



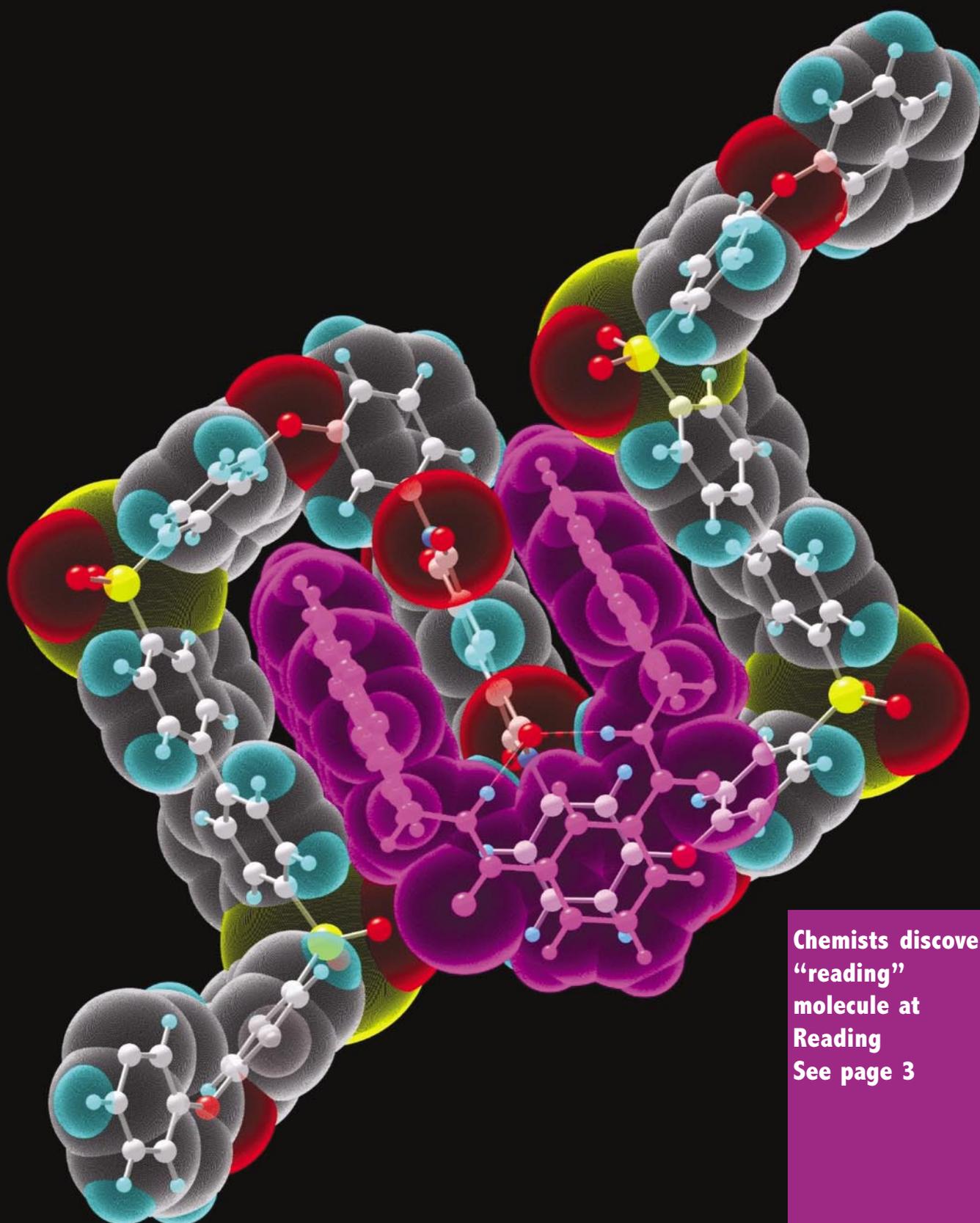
The University of Reading

# bulletin

for news  
for staff  
fortnightly

10 February 2005

issue 429

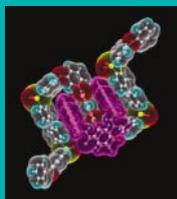


**Chemists discover  
“reading”  
molecule at  
Reading  
See page 3**

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

#### Front cover:

Discovery of the “reading” tweezer by University Chemists. See page 3



The **Bulletin** is published in-house fortnightly during term time by the Communications Office. 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 deadline for the issue published on 10 March is 24 February.

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

## New Fellow of old Society

Professor James Crabbe, Head of the School of Animal and Microbial Sciences, has just been elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society. Founded in 1788 and named after Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) the father of modern plant and animal classification, it is the world’s oldest existing biology society.

