

Earth Science Teachers' Association

57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2.15pm, Saturday 28 September 2024

University of Liverpool

ESTA Chair's Report for the year 2023/2024

I write this from the canteen at Aquinas College whilst Pete Loader teaches another very successful Summer School. The enthusiasm and vibe is wonderful. It gives us all hope for the future of Geology education.

We have set up a new website - or to be more precise, Matthew Martin has created a new website for us. This is being launched at the ESTA conference and hopefully will mitigate some of the issues we have had regarding ESTA when people Google us. Thank you Matthew for all your hard work this year! Linked into this is a whole set of new ESTA email addresses for Council members. I attach mine to the bottom of this report. Matthew has requested and achieved ESTA having an '[.ac.uk](#)' suffix which reflects our position as the professional body for Earth Science Teachers in the UK.

I would like to thank Maggie and Peter Williams and Hazel Clarke for their wonderful contributions to ESTA. They are stepping back from their formal ESTA roles now but their enthusiasm, hard work and support of ESTA have made ESTA what it is today. Thank you!

Sydney Jones-Jackson has offered to be our new Secretary. For this I am delighted, we need younger members fulfilling these key roles. Hopefully, you will all approve her appointment at the AGM. Stephen Davies has been superb stepping in and organising ESTA post-covid and we thank him wholeheartedly for his time, effort and energy, I would not have survived as Chair without him! Thank you! Stephen will still be Membership Secretary for the time being, having taken over from Joanie last December. Joanie has also now finished being in charge of the Newsletter. Thank you, Joanie for all your hard work.

This is Amy's last conference and she has been a terrific Conference Manager - thank you Amy. We have decided to expand the role to an Events Manager to include supporting Pete Loader with the administration of the Summer School. The role is about 250 hours a year with a remuneration of £6,000. If you know of anyone who would like to apply for this new post, please let us know.

Many teachers are saying that their schools will no longer fund them attending ESTA conferences. We need to get some kind of sponsorship to enable attendance - any ideas please let us know!

We need more volunteers, as always, to share roles so that ESTA continues to function effectively. The main role that needs filling currently is Primary Coordinator. With all the changes occurring in education, this is a vital role and it is at primary level that we often hook students on to Earth Sciences. Thank you to Becky Gould for continuing with the social media role despite not teaching any more. Thank you to Dave Turner who will be Chair from September 2025 - once he is voted in of course.

Thank you to Professor Phil Manning for fabulous Presidency! Your enthusiasm for Earth Sciences is contagious! We are currently asking around regarding a President from September 2025.

ESTA has been running since 1967 and it is timely to make some changes in the post-covid world. A Working Group of Council Officers has met twice this year to discuss how ESTA can operate efficiently and sustainably. There will be a few changes about which members should be aware and you are welcome to voice any concerns at the AGM or have a quiet chat with one of the Council Officers if you wish.

Our Council meetings are now all online, saving ESTA some £4000 per year in expenses. We feel that it would be beneficial for all Council Officers/trustees to attend the ESTA conferences. This gives us a space to be accountable and to be questioned at the AGM. As a result we have decided to use the saved £4,000 to fund trustees to attend Conference. Since Pete Loader and Mike Walsh are so important with their Summer School, and annually give up a week of their time, ESTA has extended this funding to the two of them.

ESTA is a learned society of professionals and our new website reflects this. This means members are elected and can also be asked to leave in the unlikely event that they bring the Association into disrepute. Election to membership will not impact on existing members and in reality is just a formality. We have had to propose changes to our rules to accommodate this. There will be, within the AGM, an EGM to vote in these changes. Please do look through the proposed new rules before the conference weekend so that you are aware of the changes that we, as trustees, would like to vote in.

The Newsletter and TES will be published online through the website and members will receive an email summary of the latest news on a regular basis. Consequently the title of TES Coordinator has been changed to Website and IT Coordinator - this is a trustee role.

We are keeping our fees the same this year - they have not gone up in some time but we do not feel the need to raise them. Michael Kelly is making some changes to our banking systems. We currently have two bank accounts but it is felt that one will suffice going forward.

