

1926-  
80  
years  
2006

University of  
Reading



*Special edition to celebrate our 80 years' anniversary*





**Front cover:** The cover image shows a 'research room' picnic from 1906. It is one of a series of images available as postcards to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the granting of our Charter (see page 6).

The *Bulletin* can be found online at [www.rdg.ac.uk/bulletin](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/bulletin) where you can read a pdf of this issue and access archived issues of past Bulletins and Campus Authors.

The *Bulletin* is published in-house fortnightly during term time. Items are welcomed from every member of the University and should be sent, marked 'Bulletin', to Carol Derham, Communications Office, Whiteknights, The University of Reading, Reading RG6 6AH, email [bulletin@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@rdg.ac.uk) but please note that 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.

Copy date for the edition published on 4 May is 12 April.

The *Bulletin* is typeset by Diana Arnold in the Communications Office and is printed by TA Printers, Reading

**IN THE NEWS:** As a world-renowned research and teaching institution, the University of Reading is rarely out of the local, national and international media. This is a selection of media appearances by members of the University and press cutting summaries which highlight the important work being done by the staff and students of the University. View all 'In the News' items at [www.exra.rdg.ac.uk/news/inthenews.asp](http://www.exra.rdg.ac.uk/news/inthenews.asp)

**20 February, *The Daily Telegraph***  
Reading graduate **David McCrea** wins the largest sudoku contest ever held in Britain.

**21 February, *The Independent***  
**Heston Blumenthal** – known as one of the best chefs in the world – is to receive an Honorary Degree from the University of Reading.

**22 February, *BBC Radio 5Live***  
**Dr Wendy Barclay** (Biological Sciences) explains how the H5N1 virus might mutate to increase its prospects of entry into human cells.

**22 February, *Nature***  
Europe pumps large quantities of money into schemes that encourage less intensive farming, though some researchers are not sure what benefits they deliver. With comment from **Dr Simon Mortimer** (Agriculture).

**22 February, *Now***  
**Professor Glenn Gibson** (Food Biosciences) explains how our energy levels can drop without a sufficient level of 'friendly bacteria' in our bodies.

**23 February, *The Independent***  
**Professor Richard Ellis** (Agriculture) explains why agriculture is again becoming a popular subject with students.

**23 February, *BBC News***  
**Dr Philip Murphy** (History) has uncovered previously unseen documents in The National Archives which reveal an unexpected source of tension between Britain and the Commonwealth in the 1950s and 1960s.

**24 February, *Times Higher Education Supplement***  
**James Gallagher** (Biological Sciences) reviews *Biomeasurement* by Dawn Hawkins.

**26 February, *BBC News***  
The Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics Research Unit (VEERU), from the Department of Agriculture, signed a one million Euro contract with the government of Malta on 9 February 2006.

**27 February, *BBC 1***  
**Gerri Excell** (Construction Management and Engineering) discusses roadside shrines and whether they affect road safety.

**27 February, *Fox News***  
An exhibition of human corpses and body parts is proving popular with the public in Canada. With comment from **Dr Tony Walter** (Sociology).

**28 February, *Reading Chronicle***  
During a visit to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh see a robotic arm developed by **Dr William Harwin** (Cybernetics). See page 3

**1 March, *Reading Evening Post***  
In the month that the University celebrates its 80th birthday, its renowned Boat Club is holding its prestigious annual *Head of the River Race*, on the River Thames in Reading on Saturday 4 March.

**3 March, *Times Higher Education Supplement***  
**Professor Kevin Warwick** (Cybernetics) reviews *Autonomous Robots* by George Bekey.

## Brand new Bulletin

This issue of the *Bulletin* is the first University magazine to be redesigned using our new visual identity guidelines.

Over the coming months you will notice that a number of key publications will be given a similar treatment.

### SMALL ADS

#### To Hire

Excellent odd job man, painter and decorator available at reasonable rates. Phone 0777 632 8998 or (0118) 954 0382

MAN with VAN for moving things around: Fast, friendly and flexible service. Large or small loads/local or long distance. Call or text Paul on 07989025570 or [plewarne@hotmail.com](mailto:plewarne@hotmail.com) for quote

#### To Let

Large flat available 1 April. For postgrad. couple or staff. Lounge, study, b/room, bathroom, kitchen, parking, microwave oven, washer/dryer, d.glazing, heating. 100 yards to University. £620 month. Tel. 987 1159

#### Holiday Accommodation

Sicilian villas situated on the West Coast of Sicily (Nr Trapani). Villa Anna sleeps 6–10 people, Villa May sleeps 4–6. Cheap flights available to Palermo. Villa rental from £185 per week x4 people. Contact number 0118 950 2429

Penhawger holiday cottages. Newly converted 2 and 6-person barns available on Cornish working farm. From £50pp pw. Country/woodland walks. Dogs welcome. Near Bodmin Moor, Eden Project, Looe Beach. Contact: [a.b.gerry@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:a.b.gerry@rdg.ac.uk) 07843 676814.

