

PHYSICS IN SCOTLAND

The newsletter of the Institute of Physics in Scotland

January 2003

Looking forward to 2003: a message from the Chair

The Institute of Physics in Scotland is now the official corporate identity of what was formerly the Institute of Physics Scottish Branch. For those members who have recently experienced difficulty in locating our website, it can now be found at scottish.iop.org.

Peter Ball has recently been appointed as representative of the Institute of Physics in Scotland to coordinate our activities in promoting physics, particularly in universities, schools and industry, and to ensure that the interests of physics are represented in science policy in Scotland.

Peter previously served as industry representative for the former Scottish Branch Committee as well as on the Institute's Industry Committee and, subsequently, the Industry and Services Board. He is based

in Scotland and can be emailed at peter.ball@iop.org.

Physics Congress will be held in Scotland for the first time at Heriot-Watt University on 23–27 March 2003. I would encourage all members to support the public events, even if they are unable to attend any of the conferences. In particular, a Family Fun Day is planned for Sunday 23 March at the Heriot-Watt campus, followed later on the same day by an evening reception. Details of these events, which have yet to be confirmed, will be circulated to members nearer the time.

We intend to include our future mailings with *Physics World*. Although this is much more cost-effective, it is potentially less flexible and it is likely that committee members or local organizers will, on occasion, want to communicate

directly with members. Recent attempts to contact members by email have resulted in a significant number of rejected invalid email addresses. All members are therefore encouraged to ensure that their contact details are current at members.iop.org.

Members can also set up a physics.org portable email address at this URL for forwarding their mail, thereby greatly simplifying any future changes to ISP or email address. Members wishing to register fields of interest for future contact, possibly for Institute responses to consultation documents, can do so at iop.org/cgi-bin/PEERS/main.

An organization is only as strong as its membership base. From this base we choose the committee. Additional members can be co-opted onto the

committee as the need arises.

If you feel that you can contribute to the Institute of Physics in Scotland or have any activities that you would like us to pursue, you may wish to consider joining the committee. If so, contact the Chair, the Honorary Secretary or our representative.

We are particularly interested in recruiting more members with industrial and engineering experience, from secondary and further education, and young professionals.

2003 will, with Congress, undoubtedly be a vintage year. I am proud to be chair at this time of relaunch into what will be the 60th year of the Institute in Scotland.

Alan Harper
**Chair, Institute of Physics in
Scotland**

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MInstPs and MSPs

The Institute in Scotland took part in a Science and the Parliament event in Edinburgh in November. The aim was to give Scottish parliamentarians an insight into the impact of science on the economy and society of Scotland. In the picture are (left to right) Peter Ball, Institute representative in Scotland; Ian Gray, an Institute member and Minister for Enterprise; and the Institute in Scotland's Chair, Alan Harper.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY TO JUNE 2003

Details of all Institute of Physics in Scotland meetings and other events are available at whatson.iop.org.

Shortened meeting notices will normally be published in *Physics World* a few weeks before each meeting.

Non-physicist guests are most welcome at all meetings.

Please send suggestions of topics and places for future events to your local organizer.

Details of other events in particular areas will be circulated locally and made available at whatson.iop.org.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

23–27 March 2003

Physics Congress – creating the future

Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh.

Further details are available from congress.iop.org.

May/June 2003 – date to be announced

Stirling physics meeting for schools

Details to be circulated to schools

Annual lecture-demonstration of

the Education Group

Date and venue to be decided AGM and annual dinner

Information on the above meetings will be sent in due course to all members on the branch mailing list.

EDINBURGH

Local organizer Dr Derryck Reid
All lectures will be given at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22–24 George Street at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Before each of the meetings there will be an informal sherry reception.

Tuesday 21 January

Mobile phone safety

Lecture by Dr John W Stather, National Radiological Protection Board.

Tuesday 18 February

Solar physics

Lecture by Dr Robert Walsh, University of Central Lancashire.

Tue 11 March

Review of optical micro-

manipulation

Lecture by Dr Kishan Dholakia, University of St Andrews.

GLASGOW

Details to be circulated locally.

ST ANDREWS

Local organizer Dr Bruce Sinclair

Details to be circulated locally.

DUNDEE

Local organizer Dr David Keeble

Details to be circulated locally.

ABERDEEN

Local organizer Dr Alistair Flett

Saturday 9 March

Climate change and Scotland's weather

Lecture by Heather M Reid, Broadcast meteorologist, BBC Scotland. 11.00 a.m. (with refreshments from 10.30 a.m.) in Satrosphere, 179 Constitution Street, Aberdeen. Held jointly by the Institute, the Friends of Satrosphere and the British Association. Coffee/tea and biscuits £1. Optional buffet lunch after the talk £5. The talk will be suitable for adults/school pupils over 15 years. Tickets must be prebooked and will be restricted to Institute

members, Friends of Satrosphere and the British Association up to Monday 11 February, after which they will be made available to the general public.

OTHER EVENTS

9–16 March

National Science Week

11–22 April

Edinburgh International Science Festival

The Institute of Physics in Scotland will be collaborating with Edinburgh University to organize some events.

Further information regarding the Institute of Physics in Scotland can be found at scotland.iop.org or obtained from Peter Ball, the representative of the Institute of Physics in Scotland.

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The contact details of local organizers are given below.

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