Welcome
Welcome to the first issue of the Physics Communicators Group newsletter. This newsletter is being sent to all those who have expressed an interest in the Group.

From Your Chair
Dear Physics Communicator,
Welcome to your new Group. I hope you are looking forward to being involved in a range of activities that the Physics Communicators Group (PCG) intends to organise over the coming year. Once you have signed up for the Group through MyIoP (see later for details) you will receive regular up-dates on events and activities. You will also have the chance to influence the sort of events organised by responding to the on-line survey that will be accessed through the Group’s pages on MyIoP.

I look forward to meeting you at a PCG event soon.
Averil Macdonald
**Introduction**

The Group was approved by the Institute following a proposal from Professor Averil Macdonald of Reading University. At the end of January a small steering group met at the Institute to decide upon an interim committee and to clarify the aim and purpose of the Group. Details are given below.

The following people were elected to the interim committee who will act until the first AGM:

- **Chair:** Averil Macdonald
- **Secretary:** Martyn Bull
- **Treasurer:** Alun Vaughan
- **Newsletters:** Robert Fairbrother & Bob Boutland
- **Webmaster:** Paul Millar
- **MyIoP:** Averil Macdonald

Keith Williams will link with the Education Group Committee

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*Members of the Steering Group: Back Row (L to R) Keith Williams, Bob Boutland, Martyn Bull, Francisca Wheeler, Alun Vaughan, Robert Fairbrother  
Front Row (L to R) Paul Millar, Averil Macdonald, Laura Grant*

The Group’s committee will grow with time so that the rota of members is kept fresh and to ensure continuity – so there’s plenty of opportunity for enthusiastic members to get involved!
Aim and Purpose of the Group

As you might imagine, there was a great deal of discussion about what the aims and purpose of the Group should be. Eventually the following wording was agreed:

**Aim**

To support members in promoting an awareness of the role of Physics in society

**Purpose**

- Organise events and meetings for the benefit of members
- Offer mechanisms to enable members to improve their skills in communicating physics, e.g. publicise training or similar opportunities
- Enable networking amongst members to share good ideas
- Offer resources and ideas for members’ use in communicating physics
- Consult with the Institute to support/guide their outreach activities
- Offer opportunities to members to participate in Institute outreach activities
- Support/enable research in Physics communication strategies
- Identify gaps in Physics communication activities

For the moment we are basing our work on these. However we anticipate they will be modified in the light of comments from members.

Possible Activities

We had a long discussion about activities, particularly for the coming year, and eventually focussed down on the following:

- A large Launch Meeting ideally in the first 6 months with a high profile speaker and/or high profile theme.
- A small Launch Event of Cheese and Wine nature to coincide with the BA Festival of Science meeting in Guildford.
- Workshops
- ‘Unconference’ events to be organised on an ad hoc basis at a variety of locations around the country.

Other ideas included an annual award for Science Communication and a competition that may be related to art, poetry, or other activities. Details of these (and other) events will be worked out in the coming months.
Join Our Survey

We are surveying members of the Group to find out what events and/or meetings members would be keen to attend and, of course, be prepared to pay for. Complete our survey to let us know what you would like the Group to do on http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XS4_2fJ6sj9CZin6ujK7NuVg_3d_3d

We are also planning to survey the Group and possibly members of the IoP overall to identify how accurately physicists understand the public’s views of physics. The intention is that this could form the focus of a future meeting.

Feedback

The committee welcomes comments on the above and suggestions for other activities. Please contact the secretary Martyn Bull directly (martyn.bull@stfc.ac.uk 01235 445805) or through MyIOP (http://my.iop.org).

The Group’s webpage is http://pcom.iop.org. We are hoping it will be up and running by the time you receive this Newsletter.

Newsletter

If you would like to include something in the Newsletter please send it to Robert Fairbrother (r.fairbrother@kcl.ac.uk) or Bob Boutland (rh.boutland@physics.org).

At the moment we have not settled on a regular publication schedule but hope to do so eventually.

Joining the Group

To join the group please log onto MyIOP (http://my.iop.org), navigating to the relevant Network for the Group and selecting "Sign up for this network". Alternatively please contact the membership department. All groups are free to join, however to join a group you must first be a member of the Institute. Details of how to join the Institute can be found at www.iop.org <file://www.iop.org>