## IN THE NEWS

To see the usual selection of media appearances by members of the University and press cutting summaries visit [www.extra.rdg.ac.uk/news/inthenews.asp](http://www.extra.rdg.ac.uk/news/inthenews.asp)

## Free service Enterprise

## Launched

Are you interested in finding out about local voluntary activities that might take up just an hour or two a month?

The University, working with Reading Voluntary Action, has set up an Employee Volunteering Project (HEACF funded) specifically to assist University staff who would like to know more about local opportunities for volunteering.

Clare Bonney, the Project Development Worker, would be very pleased to meet any member of staff for an exploratory chat, which takes about half an hour. Any member of staff can use this service, and there is no obligation to commit to taking on voluntary work.

Clare uses a comprehensive database of local volunteering opportunities (around 400 in all) to help advise interested staff. The opportunities include everything from working with the Samaritans to gardening to giving the occasional talk to a local group, or working at Director level to manage a charity’s finances or develop its strategy. Some skills are particularly needed, e.g. website development and maintenance, financial management/business planning, Saturday shifts helping at lunch clubs, supper for homeless people or in charity shops.

Email [clare@volaction.demon.co.uk](mailto:clare@volaction.demon.co.uk) or phone: 0118 957 4123 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) to arrange an appointment.

New general volunteering vacancies in the Reading area are posted weekly on the Reading Voluntary Action on:

<http://www.r-v-a.org/home>

A total of over 80 members of staff attended Peter Gregory’s talk on the University’s Enterprise Agenda on 25 and 28 January.

The talk was held twice and at different venues to allow the maximum number of people to attend. Along with the good attendance, the talk was also warmly received, with several people commenting that they had a much better understanding of what the Enterprise Agenda incorporated and where it was heading.

Peter commented: “I am delighted by the number and diversity of staff who were able to come along, especially during their lunch break. It shows a real interest in and commitment to the University’s strategy and evolving plans.” Echoing his words, Steve Hughes, Head of Business Development added: “These talks are the start of an ongoing programme of internal events, highlighting the opportunities and hopefully dispelling some of the myths around enterprise. We must not underestimate the significance that enterprise holds for both the University and the region as a whole.”

Should you wish to receive a pdf copy of Peter’s presentation, simply email Mark Janes on [m.janes@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:m.janes@rdg.ac.uk) or for a paper copy, call on ext. 7391.

**Public Lecture**

***Indigo: From Medieval Biotechnology To Denim Jeans***

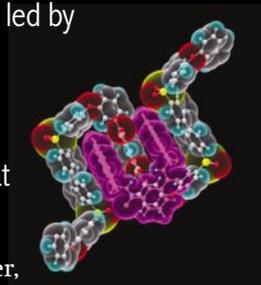
by **Professor Philip John**  
School of Plant Sciences

**Tuesday 1 March, 8pm** Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus

Professor John sets out to discover the science behind this medieval biotechnology and enable the re-introduction of woad crops to provide the natural indigo that the fashion and textiles industries are demanding.

# Discovery of the “reading” tweezer

A team of chemists at the University, led by Professor Howard Colquhoun, have designed a unique system in which a tweezer-like molecule is able to recognise specific individual units that make up a chain of molecules.



As a result, and for the first time ever, information is able to be ‘read’ in a synthetic polymer by a mechanism which mirrors one of the processes on which life itself is based.

Professor Colquhoun and his colleague Dr Zhu designed the ‘tweezer’ so that it binds at particular sites along the polymer chain – namely, at the sequences which complement its own structure most closely and at both adjacent and non-adjacent sites along the polymer chain. This enabled them to identify more clearly the way in which the polymer or chain of molecules is constructed. A full and detailed picture of the way in which the tweezer binds to the polymer chain was finally obtained by Dr Zhu, Dr Christine Cardin and Ms Gan using the study of crystals which contained the tweezer.

“This is a unique system in which sequence-information in a polymer chain can be ‘read’ through sequence-selective interactions with small molecules,” said Professor Colquhoun. “As such, we believe that the ‘tweezer’ will represent a significant contribution to the eventual development of ultra-miniaturised information-storage and processing at the molecular level. Moreover, the principles of sequence-recognition emerging from this entirely synthetic system could help us develop an understanding of the way in which biological information-processing may have originated some three billion years ago.”

# Town and gown in health alliance

The University has awarded the title of ‘Visiting Professor’ to three key consultants at the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust in recognition of joint working at the University’s School of Health and Social Care.

Trust Chief Executive, Professor Ann Sheen OBE, already a Professor at Thames Valley University has also received this honour from the University of Reading.

