

Yorkshire Branch

**Minutes of the meeting 13th July, 10.30 am, Krebs Room, University of Sheffield**

**1. Attendance**

In attendance: Lynda Partridge, Danae Dodge, Richard Reece-Jones, Graham Bonwick, Emma Jones

**2. Apologies**: Val Randall, Tayyebeh Vafaee, Fiona Real, Sohan Jeeta, Chris Collins (Chris phoned just before the meeting with updates on his actions from the previous meeting)

**3. Minutes or previous meeting: 13th July, Sheffield**

These had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

4.1 The Branch still needs a Secretary. LP contacted Rebecca Robertson directly, but received no response. The post is still being advertised on the website and by social media. This will be raised at the AGM in November.

4.2 Finance – LP still to send headings for usual events to GB and CC (although previous budget, sent to GB should be useful)

4.3 Housekeeping update for Frontiers of Science meeting – CC has sent this to KPMG and cc’d Committee members.

4.4 Contacting society members at other Universities - DD is working on this

4.5. Events for 6th formers: to be considered at a later meeting, when more members are present

4.6 Update on Frontiers meeting – considered under item 9

4.7 Gifts for Clive Tiney and Steve Picksley – LP still to action this

**5. Finance**

GB presented a draft of the budget for next year. This looks very sensible and is in line with previous budgets. There is still some uncertainty over whether remaining funds can be “carried over” to next year. ACTION GB to check this with RSB and to send finalised budget.

There appears to be ~£160 remaining in the Yorkshire Branch bank account (presumably from the time before RSB dealt with finances). RSB has been contacted for advice.

**6. Plans for Autumn Symposium 2019. “Clean Water”.**

All speakers confirmed. LPvisited Hull in early August and had a very good meeting with Prof. Rotchell and Dr Dominic Henry.The venue looks very suitable and those at Hull have suggested a tour of research facilities during the lunch break. The Science Events Team at Hull are organising catering etc. A risk assessment and events form have been submitted to RSB and the event is now being advertised by RSB and on Social Media. RR-J suggested contacting relevant industries, water boards etc. It would be good to also contact student societies at Yorkshire universities

ACTION: LP to finalise arrangements with Events Team at Hull re catering, registration, signage + to contact speakers wrt travel arrangements and overnight accommodation if needed.

ACTION: ALL to make use of contacts (industry, Universities etc.) to advertise the meeting. Committee members were also reminded to register!

The AGM was briefly discussed - an Agenda will be circulated shortly and it was agreed that items to include would be the vacant Secretary position and the “Pioneers of Biology” event (item 7).

**7. Plans for “Pioneers of Biology” Event**

The Committee were very pleased that the Branch’s suggestion of Lady Mary Wortely Montagu at Wentworth Castle had been chosen to go forward for this. (Details of this were circulated to the Committee earlier this week). CC is happy to liaise with RSB on this, given his specialist knowledge of Lady Mary. The RSB plans for the event envisage unveiling of a blue plaque, an inspiring talk about Lady Mary (CC?) + an engaging lecture about present and future research in the area, with a networking reception to follow. The Committee felt that the topic (vaccination) would be very topical and relevant and that it should be feasible to find a local expert to deliver the lecture.

RSB have asked for a suggested date for this by 2nd October. The committee favoured a date in Spring/early summer, but felt that further plans could not be made until those who run Wentworth Castle Gardens (the National Trust in partnership with Barnsley Metropolitan Council and the Northern College) have agreed to such an event. LP has recently e.mailed the National Trust at Wentworth Castle Gardens (Shameema Haque from RSB cc’d) and is waiting for a response.

ACTION: LP and CC to follow up with RSB once a response from Wentworth Castle Gardens has been received.

**8. Covance Tour**

CC has contacted Covance about the suggested tour and is awaiting a response.

**9. Update on plans for future events**

**9.1. Frontiers of Science Meeting (Leeds)**

CC has sent an e. mail to KPMG requesting a booking for this event and is awaiting a response. Further details (e.g. speakers confirmed etc.) need to be discussed with SJ.

**9.2 Joint RSB/RSC lecture**

The date for this has been confirmed as 29th April 2020. Dr Sarah Staniland has confirmed that she will speak and given the title"Learning from bacterial biomineralisation: Proteins shaping the future of magnetic nanoparticles" – suggest that this is prefaced by “Magnetic bacteria” to appeal to a more general audience? Prof James Moir (York) has been very helpful in assisting with arrangements for this. A lecture theatre (the Dianna Bowles Lecture Theatre, Biology K018) has been booked and catering will be arranged by the University of York (light refreshments from 6pm, followed by the seminar at 7.00pm). Owing to time constraints and expense, Committee members agreed NOT to have a meal with the speaker afterwards as has been done in previous years.

**9.3. Summer Outing.**

The proposed visit to Harlow Carr has been postponed due to lack of time to organise. Those present felt that this was an excellent idea for next year’s summer outing, but stressed the need to organise and set a date well in advance. CC has also suggested Catterick Camp Nature Reserve and the Himalayan Garden near Ripon. These were felt to be good suggestions (maybe for future Summer and Spring outings resectively).

ACTION: To follow up proposed outing with CC at the next Committee Meeting or by email dialogue Chris will initiate for Himalayan Garden.

**11. Date of next Committee Meeting**

This will be finalised at the symposium in Hull in November, when hopefully more members are present, but a date in late January was suggested. Venue to be confirmed.

**12. AOB**

LP and TV will represent the Branch at a prize giving ceremony, at Sheffield Hallam for the Royal Society of Biology Top Student Award on the 19th of November. DD advised about the format of the event, which she attended last year.