

Regional Matter

South West
Spring 2012

Picturing physics...

The South West Branch of the Institute of Physics is running a Physics Photography Competition. Open to all IOP members (including 16-19 members) and teachers or students at IOP Affiliated Schools in the South West, you could win a Kindle! The theme is "Physics in the South West"... This could involve: physicists from the South West; research completed at universities in the region; physics in your school; discoveries made in the South West; or simply demonstrations of physical phenomena in front of landmarks in the area. Entrants are encouraged to use their imagination and creativity!

To enter you need to submit a photo you have taken with a caption of no more than 200 words explaining how your image relates to the theme. The deadline for entries is 1 February 2012. Email your photo and caption to: iop.sw.photos@gmail.com. The competition will be judged by the South West Branch Committee and the winner chosen by the Editor of Physics World magazine. All finalists will be showcased on the IOP website and displayed at the 2012 IOP-SW Festival of Physics (see over the page for details), where the winning photo will be announced. This could make a great activity for a science club or an unusual homework task, so why not encourage your students to get snapping away? You could have a whole class competition and send in the best photograph. For the full rules and more information, see: iop.org/activity/branches/south_west/sw/news/11/page_52238.html

To find out how to become an IOP Affiliated School in order to enter the competition and access additional benefits, visit: iop.org/affiliation



Jump on board for another great practical

Another workshop, another great chance for teachers to make and take away a novel piece of kit for their classroom. Following sessions in which teachers have created giant Airzookas from compost bins and Dragster Racers from plumbing supplies, the recent 'Make Your Own Hoverboard' Workshop at Whitecross School went even further. Attendees got to build and drive their own ride-on Hoverboard, using a leaf-blower and some plywood. These fun and creative devices not only amaze and engage learners, but also help demonstrate some key concepts in the teaching of Forces.

This event at Whitecross School, organised by Alessio Bernadelli (Gloucestershire Physics Network Co-ordinator) was another excellent example of how the Network is inspiring teachers and adding that bit extra to physics teaching. The session was developed and delivered by Kevin Betts, a regular attendee at Gloucestershire Network workshops. He is a physics teacher at Whitecross and winner of the 2011 Institute of Physics Teacher Award. As well as taking teachers through the nuts and bolts of building the board, he shared ideas for using it in physics classes and its practical applications with students. Alessio said "I am very pleased because this is the kind of thing I have been hoping would start to happen in Gloucestershire, i.e. that teachers would get inspired by the IOP workshops and want to share their own ideas and work. I felt today we made a big step towards that model and that will hopefully help build an even stronger and more collaborative network!"



With all the equipment provided free of charge, funded by the Institute of Physics, feedback from teachers was excellent. Comments included: "Some fantastic ideas, it's really clear to see how this will be useful in the classroom", "Excellent workshop, the best I have attended yet" and of course "Can't wait to put it into action!" To see a video of the Hoverboard in action go to: <http://youtu.be/xl8G-59-1t8>

Free practical workshops are run by the South West Physics Network Co-ordinators, usually in the evening or at weekends. For the latest events in your region contact the External Liaison Officer (ELO) for the South West, Alison Rivett, e-mail: alison.rivett@at-bristol.org.uk or visit: stimulatingphysics.org/regions
 You can also contact the PNC in your area if you would like to be sent details of their planned events or would like to host an event at your school:

Gloucester Alessio Bernadelli: aso.ber@ntlworld.com

Devon and Cornwall Alison Alexander: alisonalexander@aol.com

Bristol and South Wales Cerian Angharad: cerianangharad@ase.org.uk

Wiltshire Phil Bunney: pbunney@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

Dorset and Hampshire Lin Harwood: lin.home@zams.co.uk

The 2012 IOP SW Branch Festival of Physics

Saturday, 3 March 2012 | 10.00am - 4.00pm | At-Bristol, Anchor Road, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5DB

This popular event returns to At-Bristol with some excellent physics talks suitable for all the family and, new this year, hands-on workshops too. The four talks are: The Magic of Bubbles, The Science of Star Wars, The Human Body is the Ultimate Physics Laboratory and Physics for All. The three workshops are: Physics Demonstrations for STEM Volunteers, Physics Experiments for Everyone! and The Egg-cellent adventures of a Mars Lander.

The event is free and everyone is welcome, you do not have to be an IOP member to attend. The talks and workshops are suitable for ages 11 and older, children must be accompanied by an adult and school groups are welcome by prior arrangement. Talks do not require booking, but workshops do.

For more details and workshop booking see: <http://sw.iop.org/calendar> and all enquires contact: secretary-sw@physics.org

South West Day for Physics Teachers

22 June 2012 | Exeter

Join teachers from across the region for a day of talks and practical workshops. For more information or to reserve your free place, contact Alison Rivett: alison.rivett@at-bristol.org.uk



In addition Science Learning Centre South West is running several physics-related courses:

● Physics for Non-specialist: Taking it Further	27 & 28 February	Course fee: £400
● Measuring Performance in Sport	2 March	Course fee: £150
● CLEAPSS Radiation Protection Supervision	13 March	Course fee: £150
● Astrophysics	14 March	Course fee: £150
● Active Approaches in A level Physics	16 March	Course fee: £150
● Masterclass for A level Physics	20 March	Course fee: £150
● Technicians A level Physics	28 March	Course fee: £110
● Physics for Non-specialists	9 May & 13 June	Course fee: £400
● Technicians A level Physics	14 June	Course fee: £110
● Science Demonstrations Effective and Safe	18 June	Course fee: £150 Teacher / £110 Technician
● Whizz Bang Science	27 June	Course fee: £150
● Active Approaches in A level Physics	3 July	Course fee: £150

To book and for details about more courses please contact us: