



FOREST RESEARCH Newsletter

JANUARY 2002

People News

A big welcome to:

- Helen Billiald who starts a PhD studentship with Entomology Branch, at Sussex Univ, to study broadleaf weevils.
- Helen Tabbener (TIB), whom we welcome back from maternity leave.
- Gillian Mackintosh who rejoins NRS to assist Admin Branch.
- Kevin Watts who joins WEB at AH as Landscape Ecology Project Leader. Kevin has a PhD from the Countryside & Community Research Unit at University of Gloucestershire and a mix of practical, academic and consultancy experience.

Congratulations to:

- Colin Edwards (Silv N) who has been awarded a BSc Honours in Natural Sciences by the Open University, and has also gained diplomas in both Biological Sciences and Natural Sciences.
- Sarah Green (Path) who has taken over as Head of Pathology section at NRS pending Jim Pratt's retirement next April.
- David Lonsdale (Path), one of two UK winners of the International Society of Arboriculture Merit Award, an annual award for outstanding contributions to the promotion of arboricultural knowledge.
- Jim Pratt (Path) who was awarded an MBE in recognition of his services to forestry and in particular his work at gaining PSD approval of PG suspension, urea and borate for stump treatment.

Farewell to:

- Linda Legge (Admin NRS) who is taking maternity leave.
- Sarah McCann (Admin NRS) who has left to resume her studies.

Transfers and Secondments:

- Ian Willoughby (SSRB) will be seconded to FE England on a temporary basis for three days per week, starting from 7 January. Ian will be covering part of Chrispin Thorn's Operations role and he will continue to be based at AH.

Vacancies

- Assistant statistician (AH). PB5. 3 yr FTA. Deadline 11 January.
- Seed Trading Officer, FE, (AH). PB5. Deadline 18 January.
- GIS support officer (NRS). PB5. Deadline 18 January.
- Horticulturist, to work as Research Nursery Manager for TSU(N) based at NRS. PB5. Deadline 1 February.

Contact Janet Lacey (Admin AH) for details.

Science & Business News

Resolved to Quit Smoking?

Financial help to a ceiling of £100 is again available to all members of staff, for any legal method of kicking the habit. Contact Janet Lacey (Admin AH) for details.

Social Forestry

FR's newly formed Social Research Unit, consisting of Paul Tabbush and Liz O'Brien at Alice Holt and Max Hislop at NRS, has been joined by a new project leader, Suzanne Martin, based at NRS. Suzanne will research forest recreation and indicators of social sustainability. Max will continue development of his decision-based 'toolbox' to assist forest managers in public participation. Paul has begun work on public engagement in the long-term forest planning process and Liz has begun research into public values. Two PhD CASE students have also started work under the supervision of the AH team. Pernille Schiellerup, at University College London, is working on aspects of public participation and policy networks. Anna Manoukiants, at University of Brighton, is working on computer-visualisation as a medium for public engagement.

Greening Government Initiative

FR has joined the Greening Government Initiative, which aims to reinforce the UK's commitment to a range of internationally agreed protocols, to reduce environmental damage and introduce sustainable processes. FR's Greening Operations co-ordinators are Steve Lee (TIB) at NRS and Mike Wheeler (Admin) at AH. They would like staff to get involved and make suggestions. Either contact Steve or Mike directly or fill in a

form on the FC Intranet (click onto BSD, Greening Operations).

FR joins FTS Focus Group

Bill Jones (TDB) and Kate Fielding TSU(N) have joined the new Forestry Training Service focus group, which will concentrate on improving the service FTS delivers to FC.

CCF for COFORD

Bill Mason and Sophie Hale (both Silv N) have joined a COFORD programme on continuous cover forestry led by University College Dublin, as fully funded collaborators.

December

Visits & Conferences

- Jim Dewar met the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation in Glasgow. This organisation takes over unwanted land and manages it in the public interest.
- Jim Dewar and Jason Hubert (Silv N) attended the Scottish Forestry Industries Conference at Dunblane, which stressed the importance of innovation and examined the importance of industrial funding of R&D in Scandinavia. The establishment of a new centre for timber engineering at Napier University was announced.
- Hugh Evans and Stuart Heritage (both Ento) were visited by COFORD (Eire) to discuss the management of restocking pests using indigenous nematodes.
- Hugh Evans (Ento) visited Insect Investigations Ltd in Cardiff to assess their quarantine facilities in relation to the containment of forest pests.
- Peter Freer-Smith represented FR at a meeting of the Tropical Forest Resource Group, which FR has recently joined. FR was invited to participate in the teaching of TFRG's 2002 Summer Courses.
- Jonathan Humphrey (WEB) presented his recent work on deadwood in the forest to Forest Enterprise management board.
- Bill Mason (Silv N) and Simon Wallis (FTS) ran a two day CCF training course in Wykeham to brief a range of FR staff on FE's current initiative to increase the percentage of their forests under this type of management. The national pilot site at Wykeham is likely to be followed shortly by three others, at Clocaenog, Glentress and possibly Inshriach.
- Andy Moffat (ERB) attended an EPSRC workshop within its 'Infrastructure and Environment Programme' and is part of consortium interested in integrated land management issues.

- Reading University's MSc students visited AH.
- Juan Suárez Silv(N) has joined a working group on GeoInformation following the workshop on Spatial Data Usability which he attended in Wageningen last November.
- Paul Tabbush (SSRB) is acting as technical co-ordinator for the ICF National Conference which will be held on 3-5 April 2002 at Imperial College.
- Kath Thorpe (Path) visited the Finnish Forest Research Institute to visit Dr Kari Holhonen and learn about the techniques he had developed to select isolates of *Phlebiopsis gigantea* as a biological treatment against root and butt rot disease.

Forthcoming Events

11 January. Heads of Branches meetings: AH 9.00; NRS 10.30.

11 January 1.30 pm. NRS Staff Seminar by Shaun Quegan of Sheffield University on 'Radar Measurement of Forest Properties'.

22 January. OST Conference on EU Framework 6, London.

25 January. Imperial College (Silwood) MSc students will visit AH.

31 January. AH Staff Seminar by Tony Kendall from The Eden Project. 1.30 pm in Staff Dining Room. All welcome.

7 February. FR/TGA/ICF Research Update Seminar at Abergavenney 9.30-16.00.

8 February 1.30 pm. NRS Staff Seminar by Penny Edwards, Environmental consultant: 'People & Forestry: A Study of Rural Development & Urban Forestry.'

14 February. FR/ICF Research Update Seminar at Newton Rigg, Cumbria.

22 February 1.30 pm. NRS Seminar on 'Public Money for Public Good – Public participation in the development of long term forest plans.'

NB. The AH Staff Seminar on Carbon planned for 28 February has been postponed

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

People News: Janet Lacey
e-mail: janet.lacey@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Team Production: AH Typing Pool
e-mail: mailto:FR-AH-Typing_Pool

