



be held over for another month whilst we wait for the photographs of the new members.

**Fine weather for a bash**



The eve of Friday 21 July saw the arrival of many important guests and old friends to the Daresbury Laboratory reception, and along with the guests came the sunshine. Dr and Mrs Price, and Dr and Mrs Walker greeted the guests and welcomed them to the Laboratory; senior members of staff also gave the visitors the option of a tour.

Once all the formalities were over the real fun began with a sherry reception. The glorious weather meant that guests were able to mingle on the patio while sipping their sherry and cold white wine. This was then followed by an excellent finger buffet accompanied by more wine. The reception was a great success and a lot of important business was carried out and new contacts made.

**Bookham success**  
Dr Andrew Rickman, CEO of Bookham Technology - who develop technology for integrated optical circuits and fibre optic components - has added Entrepreneur of the Year 2000 for the South Region to an already impressive array of awards. The regional final was held at Ascot Racecourse at the end of June, where Andrew won the Technology and Communication Entrepreneur category and went on to beat ten other category winners to win the overall title. Bookham Technology came to RAL with two staff and a smart award. They were recently floated on the Stock Exchange and Nasdaq in a move that has valued the company at more than £4 billion.

**EPSRC Council appointments**  
Seven appointments have been made to the EPSRC Council by Lord Sainsbury recently. Professors John Archer, Julia King and Janet Bainbridge and Dr Peter Grindrod and have been appointed to serve for three years from 1 April. Professor Archer is Principal and Vice Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and is a chemical engineer by training, and a petroleum engineer by practice; Professor Janet Bainbridge, OBE is Director of the School of Science and Technology at the University of Leeds; Dr Peter Grindrod is a director of Numbrex Ltd, a consulting and software company, and Professor Julia King, CBE FREng FIM FRAAS FRSA is Director, Engineering and Technology - Marine at Kolls Royce PLC; Bevan Brathwaite, Simon Murray and Professor Wilson Sibbett have been re-appointed for a further year to 31 March 2001.

**BBSRC Council appointments**  
Lord Sainsbury has announced three appointments to the BBSRC Council. Professor Christopher Leaver, Sibithropian Professor of Plant Science, University of Oxford, and Professor Douglas Kell, Director of Research, Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, have been appointed to serve from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2003. Professor Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Master and Head of the School of Crystallography, Birkbeck College, London, has been re-appointed for a further 3 years to 31 March 2003.

**CCIRC Council appointments**  
We promised more information about CCIRC appointments in this month's LabNews. This article will

Three new appointments and one re-appointment to the NERC Council has recently been announced by Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation. Professors John Beddington, Judith Potts and Alan Thorpe have been appointed to serve on the Council from 1 August 2000 to 31 July 2003. Professor Beddington is currently Director of the T H Huxley School of Environment, Earth Sciences and Engineering, which is based at the Imperial College of Science, Engineering, Technology and Medicine in London; Professor Potts is currently Deputy Director of the Centre for Environmental Research and Training, and Professor of Environmental Risk Management at the University of Birmingham; and Professor Thorpe is currently Director of the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research at the Met Office in Bracknell. Professor Maxwell Irvine has been re-appointed to serve on the Council for a further year from 1 August 2000 to 31 July 2001.



Over 300 children from seven local primary schools visited RAL in June as part of the National Power Numeracy project. The focus of the project was data handling and the context was the measurement of sea surface temperature by ATSR. Funding from National Power and the Heart of England TFC enabled the schools to buy datalogging equipment and pay for IT training for the staff. Before and after the visit the pupils worked on projects relating to temperature measurement and the storage, handling and analysis of data they collected themselves. Tracking an iceberg and finding the temperature above a volcano were just two of the activities devised by SSTD's Nigel Houghton for the young visitors. He also showed them how data from ATSR comes into RAL and is stored and used. "My favourite activity was the computer work with the satellite", said Sam from Hagbourne School. Tim Nighthingale was on hand to explain how SISITER is used to check the accuracy of the data from ATSR and lead the ten-year-olds through an exercise to turn a measurement of heat radiation into sea surface temperature. It's easy when Tim explains it! Luke, also from Hagbourne School, said, "Thank you for showing us your really cool radionometer. It was lush. I like the little part where it spins round". Seeing themselves and their teacher on the thermal imaging camera (borrowed from EPSRC's loan pool) was also a popular activity causing much giggling. "We all had a fantastic morning", said one of the teachers, and this seems to sum up the success of the visits.

(00RC3171)



(00RC3169)

**Articles, ideas and letters are very welcome!**  
*Articles to the Editor or Correspondent by 15th of the month.*  
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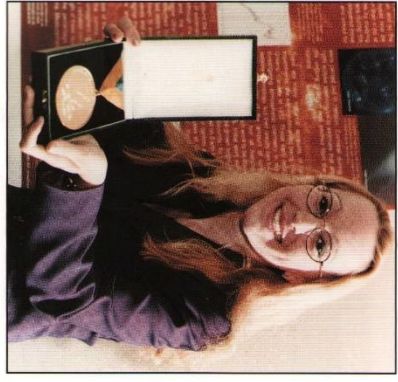
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**INSIDE: NOBUGS3 SEE PAGE 3**

## Elizabeth Clarke wins prestigious award

Elizabeth Clarke, an undergraduate on placement at RAL, has won a prestigious award for her work. Liz, from Sheffield Hallam University, has been studying the effects of solar eclipses on the Earth's upper atmosphere. She and her colleagues took measurements during last year's eclipse over the UK. By comparing these with similar historic measurements, they have been estimating how radiation from the Sun has changed over the last seventy years.



(00R/C3634)

In recognition of her work, the Institute of Physics awarded her the Henry Cavendish Memorial Medal at the XXXI International Physics Olympiad. Elizabeth was one of 46 entrants to this year's competition, held at the University of Leicester on 14 July.