Based on the success of the Chris King award, we would like to set up some more ESTA awards. 'Best photo at Conference' will be one! We would like to launch a 'Best SP Award' - please bring to the 2025 conference your best SP from your A Level class. There will be a small cash prize for the winning student and all submissions will be collated and placed on the website which could give you some great ideas for your own SPs going forward. So do look out for our Awards page online for specific details (to come) and feel free to suggest other ideas.

We look forward to this wonderful conference - thank you to Maggie for liaising with Liverpool University. It looks to be an exciting and fun-packed event!! Next year at UCL!! And after that hopefully at Leeds! Thank you to Gordon Neighbour for liaising with UCL!

Please use #ESTA2025 in conference media posts

Enjoy the conference!

Angela Bentley, ESTA Chair
July 2024
chair@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Treasurer's Report for the year 2023/2024

Income (till July 2024)

Income from subscriptions total £4,500.00 and show once again decrease from last year (£5,291.50) and the previous year before that (£6,461.50). A very big thank you to Joanie Marion (retiring Membership Secretary) and Stephen Davies (Secretary / Acting Membership Secretary) who have dealt with subscriptions.

To date, royalties from the Publishing Licensing Society (PLS) and EBSCO are lower (£67.70) than the previous year (£324.99), although dividends have still to be sent for the rest of the year. Welcome donations totalling £6,500 were made by the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group, Cornish Lithium, Hazwaste, Durham University, Soil Engineering Geoservices to help fund the ESTA Summer School. Many thanks to Pete Loader for gathering sponsors.

Expenditure (till July 2024)

Over the course of the last year, publications (magazine and newsletter) were not undertaken and so there have been no costs for this year in comparison to the previous year (£3,281.65). The Newsletter will continue to be published electronically and so there will be no printing and mailing costs associated with its production in the future.

Council meetings were virtual and Council expenses totalled £810.00 compared to £337.46 in the previous year. This rise was due to meetings on behalf of ESTA being now undertaken and travel expenses being recovered, as well as the cost of postage, ink and stationery, and bridge cash flow. Costs were also incurred for the establishment of the new website (£151.66) with additional costs to be recurred later in the year.

The 2023 ESTA Conference income was £13,800.00 including the float of £1,500 and the expenditure was £14,112.18. Amy Musker-Heaton was paid £2,000. Thanks go to Amy for her work running the conference. The data for this has been presented from Amy's accounts and she will also present a report. The main expenditure (£7,568.16) was incurred during the successful run of the ESTA Summer School. Refunds totalling £160 were made for cancelled memberships.

ESTA first adopted a RESERVES Policy during 2006-2007 and the contingency sum held in reserve serves to bridge cash flow problems and ensure firstly, continuity in the production of Teaching Earth Sciences in the event of a large variation in income, and secondly, payments towards specific future projects under the PT Carr Award Scheme.

I wish to place on record my thanks to Sian May, Maggie Williams and Amy Musker-Heaton for all their help during the transition of the accounts this year and for their continuing help and support with treasuring activities.

Michael Kelly; ESTA Treasurer
July 2024
treasurer@esta.ac.uk

Current Account

Income		2022-23	2023-24
	Adverts	£0.00	£0.00
	ESTA Conference	£2,360.00	£6,500.00
	Gift Aid	£0.00	£0.00
	Promotions	£0.00	£0.00
	Publishers Licencing Society / EBSCO	£324.99	£67.70
	Sponsorship / Donations	£10,925.00	£4,655.31
	Subscriptions (including corporate)	£5,291.50	£4,500.00
	Transfer from deposit	£0.00	£168.00
	Total Income	£18,961.49	£15,891.01
Expenditure		2022-23	2023-24
	Bank charges	£33.67	£33.67
	Publicity (Website)	£0.00	£151.66
	Council expenses	£139.46	£810.00
	Data registration	£0.00	£0.00
	ESTA Conference >2021	£2,780.00	£4,500.00
	Promotions	£0.00	£0.00
	Projects (Summer School)	£5,254.00	£7,568.16
	PT Carr Award	£0.00	£0.00
	Publications / Visits	£3,234.00	£740.72
	Public Liability Insurance	£0.00	£0.00
	Subscriptions to other organisations	£0.00	£0.00
	Refunds	£120.00	£160.00
	Total Expenditure	£11,964.88	£13,964.21
Total Accounts	Start	£39,154.57	£46,151.18
	End	£46,151.18	£48,881.09

