

Bulletin

A Monthly Newsletter for RAL Staff

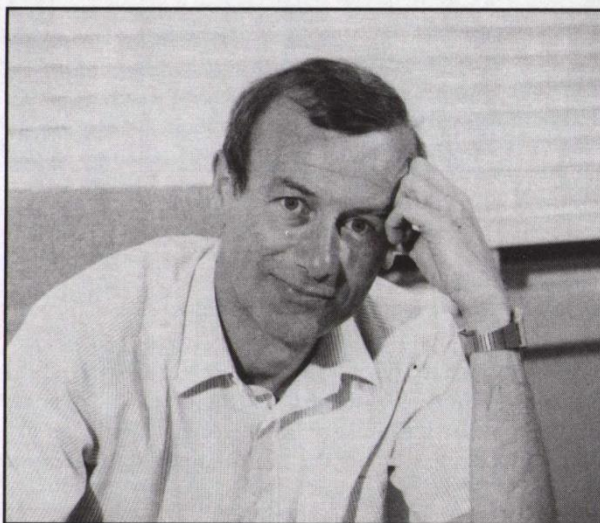
September 1993

Royal Institution Christmas lectures

Professor Frank Close from Particle Physics Department has been invited to give the Royal Institution Christmas lectures this year.

The theme of the five lectures, which will be broadcast by the BBC over the Christmas period, is 'The Sixth Sense'. Our normal vision sees only in the visible spectrum but the universe can also be seen by radio telescopes, X-rays and gamma rays and shows up very differently. This is one example of extending our senses.

Particle physics extends our vision into the microworld and shows another part of the real universe which our basic senses are blind to. Thus, discoveries in the twentieth century in areas such as particle and nuclear physics and cosmology have effectively extended the five senses into a sixth.



Frank Close (93RC3741)

Frank is keen that his lectures include interaction with the audience and would welcome suggestions for experiments, demonstrations or illustrations to support his theme and

which could involve the participation of the audience. If you have an idea, contact Frank before the end of September either by phone on ext 5274 or by e-mail (FEC @ RL.V2). ■

Triumphant Tigers claw their way to the top!

It was not for the faint-hearted. The last match of the rounders season between RAL's Paper Tigers and AEA's Fat Cats, was a nail-biting affair for players and spectators alike. Both teams gave their all in a match lasting 45 minutes but only one team could win and the Tigers clinched the match with a heart-stopping score of 10 rounders to the Fat Cats' nine and a half.

Jo Murray, the team's joint captain,

was overjoyed, "I'm thrilled by the result. The team has been trying to win for six years. It may even be the first time that a RAL team has won the trophy. We'd like to thank the organisers at Harwell for a very enjoyable tournament."

The team's victory is all the more remarkable in that not only were they pitted against last year's winners and the favourites to win again this year but they were not playing at full strength. One player

had a broken foot and another hadn't played before! ■

See page 2 for pictures.

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Hard slog: Jo Murray's expression says it all! (93RC3692)



The Paper Tigers with the cup!: Back row, left to right: Andrea Roberts, Jo Murray, Adam Baird, Rob Halsall, and Nigel Morris. Middle row (kneeling): Jeremy Eggleton and Peter Hyams. Front row: Rose Munroe, Zoe Bowden and Dave Pike (93RC3701)

Mountain rescue!

"A steady and reliable chap, with a reasonable view on most things", was how the recruitment panel described Brian Edwards at his interview in 1961 for the job of Assistant Design Engineer. How perceptive they were! During his 32 years at the Laboratory, most recently as Head of Engineering and Building Works Division, Brian has been widely regarded as the man to get engineering jobs done.

The 'engineering job' for which Brian will be remembered most and which he agrees was the highlight of his career, is the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii. Brian's contribution as the engineer in charge of construction and commissioning was acknowledged by the McRobert award, the most prestigious in engineering design.

In his presentation speech, Dr Paul Williams reminded Brian's friends and colleagues that Brian is credited with another, albeit less publicised, achievement associated with the JCMT - the rescue on the inauguration day of the then Chairman of SERC, Bill Mitchell. Guests attending the function, including the Chairman, were forced to abandon the bus taking them up the mountain when it broke down at 10,000 feet. Informed of the impending disaster and no doubt realising the likely consequences for his career, Brian despatched cars to pick them up, saving them from having to



Brian, Paul Williams and Bill Turner share a joke over the 'Ray Roberts' card (93RC3676)

scale the remaining 4,000 feet of the mountain!

