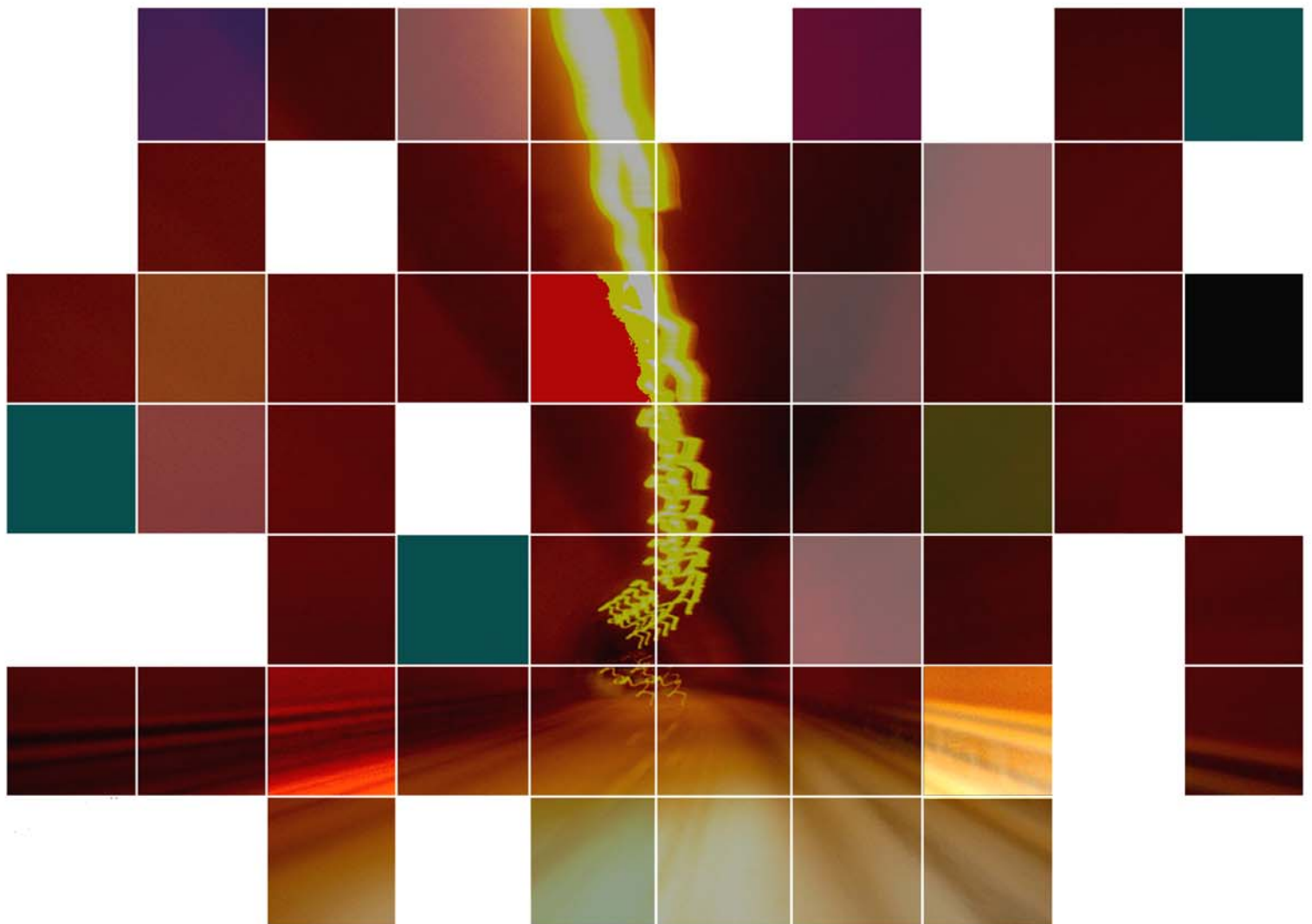


Information and  
Computer Sciences

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 October 2006



Information and  
Computer Sciences



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

Welcome	1
News	2
Higher Education Academy News	3
ICS Centre News	3/4
Funding Opportunities	5/6
New resources on ICS Website	7/8
Upcomming Events	9

## WELCOME !

On behalf of the ICS subject centre we would like to welcome you to the launch of our newly designed newsletter. This will be released every two months, keeping you up to date with ICS's recent activities, funding opportunities and projects for the coming months, along with articles covering a broad spectrum of teaching and learning activities.