"It was a good opportunity to interact with younger scientists from a broad range of disciplines" said Elizabeth. "I was the only undergraduate student that entered, so I am delighted that my work was chosen for this award".

## Sizing up the solar system

Staff at RAL have been helping Chilton Primary School children with their project to build an orrey (a model of the solar system). The children made models out of paper mache and painted them using pictures taken by NASA satellites as a guide to colours and surface features. Getting the sizes right proved an exciting challenge, with the model of the sun as tall as the children and Mars and Mercury so small they were in continual danger of being lost. In fact Mars was almost thrown away, when it was accidentally 'cleared-up' with the papers after painting and had to be rescued from the back sack by two children carefully sorting through the paint-laden papers. Some children made a mosaic of the planets, and other children made a motorised model of



Helen Walker with some of the Chilton pupils (00R/C3472)

the earth-moon-sun system from a kit. Helen Walker, Jim Wells and Janet Haylett led the RAL team, which also included Chris Davis, Geraldine Durand and Gerard Hutchinson. Their help and enthusiasm really helped the children to learn a lot in an interesting and fun way.

When all the hard work was over, the children showed their models to the rest of the school, with a presentation of the information they had gathered about the planets.



(00R/C3472)

## NOBUGS3 - Daresbury Laboratory hosts international workshop on computing for SR and neutron sources

Summer made a rare appearance greeting delegates to NOBUGS3 - the 3rd international workshop to discuss New Opportunities for Better User Group Software which was held at DL from 12-14 June. Over 80 software engineers from neutron and synchrotron sources across the world met to discuss a wide variety of subjects. The central theme was the fostering of collaborations between the various facility computing groups. Several talks and posters were the results of collaborations started at previous meetings.

A packed schedule included not only such 'traditional' topics as data acquisition, analysis and formats but also covered new areas such as facility business processes and the grid. Examples of the broad spectrum of subjects included beamline alignment and simulation (ESRF/Trisise), a live demo of remote experimental control (Brookhaven), an evolutionary approach to experimental control (ISIS), the virtual user office (Trieste) and data management and the grid (CLRC).

To give the delegates a breather from the serious business, two social events were organised. The reception and poster session held at the Laboratory was accompanied by entertainment from the Manchester Morris Men (courtesy of John Alexander) and a special real ale was provided called Aphroxythiac (literally 'frothy beer') which featured a pump clip bearing an image of the chairman wearing a toga.

The conference dinner was held at nearby Arley Hall, and the warm evening allowed people to saunter around the extensive gardens. Entertainment included a talk from long-standing DL inmate Ted Hughes, and bluegrass music from Johnny Plank (aka former DL computer operator, Bryn Williams) was enjoyed by all.

The meeting concluded with a decision that the 4th NOBUGS would be hosted by NIST and Brookhaven in spring 2002.



Daniel Norman chats to some of the delegates

Workshop chairman, Manolis Pantos, said, "NOBUGS has come of age and is evolving to embrace new and novel themes. This meeting has demonstrated the benefits of collaboration - not only within particular scientific areas but also between the neutron and SR communities. I hope that NOBUGS will continue to grow and provide a forum for facility software engineers and computer scientists for many years to come".

It can only be a matter of time before the man on the train with the mobile phone is not ringing his wife to say 'he'll be late, but calibrating a beamline!'

Further information can be found at <http://sts.diac.uk/nobugs/nobugs3/>

## Safer school children

Following a suggestion from a DL staff member, every pupil at Daresbury County Primary School should now be able to give simple first aid and know how to react in a real emergency. The Schools Liaison Office provided a copy of Junior Paramedics for each pupil at the school. Daresbury's Safety Officer, Gareth Baker, handed over the books - with the CLRC logo on the front cover - to the headteacher, Mrs Brown.

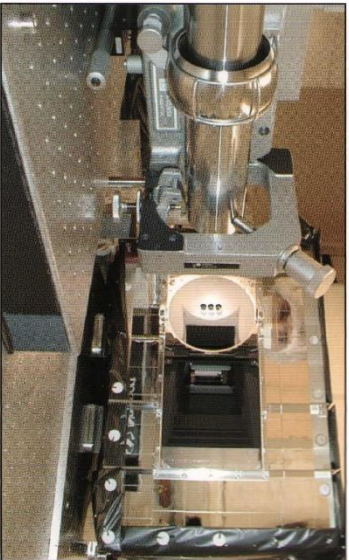
The National Children's Safety book company produces the book for the Mersey regional Ambulance authority. Its aim is to help children develop an awareness of everyday hazards and dangers, learn simple first aid techniques and what to do in an emergency. It contains quizzes, puzzles and activities and is provided with school-based coursework which follows the National Curriculum.

Gareth said, "The Laboratory recognises the importance of a safe environment and has won RSLVA gold awards for the last two years. We're very happy to help raise awareness of health and safety issues with school pupils and hope that the safety and first aid techniques they learn will stay with them throughout their lives".



The Manchester Morris Men

## Small, low-cost camera to image Earth



STD has been selected to build an innovative small space camera, which will cost a fifth of the price of other comparable cameras. It will fly on TopSat (Tactical Optical Satellite), one of three new small satellite projects recently announced by the Science Minister, Lord Sainsbury. The camera, designed and developed by SSTD, will produce black and white images with 2.5 metre resolution and colour images with a 5 metre resolution. It will fly on a 100 kg microsatellite to be built by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd and the programme will be managed by the Defence Evaluation & Research Agency. The

satellite, co-funded by the British National Space Centre and the UK Ministry of Defence, will be launched in early 2003.

Nigel Morris is the project manager for the camera, with Nick Walham responsible for the design of the image processor and Peter Gray for the design of the optics. RAL holds a patent for the novel optical design and SSTD, with the support of MBD, will develop an exploitation plan for this unique technology.