The three newly appointed Visiting Professors are Dr Rachel Hall, Medical Director and Consultant Anaesthetist, Dr Ralph Gregory, Divisional Director, Medicine and Consultant Neurologist, and Dr Christine Collin, Consultant Physician, Rehabilitation. They join the University’s existing RBBH Visiting Professors, Dr Tony Bradlow, Consultant Rheumatologist and Dr Malcolm Sperrin, Director of Medical Physics.

These new appointments reflect greater joint working between the University and the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust. The new School of Pharmacy will provide opportunities for closer collaboration, and RBBH staff can take advantage of the School’s professional courses. Dr Rachel Hall said: “We are delighted that the University of Reading should honour me and my colleagues with Visiting Professorships in this way. Our collaboration on research, bringing together Reading’s academics and medics, will enhance our work for the benefit of patients.”

# School of Pharmacy officially opened

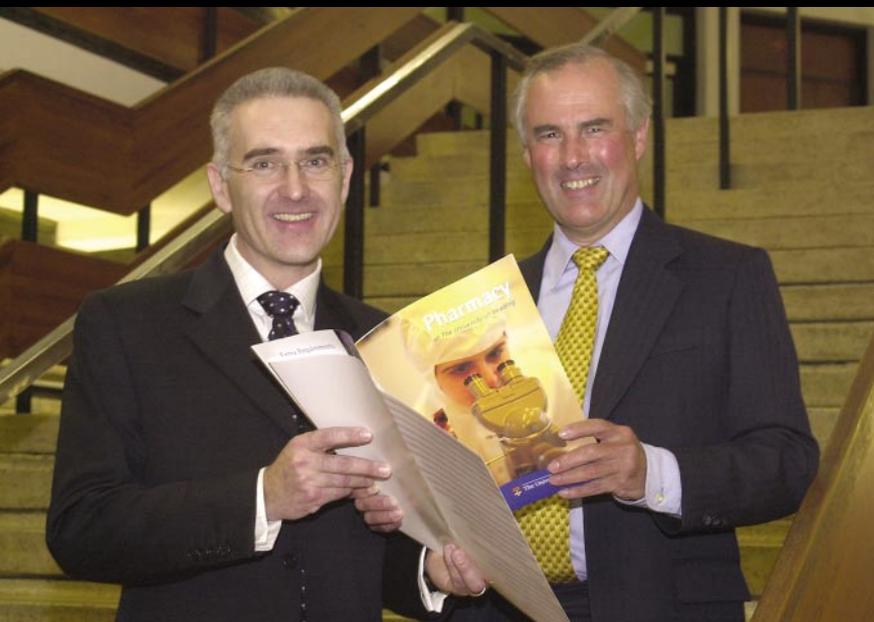
The UK’s newest School of Pharmacy was officially launched at the University on Thursday 20 January.

Professor Tony Moffat, former Chief Scientist of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was guest of honour at the event, which was also attended by leading figures from academia, community, hospital and industrial pharmacy sectors.

The new School will be equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities. It will help meet the national need for newly trained pharmacists by providing pharmacy education, training, research and service development.

Professor Gavin Brooks, Head of the new School, said: “This venture represents a huge investment of time, money and effort by the University and the School aims to become a centre of excellence for pharmacy in the region and beyond.”

The Vice-Chancellor said: “We are tremendously excited about this new development. The establishment of this new School constitutes a vital part of the University’s strategy to expand its current health and related teaching and research programmes.”



Professor Gavin Brooks and Professor Tony Moffat

## Dr Ilja Sonnemann



The Centre for Agri-Environmental Research, Department of Agriculture welcomes Dr Ilja Sonnemann who comes to Reading from the Institute of Zoology & Animal Ecology at Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen, Germany.

Ilja was recently appointed as Marie Curie Research Fellow on the €2.8m EU Framework Programme VI Research Training Network, 'Biotic interactions in the rhizosphere as structuring forces for plant communities' (**BIORHIZ**). The BIORHIZ project aims to bridge the gap

between agronomists and ecologists in studying the interactions and feedbacks between plants, soil micro-organisms and soil animals. This information is important to solve current problems in the management of biodiversity in natural ecosystems and to contribute to the sustainability of agriculture in Europe. The network will build a multidisciplinary platform for the training and professional development of researchers in the early stages of their career, by capitalising on, and integrating, the expertise of more experienced researchers. For more information, visit the project website at <http://www.zi.ku.dk/biorhiz/>

## Peter Ross

Many colleagues gathered to wish Peter Ross a fond farewell and a happy retirement recently.

Peter joined the University counselling team in 1977 and has been Head of the Counselling Service since 1986. He has an MA in Psychology and Philosophy, msc's in Occupational Psychology and Psychotherapy and has also trained in Psychoanalysis under Dr Tom Feldberg at

the Philadelphia Association, London. Peter brought a wealth of knowledge and skill to the University which he used to help thousands of students and staff over his years in practice and he will be sorely missed. A decanter, glasses and a cheque were presented to him by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Tony Downes from the University and colleagues from the Counselling Service also gave him gifts. Peter will be relocating to Yorkshire.



