



ChemNet News Issue 6 - March 2007

Welcome to Issue 6

There's a bit of a Chemistry Communication feel to this month's offering. We have new ways of getting in touch with ChemNet, a cash prize for science communication courtesy of Bill Bryson (no it's not his cash, but the winner will get to meet him) and a smaller prize for a review of the Chemistry World Podcast and lots of ChemNet events information. Getting in touch with ChemNet has never been easier. We're getting some software installed on the ChemNet Towers state of the art computer network that allows you to text us direct. Once we've got the number confirmed I'll let you know. We can also keep you informed of events and offers by text so email us your mobile number and your name or membership number and we'll sign you up. Don't worry; we're not gonna spam you, or send you downloads you don't want for £3 a week, we just want to get ChemNet information to you quicker than the post.

ChemNet Events

A college in Grimsby who are studying the Salters A level Chemistry course used ChemNet to help them organise a trip for their Visit to Chemical Industry topic in their A level course. They will be getting a great look around the Croda Chemicals Plant in Hull this month. Another school is hoping to look around an AstraZeneca plant in June. Want to go on a visit? Find somewhere suitable locally, get in touch and we'll try and make it happen. There will also be 2 other events in March:

Our friends at Birmingham University are running another event for us on 28th March at 7pm at the Chemistry Department. The guest speaker will be the Chemistry department admissions tutor Dr Ian Gameson so this is an excellent opportunity to get the low down on applying to Birmingham Uni, he might also have some pearls of wisdom for you if you want to apply somewhere else. Just think about how many UCAS forms and personal statements he reads every year!

We're also hosting a "What Chemistry has Done For Me" event here in Cambridge at the RSC's Thomas Graham House. This will be on 22nd March and will feature a number of chemists showing you what opportunities are open to you with a chemical sciences degree. Confirmed speakers already include the RSC's career advisor Caroline. She offers advice to any of the 44,000 RSC members who want it, so she has a pretty good feel for careers in chemistry! We also have a speaker from GlaxoSmithKline research and development at Harlow, and a Geochemistry researcher from Cambridge University. You'll get a chance to talk to all of the speakers as you tuck into free food after the event. We're spoiling you aren't we?

Email chemnet@rsc.org to secure your place.

*****STOP PRESS*****

Keep **Saturday 7th July** free, we're going to be hosting a massive ChemNet: Meet the Universities Event. Whether you're making decisions for 2007 or 2008 University entry ChemNet can help. We're gathering over 20 universities in one place just to talk to ChemNet members. You'll be able to ask them anything about their chemical science courses. Whether you're interested in Biochemistry, Forensics, Analytical Chemistry, organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or just Plain Old Chemistry, this event will offer you a chance to get the low down on their courses and what it's like to go to their university. This event will be free for all ChemNet members. It won't replace a campus visit but it should help you draw up your short list. More details soon.

[Access to the best Chemistry Library in Europe? Only from ChemNet.](#)

Your ChemNet membership gives you access to the foremost source of chemical knowledge in Europe - the Royal Society of Chemistry's Library and Information Centre (LIC).

The LIC looks after all members' information needs and is one of their most important membership benefits. The most important service that the LIC provides is the Chemical Enquiry Help Desk for any chemical information requirement and this has now been opened up to ChemNet members. They have been helping RSC members with their research for over 40 years by guiding them to the best resources to inform their research. Some of these include:

- the Chemical Abstracts database - this is the most important resource for chemists and covers the whole of chemical science, including biochemistry;
- the Web of Science database - an online multidisciplinary scientific database produced by the Institute of Scientific Information in the US.
- specialised databases on environmental chemistry, health and safety, and data on substances and their effects

Just think how that could help your investigation project stand out from other candidates. They're obviously not going to do your work for you but they can definitely help. If you have a query you think the library can help you with email chemnet@rsc.org and we'll forward it on to them.

Careers Spot

I've had a couple of enquiries about careers in environmental chemistry. Obviously a HUGE topic. Environmental chemists will do everything from analysing levels of pollutants out in the environment, to testing toxicity of chemicals prior to their use to make sure they're safe. You might be out in the field collecting samples or back in the lab using the latest analytical equipment and techniques. You could end up testing ice samples from the Antarctic or soils from the Tropics, or water in Runcorn! Environmental chemists have got a pretty good track record in identifying health risks and cleaning up the environment. Many of the environmental successes of recent years have been scored by environmental chemists; they're the ones who identified the effects of DDT on birds of prey, CFCs on the ozone layer and the effects of CO₂ on global warming. More significantly than just identifying the risks they went on to find cleaner, safer alternatives for CFCs and DDT and are working on the CO₂ problem. So if you want a job in chemistry and want to save the planet at the same time you might want to consider a career in environmental chemistry. More information can be found here: <http://environmentalchemistry.com>

Chemistry on the Web.

RSC'S BILL BRYSON PRIZE: CASH PRIZES OF UP TO £500 FOR THE BEST ENTRIES

This Science Communication award is open to all UK students (aged 5 – 18). This year's competition is linked to the RSC's Chemistry Week 2007 theme of 'Travel'. Entries should show how science is helping the environment through the development of energy saving means of travel and transport.

More information about the award and how to enter it can be found here.

<http://www.rsc.org/Education/BillBryson/index.asp>

Contact email: education@rsc.org

Wouldn't it be great if a ChemNet member won the secondary category? **Closing date: 31st May 2007**

Links for Chemists.

Yep, more webstuff for you. This one's run by the University of Liverpool, it's called Links for Chemists (which lets face it, is pretty self explanatory!) and you can find it here:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/Chemistry/Links/links.html>

And finally...

I know a lot of you enjoy your monthly dose of Chemistry World through your door, cos you've emailed me and told me (thanks for the feedback!). Well, now you can listen to it online as well with the Chemistry World Podcast, and the Editor of Chemistry World (Mark) wants to know what you think of it, so we're offering a prize for the best review. Those of you who have accessed the discussion board will have seen this offer already, but we're going to open it up to the rest of you, who haven't signed up for the discussion board yet. Email chemnet@rsc.org to get signed up. Then post your review on the board or just email it to chemnet@rsc.org. £10 HMV vouchers for the 3 best reviews. You've got until 15th March.

Until April.....

R. Bowler.

