

Bulletin

Fortnightly news for staff | 23 August 2007 | 469





Front cover: The Virtual Research Environment for Archaeology (VERA) Project comes to the University's archaeological site at Silchester. See page 5.

The Bulletin can be found online at www.reading.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, DEAO Whiteknights The University of Reading Reading RG6 6AH email bulletin@reading.ac.uk

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.

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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.reading.ac.uk/about/about-readinginthenews2007.asp

8 June, Science

A report on the International Whaling Commission's recent meeting. With comment from **Professor Jonathan Gregory** (Meteorology).

12 June, BBC Radio Berkshire Martin Andrews talks about how ephemera can be used to discover how people used to live and the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication's efforts to promote an interest in this field.

12 June, BBC 1 Professor Alan Swinbank (School of Agriculture Policy & Development) gives his expert opinion on the rising price of world food production.

14 June, 2-ten FM John Fisher, Insurance Officer, shares his knowledge of the Falkland Islands after spending three months there as an RAF reservist.

14 June, Reading Evening Post The University has been awarded £47,000 to reveal the archaeology of ancient Glastonbury Abbey in an important year-long project.

18 June, Daily Mail Professor Ian Jones (Biological Sciences) provides expert comment in a report about British scientists developing a vaccine to give lifelong protection against all strains of flu.

18 June, BBC Radio Berkshire Professor Glenn Gibson (Food Biosciences) is interviewed by eight radio stations across the UK in relation to the launch of Bizmuno, a new gut health food product based on eight years research at the University.

21 June, Reading Evening Post The University's third annual President's golf day proves a big hit with leading businesses in the Thames Valley.

3 July, Reading Evening Post Student ambassadors from the Widening Participation Office, are supporting pupils at Leighton Park School by helping to promote achievement in science and raise awareness of engineering.

6 July, Reading Evening Post The University now has the most powerful academic computer in the UK and the second most powerful nationwide. With comment from Professor Vassil **Alexandrov** (Systems Engineering). 10 July, BBC Radio 4 **Professor Will Hughes** (Construction Management and

Engineering) providing expert opinions on the way that the market for construction work operates.

12 July, The Times A feature on Reading student and Olympic rowing hopeful Sam Townsend, who battled obesity just five years ago and is now a Great Britain oarsman.

12 July, Press & Journal Reading student George Todrack, is one of three people setting off on a 10,000 mile trip from Fort William to Mongolia in an 11-yearold Ford Fiesta, to raise money for several charities.

15 July, Mail on Sunday An article about the Government's recent decision to include financial lessons in the secondary school curriculum. Reading student advisor Cheryl Milne, believes her role as a 'money doctor' to students has been a big success over the past few years.

18 July and 3 August, BBC Radio Dr Karin Lesnik-Oberstein, School of English and American Literature, was interviewed by BBC Radio Newcastle and Radio York on her (edited) book on The Last Taboo: Women and Body Hair (Manchester University Press, 2006)

20 July, BBC Radio Berks, Henry Kelly **Professor Sir Brian Hoskins** (Meteorology) talks about China's effect on climate change.

21 July, Grocer A report on the growing global crop crisis. Dr Tim Wheeler (Agriculture) says food producers must be prepared for continuing climate instability.

22 July, Sunday Times **Professor Kevin Warwick** (Systems Engineering) answers some questions in an article on the progress being made in the field of robotics.

23 July, BBC 4 **Professor Alan Evans (Business** School) was a guest on the You and Yours programme. He discussed the growth of 'Buy to Let' and 'Buy to Leave' flats.

24 July, The Times **Dr Peter Stott** (Meteorology) takes part in a study which conclusively links greenhouse gases to heavier rainfall.

24 July, Daily Express A report on new evidence suggesting some supplements could be doing more harm than good. With expert comment from Dr Ann Walker (Food Biosciences).

25 July, The Guardian **Professor Keith Shine**

(Meteorology) writes in to refute the claim that there is no evidence that carbon dioxide is a net driver for world climate.

27 July, 2-ten FM **Dr Roland Fox** (Biological Sciences) gives his expert opinion on the health risks associated with the recent flooding.

28 July, The Psychologist Professor Yan Huang's (Applied Linguistics) new book Pragmatics receives a positive review.

1 August, She **Professor Elizabeth Williamson** (Pharmacy) gives her expert opinion on natural remedies.

Nutrition In an article asking 'can we choose to eat foods that will substantially reduce our risk of developing cancer', Professor Ian Rowland (Food Biosciences) says answers would have to be based on human intervention trials.

1 August, Food Ingredients Health &

3 August, New Scientist **Dr Ellie Highwood**, (Meteorology) discusses how for much of the year south Asia languishes under a thick brown haze some 3 kilometres thick, causing significant warming in the region.

3 August, General Practitioner Dr David Oliver (Health and Social Care) says preventing falls in older people should be a priority for GPs and primary care commissioners.

6 August, Daily Mail Professor Ian Jones (Biological Sciences) comments on the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Ian also gave his expert views on Radio 5 Live.

Professor Brian Fidler of the Institute of Education was recently interviewed by Helen Wickham of Brook Lapping Productions for a programme for Teachers TV on schools' relationship with the media entitled In the News.

New Research Awards

Winners of the University's Research Leadership and Best Research Outputs Awards attended a reception in June to receive their awards and celebrate their success

Research Leadership Award

Pictured right, are from left to right:
Professor Dianne Berry, Pro-ViceChancellor (Research) with the winners of
the Research Leadership Awards: Professor
Jon Gibbins; Dr Wayne Hayes; Professor
Vassil Alexandrov and Dr Anne Marie
Minihane. The awards will allow these
members of staff to be bought out of their
teaching and administration for a year
in order to concentrate on their research.





Best Research Output Award

Pictured left, from left to right are Dr Joe Sweeney; Dr Paul Stiff; Dr Mary Lewis and Dr Paula Casal (with her daughter, Alina) pictured with Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Berry, centre, all received £1,000 in their Staff Development Account in recognition of the high quality of their research output. Both sets of awards are funded by the University's Research Endowment Fund.

New Chancellor

John Madejski has been appointed as Chancellor of the University.

