

Happy New Year

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

You would think that the small matter of when New Year should occur would not cause much controversy, however if you have a look at [Wikipedia](#) you will see that the decision to have New Year on 1 January was anything but straightforward!

It is also the time where a large number of people make [New Year's resolutions](#). Most New Year's resolutions are related to weight loss, and not surprisingly most are broken very soon! May I urge you to make one resolution to keep for the year – explain to someone something about physics, be it CD players, why we orbit the sun or renewable energy etc. The list is endless!

If you have anything that you think you would like covered in the e-bulletin or anything you feel the Institute should be doing in the New Year then please drop me an e-mail (Angharad.Thomas@iop.org)

Best wishes for 2008

Dymuniadau gorau ar gyfer 2008

Angharad

News in Brief

Newyddion yn Fyr

On Thursday, December 13, the [Science and Technology Facilities Council](#) (STFC) announced its [delivery plan](#) for 2008-11. The government's science budget for the same period has made it necessary for STFC to make some significant changes. The [Institute of Physics](#) has responded to the STFC announcement and raised the concerns of physicists in the UK.

The Welsh Assembly Government is providing a small fund of money to support science, engineering and technology events and activities throughout Wales during [National Science and Engineering Week 2008](#) (7-16 March). For further information and to

download an application form please click [here](#). The deadline for applications is this Friday, 11 January 2008.

The [20th International Snow Sculpture Art Expo](#) started in the Heilongjiang Province, China on 20 December. Look at the size of the people compared to the sculptures.

On Friday 21 December the [Ariane 5](#) rocket delivered two satellites into orbit. It completed its sixth journey of 2007.

What was the technology of 2007? The [BBC website](#) has an article where the new technologies are discussed: from Facebook to the iPhone.

Institute of Physics in Wales

Sefydliad Ffiseg yng Nghymru

The Annual Schools Lecture visited Wales in December. Dr Pete Vukusic, from the School of Physics, Exeter University, gave a talk entitled "Light Fantastic: the Science of Colour". It was a great success in Aberystwyth, Swansea and Cardiff. There will be a report on the Schools Lecture in the next edition of the Institute of Physics in Wales newsletter.

Institute of Physics

Sefydliad Ffiseg

The Institute has a range of professional development and training services, designed exclusively for IOP members. These include: [MyCPD](#) – a free online tool which allows you to identify your development needs and plan and record new learning; [Learning Online](#) – a range of transferable skills courses you can undertake at your own pace and in your own time. There are a number of other new member services – keep an eye on www.iop.org/careers for further developments.

[Forthcoming Institute Conferences](#)

[What's on in Physics](#)

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

Events in Wales Digwyddiadau yng Nghymru

There is an [Institute of Welsh Affairs West Wales Branch Dinner](#) being held on Friday 18 January in the Halliwell Centre, Trinity College, Carmarthen. The guest speaker is Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM the First Minister, Welsh Assembly Government.

Useful Links

Cysylltiadau Defnyddiol

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

[STFC](#) – Science and Technology Facilities Council

[HEFCW](#) – Higher Education Funding Council for Wales / Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru

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](#)