### CAMPUS AUTHORS

#### *The Palgrave Handbook of Econometrics, Volume 1, Theoretical Econometrics*

Professor Kerry Patterson, University Business School and Professor Terry Mills University of Loughborough  
Palgrave  
ISBN 1-4039-4155-6

#### *Carbon and its Domestication*

Dr Antoinette Mannion, School of Human and Environmental Sciences  
Springer: Dordrecht  
ISBN 1-4020-3957-3 soft cover  
ISBN 1-4020-3956-5 hard cover

# Research presented to MPs

**Dr Chris Stokes from the School of Human and Environmental Sciences was invited to the House of Commons on Monday 13 March to present his recent climate-change discovery to MPs at a special reception.**

Chris was selected from several hundred applicants and joined other aspiring and enthusiastic younger scientists, engineers and technologists who presented their recent discoveries as part of UK National Science Week. Organised by Science Engineering and Technology (SET) for Britain, the event aims to encourage and promote younger researchers, enabling them to present their research results to high-profile visitors and MPs.

Dr Stokes and colleagues at the University of Reading and Moscow State University discovered that glaciers in one of the mountain ranges of the former Soviet Union are experiencing

widespread retreat. Mountain glaciers are a relatively reliable indicator of climate change – if they are melting across the world, it could mean an increase in sea level, potentially displacing millions of people.

Chris Stokes said, “Despite detailed data from individual glaciers in the Caucasus Mountains, on the border between Russia and Georgia, little data existed about the whole area before our project and an assessment was urgently required. Using satellite imagery to map glacier change since the 1960s, we discovered that of the 113 glaciers measured in the Caucasus Mountains, around 95% were retreating. This mirrors the pattern of retreat reported from other areas of the world and provides additional evidence that ‘global warming’ is having, and will continue to have, an effect on human activity across the globe.”



Detailed climate measurements on a glacier in the Caucasus Mountains

# Queen admires Cybernetics' work

**The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Royal Berkshire Hospital on 24 February.**

During the visit the royal visitors saw Britain's first robotic arm – developed with scientists at the University's

Department of Cybernetics. The arm, in use on Caversham Ward, helps stroke patients regain their movements. It was modelled by John Dawson who said that the Queen was very interested in the new technology.



John Dawson demonstrates the robotic arm developed by Dr William Harwin and his team in Cybernetics

# Pharmacology makes an impact

**One of the new disciplines represented on campus, now that we have a Pharmacy School, is Pharmacology, which is concerned with how drugs work.**

Staff in the Pharmacology section have been very successful in quickly raising grant income. Both Dr Cornelius Krasel and Dr Gary Stephens (Lecturers in Pharmacology) were successful in obtaining grants from BBSRC in the last grant round (total income ~£400,000) and Professor Philip Strange was awarded a BBSRC CASE studentship in collaboration with the pharmaceutical company Ferring. Cornelius Krasel has also received a prize from Innocentive for providing a novel solution to a research problem. Philip Strange, Director of Pharmacology said: “We are lucky to have appointed excellent new young staff to start our pharmacology section and they have done us proud in obtaining competitive grant income so soon.”

# 80 years

**In 1926, the University of Reading was formally granted its Royal Charter – the only University to receive this status in the interwar years.**

Our origins lie in the Schools of Art and Science established in Reading in 1860 and 1870. These became part of an extension college opened in 1892 by Christ Church, Oxford. The new University College, Reading thrived, receiving its first treasury grant of £1,000 in 1901. Three years later the local Palmer family, of the famous biscuit manufacturer Huntley & Palmers, gifted our London Road site. Their continued support helped to fund expansion, including the opening of Wantage Hall in 1908 and The Research Institute in Dairying in 1912.

## Granting of the Charter

The first Royal Charter petition, submitted in 1920, was unsuccessful due to insufficient numbers, but in May 1925, the success of the second petition was announced at the May diploma-awarding ceremony. Such was the excitement, students bore aloft the man who would become the University's first Vice-Chancellor, and carried him through the grounds. Dr William M Childs, having been Principal of the College since 1903, would serve as Vice-Chancellor until 1929. He accepted the Royal Charter officially, on 17 March 1926 from George V.

