

The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the thirtieth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining 1 Carlton House Terrace London at 1.30 p.m. on 9 December 2008

Present: Chris King, Co-Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and UKRIGS)
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association and Rockwatch)
Chris Carlon (Anglo American)
Peter Jones (UKRIGS and Derby University)
Judith Mansell (Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers)
Joanna Mears (Geological Society of London)
Cally Oldershaw (Association for Science Education)
Toby White (Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining)
Niki Whitburn (ESTA)
Peter Warren
June Wright, Secretary (BGS)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Allan Rogers, Co-Chairman, and representatives of the following organisations: the Geographical Association; the Geological Curators' Group; the Learning, Teaching and Skills Network – Geography, Environmental and Earth Sciences; the Quarry Products Association; the Royal Meteorological Society; the Royal Society of Chemistry; and Scott Wilson.

2 Chairman's introduction

Chris King welcomed all new members and asked for a round table introduction for the benefit of first time attendees.

3 Minutes of the 29th meeting 7 October 2008

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

Action: D Bailey

4 Matters arising

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

4.1 *[4.1] Subscriptions:* The Chair asked if it is the intention of the Forum to continue with a voluntary payment of £150 per organisation represented. This was agreed.

Action: David Bailey and June Wright

4.2 *[6.2] Secretarial duties* June Wright to take on the Secretarial duties from Cally Oldershaw assuming BGS funding continues. **Action: June Wright to discuss with Cally Oldershaw**

4.3 *[12.1] Colin Osborne retirement* No replacement has been nominated by the Royal Society of Chemistry to replace Colin Osborne. **Action: Colin Osborne to advise**

4.4 *[12.2] BGS Strategy* David Bailey pointed out the BGS Strategy was available (at bgs.ac.uk) for consultation until 06/01/09. Chris King volunteered to comment on behalf of ESEF and encouraged the members to do likewise for their organisations. **Action: All**

4.5 *[12.4] Geological Society Careers Day* this was noted to be the most successful such event held with over 400 students attending and the standard of student was markedly improved from previous years. The new four-year M.Sci. and M.Geol. courses and the question of how best to advise students were discussed. It was suggested that a representative of CHUGD could address the Forum on current degree options at a later date. **Action: Chris King to discuss with Andy Rankin**

4.6 [12.5] *Rockwatch event* Year-8 and -9 children from ten schools in north London attended an event to discuss energy supply, climate change and sustainable development. Ian Stewart was the master of ceremonies and the feedback was very positive. Thanks were expressed to all members who had supported the event.

Standing Items

5 Finance

The balance in the account was confirmed as £1020.41. The finances are handled by Stoke office of IoM3. Letters requesting subscriptions will be forwarded to all Forum member organisation once arrangements for payment have been confirmed.

Action: June Wright and David Bailey

6 Executive Officer

As this post is now vacant there was no report.

7 ESEF Website

No new pages to report. Web statistics package indicates use of site continues to rise.

Action: David Bailey to update

8 All Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences

Dates for future meetings have been agreed:

- 9 December 2008
- 10 March 2009 (NB clashes with National Science & Engineering Week, Cally to seek approval to reschedule for 17 March **Action Cally Oldershaw**)
- 9 June 2009
- 20 October 2009
- 8 December 2009

As usual, one meeting will be held with another Parliamentary Group with shared interests, e.g. Energy.

9 SESEF update

No comments made.

10 Government policy issues

Science is no longer to be considered a core subject according to the draft Primary curriculum. The subject is expected to be cross cutting and not curriculum specific. The final report is due in the spring. The Geographical Association are keeping an eye on developments and question how it will be assessed. A recent newspaper reported that geology is a career short of graduates. It was highlighted that the Higher Education Funding Council does not get funding for geology. Ted Nield of the Geological Society is to be asked to take it up with the Guardian newspaper. **Action Martyn Bradley and Joanna Mears**

11 Annual Conference

As Allan Rogers was not present no discussion took place.

12 Potential collaborative projects

None stated

13 AOB

- 13.1 Toby White handed out CDs of the presentation made at the last meeting.
- 13.2 Members of the Schools Affiliate Scheme receive copies of the IOM3 Nitinol publication
- 13.3 Thanks were expressed for the generous support from both Anglo American and Rio Tinto to enable 80 schools to join the IOM3 Schools Affiliate Scheme.

- 13.4 BGS helped evolve Science Challenge, which provides information for apprentice type skills through trade unions and NERC, this is attracting European wide interest.
- 13.5 The Dutch have a Geotruck which visits venues around the Netherlands promoting Geosciences, the venture incurs running costs of €50,000 for IPR. It was noted the Cambridge University run a Time Truck.
- 13.6 The following programme of presentations was agreed for future Forum meetings:
- 17 March: Geological education in the voluntary sector (Martyn Bradley to convene)
 - 9 June: Earth science in the geography curriculum – Key stage 3/4 (Judith Mansell to convene)
 - 20 October: Earth science in the science curriculum (RSC and Institute of Physics – Cally Oldershaw to convene)
 - 08 December: Geology degrees: Andy Rankin to speak (Chris King to convene)

After the meeting the following presentations were given:

- “Outreach and Geoscience (Geologists’ Association and Rockwatch)” by Susan Brown
- “Looking at outreach for adults” by Martyn Bradley
- “Earth science in primary education” by Niki Whitburn

Actions

| Agenda item | Subject | Owner | Date due |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 30:4.1 | Subscription letters to be sent | June Wright | |
| 30:4.2 | Secretarial duties to be discussed | June Wright and Cally Oldershaw | |
| 30:4.3 | Colin Osborne replacement | Colin Osborne | |
| 30:4.4 | BGS Strategy consultation | All | 06/01/09 |
| 30:4.5 | Geology degrees | Chris King to discuss with Andy Rankin | |
| 30:5 | Finance details to be sorted out with Cally Oldershaw | David Bailey and June Wright | |
| 30:7 | Website to be updated | David Bailey | ASAP |
| 30:8 | Change date of March All party meeting to 17/03/09 | Cally Oldershaw | ASAP |
| 30:10 | Ted Nield to be asked to take up shortage of geology graduates with Guardian. | Martyn Bradley and Joanna Mears | |