

ASE in action

Project Faraday Exemplar Designs for Science

Is your school undergoing a new build or possibly a refurbishment of its science laboratories? In March 2008, the DCSF published *Project Faraday Exemplar Designs for Science* – something of which science departments should be aware. The CDROM accompanying the book contains detailed information from each Faraday team: brochures and fly-through showing the school designs, literature reviews and visit reports. This new DCSF book costs £26 and is available from The Stationery Office (TSO) at www.tsoshop.co.uk (ISBN 978 0 11 2711971).

If you are fortunate, science departments and staff, including technicians, will have been approached early in the design of new laboratories. If not, it is important to make architects, the senior management team or the BSF programme aware that this

publication, together with existing guides in the form of *Building Bulletin 80 – Science Accommodation in Secondary Schools (DfES)* and *Designing and Planning Laboratories – Guide L14 (CLEAPSS)* should be used to inform the design process. These latter publications are available to download free on the ASE website at <http://www.ase.org.uk/ldtl/documents.html>

ASE INSET Services

ASE INSET Services are currently designing the next programme of courses from Autumn 2008. To date these courses have been held in Specialist Science Colleges, Science Learning Centres and schools around the country, with popular topics ranging from 'Health and Safety for New Technicians' to 'How Physics Works'. We welcome all suggestions of new courses for teachers and technicians, especially from the primary sector and from Scotland, Wales and Northern

ScienceLinks – NEW for ASE members

In the ASE members' area of schoolscience.co.uk, we are updating the web links section to become a completely new ScienceLinks page.

This has a growing list of classified links under subject headings, careers and professional/curriculum. The aim of ScienceLinks is to grow into a quick reference page for teachers. In this 'Google' age, we are not trying to create a universal database of sites, but simply to provide a quick access list of the main sites relevant to UK science teachers. Each site has a brief summary page and a hotlink, so that's a maximum of two clicks to get in.

ScienceLinks should be up and running by the time this edition of *EiS* goes to press (see page 6 for more about schoolscience.co.uk).

 schoolscience.co.uk



ELECTION RESULTS

At the May meeting of Council, the following members were elected:

International Committee

Justin Dillon – Region 6 (Secretary)

Primary Science Committee

Nancy Bilderbeck – Region 6

Peter McAlister – Region 11

Kathy Schofield – Region 3

Publications Committee

Nancy Bilderbeck – Region 6

Susie Burr – Region 8

Sue Howarth – Region 7

11-19 Committee

John Charlesworth Region – 7

(Committee Chair)

Christopher Embrey – Region 7

Nicola Jones – Region 8

Laboratory Technicians' Committee

Julia Bostock – Region 3

Julia Milligan – Region 6

Jenny Wilson – Region 8

Research Committee

Virginia Kearton – Region 9

Alex Manning – Region 6

Debra McGregor – Region 7

Safeguards Committee

Phil Bunyan – Region 7

Colin DuQueno – Region 4

Ireland. Bespoke courses can be organised in a particular school, a cluster of schools or a regional centre. Please send all suggestions to Kathryn Thomson, Director: Professional Development, at cpdcourses@ase.org.uk

The ASE Annual Conference 2009

The 2009 Annual Conference will be held at the University of Reading from 8th to 10th January 2009. For full details, please see our advertisement on the inside back cover of this issue of *EiS*. Bookings will be taken from September 2008. Watch out for your Conference Programme Preview in September's *EiS*!

Erratum notice

We would like to apologise for the error in the Salters' Institute advertisement featured

in the April 2008 issue of *EiS* (page 17). This was caused by technical problems and we extend our apologies to the Salters' Institute.

WikiedScience activities

WikiedScience, the new 11-14 online curriculum from upd8, is now trialling units with over 100 teachers for release in September. For years, our topical activities have helped you to fully engage students in the science. Now, with whole units it will become easier to finish the job – giving them a real understanding of the big ideas of science and 'how science works'. To do this we have had to take some groundbreaking steps: constructivist (enquiry-based) teaching methods, 'performance assessment tasks' to provide evidence of understanding in context, and

stories woven through the units to make the science meaningful to teenagers. So, in 'Cook!', students adopt the role of an experimental chef to explore chemical reactions, energy transfer and using models, while in 'Forensics', they learn about particles, patterns in chemical reactions and evaluating evidence, solving crimes at the same time.

You can now download the first WikiedScience activities in 'beta' form by visiting upd8.org.uk. Or, if you would like to see your creative ideas shared with hundreds of other teachers, e-mail karenshebottom@ase.org.uk. We look forward to collaborating with you to build a curriculum that truly inspires!

WikiedScience is developed by upd8, a partnership programme from ASE and the CSE, Sheffield Hallam University.

Goodbye...to Alan Rhodes and Hello...to Tony Leaney



After two years as ASE's first Executive Director: Communications and Membership Services, Alan Rhodes retired from the post on 30th April 2008. As many readers know, Alan has had a very long association with ASE, both as a member and as an employee. His work as a Field Officer supporting several

regions is legendary and will continue, because he has agreed to remain, at least for the time being, as Field Officer for Regions 10 and 12. So – he has not left ASE completely!

This short piece does not aim to review the immense amount of work that Alan has done for ASE. Rather, it is to say a public 'THANK YOU' for all that he has achieved in the last two to three years, as one of the inaugural Executive Directors of ASE. Alan came to this post with a wealth of experience, determination and commitment to make ASE a better organisation and to improve the service that we provide for members. In a relatively short time, he made significant progress in establishing the role and, at a time of major change – new offices and new management information systems – he provided much stability, ensuring that regions were well supported but, at the same time, that we moved on into new areas of activity. Importantly, he put in place the very sound foundations upon which his successor, Tony Leaney, and the rest of the team are now able to build.

Once he has completed the list of jobs around the house, Alan has plans to spend more time on other things – new photography equipment has been mentioned! So, on your behalf, we all wish Alan the very best for the future and hope he will enjoy his new found freedom. However, we still look forward to retaining our links and benefiting from his contributions.



Tony Leaney has recently taken up the post of Executive Director: Communications and Membership Services (CMS) at ASE.

Tony's career started at Imperial College as a technician supporting research in medical entomology. He gained his BSc in Applied Biology by studying part-time whilst working at Imperial.

The technician experience led to a laboratory management job in Kenya, followed by a research contract in Saudi Arabia. Returning to the UK, he became active in liaison between industry and academia: first at the Polytechnic of North London, promoting the skills of the academics to industry and then, from the industry perspective, at British Gas R&D HQ, creating and managing links with HE institutions.

Recruitment to the secretariat supporting the Royal Society's Science Inquiry led to eight years working for the RS (initially in policy analysis and development and, later, as Head of Corporate Affairs, running the press office, overseeing marketing and the 'brand' of the RS, and managing the fundraising campaign) and a thorough knowledge of the workings of a Fellowship organisation.

Positions at Royal Holloway College, as head of a department that included publications, events, alumni relations, web development and business partnerships; and the University of Essex, where he developed closer relationships with industry, commerce and government agencies in the eastern region, gave Tony more experience in communications and the effective marketing of organisations to develop their businesses. He was able to put this into practice in an international context in his most recent job as Business Development Manager for CAB International, travelling globally to promote projects and engage supporters.

At ASE he will provide strategic direction for communications and membership services and plans to direct and oversee CMS to ensure that the needs of the membership remain at the heart of the Association.