

**Royal Society of Chemistry**  
**(Chilterns & Middlesex Section Trust)**

40 Derwent Avenue,  
Kingston Vale,  
London SW15 3RD

Email: [stephenrobinson\\_3@hotmail.com](mailto:stephenrobinson_3@hotmail.com)

September 2006.

**Education Committee Newsletter**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the new academic session, I trust that you all had an enjoyable summer break and are ready for the challenges ahead. Once again Chilterns & Middlesex Section is promoting a range of events & activities to help you and your pupils to enjoy your chemistry. I hope you will be able to avail yourselves of some of the activities & opportunities on offer.

I begin with committee news. Matthew George of Amersham School, has resigned from the committee, he is moving out of the section to take up a post as assistant head at Glastonbury. Matthew was a keen member of the committee and his considerable contributions will be missed. We wish him well in his new appointment. We are also losing Judy Machin who has been a valued member of the committee for many years, serving as secretary to the committee and hosting our committee meetings. Judy is stepping down because of pressure of work in school. To replace Matthew and Judy we have recruited two new members, Keith Simpson of Rickmansworth school and Kamaljit Bains of Highgate School. They are valuable additions to our strength.

I now turn to events & activities in the year ahead. The Daniell Lecture for 2006 will be held at University College London on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. Our Daniell lecturer this year is Professor Anthony Ryan OBE of Sheffield University. Professor Ryan, who was the Royal Institution Christmas Lecturer in 2002, has given as his title "Will Nanotechnology Change the World". At the time of writing this very popular annual event is fully booked but returns may be available from Sue Campbell at UCL (tel. 020 7679 4617).

The section heat of "Top of the Bench" is scheduled to take place at St. Benedict's School, Ealing on the evening of Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, and will be preceded by a meal for all those attending. We have moved away from our traditional venue at National Starch & Chemical in Slough for this event in order to accommodate the growing number of entries. Schools are each invited to enter a team of four pupils—two from year 9, one from year 10 and one from year 11. In addition to cash prizes for the winning team and for their school we hope to award a perpetual challenge trophy to be held by the winning school each year. The winning team will be asked to represent the section in the national competition. Last year's winners from Highgate School came a very creditable third in the national competition. Our runners up, Hampton school, went on to achieve second place in the similar South East Education Committee event. We congratulate both teams on their success. Can we do even better this year? If you would like to enter a team please return the slip at the foot of this newsletter or contact me by Email.

I take this opportunity to express our thanks to Peter Palasz and his colleagues at National Starch & Chemical who have very kindly hosted "Top of the Bench" and helped with the marking for many years, in doing so they made a major contribution to the success of this popular event.

Chemistry Week 2005 went off very well with a wide range of events in schools and institutions around the section, we are already beginning to plan ahead for Chemistry Week 2007. If your school would like to get involved please contact me as soon as possible. The Section has funds available to support chemistry related events for pupils and/or parents not only during Chemistry Week but also at other times during the year. Events already arranged include performances of "Pretty, Pretty, Bang, Bang", an illustrated talk on fireworks, to be given in early November and a talk on the chemistry of wine. For junior schools events on offer include the Bubble Show, and performances by Gary the Musical Clown and his assistant Suzy the Scientist. For details of other shows/demonstrations available please email me. We also welcome ideas for new events.

Lawson Cockcroft and Irfan Latif are planning an ICT event for teachers at St Benedict's School in the new year. Lawson and Irfan will be covering a range of ICT topics of particular interest to chemistry teachers. For further details contact Irfan at [ilatif@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:ilatif@stbenedicts.org.uk)

Once again the Biological & Medical Chemistry Section (BMCS) of the RSC Industrial Technology Forum is seeking bids for small sums of money (typically £50--£500) to promote chemistry in schools by funding enhanced equipment & materials, or supporting a range of school activities including science clubs and touring demonstrations. Further details are available from Dr. Helen Hailes at University College London, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1 0AJ, or preferably by email at [h.c.hailes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:h.c.hailes@ucl.ac.uk)

This month the RSC is launching RSCChemNet, a scheme designed to deliver support to students studying chemistry beyond GCSE level. Benefits include *Chemistry World*, *InfoChem*, local section contacts, revision advice, a university choice exhibition, RSC podcasts and CDs/DVDs etc. Students can join for £10 per year or £15 for 2 years. If details have not already reached you they should do so shortly.

Details of a CLEAPPS event at St Benedict's School, Ealing in the late afternoon of Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of November can be obtained from Irfan Latif at [ilatif@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:ilatif@stbenedicts.org.uk) Other forthcoming events of interest to science teachers include the Association for Science Education meeting in Birmingham from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> January and, nearer home, the British Education & Training Technology ( BETT) exhibition at Olympia on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Pre-book at [http://bettshow.com/show\\_home1.asp](http://bettshow.com/show_home1.asp) for quick admission. The BETT meeting is concerned with ICT at all levels and all curriculum areas, and provides access to a range of useful free resources.

Following the closure of King's College Chemistry Dept. a large amount of laboratory glassware became available and had to be cleared at very short notice. Most of this was collected by schools within the section. However the remainder was transferred to UCL Chemistry Dept. and is available for collection by schools. Items remaining are mainly volumetric glassware with a preponderance of 50ml and 100ml volumetric flasks. Interested parties should contact Andrea Sella ([a.sella@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.sella@ucl.ac.uk)) as soon as possible.

Finally, if you are interested in joining the Chilterns & Middlesex Education Committee please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for the new school year.

Yours sincerely

Stephen D. Robinson  
Chairman, C&M Education Committee

---

To Dr S. D. Robinson, 40 Derwent Avenue, Kingston Vale, London SW15 3RD  
Email: [stephenrobinson\\_3@hotmail.com](mailto:stephenrobinson_3@hotmail.com)

I wish to receive further details of the "Top of the Bench" competition

Name of  
teacher:.....

School:.....

Address:.....

Tel. .... email.....