The RAL camera images will be able to be used by a number of organisations. The National Remote Sensing Centre will be responsible for marketing products derived from the

imagery for such applications as:

- Environmental change and disaster monitoring;
- Cartography for civil engineering and town planning;
- Forestry/habitat mapping;
- Offshore pollution monitoring for government agencies and oil companies;
- Crop identification for EU member states.

Education should be a major beneficiary of the images from the RAL camera. Selected images from the camera will be placed on the web to enable UK schools to investigate the

many uses for high resolution optical data. Pupils will be able to develop their own projects and, through the BNSC, compete for the opportunity to task the satellite themselves in order to produce the specific images required to meet their particular project objective.

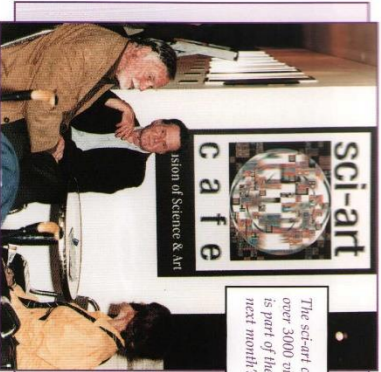
John Ellis

Further information from

BNSC: <http://www.bnsc.gov.uk>

DER: <http://www.dera.gov.uk>

SSTL: <http://www.sstl.co.uk>



The sci-art cafe at the Royal College of Art has had over 3000 visitors already. Co-ordinated by CLRC, it is part of the exciting SPARKS festival. Full story in next month's LabNews (00RC4135 and 00RC4129)



## Going back in time

A chance enquiry has led to an exciting discovery for historians hoping to recreate the first ionospheric observatory on the

Antarctic continent at Fort Lockroy.

In 1947, Roy Bill Bailey was sent to Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands to run the ionospheric observatory there under the authority of the then Radio Research Station at Slough (later the Appleton Laboratory). The ionosphere is the name given to electrified layers that are created when the Earth's upper atmosphere absorbs sunlight. These layers reflect radio waves and so understanding their behaviour was vital in the early days of long distance radio communication.

The sequence of data at Stanley was started in 1945 and is still continued today by RAL staff.

This data set is the second longest sequence

in the world (after Slough) and the longest made in the southern hemisphere. It was

recently used by staff from the British Antarctic Survey to show that extended sequences of data such as this could be used to

measure long term changes to the Earth's climate.

While in Stanley, Bill was asked to take some equipment to Port Lockroy in order to make the first measurements of the ionosphere there. Bill gathered up all

the spare parts he could muster and, after an eventful few months, managed to take the required measurements. Subsequently, further equipment was dispatched and the site was established as a permanent station.

Port Lockroy has recently been designated a heritage site and Bill has been contacted by the trustees as they wish to recreate the early ionospheric laboratory. Bill contacted RAL on the off-chance that any documents about these measurements survive and was amazed to find that all his original correspondence was still in the current group's archives.

During his time with the Radio

Research Station, Bill designed the Union Radio ionosonde - a sounder that was in use throughout the world until the 1970s.

However, shortly after completing the prototype, he left to work for Trinity House and, as a result, he had never actually seen the production model of his sounder. He mentioned this during his tour of the Laboratory and was quickly ushered into a room where the last Union Radio sounder

was stored after an exhibition in 1987. As such a sounder was used at Port Lockroy, the trustees had tried to locate one to put on display at the Antarctic site. The only other surviving example of this type of sounder belongs to the Science Museum in London who were reluctant to part

with it. Over the next year, the RAL Union Radio sounder will be refurbished and transported to Fort Lockroy where it will take pride of place in the newly refurbished exhibit there which celebrates the early ionospheric observatory.



Chris Davis and John Smith with Bill Bailey (centre) (00RC3693)

## ITD technical seminars series

ITD will be starting a new series of technical seminars in October 2000. The seminars will be videoconferenced between RAL and DL and the subjects will include: electronic forms and workflow, the 'people system' and database design, software engineering for safety critical systems, and W3C update.

Seminars during 2001 will range across such topics as NT security, users guide to financial information on the Web, an overview of software engineering development tools, and more. Web-based talks. The seminars will be publicised throughout CLRC with more information available from Susan Hilton <[s.hilton@rl.ac.uk](mailto:s.hilton@rl.ac.uk)>

# REG News

If you have used the K&S bicycle shed at RAL recently, you may have spotted a wire cage amongst the undergrowth and wondered what it was for. In fact, it protects a Bee orchid which grows, and

Photo courtesy Chris Eley



has flowered there. Bee orchids are a native plant of this area and would have thrived on the kind of chalk grassland that existed before the Lab was built. Our example is a lone survivor within the RAL grounds (as far as we know - we would be interested to hear about others), but there are many colonies of these and other orchid species in pockets of undisturbed grassland in the immediate area. If you are a naturalist or amateur (or a cyclist, geologist,

archaeologist, astronomer, walker...) Rutherford Environmental Group would welcome you as a member. REG was started by concerned RAL staff keen to maintain and improve the quality of the area for wildlife, staff and visitors. Species counts around site show an impressive variety of birds, and other fauna and flora, and we would like to encourage their presence. We also plan to hold a series of lectures on environmental issues, and organise visits to places of interest. We are affiliated to the Rec Soc and you can visit our website by clicking on REG in the 'clubs and activities' section of the Rec Soc pages. Look out for our official launch at the end of September, but in the meantime if you would like to join us, subs are only £5 per year. Please contact Miriam Waters (chairperson, ext. 5361), Adrian O'Hea (treasurer ext. 6534) or Sarah Steele (publicity secretary ext. 5384).

