

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Rob Imrie was external examiner of the Ph.D. thesis by Sarah Edwards, Department of Geography, University of Southampton, on June 6th. The thesis was entitled 'The significance of social enterprises in the reform of the British welfare state'.

Felix Driver served as external examiner for the Geography BA/Bsc degrees at Queen Mary, University of London, 16-18 June.

Duncan McGregor visited the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, between 18 and 25 June, in his final year (of 6) as External Examiner in Physical Geography. In between official duties, he also had two field days in Jamaica's degraded watersheds.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon attended a seminar of the British-Angola Forum at Chatham House on 3 June, on progress with the Angolan peace process.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Geological Society at Burlington House, London, on 14 May.

Ed Derbyshire attended the initial steering meeting of the Outreach Programme Committee of the International year of Planet earth 2004-2007 at the Geological Society, Burlington House, London, on 27 May.

Rob Imrie, as external examiner, attended the examination boards for the MA degrees in 'Space, Place and Politics' and 'Practicing Human Geography', at the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Aberystwyth, June 18th and 19th.

PUBLICATIONS

Booth, C., Batty, E., Dargan, L., Gilroy, R., Harris, N., **Imrie, R.**, and Thomas, H., 2003, 'Planning and Diversity: Research into Policies and Procedures', Final Report to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning Division, London.

David Simon (2003) 'NEPAD after Evian; G8 Summit Disappoints on NEPAD', *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*, 5 June, Section V, 16-18.

Barker, D & **D.F.M. McGregor** (eds) 2003 *Resources, Planning and Environmental Management in a Changing Caribbean*. University of the West Indies Press, xv + 281pp.

McGregor, D.F.M. & D. Barker 2003 'Environment, resources and development: some reflections on the Caribbean Research agenda', 1-10 in Barker, D & D.F.M. McGregor (eds) *Resources, Planning and Environmental Management in a Changing Caribbean*. University of the West Indies Press

Accepted: **Hodgkins, R.**, Cooper, R., Wadham, J., Tranter, M. 2003. Suspended sediment fluxes in a High-Arctic glacierised catchment: implications for fluvial sediment storage. *Sedimentary Geology*, in press.

Desai Vandana (2003) 'Emerging Staffing Issues in Grassroots Urban NGOs: The Case Of Mumbai', in: *Global Built Environment Review (GBER)*, Vol:3, No. 1, pp. 26-36.

F Driver, 'The geopolitics of knowledge and ignorance' (editorial), *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 28, 2 (2003), pp. 131-2.

BOOK REVIEWS/ABSTRACTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

On June 3rd 2003, a one day workshop, on 'Housing quality, disability and design', was held at Senate House. It was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and organised and convened by **Rob Imrie**. It considered the interrelationships between disability and design in the home environment and had four substantive foci: (a). In what ways have the needs of disabled people featured in debates about design and housing quality? (b). How far, and in what ways, are disabled people's lives influenced by the nature of the design of domestic environments? (c). What is the nature of government regulation and policy in relation to disability and the design of home environments? (d) What should housing quality comprise?

Eleven papers were presented by a range of international and home-based scholars including Professor James Barlow (Innovation Unit, Imperial College), Professor Susanne Iwarsson (School of Architecture, University of Lund), Professor Julienne Hanson (School of Architecture, UCL) and Professor Peter Lansley, the coordinator of the EQUAL programme. The workshop was attended by Fayyaz Vellani and Rebecca Edwards and 26 other delegates, from a range of academic and government backgrounds. The papers will be published in a special issue of the international journal 'Housing Studies' in 2004, to be edited by **Rob Imrie**.

Martins, L. Review of Raffles, H. In *Amazonia: a natural history* (Princeton, 2002) in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 21 (3) 2003, 378-380.

F Driver, review of Nancy Leys Stepan, *Picturing Tropical Nature* (London: Reaktion Books, 2001), *British Journal for the History of Science*, 36 (2003), pp. 104-6.

