

Spectrum

Latest staff news and events

Summer 2005

TS2 takes shape

Construction of the ISIS Second Target Station reached a key milestone when the last piece of steelwork for the new experimental hall was put in place on 14 June.

ISIS staff, representatives of contractors, Costain and other staff from around RAL gathered to watch ISIS Director, Andrew Taylor and Costain Director Mark Hyam cut a ribbon and lead the way across the new bridge into what will be the main reception and viewing gallery for the second target station experimental hall.

Costain staff had worked hard to ensure that the area (normally a hard-hat zone) was safe for the guests. Information boards were available and, in amongst the diggers and construction vehicles, a flag marked the exact location of the new target.

"Completing the framework of this vast building for experiments is a significant step in the construction of the new neutron source at ISIS," said Tim Broome, Project Leader. "When the science program begins in 2008, scientists from around the world will use the new target station to investigate the innermost secrets of a huge range of materials in areas from bioscience through to engineering." Construction of the building will be completed in spring 2006 and the first neutrons will be generated in 2007.

As construction work continued below, guests toasted the new building with wine and beer courtesy of Costain.

(L to R) John Wood (CCLRC Chief Executive), Andrew Taylor (Director ISIS), Mark Hyam (Director Costain), Andrea Green (Construction Manager Costain) and Ferdinand Erasmus (Contracts Manager Costain).



STOP PRESS
 First TS2 users arrive - see
 back page for details!

Paolo Radaelli (ISIS) raises a glass to TS2.

Inside

2 Management matters

Exercise Executive Stretch

300 million hits and counting!

3 Howzat? Like this, actually!

How's your driving?

Dates for your diary

4 First users of TS2

Say hello to...

L&D News

Library News

Retirement round-up

Obituary



Management matters

Attitudes to commercialisation can be rather polarised - one camp concentrating on the benefit to the national economy and the other in making money for the research establishment and individuals. Not surprisingly, government seems to favour the former. In a recent speech Lord Sainsbury pointed out that the market value of university spinouts floated on the stock market in 2004 was more than the government's total investment in knowledge transfer to date.

The equivalent here is probably the value of spin-out companies we've produced, compared with what we spend on the process. Spinning out companies is certainly not a new activity at the CCLRC, but now we're approaching the process in a concerted way. Our share of the 2004 clutch of spin-out companies already has a nominal value exceeding £2m - significantly more than the CCLRC has spent on CLIK to date. Of course such valuations have to be treated with a great deal of caution. For example in general we couldn't turn our shares into cash at the moment even if we wished too, and the familiar disclaimer "the value of your investment can go down as well as up ..." is certainly as true of spin-out companies as it is of any other share prices - but with even more volatility! Nevertheless it's a convenient and interesting comparison.

The great depth of scientific and technical talent at CCLRC is widely recognized. We're familiar with our roles both to promote and support high-quality scientific and engineering research and to support the advancement of knowledge and technology. We now have a great opportunity to add to this recognition for CCLRC for the contribution we make to an innovative economy.

Tim Bestwick
Chief Executive, CLIK

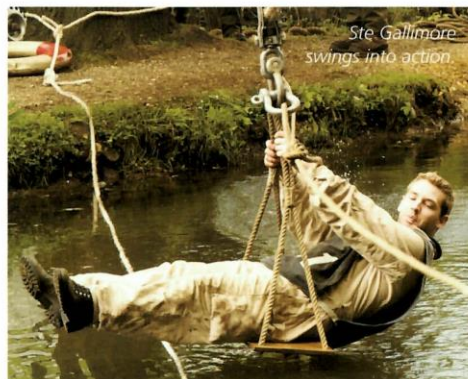
Exercise Executive Stretch

Graduate training takes many forms. John Teah and Ste Gallimore (ISIS) joined a SaBRE Executive Stretch weekend run by the Territorial Army...

