

School of Mathematics and Statistics Newsletter

February 2021

Virtual Activities

- Sadly the annual visit of our PhD students to the Burn House, near Edzell, could not take place this year; instead a virtual meeting was held on 25-26th January. It included introductory talks for five of the research groups, eight short maths talks, and talks about thesis writing and working inside and outside academia after finishing a PhD. There were also opportunities to socialise using Gathertown, some online games and a quiz.
- Laura Johnson gave a seminar on January 27th for the *e-PCC (Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference) Seminar Series*. Her talk was entitled ‘An introduction to External Difference Families and Strong External Difference Families, and their applications to cryptography’.
- Peter Cameron gave a remote talk entitled ‘Integrals of groups’ at the *13th Iranian International Group Theory Conference* in Urmia, Iran, on 28th January.
- On the 12th February, Natalia Jurga gave a talk on ‘The box dimensions of (X_m, X_n) -invariant sets’ at the *Dynamical Systems Seminar* at the Centro de Matemática da Universidade do Porto.
- Mike Todd attended the week-long workshop *Linear Response: Rigorous Results and Applications* hosted by the Bernoulli Centre at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Lausanne. While the workshop was online, Mike managed to slip over on an icy pavement outside his house, so tried very hard to imagine he actually had a (very minor) skiing injury, part of an overall enjoyable Swiss experience.
- On 25th January Deborah Kent gave a virtual seminar in Oxford entitled ‘Mathematics at The Old Course: P.G. Tait and the Magnus Effect’, which drew a good audience from around the world.
- Isobel Falconer should have been at a workshop *Mathematical Models in the 19th Century* at Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach from 8-11th February, but sadly it was cancelled. On the positive side, she was glad not to miss to best snow St Andrews for 3 years which was some compensation for not being able to enjoy the snow in the Black Forest.

Caption Competition

- Captions are invited for this picture. If you have any suggestions, send them to the Newsletter editor at maths-news@st-andrews.ac.uk – a selection may be published in the next Newsletter.

Next Issue

- The next edition of the School Newsletter will be circulated in March. Items for inclusion may be sent to maths-news@st-andrews.ac.uk at any time but a reminder will be sent out a week before the deadline.