Jude Hill gave a paper titled 'Travelling objects: the Wellcome Collection between London and Los Angeles' on Sat 21 June, 2003. This was part of a session under the title 'Collecting Objects' which was part of a Medical History conference, organised by UCL's Wellcome History of Medicine Department. The Conference was held at the Wellcome Trust and commemorated 150 years since Henry Wellcome's birth.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Ed Derbyshire accepted an invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO to join the meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Basic Sciences, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 29 and 30 May.

Ed Derbyshire held discussions on the future research directions and the Scientific Programme of the International Year of Planet Earth with the President and Secretary-General of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in Paris on 29 May.

Danielle Schreve visited the Whitemoor Haye woolly rhinoceros site in Staffordshire with Andy Carrant (Natural History Museum), David Keen (Royal Holloway and University of Birmingham) and Alex Lang (University of Birmingham) on 3rd June.

Danielle Schreve visited Ling Hall Quarry, Warwickshire, with David Keen (Royal Holloway and University of Birmingham) and Alex Lang (University of Birmingham) on 17th June.

Andy Bradford attended the 'Public Open Space Discussion' on 'Making Participation Work for the poor - Participation and Local Governance', 15th May 2003, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. Special Guest was Prof. Robert Chambers, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Andy Bradford guided Dr Axel Drescher during visits to the villages of Esereso and Kyerekrom located in peri-urban areas of Kumasi, 22nd & 23rd May 2003. Dr Axel Drescher was in Ghana to evaluate the International Development Research Center (IDRC, Canada) funded project 'Waste and Urban Agriculture', which is being implemented by the International Water Management Institute (funding for Andy's micro-projects has been provided from this particular project). Dr Axel Drescher (University of Freiburg, Germany) is a physical geographer specializing in tropical agriculture and also a senior advisor to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on urban and peri-urban agriculture.

Andy Bradford represented the International Water Management Institute at the inauguration of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology environmental club 'Green Earth', 7th June 2003 (World Environmental Day).

GRANTS

Hodgkins, R. - NERC Airborne Remote Sensing Facility: Testing the effectiveness of a combined LiDAR and photogrammetry approach for topographic mapping of mixed polar terrain. With Adrian Fox (Director, British Antarctic Survey Mapping and Geographic Information Centre) and Simon Carr (Dept of Geography, Oxford Brookes University). £7700 (nominal value of imagery).

Hodgkins, R. - RHUL Research Strategy Fund: Combined LiDAR and Photogrammetric Mapping Applied to Arctic Glacier Evolution. £2300.

Vandana Desai has been awarded £4,500 by the British Academy to do longitudinal analysis on the Urban NGO sector in Mumbai. The grant will support her data collection fieldwork in India over the summer and whilst on sabbatical

Vanina Fernanda Boix prospective masters student on the Development and Environment Programme has received the Chevening Scholarship provided by the British Council Argentina.

Poonam Vaneer Jusrut prospective masters student on the Development and Environment Programme has received the Department for International Development Shared Scholarship provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Nick Mount, School of Geography, Birkbeck College, dropped by for a chinwag with **R. Hodgkins** about research into fluvial processes in glacial environments.

Over 25 students attended our summer school and it was a very successful day, focussing on the environmental reconstruction of Hackney! The feedback from teachers and students was very positive. The Organisers were **Nick Branch, Danielle Schreve and Chris Green**.

Professor John Shepherd (Birkbeck) and Dr David Evans (Glasgow) visited the Department on 10th and 11th June, in connection with their duties as Visiting Examiners in the Department

OTHER NEWS

David Simon has acted as overseas examiner for the PhD thesis of Frederick Sikabongo, 'Developing an integrated systems approach to the management of hazardous waste in urban environments: the cases of Oshakati and Windhoek - Namibia', Massey University, New Zealand.

Danielle Schreve was interviewed by Aubrey Manning on the Lynford Neanderthal site for a forthcoming series on Radio 4.

Congratulations to **Melanie and Jonathan Price** on the birth of their baby Daughter, **Lauren**, who was born on Monday, 16th of June and weighed in at 6lbs exactly. Mother and baby are doing well

Congratulations to **Jay, Andrea and Manu** on the arrival of Miss Anju Lakshmi Berardi, born on the 24th June, at home, at 8:14am after a four hour labour! She weighed 7lbs.