Hints and Tips for Opening your lab to non-scientific work colleagues

Objective:
The RSC Public Attitudes to Chemistry Survey concluded that the public don’t have strong feelings about Chemistry- they don’t care!

Why don’t you use your 175 minute RSC pledge to communicate to non-chemists in order to inject some excitement and intrigue towards chemistry?

Suggested format:
A 90 minute ‘open day’ style event works well as it is long enough to feel involved, but short enough to keep attention.

- A series of relatively quick, visually appealing demonstrations
- Use some audience participation
- Keep experiments relatively simple
- Use poster boards to communicate more in depth explanations- enable those that are interested to take a further look.
- Rouse some excitement: perhaps start with an Air Horn, end with a Thermite reaction bang!
- Of course, the promise of refreshments at the end will always attract an audience!

Health & Safety:
This should always be number one priority. Internal procedure or tools on RSC website can help you carry out a risk assessment.

Hand out safety specs and latex gloves on arrival- Not only help to cover H&S obligations but makes the visitors feel immediately involved.

Visual Demos:
The demos will depend on your field of work, however, here are a few suggestions:

- Elephant’s Toothpaste
- Iodine Clock reaction
- Kaleidoscope milk
- Dancing cornflour
- Thermite reaction

Resources, videos and other ideas can be found on the Learn Chemistry website
http://www.rsc.org/learn-chemistry