Mr Madejski, 66, the Chairman of Reading Football Club, will be installed formally as Chancellor at a ceremony in December. He succeeds Lord Carrington who was appointed the University's sixth Chancellor in March 1992. The decision to appoint Mr Madejski was taken by the University's Council on Tuesday 10 July. Mr Madejski said: "I am honoured to be appointed Chancellor of the University of Reading and I look forward to promoting this well respected educational institution. This comes at a very exciting time where recent research has identified the town of Reading as being the number one economic performer.

"We can be proud of this and also our University which provides students from the UK and across the world the opportunity to study in a fantastic environment at this leading centre for higher education."

The Vice-Chancellor, Gordon Marshall, said: "I am delighted to announce that John Madejski has been appointed Chancellor of this University. He has an international reputation for his business achievements and has given much to the town through Reading FC, as well as giving much to the county of Berkshire though various business, educational and arts projects. I am sure he will be an excellent ambassador for the University both here in the UK and abroad.



"Lord Carrington has been an exceptional Chancellor who has contributed enormously to the University over many years. He has made innumerable friends and inspired everyone with his tireless work and unlimited enthusiasm for University activity."

Successful INSET

With outreach and schools liaison high on the University's agenda, keeping a high profile amongst schools and potential applicants to the University's programmes is an important activity.

The School of Languages and European Studies' INSET courses for A-level language teachers are an excellent example of this good practice.

The INSET for English Language A-level teachers, Paradigms Found, which runs for a week in July and is sponsored by teachit.co.uk, has been taking place now for five years, and continues to attract teachers from all over the country.

In recognition of this success, Dr Jane Setter of the Department of Applied Linguistics, who runs the course, was invited to speak at the Linguistics Association of Great Britain's annual conference in August and teachers on the INSET have been invited to submit copy to a special edition of the Teachit Language newsletter, read by hundreds of English Language teachers nationwide.



Dr Jane Setter, leader of INSET course

"This year, in conjunction with colleagues in Modern Languages, French and German sessions Understanding Modern French and German were launched. We even had requests for information from students as far afield as Kenya," says Dr Setter. "We can be certain that the areas of study in our School and services to teachers have an internationally recognised profile!"

Australian expert visits **Pharmacy**

Professor Arthur Christopoulos visited the Reading School of Pharmacy in June to give a special lecture.

Professor Christopoulos is Professor of Pharmacology at Monash University and is this year's Australasian visitor to the British Pharmacological Society. As part of his visit he gave lectures at Reading, Nottingham and Aberdeen as well as at the Life Sciences 2007 meeting in Glasgow.

Professor Philip Strange, Professor of Pharmacology said: "We were very fortunate to have Arthur visit us as part of his UK tour, he gave an excellent lecture and inspired the audience. Arthur is well known around the world for his work on novel drug targets"

Diamond Research Day

A Diamond Research Day symposium was held at the University in June.

Diamond is the new UK Synchrotron X-ray source. It is the largest UK science investment in the last 30 years and is located on the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory near Didcot. The University is establishing strong links with the facility, such as a joint professorship held by Professor Ian Hamley, who organised the meeting. Speakers included Professor Dame Louise Johnson, FRS and Professor Colin Norris, Directors of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences respectively at Diamond. Nick Terrill, David Allan, Thomas Sorensen and Steve Collins provided interesting overviews of Diamond's capabilities to study different types of materials, from soft and squishy stuff to magnets! The meeting was an excellent introduction to the outstanding opportunities offered by Diamond and should promote further collaboration by researchers in several departments at Reading. Professor Hamley expressed his thanks to all involved.

Mind and Body

The University hosted a unique, international conference in July on ideas about the influence of the mind on the body, across a wide range of disciplines.

The conference provided a framework that enabled such apparently abstract matters as critical theory and the nature of the soul to be discussed in refreshingly down-to-earth terms, while providing opportunities to analyse the urgently practical concerns aroused by such matters as the theme of United 93, eating disorders, corsets and eye surgery. Established academics and research students from the USA, Australia, Italy, Germany and Great Britain attended. The keynote speaker was Professor George Rousseau, from the University of Oxford, whose plenary address on historically changing views of relationships between the body and paranoia was entitled Nervous Narrators: Mind and Body in G Sharp Minor. Topics included The Material Mind in Victorian Literature, Heroic Bodies and Minds in Contemporary Film and Television, Feminine/Female Bodies, The Politics of Consumption and Body Hair. Many of the papers reflected or complemented research and postgraduate teaching undertaken at the University of Reading.

The event was coordinated by a team from the School of English and American Literature (SEAL), the Department of Film, Theatre and Television, and the History Department, with invaluable assistance at every stage from Jan Cox, the SEAL Postgraduate Secretary.



Professor Rousseau gave plenary address

VERA at Silchester

The Archaeology Department and the School of Systems Engineering at the University are working together on a project that aims to produce a fully-fledged virtual research environment for the archaeological community.

The Virtual Research Environment for Archaeology (VERA) project aims to provide archaeologists with a means to share their research and results before. during and after excavation. The project will find out how archaeologists currently use computers in everyday work with the ultimate aim being to develop a system that uses cutting edge technology. The test bed is the University's Silchester Town Life project, now in its eleventh season. The VERA project aims to make the information flow more readily between researchers and excavators and is experimenting with technology

including wireless broadband in the



Archaeologists at the Silchester Town Life project



Researchers use high-tech recording equipment

trenches, handheld PDA's, i-pens, digital paper and video conferencing. The use of this type of technology is something new and exciting in the field and it is hoped that the project can find practical solutions to enable fast yet accurate data collection and processing.

The project is funded by JISC as part of phase 2 of the Virtual Research Environments programme. Reading is collaborating with the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College London.

For more information see the project website http://vera.rdg.ac.uk/

New look for Cavafy

A student and a staff member in Typography have contributed to a new complete bilingual edition of the master of modern Greek verse, described as 'the most authentic ever published'.

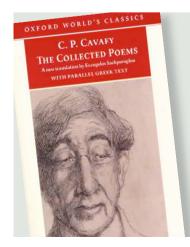
As part of her coursework, MDes student Ioanna Stavridi undertook the task of typesetting the Greek text of C. P. Cavafy's poems in exact parallel with a new English translation by Evangelos Sachperoglou for Oxford World's Classics. The Greek text, prepared by Anthony Hirst, attempts to be as accurate as possible to editions published in the poet's lifetime.

