

## RSC funding support for Catalyst Science Discovery Centre

As part of its wider support for chemistry education and the encouragement of an engagement with science in general, the RSC nationally has provided a one-off, revenue grant to the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre of £40,000. In addition to this, the RSC is supporting Catalyst in its bid to secure more corporate funding to ensure its long-term sustainability

by providing access to an external fundraising service.

This two-prong support will hopefully enable Catalyst to continue to deliver high-quality science education and to commemorate the heritage of the chemical industry in the North West whilst working towards a more stable future over the next few years.

Both Catalyst and the RSC nationally are also looking at what other opportunities exist whereby they can work together to raise an awareness of chemistry, the careers it offers to young people and the benefits it brings to the general public and society as a whole.

*Stephen Youd-Thomas, Director, Catalyst Science Discovery Centre*

## Students see science in action!

School pupils from across the North West were invited to experience science in action at the annual "Science at Work" event organised by Catalyst Science Discovery Centre from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Approximately 750 school pupils and teachers attended the event which was this year sponsored by Pentagon Fine Chemicals.



Fine Chemicals General Manager, Nick Lindop said, "Pentagon Chemicals were delighted to work with Catalyst to deliver this year's Science at Work week. We've had a presence at the event for many years and have seen the positive impact it has on the hundreds of young people who attend from across the North West each year. It is a great way of engaging students with hands-on science that has real world applications."

The event provided opportunity for youngsters from the North West to be inspired, meet employees,

understand the relevance of science in their everyday lives and discover the diverse range of career options available within science based industries. With the support from Pentagon, Catalyst were able to offer this event free of charge to the school pupils and in many cases, help towards the cost of coach transport too.

Stephen Youd-Thomas, Director of Catalyst said, "Science at Work Week is a wonderful opportunity to bring industry together with young people interested in pursuing a career in science and technology. The support of companies such as Pentagon Chemicals in bringing this event to fruition is invaluable. It clearly demonstrates that the chemical sector in the North West continues to thrive and that it has the confidence and vision to encourage pupils from the region to become the technicians and scientists of tomorrow."



Speaking after the event, Fiona Mochrie a teacher at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School said, "Thank you for the invite to Science at Work Week, it was really excellent this year – even better than last year. There were so many interactive activities and the people in the studio were so helpful, fun and enthusiastic. The students had a great time; thank you for organising such a great event."

*Meryl Jameson, Catalyst Science Discovery Centre*

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## N W Chemistry News editor, Grahame Stanley, retires after 12 years

Members of the RSC North West Trust were unanimous in their desire to record our grateful thanks and appreciation to Dr Grahame Stanley, the recently retired editor of N W Chemistry News.

NW Chemistry News was launched in June 1990 under the auspices of the then North West Industrial Division of RSC. Forty two issues have been produced over a period of twenty two years, with over half of the issues, twenty five in fact, being edited by Grahame from 1999 and this year's March issue.

Organisational changes within RSC at the end of 1995, resulted in the emergence of sector groups, with the North West Industrial Division morphing into the RSC Speciality Chemicals Sector Group which continued to develop its programme of international speciality chemical conferences and its subsidiary NW Trust, which continued to support the good works of the former division and to take on publication of



this newsletter. Issue 10 in March 1996 was the first issue published by the NW Trust by the then editor, Bill Hoyle.

Due to the indisposition of the then secretary and honorary treasurer of the Trust in late 1998, Grahame joined the NW Trust to take on both roles; roles he continues to fill to the present day. In the following year Bill Hoyle resigned as editor, having produced nine issues, and having expressed his wish to reduce his commitments to RSC, at which point already multi-tasking Grahame volunteered to become editor.

During Grahame's stewardship, he built on the firm foundations laid down by

his predecessors, producing 16 or 20 page news-packed issues, soliciting news of future events happening throughout the North West, including programmes and call-for-papers for major Speciality Chemicals Sector Group international conferences, and lively reviews of past conferences and regional events. Since June 1990, print runs have averaged out at about 6,000 copies and have been distributed to chemists throughout the length and breadth of our region. Without playing down the input of our many contributors throughout the years, Grahame has played a pivotal role in the continued success of this newsletter and we extend our grateful thanks to him and wish him well in his retirement, having relocated to Hornsea on the East Yorkshire coast.

Pat Keen has now agreed to take on the editorship for issues 43 and 44 and has already started to solicit and collate articles, including this

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**NW Trust Committee:**

Dr. D.R. Karsa, Chairman  
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Dr. H. Fielding

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Dr. W. Hoyle

Dr. B.C. Lane

Mr. A. McCudden

Dr. S.V. Moore

Mr. S. Wilson

**Editor:** Mrs. P.M. Keen

Tel: 01606 888005, or  
07815 810856

Email:  
patricia.keen@virgin.net

one, for the issue you are now reading! We all support and wish Pat well in her endeavours.

*David Karsa  
Chairman, RSC N W Trust*

## 2011 NWAD Christmas Lecture

At the 2011 NWAD Christmas Lecture, Dr Peter Gardner, Reader in the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science at The University of Manchester, gave an engaging and enlightening talk on 'Spectral Histopathology: Shedding New Light on Prostate Cancer'. He explained the developments made towards the use of infrared spectroscopy as an accurate, faster and less costly diagnostic tool for prostate cancer. The lecture, which took place at the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre of The University of Manchester, was well attended by 57 members and their guests, who also enjoyed the buffet, mince pies and the raffle.

*Elisa C Faria-Billinton, RSC NWRAD*

## North Wales News

Following the recent AGM, we welcome Jesus Cirre and Lorrie Murphy to the team of officers at the North Wales Section. They will be sharing the role of secretary and taking over from Malcolm Jones. Jesus will be the Correspondence Secretary, and Lorrie, the Minutes Secretary. Malcolm has done a really terrific job for the section over the last 7 years and we are very grateful to him - many thanks Malcolm! We are very pleased that he will be staying on the committee. Also, we welcome John Chesworth to the committee.

*Erica Roberts, NWales Local Section*

## RSC visit to MediaCity, Salford



A party of 20 RSC members and guests visited Media City on Saturday 14th July. The group were given an guided tour of the BBC studios and some were able to try their skill at reading the news, reporting the weather and taking part in 'A Question of Sport'.

*Walter Cuthbert, RSC Manchester*

## Successful Schools Science Festival sponsored by the RSC's North West Trust

In March 2012, as part of the Schools Science Festival in North Wales, the RSC's North West Trust kindly sponsored 'Acid Fizz!', 'Supermarket Chemistry' and 'Elements & Materials'. Over 330 primary age children enjoyed two-hour sessions of presentations and practical work in simple chemistry.



In 'Supermarket Chemistry' many of the children, and even the teachers, thought that the large bottle of vodka was filled with water until it was used as a solvent, to dissolve a poorly water-soluble dye from the supermarket spice section. This was surely a more fitting use of vodka than turning it into acetaldehyde in our brains. Children were surprised to find that the number of chemicals available for purchase far exceeds a million and that even a vegetable, or a piece of meat, in the supermarket may contain 20 000 natural chemicals, albeit some at very low concentration. Even the humble chemical catalogue evoked a fascination among several children who were desperate to know how they could acquire one. Tapping into the website is apparently not the same in their eyes, as leafing through the fat catalogue with its novel language and a myriad of possibilities.



A survey conducted with a short questionnaire with about a 100 children revealed most didn't know what a chemist does or where they might work. Of those that did give an answer the majority believed that chemists worked in the high street retail chemists.

'Acid Fizz!' introduced a range of acids and their effect on carbonates. Children enjoyed measuring the concentration of vitamin C (ascorbic acid) in a proprietary



fizzy tablet. In one school, the frequent irritation of science presenters reared its head in the form of the usual, 'Can we just take out a few for music now?' A few in this case being 15 children! The teacher, on hearing loud grumbling from the children, gave them a free choice: either stay and do their experiments or go to music. The result was heartening: Chemistry 15, Music 0.



'Elements and Materials' positively raced through the elements with several toxic elements shown in heavily protected containers. Fifty to sixty years ago most primary children would have seen mercury in school barometers and from broken thermometers at home. Now widely restricted and rarely seen, the element was a great hit with children who were fascinated by the liquid metal's movement. It was interesting to overhear their thought processes with some trying to understand the element by thinking it was actual molten silver!



