

# Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

## Minutes of the thirty-fourth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London at 1.30pm on 8 December 2009

**Present:** Chris King, Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)  
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)  
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and GeoConservationUK)  
Susan Brown (Rockwatch & Geologists' Association)  
Chris Carlon (Anglo American)  
Mike Harget (Environment Agency)  
Natasha Lee (Gloucestershire Geology Trust)  
Jacqui Malpas Geodiversity Wales  
Judith Mansell (Royal Geographical Society & IBG)  
Cally Oldershaw (Association for Science Education)  
Peter Warren  
Toby White (IOM3 & Leeds University)  
Niki Whitburn (ESTA)  
June Wright (British Geological Survey)

**Speaker:** Andy Rankin Kingston University

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Grace Kimble (Natural History Museum), George Meldrum (RMS), Hellen O'Connor (Gloucestershire Geology Trust), Hazel Rymer (OU) and Annette Thomas (Oil & Gas UK).

### 2 Minutes of the 33rd meeting, 20 October 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 Chris King to chase membership confirmation of Council for Learning Outside of the Classroom (LOtC).

**Action Chris King via June Wright**

3.2 June Wright to confirm with Grace Kimble that the Darwin Centre had been booked for the October 2010 meeting.

**Action June Wright**

### 4 Finance report

No change in the financial situation.

### 5 ESEF website ([www.esef.org.uk](http://www.esef.org.uk))

David Bailey told the meeting that the URL for ESEF has been renewed for the next two years at a cost of £10. He also noted that it seemed that the number of hits to the site had reduced drastically since BGS had launched its new website but the number of unique hits had stayed reasonably level.

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

Cally Oldershaw apologised for the alteration to the timing of the evening All-Party meeting but this was due to the large number of attendees.

### 7 Potential collaborative projects

7.1 David Bailey informed the meeting that BGS has launched OpenGeoscience this week which should be of interest to all members. The information launched included geoscience photographs ('GeoScenic') and the 1:50k geological maps which are overlaid on ESRI's 'Street Map Service'

not on the OS topography maps. The information is free at source and can be accessed by other organisations to create new non-commercial services providing BGS is acknowledged, but the data cannot be downloaded. Other datasets may become available at future dates but they are still under discussion. Feedback from the forum on the data available would be appreciated. Chris King thanked BGS on behalf of ESEF for this release.

- 7.2 Chris King informed the forum that all were invited to the International Geoscience Education Organisation meeting to be held from 29 August to 3 September 2010 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 7.3 Susan Brown informed the forum of a meeting with the Mineral Society on 13 December 2010 at 10.30 at the Natural History Society, which would look at the two organisations working together. A number of free places have been available to Rockwatch members.
- 7.4 Judith Mansell informed the forum that the Royal Geographical Society have launched the Arctic Resources website ([www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk](http://www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk)) which has eight sections giving an insight into the people of the Arctic and how their lives are changing in view of mineral exploration. She noted however that geology is not mentioned at all. David Bailey said that BGS may be able to contribute to the site and would investigate. Chris King thanked Judith on the forum's behalf.

**Action David Bailey**

- 7.5 Toby White informed the forum that IOM3 are looking at recruiting staff to develop mining, minerals and earth sciences in schools. The posts would be part time 2-3 days/week. 80 schools were recruited to their scheme last year and the whole country is difficult to cover by one person. Toby also stated that Leeds University would not be offering mining engineering at degree level in 2010 which was very sad but indicative. The only university now offering this course is the Camborne School of Mines (Exeter University).
- 7.6 Mike Harget stated that the EA develop staff once employed and currently have some 250 geoscientific staff. Their studies lead to an award of practising geologist which is accredited by the Geological Society. A brownfield skills framework is being issued shortly based on the EA scheme.
- 7.7 Chris King stated that at the last ESEU steering committee it was decided to work with ESTA to develop an award for best geoscience teacher.
- 7.8 Chris Carlon spoke on the recent careers day held by the Geological Society in Nottingham. The number of delegates remained stable at about 400 despite having to pay £10 per head to attend. Many young people attended with their parents. It was a very good day with many universities attending along with geophysical companies and the EA.
- 7.9 Natasha Lee asked if we do anything with STEMNET. Forum members informed her of their contacts and it was suggested that a representative of STEMNET be invited to the forum.

**Action on David Bailey to supply contact name to Chris King**

- 7.10 June Wright mentioned BGS's planned involvement with the Nuffield Bursaries and explained the process for attracting suitable students to suitable projects in the geoscience fields.
- 7.11 Cally Oldershaw stated that a number of undergraduates go into schools under the Researchers in Residence Scheme and researchers are funded by RCUK and the Wellcome Trust and that the ASE are involved on the schools side.

## **8 AOB**

There was no other business.

## **9 Dates of next meetings**

Chris King thanked everyone for their attendance

16 March 2010 Simon Kelley would demonstrate the OU's virtual microscope.

8 June 2010 Peter Warren to organise a discussion on 'How should earth science be part of mainstream education?'

19 October 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 December 2010 Martyn Bradley and Natasha Lee to organise discussion on 'Geoscience in Adult Education'.

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

**Agreed actions:**

Agenda Item	Subject	Owner	Due date
33:5	ESEF website: ESTA Link to be corrected	David Bailey	7 December 2009
33:6	Earth science in SCORE with Rosalind Mist	Chris King	7 December 2009
33.8	Proforma information forms to be sent to ESEF Cymru	Cally Oldershaw and June Wright	7 December 2009
33.9	Darwin Centre booking for 19 October 2010 meeting	Grace Kimble	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