

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Visit to Southampton Oceanography Centre Thursday 10th April 2003

This visit has been organised by David Pick

The Southampton Oceanography Centre (SOC) (<http://www.soc.soton.ac.uk/index.php>) opened in 1996 as a purpose-built development creating a centre for some 450 research scientists, lecturing and support staff as well over 600 undergraduate and postgraduate students. SOC is a joint venture between the University of Southampton (UoS) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and is one of the few world-class centres of excellence in ocean sciences, earth sciences and ocean technology. This combination of interdisciplinary research and teaching resources comprises the UoS's School of Ocean and Earth Science together with 4 specialist NERC research divisions and the NERC Research Ships Unit.

SOC aims to provide scientific understanding of the earth and its oceans as a dynamic interdisciplinary system through providing the highest quality teaching and training in ocean and earth science within an active research environment. SOC also develops and exploits appropriate new technology and provides large-scale national facilities for ocean and earth science.

SOC maintains a fleet of purpose-built Royal Research Ships (RRS Discovery and RRS Charles Darwin), providing a national service for the UK's marine science community. It also has a large pool of sophisticated oceanographic equipment including the "Autosub" autonomous underwater vehicle and TOBI sea floor survey systems. We shall shortly be taking delivery of the ISIS deep ocean Remote Operated Vehicle. It hosts the UK National Oceanographic Library; Marine Information and Advisory Service; Research aquarium; Pressure testing facilities; Important national collections including the Discovery Collections & the British Ocean Sediment COre Repository (BOSCOR) etc.

SOC Centre also undertakes academic, sponsored and commissioned research, consultancy and collaborative projects with industry, government departments and agencies worldwide.

The programme will be:

10.30 - 11.00	Assemble at SOC over coffee
11.00 - 11.30	Introductory Talk
11.30- 13.00	Tour of the oceanography centre and aquarium
13.00 -14.00	Lunch (buy your own in the canteen)
14.00-15.30	Presentations / questions on techniques, technologies and physics related to ocean – atmosphere system
15.30-16.00	Tea and disperse

Numbers are limited to 30. A map will be provided. By train travel to Southampton Central and take the green-coloured shuttle bus (no-charge) from the south side (every 10 min.) to the Town Quay (for Isle of Wight ferries). There is then a walk of between 10 and 15 minutes. Limited visitor car parking space is available and needs to be booked. The cost will be £1.50