ESTA Conference Account

Income		2022-23	2023-24
	Sponsorship	£1,890.00	£5,650.00
	Fees Received	£10,410.00	£7,400.00
	ESTA (Float)	£1,500.00	£1,500
	Adverts / flyers	£0.00	£0.00
	Total Income	£13,800.00	£13,050.00
Expenditure		2022-23	2023-24
	Accommodation / Catering	£5,776.28	£3,078.50
	Insurance	£0.00	£0.00
	Staff Fees	£2,000.00	£0.00
	Printing, postage and sundries	£200.90	£398.08
	Transport	£0.00	£793.40
	Contributors accommodation / travel	£5,404.90	£5,288.19
	Non member charge	£360.00	£640.00
	Fieldwork expenses	£400.00	£0.00
	Total Expenditure	£14,112.18	£12,224.97
Total Accounts			£5,495.81

ESTA Secretary's Report for the year 2023/2024

Secretaries do what secretaries do: compile agendas and take minutes of Council meetings – three as usual this year, in November 2023, March and June 2024 – send out mailings and so on and so forth.

This year has included the minutes for the Working Group, established to investigate how ESTA can make progress in this post-covid world and to enhance its profile to be more akin to similar, professional associations. Acquiring the ac.uk suffix is one small step in that direction. The Working Group is made up of the next generation of Council Officers and, as one whose teaching career coped with the technological change from chalk to board markers, it has been fascinating for me to hear of the immense power now at our fingertips with the introduction of the new ESTA website, under the management of Matthew Martin. Not only will the website make administrative chores easier for the volunteers who run the Association, but it will provide a veritable treasure trove of resources, if we fill and use it.

The new website will feature in the Bring and Share session at this year's conference, a title which aptly describes the new website. The Working Group deserves the full support of all ESTA members as we forge ahead with the development of our Association.

It is important for the new website to know who you are, where you are and how to get in touch with you. Please do keep us up-to-date with your contact details whenever they change!

The next Council meeting is planned for Thursday 28 November 2024 at 7pm by Google Meets. Any member considering joining Council is invited to attend the meeting to observe how business is conducted — please contact the Secretary if you are interested.

Stephen Davies, ESTA Secretary
July 2024
secretary@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Membership Secretaries' Reports for the year 2023/2024

Part 1: October - December 2023

Membership

Current Membership – **209**

Current Paying Membership – **160**

	July 2020	September 2021	July 2023	December 2023
	Elouise Gill Sept 2021		Joanie Marion 2023	
Ordinary / Institutional - £40 rate	150	139	96 + 1 ²	80 ¹ + 32 ²
Agencies - £40 rate	13	13	6 + 6 ³	7 ¹ + 4 ²
Retired - £20 rate	47	43	39	31 ¹ + 6 ²
Student - £20 rate	2	4	0	0
Complimentary - All	23	23		
Complimentary - Members			8	8
Complimentary - Agencies			15	15
Complimentary – Students (1 year)			19	26
Receiving TES	235	225	190	209

¹ paid to date ² payment awaited ³ 6 payments awaited

I remained Membership Secretary until 3 December 2023.

The request for renewal of membership went out by email and post on 7 November 2023. The Direct Debits (DD) were received on 1 October 2023. I was able to update the membership list with DD payments and those who paid before 3 December 2023. There was not time to chase up non-payers before. This report only includes those who I know who have paid membership dues by 3 December 2023.

Ordinary paying membership has increased by 15 since July 2023, but this is dependent upon payments awaited.

There is an increase of 7 in complimentary student numbers from July 2023, which hopefully many will turn into ordinary paying members from October 2024.

Joanie Marion
July 2024

Part 2: January 2024 onwards

Since taking on a watching brief for the Membership Secretary – there being no other volunteers – just two new members have applied to join ESTA.

There have, however, been numerous, and regular, enquiries from various libraries regarding the non-publication of TES Volume 48. The absence of TES has been fortuitous by removing the task of providing addresses for the publishers. This welcome reduction in workload must be a factor in any decision to move an online version of TES, an example of working smarter rather than harder.