On page seven there is reference to the new pilot comment bank which offers a wide range of statements for use in the creation of student feedback, we would like to invite you to have a look and contribute any suggestions or comments.

In this Issue we are also pleased to extend a warm welcome to three new staff members that have recently joined our team. This will enable the centre to better support colleagues and students working and studying in the often very different environments of higher education.

A new feature in future editions of this newsletter that we would like to incorporate would be the inclusion of contributions and articles from you the ICS community. If you are involved in any good practice and are willing to share your views and ideas on any aspect of teaching, learning and assessment, then please let us know.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter!

### Get Involved in Our New Newsletter!

As this Newsletter is a new project for us it is important to hear your comments and feedback. If there is anything you would like to see added in the next issue that would be of interest to you or if there is something that you feel is irrelevant and should be excluded next time we would really like to hear about it. Here are our contact details:

**Higher Education Academy**  
**ICS Subject Centre**  
**Faculty of Engineering**  
**University of Ulster at Jordanstown**  
**Newtownabbey**  
**Co. Antrim**  
**BT37 0QB**  
**T. (028) 90368020**  
**F. (028) 90368206**  
**heacademy-ics@ulster.ac.uk**

# NEWS

## Georgia Tech Debuts Outsource-Resistant CS Curriculum

The College of Computing at Georgia Tech has released a two-part report exploring the need for a new approach to undergraduate computing education in the face of an increasingly competitive global environment and describing the College's new undergraduate computing program: Threads. The report, "Creating symphonic-thinking computer science graduates for an increasingly competitive global environment", presents: (1) the problem faced by computer science undergraduates, departments and colleges of computing, and relevant industry, and (2) the innovative solution developed at Georgia Tech.

The report argues that tomorrow's undergraduate computer science students will need to develop new skills to compete successfully in the future environment, and the idea of symphonic-thinking is of central importance to the tremendous opportunities and challenges faced by U.S. computer science graduates. Symphonic-thinking refers to the "signature ability of composers and conductors, whose jobs involve corralling a diverse group of notes, patterns, crossing boundaries to uncover hidden connections, and making bold leaps of high-value areas of computing and act as innovative boundary crossers.

The full report can be accessed at:  
[http://www.cc.gatech.edu/images/pdfs/threads\\_whitepaper.pdf](http://www.cc.gatech.edu/images/pdfs/threads_whitepaper.pdf)

## JISC ITT

**Three studies on good practice and technology-supported approaches in recruitment and admissions**

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) wishes to commission three studies into good practice and technology-supported approaches in recruitment and admissions. These studies will inform future JISC work on the use of technology to support admissions to higher education. The studies are also expected to draw on good human resources practice in the employment sector.

Specifically, the studies will cover:

**Study 1:** Improving the provision of feedback to applicants, and the use of technology to support this;

**Study 2:** Mechanisms for assessing the fairness and effectiveness of selection processes in admissions to higher education;

**Study 3:** Improving support for learners throughout application to and induction in higher education, and in the use of technology to support this.

Proposals that seek to deliver all three studies, or one or two of the studies, are welcome.

The main deliverable of each study is a final report with recommendations, intended for the JISC executive.

### The Key Points are:

Work should begin in November 2006 and the final reports delivered in March 2007.

Up to £20,000 (including VAT and expenses) is available for each study.

Tenders should be submitted no later than 12:00 on 25 September 2006.

Further information including the full tender document can be found at the following URL:

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding\\_calls/2006/09/funding\\_recandad.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2006/09/funding_recandad.aspx)

**For all the latest  
news updates check out  
the news section on  
our website!**

<http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/news>

# NEWS

## Higher Education Academy News

### Student Employability Profiles Launched

The Higher Education Academy, together with the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE), is launching a series of Student Employability Profiles for all degree programmes, which will help academic staff, employers and students to understand better the skills developed through the study of a particular subject.

Two complementary guides to the Student Employability Profiles will be launched, one intended for academic and support staff, published by the Academy, and the other for employers' use (a new enlarged version of the successful guide previously published by the CIHE in 2005).

The Profiles are available to download from:  
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/profiles.htm>

Free copies can be ordered from:  
[employability@heacademy.ac.uk](mailto:employability@heacademy.ac.uk)



launched a new series of five Faith Guides. The Guides to Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism give information to staff on how best to support students with a variety of religious beliefs. The guides are available from the Subject Centre at a cost of £3.00 each.