Rather than use commercial Greek fonts that are suited more to advertising than to literature, OUP selected a newly designed typeface for the book, one that Gerry Leonidas, programme director for MA

Typeface Design, has been deeply involved with. Gerry advised on the development of this Greek font, working closely with its designer, Vancouver-based John Hudson.

"This was a challenging professional

assignment," said Ioanna. "I learnt how to be systematic in making the different languages work together and following the originals exactly, and of course being able to read the Greek helped a lot!"



TEIXH

Χωρὶς περίσκεψιν, χωρὶς λύπην, χωρὶς αἰδὼ μεγάλα κ' ύψηλὰ τριγύρω μου ἔκτισαν τείχη.

Καὶ κάθομαι καὶ ἀπελπίζομαι τώρα ἐδῶ. "Άλλο δὲν σκέπτομαι: τὸν νοῦν μου τρώγει αὐτὴ ἡ τύχη.

διότι πράγματα πολλὰ ἔξω νὰ κάμω εἶχον. Α, ὅταν ἔκτιζαν τὰ τείχη πῶς νὰ μὴν προσέξω.

Άλλὰ δὲν ἄκουσα ποτὲ κρότον κτιστῶν ἢ ἦχον. Άνεπαισθήτως μ' ἔκλεισαν ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμον ἔξω.

What happened to the summer?

A washout is the term that comes to mind when we think of the summer of 2007.

But why has this summer been so wet and is climate change to blame?

According to the University's Walker Institute for Climate System Research and the Department of Meteorology whether the UK experiences a dry or wet summer depends on the course of low pressure systems which track across the Atlantic.

High up in the atmosphere is a ribbon of fast moving air - known as the jet stream. It is the jet stream that steers the weather systems which bring much of our rainfall. Since early June it has been further south than normal and this means it has been steering rainfall systems straight over the UK. What's more, once these systems have reached the UK, they've tended to 'park', dumping rainfall over us for hour after hour.

Associated with the displaced jet stream, there has been a persistent low-pressure system to the west of the UK giving us our wet summer, including the exceptional rain on 20 July when very moist, warm air was transported over us that a few days earlier had been over the



Large areas of Britain were under water during July

subtropical Atlantic. This warm, moist air met colder air creating energy and moisture available to produce very heavy rainfall. We saw rainfall rates of more than 50mm an hour - we would normally think of 10mm an hour as heavy.

Predictions of future climate change suggest that during winter we could experience more frequent heavy rainfall and so an increased risk of flooding. During summer, while most models suggest average rainfall could decrease, there could still be more intense rainfall events. Exactly what happens in the UK will depend on the precise details of how the storm tracks change and these details are beyond what current climate models can tell us.

Not so many fish in the sea

In 1951 Rex Cowper graduated from Reading with a degree in Zoology and almost immediately took up an appointment with the CSIRO Division of Fisheries in Tasmania.

Before leaving the department, he promised he would send the Cole Museum a specimen of the rare Australian Leafy Sea Dragon if he ever found one. After 14 years of searching, a colleague of Rex's working in the Western Australian fishing port of Albany was approached by tourists who had caught a 'strange fish' whilst snorkelling; it was a Leafy Sea Dragon (they are now a protected species!). Rex was finally able to fulfil his promise to Nelly Eales at Reading.

Until this year, Rex didn't know if his Dragon had survived the ravages of time until he happened to see a photo of it in the University's alumni magazine. He wrote immediately to the curator to say how thrilled he was to find that the Dragon was still in perfect condition

and was on permanent display in the museum. Now in his 80s, Rex finally has a photograph of the fish he sought for 14 years. He said: "I'd almost forgotten what a beautiful creature it was when I set eyes on it for the very first time more than 40 or so years ago".

Dr A Callaghan



Top journal

Food Chemistry, an international food research journal centred in the Department of Food Biosciences, has risen in the impact factor rankings to 6th place in the world out of 96 scientific food journals.

Professor Gordon Birch, who is Managing Editor of the journal, is a Professor Emeritus of the University. Food Chemistry is now the world's leading food chemistry journal.

Alumnus Rex Cowper with a picture of his leafy sea

New thoughts on old reptiles

Scientists have taken a step back in time and provided a new insight into the lifestyle of a prehistoric flying reptile.

Using new physical and mathematical modelling, Reading's Dr Richard Bonser from the University's Centre for Biomimetics along with scientists from the Universities of Sheffield and Portsmouth, has shown that suggestions that extinct pterosaurs gathered their food by 'skimming' the surface of the ocean with their beaks are inaccurate.

Previous studies have suggested that some pterosaurs may have fed like modern-day 'skimmers', a rare group of shorebirds, belonging to the Rynchops group. These sea-birds fly along the surface of lakes and estuaries scooping up small fish and crustaceans with their submerged lower jaw. Inferred structural

similarities between pterosaur and Rynchops jaws had previously been used to suggest that some pterosaur were anatomically suited for skimming.

However, new evidence provided by the researchers suggests that the fossilised jaws of suggested pterosaur skimmers mean that these creatures may have found it impossible to feed in this way.

Dr Bonser said: "Often, palaeontologists have attributed functions to structures they find in fossil remains simply on the basis of similarity in shape or size to living organisms. Through a combination of mathematical modelling and experimental measurement of the mechanical behaviour of physical models, we have established that a long-held belief about the ways in which pterosaurs fed was extremely unlikely to be the case."



Pteranodon. Photo by Dave Smith, © 2005 UCMP.

Autumn at MERL

One of Britain's leading environmentalists is to speak at the Museum of English Rural Life's annual lecture.

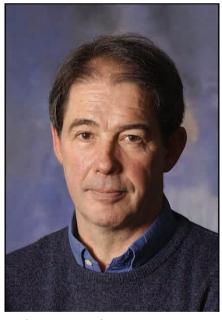
Jonathon Porritt, pictured right, will deliver the lecture – entitled *Exploring Tomorrow's Low-Carbon Countryside* – bringing to a conclusion MERL's summer of events on the theme of sustainability.

