



RSC COMMITTEE

Richard Blackburn was elected to join the RSC Tertiary Education Group Committee. Richard serves as the membership's officer and Dylan Williams is the current secretary.

RSC EARLY CAREERS NETWORK

Richard Blackburn hosted an Early Careers Network for the RSC at Leicester. Approximately 20 UG and PG students attended two talks about job prospects/working in the chemical industry.

Outreach Event - Air quality and Environmental Chemistry in Manchester

Dr Zoe Fleming organised an Environmental Chemistry outreach stall with 10 volunteers from universities (including the new PhD student Marios Panagi) and teaching or outreach jobs around the UK at the end of October (24-29th October). The event was held at the Runway visitor centre at Manchester airport.



The event had 60 stalls from various environmental research, communication or charitable organisations and was organised by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to showcase the UK's research aircraft that was available for public visits. 5000 visitors came to the exhibit and the activities we put on ranged from ocean acidification demonstrations, to filtering contaminated water with zeolites, to extracting microplastics from soils, as well as demonstrating small sensors for air quality measurements.

Dr Teresa Raventos, with strong links to the Chemistry Department, showed off the electric car we have used for air pollution studies with her "Are electric cars the solution to pollution" stall at the event.

RSC DALTON DIVISION

On 1 October Professor Raven began her two-year tenure as President of the RSC's Dalton Division, following in the footsteps of other senior inorganic chemists over the years (see <http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/DaltonDivision/DaltonHistory.asp>).

Emma takes over from Professor David Cole-Hamilton (University of St Andrews). Emma said "It's a huge privilege to be asked to lead the Dalton Division of the RSC, and I will be working hard to promote the activities of the UK inorganic chemistry as widely as possible to the international community and will be working on policies that encourage a younger generation of inorganic chemists in the UK."



PROF ROB HILLMAN TO PRESENT AT JSPS LONDON RESEARCH PROMOTION CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 16th November Rob Hillman will present at the JSPS London research promotion conference at the Japanese Embassy in London.

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Rob will hopefully make an impression with this audience and will create new potential collaborators from a variety of research fields. Representatives of funding bodies, including the Research Councils, the Royal Society and the British Academy will also be attending the event.

Halloween Fun



The department welcomed around 15 children from the University nursery for Halloween fun and ice cream making on Monday 31st October in the MML. Many thanks to all staff involved.

Open Day successes



We have had 3 successful open days welcoming approximately 200 prospective students to our department. It was the efforts of students (UG + PG), admin, technical and academic staff that helped us receive very positive/encourage comments from our visitors. Congratulations to everyone involved for all their help and effort!!!

NEWTON FUND CONFERENCE BURSARY

Richard Blackburn received a Newton Fund/Researcher Links Award from the British Council to attend Molecular Sensors and Logic Gates 2016, a UK-China Researcher Links Workshop at the University of Bath.

He presented recent collaborative research into small molecule sensors that has been conducted at Bath with his synthetic input, the first half of this work was since published in chem. commun.
DOI: [10.1039/C6CC07030B](https://doi.org/10.1039/C6CC07030B).

Congratulations also go to Richard for winning the department's (student nominated) John Holloway teaching award.



PROF PAUL CULLIS ELECTED CHAIR OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Paul Cullis has been elected as the new chair of the University's ethics committee.

Paul has also been invited by the RSC to judge the House of Common's STEM for Britain early scientist's careers poster session.



IGAC Science Conference poster presentation



Sarkawt Hama, Postgraduate Researcher in the Atmospheric Chemistry group presented a poster at the IGAC (International Global Atmospheric Chemistry) Science Conference 2016 in Breckenridge USA (<http://www.igac2016.org>). He was awarded an Early Career Travel Grant by IGAC for attending a short-course and the IGAC Science Conference.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS SUCCESS



Dylan Williams, Graham Wynn and Richard Blackburn were shortlisted (final 3) for one of the new Discovering Excellence awards to their innovative teaching.

The winner was revealed at an awards dinner on 10th November 2016 and the award eventually went to Dr Graham Wynn (College Academic Director). Nonetheless, congratulations to Richard and Dylan for coming so close!



VISITS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Dr Richard Blackburn visited the Institute of Chemistry Timisoara of the Romanian Academy for an informal lunch and discussion with fellow researchers as part of a holiday with his collaborators/ex-supervisors.



Wolf Run (10K obstacle course) for Macmillan cancer support



Last week some superheroes from the Chemistry Department ran a wolf run (10k obstacle course) for Macmillan cancer support.

They have nearly reached their target and would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fundraiser. If you would like to donate you can do so here:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/TheFreeRadicals>



CHEMISTRY HAPPY HOUR

Shannon and Georgie have rebooted the Chemistry Happy Hour, which was very successful last month. They would like to especially thank the academics who contributed money towards it, as well as those who brought food and drinks.

The next Chemistry Happy Hour will be announced soon to MChem students, PhDs and staff.

There is a collection box in the tea room if anyone would like to contribute, or contact Shannon Stodd or Georgie Girt directly (srs26@le.ac.uk & gcg4@le.ac.uk).

Pictures from Happy Hour: <https://goo.gl/photos/MxSoxmNugYjHK3Kb6>