



Bristol & Bath Branch
<http://BSciA-BSBA.org.uk>
www.britishtscienceassociation.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd November 2011

Friends Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2010 British Science Association Bristol & Bath Branch AGM (2 Dec 2010)**
- 3. Chairman's Report**
- 4. Honorary Secretary's Report**
- 5. Honorary Treasurer's Report**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The British Science Association is registered as a charity in England and Wales number 212479
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NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION BRISTOL & BATH BRANCH COMMITTEE, 2010/2011

i) OFFICERS

	Chair	Hon Secretary	Hon Treasurer
Nominee	John Bradford	Rebecca Moran	Madelon Foard
Proposed	Eric Albone	Lloyd Kilford	Ruth Hendry

Seconded	Bob Foster	Patrick Slade	John Bradford
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No other nominations for Officers have been received by the due date.

ii) COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Eric Albone (Deputy Chair)**
- Hayley Birch (Reporting Officer)**
- Dane Comerford**
- Bob Foster**
- Katy Glazer**
- Adam Hart**
- Ruth Hendry**
- Laura Murray**
- Lloyd Kilford**
- Patrick Slade (Minutes' Secretary)**
- Emma Trantham (Programme Secretary)**

Additional Committee Members may be nominated up to and at the AGM

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The British Science Association's vision is of a society in which people are able to access science, engage with it and feel a sense of ownership about its direction. Membership is free and open to all, and entails in signing up on line to the objectives of the Association. You do not have to be a member to take part.

A brief glance at our Secretary's Report (below) will show just what an outstandingly diverse programme your Branch has been able to mount since our 2010 AGM last December and is all the more remarkable because this has been delivered on a shoestring budget.

Our success, and this is for you to judge, is the work of a remarkably strong and committed Committee of volunteers to whom I am immensely grateful. They bring together a huge range of experience and skill and are full of ideas. Committee Meetings, of which there have only been three this year (our usual number). It is one of the liveliest and happiest Committees I have encountered for a very long time and if you have any ideas to contribute or would like to be involved in any way, please do not hesitate to make contact.

I would like to pay special tribute here to two of our committee, Ruth Hendry and Becky Moran who between them not only secured funding for the Branch from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a series of Nature Parties this summer in communities around Bristol but also have put in a huge amount of effort mobilizing a team of volunteers from other conservation organisations to make the Nature Parties a very great success, and one on which I am sure they will build.

I would also like to give particular thanks Alison Rivett who is standing down from the Committee after many years. She has combined her role of SW Regional Representative of the Institute of Physics and her work also with Chem Labs, with being an effective Programme Secretary, a role which she handed over to Emma Trantham during the year who in her day job is a vet at Bristol University. Also I would like to thank Laura Murray who unfortunately had to stand down as Hon Treasurer and as committee member early in the year for personal reasons (I am very pleased that circumstances have now made it possible for her to rejoin the Committee) and to Caroline John who took over from her and served most efficiently for most of the year but also had to stand down recently for personal reasons. Maddy Foard has taken over from her in recent weeks and we thank her too.

Thanks to the efforts of John Bradford, Ruth Hendry and Becky Moran we now have a growing presence on the web, with a redesigned Branch website and a presence on Facebook and Twitter both of which are attracting increasing attention.

This leads to a related factor that adds to our effectiveness, as will be apparent from our Secretary's Report, and this is that in all our activities we seek to work jointly with other organisations, including this past year with the Universities of Bristol, of Bath, and of Gloucestershire and with the University of the West of England, as well as with The Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, St Mary Redcliffe Journey into Science, the Clifton Scientific Trust, the Galenicals (University of Bristol Medical Students' Society), At Bristol, the and with Bristol Zoo Gardens. A further dimension is our close relationship with Science Cafes and particularly with the Science Café at the Tobacco Factory, with which committee member Bob Foster has been much involved.

In saying this, of course there is always much more we could achieve and this depends on resource, financial and in kind, but particularly in having more people on board with us. We are very aware that we still do too little in Bath, and this is in part because we do not have committee members from that city. Our committee members get things done, and done most effectively, in the places they live and/or work. As I said before, we always welcome new people getting involved.