*Sarah Steele*

**GF** catrow was not the only navigation problems occurred. This bar is probably a Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and was photographed in the ground floor



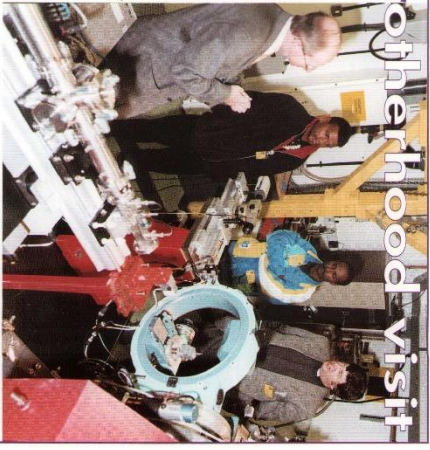
(00RC3127)

corridor of R3 on the afternoon of the 7th shortly before being caught and released outside. Presumably it had made its way into the building through an open door the night before and was unable to find its way out. But for the collection of a few cobwebs as it explored the corridor it seemed fine upon its release and was no doubt glad to get back to its friends in the roosting colony. Pipistrelle bats are Britain's smallest bat and the most common species seen in towns. They weigh from 3 to 8 grams and measure 35 to 45 mm in body length but have a wing span of 190 - 250 mm. They feed on small insects consuming up to 3000 in one night!

*Stephen Kill*

## Melanesian Brotherhood visit

David Norman played host to two unusual visitors who had travelled thousands of miles to visit DL in June. Steven and Jacob are members of the Melanesian brotherhood (Melanania is a group of islands 1000 miles north of Australia which includes the Solomon Islands). The visit was made possible because the Diocese of Chester is linked with the Anglican Church in Melanesia. The link has been in existence for the last ten years. As this year was the Millennium, the Diocese sponsored a visit of 14 brothers who stayed in the area for a number of weeks before moving onto Exeter and then home, via the Philippines. Steven and Jacob visited the Laboratory with Reverend David Felix, vicar of Daresbury church, and also spent time at ICL local schools, Thorn Cross prison and with the Mayor of Halton. Speaking to them after their visit they were clearly very moved by what they had learnt and saw the value of the Lab's work in research, especially in the pharmaceutical development work. Above all it was the experience that they will value and take back with them. David is hoping to make a return visit to see the scientific (and other) facilities of Melanesia.



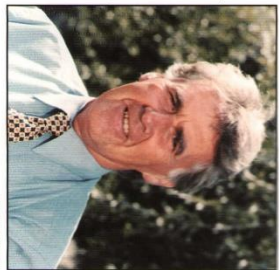
David Norman explains the intricacies of Station 16.3 to Brother Steven and Brother Jacob as Reverend David Felix looks on (DL00/5317)

## The man from Health & Safety

Jim Wells is a Health & Safety officer at RAL and I got the chance to spend time with him - seeing how he helps to make RAL a safe place to work, writes Alex Moore

When I met Jim in the morning there was a sense of anticipation in the Health & Safety section. Today was the site emergency practice. When the klaxons sounded Jim and I had to check half of the site making sure staff were following the correct procedure. This is staying inside with windows and doors closed and waiting for the cascade phone system to operate. Sadly this was not the case and a normally easy going Jim turned very serious as some staff took the exercise lightly. This was a new side to Jim, one that served to emphasise the importance of a site emergency, whether a test or real. Most of the staff did the right thing, but one person not following the rules can endanger the lives of many in a real incident. Jim explained that in an environment like RAL's, safety must come first.

I was also able to attend a safety tour - not the most exciting of activities I hear you cry! However it did allow me to think in Health & Safety terms for an afternoon. I'm sure that most of you have been subjected to this and wondered, especially in an office, why? It is easy to think that there is nothing dangerous in your workspace. Jim pointed out that there are many hazards that I had not noticed in an office. It's normally simple, but not obvious, things that can cause accidents. Examples include flies kept on high shelves with only swivel chairs to use to reach them, and boxes and paper on the floor - both trip and fire hazards. Another common problem is electrical equipment that has not been tested or is out of date. The list of potential dangers in offices alone is quite staggering. So, if you're reading this article in an office, have a look round and see how many dangers you can spot - surprised?



(00RC3988)

After any time with Jim I have become much more conscious about Health and Safety. It is a vital part of CLRC. Everyone has the right to work in a safe environment and as the old saying goes "It's better to be safe than sorry".

Alex Moore has now completed his twelve month sandwich placement with PPR and returned to his studies in Portsmouth

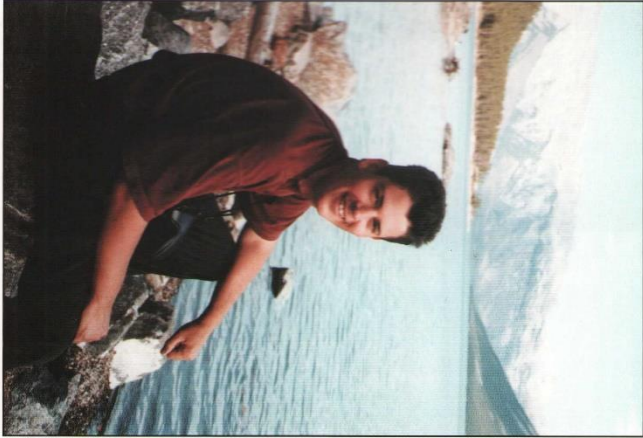
## RAL Computing Training

September/October dates for our standard courses are detailed below. Also included are dates for system and programming courses which are coming up later in the year. It is necessary to confirm dates for system courses with the trainer as early as possible, so if you are interested in attending these courses please let us know as soon as possible.

