



bulletin

The Private Lives of Pompeii

There was a time when history and archaeology on television were simply a matter of sticking an academic in front of some ruins and the academic spoke to the camera.

Today, the history programme involves computer-generated images, dramatic reconstructions, filming from helicopters, with the academic experts inter-woven into a multi-media script and broadcast to about four million viewers in Britain and far more in the United States.

Consultancy

The Private Lives of Pompeii broadcast on Channel 4 as part of the *AD1* series is just such a programme. At an early stage the programme makers *Illuminations TV* approached the Department of Classics at Reading in search of a consultant to advise them. For nearly nine months questions and queries from the Director and the Scriptwriter were sent to Dr Ray Laurence and meetings were held to discuss ideas. These varied from the size of a Roman ball for exercise to how to

stage an election, but at the heart of them all was the intention to transfer academic ideas on to television. Many of these reflect the published work of Dr Laurence and Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill (*Roman Pompeii: Space and Society and Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum*), which have had a profound international impact for the study of Pompeii.

Detail and Vision

Television recreates the past within its own medium and for history programmes pays attention to detail. The viewer of the programme may miss the fact that the male actors in the drama shaved their legs, because there is evidence from the Roman world for the plucking of body hair. Dramatic reconstruction promotes narration and the visualisation or inclusion of numerous themes from Roman social history. The care taken in producing the original script was made with a view to creating a compelling vision of the past, which could include or exclude themes according to this premise. The historical consultant can only advise and how that advice is interpreted is dependent on the Director's vision of the past. Having said that,

The Private Lives of Pompeii is the first programme to deal with Roman social history as opposed to the lives (and particularly deaths) of the famous figures of the past, such as Julius Caesar.



Reading Contributions

Members of the Department of Classics are involved in the study of the presentation of the ancient world to the public in both TV and Radio. In the last two years Maria Wyke has been involved in *The Real Spartacus*, *Gladiator Blood*, *Sand and Celluloid* and a *Newsnight* discussion on Sulpica; Helen King in *The Greeks: Crucible of Civilisation* and Radio 4's *A History of Contraception*. and a Radio 3 discussion of citizenship. Tessa Rajak has appeared on a radio programme for ABC Australia called *The Spirit of Things* and Gill Knight in a Radio 4 interview on Learning Latin.

This year the Department will introduce a new course module in *Greece and Rome on Film*. Next year they will provide a new MA in The Classical Tradition building on research on the use and abuse of antiquity in the modern world.



Dr Steve Wiggins moves to ODI

On Friday 11 October a large group of colleagues gathered to wish farewell to Dr Steve Wiggins, who recently took up a post as Senior Fellow at The Overseas Development Institute and will be greatly missed by his colleagues and the University.

Steve joined the Department of Agricultural and Food Economics (then Agricultural Economics and Management) on 1 September 1983. After graduating from Cambridge in 1972 Steve had spent four years with UNDP in Paraguay and Bolivia working on economic development and land settlement programmes and he subsequently worked as an economist for Sir William Halcrow and Partners. He was then awarded an ODA scholarship for the MSc in Agricultural Economics at Manchester and afterwards worked for them in El Salvador and Kenya.

He has shown a constant dedication to teaching and research in development economics and to the many students he has taught and



supervised over the years and has the ability to stimulate and generate interest in a wide range of subjects, to students of diverse ages, backgrounds and abilities. He was also responsible for developing courses in agricultural planning, agricultural project management, livestock economics, the history of thinking about agricultural development and global environmental issues. His teaching is highly rated by students. He was also Course Director for several MSc degrees. In addition, he has contributed to all

other aspects of the work of the Department. Students and staff alike always appreciated his enthusiasm.

For many years he has been Programme Secretary for the Agricultural Economics Society and he has served as an External Examiner for other universities. He is also a Member of the Scientific Committee for Economic and Social Science in France and has supported and advised Oxfam and the Intermediate Technology Development Group.

His outside interests include football, cricket and running (including the Marathon) and music – particularly African.

STUDENT NEWS

Society for General Microbiology and Biochemical Society Prizes

The Society for General Microbiology Prize for the best Part 2 Microbiology student in the School of Animal and Microbial Sciences was recently awarded by Professor M. James C. Crabbe to Ms Tara M.A. Ibrahim. The Biochemical Society Prize for the best Part 2 performance in a biochemical subject was awarded jointly to Ms Claire L. Newton and Ms Mary R. Gray.

