Discussions on the future status of RAL continue, with all those involved convinced of the value of retaining RAL as a single entity with a simple management route into the new structure for science funding described in the White Paper.

The relaunched RAL Bulletin will keep staff informed of developments as they occur - so even more reasons to watch this space! ■

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CMF hosts industry day



Professor Ron Lawes, Head of CMF with Mr J Collins from British Telecom Labs

Fifty-seven representatives of firms, large and small, spent a day at RAL in May finding out about the Central Microstructure Facility (CMF).

Guests heard about the wide-ranging capabilities of the CMF, and of the benefits which it can offer industry, from staff and from guest speakers whose companies are engaged in collaborative projects with or using the Facility.

Traditionally, the CMF's business has been with universities; making the high precision photomasks used to manufacture such research devices as microcircuits, opto-electronic systems and micro-machines. In recent years however, the Facility has extended its activities to include work on the development of new equipment and techniques for a wider community, with such companies as GEC and Leica Cambridge, among others.

The level of interest was such that further meetings are planned for later this year. ■

Professional Development Forum 1993

The annual meeting of the Professional Development Forum, known previously as the Young Engineers Forum, took place at the Abingdon Lodge Hotel on 28 April.

Organised by RAL's young engineers for engineers who have just started their careers, the event is designed to encourage discussion and the exchange of ideas on topics ranging from the history of design to the engineers' own projects within the various Departments at RAL.

The day was structured around three main events: presentations by the engineers of their work; an Engineering Challenge to build a bridge using only basic materials; and a question and answer session during which the Engineering Training Panel answered questions on training and policy issues. ■

Congratulations.....

to Rita Blake of Space Science Division and Peter Davies of the Radio Communications Research Unit who have been awarded MBEs in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to science. ■

It's an honour!



Congratulations: Tony with Sir Ashley

Tony Ferrari, an electrician in Science Department and Chairman of the Laboratory's Shop Stewards Committee, was awarded the British Empire Medal which was announced in the New Year's Honours List at a ceremony held at RAL last month.

The medal was presented to Tony by the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Sir Ashley Ponsonby, for his personal contributions to the work of SERC and to his colleagues.

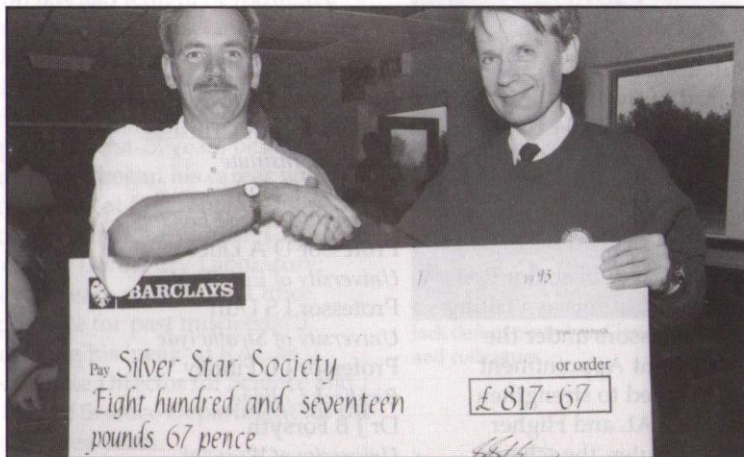
Tony, who joined RAL in 1962 and has served for over 27 years as a shop steward, was honoured for his effective representation of his members' interests "which has made a major contribution to good industrial relations at the Laboratory." ■

Barry goes for silver

Barry Brett, a rigger/driver at the Laboratory, raised £817 in sponsorship for the Silver Star Society when he completed the London Marathon in April within a staggering three hours and forty-five minutes.

He is seen here presenting a cheque to Professor Chris Redman, a medical obstetrician at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford and founder member of the Society.

The money which Barry raised will be used in support of the Society, a charitable organisation set up in 1970 to improve the health and care of expectant mothers and their unborn babies.



Barry presents Professor Redman with the giant cheque

Barry decided to run for the Society when his neighbours, Sue and Robin Burrridge from Abingdon, were helped by the charity after Sue suffered from a number of miscarriages. Robin, an electronics engi-

neer in Science Department, and Sue were delighted when she gave birth to healthy baby James last month. ■

Hatches and hitches

Spring always brings surprises, none more so than that awaiting drivers Robin Walters and Eddie Smith in RAL's transport section. Their's came in the shape of five blackbird eggs laid in not one but two nests, each in the engine compartments of their Luton vans.

Robin and Eddie tried to minimise disturbance of the eggs by locating all five in one vehicle, taking it in turns to raise the bonnet whenever daytime temperatures soared.

