

Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the thirty-fifth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London at 1.30pm on 16 March 2010

Present: Chris King, Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and GeoConservationUK)
Chris Carlon (Anglo American)
Nikki Edwards (OCR)
Hazel Gibson (Science Education Officer NHM)
Grace Kimble (NHM)
Natasha Lee (Gloucestershire Trust)
Judith Mansell (Royal Geographical Society & IBG)
Cally Oldershaw (Association for Science Education)
Peter Warren
Niki Whitburn (ESTA)
June Wright (British Geological Survey)

Speaker: Professor Simon Kelley Open University

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Bailey (British Geological Survey), Susan Brown (Rockwatch & Geologists' Association), Lorraine Craig (Imperial College London), Rosalind Mist (SCORE) and Toby White (IOM3 & Leeds University)

2 Minutes of the 34th meeting, 8 December 2009

The minutes were amended as requested and accepted as a true record of the meeting and will be placed on the ESEF website. **Action: David Bailey**

3 Matter arising

3.1 June Wright to chase membership confirmation of Council for Learning Outside of the Classroom (LOtC). **Action: June Wright**

3.2 Judith Mansell informed the forum that the Royal Geographical Society's Antarctic Resource which has won several prizes and will shortly announce that it has won the silver award from the Geographical Association. She noted however that geology is still not mentioned at all. David Bailey said that BGS may be able to contribute but they had yet to discuss.

Action: June Wright to remind both parties to take forward

4 Finance report

No change in the financial situation.

5 ESEF(EW) website (www.esef.org.uk)

June Wright confirmed (on behalf of David Bailey) that the website hits was now proving to be consistent with unique hits and remained steady at approximately 1500 hits per calendar month. The apparent drop in visitors was an artefact of a change to more reliable monitoring software.

6 All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences update

Cally Oldershaw informed the meeting that due to the impending general election the planned June All Party meeting was unlikely to go ahead and the meeting should assume that there will be no evening talk. The subject for the October meeting would not be known until the new parliament is convened. Cally reminded all members that if they wished to attend the evening meetings they should respond to email requests and forward a response to Cally for inclusion in the invitation lists.

7 Potential collaborative projects

- 7.1 Chris King informed the forum that both Nikki Edwards from the Exam Awarding Body OCR and Jonathan Owen from the Welsh equivalent WJEC have been invited to attend the ESEF meetings. Nikki Edwards has joined today's meeting and it is thought Jonathan will attend ESEF Cymru meetings. It is suggested that ESTA and the awarding bodies collaborate to provide a mentor to new Earth Science teachers and centres to share experience and resources as required.
- 7.2 ASE have updated their WIKID curriculum and the next batch of lessons to be written will be Earth Sciences, they will be aimed at key stage 3 students and ASE are looking for suitable teachers prepared to write the lessons. A fee is payable but there will be short turn around – probably just two weeks and very soon. Chris King and Niki Whitburn to circulate to their members.
Action: Cally Oldershaw, Chris King and Niki Whitburn
- 7.3 ESTA is working with BGS to develop new activities based on our 'Climate through time poster'. The activities have been circulated to PEST members but BGS will post downloadable versions on their website in a different format so as not to compromise subscriptions from PEST members.
- 7.4 The ESEU electronic version of their activities is to be put on the BGS website.
- 7.5 Natasha Lee stated that the Gloucestershire Geological Trust has a stall at the forthcoming Cheltenham Science Festival on the 13 June 2010, with lots of activities for all the family. The Abberley and Malvern Geopark has produced a book with maps and walks covering 109 miles of footpaths in 17 sections each section can be covered in a day. It has brochures of quarries open to the public and also informs of privately owned ones where access is by arrangement. The ISBN of the book is 955839009-7 and is priced at £9.95 and is available through booksellers.
- 7.6 Between 29/05/10 and 31/08/10 the Hereford and Gloucestershire Trusts are holding a Geofest where they will be going into schools, holding guided visits, a geologically themed railway tour and other activities. When the programme is finalised Natasha will forward to June Wright for circulation to all members and adding to the ESEF website. Action Natasha Lee and June Wright
- 7.7 Fifty champions covering 20 sites have been appointed by the trusts to report on site accessibility within their area.

8 AOB

- 8.1 Chris Carlon mentioned his work with Stemnet and a discussion took place which emphasised the importance of trying to attract a representative from Stemnet to attend as a member of ESEF.
Action: June Wright to ask David Bailey to resend STEMNET details to Chris King
- 8.2 The Anglo American Student Technical Experience Programme (STEP) usually takes on approximately 12-15 students/year, each being a high calibre student. They have usually had to source these students but this year they had 262 apply but were only able to offer 5 places as they have lost 35% of their staff.
- 8.3 Chris King announced that this would be Chris Carlon's last meeting as the representative from Anglo American as he is retiring from the organisation. Chris King thanked Chris Carlon for his support and his work for ESEF over the years and wished him a very happy retirement, he invited Chris Carlon to remain a member of the forum as his input is appreciated.
- 8.4 Grace Kimble stated that she had been involved with the International Primary curriculum and was impressed by the units. She would forward to the Forum via June Wright. Action Grace Kimble

9 Dates of next meetings

Chris King thanked everyone for their attendance

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| 8 June 2010 | Peter Warren to organise a discussion on 'How should earth science be part of mainstream education?' |
| 19 October 2010 | Martyn Bradley and Natasha Lee to organise discussion on 'Geoscience in Adult Education'. |

7 December 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.

March 2011 Cally Oldershaw to organise presentations on 'Geoscience Careers'.

Agreed actions:

Agenda Item	Subject	Owner	Due date
33.8	Proforma information forms to be sent to ESEF Wales	Cally Oldershaw and June Wright	7 December 2009
34.3	Confirm membership of Council for Learning Outside of the Classroom	Chris King (and June Wright)	15 March 2010
34.7	Can BGS contribute to the RGS Arctic Resources page	David Bailey	15 March 2010
35.2	Minutes from 34 th meeting to be placed on website	David Bailey	As soon as possible
35.3	Learn more about membership of Learning outside of the classroom	June Wright	8 June 2010
35.3	Collaborate on Arctic paper for web	David Bailey and Judith Mansell	8 June 2010
37.7	WIKID earth science papers	Niki Whitburn, Cally Oldershaw and Chris King	Now circulated
37.7	29/05/10 and 31/08/10 the Hereford and Gloucestershire Trusts Geofest AGENDA to be circulated	Natasha Lee and June Wright	As soon as possible
37.8	David Bailey to resend Stemnet details to Chris King.	June Wright and David Bailey	As soon as possible
37.8	International Primary curriculum to be forward to the forum via June Wright.	Grace Kimble	As soon as possible

Chris King introduced Professor Simon Kelley who gave a talk on the OU's Virtual Microscope <http://projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/microscope/>