➔ PUBLIC LECTURE

I, Cyborg

Professor Kevin Warwick

8pm, 19 November 2002

Palmer Theatre, Whiteknights

In this presentation Kevin looks at the amazing steps that lead to him become a Cyborg - part human, part machine. In experimentation carried out earlier this year he was able to control technology from his nervous system, communicate with his wife by direct nervous system to nervous system signalling and even have an extra sense. But with extra sensory abilities, upgraded brains and the ability to communicate by thought alone, will it mean that Cyborgs become the superhumans of the future?

How do children develop?

All parents will understand the joy that comes from watching children develop.

In a few short years a child changes enormously, developing a vast range of skills and learning lots about the world. Do you ever wonder how your child learns about the world? For example, have you ever wondered what small infants like to look at, and how this affects memory development? When do young infants begin to look where mum or dad looks, and how might this help

language development? How early can infants learn new words? How do children learn the names for objects? How do children learn to use language in social contexts, and what do parents do to help this process? How do children come to understand specific concepts for objects in the natural world, for example cat or dog?

The Child Development Group is a group of researchers based in the School of Psychology who are interested in how children's vision, memory, attention,

language and social skills develop from birth to the age of three years. Studies usually involve children and their parents making one or two short visits to the University to take part in a fun game. Postal studies are also used, for instance asking parents to fill in questionnaires about language development.

For more information, or to take part in studies contact: Maria O'Neill, 6989, email: m.l.oneil@reading.ac.uk
<http://www.psychology.reading.ac.uk/childdev>

New facilities in S@iL

The S@iL facilities on the first floor of the Library underwent further development over the summer vacation. The following are now all available:

- **Video conferencing suite** – the facilities which were in CALS have now moved into room SL106. This room has a ‘boardroom’ style layout well suited to video-conference meetings and seminars. SL106 still has a networked PC, plasma screen and video presentation equipment and can be booked by staff and students for presentations and small seminars. Contact Central Room Bookings (rooms@reading.ac.uk) to book any of the above.
- **Plug in points for laptops** – more of these popular working areas have been set up and ITS can help staff and students to get connected.
- **New teaching space** – SL107 has been set up to provide a flexible teaching space, with desks and chairs to seat up to 20 students and the latest University presentation facilities. Wireless laptops can be hired from ITS to provide computer and web access in this adaptable room.
- **Drop in and Learn** – ITS are now

running their drop in and learn sessions for staff and students from a new location in S@iL, SL105. The Library will also be running some of their training sessions in this dedicated training room.

- **Multimedia loans and equipment** – a new loan counter has been set up in S@iL: laptops, digital video and stills cameras and data projectors can be borrowed from this handy central location Monday – Friday 9–11am and 2–4pm. Also available are specialist multimedia machines and help to use them!
- **Designated quiet areas** – there are now designated areas for quiet work and study within S@iL, SL103 is available at all times to students, while room SL108 can be used on a drop in basis when it is not booked for teaching sessions.

In addition, next term will see the introduction of **quick access machines**. A number of machines will be set up to encourage students to use them for a short amount of time only to check their email regularly and more easily for example.

For more information about all of the facilities available in S@iL and how to book rooms go to www.rdg.ac.uk/sail

In fond memory of Dr David Hopkins (1930–2002)

I am very sad to report the death of Dr David Hopkins, Lecturer in the Geology Department (now PRIS) from 1963 until his retirement in 1985.

David read Geology at Reading, returning after working in the oil industry to undertake his PhD and to join the academic staff.

Professor Perce Allen, former Head of the Geology Department, wrote, “I remember David from his student days as distinguished by his quiet gentle humour, high talent and modesty. Then later on, when he joined the academic staff, by his loyalty and way of “getting on with things, without fuss”.

David “got on with things”. A true polymath, he was trained as a geologist but converted himself into a geophysicist. He was skilled in academic subjects and practical tasks, using his engineering knowledge to design and build innovative scientific equipment.