## Peter Must

A large number of colleagues joined Peter Must to say farewell as he retired from the University after 32 years of service.

Peter is a graduate of the University of Reading and began work as an Assistant in the College of Estate Management (then based at Kensington) in 1968. He was appointed Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies in 1972 and Sub-Dean from 1 January 1973. After a spell as Assistant Registrar in charge of the Examinations Office, Peter was appointed Sub-Dean, Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, with the title of Senior Assistant Registrar in 1989. Peter received book tokens from the University and a cheque from friends and colleagues, presented to him by Professor Tony Downes. He also received gifts from staff in the Faculty.

Peter will remain the University's representative on the Governors of King Edward's School, Witley in Surrey.

### Letter to the Editor

Could I take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to wish me farewell on Tuesday 11 January and to those, attending or not, who contributed to the overwhelming amount of my leaving present. I had intended to buy as many components of a new hi-fi system as the sum allowed, but not only can I buy all that, I can purchase the manager's chair and computer package I was telling people about.

On top of all this luxury, my real treasure will be the

card signed by half the University and the personal book of messages (and photographs) from members of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Sheila says thank you for the flowers and, less certainly, for letting her see a little more of me from now on.

My best wishes to everyone.  
*Peter Must*

*Mrs Sheila Must, Peter Must, Professor Cedric Brown, Professor Tony Downes*



## Colin Robbins

Colin Robbins has been appointed Director of Facilities Management from 1 February 2005.

Colin joins us from construction consultants Northcroft, based in London, where he was a Board Director. He was previously part of the Estates Management team at UCL. He is a member of the RICS and is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor.

"I hope to bring a combination of the skills acquired during my time in private practice and the experience gained at UCL to my role at Reading and to continue to develop the services provided by Facilities Management. Providing customer focused services



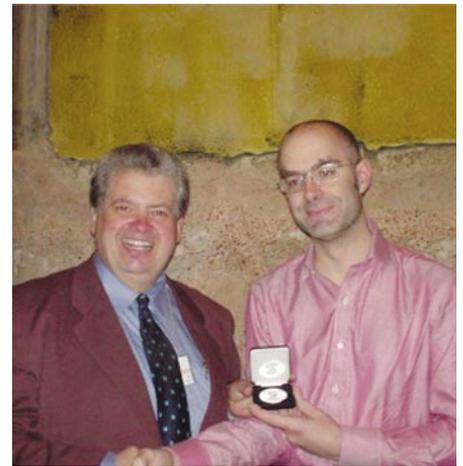
and striving for value for money solutions will be two of my priorities."

If anyone would like to contact Colin please call him on ext. 8277 or email him at c.robbins@rdg.ac.uk

## Max Hey Medal

Dr Mark Hodson, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Geochemistry and Mineralogy of Soils in the Department of Soil Science has recently been awarded the Max Hey Medal of the Mineralogical Society.

The medal is 'to recognize existing and ongoing research of excellence carried out by young workers (under 35 years at the time of the award), within the fields of either Mineralogy, Crystallography, Petrology or Geochemistry'. Mark was awarded the medal for 2004 for 'exceptional work on the understanding of the geochemistry and biogeochemistry of mineral reactions in soils.'



*Professor David Price, President of the Mineralogical Society, awarding the Max Hey Medal to Mark at a champagne reception in the Roman Baths at Bath*

## Meteorology award



*Paul is congratulated by Professor Kathryn Whaler, the President of the Royal Astronomical Society*

Dr Paul Williams, Research Fellow at the Centre for Global Atmospheric Modelling in the Department of Meteorology has recently been awarded the 2004 Blackwell Prize by the Royal Astronomical Society.

The Blackwell Prize is awarded for the best UK doctoral thesis in the physics of the Earth's atmosphere. Paul's doctoral research was carried out at Oxford University, and he moved to Reading to take up a research fellowship in October 2003. Paul was presented with the award including a cheque for £1,000 at a meeting of the Society in London on 14 January.

## A tree for Rosemary

A Black Mulberry (*Morus nigra*) was planted in January in memory of Rosemary Chapman MBE (nee Harris) by members of her family.

Rosemary worked at NIRD for many years, was a staunch member of The Friends of the University, was a member of Court and a member of the editorial board of the University Alumni

magazine, *Reading:reading*. She died suddenly, but peacefully in November 2003. She was a keen gardener and the mulberry tree was a particular favourite of hers. Her two nieces and two nephews attended the ceremony.