Standard courses	System and programming courses
25 September / 19 October Dreamweaver	2-6 October Unix fundamentals
26 September PowerPoint for new users	4-5 October XML
27-28 September / 26-27 October Access for new users	9-13 October JAVA
3 October Word for new users	16-20 October NT accelerated
9-10 October MS Project	24 October HTML/advanced HTML/ or FrontPage (according to demand)
11 October Excel further with Word	
17 October Going further with Word	
24 October HTML and Web Page design	

**New XML course**  
TID have been developing an XML course and this will be run 4 to 5 October by RAL Computing Training. Prerequisites for this course are some familiarity with Web technologies and architecture and some knowledge of HTML. A course outline is available for anyone interested in attending.

Outlines for all courses can be found at:  
[http://admin-www.rl.ac.uk/admin/training/ral\\_computing/](http://admin-www.rl.ac.uk/admin/training/ral_computing/)



John Robert Clifford Hartley, former RAL employee and ex-Harwell apprentice, has died tragically, aged 30. John, a local lad, joined the Harwell apprenticeship scheme from RAL in September 1986. With favourable reports on his potential throughout the four-year scheme, on the completion of his apprenticeship, John was granted a full bursary from RAL to attend Warwick University. Problems with the Degree course saw John return to the electronics department at RAL in 1991 where he began, and successfully completed, an HND course at Reading College. Although a long time coming, John was eventually promoted to PTO (Band 6) in July 1992.

In August 1993, John married his long-term girlfriend, Jo, and their first son Matthew was born in June 1997. A year later the recognition of John's importance to the success of the electronics system support division of RAL's technology department, saw him gain a further promotion to HPTO (Band 5). During the time since his return to the Lab, John worked closely on several projects including the Zeus FADC and the CMS FED.

His on-going commitment to his academic qualifications saw John starting an IEE approved, four year part-time degree course at the University of the West of England (Bristol), from which he graduated with a 2:1 BEng Hons in July 1999.

## John Robert Clifford Hartley 1969 - 2000

John eventually left the Lab in December 1999 to join Digital Audio and Video specialists Oxel, based in Wallingford, and in March of this year his second son, William, was born. Although no longer working at RAL, he maintained close links with the many friends that he had made during his 13 years at the Lab.

John was ever popular and always on hand to help others with their problems, no matter what his may have been at the time. John was a true family man who enjoyed life to the full. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and colleagues alike.

## Tony Damerell

It is with great sadness that we report that Tony Damerell passed away on Saturday 12 August. Tony had worked for the CLF for over 20 years before his retirement in 1998. Tony was well known for his love of sailing, and upon his retirement moved to Devon to be nearer his family and the sea. The funeral took place at Exeter Crematorium on Friday 18 August. Our thoughts go out to his wife Dee, his family and his many friends and colleagues.

## The Cornwallis School

n 11 and 18 July pupils from Haddam, Coxheath and Staphenbury Primary Schools took part in planning a 'Mission to Mars' at The Cornwallis School in Kent. As part of the preparation the youngsters looked at samples of lunar rocks and meteorites, loaned by PPARC, along with video footage of the moon rocks being collected by Apollo mission teams. The students worked as four teams preparing and planning a Mars Lander, sending a variety of soil types with a brand new trial sensor called a penetrometer and testing the material covering satellites to see how the material reflects heat. The fourth team worked as journalists preparing web

pages for a special website about the project <http://www.cornwallis.kentschuk.ac.uk>

On the second day the pupils took part in a videoconference with SSTD staff. The scientists answered the detailed questions asked by the students which included enquiries about future missions to Mars. They were given advice about the lander they had created and how to plan for landing on the Martian surface. The pupils were able to discuss if the penetrometer would work in the Martian atmosphere. Bruce Swinyard showed them an example of equipment which had been part of the ISO (Infrared Space Observatory) project and explained that this current

project is called FIRST (Far Infrared and Submillimetric Telescope) which will be searching for young galaxies in 2007. Helen Walker said that future missions would need to consider the risk of contamination of another planet. Simon Pesket gave details about the Beagle 2 lander which will be launched as part of ESA's Mars Express in mid 2003 and offered expertise and support with aspects of landing on Mars. Following the conference, the students went on to use computer animations of the lander they had made to explore the ideas they had shared with the scientists. The two-day event was rounded off with a rocket launch of their own - and rocket ice lollies!

## Turkish visitors

aresbury Laboratory is hosting two visiting scientists from Turkey on a training fellowship to enhance the technical capabilities of the partner nations in the Synchrotron light, Experimental and Scientific Applications for the Middle East project (SESAME).

One of the scientists, Dr Suheyla Ozbey, is an associate professor at the Department of Physics, Hacettepe University, near Ankara. She has worked for many years in small molecule crystallography concentrating on pharmaceutical compounds. The intended expansion into Protein Crystallography at Hacettepe University will benefit from her training at DL. While at Daresbury, Dr Ozbey decided that the subject of her studies should be based around a Turkish plant, the cyclamen. Protein is being purified from bulbs and will hopefully produce crystals which can be studied with X-ray diffraction.

Other protein crystals will also be investigated to have as wide a variety of data collection conditions as possible.

The other visitor, Dr Engin Ozdas, is also an associate professor in the same department, and is a diffractionist specialising in high temperature superconductors. He is the contact person for the SESAME materials science subgroup and is organising the first meeting of this group in Ankara next September. While at DL, Dr Ozdas has been involved in the interpretation of SR diffraction data on archaeological ceramics and collecting information on beamlines and instrumentation which will be of relevance to the SESAME diffraction beamlines.



The photo shows the two fellows and their respective collaborators Dr DL, Manolis Pantos and Pierre Richard (DL000/6312)

## Sometimes the wheels of cycling grind slowly...

This year's Erape du Tour, a stage of the Tour De France open to the public, was to tackle Mount Ventoux so Ron Cutler and I decided that this would be an interesting ride!

After a very early start and having travelled six hours, 80 miles, and tackled some hills including a 2000 foot mountain and a 3000 foot mountain we arrived at the base of the giant of provence, which is 6250 feet high. It was now that the real challenge began, as everybody ground to a slower, lung burning, and altogether less jolly and grin-faced pace. Gravity seemed to have doubled its effect and time seemed to speed faster and kilometers stretched out to what appeared to be miles.