David was an enthusiastic and innovative teacher. He was one of the first

to use personal computers as powerful aids for teaching science. He was an acute geological observer and it was a joy to watch David standing by an outcrop with students, staff and visiting scientists in vigorous discussion on an esoteric interpretation of the rock features.

For 20 years David and I worked closely with colleagues in Geology, Physics and Mathematics, teaching the Geological Geophysics BSc course, one of the first interdisciplinary geophysics degrees in the country. Many of the graduates are now in senior positions in industry using skills which they learnt from David, exploring for North Sea oil. David was helpful, kind and supportive and was very much missed by colleagues and students when he retired.

David Hopkins: geologist, geophysicist, natural scientist and practical man – an academic of the old school.

Clive McCann

For a fuller version please ring 0118 378 8004

Visit of Director BBC News

Richard Sambrook, Director BBC News, recently returned to the Department of English (now the School of English and American Literature) where he had been a student in the 1970s.

After chatting with his former tutor, Ron Knowles, he gave a talk to students on the Communications at Work programme as well as others interested in a career in news journalism. His own career path,



beginning as a reporter on a local newspaper, included subediting in the Radio Newsroom and a period in the field ‘witnessing history’ reporting from Berlin (when the Wall came down), Moscow, China and Northern Ireland. He also spent four years editing the *Nine O’Clock News*, and his present role is production managing the BBC’s 120 radio and TV news and current affairs programmes. He emphasized that for students seeking to get into news journalism an active interest in the world was more important than degree subject and that curiosity, persistence and interpersonal skills were vital.

Speaking of how he enjoyed the adrenalin of the daily newsgathering operation and the challenge of practicalities such as getting a satellite truck to a location in the shortest possible time, he quoted, ‘News is the first draft of history’, and said that he was fortunate to rely on the best resourced news infrastructure in the world. Students had many questions to ask him, and he also sought their views on how to attract the under-30 age group to news programmes.

Historians' farewell

On 3 October, the School of History was pleased to welcome past colleagues as well as friends from many parts of the University to a retirement party in the Orange Room for Professor Brian Kemp and Dr Malcolm Morrison.

Between them, they had given 66 years service to their subject and to the University. Malcolm has spent the last four years as Director of American Studies, after many years as Senior Tutor in History. Brian has also served in many administrative capacities, including two stints as acting Head of Department, as well as making major contributions to the history of the medieval church through his work on Reading Abbey, the bishops of Salisbury and church monuments. We were pleased to be able to thank them for all they had done for

the University and to wish them well in their retirement, safe in the knowledge that they would still be amongst us for a while longer teaching their specialist



areas. Presentations were made by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Fulford, and by Professor Anne Curry, Head of the School, who are flanked in the photo by Dr Morrison (on the left) and Professor Kemp (on the right).

Letter

Dear friends and colleagues

May I take this opportunity to thank most warmly all my friends and colleagues who attended my farewell party and contributed so generously to my leaving present. I am very grateful to you all for your friendship, kindness and support over the years, and I send everyone my best wishes for the future.

Thank you again
Brian Kemp

Dr Janet Hornby

Colleagues and friends gathered in the Foyer of the AMS building to mark the retirement of Dr Janet Hornby after 35 years of service to the University.

Professor Lowry (Head of the School of Animal and Microbial Sciences) thanked Janet for her many contributions to the success of the Division of Zoology within AMS, in particular, her concern for the academic development and welfare of undergraduate students. Janet joined the Zoology Department (as it then was) in 1967 as a Lecturer in Genetics. Her main research interest has been the genetic basis for coat colour in mice and hamsters. In recent years, Janet has performed the thankless task of preparing the timetables within AMS. It is to her credit that colleagues always knew when and where they were teaching before the vacation of the preceding term (a feat not achieved in all Departments within the University!).

Outside AMS, Janet is a keen walker and is a member of the Austrian Alpine Club. Closer to home, she organises walks in the Chilterns for the Senior Common Room and has been closely involved in the development of the furnishings of Park House. She is also an active participant in the University Women's Book Group.

Janet's first priority has always been the students. Many of her former personal tutees attest to her keen interest in their progress and future careers. She will be missed within AMS and we wish her and Robin a long and happy (and active!) retirement.

