

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Royal Holloway, University of London, Community newsletter – Community Matters – which is published in October and May each year. It keeps you informed of College news and developments, events being held at the College which are open to the public, news of fundraising events and volunteering in the community.

# Community Matters Spring 08



## Science Open Day

Over 1,700 members of the local community turned up for another highly popular Science Open Day on Saturday 1 March, which gives adults and children alike an insight into the work of the Science departments at Royal Holloway. The seven departments hosted a variety of activities for all ages based on the theme 'Science and the World Around Us', allowing visitors to explore new scientific games and challenges.

Highlights of the day included virtual 3D trips in the Department of Earth Sciences, where you could create your own volcano and earthquakes, the chance to make DNA in the School of Biological Sciences and the opportunity to turn rubber into glass and watch objects magnetically levitating in mid-air in the Department of Physics.

Meanwhile, the Department of Psychology entertained visitors with visual illusions and demonstrated techniques for measuring attention and awareness, and the Science Communication Studio gave visitors the chance to be a TV presenter or to get behind the camera.

Professor Andrew Scott from the Department of Earth Sciences launched the keynote events programme with his talk 'Danger: A Volcano Awakes', which showcased dramatic video footage of the Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat. The second keynote event was the very popular Robotics Roadshow, a chance for everyone to meet our robotic dogs, Vincent and Theo, and find out more about the world of robotics.

Professor Philip Beesley, Dean of the Faculty of Science, said,

"This was an excellent opportunity for young people to find out about the breadth of the exciting science activities at Royal Holloway."

Pictured above: Nitin Jena, from Staines, learns about genetics



## Big Spring Clean

During the last week of February, the College's volunteering programme held its second 'Big Spring Clean'.

This year, 80 volunteers helped spruce up the local area; tidying up the grounds of Englefield Green Youth Centre, clearing and trimming plants at Little Echoes Nursery, litter picking and recycling rubbish in the local area, and planting shrubs.

In addition, some Students' Union clubs and societies took part. A mixed sports clubs group weeded the riverbank at Heathrow Special Needs Farm and prepared the flowerbeds for Spring at St Peter's Hospital. The Men's Rugby Club also helped tidy up Lynwood Residential Home in Sunninghill. Overall, the volunteers spent a combined 150 hours in the local community, collecting 18 bags of rubbish – the contents of which were recycled where possible.

Steven Turner, Site and Facilities Manager of the Abraham Cowley Unit at St Peter's Hospital, was delighted with the results, "Their efforts have made a significant impact on the appearance of the area in general, which is much appreciated by all. Our gardens look great!"

The 2008 Big Spring Clean was supported by various local organisations; Enterprise-Rent-A-Car sponsored the initiative, and Runnymede Borough Council provided materials.

Phil Simcock, Community Action Volunteer Co-ordinator for the College, says,

"This aspect of the volunteering programme is great for seeing students enthusiastically volunteer to serve the area in which they live. All the projects are requests from local community organisations which require a team of volunteers to meet a genuine need."

If you have any project suggestions for this year's Volunteering Week (2 – 5 June), please contact Phil Simcock at Community Action; 01784 414078, [volunteering@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@rhul.ac.uk)

# Community Matters

## Spring 08

### How the College deals with parties

We know that students living locally organise a number of social events at home, and that most of these go off without the slightest problem. However, occasionally things go wrong, and students can end up with their houses badly damaged and their neighbours seriously inconvenienced. Disastrous student parties where invitations spread far and wide via the internet, and innumerable gatecrashers turn up, regularly hit the national headlines – but to date that is one league table that the College is pleased not to have figured in!

There is no right to party in law – indeed the opposite is true; people are entitled to expect a reasonable degree of peace in a residential area. The College's Community Liaison staff visit students who live in the locality to stress the importance of ensuring their parties do not cause any disturbance and are held with their neighbours' prior agreement. Clearly people are more likely to feel relaxed about going along with parties that are planned for Fridays or Saturdays rather than before working or school days, assuming the parties end at a reasonable time and are occasional rather than regular occurrences; we make sure students are advised of this.

We are pleased that there are few complaints. If things have gone wrong, despite our best efforts, we meet up with the students promptly – often the day after the party was held. We seek reconciliation; nine times out of ten lessons are learned, apologies accepted and mistakes not repeated. When occasionally students seem intent on ignoring neighbours' concerns and repeatedly causing



disturbance, we work together with the Police. We have, as the last resort, invoked our right to terminate the College registration of anti-social students. However we are pleased to note this is very rarely required, since even the wildest party imaginable is not worth the sacrifice of all the hours of work and the hard-earned money that a degree now requires!

**Christopher Butler, Head of Support and Advisory Services**

**In the next issue... How the College deals with crime prevention.**

### People



Meet Liz Hudson, a Deputy Community Liaison Officer

**Q. How would you sum up your role as a DCLO?**

Having been born in Englefield Green and been part of the College community for 13 years, I see my role as providing a balanced link between students and longer term residents, encouraging understanding and respect on both sides.

**Q. What aspects of the role have you found most rewarding?**

Our community is unique; I cannot think of another village that is also home to a significant student population. When a complaint – usually about noise or rubbish – is made I visit the students and they usually offer to apologise. So far I haven't had to make any second visits! A few students go through difficult times; sitting with them and pointing them in the direction of student support is incredibly rewarding.

**Q. What does your full-time job entail?**

As Business Development Manager in the Department of Health & Social Care I am responsible for the marketing of all our courses, the management of our web pages and organisation of events such as international conferences. The variety keeps me busy and I enjoy flying the flag for Royal Holloway.

**Q. What are your interests outside of work?**

I love to cook and entertain; getting everyone together around the table to listen to music, eat lovely food and enjoy a bottle of wine (or two!). I also run with my dog Benson and go for long walks in Windsor Great Park.

