



© 1997–2009, Millennium Mathematics Project, University of Cambridge.

Permission is granted to print and copy this page on paper for non-commercial use. For other uses, including electronic redistribution, please contact us.

March 2004

Issue 29

In the early days of the UK National Lottery, it was quite common to see newspaper articles that looked back on what numbers had recently been drawn, and attempted to identify certain numbers as "due" or "hot". Few such articles appear now, and **John Haigh** thinks that perhaps the publicity surrounding the lottery has enhanced the nation's numeracy.



101 uses of a quadratic equation

It isn't often that a mathematical equation makes the national press, far less popular radio, or most astonishingly of all, is the subject of a debate in the UK parliament. However, as **Chris Budd** and **Chris Sangwin** tell us, in 2003 the good old quadratic equation, which we all learned about in school, reached these dizzy pinnacles of fame.



Squeeze me, stretch me

Did you know that every instant, gravity waves from outer space are stretching and squeezing you – and everyone and everything else in the universe? Learning more about this mysterious radiation will help us to probe the structure and origins of the universe, explains **Anita Barnes**.



The physics of elementary particles

It is extraordinary to think that the diversity of the world we live in is based on a handful of elementary particles and a few fundamental forces. **Peter Kalmus** describes the combination of experimental and theoretical physics that has brought us to the understanding of today.



Career interview: IT project manager

Bharat Dodia tells *Plus* how his love of maths has taken him from turbulent times to building better IT systems for Ford.



Plus is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.