

Department Newsletter

July/August 2002 Number 120

STAFF AND STUDENTS

The department welcomes **Robin Hunter** as the new Departmental Superintendent. Robin has a BSc in Environmental Chemistry (UEA, Norwich), and PG Diploma level in Analytical Chemistry (Salford). He worked for 1 year for the National Rivers Authority, before moving onto a research technician post at Exeter supporting the work of WERG. On their move to RHUL, he moved with them and became a technician in the Geography Department supporting WERG and teaching. After working in that position for 5.5 years, he moved on to set-up and manage a commercial agricultural lab in Norfolk, which he did for 3 years. Finally, having decided the time was right for a career move, he saw the position advertised here, and the rest so to speak is history. Robin is married to Wendy with 2 children aged 5 (Rachel) and 4 (Matthew).

Dr Nicola Thomas, until recently a postdoctoral research associate in the department, has been appointed to a three-year lectureship in historical geography at the University of Exeter

Felix Driver acted as external advisor at a review meeting on The Shape of the World course at the Open University, 17 July 2002.

Dr Dipti Bhagat, recently awarded her PhD, has been appointed to a Lectureship in Contextual Studies in the Department of Design & Technology, London Guildhall University. Congratulations Dipti!

Sarah Cant has been appointed to a two-year Lectureship in Human Geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Ed Derbyshire has been invited by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) to set up and chair the Science Committee of the UNESCO-IUGS 'Year of Planet Earth' initiative, charged with providing direction on fundamental scientific priorities that will guide the products and programme of the initiative.

Rob Potter was the External Examiner for the PhD thesis, 'Water Resources Management in the Eastern Caribbean: a Study of the Two Small Island Development States, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados' by Shelley McMillan of the University of Hull. The viva was held on Monday 12th August 2002.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Felix Driver attended a meeting of the editorial advisory board for Transactions IBG, Kensington Gore, 18 July 2002.

David Hilling presented a paper on 'The Changing spatial dimension in port relations' at the 7th North Sea History Conference, Dunkirk, 21-23 June 2002.

Ed Derbyshire chaired a meeting of the Data group of the IUGS-UNESCO 'CHANGES' initiative (Carbon Hydrology and Global environmental Systems) in the Department of Geography, Sheffield University on 18 July.

Andy Bradford gave an after-dinner talk entitled 'Urban Agriculture' at the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches, The Pines Hotel, Burnham on the 31st July 2002.

On 16th July 2002 **Dr Martin Blackwell** from Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research (RHIER) presented an exhibit to the visiting public at the Eden Project, on the role of wetlands in the environment. The exhibit included a real piece of wetland in which the ability of wetlands to remove nitrate from surface water, and so reduce pollution in rivers, was demonstrated. The display was part of a series of exhibitions and lectures organised by the Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) with the theme of Earth, Air, Fire and Water

PUBLICATIONS

Bradford, A.M. (2002) 'Sewage Irrigated Agriculture: Annex F'. In Brook, R.M. (ed.) Filling gaps in knowledge about the peri-urban interface around Hubli-Dharwad. Department for International Development Project No. R7867. Final Technical Report. University of Wales, Bangor, Natural Resources Systems Programme, Department for International Development, pp. F1-F22.

Desai, V. "Informal Politics, Grassroots NGOs and Women's Empowerment in the slums of Bombay" for *Rethinking Empowerment: Gender and development in a global/local world* (2002) (eds.) Jane Parpart, Shirin Rai and Kathleen Staudt, Routledge, London pp. 218-235.

Davies, S. M. (2002) Llwch yn rhagweld hinsawdd y dyfodol? Y Naturiaethwr. (Welsh popular science magazine published by Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd and Countryside Council for Wales). Launched at the National Eisteddfod in St David's at the beginning of August.

McGregor, D.F.M., Thompson, D.A. and Simon, D. 2002. 'Water quality and management in peri-urban Kumasi, Ghana.' In *Land-Water Linkages in Rural Watersheds*. FAO Land and Water Bulletin 9. Abstract p.66, full paper on CD-ROM. FAO, Rome.

Potter, R.B. (2002) 'Geography and development: 'Core and Periphery'? A reply', *Area*, 34, 213-214.