Since then a number of milestones have shaped the University's history and made us the centre of excellence and the vibrant community we are today:

- **1947** we purchased our main Whiteknights campus, former country estate of the Marquis of Blandford
- **1972** the first British university to integrate an industrial Research and Development Group on its campus
- **1982** merger with Bulmershe College of Higher Education created our third campus, a 42-acre site in Woodley close to Whiteknights
- **1989** we were the first university to win the Queen's Award for Export Achievement for outstanding overseas student recruitment
- **1998** and **2005** twice receiving the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education

Firmly established as a leading force in British higher education, we continue to build on our success. Our ambitious multi-million pound investment programme is delivering twenty-first century facilities and strengthening our international reputation for quality teaching, research and enterprise.

At the inauguration of the University of Reading in 1926 there were around 1,500 students and fewer than 100 staff. Today on our 80th anniversary there are 17,518 students and 4,058 staff.

## Four Score and More

To commemorate our 80th anniversary year, the Vice-Chancellor commissioned Professor Cedric Brown, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities to write a history of our chartered years. Entitled *Four Score and More*, Professor Brown's work is a chronological history of the University from its inception in the 1890s until the present day. It includes a large number of images drawn from the University's archives, some of which were also published in *A Pictorial History 1892–1992* compiled by Dr Sidney Smith and Michael Bott available from the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

A copy of *Four Score and More* is available to every member of staff who would like to receive it. Copies will be distributed at the Charter Day celebrations (see below).

## Come and celebrate!

Come and celebrate our 80th anniversary! On Friday 17 March in the Foyer of the Palmer Building everyone is welcome to celebrate our 80 years with a slice of cake and a gift, collect your free copy of *Four Score and More* and your memorabilia gift. After the meeting of Court at midday the Vice-Chancellor will cut a giant anniversary cake. Pop in to the Palmer Building Foyer any time between 11.30am and 2.30pm.

**Everyone is welcome!**





above: In 1925 King George V made a visit to the National Institute for Research and Dairying where he toured the laboratories and farm and planted a commemorative tree

below: The announcement of the granting of the University Charter was made on 30 May 1925. The students 'chaired' the Principal, Dr W.M. Childs in celebration



## Anniversary events

A number of events have been sponsored or initiated in celebration of our 80th anniversary year.

### Wednesday 22 February

Varsity Sports Festival (see page 7)

### Friday 17 March

Birthday celebrations in Palmer Foyer 11.30am–2.30pm – **All welcome!**

### 29, 30 & 31 March

Production of Beckett's novella *First Love* at the Bob Kayley Studio Theatre, Bulmershe Court (see page 7)

### 5 & 6 May

Lectures, presentations and other events in Madejski Theatre and marquee at Earley Gate to mark 40th Anniversary of Department of Meteorology



# Charter Day postcards

**A set of six postcards has been produced as part of the University's celebration of the eightieth anniversary of the Charter. The images, displayed below, show aspects of life from a different era and colleagues may find them amusing to use for personal messages.**

Five sets of cards will be given to each academic or administrative unit. These can be collected from the Palmer Building during the lunchtime celebrations on 17 March. Further packs

will be available throughout March from the Development and Alumni Relations Office. After this they will be on sale to members of the university, alumni and other interested parties for £3.00 per pack.

The organisers of the eightieth anniversary celebrations wish to thank the University Arts Committee for supporting this project, and the Design and Print Unit in Typography for pre-press and printing.

A full set of postcards is available for every unit of the university



# Samuel Beckett – 100 years

2006 marks the centenary of the birth of Samuel Beckett, one of the towering dramatists and writers of the twentieth century.

Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969, Beckett is the figure who, perhaps more than any other writer or intellectual in mid-twentieth century Europe, articulated the sense of a civilisation in crisis in the post-War era. The University holds the most important archive of Beckett material in the world, much of which was donated by Beckett himself. There are to be a number of events arranged to commemorate his centenary:

## 18 March – 19 April

### John Haynes Exhibition

This exhibition is a collection of images of Beckett's work during this period in preparation and performance, as well as portraits of the playwright himself.

Admission: Free. Location: Museum of English Rural Life [www.merl.org.uk](http://www.merl.org.uk)

## 22 March

### From Rags to Riches: Samuel Beckett and Reading

Professor James Knowlson talks about the Beckett Collection at the University. He will explain how the largest archive on Beckett in the world came to be held in the University library.

From 5.30pm in the G10 Palmer Building. Admission: Free. To book call 0118 378 8006 or email [thefriends@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:thefriends@rdg.ac.uk)

## 25 March – 25 June

### Samuel Beckett: Irish European exhibition

The story of Beckett's life and achievements from his birth in Dublin on 13 April 1906 to his worldwide fame following the success of 'Waiting for Godot'.

Admission: Free. Location: The Museum of Reading, Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading [www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)

## 29–31 March

### First Love

An adaptation of Samuel Beckett's novella 'First Love', based on the author's own suggestions for staging the text, will be premiered at Bulmershe Court.