More information is at  
<http://prs.heacademy.ac.uk/publications>

### Faith Guides

The Academy's Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies (PRS) has

## ICS Centre News

### New Staff Members

We are proud to announce that we have three new staff members on our team. Our new secretary Lesley-Anne Winterford and two new placement students Caitlin O'Toole and Anthony Hastings. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome them on board!



**Lesley-Anne Winterford**  
Secretary



**Caitlin O'Toole**  
Multimedia Developer



**Anthony Hastings**  
Web Developer

# NEWS

## ICS Centre News - 7th Annual conference

29th August 2006 - 31st August 2006  
Trinity College, Dublin

We were delighted to welcome approximately 120 delegates to our 7th Annual Conference in Dublin this year. Colleagues travelled from across the UK to join us in what proved to be three stimulating and thought-provoking days.

The conference included keynotes from Professor Andrew McGettrick (University of Strathclyde) who described the "Educational Grand Challenges and Related Issues" and Mr Niged Macartney (University of Ulster) who posed the question "Computer and Information Sciences - Convergence or Co-existence?".

The presentations, workshops and posters explored a wide range of issues, were varied in style and were all very well received. The presentations covered issues such as:

**Getting Sustainable Development into the Curriculum** - The UK government believes that undergraduates should graduate with a good understanding of sustainable development issues. Finding a way to include additional and complex content into a heavily timetabled computer science undergraduate degree programme can be difficult.

**The Supporting Role of Emerging Multi-media Technologies in Higher Education** - an overview of the advances made in Higher Education with the incorporation of cutting edge technologies within the teaching domain.

**E-Learning Support for LIS Education in UK** - described the findings of the initial phase of the ELLIS project that aims to study the current practices and support for e-learning available in the Library and Information Science departments in UK.

**E-Learning - The Students' Choice?** - Lecturers are encouraged to place learning materials on the web, and to provide audio or video recordings of lectures for students. Do the students want this?

All the presentations can be viewed online by going to:  
[http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/Events/HEADublin2006\\_V2/programme.htm](http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/Events/HEADublin2006_V2/programme.htm)

We would like to thank everyone who participated and we look forward to seeing you all at our next annual conference which will be held in Southampton.

## Conference Photos



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Higher Education Academy Research Projects

The Academy have announced funding totalling over £500,000 for research projects examining aspects of the student experience in higher education. Eighteen one-year projects will be funded in the academic year 2006-07. The topics have been identified following a consultation exercise and fall under the Academy's four broad themes of: innovation in the curriculum and student support; quality management; assessment of student learning; and academic leadership.

Full details of the funded projects are at [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/news/1370\\_4709.htm](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/news/1370_4709.htm)

## Microsoft

Microsoft research have just announced a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the creation of curriculum and other resources that utilise gaming paradigms to enhance the teaching of core computer science concepts.

It's building on the work that was completed as part of an earlier RFP, and they're particularly keen to see applicants consider the use of a number of existing games engines, which include both XNA and the SimConnect API from FlightSim X.

### Here's a calendar of important dates for the Request For Proposals:

**Opening date for submission of proposals:**  
Thursday, Oct 5, 2006

**Last date for submission of proposals:**  
Monday, Oct 25, 2006 12:00 PM, noon,  
Pacific Standard Time (-8 UTC/GMT)

**Notification of Awards:** Monday, Nov 20, 2006 5:00 PM, Pacific Standard Time (-8 UTC/GMT)

Full details of the RFP can be found on the Microsoft Research Website: [http://research.microsoft.com/ur/us/fundingopps/RFPs/Gaming\\_RFP\\_September2006.aspx#\\_ftn1](http://research.microsoft.com/ur/us/fundingopps/RFPs/Gaming_RFP_September2006.aspx#_ftn1)

## JISC Capital Programme

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) invites institutions to submit funding proposals for projects in the following areas: e-learning, e-infrastructure; virtual research environments; repositories and preservation, and users and innovation. Funding is available for projects starting in March 2007 and running for a duration of six months to two years, depending on the area of work.

The deadline for receipt of proposals in response to this call is 12 noon on Thursday 23 November 2006. A town meeting will be held in Birmingham on Wednesday 11 October 2006 to provide a forum for discussion of the call and its subject matter. Institutions will need to register to attend this free event, using the form available at:

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=event\\_capital\\_1006](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=event_capital_1006)

Proposals may be submitted by HE institutions funded via HEFCE and HEFCW, and by FE institutions in England which teach higher education to more than 400 full-time equivalent students. In addition proposals to the HE in FE work may be submitted by FE institutions in England which teach HE to more than 100 FTEs. Due to the funding streams available for this programme, other institutions are not eligible to bid, but may be involved as partners in projects.

