

# LUGS ON TOUR

## Perl and the Internet of Things at the London Perl Workshop (LPW)

**Josette Garcia** treads London's gold-paved streets to touch the internet of things.

**S**urprise! LPW took place on 8 November – a few weeks earlier than previous years. Otherwise it followed the same pattern – Westminster University during the day and pub in the evening. 250 Perl mongers made it to London on a very damp morning to listen to the latest news and projects in Perl. The attendees had to make very quick choices as the day was split into four tracks plus two workshops – 54 talks or 28 hours' worth!

Tickets to LPW are pay what you want, so nobody is barred from attending, and the workshops are completely free. In his call for papers Mark Keating from Shadowcat Systems shows how unrestricted the conference is:

"We welcome the submission of talks, discussions, presentations and workshops using other languages, or that have separate technical or engineering objectives. The strength in developing is

knowledge from a wide variety of sources. If you use another programming language or system to connect physical and virtual devices together and want to submit or attend the event then we would be honoured to welcome you. If you are connected to a UK Hackspace and wish to attend and display then please approach the organisers with ideas of your requirements."

This year the theme for the London Perl Workshop was Perl and the Internet of Things, focusing on using Perl to control a wide variety of connected devices or the web. This theme brought a variety of very talks and workshops:

- Hakim Cassimaly (aka Osfameron) – Arduino and Perl (4hr workshop).
- Dave Cross (aka Daveorg) – Perl in the Internet of things (2hr workshop).
- Mike Whitaker (Penfold) – Perl and the green Mill House or how



The Perl mongers came from all over the world, including the USA, Germany, Japan, Ukraine and Romania.

to use Perl and some inexpensive sensors to track your house's power consumption (and generation, if you have solar panels).

Matt S Trout announced that DX, his logic programming system for configuration and deployment management appears to work well enough to try and use for something, and that in the name of maximising dogfooding the first something will be a CPAN client.

I overheard that Larry Wall will give a big presentation at FOSDEM about Perl 6; maybe he'll even mention a date on which the whole team will aim to have Perl 6.0.0 ready for release. Prepare to be delightfully surprised!



### TELL US ABOUT YOUR LUG!

We want to know more about your LUG or hackspace, so please write to us at [lugs@linuxvoice.com](mailto:lugs@linuxvoice.com) and we might send one of our roving reporters to your next LUG meeting

# SWAMPFest 2014

Sharon Mitchell reports from Swansea Hackspace's event in honour of EU code week.

**W**e were delighted to play host to 108 ticket holders, who attended for the first ever SWAMPFest held on Saturday 11 October 2014.

The event was conceived to mark the start of EU Code Week, and forge a strong partnership between Swansea Hackspace, SWLUG, Pi Cymru, and Carmarthen Coder Dojo – the fact that the event coincided with the Hackspace's First Anniversary is purely coincidental ;)

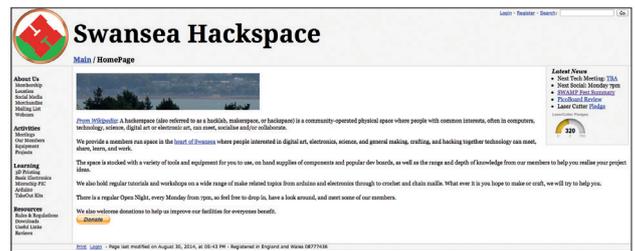
Later in the planning process, digital volunteers were recruited to provide *Minecraft* and Lego workshops on the day.

The day was well attended by male and female, young and old. It was great to see wheelchair and pushchair users being able to access the venue (TechHub Swansea) and to see parents feeling it was something they could bring their young children along to with plenty of workshops catering for all ages, tastes and aptitude

levels; around a third of the attendees were under 16 years old.

The event itself was spread over three floors of the TechHub, with Pi Cymru, Digital Volunteers, and Carmarthen Coder Dojo sharing a large room on the first floor for their all-day drop-in workshops; Pi Cymru's DIY banana piano project was a huge crowd pleaser, and of course the Minecraft and Lego helped entertain the little ones.

The second floor featured the main staging area for the speakers/talks together with a retail/exhibition area. Swansea Hackspace had a table featuring member-made projects; Colin Deady (Ethical Websites/The Mag Pi) had a stall and gave a talk; Representing Code Club was Wales Regional Coordinator Craig Thomas and Maplin's Swansea branch were in attendance. Those lads didn't arrive empty handed to the party either – Maplin has very generously loaned some fantastic new kit to

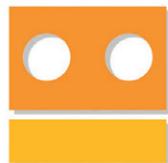


the Hackspace for members to review/workshop. In keeping with the Event's 'maker' theme, The Lurcher Gallery from Carmarthen were in attendance, showcasing their "Recycling creativity with a Steampunk theme". You can find their Steampunk'd Nerf guns on Etsy shop "Spart1cus".

Floor 4 is the current permanent home of Swansea Hackspace, whose members provided a day-long programme of short taster workshops. These were really popular with the attendees and massively over-subscribed.

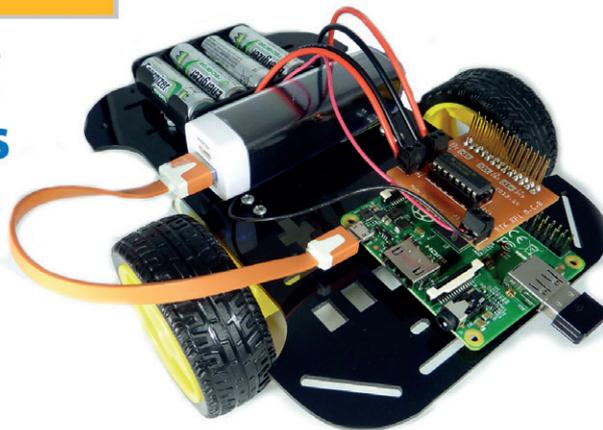
Now to have a break before we plan the next – see you in 2015!

As part of SWAMPFest, Carmarthen Coder Dojo ran Raspberry Pi based Scratch workshops and featured Raspberry Pi- and Arduino-controlled robotics.



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