People with better bikes than ours (and more gears than mine) were now walking; no one responded to my mocking Français renotist! News started to reach us from the front line, as the thunder clapped ominously around us and it rained stair rods, that it was snowing up top (how nice!). There were now equal numbers of ascenders, pedestrians and descendees! This provided a kind of treble torture

as there was even less room to cut the road up into ziggs and zaggs. During this time I was too tired to actually steer and proceeded off piste though the woods.

By now Ron had made it to the top and I had stopped 10 kilometres short, due to the weather. We were all very cold. Next time I won't be clever and be last over the start line!

Thanks to everyone at RAL for the £500 raised for Cardiac research at Oxford. If you want more information

on our ride then get the September issue of Cycling; they have used my photos in the article - true fame! However, we didn't do too badly. Other people who didn't finish included Tony Doyle, 3 times world track champion, and Greg Lemond, who used to win Tours de France!

Chris Stephens

<http://www.wedidnot-phenoxifenresearch.co.uk/>



Chris takes a quick breather

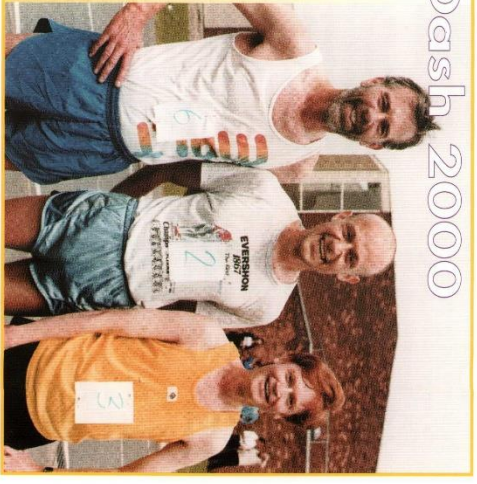
## Daresbury Dash 2000

The ninth Daresbury Dash took place in June. Conditions for the recent twenty-eight competitors were hot and sunny, humid and dry under foot. Spectators were treated to the closest race in the history of the event. Past winner Pete Weatherhead battled all the way with Alberto De Fanis (a user from Southampton University) with never more than a stride between them. After a thrilling final sprint, Alberto held Pete off by one second.

Barry Searle had an equally enthralling race for third place with Andy Smith (former winner of the race) holding at him bay by five seconds. Martin Bowler ran well to triumph in the ladies race beating Joanna Mason by nearly two minutes.

Thanks to Robin Tasker for his organisation, David Norman for starting the race and presenting the prizes, Aizmark for refreshments (orange juice) and Pete's wife, Margo, for baking delicious cakes.

Pete, Albert and Barry (021400/6312)



## RAL Paper Tigers battle it out

This year's rounders competition saw RAL team Paper Tigers battling with Up and Unders in the Grand Final. After a tense first

half the Paper Tigers led 4.5 to 3 but in the second innings everything changed. Phil Walters was caught out on his first ball and without the highest scorer in the match (3 rounders in all)



In the bottom half of the competition the Plate Final was between NRRB's Nifty Nukes and Biobusters - with Biobusters the victors. The Chilton Challenge, between the Harwell campus and a combined RAL/NRRB/MRC/Culham team was again won by Harwell. This year trophies were awarded to Paul Sedwards and Jude Ross, both of RAL, for the highest male and female scorers in the whole competition.

Sue Tzerandler

Cullham runners up, Paper Tigers with UKAEA Head of Site John Williams (top right) who presented the trophy

## Lymm Cruising Club visit, 17 June

More than two years ago I answered my 'phone and was surprised to be asked to arrange a Lab visit with a difference! To celebrate the new Millennium in their own way, a local group of narrow-boat enthusiasts would moor up on the Bridgewater Canal and come in to see the sights which they had only ever chugged slowly past, wondering what sort of secrets were hidden from view and what manner of work was carried out by the people they glimpsed enjoying lunchtime picnics on the patio.

When the day of the visit eventually arrived, it turned out to be one of the hottest of the year so far. More than 60 people left their floating homes lined up alongside the canal to be treated to an up-to-the-minute talk from Tony Buckley in the welcome cool of the Lecture Theatre. The talk, which included news of some of the latest research and techniques using synchrotron light, was given in an informal and interesting way that enthralled everyone there. The visitors were then shown around the experimental areas to see where the

research was undertaken. The tour inevitably had to include a trip up to the top of the Tower, which is such an easily recognisable landmark from the water, and cameras were whipped out for quick shots of the countryside from this good viewpoint. The group ended their visit with cold drinks and a look around the Science Centre, before returning to their boats to prepare for their evening barbecue in one of the local fields.

I breathed a sigh of relief when I realised that the Euro 2000 fixture with the big England v Germany game was not scheduled until the evening, as the guides who had agreed to come in to help me just might not have materialised! My thanks to Bob Bischoffow, Chris Choultoum, Rob



(012100/9609)

# Daresbury golfers swing again

The Daresbury golf society has been busy over the last few months with two events, one held locally in Warrington and the other in Wrexham.

The first event was held at Warrington golf club on 16 June with 46 competitors representing Daresbury, RAL and The Royal Observatory Edinburgh. Teams of 6 were made up from each establishment and they competed in a Stableford competition over 36 holes for the Paul Williams trophy. At the end of a closely fought first round there was only one point separating Daresbury A team from Daresbury B team and the same for Rutherford, with the other teams not too far behind the leaders. After lunch everybody was raring to go again and the weather stood up to the challenge too, remaining hot and sunny - prompting many of the teams to get their legs out and change into their shorts!