Steve Hopkin

Photography Competition

The Department of Meteorology is holding a photographic competition that is open to all students and staff.

There will be two categories:

- Weather and Optical Phenomenon
- Sunsets and Dawns

Rules

- Each person may enter one photo in each category
- Entries will be of size 6x4 inches or as near to as possible (panoramic photos are allowed)
- Entries must be sent to Room 2U02, Meteorology Department by Friday 29 November and will be displayed in the department's coffee room foyer for the following two weeks. Please put your entry in an envelope with your name, email, internal address (and room number or course and year group if applicable).
- Each entry will be given an anonymous number and everyone in the Meteorology Department and those who entered the competition will be invited to vote for their favourite photo in each class in week 9 and 10 (participants will have to put their names on the ballot paper so they can't vote for themselves!)

The winning photos will be announced in a later *Bulletin*, enlarged, framed and displayed in the Department of Meteorology. All photos will be returned to their owners (as long as you remember to put your name on the envelope!)



Four First-class Physicists

On Monday 30 September, four members of the Physics Department staff, namely Professor David Bassett, Dr Mike Sangster, Mr Ray Artus and Mr Dave Harding, retired after giving a total of almost 150 years service to the University.

To mark this occasion, a party was held in the Department, attended by their colleagues and friends. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Downes, presented the four with book tokens on behalf of the University, together with cheques and farewell cards from colleagues and friends. Two dinners were also held to mark the retirements.

Professor David Bassett is a graduate of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. He obtained his PhD degree at Bristol, spent two years at Bell Telephone Laboratories in the USA and in 1964 took up a lectureship at Reading, where he steadily built up the Polymer Physics Group. David became a Reader in 1975, was awarded a Personal Chair in Polymer Physics in 1984 and an Established Chair in 1996. He was Head of Department from 1988 to 1994. He served on many UK Committees, for example he is a past Chair of the Polymer Physics Group of the Institute of Physics and a member of the EPSRC 'Structural Materials' College. He is recognised internationally for his work on crystalline polymers and has given invited talks across the world throughout his long and distinguished career.

Dr Mike Sangster also joined the Department in 1964, as a postgraduate

research student. He came from Aberdeen University with Charles McCombie, who had

recently been appointed to the Chair of Theoretical Physics. He became an Assistant Lecturer in January 1968, a Lecturer in 1970 and a Reader in 1987. Mike's area of research is condensed matter physics and his particular interest has been the study of defects in solids. He collaborated extensively with experimentalists in the UK and abroad. For many years Mike was responsible for the Department's European exchange student programme and for postgraduate admissions and monitoring. In parallel with these tasks, Mike had one of the highest teaching loads, lecturing some of the most demanding topics.

Ray Artus came to Reading in 1968 via the Chemistry Department of Brighton Technical College and the Nuclear Physics Division of AERE, Harwell, where he learned techniques that were invaluable to his new colleagues. As an Experimental Officer, Ray worked alongside academic staff members, designing and assembling equipment of all types. For example, he worked with Jenny Lomer on internal friction studies and those who worked at low temperatures had reason to thank Ray for installing a liquid helium facility. In later years, as Manager of the Undergraduate Laboratories, Ray was



L to R in pairs: Mike Sangster and his wife, Mary; Ray Artus and his wife, Kit; Dave Harding and his partner, Jill; David Bassett and his wife, Naomi

highly involved in their complete reorganisation and refurbishment. The Subject Review Panel commented extremely favourably on the laboratories, one reason why the Department achieved the highest possible mark.

Dave Harding came to the Department in 1961 as a Trainee Technician, joining Ken Eccles and David Field in the Electronics Group. Valves were still in use at that time and Dave had to learn how to make use of transistors, as they became available. With Jim Grimbleby and Eric Faulkner, he helped to develop the technique of 'phase sensitive detection'. Subsequently he became more directly involved with students, giving advice on circuit building techniques. He designed and built electrical and electronic equipment for use across the University. In the early 1990's Dave began to build, maintain and upgrade personal computers for the entire Department. In 1998 he was given the title of Manager of the Electronics and IT Group, in recognition of the role that he had undertaken for many years.

Any long-serving member of a department is missed when he or she leaves, but to lose four such stalwarts on the same day is a record that the Physics Department would have been very happy to forego.

