

Welcome

In 2014 – 2015, UKPN continued to represent early career scientists at key national conferences and workshops, and kick started what seems to be a never-ending series of outreach events that engaged different sectors of the public both nationally and internationally. We continue to grow in our membership, currently at over 600, and represent them through various national committees that pave the way for the UK's polar science strategy.

We are always looking for more ways to support our early career researchers and get more of you involved in our outreach work too- feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas or want to know more.

TJ and Sammie, UKPN Presidents

This issue...

- **Current Committee**
- **Sea ice, Shackleton & Science**
- **1ST APECs summit**
- **UK Arctic Sciences Conference**

•Reddit AMA

•ASE Conference Workshop

•Antarctica day 2015

•Future events

- Leeds Science Festival
- Challenger Society conference

•Other news



UKPN Committee 2015-2016

- **Co-President** – Tun Jan Young (Scott Polar Research Institute/University of Cambridge)
- **Co-President**- Sammie Buzzard (University of Reading)
- **Vice-President** - Laura Hobbs (Scottish Association for Marine Science)
- **Treasurer** – Gunnar Mallon (University of Sheffield)
- **Treasurer**- Archana Dayal (University of Sheffield)
- **Secretary** – Kyle Mayers (National Oceanography Centre)
- **Secretary** – Catherine Docherty (University of Birmingham)
- **Head of Education & Outreach**- Jenny Turton (British Antarctic Survey/University of Leeds)
- **Education & Outreach** –
 - Madeleine Brasier (Natural History Museum/ University of Liverpool/ National Oceanographic Centre)

- Michelle McCrystall (British Antarctic Survey/University of Cambridge)
- Dwayne Menezes (Human Security Centre)
- Cassandra Reuss-Schmidt (University of Sheffield)

•**APECS Representative**- Ruth Hindshaw (University of St. Andrews)

•**NCAR Representative**- Amber Leeson (University of Lancaster)

•**Social Media**-

- Scott Davidson (University of Sheffield)
- Lucy Hyam (Scottish Association for Marine Sciences)

UKPN Representative at IGS British Branch meeting 2016 – Christine Jones (University of Southampton)

Member-at-Large-

- Ella Darlington (Loughborough University)
- Jon Hawking (University of Bristol)
- Eleanor Jones (University of Sheffield)
- Julia Feuer-Cotter (University of Nottingham)

Again, UKPN and the International Polar Foundation (IPF) teamed up to deliver the Sea ice, Shackleton and Science project, a series of three public engagement events at high-profile venues around the UK. The sessions focused on polar science and Britain's current and historic role in Antarctica and linked to the centenary of Shackleton's Endurance expedition.

The events included:

- Use of the IPF interactive polar maps to learn about the Arctic and Antarctica and show Shackleton's journey and what would happen if he made his journey now (relating to the centenary of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic expedition)
- Then and now- polar clothing and equipment from 1914-1916 and today
- IPF Class Zero Emission climate change workshop experiments
- UKPN early career polar scientists give real accounts of polar research with short "meet the scientist" talks on their own research throughout the day
- Displays on Shackleton and the Endurance expedition, Britain in Antarctica and climate change over the past 100 years

Workshops and events from 2015-2016

Sea Ice, Shackleton and Science: a century of changes in Antarctica

Dundee Science Centre, Birmingham
ThinkTank, @Bristol, 2014-2015

We engaged up to thousands of visitors at each of the three venues, and provided a lively forum for the public and school and community groups to learn about polar science, the polar regions and the present day and historical relevance of the Antarctic to the UK. It has also offered polar scientists the opportunity to take time out from their research and tell people about it.

1st APECS Summit

University of Sofia, Bulgaria, 6 – 8 June 2015

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) held its first world summit in Sofia, Bulgaria last June, and TJ Young and Mika Laiho represented UKPN at this event, with 66 early career scientists and 25 senior mentors representing 25 countries and 20 APECS National Committees (NCs) participated in the event. Major outcomes of the Summit included: an understanding of the importance of open data, and how open science can be accomplished through the use of databases, data standardization, and data publications, a vision of the future direction of polar research, which includes increased understanding of the global impacts of what happens at both poles, and a focus on human interactions and warming in the Arctic and changes in the Southern Ocean and to ice in the Antarctic.