*Bill Palmer (Chairman of The Friends), Brenda Morris (Secretary of The Friends), Debbie Thomson, Henrietta Chapman, Mark Chapman and Sam Chapman*



## Applying for hall places – October 2005

There will be more Hall places available for continuing students for next Session (starting in October 2005) than there have been in recent years.

Students wishing to apply for a place in Hall or in Hillside or Martindale Court for next Session should collect an application form from one of the Hall Offices, or from the Accommodation Service in Whiteknights House Annexe. Students may apply for two University Halls. Separate copies of the completed application form should be returned to each Hall Office by 14 February 2005.

In addition, those students wishing to apply for a place in one of the UPP Halls (Reading Student Village or St George's Hall) may do so by making a direct application to UPP (<http://www.the.studentvillage.com>).

University Halls will contact students who have been allocated places by the end of February. Students who have not been offered a place in Hall for next Session and who would like help in finding private accommodation should visit the Accommodation Service. Details of private rented properties are advertised at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/Accommodation>

All returning students who are not resident members of a Hall are entitled to join the attached membership scheme if they wish. Attached members may join in many of the activities arranged by the Hall. Further details are available from individual Hall offices. Hall attachment is free for first year students, but for returning students there is a small annual charge (£10 in 2004/5).

## Nominations for Honorary Degrees

The Joint Standing Committee of the Council and Senate on Honorary Degrees invites members of the University, or those associated with it, to submit nominations for recipients of Honorary Degrees.

It is suggested that nominations identify people of importance in society or of particular eminence in their field, with whom the University would like to be associated or those close to the university or the locality who deserve recognition for their services. Nominations should be sent, in confidence, to Keith Hodgson, Director of Academic Services, by the end of May with an outline cv or *Who's Who* entry of the nominee.

## University Chorus

Mendelssohn's magnificent *Elijah* is one of the most attractive and best-known oratorios of the nineteenth century.

Written for large chorus, orchestra and soloists it depicts the main events in the life of the Old Testament prophet. It is structured in two main parts which include a large diversity of choruses, solos, duets, quartets and Bachian chorales. It was given its first

performance in Birmingham in 1846 and has remained as one of the mainstream works of English choral societies ever since.

The University Chorus will be joined by the West Forest Sinfonia for a performance of *Elijah* at the Great Hall on Saturday 5 March at 7.30pm.

Open to members of the public, tickets for the concert cost £10 Adults (£8 concessions), £5 RUMS members. They are available from the University Music Department and Hickies Music Shop, Friar Street, Reading.

## Poitiers Exchange Scholarship 2005/2006

The University of Poitiers offers to the University of Reading annually a scholarship for postgraduate study or research tenable at the University of Poitiers for a period of eight months (mid-October to mid-June).

The value of the award last year was €3,771. There are no tuition fees and subsidised student accommodation is normally offered.

The principal teaching and research units in the University of Poitiers are:

Legal and Social Sciences	Economic and Management Sciences
Exact and Natural Sciences	Fundamental and Applied Sciences
Institute of Science and Technology	Languages and Literature
Human Sciences	Graduate Centre of Medieval Studies
Medicine and Pharmacy	Centre of Aerodynamic and Therman Studies
University Institute of Technology	Sport and Physical Education
Graduate School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Studies	

Applications for the 2005/2006 scholarship are invited from those who are either at present in the final year of a degree course (in any subject which is also taught at Poitiers) or who have recently graduated from this University. Letters of application, including a brief *curriculum vitae* and a short statement of study or research proposed should be sent with a letter of support from the department to Heather Goodey, International & Study Abroad Office, Room G27 Geography Building, no later than 1 April 2005. Tel: 0118 378 8749

## Centre for Staff Training & Development

**Programme 14–25 February 2005** To book, please email [cstd@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:cstd@rdg.ac.uk)

<b>15 February</b>	9.30am–4.30pm 9.30am–4.30pm	<i>Introduction to Strategic Planning and Management</i> <i>Effective E-Learning with Blackboard: Creating your Blackboard Course</i>
<b>16 February</b>	9.30am–12.30pm 12.45–1.45pm 2pm–5pm	<i>Committee Servicing and Minute Writing</i> <i>Information Policy Supporters Meeting</i> <i>Evaluating your Teaching</i>
<b>17 February</b>	9.30am–4.30pm	<i>Managing and Developing Contract Research Staff</i>
<b>18 February</b>	9.30am–12.30pm 12.45–2pm	<i>Interviewing Skills for Recruitment and Selection Panels</i> <i>Recruiting and Selecting PhD Students</i>
<b>23 February</b>	9.30–11am 11.30am–1.30pm 2pm–5pm	<i>Spotting Signs of Dyslexia for Staff</i> <i>Assessing Group Work</i> <i>Managing your Research in a Changing Environment</i>
<b>24 February</b>	9.30am–4pm	<i>Developing your Presentation Skills</i>
<b>25 February</b>	9.30am–1pm 1pm–2pm	<i>Recruitment and Selection Panel Interviews</i> <i>Moving to a University Lectureship, Research Drivers and Individual Research Profiles</i>

