

## People News

### Welcome to:

- Stephan Berthier from INRA, Bordeaux, who joins FR on a two year Marie Curie fellowship. Stephan will be working with Bruce Nicholl (Silv N) on the EU Ecoslopes project.
- Kong Xiangwen, a Forest Management Researcher from Dandong province in China, has just joined Silv N on a one year Chinese government scholarship.
- Carlos Ontiveros Perez who has joined Silv N as a Research Worker.

### Congratulations to:

- Clive Brasier (Pathology) who has recently been awarded the honorific title 'Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society', for his outstanding contributions to plant pathology.
- Kevin Watts (WEB) and his wife Hannah on the birth of their baby daughter Harriet Rose.
- Bruce Nicholl (Silv N) and his wife Krista on the birth of their son Matthew, a birthday present that was only one day late for his Dad's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- Barbara Joyce Rammell (TDB Ae) who has been awarded the 'Athletic Coach of the year Trophy' by Dumfries and Galloway Council, following her nomination by the general public and sporting community for her work training young athletes in Dumfries, Thornhill and Sanquhar. Joyce is a keen road runner, orienteer, middle distance runner, shot putter, discus thrower, hockey player and athletic judge. Just to keep up her fitness she regularly cycles and takes a 'wee jog' at lunchtime.

### Welcome back to:

- Doug Nisbet who has returned to Alice Holt after his year in New Zealand. Doug will be acting as 'hit man', going where the need is greatest within the Field Station teams. Doug thoroughly enjoyed his year away and apparently has the photographic evidence to prove it.
- Julie Barrette who has recently returned to Silv N from Canada. Julie returns a married woman, as she and Alexis Achim (Silv N) were married recently.

### Transfers:

- Lorelie Ives has transferred from TSU (S) to SSRB.
- Andy Peace formerly of Stats and IT Services at Alice Holt has now transferred to NRS.

### Farewell to:

- John Farquhar who has left Mensuration/SSRB at AH.
- Tobias Jackson who will be leaving TSU (S) on 16 May.

### Sports news:

- Bob Bellis and Kate Harris took part in the Headley Fun Run on May Day Bank Holiday. The race was run over a five-mile course and attracted about 150 runners. Kate came in second in her class setting herself a six-minute mile average. Bob came in close behind Kate but was unable to claim a prize as the men set a five-minute mile average.
- The football giants of the north gave battle on the evening of 28 April, NRS v Silvan House: sad to say the NRS team was not victorious but there will no doubt be a rematch. The team was photographed before kick off, resplendent in their new kit.





## Science & Business News

### FR Scientists win Silvicultural Prize

Elspeth Macdonald and Jason Hubert have been awarded the Silvicultural Prize of the Institute of Chartered Foresters for the best paper published in 'Forestry' in 2002. This was for their paper entitled 'A review of the effects of silviculture on timber quality of Sitka spruce'.

### Woodlands Surveys on the move

The Woodland Surveys team has now completed the move to NRS, Steve Smith cut the ribbon to mark the official take-over of the old Admin offices.



### Strange contraptions on the lawns of Alice Holt

Helen Billiard a PhD student currently working in Entomology at Alice Holt is carrying out a sampling program on the lawns of Alice Holt. Helen is studying a leaf weevil, *Phyllobius*, the adults of which cause damage through defoliation to young broadleaf plantings. The sampling traps /contraptions adorning the lawns of Alice Holt aim to help establish the distribution of the root feeding larval stages of *Phyllobius*. Preliminary work last year showed adult weevils emerging from sites of open grassland, hence this year Helen is looking at a range of grassland habitats local to Alice Holt, including the front lawn and sheep field.

### New publication

Paul Tabbush and Liz O'Brien (Social Research Unit) have produced a publication called 'Health and Well-being: Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces'. It provides synopses of presentations and workshop discussions and of three expert consultations held in Scotland, England and Wales in 2002. The events provided a forum for a variety of organisations to discuss and examine the





relationship between the environment, health, culture and society. It also enabled communications networks to be developed between environmental professionals, health professionals and researchers.

### Spring has sprung

The coming of spring was heralded by the annual re-appearance of the Alice Holt Mole.



### Visit & Conferences

- Bill Mason, Jason Hubert and Steve Lee attended the second annual conference of the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster at Crieff, where there was much discussion about the possibility of improving spruce through engineering, silviculture and breeding.

### Forthcoming Events

29 & 30 June 1 & 2 July: The Royal Show at Stoneleigh Warwickshire, TDB and various branches will represent FR, together with the West Midlands Conservancy.

### Conundrum

A once stately tree now laid low,  
Certain death from a coleopteran foe,  
But hydra-like I return to fight once more  
For a while at least though I've lost the war.

Issue 2's answer, was an ode to the demise of the England cricket team in the South Africa World Cup. It contains clues to 6 species of a particular genus – the genus is *Salix*, the willows, the species are:

- 'Listen' – Eared Willow, *Salix aurita*
- 'Sorrow' – Weeping willow, *Salix babylonica*
- 'Crack' – Crack willow, *Salix fragilis*
- 'White' – White willow, *Salix alba*
- 'Capricious' – Goat willow, *Salix caprea* (*Capra* = goat)
- Overall theme – Cricket- bat willow, *Salix caerulea*

### Next Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is 30 May.

### Newsletter Team

Editor: Gilly Anderson  
E-mail: gilly.anderson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk  
People News: Janet Lacey & Wendy Groves  
E-mail: janet.lacey@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Production Team: AH Typing Services  
E-mail: FR-AH-Typing Pool  
Conundrum: Alan Harrison  
E-mail: alan.harrison@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

