

North East Region Newsletter Autumn 2012

The Region committee is currently planning a major recruitment drive during October by holding Cheese & Wine Evenings at the 3 main teacher training institutions in the region: Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham Universities. Planning has also started for 3 twilight events in Spring / Summer 2013: a **Primary Science Quality Mark** support session, a **data logging** workshop and another **TeachMeet** (see the report on the first TeachMeet later in this newsletter); details will appear in next term's newsletter as well as on the region webpage.

Lyn Bossons
Newsletter Editor

Greetings from the Region Chair

Davina Smith BSc (Ed) MA

I have been a member of the ASE for 16 years from being a student at Durham University. I am currently an independent education consultant, having formerly been a science adviser and science coordinator in two primary schools in the Tees Valley.

In my year as Chair, I am keen to increase the membership of the ASE in the region and, along with my fellow committee members, organise events to support your teaching. I am passionate about the teaching of science and empowering young people to embrace the wonders of the world around them.

We have some exciting events lined up for you this year including a Teach Meet, a chance to meet fellow members of the ASE and share practice. I would love to hear from members so if you would like to get in touch please email me on woodside.education@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you at one of our future events.

Have a great academic year!

Best wishes, Davina



Report on the first NE Region TeachMeet, 17th May 2012

Six, 5 minute, very interesting, presentations were given – a brief outline of these is given below.

First Presentation

Christine Colclough (St Michael's, Billingham)

Expeditions to Iceland through 'Discover The World'. Took Yr 9 and 10 pupils from St Michael's RC School Billingham on a field trip with Science Focus but can also do Geography Focus. Looked at Thermophiles, university greenhouses growing bananas, alternative energy (geothermal and hydroelectric power), how to deal with volcanic activity, saving infrastructure following volcanic eruptions, redirecting lava flow. Real life stories of effects of an eruption. Finished with a wonderful poem!

Second Presentation

Cynthia Tippling

Horticulture Apprenticeships - a growing career for budding scientists. On-the-job training. Study for nationally recognised qualifications and earn money while you learn. Why Horticulture? Good for environment, good for the economy, good for aesthetics and making the landscape more beautiful! Apprenticeships in this sector lead to exciting and varied working lives. Horticulture employs ~860,000 people in UK. Need science/botany/biology background. Harnessing science and technology. Age 16+ NVQ level 2 diploma in work based horticulture. Start in the classroom growing plants, help parents and friends on allotments, careers days at football grounds with ground keepers!



Jelly Baby Wave Machine.

IOP Physics in Action Videos available via www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk

Sixth Presentation

Dr Katherine Forsey, ASE Field Officer (pictured)

Story Sticks, and their use as an outdoor learning tool and travelling activity.

A great career for students with a science background.

Third Presentation

Colin Wilkinson (Corylus Learning)

CREST Awards and CREST Quality Assurance Group. CREST Awards are changing. New introductory award: Crest In A Day. Primary scheme on-line from September. Will be half price £40, with annual membership and more resources and new resources available. Accredited visits can count towards the Award. On-line shop for materials and resources to do the challenges.

Fourth Presentation

Joanne Rout

Adapting activities for special needs students. Making your own toothpaste! Looked at all the different purposes of the individual ingredients. Make it, then test it. Evaluate which tooth paste is the best? Compare with commercial ones. Blind testing! Contextualising learning. Adapted from a CIEC activity.

Fifth Presentation

Ruth Wiltsher (IoP)

Reflections on ASE meetings Summer Term 2012

For the ASE Presidential Meeting in June we visited the national **Forensic Centre of Excellence** at Harperley Hall. We were treated to a fascinating talk about the forensic training offered at Harperley Hall and given a guided tour of the state-of-the-art facilities, including a crime scene set (pictured). CSI in reality!



Our President, Professor Julie Mennel, also outlined how forensics could enrich the science curriculum.

For the ASE North East Family Day this year we went back in time to the Golden Age of Steam at **Locomotion Railway Museum in Shildon**, County Durham. Members and non members and their families came along in force on a bright summer Saturday in July to be treated to a once in a lifetime tour of the prestigious Royal Train used to transport Queen Victoria (pictured); known as a Black 5 because of the 5 lamps signifying carrying royalty in the luxurious carriages behind the main engine. Our expert guide made it fun for the young children allowing them on to the footplate, and to blow the whistle was a special treat! After the formal tour many members stayed on to browse the other exhibits and have a picnic lunch and a browse of the ASE book display and Locomotion shop before heading home under petrol power!