Mr Porritt – former director of Friends of the Earth, Founder Director of the Forum for the Future and Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission – said: "Climate change impacts on each and every one of us, but none more so than farmers and land owners.

"Looking ahead to 2025, I will explore the combined impacts of climate change and diminishing supplies of cheap oil on UK farming and on rural life in general, urging both the industry and Government ministers to rethink many of today's increasingly redundant assumptions about a globalised food economy, cheap food, and land use in general."

Roy Brigden, Keeper of the Museum, who is organising the event said: "This is a rare opportunity for the public to hear Jonathon Porritt, who many will know as the former Director of Friends of the Earth, speak about issues concerning the future of the countryside.

The lecture will be held at the University's Great Hall, London Road on



Jonathon Porritt to give lecture

10 October at 5pm. It is free to attend but tickets must be booked in advance, through the Museum of English Rural Life, by calling 0118 378 8660 or emailing merlevents@reading.ac.uk

Behind-the-scenes tours

The Museum of English Rural Life will throw open its doors and offer exclusive access-all-areas tours as part of the national 2007 Heritage Open Days and Archives Awareness Campaign in September.

This year, for the first time, the tours will

also include a visit to the new archives store, which has never been open to the public before. Caroline Gould, Archivist at MERL, who is organising the event said: "This building, which many visitors will have seen from the MERL garden houses the MERL archives and the University's special collections.

"The tour will give the public a unique opportunity to see how our archives are stored and cared for. At MERL we are also on the lookout for ways to promote the Archives Awareness campaign, so it's great to be able to bring our archives to the attention of the public in this way.

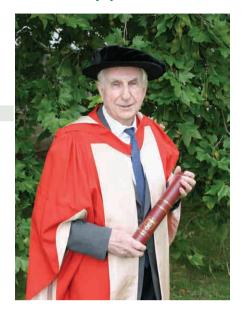
The Museum will also be offering behind-the-scenes tours of St Andrews House, a former Palmer family home. "Last year's event was very popular as local people were very keen to see inside the beautiful Grade II listed building, which is of historical significance as it was originally designed by the Victorian architect Alfred Waterhouse as a private home for a rather famous local man – Alfred Palmer," said Caroline.

Tours will take place from 6 to 9 September at 3pm at the Museum of English Rural Life on Redlands Road. Places are limited so booking is recommended. Please call 0118 378 8660 or email merlevents@reading.ac.uk Further information can be found at www.merl.org.uk/news

Honorary Degrees

The University awarded two honorary degrees during the degree ceremonies at London Road in July.

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Mr Michael Bond, OBE, author and creator of Paddington Bear was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. Michael Bond is Berkshire born and bred and has strong connections with Reading. He was recognised for his contribution to literature.



The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond, a leading figure in the legal profession, academia and law reform was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Baroness Hale, also a judge, was awarded for her inspiration to practitioners, academics and students alike.

Whiteknights Morris

Eight members of the former Whiteknights Morris team from the 1970's reformed for the late May bank holiday and toured the Yorkshire Dales as part of the 55th Annual Leeds Morris Tour.

The team had visited the dales some 32 years earlier for their annual week tour, They visited many of the same sites and managed to remember enough dancing to give very competent and entertaining performances all weekend.

The photograph shows the team dancing outside Theakstons brewery in Masham where they lunched one day. This was the third time the team had met since

the 1970's and members travelled from Plymouth in the west country, Kent, Warwickshire, Berkshire and Yorkshire to be there.

The team are now planning a further tour, not before 2008 as they need time to recover! They would be happy to hear from any other dancers from the 1970's or any other period of the team's history who may be interested in joining. Contact Andy Stafford in FMD for more information. They also decided that 'for those who are able' they would return to Yorkshire in 2024, 50 years on from their first memorable visit.



Zella King

Dr Zella King, of the Business School, has been awarded an AIM Innovation Fellowship.

AIM is the Advanced Institute of Management Research, funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council. Zella King's Fellowship, which forms part of a targeted ESRC programme on innovation, will involve a research project examining research networks in the emerging technologies of plastic electronics.



Plastics Industry Awards

Dr Averil Macdonald, Lecturer in Physics, is the winner of this year's award for Personal Contribution to the Plastics Industry.

She received her award at the London Hilton, Park Lane in June. Averil is responsible for *Fantastic Plastic*, which is considered to be the most successful schools' lecture in the UK, having been experienced by 45,000 people to date. Averil, who is described as a 'great communicator of science', is giving one of the University's Public Lectures this year, entitled *Future fantastic: what changes will science bring*? on Tuesday 13 November at 8pm in the Palmer Building. All are welcome.



Dr Averil Macdonald receives her Plastics Industry Award

Student Tutors rewarded

The University's Student Tutoring Scheme, which is endorsed by Community Service Volunteers (CSV), has had another successful year with over 200 students making visits to one of 30 local schools to act as an extra pair of hands in the classroom.

A special ceremony was held recently at which Professor Tony Downes, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, presented certificates to those who had completed at least ten periods of tutoring in the last year. The event was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillor and Mrs Chris Maskell and Anna Wright, Director of Education and Children's Services for Reading Borough Council

who expressed her thanks to the student volunteers on behalf of the schools that had received help.

Once again this year schools were asked if they would like to nominate one of their volunteers for the award of the Outstanding Student Tutor Prize. The recipients were Natalie Keys and Katie Lincoln.

'Highly Commended' awards were given to Simon Farnsworth and to Nina Fischer.

Any student who would like to join Student Tutoring from October 2007 should see **www.reading.ac.uk/csv** or contact the Co-ordinator, Julia Hodgson on ext 6144.

Outstanding Student Tutors receiving their prize from Anna Wright, Director of Education and Children's Services, Reading Borough Council with the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading. Left to right: Simon Farnsworth, Anna Wright, Natalie Keys, Katie Lincoln, Mayor and Mayoress of Reading

Retirements

Dr Allan Stephens, Dr Richard Gladwell and Dr Roland Fox

There will be a farewell reception in the AMS foyer on Monday 24 September at 3pm to mark the retirements of Dr Allan Stephens, Dr Richard Gladwell and Dr Roland Fox. Please contact Penny Mayo, AMS 0118 378 8016 p.j.mayo@reading.ac.uk if you wish to sign the cards.