Retired Academics Database



The Association of Commonwealth Universities has set up a Retired Academics Database (RAD).

Often institutions in developing countries find it hard to fill key posts. The RAD will be a database of academics drawn from around the world who are keen to continue working after retirement. It will match academics to vacancies on a short-term basis.

Although this would be a temporary solution, it would allow a university time to find a suitable permanent replacement. For more information contact 020 7380 6739 email rad@acu.ac.uk or visit www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/rad

Council

The attention of readers is drawn to the following advertisement which the Nominations Committee has agreed be placed in the national press. The Nominations Committee is taking this action following success of a similar advertisement placed nearly three years ago in attracting 'lay members' to the Council. There are of course separate arrangements for Council membership by academic and non-academic staff and by students.

The Council of the University of Reading is the University's Governing Body with overall responsibility for the affairs of the University. The University is seeking to widen participation in its Council and in this connection it is inviting expressions of interest from any person who would be interested in, and can make a positive contribution to, the development of a leading research and teaching university through his or her membership of its Council. These appointments are unpaid although expenses are met and members need to have reasonable accessibility to Reading.

Any person who is interested in membership of the Council, or wishes to suggest the name of any person who may be so interested, is asked in the first instance to write to the Registrar with a brief account of relevant experience and interests at the following address:

The Registrar, (Room 214 Whiteknights House), The University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 6AH

The *Bulletin* is published fortnightly in term time by the Communications and External Relations Office. Contributions from any member of the University are welcome, but **we reserve the right to edit items and not all material may be used.** Free small ads from University members will be included if space permits.

The next issue of the *Bulletin* will be published on **21 November**. Copy date for the edition published on 5 December is **Thursday 21 November**. Items should be sent to: Carol Derham, Communications Office, Whiteknights House, fax: 378 8924 email: bulletin@rdg.ac.uk

➔ PUBLIC LECTURE

Edith Mary Gayton Lecture New times, new challenges for farm management

8pm, 11 November 2002

Madejski Lecture Theatre,
New Agriculture Building

This annual lecture will be delivered by Professor Paul Webster, Professor of Agricultural Business Management in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London. Professor Webster is a well-known authority in the Farm Management and Agricultural Economics circles both in Britain and internationally.

ADMISSION FREE

Liz Townson: 0118 931 8479

➔ READING FILM THEATRE



Palmer Theatre, Whiteknights
☎ www.rdg.ac.uk/rft

November 8pm (unless stated)

- 13 WE **Nine Queens** (15)
- 14 TH **Sunshine State** (15)
- 20 WE **The Warrior** (12)
- 21 TH **Beijing Bicycle** (PG)
- 26 TU **Lord of the Rings:
Fellowship of the Ring** (PG) 7.15pm
- 27 WE **No Man's Land** (15)

December 8pm

- 3 TU **Sex and Lucia** (18)
- 4 WE **Heaven** (15)
- 5 TH **Warm Water under the Red Bridge** (15)
- 10 TU **Dinner Rush** (15)
- 11 WE **The Officer's Ward** (15)
- 12 TH **Birthday Girl** (15)

Seats: £3 for members and £4.50 for non-members. Further details: please phone 0118 986 8497, (or ext. 7151).

SMALL ADS

For sale: Traditional 60s style 4 bedroomed semi-detached house bordering the University, car port, plenty of room for parking 3 cars. Ideal family house with lounge, dining room, and conservatory. Secluded south facing rear garden. Bus route, easy for town centre, RBH and local amenities. New loft bedroom with shower. Available in the spring/new year. £250,000. Call Howard: 0781 657 7391

For sale: Stentor Violin suitable for child aged 8 up. In good condition with case/bow. £40, contact ext. 8309 or 0770 339 5665

Holiday Cottage: Tuscany cottage in superb setting near mountains. Florence, Siena, Arezzo easily accessible, ideal walking, sight-seeing, etc.
☎ <http://freespace.virgin.net/gp.ck/index.htm> Email: gp.ck@virgin.net or Tel: 020 8699 8883

