


## Member Networks Annual Report Form 2016

To enable us to better support our networks and their activities all member networks (Local Sections, Interest Groups and Analytical Division Regions) are asked to complete this form and return it to [networks@rsc.org](mailto:networks@rsc.org). The information is shared with the members of your networks, staff and governance Boards and Committees (inc. Division Councils).

Or by post to; Networks Team, Royal Society of Chemistry, Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 0WF.

This report form will be uploaded to the appropriate web page (signature deleted) unless requested otherwise.

<b>GROUP NAME</b>	CUMBRIA SECTION
<b>Submitted by</b>	Dr Kevin Webb
<b>Signed (may be signed electronically)</b>	
<b>Date</b>	February 2017

Please list below the dates of your planned AGM and Committee Meetings (where applicable).

### Annual General Meeting (if being held)

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	The Chase Hotel

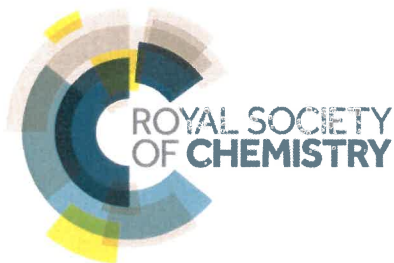
### Proposed Committee Meetings Dates

Date	Venue
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	The Chase Hotel Whitehaven Cumbria
August 2017	
January/February 2018	

### **Financial Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016**

Deadline for receipt of Financial Accounts by RSC Finance Team: **14<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Deadline for receipt of Annual Report by Networks Team: **24<sup>th</sup> February 2017**



## EVENTS

Please attach any meeting reports, newsletters or other reports which are relevant.

Please report below on activities undertaken in the past year. If you have more detailed information about any particularly successful events, or advice to share please use a separate sheet. For more events continue as necessary.

### EVENT KEY:

- Education Event
- Public Lecture
- Retired Members Event
- Scientific Conference - 1 day
- Scientific Conference - multi day
- Social Event
- Training/workshop
- Award Lecture

<b>Event Name</b>	Paper Chemistry Lecture
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Public Lecture
<b>Comments</b>	A talk given by Leslie Webb, 25 <sup>th</sup> of February 2016 at the Chase Hotel, Whitehaven. It was surprising how much chemistry is involved with papermaking and a lot was in relation to the local paper mill. Attendance unfortunately was low, about half a dozen members.

<b>Event Name</b>	Workington Dock Tour
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Education Event
<b>Comments</b>	9 people came to this in April 2016. After a hot drink and biscuits we were given a tour around the docks with a very knowledgeable guide. The dock had seen a lot of past work and gradually had lost a lot of business over recent years as the related businesses had come to an end, unfortunately typically chemical or manufacturing. Some new opportunities also sprang up. During the visit we were also taken around the lifeboat station. Unfortunately the weather was cold and windy with the occasional wintery shower.

<b>Event Name</b>	John Dalton Weekend
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Public Lecture, Educational Event
<b>Comments</b>	Events occurred Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> of September. Despite heavy rain and gales, the Heritage Society and a large turnout on Saturday evening in the Kirkgate centre when a brief history of John Dalton was talked about. The turnout was well above the numbers that we have achieved for any RSC Cumbria section talk that can remember with or without food. It was sad to hear that a lot of John Dalton's [extensive scientific weather records] work was lost due to bombing in the second world war. A historical display was also available to look at plus a walk between Cockermouth and his birthplace, Eaglesfield, held on Saturday, which the Society indicated was attended by about 35 people.

<b>Event Name</b>	Talk on electric cars
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Public Lecture
<b>Comments</b>	John Edgar gave a presentation at the Hunday Manor Hotel on September 22 <sup>nd</sup> concerning electric cars and in particular on the Nissan Leaf. We had about 10 people attend. The talk generated a lot of questions. The electric cars are increasing in numbers as are the charging ports. Primary issue appears to be getting enough mileage out of the battery – if the mileage can reach 600 miles for a full battery charge then may result in electric cars becoming popular.

