

Bulletin

of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

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SPECIAL EDITION

Our 'New' Director

R.A.L staff will be delighted to learn that Dr Paul Williams has been appointed Director of the Laboratory, having been Acting Director since December 1986.

Dr Williams joined the Rutherford Laboratory, then the National Institute for Research in Nuclear Science, (NIRNS) in 1960, was a founder member of the British National Bubble Chamber Team, and, apart from a 4½ year period of banishment to Central Office, has been with us ever since.

Born in 1934 on the Lancashire Fylde coast at Thornton-Cleveleys (about 5 miles north of Blackpool), Paul graduated from Loughborough in 1954 and gained his PhD, from Liverpool University in 1958 for his work in Particle Physics using the newly invented bubble chamber technique.

His arrival at NIRNS was followed by a period at CERN with the 1.5mm Bubble Chamber which he re-installed on Nimrod on his return to Chilton in 1965.

Then followed eight years during which he became PSO head of Nimrod Experimental Facilities Group, until in 1973 he joined Leo Hobbis to start planning the High-Power Laser project. He was appointed Deputy Division Head, Laser Division, in 1976.

In 1979 he left RAL to become Head of ASR Division, in Central Office and in 1981 Head of Engineering Division, Central Office.



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In October 1983 he returned to the RAL fold as Deputy Director RAL and held that post until December 1986. He then took up the reins as Acting Director following Dr Manning's departure.

He is a lay preacher and an active member of All Saints Methodist Church, Abingdon.

His main interests are sailing, walking, motoring, contract bridge and music (choral singing).

Forward into 'The William's Era'

From The Director of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

As the fourth Director on this site I can't help looking back at the achievements of my predecessors.

Dr Gerry Pickavance was at the birth of the Rutherford Laboratory. He presided over its rapid growth and saw the construction of the two powerful particle accelerators, the PLA and Nimrod. Dr Pickavance established the ethos and style of the Laboratory that we still enjoy.

The second Director, Dr Godfrey Stafford, built on Dr Pickavance's foundation and directed the Laboratory through its most successful years as a particle physics institute but also was responsible in the early years of the diversification into new programmes and for the Appleton Rutherford merger. He insisted on high standards of excellence and a highly-professional approach to the work of the Laboratory.

The memory of Dr Geoff Manning's period as Director is sufficiently recent for most of us to remember vividly. He continued where Dr Stafford left off to build the broad-based Laboratory that we know today. His particular memorials are found in ISIS and the strength of our computing programme. He tirelessly represented the Laboratory both nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence, as a national asset and something to be proud of.

I suppose that we ought to be looking forward, it would be dreadfully introvert of me to ask the question 'How will the Williams era be remembered?' I do not plan for any sudden changes in direction although it is clear that changes do lie ahead. We expect more international involvement, particularly in ISIS, our computing has taken another step forward with the installation of the CRAY, we are learning to integrate our space activities within the national programme and we look forward to a new national initiative in information technology.

In all of these areas we will continue to maintain high standards and, hopefully, to attract both national and international recognition for our work. The university and polytechnic community that we support steadily expands and it is essential that all members of the community feel that RAL is their Laboratory.

The Laboratory's programme is in an exciting phase. We have world-leading achievements in many areas, in neutrons, in lasers, in particle physics, technology techniques, in space science and we have just inaugurated the world's best submillimetre wave telescope. We have a wonderful record of thirty years of achievement behind us and if the Williams' era is in any way to match the record under my predecessors it will not be my doing. It will be the combined skill and energy of all the members of the Laboratory.

I wish us well!

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