

Now is the Month of Maying

Calan Mai

Mayday – why is it the international distress signal? It derives from the French “venez m’aider”, meaning ‘come to my aid’. And on that note, I’m asking for help from the members of the IOP in Wales this August at the National Eisteddfod for Wales. See the IOP in Wales section below for more information.

Have you ever wanted to do a scientific experiment where gravity was not a factor? Following the successful installation of the Columbus laboratory at the International Space Station, there is a competition called “**Take your classroom into space.**” ESA invites ideas for experiments that can be carried out onboard Columbus to demonstrate the effects of weightlessness to young scientists. If you have an idea but are not eligible to enter please e-mail me and I will try and put you in touch with a local school which would be interested in entering.

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

Best wishes – Dymuniadau gorau

Angharad

News in Brief

Newyddion yn Fyr

The [Institute of Physics](#) has responded to the publication of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee Report into science budget allocations. For more information click [here](#).

Technium Challenge is an annual business planning competition dedicated to supporting new or existing businesses with high-growth potential. The competition offers

a bespoke programme of support to enable start-up and spin-out technology businesses to transfer ideas into commercial business propositions. For more information visit the [Technium website](#).

[HEFCE](#) has approved funding of £12.5 million to bring together, promote and sustain physics provision in six departments in south east England so that they can develop and support the regional and national economy. For more information click [here](#).

Institute of Physics in Wales

Sefydliad Ffiseg yng Nghymru

The [Institute of Physics in Wales Annual General Meeting](#) is being held on 16 July 2008 in Room 413, Vivian Tower, Swansea University. For further details click [here](#).

The [National Eisteddfod](#) is in Cardiff this August. I've joined forces with Catherine Beddoe (Regional Officer, Wales, for the British Association for the Advancement of Science) and we will have an exhibition in the science and engineering tent. The theme is cosmology and we are planning to have demonstrations on the planets and on Columbus. The Eisteddfod runs from 2 August to 9 August 2008. Any offers of help would be gratefully received – even if you can only spare a morning.

Institute of Physics

Sefydliad Ffiseg

A new IOP mentoring service has been launched which allows members to match themselves with other members who wish to be mentored or act as mentors. Registration is online, and initial contact is made via Institute staff. When you have registered, you will be able to search for an appropriate match, depending on your needs and experience. For more information click [here](#) or e-mail: mentoring@iop.org. The professional development and careers teams will be touring the UK to offer you the chance to attend a mentoring workshop and to get involved in mentoring. They are visiting Wales on 19 June 2008, at the [Royal Hotel](#), Cardiff. Places are on a first come, first served basis. Therefore if you would like to book your place, please click [here](#).

[Mobile Careers 2008](#) – members of the Institute are entitled to use the careers service regardless of their employment status. A careers adviser can provide advice on a range of topics including: changing careers; redundancy; taking a career break; retiring and updating your CV. The careers adviser will be at Swansea on 10 September 2008 and in Cardiff on 11 September 2008. For more details and to register, click [here](#).

[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 a three-day business start-up course being held 5-7 May 2008 at Folk House, Park Street, Bristol. This is a course for people who have a business idea and want to

start their own business. The course will be repeated on 2–4 June 2008 and 7–9 July 2008 and costs £99. For more details, visit the [Exceptional Thinking](#) website.

[Mars in their Eyes](#) – an exhibition of cartoons and caricatures about space is at the National Museum Cardiff between 23 February 2008 and 1 June 2008.

For information on what's going on in Wales – have a look at "[What's on Wales](#)" or "[Golwg ar Gymru](#)".

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](#)