Since January, several unsuccessful appeals have been made to the membership for a volunteer to take on this vital role. One person holding two voting positions on Council has caused problems with attaining a quorum at Council meetings.

Over the summer, the database of members' emails has been brought up-to-date in preparation for the arrival of a new membership secretary and for the introduction of the new website which will handle many administrative tasks. If you did not receive this mailing, it means that your email address is not up-to-date!

It is essential that all members should keep the Association informed of any changes in personal details which are relevant to ESTA – thank you.

Stephen Davies; Interim ESTA Membership Secretary
July 2024

membership@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Website and IT Coordinator's Report for the year 2023/2024

ESTA's website has undergone significant development this year, with the old Wordpress-hosted website being replaced with a new website run on our own servers using Drupal. The distinct advantages of Drupal are extensibility and redundancy. There are tens of thousands of Drupal experts developing modules to extend what Drupal is able to do. eBay, McDonald's, Harvard, Stanford, and The White House all use Drupal, so there is quite a pedigree.

The new site is in constant development. To date we have developed basic sections to house membership; awards; news; paid and trustee post advertising; general ESTA information and contact forms. We have ecommerce technology in place as well.

In line with ESTA's role as the learned society and professional association for the teaching of Earth Sciences we have been granted the academic domain name esta.ac.uk. This is of significant benefit to ESTA and our work going forward, putting us on the same playing field as universities and HE sector training providers.

Working platforms

We have partnered with Google, and ESTA now uses Google Workspace to streamline and secure workflows and collaborative activities.

Training

Trustees held a training day in August at Aquinas College to begin to get to grips with the new website and working systems. These training days will be held annually going forward.

Conclusion and going forward

This redevelopment is long overdue and over the next year will bring significant efficiencies to ESTA and the way trustees are able to work together.

To date, the costs of all redevelopments of the website and IT provision for the next three years is just under £20 per month.

The coming year will see the development of:

1. website ecommerce and being able to take membership subscriptions online as well as payments for events and resources.
2. Enhanced membership services via the website.
3. A move to online publishing of resources and materials.
4. An increase in exam board targeted CPD materials.
5. A more visible events and activities section supported locally by members.
6. A clarity of separation for primary, secondary, higher and adult Earth Science education resources.
7. An interactive map showing centres offering geology and geological training services.
8. A built-in newsletter server to push individual news items or digests to members in highly configurable ways.
9. Emails addresses for specific classes of members with a coveted ac.uk suffix.

Matthew Martin; ESTA Website and IT Coordinator

July 2024

it@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Higher Education Co-ordinator's Report for the year 2023/2024

Note: The items in this report are listed in chronological order, for ease of collation in ESTA's report to the Charities Commission, whose reporting period is April - March.

University Geoscience UK

(September 2023 – March 2024)

UGUK Annual Meeting 15th Nov 2023

Nick Koor (who has left Portsmouth) handed over to Sian Davies-Vollum as Chair of UGUK. David Healy has taken over as Secretary.

Rebecca Williams (Hull) has led a project to Decolonise UK Earth Science, with Keely Mills (BGS) and Anya Lawrence (Birmingham). As well as raising the profile of this issue across the UK by writing workshops and giving talks, they have also organised and run workshops for geoscience staff during the past year, which have been very successful.

Geological Society of London

(September 2023 – March 2024)

I attended an online meeting of the Joint Higher Education Committee on 15th November. Chaired by Nick Koor (formerly Portsmouth), the past year has seen a few new faces on the committee, with Keely Mills from BGS joining the group, Nat Stephen replacing Alicia Newton as Engagement and Outreach Director at the Society, and Ashley Akingbade joining as Education Officer.

Nick reported that the specification for the Geoscience Degree Apprenticeship was complete and has just been approved; now encouraging universities to adopt the specification and offer this apprenticeship to students. Likely that the first cohort would start in the 2025-26 academic year, to give universities time to prepare curriculum and establish or refine industry partnerships.

I attended an online meeting of the Joint Higher Education Committee on 13th March. Nick Koor reported that the Geoscience Degree Apprenticeship was being pioneered by Portsmouth, Keele and possibly Derby Universities.