The summit was generally perceived as a great success, and fostered new partnerships between NCs in future events. APECS is planning to continue convening world summits on a regular basis, every 2 to 5 years.

The full program, including list of mentors, participants, and sponsors is at:

<http://www.apecs.is/events/past-event-highlights/event-highlights-2015/apecs-world-summit-2015.html>

UK Arctic Sciences Conference

University of Sheffield, 16 – 18 September 2015

UKPN played a large part in the 5th Biennial UK Arctic Sciences Conference this year, and held several events through the course of the 3-day interdisciplinary conference: a panel event

focusing on postdocs within polar science, a small group discussion on polar social sciences, and our Annual General Meeting. The UKPN also presented an informal poster at the event and unveiled our new merchandise!

The panel event was held at the nearby University Arms pub and was very well attended with roughly 40 members in the entire upstairs of the venue. Through the event, the session led to some fairly heated discussions on the relative merits of postdoctoral career progression, technical expertise within established institutions, and the always-present issue of lack of funding.

During the conference we also had our first polar social science meeting where we raised issues about what kind of additional support the UKPN could offer for early career researchers focussed on the humanities and social sciences. The group mentioned, among others, extended fieldwork periods, different audiences and funding agencies which are thoughts we will incorporate in the future of the UKPN to strengthen our support for both social and physical early career scientists.

Lastly, UKPN capped off a busy year with the AGM, and welcomed many new members!

Reddit AMA Online Q & A

Reddit.com, 20 September 2015

This year UKPN collaborated with USAPECS across the pond in hosting an “Ask Me Anything” series on the website reddit.com, often branded as the “front page of the internet”. We actively responded to hundreds of questions from interested members of the public for 24 hours, and our thread at one point during the day was the 25th most active post out of millions of submissions on the site. Questions were extremely diverse and insightful, ranging from mental health issues in the field to logistical difficulties in field research to sea level predictions. The full thread is archived and can be viewed on <https://www.reddit.com/>

ASE Conference Workshop: Educating Educators in Polar Science

University of Birmingham, 8 January 2016

Just after Christmas, Sammie and Maddie and I were invited, along with Liz from the International Polar Foundation (IPF), to run a workshop at the Annual Science Education (ASE) conference at the University of Birmingham. The aim of the workshop was to inspire science teachers and give them ideas for experiments surrounding the topics of sea level rise, ocean acidification and climate change in the Polar Regions. Conference organisers had advised us to expect up to 10 visitors to the workshop, as the timetable was very full. However, over 40 teachers attended our workshop! They were split into four groups and worked through the exercises.

We received lots of positive feedback, interesting questions, and a number of school visit requests since! Here's to years of exciting Polar-based experiments in both primary and secondary schools!

-Jenny Turton



Antarctica day 2015

1st December marked the internationally recognized ‘Antarctica Day’. This day celebrates the signing of the Antarctic treaty in 1959 and its importance throughout history. To promote the day, and organize an event for it, the UKPN teamed up with Our Spaces charity, and Dr Julie Hambrook Berkmann, director of Our Spaces. The UKPN participation was in organizing an activity: Antarctic Flags.

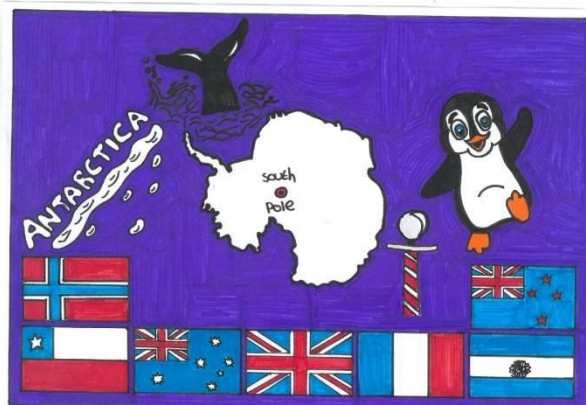
The flags were sent south with volunteer flag-bearers, who were already travelling to the pristine continent for science, heritage, exploration or research purposes. The age range of the pupils involved ranges from 4 to 16, and the nationality of these pupils includes British, Irish, Spanish, Egyptian, American, Australian and many many more! This international event was celebrated across the globe. We had flags sent in from 38 schools in total to give a total of 284 flags!