For further information see:

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=funding\\_circular04\\_06](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=funding_circular04_06)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THE LINKS IN THE MAIN CIRCULAR, APPENDICES AND SUPPORTING PAPERS MAY NOT WORK UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK BEGINNING 9 OCTOBER 2006 WHEN THE NEW JISC WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED. APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.**

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## HEA funding opportunities Online Service

The Higher Education Academy provides a simple to use online service which offers the ability to carry out a comprehensive search for financial support for education projects, services and research. All current funding opportunities across the sector are listed.

Full details can be found here:  
<http://www.connect.ac.uk/funding>

## University research fellowships

The University Research Fellowship scheme aims to provide outstanding scientists, who should have the potential to become leaders in their chosen field, with the opportunity to build an independent research career. Those appointed are expected to be strong candidates for permanent posts in universities at the end of their fellowships.

**Subjects covered** All sciences, ie the disciplines in which the Society will elect researchers to the Fellowship of the Royal Society (for further details see the sectional committee section of the website).

**Eligibility** Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent research experience and must have at least 2 and not more than 7 years' full-time postdoctoral research experience by 1 October 2007.

Career breaks such as maternity leave, EU national service and voluntary service overseas can be discounted, but teaching experience and/or time spent in industry since the award of a PhD should be included in the total amount of postdoctoral experience.

Part-time work will be counted pro rata. At the time of application, applicants must either be a citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA), ie European Union, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein, or have a relevant connection to the EEA.

**Length of tenure** Funding for 5 years in the first instance (possibly renewable in 2 instalments up to a maximum of 10 years). Available from 1 October 2007. Place of tenure Fellowships must be held in a UK university or not-for-profit research organisation (except for Research Council Institutes).

**Value** Provides funding to cover the research fellow's salary costs, estates costs and indirect costs. Under the full economic costing model, 80 per cent of these costs will be met by the Royal Society. Research expenses (up to £13,000 for the first year and up to £11,000 annually thereafter) will also be provided. Number offered Varies. Approximately 30 each year.

**The closing date is 1 November 2006.**

Full details can be found here:  
<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=1121>

## Student Award 2006

The Higher Education Academy - Education Subject Centre, ESCalate, is offering students the chance to offer their opinions and experiences in a 1000 word essay. This opportunity is open to anyone studying Education as part of their HE course.

This years essay question is:

***"What advice would you give to students starting your course?"***

The winning essay will be put on the ESCalate website will be featured in our newsletter and will be given the opportunity of going to the HE Academy Conference, all expenses paid. There, they have a chance to become the overall winner attracting a top prize of a Toshiba laptop.

**The deadline for submission is 16th March 2006**

# NEW RESOURCES ON THE ICS WEBSITE

## 7th Annual Conference of the ICS HE Academy

Resources from this event that was held in August:

[http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/Events/HEADublin2006\\_V2/home.htm](http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/Events/HEADublin2006_V2/home.htm)

## Funding Opportunities

This Section holds Information on funding opportunities:

<http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/pedagogical/funding.php>

## Call for Papers

This section gives information on opportunities to publish through a variety of journals and conferences/events:

<http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/publications/papers.php>

## New Guide - Getting Started in Computer Science Education Research

This guide, which was commissioned by the ICS subject centre, is aimed at academics whose background is principally in computing/IT at university level, and who are interested in developing their teaching activities with a view to research leading to publication.

This is *not* a definitive guide to research in Computer Science Education. Rather, it is intended to alert you to the issues involved in such research, and direct you to appropriate resources which you can use to explore those issues in greater depth.

The guide can be viewed here:

[http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/pedagogical/cs\\_research/](http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/pedagogical/cs_research/)

## Launch of the Pilot Comment Bank



The Centre is interested in creating a set of statements that could be used by academic staff during their marking of dissertations.

This comment bank would offer a wide range of statements for use in the creation of feedback or for incorporation into the report forms used as part of the marking process. At present, the online pilot comment bank which has been developed by Dr Peter Nicholl has an initial set of comments kindly supplied by Dr Alan Webb.