Overall, the children were fascinated by the basic introduction to chemistry and those that have gone through a session will at least know that chemists have a far wider and more complex role in the world than just on the high street.

*Steve Conway, SSF Organiser*

## Science Museum project uncovers future environmental journalists

In autumn 2011, students representing secondary schools from across the UK were set the challenge of becoming science journalists as part of a Climate Science project run by the Science Museum, in partnership with Catalyst Science Discovery Centre, National Railway Museum, At-Bristol and the Museum of Science and Industry. Dani Williams, Science Museum Outreach Project Coordinator said "The Outreach scheme aims to increase young people's understanding of climate science and inspire them to become climate change ambassadors in their schools or communities."

Catalyst worked with seven local high schools on the project this year. The students spent three months researching issues, investigating facts, interviewing experts and gathering photos to report on the climate change stories from their local area.

The resulting range of articles, told in the student's own words, reflected the issues relevant to them, and highlighted the impacts that climate change can have on the lives of young people across the country. Their stories were made into a one-off publication entitled ATMOS and a touring exhibition.



Some articles, submitted by the Science Museum for 'peer review' with the Guardian newspaper (famed for its environmental credentials), achieved gold standard awards from Environmental Editor, John Vidal.

Catalyst is looking to recruit schools for the final year of the Climate Science Outreach Project which starts in October. Any schools interested in more details, please contact Phill Day on 0151 420 1121 or email [phill@catalyst.org.uk](mailto:phill@catalyst.org.uk)

*Meryl Jameson, Catalyst*

## Out and about with the RSC's NW Regional Coordinator

Now that the current academic year is coming to a close, Kat Presland has managed to get out to all the initial teacher training institutes in NW and has talked to over 300 trainee teachers since January 2012. As well as talking at the different universities in the NW that offer teacher training, she also attended the annual ASE conference in Liverpool at the start of January. The conference coincided with the launch of RSC's Learn Chemistry website ([www.rsc.org/learn-chemistry](http://www.rsc.org/learn-chemistry)). This is a platform aimed at all those teaching chemistry in secondary schools and is a mass of worksheets, videos, quizzes, presentations on a large range of topics which can be filtered to specific age groups. Other conferences attended have included a couple of TDA teaching events in March and June, the UCAS conference in March and the IOP teacher's conference in June.

Another great way of meeting teachers has been through the STEM centres and Science Learning Centres. In May and June 2012, she attended 'Getting Business into STEM' and 'Meet the Employers' in Manchester and Chester, which were well attended by both science industries and teachers. University of Manchester and University of Liverpool hosted three and one Salters festivals respectively. These events have given Kat the opportunity to talk to teachers who until now have not been aware of the RSC's Learn Chemistry website.

The North West has also seen a return of Chemistry at Work events. In March, at Daresbury, Mersey STEM organised the 1<sup>st</sup> of four to be held in the region this year. Here we saw BASF, Vauxhall, Solvay and Science2U hold workshops to approx. 125 students in Yr8/9 explaining the way chemistry is used in their industry. In June, University of Manchester held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chemistry at Work event and again BASF and Science2U provided workshops to 119 students alongside TATA Steel and AMEC. These events have generated a great deal of positive feedback from both students and teachers and have shown some students the vast range of exciting careers available with a chemistry degree.

Teacher: "Great for students to see positive role models for chemistry careers and to be able to talk to them."  
Student: "wow, science is sick man!"

'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' continues to be a success in the North West with even more schools requesting workshops and schools asking for repeat visits - it is proving a valuable way for schools with BTEC students to complete multiple aspects of the course in just one workshop! The last school year saw approx. 380 students take part in University of Manchester workshops and this year before the end of June 2012 they provided workshops for almost 520 students! As well as workshops, schools have had the opportunity to borrow the machine and this means that even more students have had access to the portable infra-red machine. University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University are working together to deliver workshops with a portable infra-red and also a ultra-violet spectrometer.

An exciting opportunity for Kat was to attend the BBC's 'Bang Goes the Theory' Roadshows again. This year, the roadshow didn't visit the NW, but Kat was involved on the RSC stands in both Sheffield and Poole. Over 6000 visitors came through the interactive tent over the 3 days in Sheffield and there were approx. 8000 in Poole! It is amazing to see that children, parents and even grandparents get enthusiastic about science when delivered in a simple and concise way. A similar event UoM and RSC took part in was 'Big Bang near me' in Liverpool World Museum in July. The joint stand had lots of hands on experiments for the students to have some fun with chemistry experiments.

In July, Kat hosted three ChemNet Ambassador training sessions in Liverpool, Preston and Manchester. Attendees were trained to go into schools and deliver a chemistry careers presentation, prepared by RSC, with the option to add a few slides regarding their career/company, to either 14-16yr old or 16-18yr student groups. Being a ChemNet ambassador is highly rewarding to those that volunteer and is also a great asset for those working towards Chartered status.

For teachers or people who know chemistry teachers, you may like to know that Kat is promoting a new pilot CPD session to teacher networks in the

NW. Already, networks in Manchester, Oldham and Blackpool have taken advantage of the scheme. Of interest to NQT teachers, there is a CPD session especially for those who have recently qualified as a teacher to further develop expertise in practical chemistry at SLC in Didsbury, Manchester on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Apply now if interested!!

Please contact Kat if you wish to know more about future opportunities, the latest RSC resources, or being more involved with RSC, by email [katayune.presland@manchester](mailto:katayune.presland@manchester)

*Kat Presland, RSC NW Coordinator*

## School successes at Festivals of Chemistry



Almost 60 schools from across the North-West region converged on The University of Manchester's School of Chemistry for three RSC-sponsored Salters' Institute Festivals of Chemistry in June 2012. The winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup> Salters' Challenge:** St Ambrose College, Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, Westholme Upper School.

**University Challenge:** Bury Grammar School Girls' Division, Glossopdale Community College, St Anne's RC High School.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Standish Community High School, Alder Community High School, Bury Grammar School Boys' Division, Shavington High School, King David High School, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Crompton House C of E School, Montgomery High School, Salendine Nook High School, Sale Grammar School, The Hulme Grammar School for Girls, Stretford Grammar School.

All participants received fun prizes and certificates; an engaging day of practical science was rounded off with Dr Mair and Dr Agger's Flash-Bang demonstration-lecture.

*Frank Mair, University of Manchester*

## Another successful year for the region's schools in the RSC Schools Analyst Competition

RSC NW Region Analytical Division is delighted to report on the continued success of our schools in the National Schools Analyst Competition. This year's national final was held in Bristol at the end of June and our region was represented by the winning teams from the four regional heats held earlier in the year at Liverpool, Preston, Bangor and Manchester.

Competing against schools from across the UK, Arnold School from Blackpool, who took second place in the 2011 national final, won this year's event with Altrincham Grammar School for Boys in third place. This is a tremendous result for our region and we congratulate both teams for a great performance.

N.W. Region Schools have now taken first and second places in the 2011 national final and first and third places in the 2012 national final. In acknowledging this great achievement, we would like to thank the students and teachers from all schools in our region who participated in the competition, the organisers and staff involved in hosting the four regional heats, and our sponsors throughout the region for their generous support to this event.

As the winning team, Arnold School will now receive the Gerry Davison Memorial Award, which is made jointly by the N.W. Region Analytical Division and the N.W. Trust of the Industry and Technology Division to the team from our region which finishes in the highest podium position at the national final.

*Stuart Forbes,  
RSC NW Region Analytical Division*

## Schools Analyst Competition 2012 Manchester Heat

The 2012 Manchester heat of the Schools' Analyst Competition took place on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April at the Division of Chemistry & Environmental

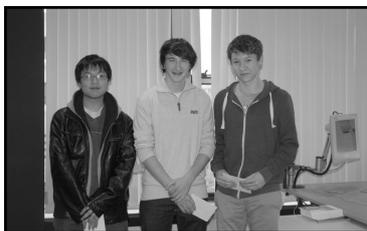
Science of the Manchester Metropolitan University with kind sponsorship from the RSC Analytical Trust Fund and Melford Laboratories Ltd.