Directed by Beckett's Schiller-Theater (Berlin) assistant, Walter Asmus, and acted by Lawrence Held, formerly of the San Quentin Drama Workshop. The performance will be followed by a discussion with the actor and director.

Admission: £15, £10 concessions. Location: Bob Kayley Studio theatre, Bulmershe Court. To book call Liz Silvester, 01187 378 8878 [www.beckettfoundation.org.uk](http://www.beckettfoundation.org.uk)

## 2 April

### Samuel Beckett Gala Evening

A celebration of Samuel Beckett's work in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. An anthology evening of Beckett readings and performances will be directed by the Oscar-winning director, Anthony Minghella and will feature readings, recitals and performances by distinguished actors and theatre professionals who over the years have been involved in Beckett films and productions.

### Mingle with the stars!

Tickets are also available for the Post Show Drinks Reception for those attending the performance (also in aid of Macmillan Cancer



© John Haynes 1973

Relief) in the Victoria Hall. The cast for the performance includes Felicity Kendall, Alan Rickman\*, Barry McGovern and Johnny Murphy. Admission: Tickets from £20, £40 & £60 Location: The Concert Hall, Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH. To book tickets call the box office on 0118 960 6060 or visit [www.readingarts.com](http://www.readingarts.com)

\* To be confirmed

## 13 April

### Celebrating 100 years of Beckett

Professor James Knowlson, authorised biographer of Samuel Beckett, will lead a gallery talk to celebrate the day of the centenary of his birth. Venue: The Museum of Reading This is a FREE Talk, but booking is essential – Call Reading Arts Box Office on 0118 960 6060

## 4 May

### Beckett's Late Masterpieces with Booker Prize-Winner John Banville

John Banville, the distinguished Irish novelist and Booker prize-winner 2005 with 'The Sea', speaks about Beckett's late prose works, 'Company', 'Ill Seen Ill Said' and 'Worstward Ho', revealing the reasons for his own great admiration for Beckett's writing. Venue: Reading Town Hall

# Varsity Sports

The University of Reading's Varsity Sports Festival proved to be a huge success despite the cold and damp conditions, with the home team putting in a great performance to lift the overall team trophy.



One of the Varsity football teams

The festival, part of the University's 80th birthday celebrations, saw guest teams from the Universities of Surrey, Winchester and Bath Spa converge and indeed submerge on the Whiteknights campus. Over 450 competitors from the four universities battled it out for most of the day in a range of sports including football, rugby, netball and mixed hockey. Keeping warm and dry in the University Sports Centre were the fortunate indoor cricket and badminton players!

In the evening, Olympic rowing silver medallist and Reading graduate Debbie

Flood was on hand to present prizes to the winners. The celebration continued late into the night, even prompting an unexpected visit from HRH Prince Harry! Sam Hibbs, festival organiser, was delighted at how the day went: "It was a fantastic day...and night. Conditions were not the best but the competitors turned up, played their hearts out and were great representatives for their University. Everyone should be extremely proud. Many thanks to all involved – the event was a fantastic addition to our 80th birthday celebrations."



## Meteorology receives Queen's Anniversary Prize

**The University's Department of Meteorology was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education at a ceremony on Thursday 16 February.**

The presentations by the Queen took place during a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Among those attending from the University were Vice-Chancellor Professor Gordon Marshall, President of Council Mr Timothy Ford and Head of the Department of Meteorology Professor Keith Shine.

The Queen's Anniversary Prizes are awarded for exceptional contributions by institutions in the Higher and Further Education sectors to the wider community. Reading's Department of Meteorology is recognised as one of the outstanding departments of its kind in the world.

The Department, celebrating its 40th birthday in 2006, is internationally renowned for its training and research in weather, climate and physical oceanography. Important research centres, funded by the Government's Natural Environment Research Council, designed to improve the national capability in atmospheric science, are based at Reading and there is considerable interaction with Met

Office research scientists working in the Department. One of the areas in which the Department has contributed is in the understanding of the differential effects of emissions of different greenhouse gases, which is needed by the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### A team effort

The Vice-Chancellor said: "The Department is engaged in the very highest quality of research, which helps inform the vital global debate concerning climate change. We are absolutely delighted that Meteorology's exceptional contribution has received

such prestigious recognition."

Head of Department, Professor Keith Shine, is delighted by the award. He said: "The prize represents a real team effort by all the staff and students in the Department, not only in showing our past achievement, but in showing the depth and breadth of our current training and research in an area of such importance to society."