However, the drivers' workload sometimes meant that both vehicles had to be mobile with the result that the unborn chicks travelled nearly 150 miles before concerns for their imminent hatching finally demobilised the van. Maternal instinct



Eddie checks on the chicks

overcame the hen's fears and at the time of going to press, she was attending a clutch of three chicks. ■

Visiting Professors and Fellows

Congratulations to Dr Keith Jeffery, Head of Systems Engineering Division in Informatics, on his recent appointment to the post of Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of Birmingham.

Keith joins the ranks of senior RAL staff who hold positions as Visiting Fellows or Professors under the Laboratory's Joint Appointment scheme. Designed to strengthen links between RAL and Higher Education Institutes, the scheme enables staff to participate in the teaching and research activities of the college or university to which they are affiliated, usually on a part-time basis.

Other staff who hold similar appointments include:

Professor F E Close
Queen Mary and Westfield College
Professor A M Cruise
Cranfield Institute
Dr W I F David
University College London
Professor D A Duce
University of East Anglia
Professor I S Duff
University of Strathclyde
Professor J L Finney
Birkbeck College
Dr J B Forsyth
University of Warwick
Professor J E Harries
University College London
Dr R A Harrison
ICSTM
Professor F R A Hopgood
Brunel University
Professor G E Kalmus
University College London

Professor M H Key
University of Oxford
Professor R A Lawes
ICSTM
Dr M Lockwood
ICSTM
Professor S W Lovesey
University of Southampton
Professor J R Norbury
University of Bradford
Dr C R Prior
University of Oxford
Professor J K Reid
University of Oxford
Professor P F Smith
University of Sussex

P.S. If we have missed anyone, please let us know and we shall be happy to acknowledge them in next month's Bulletin. ■

New editor for Bulletin

This is the first full Bulletin in over a year and is also the first to be produced by me, the newly-appointed editor, Monica Brown.

Some readers will know me from my work as Contracts Officer for RAL Research Services (RRS) where for the last four years I was responsible for negotiating contracts and agreements with external partners and customers. I will be developing the Bulletin in future issues and I want to be sure that the articles and news featured are relevant and of interest to all staff. I need your help to do this.



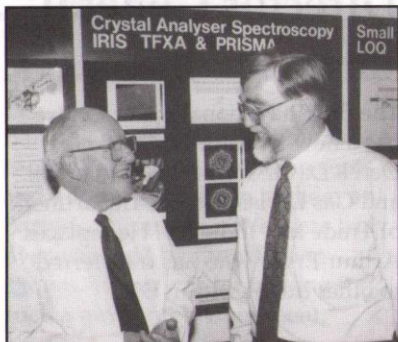
New editor, Monica Brown

My old job taught me the value of customer feedback so I know that I need to hear your views on what you want from your newsletter. You can contact me on ext 5484 or by e-mail (OV/VM id MB). ■

Gone fishing!

John Hirst, a mechanical design engineer in Science Department and Stan Buckel, an electrician in Technology Department, have qualified for the national finals of the Civil Service fly fishing competition which will take place at Rutland Water towards the end of August. Find out how they get on in the September issue of the Bulletin. In the meantime, congratulations and Good Luck John and Stan! ■

Natural wastage!



Ex-Heads swap tales: Bob with Professor Alan Leadbetter, Head of Science Department at RAL, 1987-88

Bob has had a highly productive and some might say, mobile career. Dr Williams hoped that his resumé of Bob's career "just about covered his 65 years" and indeed it did. He spent his first 27 years being educated and began his career with four years at Liverpool University followed by four years at CERN; 20 years at Daresbury Laboratory; seven years at Swindon Office (penance for past misdeeds?!); reaching his 'peak' at RAL as Associate Director for Science and Head of Science Department for the past three years.

"For someone who didn't want any fuss, this is quite a turn-out," remarked Dr Paul Williams to the 100 or so people who squeezed into the ISIS reception centre to bid farewell to Bob Voss on his retirement at the end of April.

In his farewell speech, which he delivered atop a table, Bob admitted to having mixed feelings about his retirement. This may have had something to do with the appearance of his name under the 'wastage' category of that month's staff return!

The man who named ISIS retires

Friday 19 February saw the retirement of Dr Trevor Hyman, Head of the Facility Management Division in Science Division.

Trevor will be remembered by his friends and colleagues for many reasons, including christening ISIS and his early advocacy of the application of the 'new' transistor technology, initially to the Nimrod injector linac. His efforts were nearly cut short when a telephone exchange 'uni-selector' switch which he employed for injector beam monitoring caught fire!

In addition to being a keen traveller, Trevor is a member of the Royal Photographic Society and also takes part in light operas and various sports. With so many interests, a busy retirement lies ahead.



