



RSC President visits Beijing Local Section

RSC President, Prof. C. David Garner FRSC CChem FRS, paid a visit to Beijing to after participating in the first UK–China Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry in Shanghai and attending the opening of the new RSC office there. Dave Garner said “The RSC’s aim is to be foremost in the world promoting and developing the Chemical Sciences for the benefit of society. China is one of our priority countries and I am delighted that a Local Section has been established in Beijing. I can assure the members here that RSC staff in London and Cambridge, as well as those based in China, will do all they can to support the activities of the Section”.



David Evans, Chair of the Beijing Local Section, welcomes Dave Garner and his wife Pam to Beijing.



Wang Wenchuan, Treasurer of the Beijing Local Section, with David Evans and Dave Garner.

Beijing Local Section sponsors concert in Beijing

The International Festival Chorus (IFC) burst onto the Beijing classical music scene in March 2002 and since then has established itself as Beijing’s premier choir. The Beijing Local Section was pleased to sponsor their concert ‘Elgar the Music Makers’ in April in the Forbidden City Concert Hall with 120 singers/musicians and attended by an audience of over 900. A half-page advert in the concert programme (see below) introduced the RSC as well as the composer Elgar’s great interest in chemistry. There was a also direct link from the IFC website to the RSC website for those seeking more information.



The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) is a registered charity and the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the Chemical Sciences. Supported by a worldwide network of over 46,000 members and an international publishing business, our activities span education, conferences, science policy and the promotion of chemistry to the public. Our monthly magazines *Chemistry World* and *Chemistry World: China* contain news analysis, features, opinion columns and the latest job advertisements, and are the best way to keep up to date with the chemical world and the impact of chemistry on our everyday life. *Chemistry World* was voted ‘Best monthly business and professional magazine of the year’ in the 2006 PPA Magazine Awards.

As a keen amateur chemist, Sir Edward Elgar would have enjoyed reading *Chemistry World* and he has also featured in several articles himself. A biographer described him as ‘genial, cheery and at peace with the world’ when ‘discovering the joys of chemistry’. He had a laboratory in a converted shed which he nicknamed ‘The Ark’ and in the early part of the 20th century, he invented and claimed to have patented a device for making hydrogen sulfide, which for many years was used in Hereford schools. His original manuscript of the *Prelude to The Kingdom* is stained with chemicals showing that he must have had it with him in the laboratory.



www.rsc.org

www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InternationalActivities/InternationalSections/Asia/chinabeijing.asp

Beethoven Triple Concerto

Soloists:
Jin Haiyin - Violin
Zhu Mu - Cello
Shen Yue - Piano

Elgar The Music Makers

conducted by
Nicholas Smith

Saturday 11 April 2009, 7:30pm
The Forbidden City Concert Hall

Tickets: 50, 80, 120, 180, 220, 320, 580 RMB

Available from:
Forbidden City Concert Hall Box Office 65598285 / 65598806
Poly Theatre Box Office 65065343 / 65065345
Modern Plaza 62696100
Redhood Free Ticket Delivery 67255666 / 67207123
Visit www.beijingifc.org for more information

Presented by China International Culture Exchange Centre
and China International Culture & Arts Company





Chemistry Week 2009 Poster Competition

The RSC holds a Chemistry Week every two years as a celebration of the Chemical Sciences. Its aim is promote a positive image of chemistry and increase public understanding of how chemistry touches our everyday life. This year it took place from 7–15 November with the theme of Food. The RSC hosted a range of events at the new Chemistry Centre in Burlington House and many more events were held across the UK and elsewhere by RSC local sections, schools, universities and industry. The Beijing Local Section organized a poster competition for schoolchildren which attracted a large number of entries from Chinese and international schools in Beijing. Prizes were awarded in two age groups as follows:

Junior Group (13–15 years old)

First Prize

Winner	Stephane Aroca-Onelle
Poster title	Monosodium glutamate
School	Western Academy of Beijing
Teacher	Brendan Burke



Second Prize

Winner	Li Mingwei, Huang Yufan, Chen Jianchi
Poster title	β -Carotene
School	The Second High School attached to Beijing Normal University
Teacher	Hu Hongxin



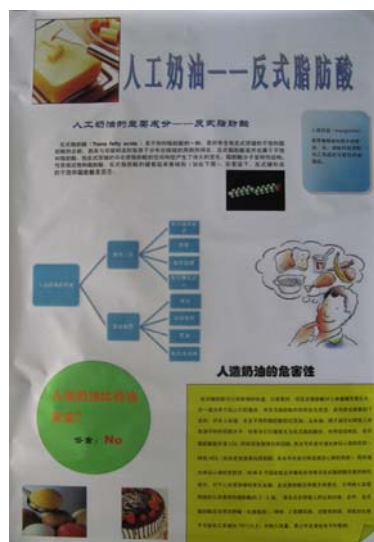
Second Prize

Winner	Wan Miaomiao, Hou Zhongze, Jin Zhen
Poster title	Are 100% pure fruit juices best for you?
School	Luhe High School
Teacher	Chen Chunxia/Peter Payne



Commended

Winner	Zhou Ye
Poster title	Trans fats in margarine
School	Luhe High School
Teacher	Chen Chunxia/Peter Payne