Reviews

Potter, R.B. (2002): Review of Environmental Problems in an Urbanising World by J.E. Handoy, D. Mithin and D.Satterthwaite, London and Sterling, UA: Earthscan Publications Ltd', *Land Use Policy*, 19, 188.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

John Lowe and **Siwan Davies** attended the Midnight Sun INTIMATE (INTEgration of Ice Core, MARine and TERrestrial records of the Last Termination) International Workshop in Tromsø, Norway, 22nd-28th June. Siwan gave a presentation entitled 'Towards a European Tephrochronology Framework for Termination 1 and the early Holocene'.

A conference on *Tropical Views & Visions*, convened by **Felix Driver** and **Luciana Martins** took place at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, 12-13 July 2002. The conference, opened by the Museum's Director, Roy Clare, featured speakers from Columbia University, Princeton, Boston, Hawaii, Brown University (Rhode Island), Auckland, as well as the UK. Further details are on the Museum's website, at <http://www.nmm.ac.uk>, and on the department's AHRB project website, at <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/tropics/home.htm>

Luciana Martins and **Felix Driver** presented a paper entitled 'Traces on the sea-shore: recovering the geographies of a shipwreck' at the Tropical Views & Visions conference, National Maritime Museum, 12 July 2002.

David Simon presented a seminar on 'Urbanisation, development and environment: prospects for co-management in peri-urban Kumasi, Ghana' to the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn and the Secretariat of the International Human Dimensions of Global Change Programme, in Bonn on 16 July. This seminar summarised research on the recently completed 3-year DFID-funded grant held by David, Duncan McGregor and Don Thompson.

David Simon was in South Africa from 30 July to 9th August, during which time he attended the International Geographical Union congress in Durban (4-7 August) and presented a paper on 'Development-environment discourses, policies and practices in post-apartheid southern Africa'. Also attending and presenting papers were two of David's former PhD students at RHUL, **Mongezi Noah** and **Maano Ramutsindela**. In Cape Town, David took forward negotiations with the Univ. of Cape Town over its link with RHUL, and held supervisory sessions with Vicki Igglesden (PhD student) and Kerryn McKune (MA student). He also conducted some research in Johannesburg.

Rob Imrie attended the annual conference of the European Housing Research Network, which took place in Vienna, July 1st-5th. Rob presented a paper entitled 'Housing quality and the provision of accessible homes' and he was a discussant for a session on 'housing and health'

Mike Dolton attended a conference on 'Accessible Curricula: Good Practice For All' at the ORT House Conference Centre, London on 8th July 2002.

Ed Derbyshire attended the 'International Workshop on Validation Data Sets for Modelling Mineral Aerosol in Global Climate Cycles' at the Max-Planck-Institute für Biogeochemie in Jena, Germany from 2 to 4 May 2002, where he presented a paper on Dust Deposition in North China.

Ed Derbyshire spent the 11 June working on a paper for publication with Professor Monique Fort in the Department of Physical Geography in Université Paris VII. On 12 June he held

discussions with the Director of the Earth Sciences Division of UNESCO (Dr. Wolfgang Eder). He also held discussions on the U.K. policy in support of the UNESCO Natural Science Programmes with Mr. David Stanton (U.K. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO) and Ms. Christine Atkinson (Deputy Permanent Delegate) in the Delegation offices in Paris.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting on future initiatives by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), held in Leiden, The Netherlands, on 13 June, with Dr. E. de Mulder (IUGS President) and Dr. Henk Schalke.

David Hilling participated in a study tour of small ports and coastal ship builders in north Holland from 1st-7th June 2002.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Lewis Owen (Geological Sciences, University of California, Riverside CA, USA) visited the Department on 18 June for discussions with **Ed Derbyshire** and other colleagues.

Professor Li Shijie (Deputy Director, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing) paid two visits to the Department in July. He undertook fieldwork in East Anglia with **Jim Rose**, and held discussions with **John Lowe**, **Ed Derbyshire**, **Xingmin Meng** and other colleagues.

OTHER NEWS

Sue Adair and Tom Manson got married on the 6th July at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Bassingham, Lincolnshire. The reception was held at Stragglethorpe Hall and the honeymoon was spent in Ireland.

Andy Bradford married Caroline Burden in Pauntley, Gloucestershire on the 13th July 2002.

The one-day inter-departmental cricket match between Geography and Geology took place on 7th August 2002. The Geography team put up a valiant fight but were just pipped to the post but a very competitive Geology side. Geography were affected by injury and inexperience but are determined to come back fighting next year.