This year, it being the year of the Olympics, the theme of the competition was doping analysis. Sixteen schools competed for the first place and the opportunity to represent the NW region at the national final, which took place at the University of Bristol on the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June. Students were asked to identify suspect powder by FTIR-ATR; determine the content of ibuprofen in tablets by titration; and to quantify capsaicin in 'horse urine' by HPLC.

The winners of this year's competition were:

1. Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
2. Winstanley College
3. Withington Girls School.

Winstanley College also received the prize for good laboratory practice and Loreto College received the prize for accuracy. After lunch the students and teachers were able to enjoy three excellent talks. Dr David Johnson (Principal Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry at MMU) gave a talk on 'Drugs in Sport'; Dr Oliver Sutcliffe (Lecturer in Pharmaceutical and Analytical Chemistry at MMU) gave a talk on 'Legal Highs - Analytical and Forensic Challenges'; and Katayune Presland (RSC ChemNet Ambassador and RSC NW Regional Coordinator) gave a talk on 'RSC ChemNet'. A great time was had by students, teachers and the organisers!



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys has since represented the NW region at the national final of the Schools Analyst Competition and obtained a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Well done!

*Elisa C Faria-Billinton, Chair  
RSC NW Region Analytical Division*

## RSC North West Region Analytical Division Long Service Members Lunch

Some 60 members and their guests attended the Long Service Members Lunch held at the recently opened West Cheshire College in Ellesmere Port on 23rd May.



This annual event gives our retired members an opportunity to meet and catch up on the latest news and is always an enjoyable and very popular occasion. The recently opened college offers a wide range of vocational training opportunities and students from the hospitality and catering department served an excellent lunch to our members in the top-floor restaurant, which offers good views over the surrounding area and across the Mersey to the towers of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in the far distance.



Following the lunch we were entertained with an interesting and informative talk entitled 'Plant Hunters in the Far East' by Peter Cunnington, former Curator of Liverpool University Botanic Gardens. In addition to many amusing anecdotes from his expeditions to countries around the world, Peter described the work of several pioneering botanists who were responsible for introducing many of the plants now found in our gardens from China and the Himalayas.

*Stuart Forbes,  
RSC N.W. Region Analytical Division*

## Oily Suspense Fills Chemquiz 2012

A record number of young chemists filled the John Dalton building at Manchester Metropolitan University recently as dozens of school teams from around the region did battle at Chemquiz 2012. This annual event, organised by the education sub committee of the RSC's Manchester and District Section, saw forty schools from around the North West meet at Manchester Metropolitan University's Chemistry laboratories and lecture theatres to participate in a series of exciting chemistry based activities. The teams from Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester, took part in chemical quizzes, laboratory exercises and multimedia competitions sponsored by BASF.

This year's laboratory exercise in the undergraduate teaching laboratories, put their experimental skills to the test as they investigated the effect of lecithin emulsifier on an oil and water mixture. By measuring the time needed to separate out carefully mixtures, the young chemists were able to produce a calibration chart, allowing them to determine the composition of an unknown sample. Precision, accuracy and good teamwork were all in the mix for this part of the day!

In the multimedia competition, the teams were treated to another set of wonderful chemical demonstrations, loud explosions and instant crystals from Alan Goodwin and Mike Stuckey but then had to answer challenging questions on the background chemistry. This was quickly followed with comprehension exercises based around the discovery of Polonium and Radium for the older students and a touch of "alchemy" for the younger ones.

The rapid fire quiz section contained many of the Chemquiz regular features such as molecular model spotting, common laboratory equipment as you've never seen them before (some baffled the accompanying teachers!), anagrams, word searches, as well as curriculum chemistry questions.

The teams' artistic flair was tested as the design of next years Chemquiz mug was chosen by Dr Paul Birkett from the host university.

The enthusiasm of the teams throughout the day, as well as the extent their chemical knowledge, impressed all the judges, especially Dr Adrian Watson, Head of Chemistry at Manchester Metropolitan University, who presented the prizes.

After intense, but friendly competition, the overall winners were Manchester Grammar School, whose team will go on to represent

the region in next years RSC 'Top of the Bench' competition.

The full list of winners is:

**Overall:** 1<sup>st</sup> Manchester Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon Slade School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Stockport Grammar School.

**Sectional Winners:**

**Chemquiz:** 1<sup>st</sup> Manchester Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Stockport Grammar School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canon Slade School, 4<sup>th</sup> The Grange School.

**Multi media:** 1<sup>st</sup> Stockport Grammar School, = 2<sup>nd</sup> The Grange School, = 2<sup>nd</sup> Withington Girls School.

**Labex:** 1<sup>st</sup> Canon Slade School, = 2<sup>nd</sup> Urmston Grammar School, = 2<sup>nd</sup> Bury Grammar School for Girls.

**Kathryn Oliver Leonard Teamwork Award:** Byrchall High School.

**Mug Competition:** Jake Wild, Bridgewater High School.

Particular thanks are due, as ever, to the teachers and lecturers on the RSC education sub-committee in Manchester who organise the event, as well as all the teachers who volunteered with the general marking and administration on the day. Without their help, Chemquiz Manchester would not have been a great success. New volunteers to write questions or even join the organising committee are always welcome!

For more information about Chemquiz, email [tian.mcgeough@chemquiz.org.uk](mailto:tian.mcgeough@chemquiz.org.uk) or alternatively, look up our new website at [www.chemquiz.org.uk](http://www.chemquiz.org.uk)

*Ian McGeough, Chemquiz Organizer*

## Chemicals Northwest update

Chemicals Northwest, the industry led chemical cluster support organisation, has had a busy six months since December, with membership increasing. These numbers indicate that our message is spreading and there is interest in the sector from across the region and beyond.

April saw Duncan Simcock leave Chemicals Northwest for pastures new. His operational management role has been taken over by John Roche - currently, CIA's Head of Responsible Care. John is well known in the region, following many years in commercial and general management within the North West's chemical industry and through his leadership of the UK industry's Responsible Care Programme. John's operational experience, local credentials and day-to-day connectivity with chemical businesses will provide CNW with invaluable expertise and continuity as we seek to build on our strong performance during 2011/12.

Our third awards dinner took place on 1<sup>st</sup>

March at the Imperial War Museum North, Manchester. We had some excellent, high calibre entries which built on the successes of our previous year's awards dinners, and showed us that the industry is still performing well and has positive news to share. The event was a sell out with 250 in attendance and feedback received was excellent.

Our breakfast events have still continuing to grow in popularity and are attracting a wide range of members and non-members to each event. We have had some interesting speakers over the last 6 months giving some useful tips to the audiences. A forthcoming event will feature some easy science experiments, along with a presentation from the Chemicals Commercial Officer of Jordan and an H.M. Consul General from Egypt.

Our 'Chemicals Elements' events are still taking place at the Heath - topics have included a full day session run in conjunction with the CIA and their Responsible Care team on Reinenergizing Occupational Health; this event was such a success that it is now being run in other areas around the UK. A 'Best Practice Sharing' event was held where four of our award winning companies shared their success stories.

Towards the latter half of 2011 we launched a REACH User Group for our member companies with a member of the CIA ReachReady team on hand to lead the group. This popular user group is proving to be a useful tool to members, we are confident it will have a successful future.

For further details of Chemicals Northwest membership, please see the membership section of the website [www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/membership/membership\\_benefits/](http://www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/membership/membership_benefits/)

Our quarterly Elements magazine is a key publication for our members and the sector and contains the features, such as members spotlight sections, skills round ups, innovation articles and sustainable development features. If anyone would like to contribute a good news story or has any other ideas for the Chemicals Northwest newsletter, then please contact [alex.heys@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk](mailto:alex.heys@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk)

Production of the 2012-13 Chemicals Northwest Sector Directory is underway, highlighting the issues and challenges for the industry as well as giving a comprehensive resource of information relating to the largest regional cluster of manufacturers in the UK. Copies are available free to individuals from member organisations or at a small charge to non-members.

*Alex Heys, Chemicals Northwest*

# DIARY

To include your event in the next Diary of NW Chemistry News, please send details before Monday 17.12.12 to Patricia Keen, email: [patricia.keen@virgin.net](mailto:patricia.keen@virgin.net)

## RSC GROUPS

### SPECIALITY CHEMICALS SECTOR

For details contact:  
Sector Secretary  
Dr Grahame Stanley  
Tel: 01964 534904  
Email: [g.i.stanley@btinternet.com](mailto:g.i.stanley@btinternet.com)  
or visit  
[www.rscspecialitychemicals.org.uk](http://www.rscspecialitychemicals.org.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### PRACTICAL CONTINUOUS FLOW TECHNOLOGY – RESOLVING INDUSTRIAL PROCESS ISSUES

This conference follows the very successful RSC events held in Geneva in 2011 and York in 2012, and will provide a timely update on those events.