As not all flag-bearers were travelling to the same place in the Antarctic, the flags have been distributed around a large proportion of the continent from Port Lockroy to the UK's Halley research station, to the American McMurdo station, to deep in the field. One set of flags is even circumnavigating the continent on the JCR ship travelling around the Southern Ocean, as you are reading this newsletter!

Some of the fantastic flags are displayed below, showing the creativity of the pupils, and the many important features within the Antarctic. We would like to thank all teachers, pupils, parents, flag-bearers and committee members who participated in this event and made it the most successful Antarctic Flag campaign since its inception in date.



Parliament Hill Secondary School, London



Soham Village College, Cambridgeshire



British International School Cairo, Egypt

Future events

Leeds Science Festival

This year the UKPN team are descending on the University of Leeds, for the Leeds science festival, on the 21st March 2016. This is the first time the UKPN have visited Leeds, and we are looking forward to running our workshop and seeing new faces.

We have two two-hour sessions on Monday 21st March in the Earth and Environment building. Our workshop, titled 'Pole to Pole: Life at the ends of the Earth' will feature small experiments designed to teach school pupils of all ages about climate change, sea level rise, ocean acidification and albedo.

Modern polar exploration clothing will also be available for workshop attendees to dress up in! The workshop will end with a Q&A session, giving the audience a chance to ask the UKPN committee running the event, all the questions they have about living, eating, cooking and sleeping in the snowy climates.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the running of the workshops and the setting up of the event, please email me on

jenny.turton@polarnetwork.org , or

jenon73@bas.ac.uk . Similarly, if you would like some more information on the event, or how to attend, feel free to contact me.

Challenger Society 2016 conference – Oceans and Climate – Liverpool, UK

At this conference the UKPN will be running an early careers event aimed specifically at the art of making scientific posters. We will have speakers at the event who have previously judged poster sessions, telling us what they look for in an excellent poster, as well as poster examples for you to see what makes (and does not make) a great poster. This event is open to all attending the conference so it would be great to see as many from UKPN as possible! If you have any suggestions on how to make this session better, please email me on kyle.mayers@polarnetwork.org!

Other news...

Merchandise

In the Spring we will open the virtual doors to our online store where you can buy fabulous UKPN merchandise like mugs for your office desk to show your polar pride or beanies that keep you warm during fieldwork. You will be able to purchase the swag on our homepage and the raised funds will help support polar outreach events across the UK.

Blog

Our new blog which can be found on the

homepage showcases the amazing and versatile polar research our members are doing. The blog includes social as well as physical science research to mirror the diverse issues surrounding the poles. If you would like to contribute with a short or lengthy post and tell us about your work or experiences, please send an email with an idea to com@polarnetwork.com

Post-Doc survey

After a huge response to our survey about post doc positions, TJ and Sammie were able to take the results to the UK Antarctic and Arctic Partnership meeting in November where TJ presented a summary of the results to the committee. A useful discussion then followed with the outcomes that we have sent the results to NERC for comment (as a research council that funds a great deal of polar science). We are also going to look to get universities involved in improving post doc conditions so watch this space- we may need your help!

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• www.facebook.com/ukpolarnetwork

• www.twitter.com/UKPolarNetwork



•Want to get more involved?

•If you feel as though you would like to get involved with the running of the UKPN or if you would like to run your own event get in touch.

•Website - <http://www.polarnetwork.org>

•Email - info@polarnetwork.org

•Thank you!

•Thank you to all of UKPN members for your ongoing support. Special thanks is due to all of those who have made sure that all of our events and workshops have been such a great success.