WELCOME

• (back) to Dr. Sharon Hedley who has joined RUWPA and the Monday football group again!

CONGRATULATIONS

• to Catherine Gerrard who successfully defended her thesis. The external examiner was Professor David Hughes from Leeds.

NEWS

• Lars Olsen visited Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universitat in Greifswald (in the former East-Germany) during the reading week. Lars was the convener of the examining committee for Steffen Winter’s Diploma dissertation and attended Steffen’s viva. Lars also gave an invited Colloquium entitled “Multifractal Geometry” and an invited research seminar entitled “Deformations of ergodic averages - Towards a general notion of divergence points”.

• Alan Cairns visited the Plasma Physics Group at Imperial College on 20th November and gave a seminar on “Radiofrequency heating of spherical tokamaks”.

• Clare Parnell (chair) and Danielle Bewsher from the Solar Group organised and attended a workshop at MEDOC (Paris) on the Quiet Sun entitled ‘Transient Events and Coronal Heating’ from the 3-5th December. The workshop went very well with plenty of discussion although it ended a few
hours early so we could all rush to the airport and try and get flights back home before the air traffic control strike in France took hold!

Clare gave a talks on nanoflares, detection algorithms and statistical methods!!! Danielle gave a talk on blinkers.

- Colin Campbell and Edmund Robertson will be attending the group theory meeting Nikolaus 2001 at RWTH Aachen from 6 - 9 December. St Andrews and RWTH Aachen have strong links through the group theory system GAP, a key component of CIRCA.

- Alex Craik made a further visit to the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University, during 16 October - 10 December.

- Thomas Wiegelmann will visit the “Max-Planck Institute fuer Aeronomie” in Katlenburg-Lindau from December 10 to December 21 and from January 7 to January 21. He will colaborate with the 3D STEREO reconstruction group there. Thomas Wiegelmann has started devoloping a software package “Magnetic Modelling” which is to be used in the STEREO-mission. Two other 3D-STEREO-software packages “Stereoscopy” and “Tomography” are under development in Lindau and it is hoped that these three packages will be fitted together.

SEMINARS

- Pure Maths Colloquium (Rm 1A - 3pm)
  - Thursday 13th December: T. Bedford (University of Glasgow), “Why I became a closet pure mathematician”.
  - Thursday 14th February: N. Gilbert (Heriot-Watt University), “Amalgamating semigroups”.
  - Thursday 21th February: S.J Pride (University of Glasgow), “Invariants for string rewriting systems”.

- Statistics Seminars (L.Th. D - 4pm)

– Monday 3rd December: Prof. Mikhail Kanevski (IDIAP Institute, Martigny, Switzerland) “Working with Spatial Data: Description of Tools and Case Studies”

For more information see:
http://www-maths.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/StatsSeminars

NEXT ISSUE

• Please send any material for the next newsletter to mcsnews@mcs by 12pm Thursday 7th February.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS