

	Chairman's Report 2017	Date: 13 th February 2018 Reference: Chair 2017 Revision: Final Page: 1 of 8
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Introduction

This is my first report as Chair of WSF, I was fortunate enough to be Vice-chair to Kevin Prior for several years and could not have asked for a better mentor. I hope I can continue to develop this interest group by chairing a committed and enthusiastic committee to represent our members' interests and serve the water community by providing relevant and topical events. In order to do this effectively we have now implemented the 5 five plan as submitted to RSC in 2017. One of the major alterations as outlined in the plan was the development of a scientific programme of events. A new sub committee was formed with the remit of initiating and progressing events and scientific interests of members, and to advise on and influence the application of chemistry in water-related industries in the public interest. This is to be achieved by running appropriate scientific, educational and training events. I am extremely pleased that we have a committee member dedicated to early career engagement and already have an event timetabled for 2018. There is also a newsletter, a webpage

(<http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/WaterScience/index.asp>) and a social network page (<http://my.rsc.org/groups/home/74>) on the MyRSC platform.

WSF operates two bursary schemes, the Alan Tetlow Bursary, and the Developing Water Scientists Awards, which are aimed at assisting the development of the skills and professional standing of aspiring water scientists. The bursaries have been used to part fund specialist training, and to support academic and technical development projects. Science teachers can also access these bursary schemes to assist students in less favoured areas. WSF also runs ad-hoc poster prizes and offers concession rates at events for students and low income individuals.

Finance

The majority of the WSF's income is derived from the surplus generated by its events and seminars programme, in particular its international multi-day events. Our main expenses are administration costs, followed by bursaries and external influencing activities.

Book Balances Situation as at 31st December 2017

NatWest Current a/c	£ 2704.19
RSC Deposit a/c	£ 42087.29
	£ 44,791.48

Movement of Funds (Whole of 2017)

From RSC Deposit	£ 7,000
To Nat West (Interest Group)	£ 7,000

Major Income:

Interest from RSC account (End of Year)	£ 244.76
RSC Interest Groups grant	£ 3,274.38
Net Income from events	£ 3,571.96
	£ 7,091.10

	Chairman's Report 2017	Date: 13 th February 2018 Reference: Chair 2017 Revision: Final Page: 2 of 8
---	-------------------------------	--

Major Expenditure:

External Influencing	£ 2,024.60
Bursaries	£ 3,000.00
Administration costs	<u>£ 9,011.27</u>
	£ 14,035.87

Anticipated Income and Expenditure

Our income comes from the RSC Interest Groups grant, interest on savings and surpluses from events. In 2017 the only event income came from the very popular, Microplastics Workshop.

It should be noted that the RSC grant is significantly less than our administration costs. It should also be noted that the Forum's finances are not operating on a sustainable basis currently. If spending continues at current rates, activities can only continue for three more years.

In order for the group to remain viable we need to generate ~8K per annum.

Events & Scientific Programme

I am pleased to say WSF has had a successful few years with membership at 872 and our events well attended. WSF was involved in organising and presenting the following events in 2017 as shown below. A number of events were also badged by WSF as a way of supporting those events whose objectives were aligned with WSF, without entering into any financial liability.

Event Name	What's new in the analysis of complex environmental matrices?, London
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day, 3rd March 2017
Comments	Excellent well attended conference at BH ~70 delegates and a healthy surplus was attained. External publicity articles written afterwards to promote both RSC and WSF, SSG, ECG. A follow event will be held in Feb/March 2019. This was a no financial liability badged event.



Chairman's Report 2017

Date: 13th February 2018

Reference: Chair 2017

Revision: Final

Page: 3 of 8

Event Name	Micro-plastic pollution: Everyone's Problem – but what can done about it?, London
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day, 16 th October 2017
Comments	Excellent well attended conference at BH ~75 delegates and a healthy surplus was attained. Lots of external publicity and articles written afterwards to promote both RSC and WSF. A follow event focusing on standards and analytical methods is proposed.

The number and scope of our activities continues to expand and diversify due to our collaboration with other Royal Society of Chemistry interest groups, plus organisations such as the SCI, IChemE Water Special Interest Group, IWW (Mulheim) and the Institute of Water Management. We are currently reaching out to the Agricultural Sector where common interests such as the anti-microbial resistance and water catchment event can be supported by both parties.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

One of the primary aims of WSF is to support the CPD of its members. The scientific programme, regional meetings and on-line webinars, often in conjunction with the IChemE Water Special Interest Group help achieve this. It includes on-going topics of interest and occasional site visits. WSF particularly encourages those members following Open Access, part-time routes to gain qualifications plus career break returners etc. to apply for support from its bursary schemes.