# Community Matters Spring 08

## Royal opening of new halls

HRH The Princess Royal, in her capacity as Chancellor of the University of London, visited Royal Holloway on Thursday 24 April, when she opened the College's new halls of residence Williamson, Butler and Tuke.

The new development is the result of a £21 million investment in campus accommodation at Royal Holloway's 135-acre site. The accommodation is designed with environmentally-friendly features. It boasts 'living' sedum roofs which provide thermal and sound insulation benefits, retain rain water and significantly reduce drainage requirements. With 466 en-suite rooms fitted to high standards, the accommodation is self-catered and all rooms have double beds.

The Princess Royal toured the development, visited a selection of study bedrooms and facilities, and met staff from the Department of Facilities Management who have been involved in the design and construction of the buildings, as well as the architects and construction team.

Professor Stephen Hill, Principal, said, "We were delighted to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to the College once more to celebrate the official opening of this first-class accommodation. It is a significant investment by the College that will enable even more of our students to benefit from Royal Holloway's unique campus environment."



Pictured above: HRH The Princess Royal meeting the Students' Union President and staff, introduced by the Principal, Professor Stephen Hill (right).

## 'Go Green' week



This year's 'Go Green' week was organised by the student group People and Planet to highlight the issue of climate change and the threat it poses to the world's most vulnerable people. According to People and Planet, universities, colleges and schools emit 12.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

Royal Holloway's People and Planet group organised an open meeting to voice their concerns about recycling, energy saving and carbon emissions. Stephen Bland, Director of Facilities Management, gave a presentation highlighting the many schemes that the College already has in place to maintain and protect the environment. The students heard about College strategies to increase biodiversity, encourage sustainable travel and reduce carbon emissions. Students were surprised to find that the College bus fleet ran on biodiesel and that Facilities Management used nine electric vehicles.

Stephen Bland said, "Students' expectations have evolved considerably over the last 20 years and their concern for, and awareness of, green issues is evident – the time for change is now."

## College news

Nine Community Action student volunteers were recently involved in a pilot course for teaching and tutoring Information Computer Technology (ICT) to a small group of young refugee and asylum seekers.

The ICT course ran twice weekly for eight weeks at a residence near Heathrow airport for 16 – 18 year olds, helping them to develop transferable skills for future use.

The project ran in close partnership with the Computer Centre at Royal Holloway, and the aim is to launch a longer 10 – 12 week course during the next academic year with another volunteer team.

There may also be opportunities to use what is learnt from this project to begin ICT tutoring sessions locally to support young people, and possibly elderly residents, in developing their skills.

# Community Matters Spring 08

## What's on 2008

### Lecture series highlights

- **Black Antigone and Gay Oedipus: Post-Colonial Dramatic Legacies in the New South Africa**

By Professor Marianne McDonald,  
University of California at San Diego  
Professor Marianne McDonald will be speaking at the Classics Research Centre's first annual lecture about the legacies of post-colonial drama. The lecture will be followed by a reception. Main Lecture Theatre, Founder's Building, 5.30pm  
**28 May 2008**

- **Magna Carta Lecture**

by Rt Hon Sir Anthony Clarke, Master of the Rolls  
This is the fourth lecture in the series, hosted by Royal Holloway, to be delivered annually until 2015, the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede. Run in association with the Magna Carta Trust. [www.rhul.ac.uk/about/magna-carta/](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/about/magna-carta/)  
Windsor Building Auditorium, 6pm  
**16 June 2008**

The College's 'What's On' guide provides full listings of forthcoming lectures and music performances. For a copy please contact [external-relations@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:external-relations@rhul.ac.uk) or 01784 443004.

### Volunteering

- **Volunteering week**  
**2 – 5 June 2008**

### Community Liaison Forums

- Community Liaison Forums are hosted jointly by the College and the Students' Union. They are an opportunity for residents to raise issues directly.  
Main Lecture Theatre, Founder's Building, 6.30 – 7.30pm  
**3 June 2008**

### College events

- **London Mozart Players**

Classical concert and champagne reception  
A performance by the internationally-renowned London Mozart Players and conductor Alexander Shelley, together with the highly acclaimed Royal Holloway Choir directed by Rupert Gough. A champagne reception will be held in the interval. Early booking is advised. If still available, tickets will be sold on the night. If you have any queries please contact: Sue Heath on 01784 414471, [sue.heath@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:sue.heath@rhul.ac.uk)  
Windsor Building Auditorium, 7.30pm  
Tickets £25 or £20\* (\*concessions: OAPs, Alumni)  
**5 June 2008**



- **Garden Party**

An annual event held in aid of local charities. Craft and local community stalls; children's activities and shows; music; raffle and talks. There will also be tours of the campus, cream teas and BBQ. A Thanksgiving Service will be held in the Chapel at 6pm. (Note: Picture Gallery is closed for refurbishment).  
South Quad, Founder's Building, 1 – 5.30pm  
Admission £1, children under 10 free  
**8 June 2008**

- **Heritage Open Day**

Campus tours and refreshments available. (Note: Picture Gallery is closed for refurbishment).  
North Quad, Founder's Building, 11am – 5.30pm  
Admission free, no advance booking necessary.  
**14 September 2008**

#### 2008 term dates:

Monday 28 April - Friday 13 June 2008  
Monday 22 September - Friday 12 December 2008

We value your comments and suggestions.

Please write to:

Community Matters, External Relations,  
Royal Holloway, University of London,  
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX or  
[email community-matters@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:community-matters@rhul.ac.uk)

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX  
T: 01784 434455  
[www.rhul.ac.uk](http://www.rhul.ac.uk)