



Minutes of the 2017 AGM of the Outreach and Education Committee of the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS) which was held on Wednesday 5 July at mmc2017 in Manchester

Present: Professor Susan Anderson (Chair, Honorary Secretary Education), Professor Susan Brooks (Chair, Education Sub-Group), Mr Owen Green (Section Secretary), Professor Michelle Peckham (RMS President), Professor Pete Nellist (RMS Vice-President), Dr Peter O'Toole (RMS Vice-President), Professor Chris Hawes HonFRMS (RMS Executive Honorary Secretary), Dr Debbie Stokes (RMS International Secretary), Dr Lynne Joyce (RMS Honorary Treasurer), Professor Maddy Parsons (RMS Honorary Secretary Science – Life), Professor Rik Brydson (RMS Honorary Secretary Science – Physical), Dr Alex Ball, Dr Lucy Collinson, Dr Peter Evennett HonFRMS, Dr Sarah Haigh, Dr Chris Hammond, Dr Pippa Hawes, Dr John Hutchinson, Professor Angus Kirkland, Professor Mark Leake, Dr Terry McMaster, Professor Paul Midgely, Mrs Niga Nawroly, Professor Klaus Qvortrup, Dr David Robertson, Dr Noah Russell, Dr Andrew Scott, Mr Alex Sossick, Mr David Spears, Mr Leslie Stump, Dr Kerry Thompson, Professor Paul Verkade, Dr Theresa Ward, Dr Claire Wells, Dr Neil Wilson, Ms Allison Winton (RMS Chief Executive), Ms Karen Collins (RMS Administrator), Mrs Victoria Masters (RMS staff), Mr Adam Clay (RMS staff), and Dr Zdravka Dragnevska FRMS (RMS staff).

1. Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Professor Rob Kessler, Dr James Perkins and Mr Peter Sainsbury.
2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
The Minutes were signed and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
3. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
4. Report from Section Chair
“Once again it has been a busy year for our Committee. I will report separately on our 3 themes: School’s Outreach, Professional CPD and Public outreach.

a. Schools Outreach

MAK:

The MAK continues to be a success and I can report that we have reached 67,929 children to date not counting the international projects. We don’t get feedback from everyone, and we don’t include the festivals and events, so this is an underestimate. It is helping to develop interest in science and also helping teachers to develop cross curricular activities linking science to other areas in the curriculum in imaginative and creative ways. We conducted and impact study of the kits with a PG student, Aaron Horsey, undertaking a 3 month placement with the Society and found interesting outcomes around engaging students beyond science, in cross curricular activities and in ‘hard to reach’ children. Interestingly, our work with County Print has had a really positive impact on that organisation which works with people with learning difficulties.

We continue to expand our international links including MSI to UoNMC who have led sessions for refugee children as well as local schools.

Finish with a quote - “The kit was the best I have experienced in over 20 years of teaching; the quality of the activities, the resources that were all provided so nothing had to be brought in, the quality of the microscopes. From the first activity, children were enthralled by what they discovered and saw. The project has been a real highlight of our learning this term and engaged every child in a wide ability range within a mixed-age junior class (year 3 to year 6). Beetham CE Primary, Spring 2017.”

- b. Professional CPD
Learning zone at MMC 2015, 340 attendees.

RMS Diploma:

Many thanks to Susan Brookes and the other Education Sub-Committee members for their input in ensuring the smooth running of this qualification and the updating of all the processes and paperwork. We had a Learning Zone talk yesterday which was attended by current and past diploma candidates plus interested prospective candidates. FROM 5 COUNTRIES: UK, PORTUGAL, SWEDEN, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND.

We have 9 current Diploma candidates and one application has just come in (and I will send on). We have 5 Diplomates. I am also still looking at the possibility of getting the DipRMS certified.

- c. Public Outreach

Events we have attended or loaned microscopes to:

- o Big Biology Day – Staffordshire University – 15 October 2016 – Karen Collins, Leslie Stump
- o ASE University of Reading 4 – 7 January 2017 – Peter Evennett, Peter Sainsbury, Owen Green -
- o Big Bang – Leicester Grammar School – 25 February 2017 – Karen Collins, Leslie Stump
- o SMASHfestUK - STEM/Arts Festival - Deptford – 16 – 17 February 2017 – loaned microscopes
- o 14th Schools Science Conference – 26 April 2017 – Claire Wells, Rob Kessler, Kate Wooding
- o Lyme Regis Fossil Festival 27 – 30 April 2017 – Alex Ball, Owen Green
- o Wonder- University of Nottingham, 17th June 2017 – Susan Anderson 7000 attendees.

These events are important to engage the general public in science via microscopy and are rewarding for our microscopists. They take a lot of hard work by the organisers, volunteers and office staff and I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in making these events a success.

Linking all these things together, I had the pleasure of being invited to give a talk at the Anatomy on the edge conference in Galway this year, talking about our 3 themes in Education and Outreach.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the generosity of time and spirit from our dedicated committee members and the fantastic support from the Office staff, too many to mention individually. Sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

Thank you.’’

5. Election of Members

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Professor Susan Anderson, University of Nottingham
Vice-Chair: Mr Owen Green, University of Oxford

6. Election of Ordinary Members

There being no other nominations, the following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Dr Alex Ball, Natural History Museum
Professor Susan Brookes, Oxford Brookes University
Dr Pippa Hawes, The Pirbright Institute
Professor Rob Kessler
Ms Niga Nawroly, ACEA Biosciences
Dr James Perkins, St Paul’s School, London
Dr Noah Russell, University of Nottingham

Mr Peter Sainsbury, Primary Science Teaching Trust
Dr Andrew Scott, University of Leeds
Dr Kerry Thompson, NUI Galway, Ireland
Dr Claire Wells, King's College London
Dr Neil Wilson, University of Warwick

Honorary Members (invited to attend):
Dr Peter Evennett, University of Leeds
Dr Chris Hammond, University of Leeds

7. Any Other Business – there was none.