For Rent: Self-contained ground floor annexe in Spencers Wood, four miles south of University. Double bedroom, en suite bathroom, lounge/diner, modern fully equipped kitchen. Patio and garden. Fully furnished. Off road parking for 2 cars. Mature students or staff. Non smokers. Rent £550 pcm inclusive of c.h. Phone and electricity (metered) extra. Contact Lesley Adams on 0118 378 6785 (work) or 0118 988 3044 (evenings)

➔ PUBLIC NOTICE

Blood Donor Sessions

Thursday 21 November
Tuesday 23 November
Thursday 5 December

Wolfenden Sports Centre

10.30am–12.25pm and
2pm–3.55pm

➔ STENTON LECTURE

Hitler: The Anatomy of a Dictator

by Professor Sir Ian Kershaw
University of Sheffield

Palmer Theatre, Whiteknights

6pm

Thursday 14 November 2002

DIARY

For fuller details of events please see <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/events/>

Thursday 7 November

For more of today's events, please see *Bulletin 391* or the Events webpage

Linguistics research seminar, *Linguistic underdeterminacy and conversational implicature*, **Dr R Carston** (UCL), Room 128 HUMSS building, 4.15pm

Friday 8 November

For more of today's events, please see *Bulletin 391* or the Events webpage

Talk on Operation Wallacea, **Dr Tim Coles** from the field research organisation Operation Wallacea will give a presentation about the opportunities available for students next summer in the rainforests and on the coral reefs of South East Sulawesi and Cuba, Room 133 AMS, 1pm

Monday 11 November

Meteorology seminar, *Modelling and theory of the NAO*, **Professor Geoff Vallis** (Princeton University, USA), Sutcliffe Lecture Theatre, 12 noon

Plant Sciences seminar, *Myosin, microtubules, microfilaments: new insights into the cell biology of trees*, **Nigel Chaffey**, (Bath Spa University College), Lecture Theatre PSL, 4pm

AMS Zoology Division seminar, *The genetic basis of homing behaviour in salmon*, **Bill Jordan** (Institute of Zoology, London), AMS Lecture Theatre, 4.15pm

Edith Mary Gayton Lecture, *New times, new challenges for farm management*, **Professor Paul Webster** (University of London), Madejski Lecture Theatre, New Agriculture Building, 8pm

Tuesday 12 November

AMS Cell and Molecular Biology Division seminar, *Post-translational regulation of cardiac proteins by reversible oxidation at cysteine residues*, **Dr Philip Eaton** (King's College, London), AMS lecture theatre, 1pm

Cybernetics talk, *Two robots for consumers: an arm and a fish*, **Graham Pullin**, (IDEO), Gordon Theatre, 3pm

Geography seminar, *Conflicts of development and biodiversity conservation in Madagascar*, **Dr Terry Dawson**, (Oxford), Geography Dept. room G.19, 4pm

Politics and International Relations seminar, *The state of asylum: democratization, judicialization and the evolution of refugee policy*, **Dr Matthew Gibney** (Oxford), 175, HUMSS Building, 4.30pm

Soil Science seminar, *Spatial variation of plant-available nitrogen within arable fields*, **Samantha Baxter**, (Reading), Soil Science Lecture Theatre, 4.30pm

Philosophy Speakers Meeting, *Moore in the Middle: Principia ethica in its Time*, **Professor Tom Hurka**, (University of Toronto), Research Seminar Room 273, 5pm

University of Reading Women's Club event, *Origins of Garden Plants*, **Michael Keith-Lucas** (Reading), Park House, 7.30pm

Wednesday 13 November

Applied Statistics seminar, *TBA*, **Dr Peter Avery** (Newcastle upon Tyne), Room AS G03, 3pm

AMS, Microbiology Division seminar, *Functional Genomics of Escherichia coli in Japan: present status and perspectives*, **Dr Hirotada Mori**, (Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan), AMS Lecture Theatre, 4.15pm

Food and Biotechnology Seminar *Effects of animal diet on the composition and quality of meat*, **Professor Jeff Wood** (Bristol), Room 2-1, Food Studies Building, 4.15pm

Centre for Euro-Asian Studies seminar, *Czech Way of Privatisation: Strengths and Weaknesses*, **Dr Alena Zemplerova**, (Charles University, Czech Republic), Room 301 HUMSS Building, 5pm