At the end of this AGM I will be stepping down as Chair knowing that I am leaving behind an outstanding committee with an outstanding track record. I have been involved with the Branch since its inception in the 1990s and have been Chair since 2003, at that time because nobody else wanted to do it. I have seen the Branch undergo remarkable growth because of the vitality of the people we have attracted and I am delighted to be able to hand over to John Bradford who comes with an engineering background, was previously Manager, Science City Bristol and currently is a Senior Knowledge Exchange Adviser at UWE. He has worked with me as Deputy Chair over the past year and I know he will be

extremely effective. He has also very recently been elected to the General Committee of the British Science Association, which will enable him to take our grass roots experience into the central corridors of the Association where it is much needed, just at the time when I am stepping down as Member of its Council. It could not have worked better.

The Branch is in good shape, we already have quite a few programme items in the pipeline for the coming year and we welcome your suggestions how we could do better.

Eric Albone, Chair

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HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

Having been involved with the branch for two years now, I am still impressed with the range of events that are put on throughout the year, from forays into the chemistry of mercury, to introducing families to the nature in their back gardens. With our website and social media sites going from strength to strength, these are all also excellent ways to receive feedback and suggestions of future events, so feel free to drop us a line! The events of the past year are listed below:

note abbreviations: **IMA** is the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, **RSC** is the Royal Society of Chemistry, **SCI** is the Society of Chemical Industry, **SMR** is St Mary Redcliffe Journey into Science

Shipwrecks in the Caribbean; the Exploits of a Maritime Archaeologist

Dr Kimberley Monk, University of Bristol, preceded by 2010 AGM
Thursday 2nd December 2010

Mercury ~ Window on the Invisible

Dr Andrea Sella, UCL
Date: 27th January 2011, with RSC & SCI

Severn Barrage Appraisal

Peter Kydd, Parsons Brinkerhoff Associates
Date: Thursday 3rd February 2011, with RSC & SCI

Space: The Next 50 Years

Dr David Whitehouse, Science Writer & former BBC Journalist
Date: Monday 21st February 2011, with SMR Journey into Science and the IMA

The Large Hadron Collider; Will it Produce a Big Bang?

Dr Vince Smith, Univ of Bristol & CERN
Date: Wednesday 23rd February 2011

Copies, Fakes and Forgeries

Dr Andrew Shortland, Cranfield University
Date: Thursday 10th March 2011, with RSC & SCI

Science Quiz

At the Golden Guinea Public House
Date: Tuesday 15th March

“Meet-a-Medic” at Bath Taps into Science (Bath Univ & Green Park Station, Bath)
Galenicals (Univ Bristol Medical Students’ Society), Clifton Scientific Trust & Univ of Bath
Date: Friday 18th March & Saturday 19th March 2011

Chemical Communication in Social Insects
Dr Adam Hart, University of Gloucestershire
Date: Thursday 24th March 2011, with the RSC, SCI & Univ Gloucestershire

Can I Believe My Eyes? A Brief Look at the Science of Seeing
Prof Mark Georgeson, Aston University
Date: Tuesday 17th May 2011 with SMR Journey into Science

Nature Party
Southville Primary School, with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund
Date: Saturday 11th June 2011

SciScreen – South West Crayfish Project
Maddy Rees, Bristol Conservation and Science Foundation
Date: Thursday 16th June

SciScreen – A Tiger’s Tale
Arnolfini, Bristol
Date: Saturday, 18th June

Molecules and God
Dr Andrew Misiura, University of Gloucestershire
Date: Tuesday 5th July 2011 with RSC, SCI, Univ Gloucestershire

Nature Party
St Georges Park, with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund
Date: Saturday 27th August 2011

From Cages to Conservation: Bristol Zoo Gardens in the 21st Century
Dr Bryan Carroll, Director, Bristol Zoo Gardens
Date: Wed 12th October 2011, with Bristol Zoo Gardens

Nature Party
Victoria Park, with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund
Date: Saturday 15th October 2011

Synthetic Biology; Hope and Hype
Prof Dek Woolfson & Dr Ainsley Newson
Date: Tuesday 25th October 2011, with At-Bristol and University of Bristol

Watching the Earth from Space, addressing climate change & global issues
Prof Alan O’Neill, Director National Centre for Earth Observation & Univ of Reading
Date: Wednesday 2nd November 2011, with SMR Journey into Science

Once again, we are also delighted to be associated with the extensive Science Café Bristol programme.

Attendance has been excellent at all events with excellent feedback from the audience which has proved extremely valuable. We are particularly grateful this year to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the grant which helped us to run the series of Nature Parties through the summer.

Website: <http://bscia-bsba.org.uk/>

Twitter: @brisandbath_sci

Facebook: Search for British Science Association (Bristol and Bath Branch)

Rebecca Moran, Hon Secretary Nov 2011