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Welcome to our electronic newsletter. We intend to issue newsletters as and when we feel sufficient newsworthy items are available

News may be added to our branch page on the IOP site at <http://london.iop.org/> Please continue to send your news items to rh.boutland@physics.org

E-newsletters will also be placed on the branch page of *MyIOP*. The newsletter archive is there as are various branch documents and reports.

Michelle Supper, our media representative, has produced a printed events list which will be available at the IOP. Members wishing a printed copy of this London events list should contact the branch secretary Len Lewell. Email:- londonsoutheast@physics.org

Our centres continue to attract large audiences, often to the capacity of the venue so please book with our centre representatives via email. The relevant addresses are in the list in column one.

Next Committee Meeting

The Meeting will be at the IOP on 30 March 2011
If you have any items you wish to raise please e-mail the branch secretary londonsoutheast@physics.org

Event aimed at 16-19 year olds: -

The Carbon Revolution

In society the element carbon is probably best known as “Diamonds are a girls best friends” and as graphite which is commonly used in pencils. In last 25 years have seen a revolution in our understanding of the element carbon and many other forms of carbon have been discovered. This workshop will explore the world of carbon. It will introduce you to the other carbon materials and their potential for future technological application. This is a lecture cum workshop by Dr Nicole Grobert (University of Oxford, Department of Materials) and Dr Jonathan Hare, a freelance research scientist.

Tea/Coffee from 18:00 at the IOP. Booking is essential. **Email:-** londonsoutheast@physics.org

ASE Conference 2011

The Association for Science Education (ASE) Annual Conference was held at the University of Reading 5th- 8th January. The IOP provided a lecture program as part of the conference and also had a stand in the exhibition area.



Above: Charles Tracey and Ian Lawrence at the IOP stand

Dr Cyril Isenberg was also in the marquee as the representative of the British Physics Olympiad.



Above: Dr C Isenberg. Dr Isenberg is also our Kent area representative

In one of the University buildings was an IOP drop in room. Here, (7th January), Dr Lucy Moorcraft was demonstrating polymer fullerene semiconductor blend solar cells with aluminium electrodes.

Further details can be found at <http://www.thesolarspark.co.uk>

The stimulating Physics network co-ordinators were available as well as IOP education department staff.



Above: Dr L Moorcraft

At the lunch on 7th January several well-known physics communicators were present, amongst whom was the author David Sang who together with Chris Shepherd was



Above: David Sang

involved with the 'Teaching Advanced Physics Project'.

See: <http://www.tap.iop.org/>



Above: Chris Shepherd

During the lunch Professor Peter Main spoke about the Stimulating Physics Network. (Continued p3.)



Above: (Left to Right) Yvonne Baker, CEO of Myscience and Director of the National Science Learning Centre. Professor Peter Main, Director of Education and Science at IOP, and Professor Averil Macdonald, who holds the chair of Science Communication at the University of Reading, also Director of the STEM Engagement Centre at the University of Reading and the Regional Director for the London and South East spoke of the National HE STEM Programme.

(Continued from p2.)

IOP Celebrates 40,000th Member

The Institute of Physics and the Science Learning Centres have formed a partnership to establish and run a support network for teachers and pupils of physics in England. The network consists of 37 Physics Network co-ordinators and 23 Teaching and Learning Coaches – all knowledgeable, experienced and enthusiastic specialists who are supported by the IOP's Education Department. Yvonne Baker introduced Tracy Woodward who is a head of science involved with the project.

Prof Averil Macdonald provided some CDs that were a copy of the newly launched Fantastic Plastic website produced at the University of Reading and sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Horners and also Plastics Europe. The website shows the Fantastic Plastic talk in its entirety and as 'thumbnail scenes' and provides supporting material and 'Talking Heads' of people working in Plastics. This has been mailed to all schools in the UK that provide GCSE science.

