

ISSUE 20 • June 2009

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

I am delighted to announce that [Dr Rhea Seddon](#) is visiting the UK to share her experiences in leadership, motivation, space and science and I have secured some of her time to visit Newcastle on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Rhea is a physician who was selected as part of the first group of astronauts to include women and has flown three space shuttle flights; two as mission specialist and one as payload commander. IOP members are invited to a lecture about her experience with NASA at the Centre for Life (conference centre), Newcastle, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 3.30-4.30pm. Places are free but **must be reserved** by emailing your name to Karen Marshall at Newcastle Science City ([Karen.marshall@newcastlesciencecity.com](mailto:Karen.marshall@newcastlesciencecity.com)). Please mention you are an IOP member.

The North East Teacher Network Co-ordinators in association with Durham University and the NE Science Learning Centre have planned "[A Day for Everyone Teaching Physics](#)" at [Durham University on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June](#). There are a few places left if anyone would like to go but hasn't got round to booking yet!

Those of you in Yorkshire may also be interested in the [Yorkshire Branch Teachers Day taking place at the University of York, Dept of Physics on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July](#). A varied day of lectures, workshops and discussion - please contact me to reserve a place.

*Alex*

*Regional Officer – Yorkshire and North East*

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**News in brief**

[The Northern Way Innovation Programme](#) will invest £15m in cross regional programmes to support key technology areas where the North can offer both research excellence and industrial capability. [The Power of 3 document summarises The Northern Way Innovation Programme and outlines the approach.](#)

[Getting girls into physics.](#) The Institute of Physics has been investigating this issue for many years, publishing two important *Girls in Physics* reports in 2006. Based on these reports, the Institute worked with the National Network of Science Learning Centres on an action research programme, funded by the Department of Children, Schools and Families, to share information on successful teaching and learning strategies to engage girls with physics. The second phase of the research programme, run in 2008, enabled teachers from 100 schools to participate. An evaluation was commissioned from Edge Hill University, in partnership with Laura Grant Associates, to gauge the success of the interventions that schools undertook as part of the project. The research findings have now been published in a new report, [Girls into Physics: Action Research.](#)

[Particle physics is not just black holes and antimatter.](#) Particle physics saves lives, connects continents through new channels of communication, helps us understand the world around us and inspires tomorrow's leaders. The Institute of Physics (IOP) and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) have recently launched a new report, 'Particle physics – it matters' to introduce a wider audience to the economic and societal benefits of particle physics research.

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

### North East Branch Events

[Physics busking at Newcastle Mela, 26-27 September, Exhibition Park, Newcastle](#) – **volunteers** are needed to help on both days. It's a great opportunity to practise your communication skills and lots of fun as well! If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Alasdair Wilson ([awilson.craw@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:awilson.craw@blueyonder.co.uk)).

### [North East Branch Lectures](#)

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 - NE Branch Annual General Meeting, 6.30pm, followed by lecture**

7pm, A003, Ellison Building, Northumbria University

**"Pulsars and extreme physics"**, Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, IOP President and visiting professor Oxford University.

The lecture will be followed by a social evening and finger buffet.

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## Yorkshire Branch Events

**Thursday 25th June.** 3rd meeting of the York and North Yorkshire Teacher Network Support Group from 4-30pm to 6-00pm in the Physics Labs at St Peter's School, York.

There will be some refreshments then a talk on 'Radioactivity' followed by some practical work and demonstrations. Please come along and spread the word to your colleagues!

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## The Institute of Physics

[brightrecruits](#) is a new website from IOP Publishing that will put job seekers with physics and engineering degrees in touch with employers who value high intelligence, numeracy and analytical skills that come from studying these subjects. Whether you are a recent graduate or an industry professional looking for a new career, at [brightrecruits](#) you'll be able to find a job where your physics knowledge and training are valued.

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

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## Useful Events

- The [N8 Molecular Engineering Translational Research Centre \(METRC\) Open Day – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Memorial Hall, City Hall, Sheffield](#). Find out about collaborative projects with industry, how to access funding calls, successful innovation, *and* get an opportunity to network and discuss project ideas
- [Professional ethics for professional engineers one day course, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009](#). Attendance at this course will equip you with the skills to tackle the complex ethical concerns that are encountered in all areas of professional engineering. From personal issues like **professional integrity**, **conflicts of interest**, and **confidentiality**, to global issues like

**sustainability, risk analysis** and **corporate social responsibility**, ethical considerations are at the heart of modern engineering. This course will allow you to approach these aspects of the job with confidence, ensuring that you remain at the forefront of your profession.

- [Emerging energy technologies: supporting sustainable innovation - A one day conference \(Advanced Manufacturing Park Technology Centre, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 10am-2.45pm\)](#) to explore the development and support for new energy technologies with case studies from a variety of forward-thinking companies. The speakers will include representatives from; British Airways, Royal Mail Group Ltd, ITI Energy Ltd, Life IC Ltd, Altium, ITM Power Plc and Yorkshire Forward
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - KS3 (year 8 teams of 4) [Physics Olympics](#) at St Peter's School, York. There is still time to enter! Contact David Morris ([d.morris@st-peters.york.sch.uk](mailto:d.morris@st-peters.york.sch.uk))
- [Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm – North East Science Alliance meeting](#), Wynyard Planetarium, Stockton-on-Tees.
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm to 3pm. Schools are invited to book groups of pupils from years 8, 9 or 10 to an exciting Oxford University Science Show called '[Accelerate.](#)' Free tickets are available by contacting Mrs Charlotte Cranfield at St Peter's School, 01904 527300.
- [Return to the centre of the atom, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the National Science Learning Centre, York.](#) This course will have a series of talks by experts from the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and York on nuclear physics and its applications, with topics from nucleosynthesis to the potential for fusion power. Two highlights of the day will be the premiere of a 3D show "Flying through the LHC" designed at the University of Durham, and "Accelerate!" - a show aimed at school audiences about the science behind particle accelerators, designed by the University of Oxford. There will also be an exhibition of apparatus for radiation detection both state-of-the-art and items suitable for use in the classroom, supplemented by exhibitions from educational suppliers.

## Useful Links

- [EPSRC](#)
- [STFC](#)
- [HEFCE](#)
- [North East Technology Park \(NetPark\)](#)
- [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](#)