

## Best selling author opens new centre



Mr Terry Pratchett OBE



The new RICE Centre

The brand new Centre for RICE was officially opened on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 by best-selling author Mr Terry Pratchett OBE.

Having moved earlier in the year from St Martin's Hospital to its new home at the Royal United Hospital, the official opening was a celebration of the possibilities the new facilities give and was an opportunity for the trustees and staff to thank those whose generosity enabled us to build the new centre, and to show everyone the facilities.

Terry Pratchett, who once worked at the Bath Chronicle, announced at the end of last year that he had a rare form of Alzheimer's disease. Since then he has been campaigning for the Government to fund more research into the disease. When asked about RICE and its work Terry said, *'I have first-hand knowledge of the work of the Institute and am delighted to formally open the new building here in Bath'*

For over 20 years RICE has been helping older people and their families by providing assessments and treatments for people with dementia and undertaking research into dementia and other conditions that affect older people.

The new centre has space to enable RICE to expand its research programme and already has more staff undertaking important research including a 2 year study to look at the quality of life for those affected by dementia.

RICE Director Professor Roy Jones said that *'We are thrilled that Terry is able to formally open the new RICE Centre and to join us on this special occasion which gives us an opportunity to thank our donors for supporting the building project'*.

Footnote: Following the opening Terry was awarded a knighthood and is now Sir Terry Pratchett – many congratulations from all here at RICE.