

ISSUE 24 • November 2009

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

Hi folks, I would just like to say a big thank you to those of you who spent the day making rockets and physics busking at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Many thanks to all the other members who volunteered to help – I was inundated with offers and unfortunately couldn't accommodate everyone but there will be other opportunities!

Teachers may be interested in an event being supported by IOP on [4th March 2010](#) "[Regional Science Leaders' Conference: Raising Standards Through Effective Practical Work](#)" taking place at the National Science Learning Centre, York.

Don't forget, I'm here to support members in my regions so if there are visits, lectures, events, activities etc. that you would like to see happening, please let me know!

Alex

Regional Officer – Yorkshire and North East

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News in brief

[What's physics got to do with it? 'How do you make the perfect cuppa?' and 'Which biscuit will last the longest in the ultimate dunking challenge?'](#) are just two of the questions that [pub and bakery customers will encounter on their beer mats and sandwich bags until the end of November.](#) The Institute of Physics (IOP) initiative is running in independent bakeries and pubs throughout the North East with the aim of igniting discussions about the physics of food and drink.

[A day in the life of a sound engineer: IOP launches new activity for schools.](#) A new school-based activity, Ashfield Music Festival, gives students the chance to find out more

about the practical applications of physics by trying out life as a sound or lighting engineer working at a music festival. If you're interested in running this activity in your school, please contact Alex Brabbs (alex.brabbs@iop.org)

[North East businesses to get subsidy for growth](#). A dedicated business support project is to help over 90 small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in North East England weather the economic downturn and prepare for recovery over the next two years. The £1.2m project, 'Innovation, Advice and Guidance - Developing SME Expertise', will put in place a matching service and public subsidy to give SMEs and social enterprises access to expert advisors to help develop new products, processes and services

[Supporting Science and Engineering in Government – the Government Office for Science sets out the approach](#). *Science and Engineering in Government*, published by the [Government Office for Science](#), sets out the Government's approach to the management of such advice in the face of the great global challenges of the 21st century. This document is published after the Government has confirmed that every major science-using department now has a chief scientific adviser (CSA). The Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA), Professor John Beddington, and the departmental Chief Scientific Advisers provide a unique capability, working with other analysts, to support the Government by ensuring that the development of key policies is soundly based on the best available evidence.

The Institute of Physics in Yorkshire, Humber & North East

[North East Branch Lectures](#)

19th November 2009 – Joint meeting with Newcastle Astronomical Society

Refreshments from 6.30pm, lecture at 7pm, Northumbria University, Ellison building, Lecture Theatre A003

“Super massive black holes and the growth of galaxies”, Dr Ryan Hickox, Durham University

19th November 2009 – [IOP Schools & Colleges Lecture Tour](#) for the 14-16 age range

2.30pm, Discovery Museum, Newcastle

“How to explore the universe – a tale of telescopes, time travel and extra-terrestrials”, Dr Andy Newsam, National Schools Observatory, Liverpool John Moores University.

Booking required – contact Alasdair Wilson (awilson.craw@blueyonder.co.uk)

[Yorkshire & Humber Branch Lectures](#)

York

19th November 2009 York Physics Teachers Support Group

Led by Andrew Rogerson, IOP York area Teacher Network Co-ordinator

4.30 – 6.30pm, the physics labs, St Peters School, Bootham, York

The topic for the fourth meeting of this group is **vibration and waves**. The session starts with sandwiches, cakes and tea! Mike Taylor from the University of York will then talk and answer your questions about vibrations and waves. This will be followed by some hands-on practical work with help and advice from experienced teachers.

All welcome – contact Andrew Rogerson (01759 306627) (aw.rogerson@tiscali.co.uk)

30th November 2009 – IOP joint lecture with Yorkshire Philosophical Society

7.30pm, The [Hospitium, Museum Gardens](#), York

“**When galaxies collide**”, Professor Richard De Grijs, Kavli Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Peking University and Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of Sheffield

Sheffield

17th November 2009

5pm, University of Sheffield, Dept of Physics & Astronomy, LR6

“**Big science for big questions: the race to find new physics at the large hadron collider**”, Professor Dan Tovey, Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of Sheffield

Leeds

20th November 2009

7.30pm, University of Leeds, The Conference Auditorium G.03 ([100 on the campus map](#))

“**When galaxies collide**”, Professor Richard De Grijs, Kavli Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Peking University and Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of Sheffield

The Institute of Physics

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

[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

[Physics World](#) - news, views and information for the global physics community from Institute of Physics Publishing

Useful Links and Events

- [Otley Science Festival, 15-22 November](#) – see [Marty Jopson](#) and [Adam Hart Davis](#) in action at a variety of events. There is plenty of physics on offer throughout the festival so do have a look at what's going on.
 - [16th November 2009 "Celestial navigation – follow your star"](#), Sam Watson, Terrington School. Yorkshire Philosophical Society joint lecture with the Royal Geographical Society & PLACE. 7.30pm, The Hospitium, Museum Gardens, York
 - [Solar Flair 2009, 18-19 November, Hardwick Hall, County Durham](#). Develop your solar flair at the National Photovoltaics Conference. IOP Yorkshire & North East are sponsoring this event and the Regional Officer is taking an IOP stand with literature.
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- [EPSRC](#)
 - [STFC](#)
 - [HEFCE](#)
 - [North East Technology Park \(NetPark\)](#)
 - [One North East](#)
 - [Schools North East](#)
 - [Newcastle Science City](#)
 - [Yorkshire Science](#)
 - [Yorkshire Forward](#)
 - [Department for Business, Innovation and Skills](#)
 - [Technology Strategy Board](#)
 - [European Commission – Research](#)
 - [BBC News](#)