Trevor and Dr Paul Williams reading "The Ray Robert's card"

Out to grass?



Jack (left of centre) and Ian with their wives and colleagues

It was lucky that the sun shone on the day of Jack Purling and Ian Forster's joint retirement presentations. Efforts to evict a late-running meeting from the conference room booked for the event failed, so family, friends and colleagues gathered instead on the grass outside the building to hear Andrew Taylor, Head of Science Department, bid farewell to the men who between them had completed 54 years' service at the Laboratory.

Jack and Ian, skilled craftsmen in Science Department, will be missed by their work-mates; Jack for his forthright views and judgements (a Yorkshireman!); and Ian for his recitations and original pronunciations, for which he became known as the Minister of Culture!

Retirement trio



Clockwise from top left: Frank Wigmore, Brian Diplock, Phil Griffiths, Maureen Griffiths, Doreen Diplock and Jean Wigmore

Retirement presentations don't often come in threes but that's what happened on 30 April when Space Science Department said goodbye to three of its staff; Jean, Phil and Brian.

Jean Wigmore had a variety of jobs during her 24 years at the Lab. She has been a scanner, bill-payer, 'fill-in' switchboard operator and organiser of the Grand National Sweepstake for the Department (strictly unofficial!). An accomplished flower arranger, maker and decorator of cakes and matchmaker, she has all that she needs to embark on a new career in her retirement!

Retirement for Phil Griffiths promises to be filled with wine, song and fast cars! For those who don't know Phil, it might help to explain that not only is he a wine enthusiast and barber shop singer but he is also the proud owner of a go-faster car bought, I am told, to keep him young!

A quiet retirement is not for Brian Diplock either. In fact, Brian's skills as a mechanical engineer will continue to be in demand as a projectionist at the Wallingford Corn Exchange (who better to cope with breaks in the film?), and at home, repairing 'talking books' for the blind and doing a spot of maintenance on the car!

Schools Liaison Officer



Schools Liaison Officer: Dawn Johnson

The Laboratory now has a Schools Liaison Officer: Dawn Johnson and she has joined the Press and Public Relations team.

Dawn was previously a Schools Liaison Officer for the Army. Based in Bristol, she visited schools and colleges throughout Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset with the aims of recruiting officers and soldiers and improving the image of women in the forces. She sees her task at RAL as being very similar.

"My role is to help to demonstrate the relevance and interest of science and technology to schoolchildren and students. I hope also that I can encourage as many girls as boys to consider the benefits of a career in science."

As a first step, Dawn is looking at ways of strengthening links with schools in the local area and would welcome your help. She would like to hear from staff who are involved with schools for example, as governors, guest speakers, providers of materials, etc. She can be contacted on ext 5950 or by e-mail (OV/VM id DAWN).

New BNSC Director General

The British National Space Centre has a new Director General. He is Derek Davis, formerly Head of Oil and Gas Division of the Department of Trade and Industry. He replaces Arthur Pryor who has transferred to other duties within DTI.

New Chairman for Civil Service Benevolent Fund

The service-wide charity for staff and their dependants in need has a new Chairman, Sir Thomas Legg.

Sir Thomas, who replaces Sir Richard Lloyd Jones, joins the Fund at a time of great demand for its services from those suffering the effects of the difficult economic climate. His enthusiasm and expertise will assist the Fund greatly in meeting the challenge of providing the right help for needy applicants as well as maintaining the high standards of care for which the Fund's ten residential and convalescent homes are renowned.

Late News

RAL won 5 events at Outdoor Sports Day. Full report in next issue of the Bulletin.

Noticeboard



Acknowledgements

Barbie and Stan Hands would like to thank everyone for the presents and good wishes given to them on Barbie's retirement, "We were truly overwhelmed by the affection shown. Thank you for making it such a memorable retirement."

Len Willson thanks all his friends for his retirement gifts and says cheerio to those he did not see before he left.

Trevor Hyman would like to say a big "Thank You" for his super leaving present and for the flowers for his wife, Marianne. "It's been great fun at the Lab," writes Trevor, "I shall miss the back-chat over lunch!"

Harry Jarvis would like to thank his friends for the wonderful present, send-off and 33 years at RAL.

Stan Gutteridge says cheerio to his old friends and acquaintances at the Lab, "Thanks for the presents and Good Luck to you all!"

Rita Stephens thanks all her friends and colleagues for her retirement gift and flowers and says cheerio to those she was unable to see before she left.

Phil Griffiths would like to extend his thanks to friends and colleagues for their generosity and good wishes on his retirement and to say cheerio and thanks for everything to those he missed at the time.