The long-lasting stand-off between the neighbouring states of Litoria and Anglia over the vast mineral reserves of Surrey, was finally broken by the Anglian invasion of Litoria on 13 May 2005. Emboldened by national pride two recent recruits to ISIS enrolled in a training weekend with the Litoria Militia.



John Teah takes aim.



Ste Gallimore swings into action.

Despite a road traffic accident on the first night they managed to recover samples of a deadly chemical agent that the Anglian forces were about to deploy. During the weekend, further training was received in the arts of marksmanship, first aid, bomb disposal, signalling and bivouacking. The recruits were put through their paces as they had to escape from an ambush situation, evacuate

casualties under fire, cross rivers, ravines and mine fields, and complete an arduous assault course. Saturday night's exercise was to carry out a night patrol, rendezvous with special forces and observe enemy actions with the aid of night vision goggles.

After a tour of the best military equipment that taxpayers money can buy the recruits were involved in a rescue mission with the Royal Marine Commandos to recover a downed pilot from an enemy-controlled building.

The training was considered a success despite the injuries to both civilian and military personnel, the loss of several military vehicles and a small shrubbery destroyed in a controlled explosion.

As B52549 Pte Gallimore explained, "There's a great sense of achievement when you cheat death several times and get a whisky glass for it!"

Comrade-in-arms G22747 Pte Teah was equally enthusiastic, "I was inspired by my face-to-face meeting with the members of the special forces, however I doubt I'd recognise them again due to the pixellation of their faces!"

300 million hits and counting!

That's the number of hits received this year by the cultural websites operated by BITD. To put it another way, the websites have collectively received an average of over 21 hits every second, twenty four hours a day, every day this year. That's a large number of hits.

The most well known of these websites is probably the British Museum. Five years ago, when BITD started hosting the website, it was expected to get 11 million hits per year, perhaps trebling in the third year. Now, it can receive almost that number of hits in just a week!

BITD also host a virtual museum, the 24 Hour Museum. Since its high profile launch six years ago, it has steadily attracted more hits each year, regularly achieving 2.5 million hits per week. The hardware has had to be upgraded several times as the usage has increased. Three years ago, the 24 Hour Museum launched a children's website and that has nearly 1 million hits each week on its own.

Another million-hit website hosted by BITD gives an insight into the art and artefact collection held by the Courtauld Institute of Art in Somerset House in London.

This aspect of BITD's portfolio came about through the EU project, Aquarelle, in the late 1990s. Dale Sutcliffe worked with colleagues across Europe exploring ways of accessing cultural databases and BITD were subsequently approached by a number of organisations who were impressed by the service that BITD could offer.

Check out the BITD-hosted websites at:

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

www.24hourmuseum.org.uk

www.show.me.uk - 24 Hour Museum for children

www.artandarchitecture.org.uk - collection of Courtauld Institute of Art

Howzat? Like this, actually!

Software produced by SRD is used all over the world by researchers interested in solving protein crystallography problems. Until recently, most workshops to train potential users were held in Europe or US, out of reach of the budgets of many financially challenged research institutes in Asia. All this changed when the CCP4 team took their software to Bangalore.

The first ever CCP4 workshop in India took place in March. It aimed to introduce users to the software by explaining the theoretical background and showing how to overcome any problems they might have. There were lectures and tutorials by speakers from various institutes and facilities, including Diamond, and the 20 students who came from all over India participated fully in all the activities,

including the end-of-course cricket match!



Gwyndaf Evans (Diamond) shows how to bowl in open-toed sandals!

The CCP4 team has developed a taste for travel and will be holding a number of other training courses over the next few months. They are looking forward to Florence in August and St Andrews in September.



How's your driving?

After many months of preparation, visits, open days and training, BITD are very pleased and proud to announce that RAL is now an Accredited Test Centre for the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

If you're not familiar with this qualification, it is an internationally recognised benchmark in computing and you don't need any prior knowledge to study the ECDL.