Venue: M.O.C., Munich, Germany  
Contact: Dr Ruth Lane.  
Tel 01928 788071  
Email: [ruth@cowlane.co.uk](mailto:ruth@cowlane.co.uk)

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### CHEMISTRY IN THE OIL INDUSTRY XIII: Oil Field Chemistry – New Frontiers

This conference will celebrate 30 years since the first Chemistry in the Oil Industry Symposium. Professor Ken Sorbie will receive a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to the oil sector

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
'Back to the Future'

by Graham Payne and Ian Macefield who participated in the inaugural symposium

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Keynote Speaker:  
Professor Malcolm Kelland,  
Stavanger University  
'Production Chemicals and their Future'

Venue: Manchester Conference Centre, UK  
Contact: Dr Ruth Lane.  
Tel 01928 788071  
Email: [ruth@cowlane.co.uk](mailto:ruth@cowlane.co.uk)

April 2014

### FIRE RETARDANT TECHNOLOGIES FRT14

This is a follow on conference from the very successful FRT09.  
Venue: University of Central Lancashire, Preston. PR1 2HE  
Contact: Dr Ruth Lane.  
Tel 01928 788071  
Email: [ruth@cowlane.co.uk](mailto:ruth@cowlane.co.uk)

### CUMBRIA SECTION

For details contact:  
Section Secretary  
Mr Mark Gibson  
Tel: 01946 77345  
Email: [mag7@sellafieldsites.com](mailto:mag7@sellafieldsites.com)  
Website: [www.rsc.org/cumbria](http://www.rsc.org/cumbria)

Below is a programme of forthcoming events. All events are subject to change. Advertisements will be made on the RSC website, RSC News magazine and via emails to members in due course. Please keep checking for the latest details and to see extra events to be organised throughout the year. A programme card will be published with the September edition of Chemistry World / RSC News. For more information, contact Mark Gibson.

### Wednesday 19th September 2012. SMELLY CHEMISTRY AND NANOTECHNOLOGY & SUPRAMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY LECTURE.

Two lectures on the day - one for schools during the day time, and another one for general members and the public in the evening.  
Venue: Samuel Lindlow Building, Westlakes Science and Technology Park, Moor Row, Cumbria, CA24 3JZ

### Thursday 4th October 2012 VISIT TO ENNERDALE WATER TREATMENT WORKS.

Open to members and guests. Free to attend and 30 spaces available. Please book early to reserve your place.

Friday 9th November 2012

### WINE TASTING

Venue: The Chase Hotel, Whitehaven.  
Once again this ever popular event will be hosted by Gerard Richardson. 30-35 spaces available - £10 per head.

Tuesday 4th December 2012

### 'TOP OF THE BENCH' COMPETITION

The annual heats for the school competition for yr 9-11 students will be held at St Bees School this year, after they took the Cumbrian title in 2011 and went on to compete in the final in London.

Friday 7th December 2012

### CHRISTMAS MEAL

Venue: The Hundith Hill Hotel.  
Ticket prices tbc. Keep checking the RSC website and RSC News magazine for details!

Friday 12th January 2013

### 'TEST THE CHEMIST' PUB QUIZ

Venue: The Chase Hotel, Whitehaven.  
Richard Evans hosts the annual quiz harder than Blockbusters and Mastermind combined! Free to enter. Teams can be made up on the night

### LANCASTER & DISTRICT SECTION

For details contact:  
Programme Secretary  
Mr Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: [hclark906@btinternet.com](mailto:hclark906@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.rsc.org/lancaster](http://www.rsc.org/lancaster)

Below is the programme of forthcoming events - please note meetings are **not always** at Preston College this year. Please check the venue with Harry Clarke, if not stated in the programme. Refreshments are available from 7-00pm, prior to the lectures which start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Guests are always welcome to all meetings, however, **please inform** Harry Clarke 7 days prior to the event, if refreshments are required. If you wish to attend any of our meetings and have concerns about access to the venue or facilities for anyone with disabilities or special needs please contact Harry Clarke for information.

Tuesday 2 October 2012. 7-30pm  
**THE BEAUTY OF GALAXIES**  
Speaker: Professor D W Kurtz of  
UCLan  
Venue: Harrington or Darwin Lecture  
Theatre, University of Central  
Lancashire, Preston. PR1 2HE  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet.com

Tuesday 6 November 2012. 7-30pm  
**FORENSIC FIRE INVESTIGATION**  
Speaker: Dr Stephen P Andrews of  
UCLan  
Venue: Harrington or Darwin Lecture  
Theatre, University of Central  
Lancashire, Preston. PR1 2HE  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet.com

Tuesday 4 December 2012. 7-30pm  
**SAFETY AND SECURITY IN  
ATOMIC ENERGY**  
Speaker: Professor Williams of  
UCLan  
Venue: Preston College Reception  
Building, Lecture Theatre, Preston  
College, Fulwood Campus, St  
Vincent's Road, Preston, PR2 8UR  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet.com

Tuesday 22 January 2013. 7-00pm  
**QUIZ NIGHT FOLLOWED BY A  
BUFFET SUPPER**  
Question Master: Mr Terry Howe, Mid  
Scotland Section  
Venue: Preston College Vincent's  
Restaurant, Preston College,  
Fulwood Campus, St Vincent's Road,  
Preston, PR2 8UR  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet.com

Tuesday 26 February 2013. 7- 00pm  
**AGM AND TALK**  
Venue: Preston College Reception  
Building, Lecture Theatre, Preston  
College, Fulwood Campus, St  
Vincent's Road, Preston, PR2 8UR  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet.com

Tuesday 19 March 2013. 7-00pm  
**WINE TASTING**  
Host: Professor John Hepworth of  
our own Section

Venue: Preston College Vincent's  
Restaurant, Preston College,  
Fulwood Campus, St Vincent's Road,  
Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8UR  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet.com

Tuesday 16 April 2013. 7-30pm  
**LECTURE ABOUT MEDICINAL  
PLANTS**

Speaker: Ms Veda West of  
Myersough College.  
Venue: Preston College Reception  
Building Lecture Theatre. Fulwood  
Campus, St Vincent's Road,  
Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8UR  
Contact: Harry Clarke  
Tel: 01995 640003  
Email: hclarke906@btinternet

For latest information, please visit the  
Section's web page at  
[www.rsc.org/lancaster](http://www.rsc.org/lancaster)

## LIVERPOOL SECTION

For details contact:  
Section Secretary  
Dr Ingeborg Buschmann  
Tel: 0151 9499304  
Email: [ibuschmann.rsc@gmail.com](mailto:ibuschmann.rsc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.rsc.org/liverpool](http://www.rsc.org/liverpool)

Below is a programme of forthcoming  
events. For latest information, please  
visit the Section's web page at  
[www.rsc.org/liverpool](http://www.rsc.org/liverpool) or contact  
Manuela Godden:  
[Manuela.godden@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Manuela.godden@tiscali.co.uk)

Wednesday 26 September 2012  
**RETIRED MEMBERS' LUNCHEON**  
Venue: The Hollins Hey Hotel, New  
Brighton

Thursday 6 December 2012  
**RETIRED MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH**  
Venue: Mill Hotel and Spa, Chester

November & December 2012  
**'TOP OF THE BENCH'  
COMPETITION**  
Venue: tbc at 3 locations in Liverpool,  
Wirral and Isle of Man.