After a round-the-world trip with his wife Brenda, Brian will settle

down to some serious DIY around the house. For a man who has his own concrete mixer, it won't be anything other than serious! ■

Roy's poem!

Roy Price of Engineering and Building Works Department retired last month after 32 years at the Lab. Nothing more could be said about Roy's time at RAL than what Roy himself so eloquently expressed in this delightful poem which he delivered on the day of his retirement presentation.

"I came to the Lab in sixty one
There was a job there to be done
I had my board and before I knew it
I was put to work for Gordon
Hewitt

The years they came and went so fast
And lots of others joined the cast
I can recall some of their names
They were Don and Alan and Bill
and James

And Les and Colin and Dave as well
and oh what stories I could tell
But alas dear friends its time to go
So all I'll say is "Cheerio"

No more reports of Commit and Spend
No more Programmes to defend
No more orders on DBS
No more errors to confess

No more Kilowatts no more Vars
No more blooming ACRs
No more targets only goals
and lot and lots and lots of bowls"



Your turn next!: Roy and Brian Edwards
(93RC3623)

The Library

Want to find out if a book is still in print, what's in this week's New Scientist or simply need somewhere quiet to retreat to in order to catch up on some reading? If you do, you need look no further than our own Library.

Located in R61 (near the R1 coffee lounge), the Library is staffed by a team of eight including three professional librarians and can offer staff and visitors direct and quick access to a complete range of information services and facilities. Here is just a selection of the services and facilities on offer.

Contents page service

Scan the contents page of a journal without having to leave your office. The Library will send you a copy of the contents page as soon as the journal arrives.



The Library team: Dedicated to a policy of current awareness (93RC3292)

Literature searches

The Library has access to over 500 databases offering an extensive range of information. Online searches can be carried out on INSPEC (Information Service for physics, electronics and computing), Chemical Abstracts and Science Citation Index, as well as on databases on chemical engineering, nuclear science, patents and standards, and computing, to name just a few.

Inter-library loans

If the Library cannot supply a specific publication from its own stock, it will arrange for it to be borrowed from another library. Routine requests are processed within a couple of weeks, urgent requests can be handled much quicker.

Continued on back page.

The Library (Continued)

CD-ROM Database

This allows users 'fingertip' access to a range of journal articles, references and conference papers. The database can even provide staff travelling on business with a map print-out of their journey with an approximate time of arrival or British Rail's suggestions if the train is to take the strain.

External databases

By registering with the Library, you can gain access to the **Bath Information Data Services (BIDS)** facility. This provides access, via JANET, to four online databases. The search is free to SERC employees until March 1995.

In addition to these services, the Library has ample study areas in which staff can relax and study the 22,000 science, engineering and computing books and 800 journal titles on display.

If you would like further information or guidance on these and the many other services available, contact Su Lockley, the Senior Librarian on ext 6668 or call general enquiries on ext 5384. Better still, why not call into the Library for a demonstration of what is on offer. ■

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Deadline for publication is 15th
of every month.

Noticeboard



Rec Soc News

Social Functions

Stuck for a venue for that promotion/retirement/leaving celebration and expecting a large turn-out? Why not try the Rec Soc? Conveniently located in R58, the Rec Soc has its own bar, stocked with a wide range of drinks including alcohol-free and soft drinks, which you can enjoy in the comfort of the Rec Soc lounge.

You can reserve the Rec Soc for that special function by contacting either Pat Wastle on ext 6805 (between 12 and 2pm) or Andy Napper on ext 6349. To avoid disappointment, please give the organisers at least two weeks' notice of the event.

Christian Fellowship

16 September 12:30pm CR6, R2
AGM - What should we be doing now?

23 September 12:30pm CR6, R2
Guest speaker

1 October 12:30pm R58
Praise and worship

Enquiries to John Hogston ext 5183.

Diary

Events

23 September Young Inventor of the Year (District Final)

24 September Living History of Science (Marie Curie)

Nimrod Seminars

13 and 20 September 2:00pm
CR3, R61 Review of Cornell/Marseille conferences, J Forshaw, N Geddes, J Guy, P Litchfield, RG Roberts, W Venus

HEP Seminars

29 September 11:00am
CR3, R61 Microstrip gas chambers - recent successes and breakthroughs

RAL Lectures

30 September 3:00pm R22 Lecture
Theatre (title to be announced)
Mrs J Robinson

28 October 3:00pm R22 Lecture
Theatre The origin of Utopia: Has human evolution ended?
Professor J S Jones, UCL

Acknowledgement

Ian 'the Minister of Culture' Forster would like to thank his friends for his retirement gifts and flowers for his wife Agnes. They were most appreciated.