

*Visit to the Thames Barrier
Woolwich, Central London
Wednesday 14th December 2011, 12.30-3.00.*

The Thames Barrier was officially opened in 1984 and is the world's largest flood barrier at 520m long. At a cost of £0.5 billion to build, the barrier offers vital protection to 125km² of central London and protects 1.25 million people from flooding. The Environmental Physics Group has booked exclusive use of the Information Centre on Wednesday 14th December, where we will be provided with a tour and talk of the facilities. The talk will include the history of the river and the risk of flooding in London, as well as describing the environment and wildlife of the Thames. Aspects of the visit may involve going outside or standing up for a long period of time. A light lunch will also be provided. To assist with catering costs, members are kindly asked to contribute £6.50.

We are opening the visit to members of the London and South East Branch and the IOP Retirees group. Places are limited and **must** be booked in advance (please do not just turn up on the day). For booking your place, further information (including details about payment), please contact with Sally Brown (sb20@soton.ac.uk) no later than Thursday 24th November 2011. In your email, please can state if you have any special dietary requirements, and which branch you are a member of.