## YOUNGER MEMBERS NETWORK

Due to the change in Claire Rees's  
role within the Section, a vacancy

exists as **Liverpool Local Section  
Younger Member Representative**  
on the committee. The Younger  
Members Network in the Liverpool  
area is very active, with several  
social and scientific events during the  
course of the year.  
The role involves attending regular  
meetings of the Local Section  
(approx. one every 3-4 months) and  
acting as liaison between the  
Younger Members sub-committee  
and the main Local Section  
committee. A Younger Member Rep  
should also keep lines of  
communication open with the RSC  
centrally and promote opportunities  
to engage across the Younger  
Members Network nationally.  
This is a really great opportunity to  
make new contacts in the chemistry  
community and develop transferable  
skills such as communication,  
planning and event organising.  
If you are interested in this position or  
would like any further information,  
contact Sarah Hobbs. Email:  
[Hobbss@rsc.org](mailto:Hobbss@rsc.org)

## MANCHESTER & DISTRICT SECTION

For details contact:  
Section Secretary  
Dr Jayne Walker  
Tel: 01942 768801 ext 254 or 07800  
532585  
Email: [swalkerj@deanery.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:swalkerj@deanery.wigan.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.rsc.org/manchester](http://www.rsc.org/manchester)

## YOUNGER MEMBERS NETWORK

For details on any YMN event or if  
you wish to get involved please  
contact Mark Holden at  
[ymn\\_manchester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ymn_manchester@yahoo.co.uk), or  
[www.ymnmanchester.co.uk](http://www.ymnmanchester.co.uk) and our  
facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2253417692](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2253417692)

## NORTH WALES SECTION

For details contact:  
Correspondence Secretary  
Dr. Jesus Cirre  
Tel: 01978 293 330  
Email: [j\\_cirretorres@yahoo.com](mailto:j_cirretorres@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.rsc.org/nwales](http://www.rsc.org/nwales)

Tuesday 18 September 2012

### **YSS SYMPOSIUM**

Venue: Bangor University. School of Chemistry and Reichel Building, Bangor University, Deiniol Road, Bangor. LL57 2UW  
Contact: Erica Roberts  
Email: ericawyn@gmail.com

### **NORTH WEST REGION ANALYTICAL DIVISION**

For details contact:  
NW Region AD Secretary  
Dr Stuart Forbes  
Tel: 0151 3735316  
Email: stuart.forbes@shell.com  
Website: www.nwad.org

Full details of forthcoming events can be found on the website:  
www.nwad.org

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### **PLANTS AS PROVIDERS OF FINE CHEMICALS**

Venue: Bangor University. School of Chemistry and Reichel Building, Bangor University, Deiniol Road, Bangor. LL57 2UW  
Contact: Stuart Forbes  
Tel: 0151 3735316  
Email: www.nwad.org  
or, Dr Vera Thoss  
School of Chemistry, Bangor University, Bangor.LL57 2UW  
Tel: 01249 388433  
Email: plants@bangor.ac.uk

October 2012

### **SULPHUR ANALYSIS OF ALMOST EVERYTHING**

Venue: Cheadle Hulme  
Contact for more information:  
Stuart Forbes  
Tel: 0151 3735316  
Email: www.nwad.org

December 2012

### **2012 CHRISTMAS LECTURE AND BUFFET**

Venue: Manchester University.  
Contact for more information:  
Stuart Forbes  
Tel: 0151 3735316  
Email: www.nwad.org

## **AROUND THE REGION**

### **BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CHEMICAL SPECIALITIES (BACS)**

For details contact:  
Jackie Hall  
Tel: 01423 700249  
Email: enquiries@basenet.org  
Website: www.basenet.org

#### **BACS training courses:**

Further details on these courses can be found at:  
www.basenet.org/news/training-courses/ or from the BACS office at enquiries@basenet.org

12<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO SURFACTANTS**

Venue: Manchester

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO MICROBIOLOGY**

Venue: Stockport

31<sup>st</sup> October 2012

### **SURFACTANTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**

Venue: Huddersfield

7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### **FORMULATING WITH SURFACTANTS**

Venue: Huddersfield

#### **BACS meetings and conferences:**

Further details on these two events will be available from the BACS office nearer the time

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012

### **BACS BIOCIDES FORUM**

Venue: London

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

### **BACS CONFERENCE AT H3I 2013**

Venue: Birmingham

### **BRITISH MASS SPECTROMETRY SOCIETY**

For details contact:  
Dr Peter J Baugh  
Tel: 0161 9737032  
Email: peterbaugh682@hotmail.com

Website:

www.analyticalmethodologycentre.co.uk

### **BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION NW REGION**

For further information contact:  
Adam Merali-Hosiene  
Tel: 0161 3061599  
Email: addam.merali-hosiene@britishscienceassociation.org  
Website:  
www.britishscienceassociation.org/web/

### **CATALYST SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTRE**

Mersey Rd. Widnes WA8 0DF

For information or to make a booking contact Meryl Jameson  
Tel: 0151 4201121  
Email: meryl@catalyst.org.uk  
Website: www.catalyst.org.uk

13th - 16th November 2012

### **ENTERPRISE WEEK**

An event aimed at KS3 or KS4 pupils. Pupils work in groups to develop a product or a service that could help save the planet then present their designs to a panel of judges. To book pupil places please contact meryl@catalyst.org.uk or, similarly if you fancy being one of our judges, please drop Meryl an email at the same address.

4th - 8th February 2013

### **DR BUNHEAD'S EXPLODING ENERGY SHOW**

Five days of exciting high energy shows from TV star Dr Bunhead. Key stage 3 pupils will see spontaneously combusting jelly babies, stunt bananas and the record breaking spud bazooka! To book places please contact meryl@catalyst.org.uk

14th, 15th and 18th March 2013

### **FLASH, BANG - WHAT A REACTION SHOWS!**

Aimed at KS3 pupils this hour long show is presented by our Education Manager Phill Day. To book places please contact meryl@catalyst.org.uk

## FRIENDS OF CATALYST

For details contact:  
Bill Sanderson  
Catalyst Programme Secretary  
Tel: 01925 725973  
Email: mail@billsanderson.co.uk  
Website: www.catalyst.org.uk or  
www.catalyst.org.uk/friends/friends.htm

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

### BACS CONFERENCE AT H3I 2013

Venue: Birmingham

## CHEMICALS NORTHWEST

For details contact:  
Member Services and Events  
Manager  
Alexandra Heys  
The Heath Business and Technical  
Park, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4QX  
Tel: 01928 515678  
Email:  
alex.heys@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk  
Website:  
www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/

Full details of forthcoming events can  
be found on the website:  
www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/

Thursday 6th September 2012

### CHEMICALS NORTHWEST BREAKFAST NETWORKING

Venue: Heath Business Park,  
Runcorn  
The September CNW breakfast event  
will feature 3 short industry pitches in  
addition to the networking  
opportunities. The main focus of  
these events is to 'Network' with like-  
minded people from the Chemical  
Sector. Please come along and join  
us at this **free** event - anyone who is  
not a member of Chemicals  
Northwest, come and see what we  
are all about and find out how  
membership can benefit your  
business.

Thursday 20 September 2012

### UPDATE ON CHEMICALS REGULATION

Venue: Heath Business Park,  
Runcorn  
Further details and timings tbc -  
booking information to follow

## Friday 5 October 2012 SKILLS EVENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH COGENT AND NSAPI

Venue: Heath Business Park,  
Runcorn  
Further details and timings tbc -  
booking information to follow

## DIDSBURY SCIBAR

For details contact:  
Mark Hillen  
Email: scibar@gmail.com  
Website: www.scibar.info/

Meetings take place at The Albert  
Club, 41 Old Lansdowne Road, West  
Didsbury, on the third Monday every  
month commencing at 6.30pm.

## KNUTSFORD SCIBAR

For details contact:  
Dave Thompson  
Tel: 07768 355814  
Email:  
knutsford.scibar@ntlworld.com  
Website: www.knutsford-scibar.co.uk

Meetings take place in the Cheshire  
Room at the Angel Hotel, King Street,  
Knutsford, on the first Monday the  
month commencing at 6.30pm.

## MICRO-ANALYTICAL GROUP

For details contact:  
Sue Lewis  
Tel: 0161 488 3667  
Email: sue.lewis@isoprime.co.uk  
Web: http://www.isoprime.co.uk/  
Web:  
http://www.elementar.de/en/home/

Wednesday 24th October 2012

### MICRO-ANALYTICAL GROUP ANALYTICAL FORUM

The theme of 'Sulphur analysis in  
almost anything', to be held at  
Isoprime, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6PT.  
A charge for the meeting: £50  
members and £65 non-members.  
Lunch and refreshments will be  
provided.

