

8 December, 2007

REMS visits in January, February and March 2008

Welcome to the mailing of REMS visits in the first quarter of 2008. We have seven visits organised including the At Home on 10 January 2008. Two of them are repeats, for the reason given in the next paragraph. Visits for later quarters are being planned and will be confirmed nearer the time. I have listed some of them later in this document. We have room for over 100 people at the At Home, so do come. It's quite a social occasion, so bring your spouse/partner too, if they're interested.

This quarter, we only had five visits plus one organised after the mailing went out. Consequently demand exceeded supply, in one case by 96%. Many of you will have been disappointed to be turned down for more than one visit. The visits were well attended and the response, which I've had from members, was very positive. One visit to Mander Organs Open Day in Hackney was organised after the mailing went out. I contacted all members, for whom I have an email address, and 27 people attended the event. Some of you without an email address may wonder why I didn't write to you also. It would have cost around £25 to mail the 72 people and, more importantly, I didn't have the time available to print and mail the letters.

Email addresses

This brings me on to a closely related topic. I have email addresses for 173 members. Some of you have changed your email addresses and my emails don't get delivered to you. On the 23rd November, I sent you all an email about difficulties with the IOP's Physmail, which I use for the REMS business. If you didn't receive it, then I don't have your email address. Please do enter it on the visits form or even better, send me an email. Regarding the recent problems with Physmail, emails sent to me now are getting through (I've just sent an email to myself to confirm this); it is emails sent on and after the 13th November, which have been delayed and are coming through slowly. Until the backlog is completely cleared, I shall reply to every email, which I receive, even if it is just an acknowledgement. If you don't get a reply, you'll know that I haven't received your email and you should send it to memberservices@iop.org with "For Reinalt Vaughan-Williams" in the subject line.

Receiving the mailings by email

It costs about £6 per member to produce and mail the four mailings each year. That's about £1,500 a year. I have recently been asking all new members if they are on broadband and also whether, in view of the cost, they are happy for me to send them the mailings by email. So far, they have all answered yes to both questions. I therefore assume that many of our members are on broadband and would be happy to receive the mailings by email. The money, which we will save, can be used on our branch projects in schools and elsewhere to promote physics.

Can you organize a visit?

Since I became the REMS visits secretary, 12 members have organised visits or are planning to organise visits. Some of them organise two or more visits in a quarter. We are relying on a small number of people to keep us supplied. We have another 240 members, who are not organising visits. Some of you must have ideas of places to visit or favourite places, which you could introduce other members to. If 20 more members (that's 10%) each organized one visit every year, I wouldn't have to turn so many members down from visits, which they have asked to attend. As an added incentive, organizers don't pay for their visits and I give them additional priority on other visits.

If you would like to organize a visit, please enter the name of the place or places on the visits form. If you need help or guidance, please let me know. I can add maps to the flyer, if you don't have the facilities.

There is a file, which can be downloaded from the REMS web page (see next page for how to get there); it is out of date and I intend to bring it up to date, when I've got this mailing out of the way.

Priority numbers

In the last mailing, I introduced a priority column, so that you could tell me the order of importance to you of the visits. Most of you did this and got your first priority and usually your second. Some people didn't fill it in; some put 1= for several visits; some put 1 for all visits. Please just enter each number once with 1 being the highest priority and 6 the lowest. There is no need to prioritise the At Home, because there is plenty of room for all.

Please fill in the form or a photocopy of it, write a cheque payable to IOP for each event (only one cheque is needed for a couple) and mail it to me at the above address. I shall make the initial allocations on the 7th December. I will then let you know by email or letter whether you have a place on each event or whether you are on the waiting list.

After the 7th December, if you like, you may email me or telephone me first to check the availability of places. If you telephone and we're out, you may leave a message on the ansafone, but please speak your name and telephone number clearly enough for my slightly defective ears to hear them properly. When an event is full, I'll maintain a waiting list. I will hold the cheques for each event until the day of the event, when I will bank those of attendees and shred all the others.

Unfortunately for this activity, I do take holidays. So if you do not get a response from me within two days, I suggest that you send the form and cheques anyway. I will respond as soon as I return.

Data protection

One of the hot topics of the moment is data protection. I will never pass your postal and email addresses or your telephone and fax numbers to anybody else without your permission. When I send an email to more than one member, I use the blind copy facility to hide the addresses of everybody else.

