Welcome to our latest Local Section Newsletter, intended to keep you up-to-date with recent and planned events in the region that we hope will be of interest. Please take time to look through the events you may have missed and note in your diaries forthcoming events. Please contact the organiser of any event with questions or for further information.

We would welcome your feedback and suggestions, particularly for events or membership categories that are not catered for at the moment. Please contact any of the committee members listed below.

**WHAT HAVE I MISSED?**

**March 15th**  
Retired Members Lunch, Stuckton  
organised by Ian Anderson  
ian_anderson@consult-igma.co.uk

**March 23rd**  
Schools Lecture on "Colourful Chemistry" by Dr Hoare and Dr. Willis  
organised by David Read  
D.Read@soton.ac.uk

**April 8th**  
Mini-symposium Advanced Potential Energy Surfaces by D Head-Gordon  
organised by Dr Ilya Kuprov

**April 13th**  
Social event at NOCS  
Speaker Dr Mike Rumsey (Natural History Museum) ‘New materials from nature – the science behind discovery’  
organised by Phil Warwick  
P.Warwick@noc.soton.ac.uk

**April 18th**  
Mini-symposium Prof L.Emsley and Prof Barboiu  
organised by Jon Kitchen  
J.A.Kitchen@soton.ac.uk

**April 19th**  
Careers Development event organised by Russell Minns

**May 14th**  
Annual spring Lunch, Stuckton organised by Ian Anderson

**June 8th**  
Education/Outreach symposium Inaugural Lecture of Prof. D.Read and a keynote lecture from Dr M.Seery (Edinburgh)  
organised by Jon Kitchen and David Read

**June 24th**  
Mini-symposium on Supramolecular Chemistry  
organised by Jon Kitchen
FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARIES

September 7th       Coach visit to the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery.

October 5th         Visit to Fibercore, Chilworth, Southampton

November 10th       Chemistry and Industry event at NOCS, Southampton University;

January 7th         Family Lecture
Retired Members Lunch, Stuckton.  March 15th

The Three Lions Restaurant, a hidden retreat in the New Forest National Park was once again the venue for the latest retired members spring lunch. A total of twenty nine members and wives enjoyed the hospitality of Jane and Mike Womersley.

Schools Lecture on "Colourful Chemistry"  March 23rd

Dr. Hoare and Dr. Willis (Newcastle and Northumbria Universities) presented a very entertaining and informative lecture which was well received. There were around 100 attendees from a number of local secondary schools.

Mini-symposium Advanced Potential Energy Surfaces  April 8th

The second RSC mini-Symposium, in what is becoming an annual series on Computational Chemistry, was held jointly by the Computational Chemistry Group, the ESR Spectroscopy Group and the Mid-Southern Counties Division of the RSC at the University of Southampton. The symposium featured a plenary lecture by Teresa Head-Gordon (Berkeley, US) on 'Statistical fluctuations, dynamics, and de novo enzyme catalysis', and was attended by about 60 researchers from all career stages.

Mini-symposium  April 18th

Prof Lyndon Emsley, Bourke Award (EPFL, Lausanne), and four local speakers. This was an enjoyable event with 50 attendees. Prof Mihail Barboiu (CNRS), another RSC award winner, was scheduled to speak at this event but had to withdraw at short notice.

Mini-symposium on Supramolecular Chemistry

The meeting was held on 24th June and featured talks and posters from PhD students and postdocs working across a broad range of supramolecular topics and a plenary lecture from Professor AP de Silva (Queen's University Belfast).
This year’s conference was attended by around 70 chemistry teachers from across the region and further afield, with attendees from Cambridge and Cheltenham illustrating the popularity and reach of the event. The opening session in the morning was delivered by David Paterson, Chemistry Specialist at OCR, and focussed on the impact of changes to A-level that have taken place this year. There was a particular focus on practical work and the nature of the new ‘practical endorsement’. This was followed by a brief summary of Royal Society of Chemistry activities by Sarah Thomas, the RSC South West Education Coordinator. The final session before lunch comprised short presentations outlining ‘best practice’ from the classroom delivered by teachers.

The afternoon session was an ‘Education & Outreach’ symposium, which featured a Keynote from Dr Michael Seery, University of Edinburgh, and a Plenary lecture from Prof David Read, University of Southampton. Other presenters were Prof Gareth Price, University of Bath and RSC Education Division President, and Dr Kristy Turner, University of Manchester.

Feedback was extremely positive, with one teacher commenting “Thank you very much for organising such an excellent conference. I found it thoroughly enjoyable and very interesting. It has given me lots of new ideas to try out.”

Social event at NOCS  April 13th

Dr Mike Rumsey, Collections Manager, Minerals and Meteorites and Senior Curator at the Natural History Museum gave a stimulating talk on the history and discovery of naturally occurring minerals and showed how new minerals are being exploited by Material Sciences as they have novel chemical structures and potentially new applications. He showed how new research studies link the science of Chemistry with Mineralogy. He began “The Earth is an amazing chemistry set for novel compounds” and predicted “by current statistics, there are probably a lot more undiscovered minerals to be found.”

After the talk, there was a generous buffet in the NOCS canteen overlooking the docks. The RRV Discovery was alongside so the 20 attendees were treated to a rare opportunity to see one of their research vessels in Southampton.
Careers Development event
On Tuesday 19th April the RSC held a careers workshop based around “Selling your Skills”. The workshop focussed on how best to highlight your key transferable skills and was led by Laura Woodward, an RSC careers specialist. The workshop covered key aspects of CV’s, interview skills and the resources available to all RSC members. There were 15 attendees. Following Laura’s presentation there were three talks from people who have taken very different career paths. Dr Oliver Lanning gave an insight into working within the civil service at DSTL, Dr Dave Stanton from Ilika, gave his perspective on job hunting and how this can be a full time job, while Dr Alex Dickinson from Southampton highlighted his career path into academia and his interactions with various industrial partners and knowledge transfer schemes. Each gave their own perspective on the various times they have taken a change in career path and how best to maximise your chances and visibility in the job market.

Dr Dave Stanton (Ilika) gave his perspective of selling yourself and the benefits of professional social media.

Annual spring Lunch, Stuckton May 14th
This was a very enjoyable and successful event, which provided a good opportunity to meet with old friends and colleagues. The food, drink and venue were all excellent. 29 people attended and the food and venue were excellent.
Mid-Southern Counties Section Committee for 2016/2017

Chair
Prof David Read
D.Read@soton.ac.uk

Vice Chair
Prof John Dyke
jmdyke@soton.ac.uk

Secretary
Mr Trevor Enos
trevor.enos@ntlworld.com

Treasurer
Dr Louisa Wronska
L.Wronska@battelleuk.com

Minutes Secretary
vacant

Benevolent Fund
Dr Rob Newberry
rnewberry@talktalk.net

Scientific Lectures
Dr Jon Kitchen
J.A.Kitchen@soton.ac.uk

Education
Dr Mark Howson
M.Howson@pgs.org.uk

Chemistry Futures
Dr Russell Minns
R.S.Minns@soton.ac.uk

Dr Chris Howle
CRHOWLE@mail.dstl.gov.uk

Family Lecture
Dr Ben Littlefield
benlittlefield@winchestersciencecentre.org

Ordinary Members
Mr Robert Hammond-Smith
Robert.Hammond-Smith@merckgroup.com

Dr Mariana Ghosh
M.V.Ghosh@soton.ac.uk

Prof. Phil Warwick
P.Warwick@noc.soton.ac.uk