For details contact  
Sue Lewis  
Tel: 0161 488 3667  
Email: sue.lewis@isoprime.co.uk

## SCI - LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WEST GROUP

For details contact:  
Honorary Secretary  
Mrs Marie Connor  
Tel: 0151 3485742  
Email: marie\_connor@hotmail.co.uk  
Website: www.soci.org

Tuesday 13 October 2012

### 'WHAT'S IN MY STUFF?' SCI/CATALYST EVENT

Venue: Catalyst Science Discovery  
Centre  
Dr Hywel Jones will give an  
interactive talk examining the  
chemical elements that make up the  
objects we own and use. He will  
explore issues around sustainability,  
recycling and growing concerns  
about the scarcity and ethical  
sourcing of the minerals and  
materials that we take for granted but  
which are vital for the technology we  
use every day.  
To register for this free event contact  
Catalyst on 0151 4201121, or  
www.catalyst.org.uk

## WEAVER HALL MUSEUM AND WORKHOUSE (FORMERLY THE SALT MUSEUM)

For details contact:  
Tom Hughes, Curator  
Tel: 01606 271640  
Email: tom.hughes  
@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk  
Website:  
www.weaverhallmuseum.org.uk

## FRIENDS OF WEAVER HALL MUSEUM

For details contact:  
Jenny Tyson, Chair  
The Friends of Weaver Hall Museum  
The Weaver Hall Museum  
162 London Road  
Northwich  
Cheshire CW9 8AB  
Website:  
www.weaverhallmuseum.org.uk

## Flashbang educate their 10,000<sup>th</sup> student

It is fair to say that the last 3 years have been fairly demoralising for many business around the UK and indeed the world, many of whom have had to change their work practices, decrease their expenditure and therefore their staff, and generally look at ways to battle through the downturn.

This has not been the case for local business Flashbang Science, based in Rossendale, Lancashire. With a strong background in Chemistry & Chemical Engineering and a dedication to education the preliminary idea behind the business was born, to drive science education back into Primary Schools in the hope that in future years one of the areas' most prominent industries would be reborn.

With the business' mobile science laboratory initially being utilised around the very local areas to Rossendale, Claire Holt, Managing Director, and her team now work regularly around the entire North West and West Yorkshire.



Claire is hugely positive, passionate and proud of the business' achievements and explains, "Lancashire historically has been an area where scientific industry has thrived. Our idea at inception of Flashbang was to try and drive science back into the Primary Schools showing the students that science is there to be enjoyed and cherished. Our hopes ultimately will be to drive an industry that has been so important to our society in the past back into the public eye."

Flashbang are proud to note that over 10,000 students have now experienced the 100 or more experiments that the company has to offer covering a range of themes (both curriculum and non curriculum) such as elementary Chemistry & Engineering, Olympic Science, Forensic Science, Recycling and Renewable.

Claire continues, "Primary Schools in the area do not house their own laboratory facilities, which is why our mobile lab provides such an exciting prospect. Many schools since the turn of the year have committed to repeat and extended bookings, and we are now in a position to expand with the purchase of another laboratory to cover the increased demand."

Flashbang are now looking for more enthusiastic, passionate scientists to join their team on a full or part time basis and are inviting interest via the website [www.flashbangscience.co.uk](http://www.flashbangscience.co.uk)

*Andrew Holt, Chemtura*

## Flashbang Science attend QEGS with their interactive Holiday Clubs

Flashbang Science has joined forces with Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School to engage 7-10 year olds in a summer school programme that shows them that science subjects are fun, exciting and extremely enjoyable.

Claire Holt, who heads up Flashbang Science, is delighted to be working alongside QEGS Blackburn this summer as they take their Holiday Club programme for primary aged school children into Blackburn.

On the weeks commencing 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Flashbang will be on site with their interactive Science Laboratory- equipped with stations for 18 pupils, the mobile laboratory provides hands on practical experimentation for primary school students and focuses on a mix of physics and chemistry.

Claire's passion as a fully qualified Chemical Engineer, with over 25 years experience in a range of markets, including pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, specialist chemicals, and extensive business experience in blue chip chemical organisations such as Fujifilm and Zeneca, ideally enables her

to drive her belief that the science industry can be regenerated in the North West.

Claire explains, "Industry in the North West has been held in such high esteem since the industrial revolution and one way we can progress as a society, more so under today's conditions, is to embrace our heritage and show the youngsters of today that the North West was once at the forefront of industry and can be again. The continued education of science in schools, followed by the regeneration of our local communities by bringing back the industry is paramount in our children's future."

Flashbang have been working with many schools in the North West and West Yorkshire areas and to have the opportunity to work with one of the leading schools in the area is a huge boost for the team. Claire Holt, Managing Director of Flashbang explains, "Having had such a busy year visiting Primary Schools all over the North West, we are extremely happy to be able to hold 2 weeks of our Holiday Clubs at such a fabulous school. Science is so important, and to be able to give a

viable compliment to the Sports Holiday Clubs is ideal for children and parents."

Joanna Lavelle, Foundation Director at QEGS sees the collaboration as a huge step, "Queen Elizabeth's has always enjoyed a strong reputation for science teaching. Our former pupils include many notable scientists and inventors such as Sir Ernest Marsden whose research proved the existence of the atomic nucleus and Dr Brian Mercer who invented a revolutionary process for the manufacture of plastic nets known as Netlon which can be seen reinforcing grass sports surfaces and garden meshes. We are delighted to support Flashbang's summer school to encourage young people to find out for themselves that science can be fun and who knows maybe the bright little seven-year old playing and learning at Flashbang's summer school in 2012 may be a future Nobel prize winner in years to come."

For information and bookings, please contact Claire Holt, 07802 475303.

*Andrew Holt, Chemtura*

## Interactive Workshop: Improving Productivity in Environmental and Food Screening

A well attended EMSSIG Workshop 2012 meeting entitled 'An Interactive Workshop for Improving Productivity in Environmental & Food Screening using LC-MS and GC-MS' was successfully held at the Manchester Food Research Centre, Manchester Metropolitan University on 4<sup>th</sup> July. The meeting was co-organised by Dr Peter J Baugh, EMSSIG (The BMSS) and Professor Chris Smith, Director, MFRC, MMU.

Representatives from a number of the major mass spectrometry instrument companies, related software companies, a water company and regulatory body, the food and environmental research agency, facility and accessory organisations, university and consultancy groups took part in exhibiting and presenting. Eric DeWulf of the Flemish Environment Agency (Belgium) and Erik Verschuuren of Thermofisher Scientific (Netherlands) extended the representation from Europe. Also, several industries with particular interests in environmental issues were involved, including British American Tobacco and South East Water.

The event was divided into 3 sessions, with one workshop/discussion covering regulatory considerations: Water Framework Directive (WFD), analytical aspects (nanomaterials in complex matrices, and chemical aspects of food and consumer products), software considerations (for automation and target compound identification), monitoring work under WFD and AQC data management systems, recent advances in analytical capability, new instrumentation (direct sample analysis, no sample preparation) and accurate mass TOF technology screening for pesticide residue analysis. The presentations, following approval from the authors, will be on the ACDLabs website. Further documents, including the abstracts booklet will be available at [www.analyticalmethodologycentre.co.uk](http://www.analyticalmethodologycentre.co.uk)

*Peter J Baugh, EMSSIG, The BMSS*

## The Salt of the Earth Review

The Salt of the Earth Network is now in its fourth year and has been encouraged by the sustained interest of those who have been members since Day 1, and the growing number of new members.

The first half of 2012 has been busy. It started in February with a Network meeting held in Knutsford at 'The Welcome' ([www.thewelcome.org.uk](http://www.thewelcome.org.uk)): over forty people attended. This session was led by The Welcome's chairman, Mark Green, who continued our theme of exploring community-based activities that are making a significant impact on the areas that they are serving and supporting. The Welcome acts as a community centre offering a place to meet, providing educational guidance and support for those trying to return to work. It has been in existence for almost 20 years, and recently won a 'Big Society Award' for services to the community.

In April, Solvay, Warrington, hosted a well supported Salt of the Earth event (in partnership with other groups: Manchester LICC, ICF, Navigators UK and Liverpool Diocese) called 'Telling it Like it is', at which, Steven Broomhead, John Devine, Stephen Kingsnorth and Phil Jump, shared their experiences of their faith and its impact in the workplace.