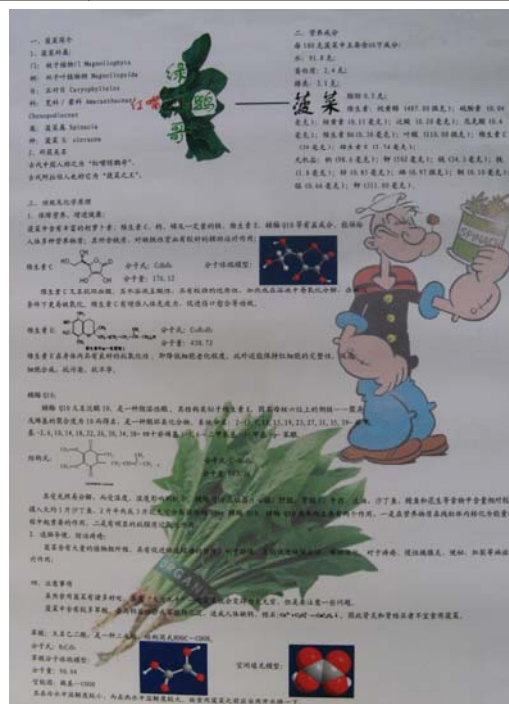
Senior Group (16–18 years old)

First Prize

Second Prize

Winner	Cui Yiming, Tian Yi, Li Zhang
Poster title	Melamine: the good and the bad
School	The Second High School attached to Beijing Normal University)
Teacher	Hu Hongxin

Winner	Wang Kaizheng, Sun Gaochao, Shen Jianfei
Poster title	Spinach
School	The High School attached to Peking University
Teacher	Li Yuming



Commended

Winner	Yang Pengfei, Han Yu
Poster title	Sports drinks
School	Luhe High School
Teacher	Jiang Chaoqun



Posters were judged on the following criteria

- relevance to the theme of 'Food'
- accuracy of the scientific content
- clarity of message and communication
- artistic merit

Prizes for the competition were:

- First prize: 600 RMB and a certificate
- Second prize: 300 RMB and a certificate
- Commended: 100 RMB and a certificate
- The winners' schools will also receive a plaque.

All entrants to the competition received an RSC souvenir.

There will be a ceremony in May 2010 where the winners will receive their prizes from Dr. Richard Pike, the Chief Executive Officer of the RSC, and Prof. David Evans, the Chair of the Beijing Local Section.

The winning posters will be displayed at RSC events in China during 2010.



Lecture Demonstration for Schools

The Chair of the Local Section, Prof. David Evans gave a lecture demonstration to local high school students and their teachers entitled "The how and why of chemical reactions" at Peking University in December. He used a variety of chemical reactions to illustrate the driving force for chemical change and the thermodynamic and kinetic factors which determine the extent and rate of chemical reactions.



The beginning of the lecture.



The oxidation of propan-2-ol with chromium(VI) oxide as an example of a reaction with (very!) favorable thermodynamics and kinetics.



Margarida Dias Da Graca Santos from Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) prepares to set light to soap bubbles containing a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen in the hands of her teacher, Brendan Burke.



Introducing the RSC and *Chemistry World China* at the end of the lecture.



RSC signs agreement with SAFEA



In September, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the RSC and the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA) to formalise an agreement to bolster Chinese chemistry. The memorandum was signed by Dr. Richard Pike, Chief Executive Officer of the RSC and Mr. Zhou Lixian, Director, Department of Educational and Cultural Experts, SAFEA, and outlines how UK chemists be funded to travel to China and advise on best practice in publishing research papers and presenting lectures at international conferences. It is intended that the UK visitors will spend some of their time at universities in the West of China which have fewer opportunities to benefit from international interactions. Any suggestions from members of potential host institutions in this category should be sent to Dr. Zheng Chunxiao, the RSC Chief Representative in China at zhengc@rsc.org.

Local Section Chair awarded an OBE



In the 2009 UK New Year's Honours List, the Chair of the Beijing Local Section, Prof. David Evans, was appointed as an Ordinary Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to international science and UK/China relations and received the award from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace in November.

The President of the RSC, Prof. C. David Garner, formally expressed the congratulations and good wishes of RSC Council. David Evans said "Some of whatever I have been able to do in promoting UK/China relations has been whilst 'wearing an RSC hat', so I hope this award will be also seen as recognition of what the RSC has been doing in China".

EC Science and Technology Fellowship Programme in China



The European Commission (EC) Science and Technology Fellowship (STF) Programme aims to promote the mobility of European Union (EU) researchers in China and to develop long-lasting contact links and research partnerships between the EU and Chinese research institutions. Each round of the STF China Programme involves 30 researchers from EU member states. The fellows undertake a six-month tailor-made Chinese language and research culture training in Beijing followed by an 18-month practical research period in a Chinese host organization. The first intake of fellows have just completed their Chinese language and research culture training and this was marked by a Forum entitled: "Science and Research in China - European and Chinese Perspectives", bringing together about 120 academics and administrators from the scientific communities in China and Europe, followed by a Graduation Gala at which the fellows received their graduation awards. The Chair of the Local Section, Prof. David Evans, gave a presentation at the Forum and was able to highlight the role that the RSC (and other European learned societies) can play in building links between researchers in the EU and China. Members who are interested in hosting fellows in their laboratory in the future should keep an eye on the STF website (www.euchinastf.eu) for details of future calls for applications.

Local Section Annual Dinner

The Beijing Local Section held an informal dinner party in January 2009 which provided an opportunity for 15 RSC members in China to meet up in a convivial setting. The dinner was held in the "Tasty" restaurant in Xihuan Plaza located in the distinctive glass towers above the subway interchange at Xizhimen. A further dinner is planned for early 2010 and details will be emailed to members in due course. Any suggestions of a suitable venue should be sent to the Secretary of the Local Section, Prof. Liu Dongsheng, at liudongsheng@tsinghua.edu.cn.



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Please note these contact details should not be communicated to non-RSC members

*Please contact a member of the Committee if you have any suggestions for Section activities in 2010
or any other comments*