



FOREST RESEARCH Newsletter

APRIL 2002

People News

A big welcome to:

- Alison Holt, who joins SSRB on 22 April, to assist Ian Tubby with the Short Rotation Coppice Project.
- Carlos Ontiveros-Peros who joins Silv N on 2 April to assist Barry Gardiner with the stability programme.

Congratulations to:

- Bob Bellis (TSU AH), for raising more than £1600 to take part in a sponsored trek for the charity LEPRa in Nepal in May. A big 'thank you' from Bob to all colleagues for their support and sponsorship.

Farewell:

- Samantha Broadmeadow (ERB) commences maternity leave on 7 April.
- Juergen Boehl has left (Silv N) to pursue a career in GIS in Weimar, Germany. Juergen's sporting prowess will be sorely missed by NRS's 5-a-side footballers.
- Laura Forrest will leave TIB on 29 April after a year in FR spent investigating the sex life of oaks. Laura is moving to Carbondale, Illinois, to study the taxonomy of liverworts.
- Willie Kelly (TSU Mabie) has completed his FTA, working on *Hylobius*.
- Tania Messenger (ERB), who was working on beetle identification, has left to complete an O.U. course in environmental studies.
- We wave a fond farewell to Margaret Greenwood (FE Seed Trading), who retires after 33 years service. Margaret joined the then Research Division back in 1969, and worked in Office Services, Entomology and Seed Research before transferring to FE Seed Trading Division in 1987, again based at AH. Margaret will be missed by colleagues and customers alike.
- Mavis Peacock (Admin AH) also takes a well-earned retirement after 9 years at FR, the last 6 years being spent as supervisor of the AH Typing Pool. Mavis has generated an immense ocean of gratitude from those of us who sometimes leave our report-writing a little too close to the deadline and we will remember her help with much fondness. Sue Stiles will be taking on the role as first point of contact for typing work from 1 May.

- Jim Pratt MBE (Path NRS) will be retiring at the end of April after 42 years 'man and boy' with the FC. During his long and successful career, Jim has worked at various locations, including AH and, for the past 20 years, NRS. He is particularly known for his work in reducing chemical usage in forests and his work on the control of Fomes root and butt rot is internationally respected. We shall undoubtedly miss Jim's energy, expertise and above all his humour.
- We wish Margaret, Mavis and Jim the very happiest of retirements.

Secondments & Transfers:

- Chris Jones (TSU Talybont) commences a part time assignment for FC-W on 1 April, under the direction of Jon Westlake. Chris will be working with FC-W to develop research projects in Wales, improve FR's engagement with Welsh organisations and assist with technology transfer activities.
- Gilly Anderson (Admin AH) will transfer to Finance & Planning in April, to assist with FR's seminars, event management and newsletter.
- Responsibility for FR's website will move from Communications Branch to Finance & Planning Branch in April, as a precursor to the recruitment of a dedicated webmaster for FR.

Science & Business News

FR develops collaboration with METLA

On 7 April, Miriam Baldwin (Mens) will begin a 3 month secondment to METLA, the Finnish Forest Research organisation. Miriam will be based at the Vantaa Research Station in Tikkurila, near Helsinki. She will be taking forward her work on ash growth and yield modelling in collaboration with Prof. Jari Hynynen and Dr Risto Sievanen. FR's collaboration with METLA aims to share knowledge in the modelling area. Both organisations are developing similar process and empirical modelling systems. There is considerable interest in developing a common approach that integrates the best features of our respective capabilities. Miriam's visit represents the first step in this collaboration.

On a practical note, anyone who wishes to contact Miriam in Helsinki can reach her via her normal work e-mail address.

How Green is my Research Station?

Steve Lee, NRS's Green Officer, held a staff seminar at NRS in March, to explain what types of green initiatives are going on in the FC and to explore what might be possible in FR. As Steve explained, Jim Christie, FC's full-time Green Officer, has been busy turning the 'Brown Banana' into the 'Green Banana'. Jim has ensured that the refurbished Edinburgh HQ building is a model of energy conservation and there are several ideas which FR might adopt or adapt. The challenge now is to generate FR's momentum for green issues. Steve now plans to move into action! In the meantime, you can check how wasteful you are on website: <http://www.bestfootforward.com/footprintlife.htm> or see [FC Green Operations Intranet site](#).

Arts Met Science

FR's collaboration with Surrey Institute of Art and Design produced a host of proposals from Art & Design students, to improve, enhance and embellish AH's visual appearance. Four of the design ideas unveiled on 14 March at the exhibition of students' work were selected for further review. FR hopes to be able to take at least one of the design ideas forward as a commission. Congratulations and thanks to Matt Parratt (SSRB) for developing this successful and enjoyable initiative.

'Trees are Company' to be published

FR's Social Research Unit is about to publish a new book: *Trees are Company: social science research into woodlands and the natural environment*. The intention is to launch the new publication at the ICF National Conference on 3-5 April.

Editors Liz O'Brien and Jenny Claridge based the book on proceedings from last June's social forestry conference at Cardiff University, at which three main themes were explored:

- The culture, values and meanings of woodlands and trees
- Monitoring and modelling approaches to forest management and sustainability
- Community involvement in decision-making and management.

The book also outlines topics identified by workshops at Cardiff as needing further investigation. These include stakeholder analysis, environmental values, social sustainability and public participation in environmental decision-making.

Liz hopes the new book will prove a valuable resource for the wide range of people interested in current developments and research into social forestry topics.

Book now for ForestSAT, August 2002

Arrangements for FR's ForestSAT conference are going well. Due to high demand, the venue has been moved to a larger conference centre at Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University! Some excellent speakers are lined up and the call for

papers has had over 90 responses to date. Staff wishing to attend the conference are advised to book soon – accommodation will be in short supply as the seminar coincides with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; and early-bookers earn a 10% discount on conference fees until 20 April. For further details see [ForestSAT web site](#).

FR GIS Working Group

The FR GIS Working Group will present its recommendations in April, suggesting how FR's already wide range of GIS work can be taken forward. The WG was set up to review FR's use of and need for spatially referenced data and the tools to handle them. A staff questionnaire identified a wide range of GIS-based work already under way and a huge range of further potential uses. Questionnaire responses are summarised on FR's website in the 'News, Events & Travel' section.

Buildings Questionnaire Responses

The FR Working Group set up to study opportunities to improve FR's buildings and working environment wish to thank all 150 staff who completed the recent staff questionnaire. Questionnaire responses clarified areas requiring further review and results will be posted to FR's Intranet site.

Forthcoming Events

3-5 April: ICF National Conference, Imperial College, London

9 April: FRCC Meeting, Edinburgh

11 April: FC Commissioners visit NRS

17 April: FR / PPD Liaison Meeting, HQ

18 April: Launch of Scottish National Inventory of Woodland and Trees by Scottish Deputy Minister for Environment & Rural Development

24 & 25 April: Pension Briefings at NRS

1 & 2 May: Pension Briefings at AH

13 May: Emergency First Aid course at AH

Newsletter Team

Co-ordinating Editor: Alison Melvin

E-mail: alison.melvin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

NRS News Co-ordinator: Margaret Plews

E-mail: margaret.plews@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

AH News Co-ordinator: Gilly Anderson

E-mail: gilly.anderson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

People News: Janet Lacey

E-mail: janet.lacey@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Team Production: AH Typing Pool

E-mail: mailto:FR-AH-Typing Pool

Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the May Newsletter is Monday 29 April.