The May meeting was at Tata Chemicals Europe, Northwich, when Charles Hipsley, The Director of LICC Work Forum, gave a talk titled 'From Cadbury to Kraft', covering some of the changes which have taken place in the UK over the last 150 years.

In June, a team from The Salt of the Earth Network, attended the Cheshire Show, meeting the public and conducting research into the business benefits and added value to be gained by adopting of a clear Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy in industry. The Network are seeking evidence of the effect that CSR has had on business, and are interested in hearing of cases of 'best practice' and exemplar organizations, or, alternatively, significant failures. Please contact: Henry Ratter - [ratterh@aol.com](mailto:ratterh@aol.com)

*Henry Ratter, Salt of the Earth Network*

## Bishop visits Salt Mine

Salt is a crucial raw material for a large section of the chemical industry in Cheshire and beyond. The uses of salt and its derivatives extend from road de-icing to water purification, and from plastics to pharmaceuticals (and it tastes good on chips!). It is no exaggeration to say that salt touches everyone's lives on a daily basis. No wonder that the people of Cheshire wanted to celebrate the presence of such large deposits under their feet and the major effect that it has on the region's economy.



To begin the celebration in May that brought together communities, churches and industry, Keith Sinclair (The Bishop of Birkenhead) received samples of rock salt from the Managing Director of Compass Minerals UK, Harold James. These pieces of rock salt were later presented to the churches in the communities in which the celebrations took place.

In June, a team from The Salt of the Earth Network was at the Cheshire Show, meeting the public and showing them the mineral that lies beneath their feet.

For anyone interested in more information about The Salt of the Earth Network, please contact:

Alan Downen: [alan.downen@me.com](mailto:alan.downen@me.com)

George Oliver: [george.oliver53@btinternet.com](mailto:george.oliver53@btinternet.com)

Keith Sinclair: [bpbirkenhead@chester.anglican.org](mailto:bpbirkenhead@chester.anglican.org)

Henry Ratter: [ratterh@aol.com](mailto:ratterh@aol.com)

*Henry Ratter, Salt of the Earth Network*

## ‘WINSS’ secure €2.6 million for science careers in Ireland and Wales Job Sustainability Programme

A €2.6 million project to develop and sustain jobs in the sector at the interface between chemistry and life sciences has been announced. Funded under the Ireland Wales 2007-2013 INTERREG IVA programme and managed in Wales by Bangor University's School of Chemistry, the 'Wales Ireland Network for Scientific Skills' (WINSS) will assist companies that work across chemistry, life sciences and material sciences. The project will provide a range of specialist skills training to develop the expertise needed by the sector.

Running until December 2014, the project will assist the small but fast-growing industrial sector which creates new and innovative products and services across a range of areas, including drug delivery, medical devices, biotransformation and biosensors.

Deputy Minister for European Programmes, Alun Davies AM, said: "Access to a strong research base and highly skilled professionals is a crucial factor in the growth and success of these companies. I am pleased this EU-backed initiative will help secure a highly quality workforce, enabling companies to drive forward R&D activities, stimulating future regional growth and attracting new investment to the cross border region."

These are industry sectors which are developing rapidly and are already well represented by a number of small companies in the region. A crucial factor in the growth and success of these companies is the ability to source or maintain a highly skilled workforce. This enables companies to grow and acts as a catalyst to further investment and inward movement from other companies, who are keen to appoint staff with the correct specialist skills and expertise.

Working with Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)'s Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC) Bangor University's School of Chemistry will provide a range of specialist training at different levels.

Companies already in the region have welcomed the new project: John Bostock, Director of Elysium Projects in Bangor said, "As we grow, the training of our staff in the latest

scientific methods will be critical for a company such as ours, working primarily in the research and development area." Elysium is working to develop new approaches to the control and detection of infections, and have a particular interest in MRSA.

The research project will be jointly lead by Dr. Peter McLoughlin at WIT and Dr Hongyun Tai at Bangor University. Their 30-strong WINSS research team will develop and deliver scientific and generic training programmes across the two regions. Four of 11 new jobs created will come to Bangor University.

Dr Tai said: "We will address the demand for professionals with transferable skills and 'real world' experience that are essential in the job market." Dr Tai added that the project would also generate cross border economic activity by creating a strong applied research base in the human and animal health sectors in both regions. "The advanced training programme combines industry experience and academic expertise to deliver scientific training courses for those working in the life sciences sector. It provides a chance for people to enhance their current skills and broaden their career opportunities. It will be 'industry-informed' and adapt quickly to changing industry needs. The programme will develop scientific skills through laboratory-based research and provide employees with valuable, hands-on experience. It will provide trainees with the experience to fill high-end positions such as R&D development scientists, process analytical technologists and drug research scientists."

Access to a strong research base and highly skilled professionals is a key consideration for all companies, from the small local company to the multinational. It is pivotal to securing current R&D activities as well as stimulating future regional growth and attracting new investment to the region.

Further Information: Dr Hongyun Tai, School of Chemistry, Bangor University 01248 382383 or Elinor Elis-Williams 01248 383298

*Steve Scanlon, Bangor University*

## Recent events in the Cumbria Local Section

On March 23rd, Chemistry of Champagne night, a group of 22 RSC members and guests spent a lovely late spring evening at Muncaster Castle, where Steve Wilson (a Local Section committee member) gave a light hearted and entertaining talk on the background to Champagne, why it is so popular and what makes it the way it is. Following, members enjoyed a 3 course meal in the grand hall taking in the castle ambience.

On 23rd June, 11 of Cumbria's younger members made a very early start on a very wet and windy Saturday morning, to travel to Honister Slate Mine. Once kitted up with harness and carabiners, we embarked on the Via Ferrata (aka The Iron Way) following the route of the old slate mine on the Honister rock faces.

On the evening of the 3rd July, another testing 'Top of the

Firm' Quiz night was held at The Waterfront Bar, Whitehaven. A good time was had by all, and thanks go to the organisers, Jane Galager, Michelle Turtle and Kate Adamson.



*Mark Gibson, RSC Cumbria Section*

# Continuous Flow Technology in Industry Symposium 2012

This conference was held between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> March at the historic King's Manor in York.



A detailed report of the symposium will appear in the next edition of North West Chemistry News. The conference was well attended by 113 delegates and 16 exhibitors.

A high quality international symposium was delivered in the lecture theatre.



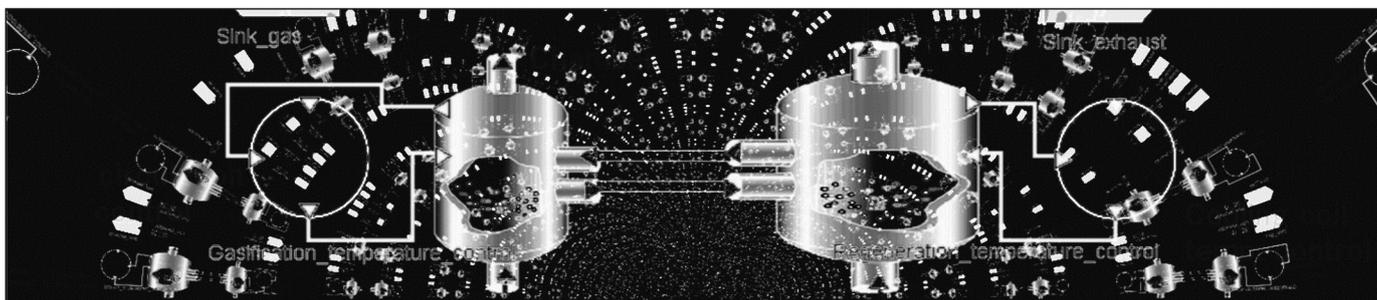
Excellent keynote lectures were delivered by Steven Ley (Cambridge University, UK), Dominique Roberge (Lonza, Switzerland) and Paul Sharratt (Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences, Singapore). The rest of the programme was delivered by 16 speakers from the UK, Austria, Switzerland, USA, Germany, Hungary and Sweden. A truly global set of speakers! The overheads from most of the talks are available and can be downloaded from

[www.rscspecialitychemicals.org.uk/previous-conferences/continuous-flow-technology-in-industry/](http://www.rscspecialitychemicals.org.uk/previous-conferences/continuous-flow-technology-in-industry/).

