

News and events

News items and events relating to the School of Physics and Astronomy.

Events:

See our [Talks and Seminars page \(/schools/physics/news/physics-astronomy-seminars.aspx\)](/schools/physics/news/physics-astronomy-seminars.aspx).

News

[Echoes of the Big Bang \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/perspective/big-bang.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/perspective/big-bang.aspx)

Professor Alberto Vecchio discusses world-leading research into gravitational wave theory.

[Newton's constant of gravitation - a physical constant too difficult to measure? \(/university/colleges/eps/news/college/Newtons-constant-of-gravitation---a-physical-constant-too-difficult-to-measure.aspx\)](/university/colleges/eps/news/college/Newtons-constant-of-gravitation---a-physical-constant-too-difficult-to-measure.aspx)

College Best Publication Award for 'Improved Determination of G Using Two Methods'. Professor Clive Speake and coauthors recently published results of a determination of the value of Newton's constant of gravitation, G (Physics Review Letters 111,101102, 2013).

[Sounding the stars at Thinktank \(/schools/physics/news/sounding-stars-thinktank.aspx\)](/schools/physics/news/sounding-stars-thinktank.aspx)

Members of the HiROS research group took part in the "Meet the Scientist" outreach event at the Birmingham Thinktank Museum. The group presented a variety of activities related to sound and resonance, results on "sounding stars" with asteroseismology, and a "create your own exoplanet lightcurve" activity, all of which proved popular with children and their parents.

[The Anatomy Of A Scientific Rumor \(/university/colleges/eps/news/college/The-Anatomy-Of-A-Scientific-Rumor.aspx\)](/university/colleges/eps/news/college/The-Anatomy-Of-A-Scientific-Rumor.aspx)

The discovery of the Higgs boson was one of the landmark discoveries of 2012 and it will be remembered forever in the history of science. The news was shared around the World within minutes of the CERN announcement. Dr Mirco Musolesi's paper 'The Anatomy of Scientific Rumor' published in Nature Scientific Reports and awarded Best Paper October 2013, presents a study of the spread of communication on Twitter around the time of the announcement and explores the increasingly important role social media takes in the communication of science and in the scholarly debate.

[For decades a distant dream, the countdown to nuclear fusion may have finally begun \(/schools/physics/news/nuclear-fusion.aspx\)](/schools/physics/news/nuclear-fusion.aspx)

Dr Paul Norman writes for The Conversation.

[BBC Midlands Today at our Observatory \(/schools/physics/news/observatory.aspx\)](/schools/physics/news/observatory.aspx)

The School of Physics and Astronomy observatory featured on BBC Midlands today as a prelude to BBC Two's Stargazing Live programme.



[Four University of Birmingham staff recognised in New Year's Honours \(/news/latest/2014/01/Four-University-of-Birmingham-staff-recognised-in-New-Years-Honours02-01-14.aspx\)](/news/latest/2014/01/Four-University-of-Birmingham-staff-recognised-in-New-Years-Honours02-01-14.aspx)

Pro-Chancellor and chair of the University of Birmingham and former chair of the Student Loans Company, Ed Smith, has been awarded a CBE for services to higher education in the New Year's Honours.

[Quantum technology: iSensing the underworld \(/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2013/11/quantum-technology-isensing-the-underworld.aspx\)](/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2013/11/quantum-technology-isensing-the-underworld.aspx)

While understanding the rules of the abstract part of physics called 'quantum mechanics' occupied the 20th century, harnessing its power for applications will be a dominant theme of the 21st century. Making the earth beneath our feet transparent is the latest example of utilising the strange properties of the microscopic quantum world to provide such a 'Quantum Technology'.



[The University of Birmingham opens its new telescope to the public \(/news/latest/2013/11/04-Nov-13-The-University-of-Birmingham-opens-its-new-telescope-to-the-public.aspx\)](/news/latest/2013/11/04-Nov-13-The-University-of-Birmingham-opens-its-new-telescope-to-the-public.aspx)

A new era of astronomy starts at the University of Birmingham this month, when students and researchers start to observe the night sky with a new state-of-the-art telescope located at the University's observatory on the outskirts of the city.

[New art installation featuring the 'sound of the stars' unveiled at Thinktank \(/news/latest/2013/10/30-Oct-13-New-art-installation-featuring-the-sound-of-the-stars-unveiled-at-Thinktank.aspx\)](/news/latest/2013/10/30-Oct-13-New-art-installation-featuring-the-sound-of-the-stars-unveiled-at-Thinktank.aspx)

Did you know that the Sun is playing its own stellar symphony, just like a musical instrument? Scientists at the University of Birmingham who study the 'music of the stars' have worked with sound artist Caroline Devine to create an art-science installation that goes live this week at Thinktank Birmingham science museum.

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