Around 4pm, with the last of the players having pulled their weary

bodies over the last hole, the score cards were collected and checked and it was revealed that Daresbury A team had held onto their lead and were the winners. It was a closer battle still for second place, with the Daresbury B team only taking the runner up spot from Rutherford B after a card play off.

After an evening meal Paul Durham presented all the winners with their prizes, after which everybody retired to the bar to swap golf stories and soothe aching feet and limbs from the inside with amber nectar.

The second event in Wrexham was held on 21 July. While most of the golfing world had its eyes firmly fixed on St. Andrews and a certain Mr T Woods, the major event was taking place 300 miles further south - the Daresbury Golf Society's captain day. Captain's day is the most auspicious day in the calendar. For those not au fait with golf this is the day in which the captain of the year has the privilege of providing most of the

### Roll of honour

Connelly Classic		Rothwell cup and Captain's prize	
1st G Oliver	1st T Kerr	1st CW Jones plate	1st G Oliver
3rd J Counsell	2nd B Blackwell	2nd P Hindley	2nd P Hindley
	3rd P Ware	3rd J Counsell	3rd J Counsell

### Yellow ball competition

1st B Blackwell, J Goodier, E Tomkinson
2nd P Lawrntson, R Bate, P Ware
Longest drive - B Blackwell
Nearest the pin - R Ardern

# Second outing for the DL golf society

Daresbury Golf Society ventured into Wales for its second outing of the season to play at the infamous Clark Golf Club. The Clark course can play up to 2281 yards and boasts one of the longest holes in Europe. The day started, however, with a leisurely stroll over the 9-hole Par 3 course, where the Better Ball Medal trophy was contested. Our Captain, Jim Clarke, and Joe Counsell won this event with a better ball net score of 19 strokes. The runners up, after a card play off, were John Goodier and Mike Dykes with a better ball net score of 22.

After lunch it was onto the main championship course to play for the individual Stableford trophy. As always happens after playing under cloudy skies on the short course the sun came out and cracked the flags

prizes and picking up a usually large bar tab whilst also being debated from winning anything!

So at 10.30am on a gorgeously sunny morning a splendid turnout of 21 gathered to compete. Jim Clarke drove off on the first of the day's competitions for the Connelly Classic trophy with each player only allowed to carry 4 clubs. After lunch the main competition got under way for various trophies. At around 6.30pm, after the last of the competitors completed the 18 holes, the cards were duly scrutinised. The competition had been extremely close and in category B three players had drawn needing a card playoff to determine their places.

After dinner the captain thanked one and all for attending, and presented the prizes. All that was left after that was for the winners to celebrate by buying drinks for everyone.



Photo courtesy Reg Jones

making our holes on the long course more arduous. However, this did not deter everyone from enjoying the golf and the great views that can be seen from the course. So it was that for the second time Joe Counsell took the trophy with a score of 36 points from Mike Dykes (34 points) and Steve Dobson (33 points). Overall, everyone enjoyed a good day out - and especially Joe having to buy drinks all round - TWICE!

# Retirements

### David White

David White left Instrumentation Department on 21 July after working at RAL for 33 years. David had joined the Electronics Group after completing an apprenticeship with Radio Rentals in Swindon.

In highlighting some aspects of David's very successful career, Peter Sharp commented that after only nine months at RAL, his Group Leader, Peter Wilde, had observed "I think David White has a genuine feeling for electronics. Even on such short acquaintance, I am sure he will become one of the more valued members of the Laboratory staff".

Everything that has happened in the last 32 years has proved that this

### Margaret McInerney

Margaret (Maggie) McInerney recently retired from RAL's post room. Joe Hamilton outlined Maggie's past career, which included 10 years as a Post Office Counter Clerk and a short time at Samor Pure Foods in Didcot, before joining RAL as a cleaner, then a messenger and finally taking over the running of the post room. Joe also mentioned Maggie's famous footballing cousins - Jackie and Bobby Charlton, and said she shared their nimble footwork.

Joe thanked Maggie for all her hard work over the years and wished her well for the future. He then presented her with many gifts, which included a gold necklace and earrings, garden vouchers, a pot of

### observation was

completely correct. David has a worldwide reputation for the design of the highest quality electronics and has provided many leading edge research projects with the best available performance.

About sixty people gathered in Conference Room 12 to bid David farewell. Peter presented him with a computer chair from all of his friends and a bouquet of flowers for his wife Jenny. David thanked everybody for both their gifts and their friendship over the last 33 years.



David (centre, sitting) with some of his friends (00RC3749)

loose change (for the vending machine?), a lovely bouquet of flowers and a multitude of greetings cards - including the infamous Ray Roberts card.

Margaret thanked everyone and said that she had really enjoyed her job and would be popping back to see everyone. The presentation was followed by a social lunch in R58 Rec Soc where an excellent buffet had been prepared by Rose (Maggie's sister) and Clare Wadley (her niece).



Maggie (centre, front) with some of her Post Room colleagues (00RC3796)

Clare wrote a 'little ditty' to mark Maggie's retirement:

Dear Maggie, the day has finally come, to turn off your franker and have some fun. For retirement means the start of a new life, no more stress, hassle, trouble and strife.

No more bulletins, notices and CLRC Memos, naps and salesmen with their boring old demos, Wonky old trolley and dusty old sack, humping and lifting and breaking your back.

Old and new faces looking for a letter, You give good service but things don't get better. Overtime claims and pay slips by the ton, you gave it your best, you got the work done.

Over the years through tears and smiles, many memories collected over the miles, Remembering old Mavis, Mary and Jane, those good old days were gone too soon.

But now your days will be bright and sunny, get out there gal and spend all that money. For you dear Maggie, you've given your best, After 19 years service, you deserve a good rest!