<b>Event Name</b>	Visit to Whitehaven Public Archives
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Educational Event/Public Lecture
<b>Comments</b>	A tour of Whitehaven public archives in Whitehaven occurred on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> of October with just over 10 people attending, which was about the upper limit for the tour. It is noted that is located in the old Whitehaven police station. The main archive store is temperature and humidity controlled with a degree of security and with thought to potential insect infestation and potential flooding. They showed us some of the oldest Cumbrian documents from the 13 <sup>th</sup> century. They all had got out a number of documents in association with “Chemistry” in Cumbria for us to examine. Our committee member Rob Barlow is particularly thanked for organising this.

<b>Event Name</b>	Cumbria Section Top of the Bench Heat
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Education Event (Academic Competition)
<b>Comments</b>	This event was held at Keswick School, who had our winning team in 2015, on the 11 <sup>th</sup> of November. We had 9 teams entering from 6 schools. The practical was particularly challenging this year with teams asked to look at identifying cations and ions based on precipitation and flame tests. We had a clear winner, one the Queen Elizabeth Grammar school entries, whilst three teams came initially joint second and it was decided to separate them based on their practical chemistry performances. A particular thanks to Jennifer Rochford for leading organising this with assistance from a number of others on the RSC Cumbria Section’s local committee.

<b>Event Name</b>	Quiz Night
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Social Event
<b>Comments</b>	Again RSC Cumbria Committee member Richard Evans produced an excellent quiz. This year the event held at the Chase Hotel had an attendance of 28, which was slightly up on last year.

<b>Event Name</b>	Christmas Event
<b>Event Type (key)</b>	Social
<b>Comments</b>	<p>We again decided to hold our "Christmas Event" in January to avoid clashes with other Christmas events.</p> <p>Steve Wilson gave a talk on "Tea" followed by a Christmas Meal</p> <p>This took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 at the Chase Hotel commencing 1930 and 16 people attended, down on last year's attendance (number of usual attendees were on holiday).</p>

### **AWARDS AND BURSARIES**

Please list any awards or bursaries presented by your committee in 2015 and indicate any which will be open for nomination/application in 2016.

### **Other information/comments:**

A STEM event took place by the National Nuclear Laboratory at Bootle festival in July 2016. It consisted of physical-chemistry set-ups on a table top for the audience to investigate. A lot of children with parents visited the stall. RSC Cumbria Section committee members Tom Majchrowski and Kevin Webb assisted with the event.

Cumbria Section Committee member Steve Wilson was again active in Cumbria with a number of talks.

Other RSC Cumbria members have again been involved in STEM events/company science demonstration events in Cumbria/elsewhere in the country.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Please report below on activities proposed. For more events continue as necessary.

<b>Event Name</b>	World War 1 talk
<b>Comments</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017 at the Chase Hotel, Whitehaven.

<b>Event Name</b>	AGM/Committee
<b>Comments</b>	April 27 <sup>th</sup> 2017, The Chase Hotel, Whitehaven. In 2018 likely to have the same event around the same time of year.

<b>Event Name</b>	Late Chemistry Week Event
<b>Comments</b>	Aiming for March 2017 onwards and more likely in the new financial year.

<b>Event Name</b>	Talk on Nuclear Fuel Cycle
<b>Comments</b>	Likely to be by Nick Evans and at the Chase Hotel.

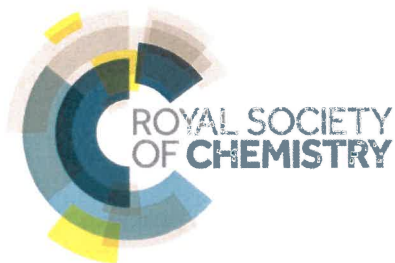
<b>Event Name</b>	Quiz
<b>Comments</b>	Likely January 2018. The Chase Hotel, Whitehaven.

