

ISSUE 18 • April 2009

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

Two long serving members of the Yorkshire Branch committee stood down at the recent AGM and I would like to send our thanks to John Hemingway and Ian Jones for all the time and effort they have put into the Branch over a number of years – it is much appreciated. Please follow this [link for details of the new committee.](#)

There are a number of people on the North East branch committee who are not eligible to stand again for election so there will be various vacancies coming up at the AGM in June. Without any volunteers there won't be a branch committee to organise the NE programme of lectures/events!.....so if you are interested in finding out what's involved, please do get in touch.

And finally, those of you in the West Yorkshire area will be pleased to see the 2nd Yorkshire Branch Leeds public lecture is due to take place on 23rd April. More details in the bulletin.

Alex

Regional Officer – Yorkshire and North East

Email: alex.brabbs@iop.org Tel: 01904 641488

News in brief

[Mandelson - The Economy must be top priority for RDAs](#) . The RDAs are making a real difference to the economy, an independent study has found. The report by PricewaterhouseCoopers has shown that, overall, every pound invested by Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) will generate at least £4.50 for the regional economy.

[Innovation vouchers launch solutions for business in the North East.](#) Over £2m has been made available to help North East firms boost their competitiveness by working closely with the region's colleges, universities and other academic organisations. Accessed via Business Link, the £2.4m Innovation Vouchers project will encourage collaboration between SMEs and academic and engineering institutions, allowing businesses to use the vouchers to purchase support services and improve their competitiveness and efficiency.

The Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee published a new report, 'Engineering: turning ideas into reality' on Friday 27th March 2009. [John Brindley, IOP Director, Business and Industry responded to this report.](#)

[High performance computing drives chemical industry innovation.](#) The computational science expertise of STFC Daresbury Laboratory is playing a key part in driving growth and innovation in the UK chemicals industry as part of a new centre launched by John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, today. The [Knowledge Centre for Materials Chemistry](#) (KCMC) brings together leading edge knowledge and capabilities in applied materials chemistry from Daresbury Laboratory and the universities of Bolton, Liverpool and Manchester.

The Institute of Physics in Yorkshire, Humber & North East

North East Branch events

Thursday 7th May 2009

NE Branch outside visit to [NetPark](#) – open to all members but booking is required. Please contact Alasdair Wilson (awilson.craw@blueyonder.co.uk) to reserve your place.

North East Branch Lectures

Thursday 23rd April 2009 (in association with IET & the Institute of Measurement & Control)

6.30pm, Innovation Building Lecture Theatre, University of Teesside

"Fuel cells: their role in a low carbon future", Dr Jon Helliwell (Centre for Process Innovation, Wilton)

Yorkshire Branch Events

Saturday 2nd May at the Ryedale Folk Museum

Look up to the stars and celebrate the night sky and the [International Year of Astronomy 2009: Dark Skies is coming to Yorkshire](#) – This event promises an exciting mix of rocket building, lunar rover modelling, moon talks, 3D, Space Bus and mobile planetarium. With something for all the family and no prior knowledge required, the Dark Skies Yorkshire project is a partnership between the Institute and the Universities of York and Sheffield and the Yorkshire Planetarium.

TEACHERS – it's not too late to book a place at the 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 the following schools in April:

All Saints RC School, York on 28th April, 10.15am and 1.30pm (contact Peter Fairhurst, email: allsaints.school@york.gov.uk, tel: 01904 647877)

Balby Carr Community Sports College on 29th April, 9.30am and 2pm (contact Tina Metcalfe, email: t.metcalfe@balbycarr.org.uk, tel: 08453 451629)

Franklin College, Grimsby on 30th April, 9.30am and 1.30pm (contact Paul Lee, email: paul.lee@franklin.ac.uk)

[Yorkshire & Humber Branch Lectures](#)

Leeds

Thursday 23rd April 2009 (in association with the IOP Women in Physics Group)
5.30pm, Rupert Beckett lecture theatre at the University of Leeds
“**A Physicist's View of Proteins Behaving Badly**”, Professor Athene Donald (University of Cambridge)

Non-members and school groups welcome

Sheffield

Tuesday 5th May 2009
5.00pm, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Lecture Room 5 Hicks Building, University of Sheffield
“**Gravitational waves - towards a new astronomy**”, Professor Sheila Rowan (Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow)

The Institute of Physics

[Teachers Awards 2009 – for teachers of physics and teachers of primary science](#)

Inspirational; amazing; exceptional; passionate; creative – does this sound like a teacher you know? Then why not nominate them for an IOP Teachers Award. Closing date 31st May 09.

Did you know that [IOP has a blog](#) and a presence on [YouTube](#)?

[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

Useful Links and Events

- [23rd April 2009, York Science Park Innovation Centre, NanoEntrepreneurs focus group workshop: Commercialisation Opportunities & Challenges within the Instrumentation Sector](#). Want to meet successful business innovators in the nanotechnology field? The NanoKTN in its second finance event is focussing on the challenges and opportunities in the nano instrumentation sector.
- [May 1st 2009, Royal Armouries, Leeds. "Joined-up strategies for joined-up challenges", Northern Way conference](#). Parliament is debating legislation to establish new regional strategies - for the first time bringing together economic and spatial development, housing, transport, innovation, energy, environment, employment and skills policies at the regional level.
- [NESTA FAMELAB](#) - is an exciting national competition to find and support talented scientists who can share their enthusiasm and knowledge with the public in an innovative and entertaining way. **YOU COULD WIN £10,000!!! YOU COULD BE CHANNEL 4'S NEXT 3 MINUTE WONDER!!!** The organisers are searching for the new faces of UK science, engineering and mathematics who will be able to share their ideas and show off their presentation skills for an adult public audience.
- [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
- [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
- [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](#)