Alan Brennan's BlogSpot

One of the Region's committee members; Dr Alan Brennan (former secondary and primary teacher; now a freelance education consultant) has established a personal blog site (a replacement for the newsletter he used to publish) which includes comments on science education issues which you may find of interest and which you may wish to interact with. Click on <http://docalanbrennan.blogspot.com/> to share his thoughts.

Cloud Chambers - IOP Make and Take workshop

Making an abstract idea concrete is a useful tool for those teaching physics. Cloud chambers allow students to see the paths that ionizing radiation has travelled. In this workshop you will have the opportunity to make and take away a cloud chamber big enough for a group of people to see into. You will also get ideas for making the most of your dry ice.

Date: October 11th

Place: St Peter's Sixth Form, Sunderland

Time: 4.00 for refreshments, 4.30 start

Reserve a place (essential) by emailing ruth.wiltsher@iop.org

Institute of Physics' Public Engagement Grant Scheme 2013, Round 1

Do you have a fantastic idea for making physics accessible? Do you want to reach a wider audience? Do you need some support to make your outreach activity happen?

The first round of the 2013 Public Engagement Grant from the Institute of Physics is now open for applications. The grants are worth up to £1500 and aim to support physics-based outreach activities in the UK and Ireland throughout 2013. Activities should provide engaging experiences of physics to public audiences.

More information about the grant scheme, including application forms, guidelines and summaries of past projects, is available online at http://www.iop.org/about/grants/outreach/page_38843.html, or by emailing physics.society@iop.org.

Closing date: 22 October 2012.

Space for All funding scheme

You may be interested to know that the fourth "Space for All" funding scheme was launched on 3 September 2012. It is aimed at space education and engagement and modeled on the successful STFC Small Awards Scheme. As it has been so successful over the last three years we have managed to secure the funding for another round and we hope to continue launching it on a yearly basis.

This call will have a total budget of £35,000 and will be the only call for the financial year 2012/13.

Further information regarding this call may be found at

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/ukspaceagency/funding/space-for-all-community-funding-scheme-2012-13>

The closing date for applications is 9am Monday 5 November 2012.

National Science and Engineering Week news:

Official theme revealed!

The NSEW team is proud to announce that the theme for 2013 is [Inventions & Discoveries](#). Let's celebrate the 'everyman' scientist and inventor and highlight the science and engineering behind the nation's favourite gadgets and goods!

National Science & Engineering Week is running from 15-24 March, and now that the theme is revealed, you have plenty of time to plan your events and activities for 2013.

Check out our free [resources](#) to get you started.

British Science Festival: Newcastle, September 2013

The Festival theme for 2013 is '**Making Waves**'. To fit the theme event organisers are being encouraged to think about things that have made an impact, but more importantly what **will** make an impact in future. The British Science Association is also looking to explore creativity and controversy in science.

There are many ways to be involved in the Festival programme, with events ranging from lectures and debates (Main Programme, held on the Newcastle University campus), to the Young People's Programme (Schools' programme) to city-wide events ranging from live music and comedy performances to theatre, exhibitions and expeditions further afield (City Programme). Many ASE members will probably be interested in the city programme, which has the earliest closing deadline of the end of October. Proposals for the Young People's programme will remain open until February. To find out more about the different ways to take part in the Festival, please see here: http://ideastakeflight.org/?page_id=59



Primary Science Quality Mark

If you are interested in engaging with Primary Science Quality Mark this school year, the Science Learning Centre (NE) will be running this for all of the North East area. Everyone is welcome; the dates for our meetings are below indicating when it will be at the SLCNE, all other venues will depend on which geographical area you wish to be allocated to and that will be decided on the evening. If you want to know about PSQM please log onto www.psqm.org.uk/

Tuesday 16th Oct. 2012 At SLCNE

Thurs 29th Nov. 2012 At hub leader choice of venue & Durham group SLCNE

Weds 30 Jan. 2013 At hub leader choice of venue & Durham group SLCNE

Thurs 14th march 2013 At hub leader choice of venue & Durham group SLCNE

Weds 24th April 2013 At hub leader choice of venue & Durham SLCNE

Weds 22nd May 2013 At SLCNE

Please join us if you are thinking about it and want to find out more.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting.

Best wishes

Rosemary Feasey (SLC)

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Contributing to the Region Newsletter

It would be great to hear from you!

Writing for your region newsletter could not be easier – if you have something you would like to share with fellow members, on whatever (science education) related subject you like – then just email the newsletter editor (email address above) and attach your article (with images if appropriate). The newsletter is published online usually the third week of each term.

