

THE ADSTOCK SCIENCE CLUB



On Sunday 6th November members of the science club had a little outing to Station "X" AKA Bletchley Park. The day started out well, we travelled in a two car convoy and arrived there around 10:30am. Despite a couple of our members insisting that they knew the Park inside out, we still managed to get lost. However, after dispensing with their services we soon discovered the more interesting places. One particular hut, which housed Colossus as well as some more modern but still old technology by today's standards, seemed to be open, so we entered. We were all alone, which we thought was a bit strange but did not give this any further consideration apart from thinking that we may have passed through a spacial-rift into a different universe – a very quiet one. After about an hour of browsing, a man bearing an official Bletchley Park identification badge suddenly burst in and informed us that we were not allowed in there as the paid tour had not yet started. Well, as we had already seen just about everything we decided not to pay extra for that particular pleasure. Later some of us did go on the official Station "X" free tour. This was very interesting and definitely worth going on, although I wish I had put on some thermal underwear, it was cold!

On Tuesday 29th November, TASC is hosting a talk in the Adstock Village Hall by physicist Dr Suzie Sheehy from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) in Didcot. She will be presenting a talk entitled "Accelerated Dreams", which will show how particle accelerators have changed our lives, and what they may look like in the future.

Dr Sheehy has a background in particle physics, and has been involved with designing some of the experiments used within the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva. She is currently designing particle accelerators for applications including cancer research treatment and new forms of power generation.

On the 10th January 2012, TASC will be undertaking a live Skype presentation with Mr Mark Hemsell, soon to be Programmes director of Reaction Engines Limited (REL). REL are involved with the design of innovative rocket and scramjet engines which they hope to incorporate into the Skylon rocket plane, Britain's answer to the Shuttle. Like RAL, REL are also based in Oxfordshire.

Next year I hope we will be able to organise many more interesting talks, outings and discussions for our members. If anyone is interested in becoming a member or attending some of our meetings please give me a call for further information.

This just leaves me to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and an exciting and prosperous New Year.

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