A copy of this pack and of each visit with the some of the maps in glorious colour will appear on the REMS web site. Just go to the London & SE Branch web page at <http://london.iop.org> and click on Retired Members. I will update this page once I have completed this mailing.

Badges

Most of us wear a badge with our name on it, when we are on a visit. It helps the organisers to identify members and is a useful aid in getting to know other members. If you would like a badge, please write your name in the appropriate place in the form. As a guide, most of us just show our first name and surname, but you can write your name in your preferred way. I should stress that a badge isn't obligatory. The last ones, which I bought, cost 86p each. If you know of a cheaper source, I'd be most grateful if you would tell me where it is.

Astrium visit

Those of you, who wish to come on the Astrium visit, must be aware that I have to send the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all attendees to the company. If you put your name down for this visit, I'll assume that you accept this. Holders of non-British passports must give me their nationality and passport number, when they apply. When I send you the final details of this visit nearer the time, I'll remind you to bring an identification document. A passport is the most convenient document, but I expect that a new style driving licence with a photo will do also.

Darmstadt visit

David Pick has put together a great visit to Darmstadt, Heidelberg and the Rhine in Flames. He now needs to know how many people are interested in the visit. Please contact him as detailed at the end of the flyer.

Help for History of Physics Group

One of our members, Kate Crennell, has asked me to include the following in this mailing. Please contact her directly on 01235 834357 or at KMCrennell@dpmail.co.uk.

“I am the web editor of the History of Physics Group of the IOP and am compiling a list of Blue Plaques in the UK, starting with those installed by the IOP. The ones, which I already have, are on our website: <http://hp.iop.org> then click on the words 'Blue Plaques'. I would be most grateful for news of others and comments/corrections/photographs/web links to the existing ones.”

Cancellations

One of the disappointing things has been the number of members, who have cancelled at the last minute or just not turned up. When this happens, people on the waiting list are deprived of the opportunity to attend the visit instead. Please give as much notice as you can, if you decide not to come for whatever reason.

Lastly, I may still have some part of your name and address wrong on the envelope. Please put the correction in the visit form and mark it as a correction, because I don't always check addresses against the database. Please fill in your email address, if you have one and didn't get my email mentioned above, and please tick or cross (X) the broadband and happy to receive mailings by email boxes.

Reinalt Vaughan-Williams

(REMS visit secretary)

Some of the future planned visits

Date	Visit	Organiser
03/04/2008	Transport Museum, Acton Depot	David Pick
10/04/2008	Tate Galleries	Tom Rutherford
17/04/2008	London Loop Walk	David Pick
	Henley Museum & river trip	Mike Quinton
	Diamond Facility	John Butterworth
10/07/2008	At Home - Food & Related Matters	George Freeman
24/07/2008	Clarence House & Royal Mews tbc	David Pick
16/09/2008	Darmstadt - 16/9/8 to 20/9/8	David Pick
15/01/2009	At Home	David Pick

REMS at home and visits form

Please fill in your name in capitals and write legibly, if you want to be sure that I can identify you. There is no need to fill in other details unless they have changed or are unknown to me. Please indicate if I've got your name or address wrong on the envelope.

Title and Name			
Address			
Postcode			
Email Address			
Telephone no.			
IOP Membership no.			
Do you have broadband?		Are you happy to receive mailings by email?	

Please make your selection in the table below and enclose separate cheques for each selected item. I will either email you or return write to you with the results and any visit specific information. If you find you are unable to attend a particular visit, please let me know as soon as possible and at least a week before the event so that I can recover your payment and try to find a replacement from the waiting list.

Event	Date	Cost Per Person	Priority (1, high 6, low)	Number Of Places	Name Of Guest	Value Of Cheque
At Home at the IOP HQ	10 Jan '08	£20	n/a			
St Paul's Cathedral	21 Jan '08	£18				
Vintners' Hall and Guildhall Library	4 Feb '08	£7				
Astrium, Stevenage	22 Feb '08	£0				
Brooklands Museum, Surrey	6 Mar '08	£6 or £10				
Apothecaries Hall and London's Bridges	18 Mar '08	£12				
Arches & Architecture – a walk from Kings X to Euston	20 Mar '08	£0				

Suggestions for visits and speakers for Open Days

Label request	Name to be put on label:

Please return the form with your cheques (payable to IOP) to me. You can check availability by emailing me at reinalt@physics.org or telephoning me at 020 8946 3399.

Reinalt Vaughan-Williams
21 Coombe Gardens
London SW20 0QU