Thursday 14 November

ESSC seminar, *Current status and future prospects for GPS-based atmospheric soundings in Meteorology and climate studies*, **Gary Robinson** (ESSC), ESSC Seminar Room, 2pm

Psychology seminar, *Ageing, inhibition and attentional control*, **Dr Pilar Andres**, (Plymouth), Room 157 Harry Pit Building, 4.30pm

GCMS seminar, *Princess and peaceweaver?: Joan, wife of Llywelyn the Great*, **Dr Louise Wilkinson** (Public Record Office), Room 125 HUMSS Building, 4.30pm

Sociology Speaker series, *Is it all a matter of values? Standpoints and syntheses in sociology*, **John Scott** (Essex), Room 175, HUMSS Building, 5pm

Stenton Lecture, *Hitler: The Anatomy of a Dictator*, **Professor Sir Ian Kershaw** (Sheffield) Palmer Theatre, 6pm

Friday 15 November

AMS, Microbiology Division seminar, *Bacterial Ion Channels - Physiological Roles and Structure*, **Professor Ian Booth**, (Aberdeen), AMS Lecture Theatre, 1pm

Campus concert, *Beethoven's Cello Sonata* **Stephen Nash** accompanied by **Abigail Henderson-Smith**, Palmer Theatre, 1.15pm, £1, RUMS members free

Monday 18 November

Meteorology seminar, *An Ensemble Satellite Precipitation Retrieval Model: Hydrological applications in the Nile Basin and elsewhere*, **Dr Tim Bellerby** (Hull), Sutcliffe Lecture Theatre, 12 noon

AMS Zoology Division seminar, *Trees, canopies and continents: recent advances in termite global ecology*, **Paul Eggleton** (Natural History Museum), AMS Lecture Theatre, 4.15pm

Tuesday 19 November

AMS Cell and Molecular Biology Division seminar, *Regulation of gene expression in the developing and diseased heart*, **Dr Paul Barton** (Imperial College, London), AMS Lecture Theatre, 1pm

Physics colloquium, *Bond-order potentials: bridging the electronic to atomistic modelling hierarchies*, **David Pettifor** (Oxford), Ditchburn Lecture Theatre, 1.45pm

Geography seminar, *The institutional dynamics of community-based natural resource management in Namibia*, **Dr Chasca Twyman**, (Sheffield), Geography Dept. room G.19, 4pm

Applied Linguistics Circle, *The future of Language*, **David Crystal**, (Bangor), Language Resource Centre Rm 201, 4.15pm

Politics and International Relations seminar, *The populist Zeitgeist*, **Professor Cas Mudde** (Antwerp), 175, HUMSS Building, 4.30pm

Philosophy Speakers Meeting, *TBA*, **Professor Jerry Fodor** (Rutgers University), Research Seminar Room 273, 5pm

Public lecture, *I, Cyborg*, **Professor Kevin Warwick** (Reading), Palmer Theatre, 8pm

Wednesday 20 November

Food and Biotechnology Seminar, *TBA*, **Dr Kathleen Botham** (Royal Veterinary College, London), Room 2-1, Food Studies Building, 4.15pm

History seminar, *Namier, Neale and Stenton: the shaping of the History of Parliament*, **David Hayton** (The Queen's University, Belfast), Room 144, HUMSS Building, 4.30pm

Centre for Euro-Asian Studies Seminar, *The new transnational corporations: outward foreign direct investment from post communist economies in transition*, **Professor Wladimir Andreff** (Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), Room 301 HUMSS Building, 5pm

Concert, *The University Singers and Chamber Orchestra perform music by Elgar and Rutter*, Christ Church, Christchurch Road, 7.30pm, £7, £4 Concessions £3, (0118) 378 6696

Thursday 21 November

ESSC seminar, *Postgraduates corner* *Computationally modelling lava domes*, **Alina Hale**, *Ocean bottom pressure variability from GRACE*, **Rory Bingham**, ESSC Seminar Room, 2pm

Cybernetics Talk, *Clustering for Forecasting*, Gordon Theatre, 3pm

Psychology seminar, *Perspectives in communicating: a theory, and applications in risk portrayal and the impact of labelling*, **Professor Tony Sanford** (Glasgow), Room 157 Harry Pitt Building, 4.30pm