# Retirements

## Neil Marks retires - or does he?

Neil retired from DL after 36 years most of which had been spent at Daresbury. In July 1964, Neil joined the magnet power supply team at DL. He then went on to accelerator physics on NINA before becoming head of magnets and power supplies when the SRS was built, and ultimately was the operations manager for the SRS for its first eight years. Neil then left Daresbury for life in Grenoble on a two-year secondment to become joint head of the magnet group at ESRF. However Neil soon returned to the fold to set up and run Daresbury Research Services, which he did successfully for nearly 10 years. Another change beckoned and he became group leader of Electrical Engineering and Power Supply Group in SRD for two years and until

his departure he did the same duties for the present SRS systems and the design for the new synchrotron. As well as all Neil's work activities he also has many varied other interests. He was the founder member of the Daresbury Fell walking club and was also chairman of the Daresbury film society when it was in operation. Outside of work Neil is the chairman of the Merseyside branch of the Institute of Physics, a church organist and takes part in mountain and fell walking.

Once retired he will have plenty to keep him busy: Neil and his wife have three children and two grandchildren. You will also still see Neil's face around site as he returns to consult on work on magnets and power supplies for Diamond. As well as all this he has to find time to lecture at international schools such as CERN Accelerator school in Greece and the Joint University Accelerator school (France). What we



want to know is, can you really call this retirement, Neil? Neil informed me he had lots of often scurrilous stories about people and events at DL; however, none of them would be suitable for Labnews as he wanted to be let back on site! I hope you will all join me in wishing Neil a long and happy retirement and, if it isn't as restful as some, well he's only got himself to blame!

Nicky Elliott

## Beryl Triplow

Beryl Triplow, divisional secretary for the Radio Communications Research Unit, celebrated her retirement from RAL in August. John Norbury and Ken Craig, the former and current heads of RCRU respectively, each gave a short speech describing Beryl's achievements in her career with RCRU. Ken then presented Beryl with several gifts to show the group's appreciation of her hard work and helpful attitude throughout her time at RAL. Beryl joined the Energy Research

Unit back in 1979, where she worked with Norman Lipman. In the mid 1980s she transferred to the RCRU, which was then known as TTC, where she worked for John Norbury and Martin Hall. At a time when IBM typewriters were what John called the 'Kolis Royce of secretarial equipment', Beryl was given the task of taking on the entire complement of RCRU's information technology suite - a BBC Torch computer!

During her time at RCRU, Beryl took on an increasing level of responsibility, including becoming one of the first PAs to be given DAO status. This gave her a much greater involvement with the rest of the staff at RCRU when, as Ken described it, "we all became part of Beryl's family". Beryl organised several international meetings particularly for COST 235, a European-wide project investigating radio propagation effects on fixed-service terrestrial telecoms systems. Ken



Beryl with John Norbury (left) and Ken Craig

Catherine Galter

commented on how invaluable he had found her help when he took over RCRU in 1997. He went on to say that he could never remember Beryl complaining, however frantic work became. Everyone in the group appreciated Beryl's helpful and willing approach to problem solving. As John Norbury put it, "she was the complete antithesis of a doctor's receptionist!"

Beryl responded by thanking everyone for their cards, flowers and presents. She regretted that she had not been able to take advantage of the slowing down period she'd heard so much about in the run-up to her retirement, as she had unfortunately broken her ankle three months earlier and had been unable to return to work before her retirement date. She thanked everyone for listening to stories about her leg, and concluded by saying "I will miss you all". We will miss you too, Beryl! and we all join in wishing you the very best in your retirement.

# Retirements

## Anne Johnson



Anne, with her husband and daughter relax with Peter Sharp (00RG3377)

Anne Johnson retired on 30 June, after working at RAL for 20 years. Anne joined the Laboratory as secretary to Peter Wilde in 1980 and when he retired in 1986 she became secretary to Peter Sharp in Electronics Division. About 100 people gathered in Conference Room 12 to bid Anne farewell. Peter Sharp thanked Anne for her commitment and support as

his personal assistant throughout the last fourteen years and said she would be missed by the whole department. Peter presented Anne with a garden table, a leaving card and a bouquet of flowers from all of her friends. He reminded everybody that before joining RAL, Anne had moved house, with five children, on 28 occasions in 17 years, and that by comparison, organising

Dear Natalie  
I would like to thank everyone who contributed to my leaving presents, especially the beautiful garden table which is already in use and greatly admired - something to remind me of the many friends made at RAL.  
Once again thank you to everyone.  
Best regards  
Anne Johnson



Instrumentation Department had been relatively straightforward! In the course of her work in Instrumentation Anne had made many friends from throughout the international research community and many had written to wish her well on her leaving card.

Anne thanked everybody for the wonderful gifts and said that it would not be easy to say goodbye to so many friends. Rutherford had been a wonderful organisation to be a part of, and although she was not scientific, she could not help being caught up by the enthusiasm felt by so many people. There had been many opportunities to meet interesting and delightful people from around the world.

## Robert Atkins visits DL



Sir Robert Atkins, Member of the European Parliament for the northwest, visited Daresbury on 19 June along with some local councillors. He was particularly keen to see some of the exciting science from the SRS, and to inform himself at first hand about options for the future of the Laboratory.



David Norman explains to Sir Robert Atkins and colleagues the in-house developments in X-ray detectors at Station 16.1 of the SRS (0121005915)

Web successes  
Two space science web sites have been highlighted recently. The eclipse web site (set up and managed by Jeremy Curtis and Chris Davis) was ranked 7th in the 'eclipse' topic by Links2Go, which samples millions of web pages to determine which pages are most heavily cited by web authors. Have a look at [www.eclipse.org.uk](http://www.eclipse.org.uk). The Sechs web page (describing Ken Phillips' research - designed and managed by George Hanou) was voted 'Space site of the week' at Space Careers last month, where it was described as 'a fantastic site with a wealth of information'. You can take a look for yourself at [www.secs.fl.ac.uk](http://www.secs.fl.ac.uk)