

ESEF Cymru

Earth Science Education Forum – Cymru (ESEF-Cymru)
“Geology and Wine”

4.30pm – 7.00pm 12 December 2006
National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Presentation by
Professor John C W Cope
(Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales)

Minutes of the fifth meeting

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from a number of individuals, organisations and members of the Welsh Assembly, including Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM.

2. Chairman’s introduction:

Chairman welcomed the attendees, gave a summary of the ESEF Cymru and outlined the background to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences (Earth Sciences Group), which is administered by ESEF. The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences meets each month in Westminster when the House is sitting and covers a wide range of Earth Science topics. A list of all meetings held can be seen on the www.esef.org.uk website.

The Chairman invited attendees to suggest topics for future meetings.

3. Minutes of the fourth ESEF Cymru meeting, 7 November 2006 were confirmed as a true record.

4. Matters arising:

[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting]

[4] Welsh Language

- Responses had been received by Dr John Davies, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the Welsh Building Stones Forum, and Cally Oldershaw and will be collated. Funding is being sought to publish the report by ESEF Cymru in conjunction with the National Museum of Wales.

Action: Dr John Davies and Cally Oldershaw

[4] Primary teachers’ Earth science workshop

- Carole Gledhill (Careers Wales) and Cally Oldershaw developed an all-day Earth science event for primary teachers, which included a visit to Hanson’s Built

Wells Quarry, arranged by David Harding. The event was a success and is offered to all regions in Wales. A request had been received for a repeat of the workshop and visit.

[5.1] Outdoor Learning questionnaire

- Completed questionnaires had been collected by Cally Oldershaw and the results collated before forwarding to Kim Polistina. Awaiting response from Kim, who was going to trial the questionnaire with her students and also approach various funding sources. Cally and Kim will liaise regarding evaluation and further development of the questionnaire. The paper will then be circulated via email to all ESEF Cymru invitees with a request for responses, which will be collated by Cally Oldershaw.

Action: Cally Oldershaw and Kim Polistina

5. Stakeholders' discussion:

Collaborative projects and feedback from ESEF Cymru stakeholders, including key issues and concerns.

None.

6. Future programme:

Tuesday 13th March 2007. Techniquet NEWI, Wrexham – ‘Geoconservation and Geodiversity in Wales’.

Venue and speakers' details to be confirmed

- Programme for the next meeting:

4.30 pm – informal networking (tea/coffee)

5.00 pm – 7.00 pm business meeting followed by presentations and discussion

7.00 pm – end

The Chair invited attendees to suggest possible speakers and topics for future meetings. Suggestions should be sent via email to Cally Oldershaw

Action: All

Stakeholder discussion about future programme:

Following on from oil exploration off the West coast of Wales and licence applications, ‘The impact of the petroleum industry on local communities’ was suggested. The Chairman outlined details of the presentation that had been given to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences, which included a presentation on the impact of oil on the Falklands and local communities. It was agreed that a similar emphasis would be appropriate for a meeting of ESEF Cymru.

Jana Horak (National Museum of Wales), noted that the Development of a Science Strategy in Wales could act as a focal point for a future meeting.

John Harrison (Environment Agency, Wales) noted that we should consider how we should tap into the science base in organisations in Wales. The 'Report on Sustainable Development' had recently been published and a meeting on the feasibility of the sustainable development of the Severn barrage would fit well with the Report. John suggested a meeting could take place, with input from the Cardiff Harbour Authority Education Department and offered to host a meeting and arrange a trip to the barrage.

Chris King (Earth Science Education Unit) offered to showcase two new workshops for teachers and PGCE students that had been developed by ESEU to support the WJEC GCSE Science curriculum.

7. Resources

The Chairman thanked those who had given support to ESEF Cymru and invited attendees to suggest ideas as to how they might be able to contribute.

8. AOB

None

9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 13th March, Wrexham (venue and speakers' details to be confirmed)

Cally Oldershaw
8 November 2006