GCMS seminar, *Guilt and Shame in the Mystère de saint Barbe en cinq journées: Men and Women Opposed*, **Dr Mario Longtin** (Sheffield), Room 125 HUMSS Building, 4.30pm

Sociology Speaker series, *Bad jobs in Britain: Employment conditions and non-standard jobs*, **Peter McGovern** (LSE), HUMSS Building, Room 175, 5pm

Thames Valley Branch, Institute of Biology Lecture, *The Search for the Origins of Life*, **Dr Julian Hiscox** (Reading), AMS, 7pm

Friday 22 November

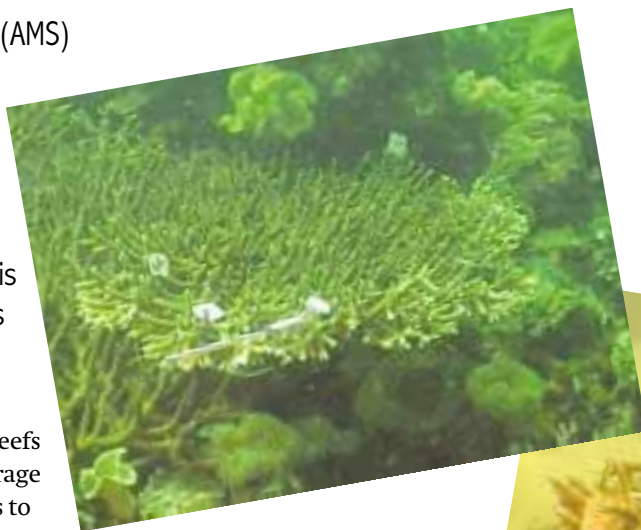
AMS, Microbiology Division seminar, *The Organisation and Evolution of Rhizobium Genomes*, **Professor Peter Young**, (York), AMS Lecture Theatre, 1pm

Campus concert, *Judit Pasztor performs lute music*, Palmer Theatre, 1.15pm, £1, RUMS members free

Human Activity Damages Coral Reefs

Professor James Crabbe (AMS) and his team at the University have undertaken research that shows how human activity through bomb fishing and coral mining is damaging the coral reefs of Indonesia.

Digital image analysis of corals from a number of reefs indicates slower than average growth rates, and changes to the morphology of branching corals. The scientists think that more sediment is being washed onto the reefs, from destruction of mangroves and forests, cutting out light and limiting growth. At great risk are the



Bajau people, once boat-dwellers, who now live in village settlements on the coast. This research has implications for the future preservation of

these important ecosystems and could help Indonesia to develop education programmes and management policies.

The research paper is published in the journal *Coral Reefs*.

Healthy coral, left and unhealthy coral below



Biotechnology meets Business

The University of Reading was pleased to welcome representatives from the DTI Bioscience Unit to a morning of activities focusing on biotechnology research.

Biotechnology is a growing contributor to the Thames Valley economy and increasingly the University is taking advantage of commercialisation opportunities in this area.

The visit began with a welcome from Professor Peter Gregory, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, who provided an overview of the University.

Presentations followed from the DTI about science, business and technology transfer. The Dean of Life Sciences, Professor Rob Robson, gave a broad overview of research in the Life Sciences Faculty, with input from Professor David Rice, Dean of Science.

Academics from the School of Animal and Microbial Sciences, including Professor Philip Lowry, Professor Philip Strange, and Dr Jon Gibbins, presented research projects which have brought



about successful commercial opportunities and Kate Darby spoke about the success of the Teaching Company Scheme at Reading. Following the presentations there was a wide ranging discussion on issues affecting biotechnology research at the University.

The morning closed with a tour of the National Centre for Biotechnology Education, led by Dean Madden and John Schollar, where our visitors were impressed by the range of initiatives in place to improve access to biotechnology in schools across the country.

The visit was successful in raising the profile of Reading's strong research capabilities in this growing area of science and enabled a high level delegation of the University's research body to discuss challenging issues with top Government representatives.

The Business Development Team would like to thank all those who contributed to making the visit a success, in particular the School of Food Biosciences and the NCBE for use of facilities.

For further information about Business Development activities, please email busdev@reading.ac.uk or call Veronica Kay on ext. 6161.