Pauline Robinson

Pauline Robinson will be retiring at the end of September after 31 years at the University, most of them in the Centre for Applied Language Studies and most recently in the Department of Applied Linguistics. All who know her are invited to join the Department for drinks and light refreshments on Wednesday 26 September at 4.30 in HumSS Room 44. Contributions of food and drink will be welcome. Please let Lesley Owen (I.k.owen@reading.ac.uk) know if you will be coming along.

Student Success

2007 Farm Planners of the Year

A team of students from BSc Agriculture and Agricultural Business Management has won the Farm Planner of the Year 2007 award announced at the Royal Show on Monday 2 July.

The aim of the national competition is to promote the role of planning in modern farm management and to develop students' skills in farm business analysis. The competition involves the preparation of a report with three short listed teams required to make a 10 minute presentation to the judges at the Royal Show. The award is organised by the Institute of Agricultural Management and sponsored by Farmplan in association with HSBC and Farmers Weekly and this year was based at The Co-operative Farms Stoughton Estate.



From left to right: students Anna White, Charlie Fermor, Jane King (Farmers Weekly editor), Sam Grimsdell, Alice Hunt and Paul Hill. Photo is by kind permission of Farmers Weekly

Thales UK awards

Thales Research & Technology UK (TRT UK), research arm of leading electronics and systems company Thales UK, presented Reading finalist Chenghua Lin with its 2007 award for the best MEng / BEng Electronic Engineering final year project at the University's graduation day on 5 July.

Chenghua's project was entitled 'Eyeball Control Mouse System' and it demonstrated a cost efficient, real-time system to allow basic computer mouse operations using only the motion of a user's eye.

Eur Ing Professor Edward Stansfield, from TRT (UK), is a visiting professor in the School of Systems Engineering and he presented Chenghua with his award (an engraved trophy and a certificate), along with a cheque for £150. To follow his MEng degree, Chenghua is staying on at Reading to study for a PhD in Informatics.



Chenghua is standing between Professor Stansfield (right) and Eur Ing Professor Chris Guy, Head of the School of Systems Engineering

Classicist wins Ede & Ravenscroft Award for third year running

For the third year running, a student from the Classics Department has won the 2007 Ede & Ravenscroft Award for best performance in the Part 1 examination.

Guja Bandini has made it a hat trick for

Classics (after Simon Cloudesley won last year and Laura Robson the year before), showing that the Department continues to produce high achievers. "I find that studying both Latin and Greek during my course has been the most interesting and enjoyable part of the programme and an excellent way to access other cultures" said Guja

SAPD Undergraduate Prizes

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The following prizes were presented to students at the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development's Graduation Reception on Friday 6 July 2007.



Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) - Student Award 2007
Department of Agriculture
Awarded to Edward Whitton (BSc
Agriculture, First Class) by Professor
Richard Ellis, Head of School. This
prestigious award is for five year's free
membership of RASE.



Ellen Klahn Jenkins Memorial Prize 2007

Department of Agriculture

A cheque for £125 was awarded to Elliott Payne (BSc Animal Science, First Class) by Dr Mike Bryant, Head of Department.



L. G. Bennett Prize 2007 Department of Agricultural and Food Economics

A cheque for £100 was awarded to Vicky Barnes (BSc Food Marketing and Business Economics, First Class) by Professor Richard Tiffin, Head of Department as the student achieving the highest Individual Project mark. Dr L G Bennett was an academic member of staff in the Department, this was initiated by his family in his memory approximately thirty years ago.



Chartered Institute of Marketing Prize 2007

Department of Agricultural and Food Economics

Also awarded to Vicky Barnes (BSc Food Marketing and Business Economics, First Class) as the student achieving the best overall performance in the final year; the prize was awarded by the CIM Representative, Mr John Giles. The prize of £100 was generously provided by the Food & Drink and Agricultural Special Interest Group of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. The FDA is charged under its affiliation to the CIM to interact, to mutual benefit, with the academic world.

Sociology awards

At the Summer graduation ceremonies this year the following Sociology prizes were awarded:



Ian Nelson right, was presented with the Viola Klein Award for Best Sociology Student by the Head of School, Dr Philip Giddings (Sociology Politics and International Relations),



Samantha Hall (above) and Nicola Postlethwaite (below) with Best Sociology Dissertation (Joint).



The Friends: Anniversary celebrations continue at AGM

Following the launch of the 80th Anniversary of the Friends of the University at the successful Gala Concert in March (Bulletin 466), the Association's AGM on 11 July was another memorable occasion.

It took place at the Department of Meteorology: The Friends greatly appreciated the generous hospitality of Professor Anthony Illingworth and his colleagues, who gave a series of fascinating presentations and a tour of the Department.

At the AGM, the large turn-out of members accepted with alacrity the Vice-Chancellor's offer to go straight in to a question-and-answer format. This produced stimulating exchanges on the University's current priorities: Professor Gordon Marshall covered such subjects as the new Chancellor; the new Student Services Building and other projects, including London Road; the outlook for our Halls; and student numbers.

The Vice-Chancellor showed comparable dexterity with his ceremonial sword, when he cut the splendid Anniversary cake most kindly prepared by Mrs Christine Meredith of the Department of Meteorology.

The Anniversary year has included, since the Gala Concert, visits to the



Vice-Chancellor, Gordon Marshall; Chairman of the Friends, Mr Andrew Palmer and secretary Brenda Morris

School of Law at Foxhill House and to the Chancellor and Lady Carrington's beautiful gardens at the Manor House, Bledlow. The Friends will continue their Anniversary programme with a Heritage Trail on Sunday 21 October, to include prominent landmarks on and around the campus. A visit to the School

of Pharmacy follows on 24 October; on 7 November, Dr Brian O'Callaghan will give a lecture on the life and architecture of Waterhouse.

The Friends are always pleased to welcome new members: anyone interested should contact Brenda Morris on 0118 378 8006, or thefriends@reading.ac.uk

Summer with the SCR



Senior Common Room members and guests visited the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Jodrell Laboratory, Kew on Saturday 30 June.

