

ISSUE 15 • January 2009

## A few words from the Regional Officer.....

Hello and Happy New Year! For the benefit of new members and anyone still wondering who writes these bulletins, I manage the activities of the Institute in Yorkshire, the Humber and the North East. This ranges from supporting local branches and members through to education/outreach and more strategic work with key regional agencies. I am based in York and travel regularly around the “patch” so if there are companies you think I should have contact with or events/lectures you would like to see happening, please let me know.

*Alex*

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## News in brief

[Research assessment exercise shows physics in good health](#). The December announcement by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) of the results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise confirms the good health of physics departments in the UK.

[HEFCE picks Birmingham to roll-out STEM agenda](#). The Institute of Physics and the Royal Academy of Engineering have responded to the University of Birmingham's announcement that it has been chosen to host the National Higher Education Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Programme, a Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE) funded initiative to increase the number of graduates with skills in these disciplines, to fulfil the needs of employers and boost the UK economy.

YouTube videos to ignite science! [Screaming Jelly Babies and exploding puddings are being used to attract more recruits into science teaching](#). These action-packed experiments are attempts by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to

persuade the public that science is not a boring subject. The Your Science campaign showcases five exciting science experiments filmed in schools around the country to establish the nation's favourite.

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## **The Institute of Physics in Yorkshire, Humber & North East**

### **North East Branch events**

**Newcastle Science Festival, 6-15<sup>th</sup> March 2009.** A 10 day celebration of creativity and innovation with a host of family, adult and schools events designed to inspire, stimulate and entertain.

We are looking for some enthusiastic student volunteers to perform physics busking activities around Eldon Square in Newcastle centre, probably on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> and Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March 09. An email will be sent to all student members in the NE once the details are confirmed but if you read this and are interested in joining us, please let me know!

([alex.brabbs@iop.org](mailto:alex.brabbs@iop.org))

### **North East Branch Lectures**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – IOP joint lecture organised by the IET**

6.15pm, Main Lecture Theatre B0001, University of Northumbria.

Annual Medical Electronics Lecture “**Advances in MRI – from physics to medical application**” Professor Andrew Blamire (Newcastle University)

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

7pm, Room A003 (tbc), Ellison Building, University of Northumbria. Tea/biscuits will be served from 6.30pm

“**The Hunt for the Higgs Boson**”, Dr Nigel Glover (University of Durham)

### **Yorkshire Branch Events**

**IOP Teacher Network Co-ordinators Activity Evening - Electricity**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009, 4.30-6.00pm, York and area Physics Teachers Support Group**, Rutherford Laboratory, St Peter's School, York. The aim of this group is to meet once a term to share ideas, help each other and discuss problems. The IOP can also offer hands on help and provide ideas, support and advice.

At the last meeting there was a request for some help and a hands-on session on '**Electricity.**' We plan to have tea and sandwiches, a short introduction to the theory and then some hands on experiments with various circuits including current/voltage characteristics using data loggers.

Please come along and encourage teachers from your school to attend, particularly if you have non-specialist teachers teaching physics in your department.

It is not necessary to book a place - just turn up on the day!  
Please contact the York IOP Teacher Network Co-ordinator Andrew Rogerson if you have any queries or would like to be included in future direct notification of activities ([aw.rogerson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:aw.rogerson@tiscali.co.uk))

**TEACHERS – an early date for the diary!** [IOP Schools Lecture 2009 “ How to explore the universe: a tale of telescopes, time travel and extra-terrestrials”](#), [Dr Andy Newsam, Director National Schools Observatory](#). Coming to All Saints RC School, York on 28<sup>th</sup> April; Balby Carr Community Sports College on 29<sup>th</sup> April; Franklin College, Grimsby on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### Yorkshire & Humber Branch Lectures

#### York

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

6.30pm P/L002 Dept of Physics, University of York. Tea/coffee/biscuits served in the physics concourse from 6pm

**“Should physics get it bed with biology?” Professor Tom McLeish** (University of Durham)

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 – joint lecture with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society**

7.30pm Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens, York

**“Ark in space: how our planet has been shaped by events in the Universe”, Dr Marek Kukula** (Public astronomer, Royal Observatory, Greenwich)

#### Sheffield

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

5pm Hicks Building, Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Sheffield

**“LAGUNA: towards a particle astrophysics detector the size of a mountain and what it will tell us about the meaning of life and everything”, Professor Neil Spooner** (Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of Sheffield)

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## **The Institute of Physics**

[Very Early Career Woman Physicist of the year – the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual very-early career £1000 award. Closing date 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009.](#) The Women in Physics Group invites applications from women at the start of their careers in physics who have made a substantial contribution to the subject and may also have undertaken activities to support and encourage others in the field. The prize is awarded annually to a woman who is within three years of completing her undergraduate degree in physics and who is either working as a physicist or is engaged in postgraduate study.

Did you know that IOP has a blog? Check it out on <http://www.iop.org/blog>

**IOP Calendar** – this consolidated calendar contains conferences, talks, meetings and other activities organised or co-sponsored by IOP, including events put on by Groups and Branches and those conferences run by the Institute's conferences team

**Physic World events listing** which lists all physics related events (this is a new name and new look for Physicsweb.org)

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## Useful Links and Events

- A request for help from the [North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership](#). NYBEP are looking for scientists to present a mini lecture on the topic of your choice to inspire pupils in Year 10 about science on 4<sup>th</sup> March at Harrogate Grammar School as part of their departmental science conference. Contact Catherine Brophy if you are interested (01904 693632, [catherine@nybep.org.uk](mailto:catherine@nybep.org.uk))
  - [Cleveland Institution of Engineers lecture on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009](#), Tea/coffee 5.30pm, lecture 6pm, "Riverside One - sustainability in action", Centuria Building, University of Teesside
  - [Enterprise Europe Yorkshire](#) is a new initiative, funded by the European Commission and Yorkshire Forward, dedicated to helping your business get the information, advice and business partnerships you need to compete effectively here in the UK, and in the rest of Europe, [www.ee-yorkshire.com](http://www.ee-yorkshire.com)
  - [RTC Yorkshire](#), on behalf of Yorkshire Forward, provides **free** assistance to organisations in Yorkshire and Humberside interested in participating in FP7, which is the short name for the Seventh Framework Programme of Research and Technological Development, [www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7](http://www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7)
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- [EPSRC](#)
  - [STFC](#)
  - [HEFCE](#)
  - [One North East](#)
  - [Schools North East](#)
  - [Newcastle Science City](#)
  - [Yorkshire Science](#)
  - [Yorkshire Forward](#)

- [Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform \(formally DTI\)](#)
- [Technology Strategy Board](#)
- [European Commission – Research](#)
- [BBC News](#)