Plans for an event on 15 May: 'Building Strategic Alliances in Geoscience', designed as a call to arms across the sector to revitalise and connect the geoscience community, across education, industry, learned bodies, government agencies and volunteer organisations. The main aim of this initial meeting was to hold discussions and workshops, resulting in the development of a strategy document.

The GSL platform Geoscience Education and Outreach Network (GEON) was launched on 8 March; it is now on Discord, which is fairly easy for users to join. With the establishment of the UGUK 'Teach Earth' resource hub, the Society felt that GEON's focus should be more as a networking and sharing hub for geoscientists, with a variety of different channels for discussion and disseminating information.

Geological Society of London

(June 2024)

I attended when the Joint Higher Education Committee met on the 5 June online.

Sian reported on the results of a survey of UGUK members, gauging the 'state of play' in HE Geoscience. There is some sign that student numbers (recruitment) have stabilised; although

some degree programmes have closed, others have merged with environmental or geography curriculum to form joint degrees. Another recurring theme was the decrease in residential field trips, thought to be due to a variety of factors: cost, inclusivity concerns, logistical difficulties.

The Geological Society Careers Fair is to move away from London and rotate to different locations around the UK, starting this year in Manchester on 6 November. It is hoped this will increase attendance and numbers already seem buoyant.

George Jameson has posted HESA data on geoscience degrees from 15/16 to 20/21 academic years on the GSL website, as a service to anyone in the community wanting to interrogate the data.

The 'Geoscience Strategic Alliance' event in May was very successful and well attended. (Unfortunately, I could not attend this.) A steering group is to be set up to drive the initiative forward.

GeoWeek 2024

(25 May – 2 June 2024)

Following a successful GeoWeek in May 2023, the UGUK-based GeoWeek website, <https://earth-science.org.uk/>, was updated with the details for GeoWeek 2024. In addition, the webform for organisers to post their events/geotrains on the GeoWeek map was revised.

GeoWeek ran from Saturday 25 May to Sunday 2 June 2024. A smaller audience than previous years listened first to Anjana Khatwa give an evocative talk focusing on cultural and emotional aspects of Earth Science, exploring themes that she will revisit in her book 'Whispers of Rock' (due out in September 2024), and then to Jed Atkinson, one of the founders of 'Fossils in't Hills', a volunteer group promoting Earth Science outreach and public engagement with a strong focus on inland Yorkshire. A good discussion ensued, touching on (among other issues) the lack of diversity in geoscience and the barriers for ethnic minorities in Britain to participate in outdoor geoscience activities.

During GeoWeek itself, only 15 new live events were advertised on the GeoWeek website, a decline from previous years. However, there are now 124 self-guided geotrains marked on the 'Events map' on the website, with good coverage across most of the UK. Several groups have contacted GeoWeek during the year to ask for new trails they have created to be posted on the map, including the Cumbria Geoconservation Group and the Fen Edge Trail group.

Tom Argles; ESTA Higher Education Co-ordinator
July 2024
hcoordinator@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Secondary Co-ordinator's Report for the year 2023/2024

The year really started for me with the organisation and coordination of the Bring and Share session at the Portsmouth Conference. With a great range of presentations from far and wide including remote input from Peter Kennet and Elizabeth Devon, it was only possible with some fantastic support from Amy Musker-Heaton, Pete Loader and the hosts Catherine Mottram and Tony Butcher from Portsmouth University.

Here is a list of the contributors' presentations without whom this part of the conference would not be possible. All resources are available and have been shared with attendees.

1. Geology statistics including numbers of students – Pete Loader
2. University Geoscience UK – Pete Loader on behalf of Nik Koor.
3. Earth Learning Idea review 2023 - Peter Kennet and Elizabeth Devon
4. Using Moodle to Reinforce Learning; Progress Mathematical Understanding in A level Geology - Paul Lewis, Gower College Swansea.
5. Another Dam model – Ryan Lawson HSDC Havant College.
6. Fossil Resource Box Project - Mark Baggott Earth Heritage Trust
7. Rocking a Pneumonic – Ryan Lawson HSDC Havant College.
8. Briefcase Game of Mineral Applications – Ben Lepley SLR
9. Improving annotations with some tablet technology – Ryan Lawson HSDC Havant College.
10. Chris King award – presented by James Speed – Winner: Pete Loader.
11. ESTA Liverpool 2024 – conference promotion by Maggie Williams.