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

## DIARY

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/>

## Thursday 10 February

**Blood Donor Session**, Wolfenden Sports Centre, 9.30am–12.10pm, 1.45–4pm

**Applied Statistics Lunchtime seminar**, *Meta-Analysis of Time-to-Event Data*, **Mark Simmonds**, G03, Harry Pitt Building, 1pm

**Sustainable Energy seminar**, TBA, **Becca Heaton** (Bio-Renewables Ltd), Plant Science Lecture Theatre, 2pm

**GCMS seminar**, *Visualizing the Apocalypse in the Middle Ages*, **Professor Richard Emmerson**, (Harvard), 229 HUMSS, 4.30pm

For other events today please see the web site or Bulletin 428

## Friday 11 February

**Applied Mathematics & Numerical Analysis seminar**, TBA, **Jean-Marc VandenBroeck** (East Anglia), 113, Mathematics, 3pm

## Monday 14 February

**Meteorology seminar**, *Anthropogenic dust*, **Sandy Harrison** (Bristol), Sutcliffe Lecture Theatre (GU01), Meteorology, 12 noon

**Staff Christian prayer group**, chat, coffee, prayer, The Chaplaincy, 1pm

**Chemistry seminar**, *Precision Chemical Engineering: Fabricating 3D Nanostructured surfaces*, **Dr John A Preece**, (Birmingham), Lecture Theatre 1 Chemistry, 4.15pm

**Zoology seminar**, *Mighty mites and sheep scab: current disease status and future control challenges*, **Professor Richard Wall** (Bristol), AMS Lecture Theatre, 4.15pm

## Tuesday 15 February

**Meteorology Lunchtime seminar**, *Why Envisat?*, **William Lahoz**, GU01 Meteorology, 1pm

**NRG Seminar**, *Evolution of nutritional status during pregnancy and lactation in HIV-Infected and un-infected women in Lusaka*, **Rachel Gitau**, 2-33, 1pm

**Physics colloquium**, *Physics in conservation and restoration of objects of art*, **Dr Marek Stankiewicz** (Reading), Ditchburn Lecture Theatre, 1.45pm

**Geography seminar**, *Making a geography of glaciers*, **Dr Roger Braithwaite**, (Manchester), G19 Geography, 4pm

**Politics and International Relations seminar**, *The making of violent events: new organizations, religion and the state in India since 1977*, **Dr Manali Desai** (Reading), 406 HUMSS, 4.30pm

**Botanika Talk**, *Tropical; Rainforest Conservation*, **Nicola Beharrell**, Plant Sciences Lecture Theatre, 7pm, £2 non-members. Members free

## Wednesday 16 February

**Creative Writing workshop**, *an opportunity to create new work and get feedback from* **Paul Bavister**, Room 106 Palmer Building, 2pm

**History of Art research seminar**, *Hans Vredeman de Vries's Last Judgement in Gdansk (1595): A Calvinist Re-Interpretation of a Catholic Iconography*, **Dr Barbara Uppenkamp** (Reading), Seminar Room, Blandford Lodge, 4pm

**CEAS seminar**, *China, the WTO and Antidumping Policy*, **Professor Mike Utton** (Reading), 127 HUMSS, 5pm

## Thursday 17 February

**Sustainable Energy seminar**, *The future of Renewable Energies in Buildings*, **Julien Daclin** (Roger Preston and Partners), Plant Science Lecture Theatre, 2pm

**Psychology seminar**, *Revising Causal Beliefs*, **Dr Clare Walsh**, (Plymouth), G505, Psychology Building, 4.30pm

**Construction Management lunchtime seminar**, *Lighting the homes of older people*, **Iyassu Yohannes**, 2N10 URS Building, 1pm

**History Postgraduate research seminar**, *The Press as Historical Witness: Researching the British Press and France, 1939–40*, **Richard Carswell**, 142 HUMSS, 5pm

## Friday 18 February

**Applied Mathematics & Numerical Analysis seminar**, *Discontinuous Galerkin Methods on Shape-Regular and Anisotropic meshes*, **Manolis Georgoulis** (Leicester), 113 Maths, 3pm

## Monday 21 February

**Meteorology seminar**, *Dense water production on the continental shelves: dynamical processes and climate implications*, **Georgy Shapiro** (Plymouth), GU01, Meteorology, 12noon

**Zoology seminar**, *Using blind cavefish to explore micro- and macro-evolution and development*, **Dr Yoshiyuki Yamamoto** (UCL), AMS Lecture Theatre, 4.15pm