On 10 July they enjoyed an evening of Wine Tasting for Beginners and Guide to Supermarket Wines in Park House led by Colin Mair, an experienced speaker

and member of the International Wine & Food Society.

A 'full house' of 30 members and guests learnt the basics of wine tasting and the art of buying good supermarket wines, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. One of the highlights of the SCR social calendar was the Summer Dinner held on 3 July. 100 members and guests enjoyed a delicious 4 course dinner, as part of an annual event to socialise and say farewell to those retiring at this time. Pictured left is the outgoing Senior Steward David Cardin, on the right, being presented with the SCR tankard, as a token of thanks for his year in office, by Carey Widdows the new Senior Steward.

Senior Common Room...

... is a club open to all members of the University Staff. Interested in joining? Please contact the SCR secretary Jean Carter on 0118 378 5097 or email: j.a.carter@reading.ac.uk For further information view the SCR website: www. reading.ac.uk/scr

New senior appointments

Dr Elizabeth McCrum has been appointed Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Education from 1 July 2007. Dr McCrum joins us from Kingston University where she was Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director, Secondary PGCE.

Dr Susanne Clausen has been appointed Reader in Fine Art from 1 September. Dr Clausen is currently Senior lecturer at Loughborough University.

Dr Andrew Wade has been appointed Reader in Hydrology from 1 August. Dr Wade is currently Senior Research Fellow in the University's School of Human and Environmental Sciences.

Dr Lawrence McNamara has been appointed Reader in Law from 1 October. Dr McNamara joins us from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Dr Rosemary Auchmuty has been appointed as a Professor in the University's Law School from 1 August. Dr Auchmuty taught law, specialising in property and women and the law, at the University of Westminster.

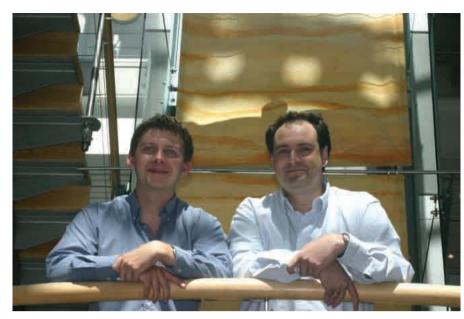
Professor D B G Heuser has been appointed as Professor of Politics and International Relations from 1 September. Professor Heuser is currently Director and Professor at the Universitat der Bundeswehr Munchen.

Professor Rob Waller has been appointed Professor of Typography from 1 August. A graduate of the department of Typography & Graphic Communication, Professor Waller was formerly Head of Information Design at Enterprise IG, one of the world's largest design agencies.

Professor Nigel Arnell has been appointed Director of the Walker Institute and Professor of Climate Science from 1 August. Professor Arnell joins us from the University of Southampton.

Professor Martin Ehrendorfer has been appointed Professor of Data Assimilation in the School of Mathematics, Meteorology and Physics from 1 September. Professor Ehrendorfer is currently at the University of Innsbruck.

KTP success



Daniel Phipps (left) and Neil Thompson CEO of AppSwing

Reading graduate, Daniel Phipps has joined Reading-based company *AppSwing* on a permanent basis, following a highly-productive two-year placement under the University's Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP).

This government-funded scheme matches newly-qualified graduates with suitable companies, enabling transfer of knowledge and expertise from University experts. The University's Knowledge Transfer Centre (KTC) is one of the biggest in the UK, bringing in about £2.5 million in research income each year.

During the two-year placement, Daniel

worked on a number of projects for *AppSwing*, in particular enabling compatibility with popular database software such as Microsoft Access and Lotus Notes. This created significant opportunities for the company and led directly to new contracts with major customers. At the same time he gained an NVQ in management and is about to complete an MSc.

Daniel graduated from Reading in 2005 with a BSc in Computer Science and then joined *AppSwing* under the KTP initiative. He will now work as a Technical Architect, developing new applications for their products.

In Memoriam

Sue Smith

It is with great sadness that the *Bulletin* has to announce the death of Sue Smith. Sue worked in Bulmershe Health Centre for a number of years and latterly in the Student Services Office where she had been a clerical assistant for the last five years.

Sue was a valuable and well-loved member of that close team and will be greatly missed by all her colleagues in the University, many of whom were present at her funeral on 2 August. Paying tribute to Sue, her friends in Student Services expressed their shock at the suddenness of her death, after a short illness which she so bravely bore. Sue will be remembered especially for her fun-loving, bubbly personality. Their thoughts are also with Sue's husband, son, daughter and grandson at this time.

SMALL ADS

For sale

Lady's Raleigh Oasis bicycle. 5-speed gearing. 26 x 1.75 wheels. Jade green. Excellent condition. £60 tel: Carol on 07851075398

To let

Room in four bed house. Good location 25 mins walk from University and 5 mins from town centre. Shared living room, bathroom, large kitchen and garden. Single professional preferred, non-smoker, must like cats. £350 pcm. Available from July. Contact d.j.stacey@reading.ac.uk or 01189542281

For up to 4 years from September: Lovely unfurnished Victorian semi-detached house in Culver Road. Near sports stadium, gym, playgrounds, library, local shops, No. 17 bus stop, nursery and primary school. 15 min walk to the University. 4 beds, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, large fitted kitchen, downstairs toilet. gch. Large garden, optional two-storey children's playhouse. Rent: £1,200 pcm For further information, please contact: Tim home tel: o118 9677041 email: tim@hewison.org mobile tel: o7973 471651

Large purpose-built two bedroom flat available for academic year 2007–08 on Hamilton Road, 5 mins walk from University. Spacious, light, recently refurbished to high standard. Large shared garden. Easy parking. Would suit visiting academic/professional staff or postgraduate researcher(s). Rent £775 pcm. Tony Knight. 07804 631 488 or tony@kjkenya.com

Single room in Tilehurst. (£285 per calendar month) to let in house shared with owner. Five minutes walk to shops and convenient bus route. Tel: Pam (0118) 942 8775 Mobile: 07931 885639

Terraced house 5 mins from the University. 15 minutes from the town centre. 2/3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, sitting room, garden. Available 1 October for one year. £850 pcm Suit postgrad/mature student or staff. Contact Liz on 07711 540070 or lizcarr1@£ntlworld.com