The spacious Huntingdon Rooms housed the accompanying popular exhibition of 16 exhibitors, and doubled up for use at the lunch, tea and coffee breaks - this provided excellent networking opportunities.

The conference theme was inspired by the attendance and interest shown at the RSC Symposium at Chemspec Europe in Geneva in 2011. The symposium in York was just as successful, and as a result, we intend to return to the topic at the RSC Symposium at Chemspec Europe in Munich in 2013. Please read the advertisement below.

*Bruce Lane, RSC Speciality Chemicals Sector*



## Keep up with the flow in 2013

## Resolving Industrial Process Issues

RSC Speciality Chemicals Sector Symposium

# Practical Continuous Flow Technology

5 - 6 June, 2013

M.O.C., Munich, Germany

This two day international symposium will be held on the Exhibition Floor at the 2013 Chemspec Europe and Chemsourc Exhibitions organised by Quartz Business Media. It follows the successful RSC events held in Geneva in 2011 and York in 2012 and will provide a timely update on those events.

Topics being considered include:

- Continuous flow in pharma - from substance to product
- GMP issues in continuous flow technology
- Flow technology: learning across sectors
- Regulatory issues and continuous processes
- Particle engineering in flow
- Work-up technology in flow
- Continuous crystallisation
- Holistic economics of batch vs continuous flow

Contact: Dr. Ruth M. Lane Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1928 788071 E-mail: [ruth@cowlane.co.uk](mailto:ruth@cowlane.co.uk) [www.rscspecialitychemicals.org.uk](http://www.rscspecialitychemicals.org.uk)

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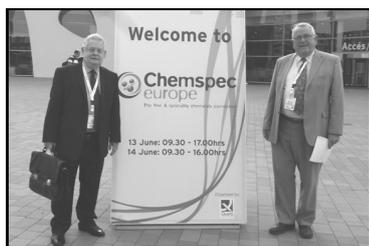
CMAC  
Continuous Manufacturing  
and Crystallisation

Chemsourc  
exhibition

Chemspec  
europe  
The fine & speciality chemicals connection

Registered Charity Number 207890

# RSC's Speciality Chemicals Sector Symposium 2012 in Barcelona



'Not Costing the Earth - Profit from Green and Sustainable Chemistry' was the title for this year's Royal Society of Chemistry's 2012 Symposium at Chemspec Europe in Barcelona's Gran Via Exhibition Centre on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June. The two days of presentations got off to a cracking start down on the exhibition floor, with a punchy, wide ranging overview lecture from Professor James Clark of York University, entitled 'Green Chemistry and Sustainability'. Given last year's huge attendances at the Fluid Flow symposium, the organising team were concerned that green chemistry might not have the same pulling power. Our fears were groundless. Numbers at every lecture were good, and for many, we ran out of copies of the overheads.

The organising team (Ruth Lane, Bill Hoyle, Bruce Lane, David Karsa and Gareth Jenkins) worked in collaboration with James Clark's Green Chemistry Network and Steve Fletcher of the Knowledge Transfer Network UK, to put together this very prestigious set of lectures that certainly attracted the visitors. Attendance at Chemspec Europe was up some 18% on last year – and of course, our attractive lecture programme contributed to this increase.

The morning session on Chemicals from Biomass continued with 3 different chairs. Bruce Lane, the designated Chairman, found himself voiceless with laryngitis, so the second lecture was chaired by Ruth Lane, and the sector chair, Gareth Jenkins, arrived in time (in response to an emergency text), to chair the rest of the morning session - Klaus Neumann of Borregaard showed what could and was being done to make speciality chemicals in their Biomass Based Refinery in Norway, followed by Gerald van Engelen of Cosun in the

Netherlands, on 'The ECO-nomics behind Biobased Chemicals'. Damian Kelly of Croda UK, presented on 'Developing Sustainable Technologies', tracing Croda's development from its lanolin origins to the broad range of biobased solutions offered today to meet customers' needs. The session was rounded off ably by Adrian Higson from the National Non Food Crop Centre: The Bioeconomy Consultants UK. We are most grateful to Adrian for stepping in at a few weeks notice when the original speaker withdrew, and for delivering such an excellent lecture. The session showed the huge potential of 'biowastes', including such newcomers as orange peel and corn husks – biomass not suitable for food – to supply chemical solutions to society's needs, some of which are already being achieved today.

David Karsa chaired the afternoon Biocatalysis session, opened by André de Vries from DSM in the Netherlands on 'Sustainable Production of Advanced Intermediates and API's Using Bio- and Homogeneous Catalysis'. The extent of Green Chemistry in DSM is quite astounding. André was followed by Pascal Dunkelmann's talk from Evocat, Germany entitled 'Biocatalysis: The Way out of Resource Dissipation and Environmental Pollution'. From Pascal, we learnt that his company was moving on from novel enzyme development to bioengineering of cells. Quite incredible. Manusha Thorpe from Cambridge University UK rounded off the day with her research results from industrial company interviews on 'Enablers of the Successful Scale up of Industrial Biotechnology Processes'. Her sister and her parents were amongst the considerable audience – they had made the trip from Australia to attend her lecture!

Day 2 opened under David Karsa's chairmanship with two fascinating talks on Scarce Elements and the short time scale to tackle the issues around exhaustion of supply. It is essential to reorient how society thinks about what we are doing to waste rather than recycle our resources. Mike Pitts of Chemistry Innovation Ltd, Knowledge Transfer Network, UK on 'New Business through

Resource Efficiency' and Ignasi Cubiña of Eco Intelligent Growth, Spain, on 'Cradle to Cradle: Designing with Nutrients, Creating Abundance' both gave excellent talks and were still addressing questions from the fascinated audience at the end of lunch break, when we were ready to start the afternoon session.

The final session on New Solvents was chaired by Bruce Lane, fortunately recovered from laryngitis, and opened by another fascinating talk by Thierry Vidal of Rhodia, France on 'Sustainable Solvents: Products and Process Innovations'.



The final lecture is often poorly attended at Chemspec, but not so this year, when Todd Coleman from the Future Fuel Chemical Company, USA, talked on 'Green Applications of Acetal Solvents' showing the useful properties of these long known but underexploited green solvents – obtained from product 'waste streams from nylon manufacture. All the overheads from this session and the earlier sessions (12 talks in all) have now been made available on the Chemspec Europe website: [www.chemspecevents.com/europe/chemsource/downloads](http://www.chemspecevents.com/europe/chemsource/downloads) under 2012. Do have a look at them.

The two day symposium showed the tremendous progress of green chemistry from a theoretical, worthy but not very exciting area only 10 years ago, to a dynamic, profitable industrial activity, addressing society's future needs. This is an ongoing revolution.

*Bruce Lane, RSC Speciality Chemicals Sector*

***eosca***

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Chemical Sciences

## **Chemistry in the Oil Industry XIII: Oilfield Chemistry – New Frontiers**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Manchester Conference Centre, UK**

**30 years since the first Chemistry in the Oil Industry Symposium**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
'Back to the Future'  
by Graham Payne and Ian Macefield  
who participated in the inaugural  
symposium**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
Keynote Speaker  
– Professor Malcolm Kelland,  
Stavanger University  
'Production Chemicals and their Future'**

**Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Ken Sorbie  
for his contribution to oilfield chemistry**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

It is intended that the symposium will focus on EOR/IOR, non-conventional oil and gas eg shale oil and gas, Arctic region, ocean hydrates, etc. These areas necessitate 'new' innovative chemistry and show that the future is bright for the application of chemistry and chemicals to extend the economic life of mature wells or to enhance the profitability of new fields within the challenges of REACH legislation.

Topics that papers are invited on:

- New and Green Chemistry
- Enhanced Oil Recovery (EORIOR)
- Methodologies
- Corrosion Inhibition
- Chemical Management
- REACH regulations - as lower volume chemicals are coming under the regulations
- Integration of REACH and OSPAR regulations
- Progress on nanoparticles and polymers registration
- Biodegradation results – and MSDS documents saying 'not passed for sea use'
- Shale Stimulation, Fracturing, Gas Recovery
- Science, Regulation and Economics, etc

There will be posters and an exhibition.

Student bursaries will be offered.

**Abstracts of offered papers and posters should be submitted to  
Ruth Lane (e-mail: [ruth@cowlane.co.uk](mailto:ruth@cowlane.co.uk)) by 1 February 2013**