**Plant Sciences seminar**, *How to make the world a better place with flowers* (prov. title), **Dr Elisabeth Sahin** (K. Sahin Zaden BV, The Netherlands), PS Lecture Theatre, 4.15pm

**Finzi Poetry Reading 2005**, **UA Fanthorpe**, with **Rosie Bailey**, Nike Theatre, Agriculture Building, 6.30pm

**SCR Event**, *Exhibiting and Judging at Chelsea*, **Dr Stephen Jury**, **Trevor Pitman** and **Sarah Swan** (Plant Sciences), Park House, 6.30pm

## Tuesday 22 February

**University of Reading Women's Club event**, *Ploughman's Lunch in aid of the University Play Group*, Windsor Hall SCR, 11.30am

**Meteorology Lunchtime seminar**, *The Flow Separation of Western Boundary Currents*, **David Munday**, Meteorology GU01, 1pm

**NRG seminar**, *Nutrition and cancers of the alimentary tract*, **Ian Johnson** (IFR, Norwich), 2-33, 1pm

**Physics colloquium**, *Femtosecond Lasers and Optical Clocks*, **Dr Stephen Lea** (National Physical Laboratory), Ditchburn Lecture Theatre, 1.45pm

**Geography seminar**, *The River Trent: representation management and history in a mobile landscape*, **Dr George Revill** (Open University), G19 Geography, 4pm

**Politics and International Relations seminar**, *The Iraq situation*, **Dr Toby Dodge** (Queen Mary and Westfield), 406 HUMSS, 4.30pm

**Agriculture seminar**, *Alternative crops for UK farmers: What opportunities do they offer?* **Dr Jim Dimmock** (Bangor), 1L08, Agriculture, 4pm

**Botanika Talk**, *Succulent Plants of the Western and Northern Cape Provinces of South Africa*, **Mr Terry Smale**, Plant Sciences Lecture Theatre, 7pm, £2 non-members, Members free

## Wednesday 23 February

**CEAS seminar**, *"Funded Institutional and Sector Modernisation Facility"*, Damascus, Syria *"Syria at a Turning Point"*, **Dr Ken Charman**, (Economist and Team Leader of the EU), 127 HUMSS, 5pm

**American Studies seminar**, *Cleopatra Jones Gets Political: us black feminist organizing in the 1970s*, **Dr Kimberley Springer**, (Kings College, London), 125 HUMSS, 4.30pm

**History of Art research seminar**, *Photography and Devastation: The Great War as European Cultural Work*, **Simon Baker** (Nottingham), Seminar Room, Blandford Lodge, 4pm

**Early Modern Research Centre seminar**, *"Englands Freedome, Souldiers Rights": the Levellers and the New Model Army*, **Rachel Foxley** (Reading), 10 HUMSS, 4.30pm

**Public Health Lecture**, *The Health Protection Agency and how it can deliver locally*, **Dr Graham Bickler**, (Regional Director (South East), Health Protection Agency) and **Dr Bharat Pankhania**, (Berkshire Health Protection Unit), B117, Bulmershe, 1pm

## Thursday 24 February

**History Postgraduate research seminar**, *Attitudes and aspects to pain and relievers: who or what managed the pain of childbirth in Victorian Britain?*, **Polly Harte**, 142 HUMSS, 5pm

**Royal Statistical Society Meeting**, *Data Mining*, **David Esp** (National Grid Transco UK) and **Simon Cumming** (British Airways), Room 1L04, Agriculture, 4pm

**Psychology seminar**, *Perceiving depth in virtual scenes: Focus cues do matter*, **Dr Simon Watt**, (University of Wales, Bangor), G505 Psychology, 4.30pm

## Saturday 26 February

**The 67th Reading University Head of the River Race**, Reading University Boathouse at Caversham Bridge, Caversham, 11am

**SCR Event**, *Dinner Theatre Matinee at The Mill at Sonning: It's Never Too Late* by **Ron Aldridge**. Pre-dinner drinks: 12noon, lunch: 12.30, performance: 2.15pm. Inclusive cost: £30, Sonning Mill Theatre, £30, Jean Carter, ext. 5097

## READING FILM THEATRE



Palmer Theatre,  
Whiteknights

[www.readingfilmtheatre.co.uk](http://www.readingfilmtheatre.co.uk)

## February Starting at 8pm unless stated

- |       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 15 TU | <b>My Summer of Love</b> 15      |
| 16 WE | <b>A Tale of Two Sisters</b> 15  |
| 17 TH | <b>The Corporation</b> PG 7.45pm |
| 22 TU | <b>Layer Cake</b> 15             |
| 23 WE | <b>Spartan</b> 15                |
| 24 TH | <b>Enduring Love</b> 15          |
| 28 MO | <b>Ladies in Lavender</b> 12A    |

Seats: £3.50 for members and £4.50 for non-members. Further details: please phone 0118 378 7151, (or ext. 7151).