We would like to invite the wider academic community to add to the current comment bank. To view the bank go to the following URL:

[http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/comment\\_bank/](http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/comment_bank/)

## Italics

The screenshot shows the ITALICS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Call For Papers, Issues, Register with us, Contact us, and About the Editors. Below this, the 'Welcome' section contains a brief introduction to the journal. The 'Latest Issue' section features a thumbnail of the journal cover and text indicating the latest issue is from October 2006 (Volume 5 Issue 3). A prominent 'Call For Papers' section is visible, detailing a special issue on employability for the January 2007 issue.

The latest issue of our electronic peer reviewed journal, which is entitled 'Learning With Games, Learning by Making Games' is now available online at:

<http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/italics/vol5iss3.htm>

There is a call for papers for the January 2007 issue of ITALICS. This special issue will provide an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to address employability in the post 18 curriculum. It aims to facilitate the sharing of ideas and best practice as well as to critically review existing practice and enable to dissemination of those emerging.

The deadline for the submission of papers is **31st October 2006**. Papers can be submitted directly via email to Joanne Marsh ([j.l.marsh@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.marsh@lboro.ac.uk)). Further information is available from the ITALICS website. <http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/italics/paperscall.htm>

# NEW RESOURCES ON THE ICS WEBSITE

## Book Reviews

The Centre receives many new books from publishers and offers ICS academics the opportunity to submit reviews. A wide selection of books are currently available for reviewing.

We also have a large repository of reviewed titles relating to both the CS (Computer Science) and IS (Information Science) communities. Reviewers get the opportunity to keep the book when they publish their review on the ICS website.

Below are the three latest books to be reviewed, and the three latest books available for review. If you wish to review a book you can view the full list available from our website, where you can click the link to review the book and we will send it as soon as possible.

[http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/publications/book\\_reviews](http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/publications/book_reviews)

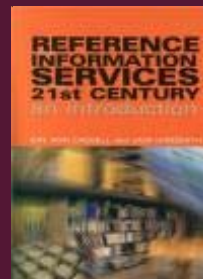
## Latest Book Reviews



**Book title:** Archiving websites; a practical guide for information management professionals  
**Author:** Brown, Adrian  
**ISBN:** 1856045536



**Book title:** Handbook of Research on ePortfolios  
**Author:** Ali Jafari and Catherine Kaufman  
**ISBN:** 1591408903



**Book title:** Reference and information services in the 21st century: an introduction  
**Author:** Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath  
**ISBN:** 1586045986

## Latest Books Available for Review



**Title:** PHP Programming with MySQL  
**Author:** Gosselin, Don  
**ISBN:** 0619216875



**Title:** Fundamentals of Programming using Java  
**Author:** Currie, Edward  
**ISBN:** 1844804518



**Title:** Data Structures And Algorithms In Java  
**Author:** Drozdek, Adam  
**ISBN:** 0-534-49252-5

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Informatics Education Europe

Date: 9th November 2006 - 10th November 2006

Location: Montpellier France

## E-Business and Higher Education Workshop

Date: 22nd November 2006

Location: University of Manchester

## Computer Forensics

Date: 24th November 2006

Location: Northumbria University, Northumbria

## Induction

Date: 27th November 2006 (Although this may change)

Location: Leeds Metropolitan University

## e-Portfolios

Date: 6th December 2006

Location: University of Bolton

## AI Workshop

Date: 11th December 2006

Location: Cambridge University

## XNA Games Development Week - Workshops

Date: 11th, 12th & 14th December 2006

Location: Rare Studios, Twycross

## XNA Games Development Week - Overview Day

Date: 13th December 2006

Location: Warwick Conference Centre

## Internationalisation

Date: 17th January 2007

Location: Academy York, York

## The 11th Java and the Internet in the Computing Curriculum Conference (JICC 11)

Date: 26th January 2007

Location: London Metropolitan University, London

## Effective learning in object-orientated programming

Date: 21st February 2007

Location: University of Dundee

## Massively Multi-Learner

Date: 22nd March 2007

Location: University of Paisley, Paisley

## MC3

Date: 29th March 2007

Location: University of Bolton

## 7th Programming Workshop

Date: 2nd April 2007

Location: University of Kent, Canterbury

## National Project Coordinators Workshop

Date: 25th April 2007

Location: University of Leeds

## TLAD 07 (BNCOD)

Date: 2nd July 2007

Location: University of Glasgow, Glasgow

## National Project Co-ordinators Workshop

Date: 13th September 2007

Location: University of Leeds

**For all the latest events updates check out the Current Events section on our website!**

<http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/events/events.php>

## Next Issue ...

Our Next Newsletter will be out Dec 2007. If you have any comments or would like to contribute please contact us:

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ICS Subject Centre  
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