The University previously won a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 1998 for its work on the dynamics of theatre performance in Shakespeare's time, done collaboratively with the Globe Theatre on Bankside in London.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Marshall (left), Professor Keith Shine, Head of the Department of Meteorology, receiving the Anniversary Prize from HRH The Queen

## Peer support meeting

The Peer Support team from the University met with peer supporters from Oxford and Cambridge Universities at St John's College Oxford for the first Peer Support

Conference in early February.

The day of discussion, presentations and workshops provided an excellent opportunity for networking and mutual support.



Student peer supporters, with members of the counselling service

## Student Success

The ICMA Centre has won first-prize in the prestigious 3rd annual Rotman International Trading competition held at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The team of four traders beat 37 other teams from a veritable "Who's Who" of the best finance schools in the world.

The competition involved trading four separate cases which ranged from simple open outcry futures trading to a complex quantitative analysis case which utilises simulated trading software.

Dr Michael Smith, Dealing Room Director at the ICMA Centre said: "This is a major achievement and reflects the success of our applied approach to teaching finance. The Centre is relatively new compared to some of the more established US schools, but our hands-on approach to teaching has produced students of the highest quality."



# Retirements

## Ian Wilson

**Ian Wilson, Senior Lecturer in the Section of Applied Statistics, School of Biological Sciences, and Special Adviser in the Statistical Services Centre is retiring at the end of March 2006 having spent 37 years with the University**

Ian was the founding Director of the Statistical Services Centre, from 1984 until he stepped down in 2001.

To mark Ian's retirement there will be a buffet lunch at 12.30 on Thursday 30 March in Room G03 of the Harry Pitt Building to which friends and colleagues are invited. If you wish to attend please contact Lorna Turner on ext. 8025 or email [l.e.turner@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:l.e.turner@rdg.ac.uk) by 27 March. Anyone wishing to contribute to a retirement gift is asked to send their contributions to Lorna Turner in the Statistical Services Centre. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Reading.

## John Maitland-Wright

**Friends and colleagues gathered together on 23 November to say farewell to Professor John Maitland-Wright after 34 years with the Department of Mathematics.**

The Vice-Chancellor presented Professor Maitland-Wright with a gift on behalf of his colleagues and recalled Professor Maitland-Wright's long and distinguished career within the field of pure mathematics.



Professor John Maitland-Wright (left) receives his gift from the Vice-Chancellor

## Alison Ansell

**After a healthy stint of dedicated service, Alison Ansell, Director of Research and Enterprise Services will be leaving the University at the end of March.**

We will be holding a leaving party on 24 March in the Agriculture JCR from 12noon to 2pm. (Please be aware that this is a new time – previous articles with different timings should be ignored).

All current and former colleagues are invited to attend, if you would like to do so please let us know by reply to Lara Giles; [l.giles@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:l.giles@rdg.ac.uk)

Should you wish to sign Alison's leaving card, this is with Lara in Room 201 Whiteknights House or alternatively good wishes can be written on a label for insertion into the card.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to a leaving gift should do so by cheque made payable to University of Reading and forwarded to Lara in RES, Whiteknights House.

## Alan Swinbank

**Professor Alan Swinbank, Director of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy (CAS), made the case for further reform of the common agricultural policy in a public lecture at the Portuguese Catholic University, Porto recently.**

He was introduced by Arlindo Cunha, who has resumed PhD studies with the University in Agricultural and Food Economics: his previous registration had been interrupted when he joined the Portuguese Government in 1986. Arlindo served successively as Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and then as Minister from 1990 to 1994. He then sat in the European Parliament for almost ten years, and more recently he was Minister for Urban Affairs, Territorial Planning and Environment.



## Top Government Chevening Scholarships for Reading Students

**The International and Rural Development Department (IRDD) have successfully negotiated a three-year programme of scholarships with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Beit Trust, a well-respected African development foundation.**

Building on the International and Rural Development bursaries, these tri-partite Chevening scholarships are for students from Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, and will support two students for 2006-07 and three students for each of the following two years. The Chevening scholarships are offered in over 150 countries and enable talented graduates and young professionals to become familiar with the UK and gain skills which will benefit their own countries.

Dr Howard Jones, Head of IRDD, said: "We are delighted that this scheme is now up and running and we hope Chevening support will be given to collaborations with other Trusts in the future. We already have a strong profile in Africa, and we are very pleased to be able to develop this presence with such well-regarded partners. This is one of a number of schemes within the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development designed both to increase international student numbers, but also to continue to support those truly excellent students who might otherwise not have been able to come to Reading. We would like to acknowledge the valuable advice and support provided by Caroline Nunnerley, Acting Director of the International and Study Abroad Office, in these negotiations".