Holiday let

Idyllic holiday home in the Tamar Valley. If you want to step off the world for a while here is the perfect place to do so. Extremely comfortable holiday lodge with far reaching views over the Tamar Valley to Dartmoor beyond. Only 30 miles from the Eden Project and 20 minutes drive from the sea. Visit www.honicombeholiday.co.uk

Professional

Fresh flowers to inspire and delight. Designs for all stages of life and celebration and also offer a free wedding and corporate consultation service. Please contact Claire on o118 9860 854. www.pure-scents.co.uk

UNI-CUTS: Unisex Hairdressing Salon recently opened in the Students' Union (adjacent to the Hub Reception). Special offers during summer break. Call Sami on o7877 653651. Open during summer break Mon–Fri 10am to 5.30pm. From October normal hours are Mon-Sat 9am to 6.30pm

Library news

University of Reading Library

The 'University of Reading Library' is the new official name adopted by the Library from this academic year, 1 August 2007.

We are removing the anomaly of being known as 'Reading University Library' so as to further the consistent 'University of Reading' brand image in our dealings with customers both at home and abroad. Look out for further developments in our rebranding programme, including revised documentation and a new website!

Library 'Short Loan' becomes 'Course Collection'

If you are rewriting reading lists, course handbooks or course feedback forms, please note! Both Library collections formerly know as 'Short Loan Collections' (SLC) at Main and Bulmershe Libraries are being renamed 'Course Collections' (CC).

The new name emphasises the Library's support of taught courses by sharing

popular but limited resources. So more students can see key texts, tutors and students can ask for them to be made available in the Course Collections with a restricted six-hour/overnight loan period. The Main Library CC also contains non-loan copies of high demand texts in some subjects. After this summer's refurbishment of the Main Library's ground floor, its new Course Collection will include more study space in which to use this material.

Library website renewed

Look out for the new structure, new look, Library website this September.

Your comments and ideas from a website survey and focus groups helped us come up with a new structure. We hope it will be more intuitive, helping you quickly find all the information you need about Library resources and services. We will also be adopting the University's rebranded style to give the site a fresh new look.

For more information contact Jackie Skinner, Library Website Manager, jackie.skinner@reading.ac.uk

Accommodation in Hall SCRs

Halls of Residence often have vacancies for members of academic and academic related staff.

As a residential university, Reading provides some accommodation, including family accommodation, for senior members of the University at competitive rents. It is especially appropriate for new members of staff. Living in Hall offers an opportunity for interaction between members of staff and students from different disciplines. Accommodation is, however, normally separate and reasonably secluded so that busy academics are not disturbed by noise or affected by any duties they may agree to carry out.

Anyone interested should contact the Accommodation Office or, to discuss what is available, contact the Chairman of the Committee of Wardens. (c.b.hardman@reading.ac.uk).

Learn to drive: at Passtime we put the fun into driving with one to one tuition at a pace to suit you. You will learn in a new Peugeot 207 Sport fitted with dual controls at a time to suit you including evenings and weekends. Substantial discounts for students and block bookings. Call Tony free on 0800 04 333 06 or mobile 07836 270209.

Thames Valley Group of Advance Drivers new 'Better Driving' course. Wednesday 5 September, 7.3 opm Visit www.roadartvg. org.uk or call Rob Lowe on 0118 9710036

Media surgeries

From 8 September, the University's **Media Relations Manager Lucy Ferguson** will be holding regular, informal drop in sessions at S@il for anyone who wants to discuss how the media might be of use to them in their work, or to discuss media opportunities and good stories they may be working on.

Lucy is a former national news journalist who has worked in PR since 2001. The sort of things she can help with are:

- Media relations
- Writing press releases
- Writing for the right audience
- How to tell the media about your research

- · What makes a good story
- How to target the correct media
- Problems with the media
- How to raise the profile of your department externally
- Communications generally

....and anything else related to the media!

The drop-in sessions will be held on the second Monday in the month starting on September 8. They will be held in S@il 106, Main Library, starting at 2.30pm and finishing at 4.30pm. No appointments necessary. Please feel free to contact Lucy at any time on 0118 378 7388, or l.ferguson@reading.ac.uk

CONCERT

in aid of The Wooden Spoon charity

Saturday 22 September 2007 7.30pm

The Great Hall, London Road Campus

A Concert in aid of Wooden Spoon, the charity of the four Home Rugby Unions, supporting physically and socially disadvantaged youngsters the local area. The Concert will feature the World Famous Choir of 70+ choristers and soloists, as well as the Laurie Holloway Trio and student members of the Montgomery Holloway Music Trust. Laurie has played piano with, and arranged music for, virtually all the top singers from Frank Sinatra, to Shirley Bassey, and for personalities ranging from the late Princess Margaret to the Michael Parkinson Show.

Tickets £17.50 available from Dr Barrie Mair, barriemair@bulldoghome. com tel: 07836 534 269

MUSIC@READING

Showcase 2007

Friday 19 October 2007, 6pm Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road

Tasters from many of the University ensembles. Come and sample what's on offer. New members are welcome in all ensembles from within and outside the University. Information about joining will be available.

Free admission; All welcome

Tickets available in advance from Alex Richardson, Music@Reading. ac.uk, 0118 378 5256 or on the door

The night the lights went out

During the night of 29/30 June Maintenance Services carried out a planned shutdown of the electricity supply to the entire Whiteknights campus and three off-site halls in order to perform essential maintenance work.

Overnight work was carried out by Scottish and Southern on the University's main electrical intake to install new actuators. These will allow remote re-setting of the University's main intake switch-gear in the event of a fault developing, thereby minimising future supply downtime. At the same time SEC and Maintenance Services staff carried out routine high and low voltage switch-gear maintenance in four academic buildings. Teams from SEC also took the opportunity to re-route cables to a new electrical sub-station adjacent to the Student Services Building.

The project involved a huge amount of planning and co-ordination. Over forty five members of the maintenance team and their specialist contractors were involved, together with support from the security team. Temporary electrical supplies were provided to around sixty five supply critical locations through a series of stand-by generators. On the night the work went smoothly and power was restored around 4.45am. Maintenance Services would like to thank the staff in the schools, halls and directorates who helped to make arrangements for this shutdown. Without your help and co-operation this complex project could not have been undertaken.

Resident Tutor And Senior Academic Resident appointments

Applications are invited from members of the Academic Staff for the following posts:

Resident Tutor, Bulmershe Hall -Ref: CH07023

Senior Academic Resident, Reading Student Village -

Ref: CH07024

The posts are vacant from October 2007 and are tenable, in the first instance, until 31 July 2010. They will be held concurrently with an existing appointment.

The positions attract the benefit of accommodation with no charge for rent, lighting and heating.

Further information on each of these

posts may be obtained from the Human Resources Office, Room 112, Whiteknights House, Whiteknights, telephone o118 378 6771 (voicemail) or email humanresources@reading.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is 7 September 2007. Please quote appropriate Reference Number.

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.reading.ac.uk/events

Until 28 October

Exhibition. Going Green: Sustainability Past and Present, Museum of English Rural Life, Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, Saturday & Sunday 2 to 4.30pm

Thursday 30 August

Workshop, 'Everything but the kitchen sink': CBT for OCD, Dr Adam Radomsky (Concordia University, Canada, Black Horse House, 9.30am

Friday 7 September

Symposium, The Transnational Viewing Experience, A one-day symposium under the auspices of the AHRC-funded project British TV Drama and Acquired US Programmes 1970-2000, Film, Theatre and Television, Bulmershe Court, gam

Friday 14 September

Institute of Health Sciences **course,** Care for the Older Person, Building 33, London Road, 8.30am

Monday 17 September

International Conference, Children, Youth & Families, Whiteknights, 9.30

Conference, Oswald Mosley's New Party, 1.09 Palmer Building, 1pm

Tueday 18 September

International Conference, Children, Youth & Families, Whiteknights, 9.30

Conference, Oswald Mosley's New Party, 1.09 Palmer Building, 1pm

Saturday 22 September

Concert in aid of Wooden Spoon **charity**, The Great Hall, London Road, 7.3 opm see page 15

Tuesday 25 September

Agriculture conference, Climate Change: Are you ready? Action Planning and Opportunities for the land based sector, School of Agriculture, 9am

Thursday 27 September

Health and Social Conference, Non Medical Prescribing, Palmer Building, gam

Wednesday 10 October

MERL Annual Lecture. Exploring Tomorrow's Low-Carbon Countryside, Jonathon Porritt, (Programme Director of Forum for the Future and Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission), Admission free but a ticket is required. To request a ticket, please contact MERL on 0118 378 8660 or email merlevents@reading.ac.uk, The Great Hall, London Road, 5pm

Thursday 11 October

Psychology seminar, Scanning the infant brain: tracking first words, Dr Guillaume Thierry, (Bangor), GSo5, Psychology Building, 4pm

READING FILM THEATRE

Palmer Theatre Whiteknights



October starting at 7.30pm unless stated

4 Thur Twenty Eight Weeks Later (18) 7.45pm **9 Tues** This is England (18) 10 Wed Tell No One (15) **11 Thur** *Jindabyne* (15) **16 Tue** Zodiac (15) 7pm 17 Wed Golden Door (PG) **18 Thur** Sherrybaby (15) 23 Tue Half Nelson (15) **24 Wed** Paris je t'aime (15) 25 Thur The Illusionist (PG) **29 Mon** *Sunshine* (15) November starting at 7.30pm

1 Thur Night of the Sunflowers (15) Conversations with 6 Tue Other Women (15) 8 Thur The Caiman (12a) 12 Mon Away From Her (12a) 15 Thur Factory Girl (15) 20 Tue Days of Glory (12a) 22 Thur The Painted Veil (12a) 26 Mon Ten Canoes (15) **29 Thur** Catch a Fire (12a) December starting at 7.30

unless stated

4 Tue La Vie en Rose (12a) 7.15 6 Thur Water (12a) Seats: £3.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Further details: please phone 0118 378 7151, (or ext. 7151).

Centre for Staff Training & Development

Programme 3 September -12 October To book please email cstd@reading.ac.uk

110gramme 3 September - 12 October 10 book please email esta@reading.ac.uk		
3 September	9.30-10.30am	How to use RISIS: For Absolute Beginners
	11am-12.30pm	How to use RISIS: General Use
10 September	10am-12n0on	RISIS Admissions: Application to Final Offer
13 September	9.30am-4.30pm 10-11.30am	ILM Accredited Introductory Certificate in Management (Day 1) Extracting Data from RISIS
14 September	9.30am-12.30pm	Finding the Right Words: A Guide to Writing for University Publications and Websites
18 September	10am-12n00n	Introduction to the TLSP and Developing a Portfolio
18 to 21 September		New lecturers Intensive Workshops (contact CSTD for details)
20 September	10am-12n00n	Introduction to Using Outlook
24 September	10-11.30am	RISIS Web Portal: A Full Overview
25 September	9.30am-12.30pm	Laboratory Demonstrating (Sciences)
- 1	1-2pm	School Managers Meeting
	2.15-4.15pm	Blackboard for Administration
26 September	10-11am	Smartboard Demonstration
-	3-4pm	Purchase Card Applicant Briefing
27 September	9.30am-4pm	New Staff Induction
28 September	9.30am-1pm	Staff Development Review: New Staff and Reviewers
	2-3pm	Briefing for Mentors of New Lecturers
9 October	9.30am-4pm	New Staff Induction
	3.45-4.45pm	Smartboard Demonstration
10 October	9.15am-12.15pm	Engaging with Secondary School Teachers
	10am-12n00n	Introduction to the TLSP and Developing a Portfolio
	12.30 to 4pm	Introduction to the New Lecturers Programme
	2-5pm	Finding the Right Words: A Guide to Writing for University Publications and Websites
11 October 9.30am–12n0on Introduction to Finance for Support Staff		
11 October	9.30am=121100m 2-4pm	Telephone and Reception Skills
12 October	9.30am-12.30am	Small Group Teaching Cohort Analysis Data from RISIS
	10–11am 1–2pm	Guides for Managers: Employment Law – the Basics
For details of all these courses please see www.reading.ac.uk/cstd or ring ext. 7097		