

April Fools' Day

Dydd Ffŵl Ebrill

I hope that no-one was caught out on Sunday by the numerous April fools' jokes. The best scientific April fools' joke I've heard was the one when a newsletter reported that the Alabama state legislature had voted to change the value of pi to 3! For more hoaxes (including the famous BBC spaghetti trees) go to www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/.

Best wishes –Dymuniadau gorau

Angharad

News in Brief

Newyddion yn Fyr

[In Wales, universities and further education colleges that deliver HE programmes will see their budgets increase by an average 3.84% in 2007-08](#) compared to the previous year, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales confirmed. The increase is lower than the funding settlements made in England, which saw university spending rise by an average 6.4% for the next financial year, and Scotland where the rise was, on average, 4.7%.

The [UK's public science spending in 2010 will rise to £6.3bn](#), Chancellor Gordon Brown confirmed in his Budget.

[Research and Development: Value of R&D tax credits for companies to increase in 2008](#)

Wendy Sadler, the founder of the innovative science communication company *Science made simple* has won the [Descartes Prize for Excellence in Science Communication](#). Given by the European Commission, these awards have been dubbed the European Union's own Nobel Prizes - previous winners include Sir David Attenborough and Bill Bryson.

[The BA](#) (British Association for the Advancement of Science) produces a weekly [Science News Digest](#). It contains many interesting science stories and can either be viewed on the website or by e-mail (by registering on the website).

The Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King, is urging scientists to adopt a new [Universal Ethical Code for Scientists](#) and help promote its cornerstone values of rigour, respect and responsibility. The code has been developed following a 12-month pilot in key government scientific agencies, including the Environment Agency and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. It has three key aims: to foster ethical research; to encourage active reflection among scientists on the implications and impacts of their work; to support communication between scientists and the public on complex and challenging issues. Researchers, industrial scientists, university educators and students are being encouraged to adopt it. (The Institute of Physics has a [Code of Conduct](#).)

Scientific subject heads have forecast a bright outlook for academics seeking jobs in physics and chemistry in the next few years. The prediction comes as pockets of growth have begun to emerge in science, engineering and technology subjects that, until recently, appeared to have fallen on hard times. (THES, p56, 1/4p)

Institute of Physics in Wales

Sefydliad Ffiseg yng Nghymru

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Physics in Wales will take place on Tuesday 22 May in the David Morgan room, [Wales Millennium Centre](#), Cardiff. The meeting will start promptly at 5.00pm with a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Institute of Physics, Dr Robert Kirby-Harris. To register your interest in attending, please contact [Dr Zbig Sobiesierski](#).

The Institute of Physics in Wales is at the [National Eisteddfod of Wales](#) this year! We will have some exhibits from *Lab in a lorry* and an Institute stand with some small demos (<http://www.physics.org/hostedpages/physicstogo/tricks.asp>). If any members would like to help out during the week, anything from half a day to the whole week, then I'd be very grateful.

Mobile Careers 2007 - Do you want to re-evaluate your skills and position in the job market? Are you uncertain about your career path? Are you returning to work? This autumn there will be an opportunity to have one-to-one appointments with a qualified careers adviser. If you wish to pre-register your interest then please e-mail Vishanti.Lall@iop.org. More information about dates and location will be available in the next e-bulletin. To see what the careers service at the Institute can offer visit the [website](#).

Institute of Physics

Sefydliad Ffiseg

[The Institute of Physics Schools and Colleges Lecture](#) has been delivered by a series of acclaimed physics communicators annually throughout Great Britain for over 20 years. The lecture uses demonstrations and interactivity to enthuse students and show how their classroom science relates to modern fields of physics. We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and inspiring physicist to produce and deliver the 2008 talk to audiences of primarily 14-16 year olds at approximately 35 venues organised by the

Institute (this usually involves at least two talks per venue). For further information please contact joanne.page@iop.org.

[Key Insight Business Briefing: “Science challenges and priorities across Government – insight from chief scientific advisers” – London – 15 May 2007](#)

Limited places are still available. All Business Affiliates Network member companies are entitled to claim one complimentary place and have been sent full details.

[Forthcoming Institute Conferences](#)

[What’s on in Physics](#)

physicsweb events listing which lists [all physics related events](#).

Useful Links

Cysylltiadau Defnyddiol

[EPSRC](#) – Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

[PPARC](#) – Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

[HEFCW](#) – Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

[DTI](#) – Department of Trade and Industry

bbc.co.uk/wales / **bbc.co.uk/cymru** – BBC Wales / BBC Cymru website

[The National Assembly for Wales](#) / **[Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru](#)**

[The Welsh Assembly Government](#) / **[Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru](#)**

[European Commission – Research](#)