**Left:** Arlindo Cunha (on the right), Alan Swinbank (centre) and Miguel Sottomayor (PhD Agricultural and Food Economics). Miguel and other colleagues in the Faculty of Economics and Management in the Catholic University in Porto have worked with CAS on a number of EU research projects.

## The brain and the modern mind



Professor Colin Blakemore (left) and Professor Steven Mithen will give the last two Town Hall Lectures

**In the final two Town Hall Lectures for the 2006 series, Professors Colin Blakemore and Steven Mithen will be examining how research and findings in their fields have cast light on our understanding of how the brain functions and how humans have evolved.**

Described as 'one of Britain's most influential communicators in science', Colin Blakemore is a leading neuroscientist and Chief Executive of the

Medical Research Council. His lecture on Tuesday 21 March asks *Is the brain a machine? Is mind a myth?* The University's Professor of Early Prehistory, Steven Mithen, concludes this well-received series on Tuesday 28 March when he discusses *Becoming human: a story of bones, stones and the modern mind*.

With audiences of well over 200 people per lecture, this year's Town Hall Lecture series *Life, earth and happiness: an*

*evolutionary tale*, organised by Dr Nina Brooke, Lecturer in Public Engagement in Science with the School of Continuing Education, has been a resounding success.

Reading Town Hall – Tuesdays 21 March and 28 March, 7.30pm. Tickets for these lectures (£8) can be booked through the Hexagon Box Office on 0118 926 6060, or bought at the door on the evening.

## In Memoriam

### Tony Knight

It was with sadness that all his colleagues at the University learnt of the death of Tony Knight on 5 February just a few weeks before his retirement. Tony had worked for the University for many years, starting in the cleaning department, before taking up a technical post in AMS. Tony was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was always happy, always helpful. His many friends will miss him.

### Dr John Wymer

With regret the *Bulletin* has to announce the death on 10 February of Dr John Wymer. Dr Wymer was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by the University in 1993 and was Britain's

foremost authority on the earlier Stone Age settlement of the UK. He was an archaeologist and associate of Reading Museum. Emeritus Professor Peter Worsley who presented Dr Wymer for his Honorary Degree, represented the University at the funeral that was attended by a large gathering of Palaeolithic archaeologists and Quaternary geologists.

### Emeritus Professor Charles W McCombie FRSE

Charles McCombie was appointed Professor of Theoretical Physics at Reading in 1964. He set up a vibrant research programme in Theoretical Solid State Physics and recruited a number of new lecturers, three of whom are still members of the Department. Charles made a major contribution to the international esteem in which the Physics Department was held. He took on the burden of Head of Physics from 1980 to 1984. He was a Senior Resident

of Windsor Hall from its founding until 1991 and subsequently an en-suite addition to the Hall was named in his honour. He was Senior Steward of the Senior Common Room from 1971 to 1972. He chaired many University committees including the Research Board and the Joint Standing Committee of Council and Senate on the Arts. Charles had a great interest in the arts, and was the University representative on the General Council of the Southern Arts Association. Although Charles officially retired in 2001, he was in the Department several times a week working on some novel ideas in the field of quantum mechanics. He was always willing to spend time with colleagues discussing their research and made many valuable contributions. Charles was a much valued colleague and friend he will be greatly missed by us all.

For the full version of the obituary written by Dr Roger J Stewart, please see [www.rdg.ac.uk/bulletin/extra/](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/bulletin/extra/) or contact the Communications Office.



## SUPPLIER EXHIBITION

**University of Reading Purchasing Department cordially invites you... to its inaugural Supplier Exhibition**

On Thursday 23 March  
from 10.30am to 4pm

Ground Floor of the Palmer Building

The Purchasing Department has invited a number of the University's Approved Suppliers to exhibit their goods and services for one day only. For a list of exhibitors, please see:

[www.reading.ac.uk/purchasing](http://www.reading.ac.uk/purchasing)

Every visitor has a chance to win in the Prize Draw

Refreshments will be available

## Using University Library Special Collections?

**The University Library's Special Collections of archives and rare books, currently at the Main Library Whiteknights, are soon moving to a new store being built at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), Redlands Road.**

They will form part of the new Special Collections Service. The following information will help you plan to avoid the inevitable periods of reduced availability during the move.

Until 13 May, you can still consult these collections at Main Library Whiteknights in the Special Collections Reading Room. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am–5pm, and Thursdays during term until 7pm. To enable Library staff to prepare for the relocation, it will be closed every Wednesday, between Saturday 8 and Sunday 23 April and

permanently from Monday 15 May.

From 15 May until the new service opens, some material will be available for consultation at the MERL Reading Room, except when it is in transit. Further details will be available nearer the time.

From Autumn 2006, you will be able to use this material in the new University Special Collections Service based at the MERL Reading Room.

