



ChemNet News.

Issue 4 - January 2007

Welcome to Issue 4.

2007 already? How did that happen? Gorged on Chocolate and Turkey? Nothing left to look forward to except AS and A2 exams? Fear not, ChemNet news is here to bring a little light relief into the long, grey slog of January.

ChemNet events.

Just before Christmas we had our inaugural ChemNet event at Birmingham University. This was a real success with over 20 people attending, representing a great mix of ChemNet members, local RSC members, RSC staff, and even a ChemNet member's mum! Not bad considering it was Christmas party time, and there were lots of gigs on, (those of you who didn't come because you went to a gig know who you are!). We had a great talk on the greenhouse effect and a tasty buffet afterwards, courtesy of the RSC West Midlands local section. There's going to be more info and a couple of fine!?! photos on the website (David Bailey I ain't). Check it out. Future events will include some more University visits and visits to industry, amongst others.

Chemistry in the News.

Well I thought I'd bring a little colour and light into your dark winter nights. I've got to write this before January, so have no idea what chemistry is currently in the news but I bet there is some; maybe there's been a cure for the common cold discovered, or we've been visited by aliens who have shown us how to scrub CO₂ from the atmosphere, or maybe they've finally stopped finding new sites in London contaminated with Polonium 210. One thing I can be fairly sure about is that January has seen some fireworks wherever you are. Fireworks are great because they show how chemistry you learn in the school lab actually gets used in the real world. The colours are related to the elements and compounds used in the different fireworks; remember all those endless experiments putting metals in Bunsen flames to see what colour the flame would go? Loads more information about the chemistry of fireworks can be found here.

http://www.chemsoc.org/ExemplarChem/entries/2004/icl_Gondhia/history.html

ChemNet on the web.

January is major revision time for a lot of you, so this month I'm plugging the revision sites listed on the RSC education department's website. Saves you wasting time on Google, when you should be revising. These can be found here:

<http://www.rsc.org/Education/SchoolStudents/Revision.asp>

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For those of you, who are looking further ahead and thinking about careers, check out this site:

www.noisemakers.org.uk

Full of useful info if you're thinking about a career in science or engineering, or Chemistry!

Careers spot: (kind of!)

STOP PRESS: Universities recognise ChemNet membership, well at least one does! Yes folks, it's official, whilst talking to a University Admissions tutor in a Chemistry dept before Christmas, they mentioned to me that a number of their applicants had mentioned ChemNet membership on their UCAS form. Whoever you are, we salute you!

On a more serious note, ChemNet membership is worth mentioning on your UCAS form if you are looking to study chemical sciences at university. It shows you have a real interest in the subject and will also show you have the ability to read around your subject, trust me that's really useful at Uni. Not proper career stuff really I know, but I'm sure you all know the value of going to Uni to secure the best careers, so I figure it's close enough.

Competition time - AGAIN.

Is chemistry cool? Well I know it is, and as you've joined ChemNet, I'm pretty sure you do too. Tell us why it is in 15 words or less and you can win more HMV vouchers. 3 of them will be up for grabs. Post your answer on the competition strand in the Your ChemNet strand on the discussion board and the coolest answer, as judged by, er, me, will win £20. £10 for two runners up. Closing date is 20th January.

Discussion Board.

If you still haven't got your login name and password; email me with your preferred username at chemnet@rsc.org; and I'll do the rest. There's a whole range of topics for discussion already on there, some of it isn't even chemistry related! Get signed up so you can enter the fray.

And Finally....

I thought I'd open ChemNet news up to you for February. Anyone got any ideas for stuff they want covered? Anyone got any funny stories from University visits? Anyone fancy sharing their thoughts on anything chemistry related with the rest of ChemNet? I guess you know the email by now!

Got a chemistry related problem? Email us at: chemnet@rsc.org.

Or post it on the discussion board!



Robert

