

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

May 2002

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Thomas Neukirch on his promotion to Reader.
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WELCOME (BACK)

- to Nikki Stalker who has returned as Secretary after her maternity leave.
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FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK

- to Gill Gardner who leaves after 9 years as Secretary to the Solar Group to devote more time to her artistic talents. However, she will continue to do occasional work within the School for some weeks yet.
 - to Gina Whitaker who leaves us after six months as Secretary to take up a position within the School of Biology, working at Ninewells Hospital.
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NEWS

- Andy Wright attended the XXVII General Assembly of the European Geophysical Society in Nice. He gave an invited talk entitled “The dynamics of current carriers in standing Alfvén waves.”
- Thomas Wiegmann attended the 27th General Assembly of the European Geophysical Society in Nice/France and presented two talks:
 1. “Computing nonlinear force free coronal magnetic field” by Wiegmann, T. and Neukirch, T.

2. “Including stereoscopic information in the reconstruction of coronal magnetic fields” by Wielgmann, T. and Neukirch, T.

and a poster:

3.) “Stochastic acceleration of relativistic particles in the Earth’s and Jupiter’s radiation belts” by Nagornykh, E., A. Tel’nikhin, A. and Wiegmann, T. The poster is a joint work with Elena Nagornykh who visited the Solar Group in march.

- The annual UK Solar Physics (UKSP) meeting and the Magnetospheric, Ionospheric and Solar Terrestrial (MIST) meeting were held jointly in Sheffield from 9-12th April. It was attended by Eric Priest, Andy Wright, Daniel Brown, Ineke De Moortel, Duncan Mackay, Clare Parnell, Temury Zaqarashvili, Danielle Bewsher, Laura Carcedo, Robert Close and David Pontin.

The following talks were given, D. Bewsher - “Blinkers and explosive events”, D. Brown - “The topology of coronal magnetic null points”, I. De Moortel - “An overview of geometric and physical parameters of propagating disturbances in coronal loops”, D. Mackay - “Evolution of the Sun’s magnetic field”, C. Parnell - “Nature of the magnetic carpet”, E. Priest - “A flux tube tectonics model for coronal heating” and T. Zaqarashvili - “Swing coupling between fast magnetosonic and Alfvén waves”.

Three posters were also presented. These were, L. Carcedo - “Magnetic field model of soft X-ray sigmoids”, R. Close - “The structure of the magnetic carpet” and D. Pontin - “Topology of coronal magnetic fields”.

- Danielle Bewsher, Daniel Brown, Laura Carcedo, Robert Close, Catherine Gerrard, Chris Mellor, Clare Parnell, David Pontin, Eric Priest and Paul Wood all from the Solar Group attended the Cormack Meeting in Edinburgh on 29th April. Clare and Danielle gave talks titled “The Sun’s Magic Carpet” and “Solar Transition Region Phenomena”, respectively, whilst David and Robert both presented posters titled “Topology of coronal magnetic fields” and “The structure of the magnetic carpet”.
- Sharon Hedley took part in an international expedition investigating the decline in the numbers of Amazonian river dolphin. The expedition involved travelling along the Amazon for two weeks in April counting two types of dolphin to get an idea of their preferred habitat and to estimate their current population.

HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS AFTERNOON

- History of Mathematics (Math. Inst. Friday 31 May - 2.00pm)
(Each talk approx. 40 minutes, with 5 to 10 minutes for discussion.)
 - 2.00 - 2.50: George Molland (History, Aberdeen) “Greek mathematics; medieval mathematics; early modern mathematics. Hiatus?”
 - 2.50 - 3.40: Ian Tweddle (Mathematics, Strathclyde) “James Stirling on the Stirling Numbers.”
 - 3:40 - 4:00: Tea break
 - 4.00 - 4.50: Alex Craik (Mathematics and Statistics, St Andrews) “The logarithmic tables of Edward Sang and his daughters.”
 - 4.50 - 5.40: Peter Clark (Logic and Metaphysics, St Andrews) “What happened and why did it happen to the ‘Higher Functional Calculus’? ”

Visitors are welcome. There will be no charge for attendance at this meeting, which is hosted by the School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of St Andrews in association with the British Society for the History of Mathematics.

For enquiries or more information, contact Alex Craik

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SEMINARS

- Solar Group Seminars (Math. Rm 3B - 1.30pm)
 - Wednesday 15 May: Lorna James
 - Wednesday 22 May: Paul Wood
 - Wednesday 29 May: Maxim Khodachenko (Institute for Space Research, Austrian Academy of Science, Graz)
 - Wednesday 5 June: David Pontin
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NEXT ISSUE

- Please send any material for the next newsletter to mcsnews@mcs by 12pm Thursday 9th June.