There is more information online about access to the special collections at: [www.library.rdg.ac.uk/colls/special/collsaccess.html](http://www.library.rdg.ac.uk/colls/special/collsaccess.html) and the new Joint Reading Room Service and Archives Store at: [www.library.rdg.ac.uk/colls/special/jointservice](http://www.library.rdg.ac.uk/colls/special/jointservice). Please email [specialcollections@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:specialcollections@rdg.ac.uk) with any queries.

## WANTED

**Board Games and a TV/Video player. Can you help?**

*The Girls Club and Toddler Groups at the Pakistan Community Centre in Reading are seeking:*

- 1 Donations of board games,**  
eg Monopoly, Go for Broke, Game of Life, Operation, Connect 4 and anything like Twister. Also younger games for toddlers, please.
- 2 Donated TV/video player** (all-in-one).

Please contact Clare Bonney at [clare@volaction.demon.co.uk](mailto:clare@volaction.demon.co.uk) If you would like to find out about occasional voluntary work outside working hours, contact Clare, who can arrange to meet with you on campus and find vacancies that might suit you. This service is provided as part of the University's Employee Volunteering Project (HEACF funded) run by Clare Bonney, working with Reading Voluntary Action. New general volunteering vacancies in the Reading area are posted each week on the Reading Voluntary Action website: [www.r-v-a.org](http://www.r-v-a.org)

Other vacancies are posted from time to time at [www.info.rdg.ac.uk/staff](http://www.info.rdg.ac.uk/staff)

## Centre for Staff Training & Development

**Programme 17 March–7 April To book please email [cstd@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:cstd@rdg.ac.uk)**

<b>17 March</b>	10am–12noon 12.30–2pm	Understanding and Interpreting Monthly Reports Self Assessment: How Employable are you?
<b>21 March</b>	12.45–4.45pm 2–4pm	Introduction to New Lecturers Programme Advanced Word
<b>22 March</b>	9.30am–12noon 12noon–3pm 3–5pm	Teaching for Active Learning Running Tutorials and Seminars Learning and Teaching for Large Groups
<b>23 March</b>	9.30am–12.30pm 10am–12noon 1.15–4.15pm	Learning Outcomes and Course Design Making the Most of Email Examining and Assessing
<b>24 March</b>	9.30am–12.30pm 1.15–2.45pm	Giving Feedback to Students Portfolios and Projects
<b>28 March</b>	10am–12noon 2–5pm	Using the FrontPage Templates for the University Website (Introduction) Time Management
<b>29 March</b>	9.30am–4pm 2–3pm	Managing and Developing Research Staff Using Technology Tables and Lecterns
<b>30 March</b>	9.30am–4pm 9.30am–4.30pm	ILM Accredited Introductory Certificate in Management (Day 6) Effective E learning: Creating your own Blackboard Course
<b>31 March</b>	10–11.30am 12.30–2pm	Mental Health: Psychosis Deterring Plagiarism
<b>4 April</b>	9.30am–4.30pm 10am–12noon	ILM Accredited Introductory Certificate in Management (Day 4) Using the FrontPage Templates for the University Website (Advanced)
<b>5 April</b>	9.30am–5pm	Project Management
<b>6 April</b>	9.15am–1pm 9.30am–3.30pm 1.30–5pm	Race Equality Legislation Briefing Web Accessibility – Design Issues Media Skills Workshop
<b>7 April</b>	9.30am–12.30pm	Ideas for Whiteknights Campus Tours

For details of all these courses please see [www.reading.ac.uk/cstd](http://www.reading.ac.uk/cstd) or ring ext. 7097

The diary is compiled from events posted on the Events page of the University website. For fuller details and to post your own events please see <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/events>

Special events to celebrate

## Samuel Beckett – 100 years

As well as a number of one-off events, two exhibitions will be running in Reading over the next few months

### 18 March – 19 April

(closed Mondays)

#### John Haynes Exhibition

This exhibition is a collection of images of Beckett's work during this period in preparation and performance, as well as portraits of the playwright himself.

Admission: Free. Location: Museum of English Rural Life [www.merl.org.uk](http://www.merl.org.uk)

### 25 March – 25 June

(closed Monday, except Bank Holidays)

#### Samuel Beckett: Irish European exhibition

The story of Beckett's life and achievements from his birth in Dublin on 13 April 1906 to his worldwide fame following the success of 'Waiting for Godot'.

Admission: Free. Location: The Museum of Reading, Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading [www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)

See page 7 for more University events to celebrate Beckett's Centenary.

