



Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the 69th meeting

Held in the Lapworth Museum of Geology, Birmingham University at 1.00 pm, 26 March 2019.

Present

Annette Shelford
Chris King (Earth Science Education Unit)
Duncan Hawley (Geographical Association)
John Stevenson (BGS)
Lesley Dunlop (English Geodiversity Forum)
Maggie Williams (Liverpool Uni.)
Pete Loader (Geological Society)
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK)

Via teleconference

Nikki Edwards (ESTA)
Tom Argles (OU)

Apologies for absence:

Bob Mustow (Bath Geol Soc)
Cally Oldershaw
Hazel Gibson (Plymouth University)
Ian Mercer (U3A)
Isabel Markham
John Ayres (U3A and Jurassic Coast)
Pamela Boulton (U3A)
Peter Jones (Derby Uni)
Roger Trend
Susan Brown (Rockwatch)
Sylvia Knight (Royal Meteorological Society)

1. Talk and tour

Lapworth Museum of Geology

Talk: Primary Educational sessions, Anna Chrystal. Learning and Public Engagement Manager

Tour: Aeron Moore, Learning and Engagement Officer

2 ESEF Future Direction discussion

This meeting was dominated by discussions on the future direction of the ESEF.

ESEF member survey

At the beginning of December 2018, an online survey on the future direction of the ESEF was circulated to the 47 contacts in the ESEF member database. The results of the survey are presented in the online dashboard at the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-PXN7CB2L/>

The results of the survey informed some decisions that were agreed at the meeting:

- The ESEF should continue
- The ESEF should meet twice per year
- Future meetings would offer a conference call option to encourage greater participation
- The ESEF should have the same aims, but broaden its remit

However, the meeting included much discussion on the aims and breadth of the ESEF. In particular:

- Are meetings and discussions inclusive of a broad range of earth sciences or does it tend to focus on geology?
- As a result of the above, it was noted that the ESEF has quite a narrow membership in terms of the range of earth scientists it engages with and that the demographic of the members was predominantly 50-plus in age.

Increasing membership of the ESEF

It was also proposed that a way of encouraging wider participation in the ESEF from a broader range of earth science organizations, and also to engage younger earth science educators, the ESEF should pilot 'piggy backing' ESEF 'meetings' on to relevant conferences. The first of these 'piggy back' meetings was scheduled over lunchtime on Friday 27 September at the ESTA Conference, Lapworth Museum of Geology, Birmingham University. The second idea was to write a proposal to facilitate an ESEF 'network event' as a session at the 2020 Geographical Association (GA) conference, subject to approval by the GA's PGSIG. Annette Shelford and John Stevenson were actioned to write this proposal if and when approved by the GA's PGSIG. If successful this could be used at other conferences e.g. ASE.

Improving ESEF networking support

The group discussed the use of LinkedIn as a means of improving networking between the earth science education community. Although this idea was met with a mixed response, it was agreed that John Stevenson would set up an ESEF LinkedIn Group. The group is called 'Earth Science Education Forum www.esef.org.uk' and can be found at the following URL

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8764936/>

The LinkedIn group is intended to bring together a wide network of earth science educators in order to:

- recruit new ESEF members
- to act as discussion forum i.e. members should post questions and requests to
 - networking and community building
 - develop opportunities for collaboration
 - share resources
 - enable people to promote earth science education
 - support members that may feel isolated from relevant support in their workplace
- to inform the ESEF of what its revised purpose could be

8 AOB

Next GeoWeek meeting is scheduled for Friday 18 May at 2pm via teleconference.

9 Date/s of future ESEF meetings

27 September 2019 ESTA Conference, Lapworth Museum of Geology, Birmingham University

