

# Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

## Minutes of the thirty-third meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London at 1.30pm on 20 October 2009

**Present:** Chris King (Co-Chairman (earth Science Education Unit))  
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)  
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and UKRIGGS)  
Grace Kimble (Natural History Museum)  
Natasha Lee (Gloucestershire Geology Trust)  
Cally Oldershaw (Association for Science Education)  
Peter Warren  
Niki Whitburn (ESTA)  
June Wright

**Speaker:** Clare Thomson (Institute of Physics – Speaker)

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Allan Rogers (Co-Chairman), Andrew Rankin (CHUGD), George Meldrum (RMS), Alison Eldridge (RSC), Hellen O'Connor (Gloucestershire Geology Trust), Chris Thomas (Environment Agency), Chris Carlon (Anglo American), Joanna Mears (Geological Society), Susan Brown (Rockwatch and Geologists Association) and Jacqui Malpas (Welsh RIGGS).

Chris King informed the meeting that Allan Rogers had telephoned to tender his resignation as Co-Chair due to family difficulties but would like to remain as a member and receive updates as to the forum's activities. Chris said he had thanked Allan for all he had done for the forum and wished him well. Andy Rankin had also tendered his resignation from the forum as he had now retired from CHUGD, CHUGD would decide his replacement at their next meeting.

### 2 Minutes of the 32nd meeting, 9 June 2009

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and will be placed on the ESEF website

**Action: David Bailey**

### 3 Matter arising

3.1 The discussion at the last meeting with regard to the logo of ASE (Association for Science Education) was too late as all the documents etc had gone beyond the point of change.

3.2 The dates for the next meeting of the All Party meetings was discussed and it was decided to coincide the ESEF meeting for 2010 with those dates despite the clash with Science week for the March meeting.

### 4 Finance report

After the problem of associating the payment from Anglo American to ESEF, June Wright is to ask IOM3 in Stoke how we can ensure that a similar problem does not reoccur  
**Action: June Wright**

### 5 ESEF Website

The link to ESTA from the ESEF web pages is incorrect.

**Action: David Bailey**

### 6 All-party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences update

The director of British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is this evening's speaker.

8 December: It is hoped this will be a fun evening based on gemstones from Africa — hopefully tanzanite and emeralds

16 March 2010: The Seas — based on the United Nations convention on the laws of the seas looking at various changes in sea exploration and exploitation.

8 June 2010: Discussion still to take place as to topic

Subjects suggested for future meetings were earth science in education, careers etc. It was decided to explore these subjects at our future meetings and for Cally to then take these forward to the All Party group. It seems that earth science is not represented within science education - chemistry, biology or physics are — can this be addressed? Chris King to discuss with Rosalind Mist of the Royal Society

**Action: Chris King**

## **7 Potential collaborative projects**

7.1 Earth Science Education Unit has worked with Institute of Physics and together are rolling out workshops in Seismology, Geophysics and Climate change. The launch will be at the ASE meeting in Nottingham on 7–9 January 2010

7.2 Chris King had attended, with Nikki Edwards, a meeting in the Houses of Parliament to promote fieldwork.

7.2 An ASE working group had been promoting fieldwork with the Nuffield organisation. The outcome was the follow-up to the ‘Beyond 2000’ project and is entitled ‘Beyond 2010 – beyond the classroom’. A meeting is due to take place in the next few months to look at taking this into the classroom across the spectrum — not just secondary education.

7.3 It is proposed to have three more diplomas to be hybrid between vocational and academic. The science diploma meetings have produced a list of content which looks excellent. The future of diplomas is uncertain if there is a change of government at the next election.

7.4 David Bailey had received an email from the Council for Learning Outside of the Classroom (LOtC) asking for the forum to look at becoming a member of LOtC, the aim is to raise teacher confidence to allow school trips – providers would be assessed thus informing teachers of safe environments and establishments for school trips. The fees for such membership range from £25 for an individual to £250 for a large (more than 250 employees) organisation. Closing date to nominate Trustees for the Council is 23 October 2009. The deadline for a discounted membership is also 23 October 2009.

## **8 AOB**

8.1 Welsh members of ESEF at Fforest Fawr have asked about the current membership of ESEF and for some information about what we are doing now. Cally Oldershaw to send proforma to June Wright for distribution to all members to complete to enlighten the Welsh members and the ESEF committee about their current position. **Action Cally Oldershaw and June Wright**

8.2 The Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark, have had to relinquish their Geopark status due to lack of funds to maintain their recognition. One is planned for the Cotswolds but is not being formally recognised. It was suggested that Local Authorities be in support of such ventures from the outset.

## **9 Dates of next meetings**

After discussion it was agreed to keep the dates of ESEF meetings in 2010 to coincide with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences meetings. It was noted that there is a conflict with the 16 March date as the National Science Week is taking place that week to coincide with the Big Bang launch in Manchester on 10–12 March.

Speakers and topics to be:

8 Dec 2009: Andy Rankin to talk on ‘Geoscience in Further Education’

- 16 Mar 2010: Simon Kelley to demonstrate the OU's virtual microscope
- 8 Jun 2010: Peter Warren to organise a discussion on 'Should Earth Science be part of mainstream education?'
- 19 Oct 2010: Grace Kimble to convene a discussion on 'Earth Science in a museum environment' and the meeting to be held at the Natural History Museum.  
**Action: Grace Kimble to confirm booking of facility**
- 7 Dec 2010: Martyn Bradley and Natasha Lee to organise discussion on 'Geoscience in Adult Education'
- Mar 2011: Cally Oldershaw to organise presentations on 'Geoscience Careers'

**Agreed actions:**

Agenda Item	Subject	Owner	Due date
33:2	32nd meeting minutes onto ESEF website	David Bailey	7 December 2009
33.4	Ensure smooth payment of subs via IOM3	June Wright	7 December 2009
33:5	ESEF ESTA Link to be corrected	David Bailey	7 December 2009
33:6	Earth Science in the Science curriculum with Rosalind Mist	Chris King	7 December 2009
33.8	Proforma information forms to be sent to ESEF Wales	Cally Oldershaw and June Wright	7 December 2009
33.9	Darwin Centre booking for 19 October 2010 meeting	Grace Kimble	7 December 2009