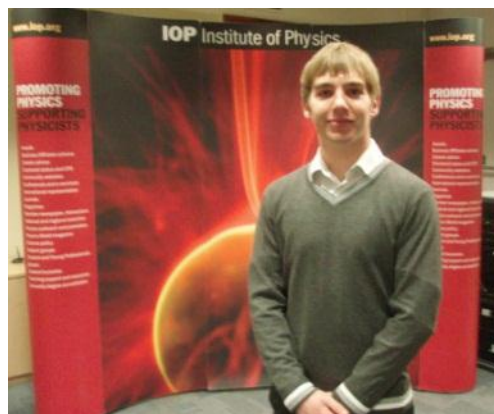
For Stimulating Physics see: -
<http://www.stimulatingphysics.org/teacher-support.htm>

British Physics Olympiad See: -
<http://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/olympiad/BPhO.html>

At a ceremony at 76 Portland Place on 18th January Sam Arnold, an undergraduate of Kings College London was presented with a commemorative certificate as the 40,000th IOP member by Rt. Hon David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science. (below)



A short speech was given by Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell outlining institute history: the origins of the IOP being with Professor Frederick Guthrie, Professor of Physics at the Royal College of Science who set up a 'Society for physical research', by sending an initial circular to 30 physicists in 1873. Today the Institute has a successful publishing business and what were once foreign branches are now Institutes in their own right, for example India and Australia. Sam Arnold is within our branch formerly a student at St Albans School and later Verulam School St Albans. He is now studying Physics and Astronomy at Kings.



Amongst those present at the ceremony were (above right) Dr Robert-Kirby Harris, IOP chief executive, and Joseph Winters IOP press officer (below) Jenny Richards, Vice President, Membership & Qualifications and John Brindley Director Membership & Business



Below: Dr Diane Crann, (Herts Centre representative), Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Laura Thomas, (our branch outreach representative).



The IOP's Vice-President for Membership and Qualifications, Jenny Richards, said, It's particularly heartening that recent growth in membership has been dominated by school and university students. Of our 40,000 members, 13,500 members are undergraduates and members, aged 16-19 studying physics before university, make up another 3,000 members. Nearly half of our membership is under 30;



Above : Sue Lippmann
Assistant Director, Member Services

a wonderful prospect for the future of physics. The Minister expressed his admiration for scientific organisations such as IOP, "I salute the Institute for your achievement in building up your membership. It's great to be reaching this target, and particularly so with so many young members. We should be proud of our history in physics and look forward to a strong future." Asked how he felt to become IOP's 40,000th member, Samuel Arnold said, "Very shocked, but excited. I didn't realise the subscription base was so large".

Branch Chair Congratulates the success of the new Berkshire Centre



'Photo by Astrid Baerndal'

Branch Chair Dr Barbara Gabrys (above) congratulated our Berkshire centre representatives following the successful branch lecture at The William Penney Theatre, AWE, Aldermarston

The inaugural branch lecture was given by Prof Sir Peter Knight, Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College, on 17 Jan 2011 with over 100 people attending.

Prof Sir Peter Knight's lecture 'From Bits to Qubits: Quantum Information Processing using quantum optics' is being repeated at our London Centre (76 Portland Place) on 16th November. The London & SE Annual Dinner follows this lecture. Prof Sir Peter Knight will be the guest of honour.

(Details have not yet been finalised for the dinner but will be provided in a future newsletter)

Upcoming Lectures

Hertfordshire Centre:

29 January 2011
Roger Wise 'Welding with plastics, from furniture to aeroplanes'

Kent Centre

1 February 2011
Ofar Lahav 'Testing the Dark Energy Paradigm and Beyond'.

London Centre (The IOP)

2 February 2011
Steve Lloyd 'Probing the very small with the very large - ATLAS and the LHC'

Milton Keynes Centre

8 February 2011
Frank A.J.L. James 'The Life and Work of Michael Faraday'.

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The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Institute of Physics, except where explicitly stated.

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