

Annual Report of Activities for the Liverpool Mathematical Society AGM

FunMaths Roadshow

A number of activities were adapted by Barry Grantham for use at home during the period in which schools were closed. These were made available on the [LivMS website](#) and included full instructions, extension tasks, and templates that could easily be produced at home in lieu of bought equipment.

Lisa Baggaley, Barry and the UoL Outreach Team also produced longer investigations based on Roadshow activities for use by teachers in school.

Open Challenge 2021

The theme was Nature. The competition attracted 87 entries from 34 different schools. These were mostly from students in Years 12 and 13, but with a few received from students in younger age groups.

All entrants were invited to an online evening of mathematical recreation on the Gather Town platform on Wednesday 19th May. 34 entrants attended, together with 2 teachers and one parent. The event included a series of puzzles, presentation of the solutions and a virtual presentation of the prizes. A full report may be found [here](#).

Pop Maths Quiz 2021

The Pop Maths Quiz is a team competition that runs a bit like a pub quiz, but without any alcohol!

Teams consist of 4 students (under 19 years) who, during the Quiz, work as a team to attempt to solve a number of questions on a wide range of mathematical topics. They then have the opportunity to give their answers via an electronic response system. Not all questions require specific A-level maths knowledge but all questions have a mathematical flavour.

139 students in 36 teams from 15 schools took part on Saturday 6th March. We welcomed teams from Merseyside, Wirral, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, East Anglia, Essex and the Channel Islands.

It wasn't possible to award cash prizes in 2021, as the Quiz was hosted online because of COVID restrictions.

Popular Lectures 2020-21

Four public lectures were held and all were delivered over Zoom. These were regarded as having been very successful and the Society will continue to offer some online lectures in order to reach a wider audience beyond the Merseyside region.

Simulating Crowds: Before During & After the Pandemic, Dr Aoife Hunt, 19/11/2020

145 people attended, comprising a mixture of school, college and university students, teachers, lecturers, and the wider public.

Science, Statistics & SARS-CoV-2, Dr Yolanda Ohene, 11/12/2020

Colours Can Compute, Dr Colin Wright, 11/12/2020

For the first time, the Christmas Lecture consisted of two shorter talks on different topics. 429 people attended, comprising a mixture of school, college and university students, teachers, lecturers, and the wider public. Holding the lecture during school hours allowed teachers to stream to whole classes.

The Secret Life of Bubbles, Dr Anna Pratoussevitch, 04/03/2021

This was Anna's delayed Presidential Lecture, postponed from the previous year. 152 people attended, comprising a mixture of school, college and university students, teachers, lecturers, and the wider public.

Studying Maths to Smash the Glass Ceiling, Gaynor Bahan, 22/04/2021

Gaynor's Presidential Lecture was attended by 152 people, comprising a mixture of school, college and university students, teachers, lecturers, and the wider public. This was again held during school hours, with some classes watching together.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Committee of the Society would like to express its gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the above events.