



NEC D&T WITH ICT SHOW REVIEW 2004

Did you miss us?

Thanks to all our many visitors who joined us on the TEP stand at the NEC during November's D&T with ICT show. This was a record year for visitors to see us at exhibition.

Visitors to the TEP stand were intrigued by the sheer diversity of work on display ranging from new PIC programming technology to aroma-based projects for KS3, Robotics to Jewellery design and a full range of TEP seminars each day of the show.

Pzzazz caused a great stir among visitors, as they spent some delightful moments rapidly assembling a selection of parts. They made elegant high quality 'desktop derived' jewellery items using simple fastenings, enclosures and pre-cut polypropylene. Jenny Dein led on-stand practical sessions with Penny Bailey and Marilyn Kenny from Sheffield Hallam University.

Chris Canavan had brought along his pupil's stunning collection of Aromafans and Bubbleblowers and resisted several offers from buyers during the show. All of the Key Stage 3 Millennium Schools full colour publications are available to download free from the TEP website.

Joe Birks TEP associate was delighted to show visitors his working prototype PCB machine. Joe also designed the Chipfactory Logic System Software, TEP's most recent free graphic software for PICs, available at the show. Allen Bower from Nottingham Trent University demonstrated TEP's low cost systems including the more established PhonePIC resources for simple PIC programming using a mobile phone and the latest PICPEN barcode programmer available early in 2005.

Evergreen John Cook and Keiron McGeever attracted lots of 'hands on' participation on their robotics table with their collection of bugs, walkers and crawlers. Many visitors walked away with a fully constructed and working 'Dancing Duck'!

John Cook also gave visitors the chance to see his rechargeable electric and air-motor flying machines and some intriguing solutions for wing construction

Matt Lear and Martin Clarke fielded questions on a variety of emerging project resources and processes including Pewter Casting, Steam Laminating and Thermoforming PODs.

Mark Harmsworth and Rob Knight brought along their all too lifelike and slightly scary robots in the form of Mark's Pandora, this time incarnated in a radio controlled wheelchair. Rob's robot with an almost full humanoid skeletal construction was a study of how far we can integrate servo-motors, linkages and in this case, moulding with polymorph detail work down to individual finger joints and spinal vertebrae.

We were delighted to have John Lee and Rowan Todd join the team from Sheffield Hallam University. They presented their groundbreaking Design Methods work to a packed seminar room. This issue of News and Views also sees the first in a series of articles by John and Rowan on Design Methods.

Professor John Cave and Fiona Watts from Teaching resources keenly demonstrated some of the wonderful new range of smart materials supported by the new TEP publication on Smart Materials. An introductory Smart materials pack was made available free to teachers attending the NEC and TEP have extended that to all TEP events in 2005.

One of the stars of the show was without doubt QTC (Quantum Tunneling Composite) material and a number of applications and projects were demonstrated. This material is set to radically change the way we design and integrate electronics into products.



➔ **This Year's D&T show is from 17th to the 19th November 2005 - See you there.**

