

Bulletin – December 2023

Committee Contact Details

Chairman

Bill Edwards

Secretary

Dermot Hanna

Treasurer

Michael Roberts

Other Committee Members

Simon Binyon

Keith Earnshaw

Bruce Green

Hooshang Zavareh

Linked-in page:

Royal Society of Chemistry Consultancy Group

RSC: <https://my.rsc.org/groups/home/157>

The Consultancy Group

The Group is one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's many Interest Groups. The Interest Groups are member-driven groups which exist to benefit RSC members, and the wider chemical science community, in line with the RSC's strategy and charter.

The Group provides a forum for RSC members who are consultants. The Group arranges meetings and workshops to provide networking opportunities and training in aspects of setting up and running a consultancy business.

There are currently vacancies on the Consultancy Group Committee. If you are interested in helping to support the work of the Group please contact the Group via the RSC link: <https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/consultancy/#contact>

Spices, Skulduggery and (some) Science.

In this special 'spicy' seasonal event at Burlington House, a collaboration of the Marketing, Management and Consultancy Interest Groups, an opportunity arose to learn some spicy science and stories of skulduggery

in bringing spices to market.

The presenter, Alan Bodley, is a chemist, marketer, and a member of the Marketing Interest Group. Alan provided a great overview of the value of spices in food compared to those foods that are eaten due to their nutritional aspects, but have a generally bland flavour.

The Spice Trade was developed as spices that grew in the Far East were transported via the Middle East to Europe via the Silk Road and later by shipping routes. The shipping routes became more dominant as they could carry larger quantities than by road. The East India and Dutch East India companies were main East to West operators between the 17th to 19th Centuries. Portugal and Spain found new spices in the Americas and shipped those back to Europe. India was the major producer of black and white pepper.

Turmeric has claimed to have an active ingredient, curcumin, which is a cancer cure. Research by the USFDA has indicated that this is not yet proven.

The New World was responsible for chilli, pimento and paprika being brought to Europe by 1590CE although the origins of chilli go back to around 7500BCE, in what is now known as Bolivia.

Alan suggested adding flavour to porridge with the addition of allspice, nutmeg or ginger. Mashed potato could have more colour by adding turmeric.

Following the meeting, a selection of "spicy" food and drinks were consumed by the attendees as a practical exercise!

RSC and CICA Joint Meeting

Our first joint meeting between Consultancy Group and CICA (Chemical & Industrial Consultants Association) was held at the Priory Street Centre, York on 24th of September. A total of 15 people attended including the two speakers.

In the morning session, Bill Edwards gave a talk on Plastic Waste with an emphasis on food packaging material. After lunch, Ellis Marshall from Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre, Teesside University, gave a

talk on their activities on carbon capture, the development of the hydrogen economy, smart energy systems, the development of circular economies and the digital monitoring and simulation laboratory. Both talks stimulated questions and answers from the audience.

Further event information can be found by contacting the RSC using the following details:

Royal Society of Chemistry,
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 432509
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 423623
Email: eventsdatabase@rsc.org

The Consultancy Committee is investigating holding further meetings in the North of England. If you can recommend venues with good transport links, please contact the Secretary:

<https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/consultancy/#contact>

Directory of Consultants

The Royal Society of Chemistry has a list of consultants that are registered with them. It can be found at:

<https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/directory-of-consultants/>

The Directory is a service provided by the Royal Society of Chemistry to members, professionals and the public. The information supplied in this directory, and the services offered and delivered, are entirely the responsibility of the consultants themselves, and not the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The consulting experts listed in this directory are all full members of the Royal Society of Chemistry and are bound by the RSC [Code of Conduct](#).

The Royal Society of Chemistry is not responsible for the content of external websites.

If you wish to be added to the Directory, please complete the application forms found on the RSC webpage above.

Member Articles

The members of the Consultancy Group come from a wide range of industries, as can be seen from the list of

areas of expertise outlined above. Is there an area of your knowledge and expertise that you think might be of interest to others in the Group?

The Group is keen to encourage information dissemination and networking to provide a background to consultancy activities.

If you have, or could write, a 200-300 word piece which outlines aspects or anecdotes that you think will be of interest to other members, please contact the Secretary via the following link:

<https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/consultancy/#contact>

The author of an article published in this bulletin will receive a £25 Amazon gift voucher.