Brian Diplock would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to his superb retirement present. His wife, Doreen, would also like to thank you for the lovely flower arrangement. "I managed to say 'Goodbye' to a lot of people", writes Brian, "but there were some that I missed, so apologies and 'Farewell' and thanks to you all for your friendship and help over the past years. Good Luck in the future!"

Jim Johnston thanks his friends and colleagues at the Lab for his retirement present. "It has been a pleasure working with you all Good Luck for the future!"

Chris and Mohamad Naboulsi would like to thank friends and colleagues for their generous donations to the Special Baby Care Unit at Basingstoke Hospital, the many letters of sympathy and gifts, after the loss of their twin babies, Dominic and Ramsey.

Janet Craske would like to thank Peter's friends and colleagues for their support, love and attention during Peter's long illness and after his death. The final figure raised in donations for Peter's ward is likely to be £400.

The Library

The Library is carrying out a stock editing exercise until mid-July in preparation for an eventual merger of the R61 and R27 libraries. Old and/or obsolete stock will be withdrawn during July and August and will be offered to RAL staff in November at the annual Withdrawn Books Clearance. Your help is needed to make sure that nothing of value is withdrawn. Items for withdrawal are being marked with green stickers. If you find marked books which you feel should not be withdrawn or if the book is a 'classic' work in the field, please write 'keep' or 'classic' on the sticker with your name in case we have to get back to you.

Diary

Nimrod seminars

26 July 2:00pm Conf Rm 3, R61
Prospects for physics at LEP200
R Sekulin, RAL

HEP seminars

14 July 11:00am Conf Rm 3, R61
String phenomenology
J Lopez, Texas A&M.

Noticeboard

Rec Soc News

National Trust tickets

You can now enjoy free entry to any of the National Trust's properties, courtesy of the Rec Soc. The Society has bought corporate membership cards for loan to its members. Contact Natalie Bealing on ext 5777 for further information.

The 1993/94 Committee...

was elected at the AGM on 27 April. Please contact any of the members listed below if you have an enquiry or if you wish to find out more about the Society's services:

Tony Peters, Chairman, R9, ext 6203

Andy Napper, Vice Chairman, R9, ext 6349

Geoff Thomas, Secretary, R18, ext 5116

Brian Wyborn, Treasurer, R1, ext 5589

Tim Pett, Games Hall Booking Secretary, R27, ext 5332

Diane Ayres, R71, ext 6817

Natalie Bealing, National Trust Booking Secretary, R71, ext 5777

Stuart Greenall, R34, ext 6198

Martin Hodges, R34, ext 6198

Dave Morgan, R51, ext 6110

Tudor Morgan, R18, ext 6747

Ray Roberts, Video Camera Booking Secretary, R66, ext 6280

Darryl Taylor, R56, ext 6663

Robin Wastle, R18, ext 5278

Aunt Sally competition

There will be an Aunt Sally competition in the Rec Soc on the evening of 30 July. Teams of six. There will be an entry fee of £2.50 per person which includes a barbecue supper. Names to Andy Napper.



Want to win £25?

Simply design a logo for the new Rec Soc membership cards which will be issued in the New Year. The new cards will be smaller but more 'user friendly' than the present cards, so keep your design simple. The entrant with the winning design will receive £25. Entries to Martin Hodges, R34, G05, by 1 November.

The competition is open to Society members only.

Health and Safety News

Personal Dosimetry service

From 1 July, personal dosimeters (film badges), are being supplied and evaluated by Landauer, instead of AEA Technology. Landauer are approved by the Health and Safety Executive for dosimetry and record-keeping. There will be continuity of personal dose records and totals over the change. The procedures for 'classification', 'written schemes of work', etc, are unchanged.

Regular issue dosimeters will cover calendar months and should be changed on the first working day of each month. Casual issue dosimeters should be returned when they are no longer required. Dosimeters for

regular users will continue to be issued and returned through the internal mail except that a window envelope with a reversible card will be used. For those that require them, neutron dosimeters will be supplied in a single **Blue** holder. The holders for beta-gamma dosimeters will also be blue but can be distinguished from the combined beta-gamma-neutron dosimeter: the neutron-beta-gamma type has a window with rounded ends and the code **C1** after the date, and the beta-gamma dosimeters have a rectangular window and the code **G1**.

Users will normally keep the same holder, changing only the dosimeter pack. For the initial issue on 1 July, dosimeters were supplied fitted into holders. All previous (AEA Technology) dosimeters should have been returned at that time together with their film holders. Subsequent issues will consist of the dosimeter packet only which will be sent to users in the window envelope. Instructions for changing the dosimeter packets will be provided.

Please address any comments or queries to Dr David Perry, Radiation Protection Adviser, ext 5314 (OV/VM id DRP), or to Mrs Fran Childs, ext 5430 (OV/VM id FMC).

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