2018 Activities

Listed below are the events planned for 2018

Event Name	Water and Health Workshop, Bristol
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day, 31 st January 2018
Comments	Joint with SWIG, hosted by UWE, Bristol. Want to attract ~ 40 delegates. Finances split between both organising groups.
Event Name	Driving innovation in water and waste analysis methods - Standing Committee of Analysts future plans and the 21st century water and waste analytical laboratory (SCI, London)
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - multi day, 13th/14th March 2018
Comments	Joint with SCI and the Standing Committee of Analysts.

	Chairman's Report 2017	Date: 13 th February 2018 Reference: Chair 2017 Revision: Final Page: 4 of 8
---	-------------------------------	--

Event Name	Flow-cytometry for assessing microbiology of drinking water – from source to tap, London
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day, 15 th May 2018
Comments	This will be the second event in a series centred on flow cytometry BH. Want to attract ~ 40 delegates.

Event Name	Micro-plastics in the environment follow up event
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day – 24 th May 2018
Comments	The second event in the series will focus on methods for detection of plastics and micro-plastics in the aquatic environment. The scene setting will discuss the existing methods for sampling and analysis of micro-plastics. The feedback is that the water industry is interested in this area and there is interest from RSC and the Environment Agency as well as British Standards Institute. An UKWIR working group is going through a review of the current state of the art methods

Event Name	Pharmaceuticals and Anti-microbial Resistance in the Aquatic Environment - linked to river catchment management
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - 1 day – October 2018
Comments	To be arranged in conjunction with the Agriculture Sector. Graham Mills and Gary Fones to lead on linking to AS and event planning. Expected to be held at BH.

Event Name	Environmental Technology Publications called “Water, Wastewater and Environmental Monitoring Conference – 8th international conference”.
Event Type (key)	Scientific Conference - multi day – 21 st and 22 nd November 2018
Comments	The Science Programme Group are happy to badge the conferences as long as there is no financial liability. Likely to be a large audience and normally a highly successful event.

	Chairman's Report 2017	Date: 13 th February 2018 Reference: Chair 2017 Revision: Final Page: 5 of 8
---	-------------------------------	--

Event Name	Early Career Workshop – for those interested in the water industry, Scottish water, Scotland
Event Type (key)	Training/workshop- 1 day, May/June 2018 – Graduation time or October 2018 – for new university intakes
Comments	~ 50 delegates. Target Audience: - under/post Graduates (ECN Members) - Higher Education (college/S4/S5/S6) - Teachers

Member communications

WSF has a dedicated sub group focused on member communications. They produce a newsletter twice a year, support the group's web page, MyRSC page, and create messages for dissemination via the Royal Society of Chemistry grapevine system and bulk e-mail processes. A new Editorial team has revamped our newsletter and we are now on social media with facebook and twitter.

WSF has an active and collaborative relationship with the Royal Society of Chemistry Publications' new journal, Environmental Science: Water Research & Technology.

External Influencing (Policy Science Interface)

WSF is active in the field of policy science interface, sometimes referred to as external influencing. In addition to our scientific programme, members represent the Royal Society of Chemistry and, in some cases the UK, on international bodies.

The WSF committee continues to supply invaluable input and support for the European and International standardization activities. Members were supported to enable attendance at the TC207/SC4 meeting in South Korea plus the ISO TC147, Water Quality meetings in Sydney, Australia. At the European level the WSF supported the Chairman of the Strategic Advisory Board at CEN to attend meetings with DG ENV and other highly influential meetings. These meeting discuss emerging and high priority topics such as the plastic strategy, circular economy, REACH, smart cities and green infrastructure. All of which are highly relevant to the work of the RSC.

Many of these standards will go on to become European standards in support of the Water Framework Directive.

Several committee members will be attending the joint ISO/CEN water quality conference in Edinburgh in April 2018 with appropriate support.

Finally, the WSF Committee continues to keep abreast of the likely impact of new legislation and sponsors topical conferences and workshops addressing emerging issues. In particular, the impact of Brexit on U.K. standards and regulations will be closely monitored.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman's Report 2017</p>	<p>Date: 13th February 2018</p> <p>Reference: Chair 2017</p> <p>Revision: Final</p> <p>Page: 6 of 8</p>
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Inclusion and Diversity

WSF fully subscribes to the RSC policies on Diversity and Inclusion and actively tries to arrange its events to be as inclusive as possible. Committee members can now join the meeting via electronic conferencing facilities enabling those who are less able to travel to the meeting venue to participate and the committee also feels that the diversity of the committee itself better represents the membership than it did at the Forum's inception.