### Thursday 16 March

**Applied Statistics seminar**, The development and assessment of a Quality of Life measure (CASP-19) in the context of research on ageing, **Professor Dick Wiggins** (City University), Go3, Applied Statistics, 2pm

**Philosophy Impartiality seminar**, On the Normative Content of EU Asylum and Migration Policies, **An Verlinden**, (Ghent) 25 HUMSS, 5pm

### Friday 17 March

**Applied Mathematics & Numerical Analysis seminar**, Plane wave basis boundary elements, **Jon Trevelyn** (Durham), Maths Department, 3pm

### Saturday 18 March

**Bringing Colour to Life: Creative Workshops Inspired by Science**, See Bulletin 445 MERL, 2–4pm

### Sunday 19 March

**Bringing Colour to Life: Creative Workshops Inspired by Science**, See Bulletin 445 MERL, 2–4pm

### Tuesday 21 March

**BioCentre Roadshow**, Potential users of the BioCentre are invited to attend to meet staff and find out more about the BioCentre's range of services and opportunities, 'school quotas' and pricing. Please email [k.nicholson@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:k.nicholson@rdg.ac.uk) if you plan to attend, 233/234 Food BioSciences, 3pm

**Town Hall Lecture**, Is the brain a machine? Is the mind a myth?

**Professor Colin Blakemore**, The Town Hall, Reading, 7.30pm, tickets £8 from Hexagon Box Office on (0118) 960 6060 or at the Town Hall on the door, see page 10

### Thursday 23 March

**Supplier Exhibition Day**, Palmer Building, 10.30am, see page 11

**BioCentre Roadshow**, see Tuesday 21 March, please email [k.nicholson@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:k.nicholson@rdg.ac.uk) if you plan to attend, ams 133/Lecture Theatre, 3pm

### Saturday 25 March

**SCR event**, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Schumann's Symphony No. 3 and The Barber of Seville by Rossini, Great Hall, London Road, 7.30pm, £10, Contact: 0118 975 2091

### Tuesday 28 March

**Town Hall Lecture**, Becoming Human: a story of bones, stones and the modern mind, **Professor Steven Mithen**, The Town Hall, Reading, 7.30pm, tickets £8 from Hexagon Box Office on (0118) 960 6060 or at the Town Hall on the door, see page 10

### Wednesday 29 March

**World Premiere performance**, Beckett's Novella First Love, Bob Kayley Studio Theatre, Bulmershe Court, See page 7

### Thursday 30 March

**Academic Conference: Beckett at Reading 2006**, The Beckett International Foundation and the School of English and American Literature are hosting a major international academic conference on Beckett. Confirmed speakers include: **Chris Ackerley**, **Enoch Brater**, **Rolf Breuer**, **Mary Bryden**, **Dirk Van Hulle**, **Angela Moorjani**, **John Pilling**, **Antonia Rodriguez-Gago** and **Therese Seidel**, Wantage Hall, Reading, 1pm, From £85 Non-residential, contact: Mark Nixon, [m.nixon@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:m.nixon@rdg.ac.uk)

**World Premiere performance**, Beckett's Novella First Love, see page 7

### Friday 31 March

**Academic Conference: Beckett at Reading 2006**, See 30 March

**World Premiere performance**, Beckett's Novella First Love, see page 7

### Saturday 1 April

**Academic Conference: Beckett at Reading 2006**, See 30 March following the conference dinner, Beckett's authorised biographer **Professor James Knowlson** will give a talk entitled *From Rags to Riches: Beckett and the Reading Archive*, [m.nixon@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:m.nixon@rdg.ac.uk)

### Sunday 2 April

**Academic Conference: Beckett at Reading 2006**, See 30 March

**Samuel Beckett Centenary Gala Evening**, A Celebration of Beckett's Work (in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief), Reading Concert Hall, 7pm, £20, £40 or £60, contact: Kirsti Wilson, 0118 378 6161, See page 7

### Sunday 9 April

**Harris Garden Open Day**, in aid of National Garden Scheme, Harris Garden, Whiteknights Campus, 2pm

### Thursday 13 April

**Celebrity Talk** – Celebrating 100 Years of Beckett, **Professor James Knowlson**, authorised biographer of Samuel Beckett, will lead a gallery talk to celebrate the day of the centenary of his birth, Museum of Reading, 12 noon

### Tuesday 25 April

**University Women's Club**, talk and visit to the Cole Museum of Zoology, **Dr Amanda Callaghan**, AMS Building, 7.30pm

### Tuesday 2 May

**MERL Seminar**, The Changing Shape of the Chicken, **Dr Richard Bonser**, Conference Room MERL, 4.30pm

### Thursday 4 May

**Celebrity Talk**, Directing Beckett, **Sir Peter Hall** gives a vivid, fascinating talk about his experiences, Reading Town Hall, 7.30pm, For tickets contact: Reading Arts Box Office, 0118 960 6060