## COMMITTEE

(this information will be used to update our membership database and your web page where appropriate)

Position	Name	Dates on committee (20xx – 20xx)
Chair	Mark Gibson	Chairperson 2013 to present Secretary 2011–2013
Secretary	Kevin Webb  (Andrew Firth – Deputy)	Secretary 2013 -Present, Chairperson 2010-2013, Ordinary member (actually deputy chair) in 2008-2010, Treasurer 1999/2000-2009  2011 - Present
Treasurer	Tracey Taylor  Michelle Huggon	2009 – mid 2016 (now ordinary member)  Mid 2016 – current (member previously)
Ordinary Members	John Marshalsea  Bob Paterson  Richard Evans Ruth Foster Robert Barlow  Emma Atherton John Little Jonathan Cheesewright Michelle Cowley Tom Majchrowski	1989 - Present (Chairperson 2006-2009),  1994 – Present; (Treasurer 1994-98, Chairperson in 2003-2006)  1990 - Present  2013 - Present  2013 - Present; previously been Secretary.  2013 - Present  2013 - Present  2011 - Present  2014 - Present  2015 - Present
Benevolent Fund Representative (if relevant)	Graham Hutson	Current (committee since circa 1978)





Jennifer Rochford is our young member's representative and has been since 2015.

## Diversity & Inclusion

Our trustees are aiming to embed diversity and inclusion in all of our activities and networks. Our [online network handbook](#) contains more information to support our networks in achieving this.

Please comment on how your group is showing that it has embraced Diversity and Inclusion within its practices.

We regularly considered and encouraged involvement across the entire very large Cumbria area by trying to arrange events at the extremities of the "section's area" rather than just the central west coast of Cumbria where most of our active membership reside. However, the results have been underwhelming but we continue to try – we offer speakers to come and visit providing somebody with local knowledge will arrange a suitable location (two members of the committee are located at the extremities). We currently are looking to remind the members of the need for continuing professional development and that includes both taking part and organising events that meet the RSC's objectives.

We tend to move our social events around to give the opportunity of others to attend even in the central west coast region of west Cumbria. The [increasingly] poor public transport is not of help.

Our events are usually open to general public except for the social events. We regularly get out events on to the webpage plus also try a joint institution web page and now looking at internal websites within companies that our committee and section members work.

For our dinner events we are often limited to what the location has to offer but they are generally asking for special dietary requirements (currently one member is potato intolerant and have asked the location to adjust the food for that person) and offering one or more vegetarian options. The refreshments with the talks have generally been sandwich and chips; an attempt to change to something that appeared to be healthier was not popular (and on review was in fact not a healthier option).

Access to most public accessible buildings nowadays has to be disabled friendly and only a few events would have posed difficulties for disabled persons (tour around a dock). Noting though we have had few disabled attendees at any meetings.

We have continued to have talks of a general nature rather than in-depth chemistry to match the predominately industrial nature of the chemists in our catchment rather than academic. The topics have been diverse ranging from homeopathy to local chemistry industries (past and present) to electric cars.

We now have a regular top of the bench event for schools with the aim of holding the following year's event at the winning school, which has resulted in the event moving around considerably. Insufficient interest/numbers means unrealistic to have (sub-)heats within the area. The issue of the distance to travel to the top of the bench final has been discussed and raised with the RSC.

We like to hold demonstration lectures but there are fewer and fewer people who will actually come and do these. Generally need to do the events for the schools during school hours whilst for the general public it needs to be early evening. The events are expensive plus time consuming to arrange and thus locate them where most likely to get attendance and for ease of organising,





which is the central west coast. We would like to look around more relevant industries but tours tend to be during working hours whereas we would generally like to do tours outside these. It is notable that we are seeing further closing down of chemical related businesses.

We are working with other institutes to promote their events and our own RSC events plus produce joint events. The last few joint events were about assisting young persons with job opportunities. However, the last one of the series had a very poor turnout and the joint institution group is now trying to again find its identity.