# SMALL ADS

## To Let

**Fully furnished** double room to let with shower room. Walking distance Earley Gate/buses/Earley Station. Large lounge, kitchen and garden. Quiet location with off road parking. Must be non-smokers. To share with owner who is not around much. £350 and £325 pcm inclusive. Please email jimmy@hornwood.co.uk

**Double bedroom** available immediately in link-detached house in herbs & spices area of Lower Earley. 15 minutes walk or 3 minutes drive from University, with easy parking. Would suit single professional, lecturer or pg student; non-smoker. House shared with young lecturer (owner of house). Rent £320 pcm including utility bills. Email w.n.browne@rdg.ac.uk, tel 0118 378 6705 (day) or 0118 986 1447 (late evenings).

## Holiday Lets

**Secluded cottage**, stunning views over Mawdach Estuary, southern Snowdonia. Sleeps 6 (or 8), 2 bathrooms, large living space, well equipped kitchen, warm in winter, excellent in summer. 6km sandy beaches. £300 pw high season, £250 pw other times. Short breaks possible. Further details contact 0118 9871885 or c.g.gayford@rdg.ac.uk

**Holiday cottage** in a small rural village on Sweden's south coast, 1.5 miles away from a 12 mile stretch of sandy beach and near golf courses, castles and nature reserves. Easy access to Copenhagen, Malmö and Lund as well as the local airport Sturup, serviced by Ryanair twice daily. Spacious with two double bedrooms, large sitting and dining room, kitchen and large gardens. Sleeps 4-5. Available from £250/week (non-smoking). For further details and pictures, contact esse\_nilsson@hotmail.com

**Holiday in France.** Camping Devezeau 16230 St Angeau, France. Small friendly campsite in the heart of the Charente, complete with swimming pool. (English owners.) Why not rent our small gite or one of our mobile homes, or bring your own caravan or tent this summer. For more information visit our website [www.campingdevezeau.com](http://www.campingdevezeau.com) or give us a call +33 545 392129.

## For rent

**Double room**, ensuite shower and basin, recently decorated. Share pleasant house and garden with owner. Near campus, on bus route to University/town, offroad parking. Non-smoker preferred. £320 pcm inc bills. Contact Viv (0118) 9752 709 v.k.rimmer@rdg.ac.uk

**Garage.** Walking distance of town and University. Contact tel: 0118 975 2091

## For sale

**House**, 500 yards from the University campus. Detached, 4 bedroom house, 1960's style, sunny south facing garden, popular road, no chain complications. £315,000 Tel: 0118 9610077 or email: l.a.gwinnell@rdg.ac.uk

## Tuition

**German Conversation:** Tuition offered – all levels, To individuals or small groups. Contact: Susanna Beer on 0118 926 7139

## Free

**Armchair** – very comfortable. Beige patterned. Contact tel: 0118 975 2091

# Reading to host two new Centres for Excellence

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has announced the creation of 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) to promote excellence in teaching and learning across all subjects and aspects of teaching and learning in higher education.

The University of Reading is one of only 16 institutions that will host more than one CETL.

Funding of £315 million over five years from 2005–06 to 2009–10 for CETLs represents HEFCE's largest single funding initiative in teaching and learning. The funds received by CETLs will be used to recognise and reward excellent teachers and enable institutions to invest in staff, buildings and equipment to support and enhance successful learning in new and challenging ways.

Reading will act as lead institution in two CETLs: one in Applied Undergraduate Research Skills, the other in Career Management Skills. The University will also be a partner in CETLs for Physics and Study Advice.

Professor David Rice, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, said: "We are tremendously excited about receiving these awards from HEFCE, and the fact that we are hosting not one but two CETLs is testament to Reading's position as an internationally renowned provider of the highest quality education. With this extra commitment from HEFCE, I am sure that Reading will be able to develop even more innovative teaching and learning strategies".

The CETL in Applied Undergraduate Research Skills will use the University's unique collections and museums (such as the Cole Museum of Zoology, the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology and the



Museum of English Rural Life) and the practice of fieldwork to develop students' research skills. It will help students apply their knowledge and research skills in the wider world – one of the most significant and overarching learning outcomes of a university education.

The CETL in Career Management Skills (CMS) will build on the established record of excellence of the University's CMS programme, which enables students to see all the options linked to their degree discipline, consider what sort of careers they want, audit and develop their skills, plus know how to apply effectively for jobs, as well as post-graduate opportunities. Reading's CMS programme has won national awards and has been purchased by 58 HE institutions in the UK and abroad.