Scientific meeting are held throughout the U.K. and Europe at a variety of venues ranging from academic and learned institutes to commercial hotel and conferencing facilities to enable the widest possible participation in these events. Members can often benefit from discounted delegate fees at both our own and our collaboration partners' events.

Bursaries, Prizes and other grants

WSF is pleased to announce its new "Water for Life" award which will be made bi-annually to a person who has given a life time of support to developing water scientists. WSF continues to offer a series of ad-hoc poster prizes which are particularly aimed at early career scientists, including those aiming for registration under the Registered Science Technician and Registered Scientist schemes although not limited to them.

The Alan Tetlow Bursary will continue as it is currently constituted. In 2017 the Alan Tetlow was awarded to Cranfield to support study in Australia. Applications which fell outwith the Alan Tetlow Bursary criteria but did fall within the Developing Water Scientist Bursary were redirected without the applicant having to resubmit. Applicants are notified if the committee choose to consider their application under a different bursary scheme.

In past years, successful applications for the Alan Tetlow Bursary were able to identify clearly how they would gain professional development from the granting of a bursary and how the award would assist WSF to fulfil its overall objectives.

The Developing Water Science Bursary will be maintained with the value of the award being judged on its individual merits with a typical value of £2,000. As part of WSF's aim to support inclusion and diversity, this bursary is available to members at any stage in their career including members returning after a career break. However, the facts of any career break must be made clear in the application and suitable supporting evidence provided.

<http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/WaterScience/bursaries.asp>

Members attention is also drawn to the fact the RSC operates a number of grants and educational support schemes, details are available from the RSC's web page <http://www.rsc.org/awards-funding/funding>

Therefore applications for the two WSF bursary schemes which are primarily for travel and/or conference attendance are unlikely to find favour when being considered by the bursary sub-group.

WSF Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Kevin Prior and Adrian Clark

Registered Charity Number 207890

	Chairman's Report 2017	Date: 13 th February 2018 Reference: Chair 2017 Revision: Final Page: 7 of 8
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Thanks

The Chairman would like to thank all members of the WSF for their continued support and record her appreciation to Kevin Prior and Adrian Clark who retired in 2017.

Helen E Keenan

13/02/18

Committee Members 1st January – 31st December 2017.

Position	Name	Affiliation	Dates on committee
Chair	Helen Keenan	University of Strathclyde	As Chairman from 2017
Vice Chair	Simon Gillespie		As Vice Chair from 2017
Secretary	Roger Wellings		As Secretary from 2011
Treasurer	Jonathan Mace	ALS Global	As Treasurer from 2016
Vice Treasurer	Gillian Williamson	Northern Ireland Water Services	As Vice Treasurer from 2017
Vice Secretary	Ian Barnabas	Northumbrian Water	As Vice Secretary from 2014
Ordinary Members	Adrian Clark		2010-
	Richard Allan	James Hutton Institute	2014-
	Margaret McGuinness	Guernsey Water	2016-
	Graham Mills	University of Portsmouth	2014-
	Martin Padley	United Utilities	2012 -
	Mark Smith		Resigned in 2017
	Clive Thompson	ALS Global	2012 -
	Tilele Stevens	Environment Agency	2017-
Early career member rep	Fiona Campbell	Scottish Water	2017-



Chairman's Report 2017

Date: 13th February 2018

Reference: Chair 2017

Revision: Final

Page: 8 of 8

Co-opted members and their affiliation			
	Natasha Page	Anglian Water	2017-
	Gary Fones	University of Portsmouth	2017-
Honorary Emeritus Founding Member	Paul Bolas		1988 -
Corresponding Members	John Gray		2009-
	Kevin Prior		2017-
	Adrian Clark		2017-

Working Group Members:

- **Finance:** Mace (chairman), Williamson, Keenan, Gillespie, McGuinness
- **Awards and Bursary:** Gillespie (chairman), Keenan, Barnabas, Mace, McGuinness
- **Science Programme group:** Mills (chairman), Allan, Padley, Gillespie, Clark, Thompson, Fones, Stevens, Barnabas
- **Newsletter:** Page, Fones
- **Web Page and Social Media:** Mace (webmaster)

***** *End of report* *****