

ChemNet News. *Issue 3*

Welcome to Issue 3.

Well big news this month, the discussion board is up and running and we have our first ChemNet event confirmed. There's more information about both of them below. We've also got our own email now: **chemnet@rsc.org**

ChemNet events.

More are on the way for the New Year, honest! Let me know if there's anywhere you want to go to. In the meantime, here are details of the first one:

Tuesday 12th December

Birmingham and West Midlands Section are hosting this event at Birmingham University Chemistry Department at 7pm, but all ChemNet members are welcome. There's no charge and ChemNet members are encouraged to bring a non-ChemNet member along as a guest. There will be a talk from Prof. Richard Tuckett entitled:

The myths and facts of the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion

Email me if you want to come along, there's a free buffet after!

All of which leads us on nicely to our theme for Chemistry in the News.

Chemistry in the News.

There's a lot of discussion about climate change at the moment with the publication of the Stern report into the economical impact of man-made climate change, Centrica's plans to build a new power station, the country's first clean coal-fired power plant with carbon dioxide emissions captured and stored beneath the North Sea, and a new climate change bill being announced in the Queen's speech in November to the House of Lords.

Meanwhile, you have the Daily Telegraph and other newspapers publishing articles calling into question the assumption that climate change is a man made phenomenon. Is it a coincidence those newspapers might be read by a higher proportion of 4x4 owners than other publications? I don't know, but I do know that it goes to show when forming opinions about emotive subjects we need to check the facts and the science used to produce them. Check out what happened to Greenpeace when they didn't on the news section of the RSC website:

<http://www.rsc.org/AboutUs/News/PressReleases/2006/index.asp>

As for me, where do I sit regarding climate change? Well, I'll keep my opinions to myself as I walk around outside in late-November in just my shirt-sleeves.

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ChemNet on the web.

We're doing a spot on the ChemNet website this month! We now have over 1000 members of ChemNet and numbers continue to rise. That means the discussion board on **www.rsc.org/chemnet** is now up and running and you can register to get on it. It's a closed board for ChemNet members only, so there'll be no parents or teachers checking up on what you post there. To gain access to it you need to email me with a preferred user name (otherwise I'll just make one up for you; and you might not like it!) and I'll send you an email back with your user name and password. The password can be changed once you've logged on. Email me at **chemnet@rsc.org** and get connected.

Careers spot.

Here's a thought for the many of you out there who are studying Chemistry to go on to another career such as medicine or becoming a vet, and I know you're out there! What happens if once you've qualified as a doctor you realise don't want to spend all day on the net checking Google for cures and it's not right for you? Your vocational degree will qualify you to be a doctor or a vet or a dentist, but if you want to change your mind at a later date your options might be limited. However, if you study Chemistry at degree level, once you graduate, your career options aren't reduced, in fact quite the opposite; a huge range of careers open up for you. It could be a research career at university or in industry, or you could be solving environmental problems as an environmental consultant. I could go on, but space is limited here in ChemNet News. A much better option for you is to check out the RSC's vast cornucopia of career information here:

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

Competition time.

The deadline for the newsletter was earlier than the closing date for last months competition so the winners will be told after 20th November and details posted on the discussion board for all to see in case you thought I was going to keep the prizes for myself.

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

Or post it on the discussion board!

Well that's it for this month, I'm off to Glasgow for the RSC's General Assembly, where I'll be meeting lots of RSC Local Section committee members who will be helping organise your events next year.

R. Bowler.