The Adstock Science Club Presents –

TASC is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a presentation by Dr Harin Sellahewa, Research Lecturer in Computer Science at the University of Buckingham, on Tuesday 17th April at 7:30 pm at 1 Greenfields, Adstock -

"Biometrics: from Hollywood to your palm"

Today's technology has brought many advantages to modern life; however there is a Dark Side to this continual advancement. Most people will be familiar with using Personal Computers, the Internet, Online Banking, using Credit and Debit Cards and so on. Unfortunately all these systems are open to major security threats from Viruses, Trojans, Hackers, Identity Fraud etc.

In the past a reasonable level of security could be maintained by remembering a few simple passwords. Over time though, these have become more complicated and numerous. This has left most of us with the headache of trying to remember a bewildering number of them just to function, and being human and not blessed with photographic memories (well at least most of us aren't), we tend to use variants of just one or two passwords e.g. password01, password02. Most people don't realise just how easy it is for hackers to break into PC's and accounts, using hacking software readily available off the Internet.

Biometrics is one way to try and counter this growing threat by forcing systems to use people's personal and biological differences for authentication. Some PC's for instance already have fingerprint scanning and recognition devices built in. Some also have iris scanner technology available as well. Who knows where this will all lead?

To find out a little bit more about future developments in Biometrics, TASC is very fortunate in being able to get Dr Sellahewa to give us a talk about his specialist subject.

Dr Sellahewa holds a BSc in Information Systems and a DPhil in Computing, both from the University of Buckingham. During the latter stages of his DPhil at Buckingham, he worked on the EU-funded SecurePhone project as a Research Associate, which was followed by a post-doctoral position at Gray Cancer Institute (now the Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology & Biology, University of Oxford). He rejoined the Department in 2008 to continue his research in biometrics and automated biomedical image analysis and to assist in the supervision of research students. Dr Sellahewa is currently a Research Lecturer in Computer Science and he teaches Fundamentals of Computing, Image Processing, Software Engineering and Software Project Management at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. He is also the Admissions Tutor for taught degree programmes.

Dr Sellahewa's research interests are: face recognition in constrained devices; context-aware adaptive biometric systems; biometric template security and user privacy; automated analysis of biomedical images and biological assays; content-based image / video indexing; and ICT in education.