

## Farewell to Andy

After quarter of a century, it's sadly time to say farewell to Andy Barrow, Faculty Librarian for Science.

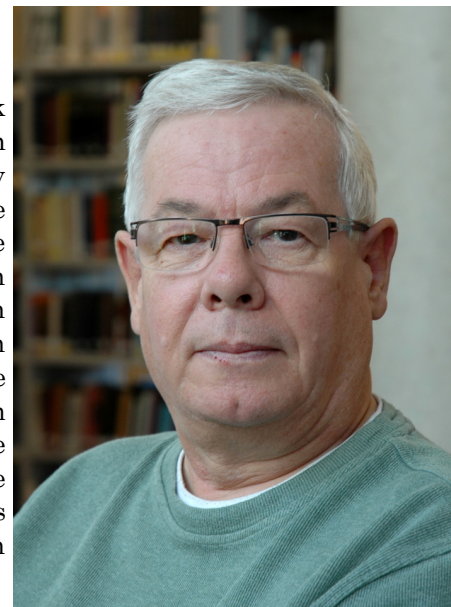
He's not quite ready to retire yet and is leaving to take up a post in much sunnier climes.

To mark his moving on, *SciTech Update* is devoting the whole of this special double sided issue to a look back at his life and times, and a look forward to where he's headed.

### Early Years

Born in York in 1948, just a few yards from the house in Stonegate in which Guy Fawkes was born in 1570, Andy attended Pocklington School and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne where he gained a degree in zoology and met his wife, Jean, a geography student. After an unsuccessful attempt to gain a master's degree in Public Health Engineering he returned to York to work in Rowntree's sweet factory. Factory life proved to be uncongenial so

Andy moved to work at the British Library at nearby Boston Spa for three years, then became Technical Librarian at the Anglian Water Authority in Cambridgeshire before moving from there after five years to become Biosciences Librarian at Bath University.



### A Chance Meeting

A chance meeting in 1982 in Bath University Library led to his being offered the post of Librarian at the Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine in Bahrain, a post he held from early 1984 to late 1986. Shortly after returning to Bath he was appointed Biology and Earth Sciences Librarian at Portsmouth Polytechnic, where has been since 1987, apart from a year spent abroad working as Library Director at an American liberal arts college located in south-western Bulgaria. Over the years since arriving in Portsmouth, Andy has added a Master's degree, a Postgraduate Diploma and a Teaching Certificate to his degree in zoology, but has now decided to stop studying, at least for the time being.

"I think we should relegate that to Plan D."

Andy responds to yet another idea from a colleague

He's most recently been actively involved in setting up and running the institutional repository Parade.

### Moving On

Now it's time for him to move on again. At the end of this year Andy will be moving to Oman to be Head Librarian at the Military Technical College in Muscat, a new polytechnic-like institution being set up to train engineers for the Omani armed forces, their qualifications being awarded by the University of Portsmouth. He has, so I'm told, promised his wife, three children and grand-daughter that he will 'almost certainly' retire after his three-year contract is up!

## Oman



One of only two sultanates, Oman has an area of 310,000 km<sup>2</sup>, possesses spectacular geology and wildlife, has very little water and shows evidence of human occupation dating back to 8000 BC. Never a part of the British Empire, the country was nevertheless strongly influenced by the British and has developed enormously since the current ruler – the English-educated Sultan Qaboos bin Said – came to power in 1971. Wisely the Sultan has avoided the developmental excesses seen in neighbouring Gulf states with the result that Omani towns have a traditional Arabic look and feel, and the country is capitalising on this by developing programmes of high-quality tourism and ecotourism over the coming years.

## Andy's Interests

Andy has a wide variety of interests: family, travel, music, food, drink and radio to name just a few. He has presented two classical music radio programmes in recent years: a late night programme on local hospital radio (broadcast at a time when almost all its potential listeners were asleep, and at such low power that the signal barely reached as far as the hospital car park) and a programme on Portsmouth's community radio station ExpressFM.

## Muscat Military Technical College

The college will be located near the defence ministry's Al Murtafa'a Camp in the Muscat governorate. It will offer programmes in different specialities such as aviation engineering, weapons and vehicle systems, communications, radars and computers, as well as in marine and civil engineering. "The college will meet the needs of the Sultan's Armed Forces in terms of specialised national cad-

res in the engineering and technical fields," a spokesman for the defence ministry said.



(CC) Christopher Eden

## Implementing the new 'put the pot plants under the leaks' water efficiency scheme