The syllabus covers the key concepts of computing, practical applications and their use in the workplace and society. The ECDL is broken down into seven modules which can be taken in any order over a period of

up to three years. When all seven modules have been passed, your logbook is exchanged for a certificate and ECDL 'licence' card.

BITD already have 18 people signed up to start the scheme and the ECDL team look forward to presenting the first person with their certificate in the near future.

If you would like to find out more about the ECDL or would like to sign up, email the ECDL team at ctrain@rl.ac.uk.

The photograph shows the ECDL team with the official BCS/ECDL accreditation certificate.



Dates for your diary

15 July (RAL)

Talking Science - Einstein year* 7pm

The Big Bang theory and the story behind the origin of the Universe Dr Simon Singh

Simon Singh describes the Big Bang theory, tells the story of the scientists who invented it and explains why we believe it to be true. The Big Bang model of the Universe is one of the greatest achievements of human civilisation and this lecture will be a crash course covering a century of cosmology. (Age 13+)

Contact Lisa Faircloth on ext. 5789 for more information.

3-10 September

The BA Festival of Science in Dublin

One of the UK's biggest science festivals - it attracts 400 of the best scientists and science communicators from home and abroad who reveal the latest developments in research to a general audience. The CCLRC will be there!

See www.the-ba.net for more information.

9 September (RAL)

Talking Science - Einstein Year* 7pm

From Marconi to Mars - a history of radio research in the UK

From the pioneering radio research at Ditton Park and the development of RADAR to current space research, Chris Davis and John Bradford (SSTD) will recreate some of the early radio research experiments and trace the history of an area of science that has a profound impact on our understanding of the world around us. (Age 10+)

6 October

Daresbury Laboratory Staff Open Day

Celebrate 25 years of the Synchrotron Radiation Source!

You've always wondered what goes on in other areas of the Laboratory - this is your chance to find out! More info nearer the time.

8 October

Daresbury Laboratory Public Open Day

Celebrate 25 years of the Synchrotron Radiation Source!

A rare opportunity for members of the public to see parts of the Daresbury Laboratory that are usually off limits. It is also your chance to show world leading science (and your office!) to your friends and family. More information will be available nearer the time.

*Please note:

- Talking Science bookings open one month before the date of the lecture.
- The public lectures at DL and RAL are always oversubscribed. If you book a place and are then unable to attend, please contact the organiser so that your place can be offered to someone on the waiting list.
- The minimum age for each event ensures that every member of the audience will understand and enjoy the lecture. Younger children are likely to find the content of the lecture too complex and may spoil enjoyment of the event for other members of the audience.

Have you got an event that you would like included in 'Dates for your diary'? Contact the Editor with the details.

Say hello to...

Nick Brooks (RAL)
vacation student, EID
Sam Foster (RAL)
Programme Manager, HO
Sue Griffiths (RAL)
Administration Assistant,
eSc
Sarah Needham (DL)
postdoctoral research
scientist, SRD

Obituary



Professor Dave Warner 1950-2005

Head of Surface and
Nuclear Division, DL

Kevin Connell writes:
News of the untimely death
of Dave Warner on 9 June
shocked and greatly
saddened his many friends
and colleagues at the
CCLRC.

Dave joined the Nuclear
Structure Facility 19 years
ago and he made an
enormous contribution to
the work of the Daresbury
Laboratory, in particular in
his field of nuclear physics.
Latterly, as Head of the
Surface & Nuclear Division,
he played a leading role in
the UK's contribution to the
development and provision
of nuclear research facilities
in Europe.

Dave was respected as a
world-ranking scientist with
a passion for his subject
and a special talent for
communicating his
enthusiasm to any
audience. He will equally be
remembered as a popular
and approachable person,
well-known throughout the
CCLRC. Dave was a family
man and, on behalf of all
his friends and colleagues,
we send our sincere
sympathy to his wife, Lin,
and two children, Jenny
and Stephen.



First users of TS2

Users are so excited about the ISIS Second Target Station that they are moving in before the walls and roof have been constructed!

Having rejected all the trees and bushes at RAL in favour of minimalist loft-living, a family of mistle thrushes set up home amid the TS2 steelwork and has successfully raised four chicks. Contractors Costain took the birds under their wing and made every effort to give the proud parents as much peace and quiet as possible.

The birds had clearly heard that TS2 research will concentrate on soft condensed matter and biomaterials...

LIBRARY NEWS

The IEE Inspec database will shortly be available to Athens users via the CCLRC Library internal web pages.

You can use Inspec for specialised bibliographic searching, and also to keep up to date with specific subjects, new product information, technological forecasting, competitive intelligence and patent-related searching.

Regularly updated and containing over 7.5 million records, this database dates back to 1969 and provides a comprehensive index to the literature in:

- Physics

- Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- Computing & Control Engineering
- Information Technology.

There is also significant coverage in other areas including:

- Information Science
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Oceanography
- Nuclear engineering
- Nanotechnology
- Geophysics
- Biomedical Engineering and Biophysics

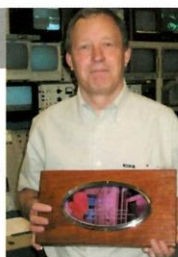
See the Library web pages
<http://www-internal.clrc.ac.uk/staff/ISG/library/> for more information.

Retirement round-up

Ray Wyatt – Electrical Section Leader, CLF

Brian Wyborn writes:
Ray Wyatt has left RAL after more than 38 years (14187 days to be precise) at RAL. He joined in 1966 as an electrical craftsman after learning his trade in the Royal Navy. He worked initially in the Bubble Chamber Group in the Applied Physics Division and gained promotion to a technician role. He then moved into the Nimrod crew in 1974. He must have made a positive impression because, when the CLF was formed in 1976, the Group Leader Paul Williams invited Ray to join the new team. Since then he has been an integral part of the CLF's team providing electrical input to the design and

operation of all the laser systems it has built. During this time he continued his education, becoming the CLF Electrical Section Leader in 1999. He has been a great asset to the CLF and will be a hard act to follow. Ray's friends and colleagues gathered in the Vulcan Control room to thank him for all his work and to wish him well for the future. He was presented with a pocket watch, power tool and, as shown in the picture, a mounted and engraved Vulcan laser disc.



**IF YOU WANT
TO READ IT,
WRITE IT!**

Spectrum relies on you to provide the stories, so if you want to read more about your department, your sports team, your colleagues or yourself, it's up to you!

Send your stories or ideas to the Editor, Steph Hills, (s.hills@cclrc.ac.uk) or give her a call on ext. 5398. The deadline for the next edition is 19 August 2005.

L&D News

Coming up

Since the last issue of Spectrum the Learning and Development team have been joined by a new member of staff. Barrie Bunning, who many of you will know from the RAL Library, is now a Learning and Development Adviser and can be contacted on ext 6052. Barrie is still working in the Library on Mondays and will be in Learning and Development on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The following courses will be taking place at RAL shortly:

6 July – RAL Course
Performance Management

7 July – DL Course
Attendance Management

11-13 July – DL Course
Foundations in
Management Excellence

12 July – RAL Course
Time Management

12 July – DL Learning
Lunch
Interview Skills for the
Interviewee

13 July – DL Course
Performance Management

14 July – RAL Learning
Lunch
Basics of Life Support in
an Emergency

20 July – RAL Course
Attendance Management

20 July – RAL Learning
Lunch
Interview Skills for the
Interviewee

20-21 July – RAL Course
Effective Selection

27 July – DL Course
Attendance Management

11 August – RAL Course
Attendance Management

If you would like to book a place on any of these events or if there are any learning and development needs you wish to discuss, your local Learning and Development team will be pleased to help.

**DL Learning &
Development ext.
3720, 3600 or 3869**

**RAL Learning &
Development ext.
6018 or 6052**