For Liverpool 2024, there is the addition of an exam skills session aimed at mainly A-level teachers in order to share techniques and tips which support students. This will be facilitated by myself and be tagged onto the end of the Bring and Share session at the conference. I have already met with Dave Evans from Eduqas and have agreement what can be shared as well as links to previous exam resources which teachers may find useful.

Establishing Contacts/Networks...Laying the foundations.

The conference in Portsmouth also allowed me to start to build up a list of contacts across the country to better understand the current state of play with regards to centres offering Geology at A-level and GCSE but also to look into what outreach is happening and where. With the amazing work on the new ESTA website by Matthew Martin it was discussed and seen as a priority to reestablish an up-to-date map of centres offering Geology. (As I write this, I am on route to website training at Aquinas College in Stockport)

I have contacted Andy Brunning from OCR and received the list of centres from them but due to GDPR issues the same has not been released from Eduqas. However I have met with Dave Evans and am in the process of drafting an email as well as a google form to send to his list of centres so the data can be collected – hopefully in time for the conference in Liverpool.

Critical Mineral Conference

I have also attended the critical mineral conference on 3rd July 2024 at the Natural History Museum. It was a chance to network further and build on my initial contact list and also to see what outreach activities are being run by mining companies in different areas. I believe these activities should also be recorded on a map so teachers can see what is available in their local areas. There are lots of outreach opportunities, they just need signposting better.

Pete Loader was kind enough to introduce me to SRK who sponsor the geology summer school and it is clear that future funding opportunities do fall in the mineral and mining sector/industries.

The main contacts who seemed keen to share data and be involved were:

1. IOM3 – Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining – Diane Aston
2. Critical Minerals Association – Eileen Maes
3. Minerals matter – Lisa Saunders
4. Cornish Metals – Jody Woolcock
5. SRK – already involved with sponsoring Summer school.

Many speakers at the conference found Geology as a secondary pathway having completed a degree in another subject for example Biology...it seems to me on reflection if young people can be pointed towards a career in Geology sooner, then the shortage in this sector could be filled easier. One of the common observations I made was the trip experiences of all lecturers/graduates – this was and is a huge selling point – perhaps ESTA and a mining company could sponsor a trip for students to encourage this pathway?

Local Support for A levels and GCSE Geology

I have also been supporting Jane Mead who is starting to teach A-level geology at Brockenhurst college we have met remotely, and I have shared fieldwork locations on the south coast as well as possible teaching order and of course a range of resources. Locally to my College in Havant I have been able to support one my ex-students Josh Macefield to set up GCSE Geology at Park Community School. This was done using an updated version of the original Chris King document promoting/selling Geology “Killer Facts article” to SLT in schools. I have also put together specimen boxes of samples to facilitate the teaching in this school. I will also be offering masterclasses and further support for these students at my A-level centre. The aim being to use this local project as a case study to share to other schools to promote and hopefully start Geology in more schools.

I think that wraps up a very busy year with lots more to come hopefully clearer signposting of outreach and centres offering Geology will not only support more teachers but also allow for opportunities of collaboration/sponsorship to be initiated more easily.

Ryan Lawson; ESTA Secondary Co-ordinator

July 2024

secondary@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Primary Co-ordinator's Report for the year 2023/2024

ESTA Primary has not been active over the last year so there is nothing to report, but I hope this is the year when ESTA will form a new Primary Team. ESTA Primary desperately needs team members to be able to fulfil its role within ESTA and offer the kind of school and curriculum support it did when there was a team of 12+, instead of just one.

The Primary Team produced four Primary Earth Science Teaching (PEST) supplements annually, each aimed at primary school teachers and pupils, but I think the last ones were published in 2014-15 as it was difficult to compete with interactive resources now available online. These contain a huge amount of information and many excellent practical activities, which can be used and built upon by a new team. We also supplied rock boxes with supporting documentation (both teacher and class sets), Working with Rocks and Working with Soils information and activity packs. Hard copies of these resources and the supplies to produce the rock boxes, along with practical workshop equipment, are currently in storage at the National Stone Centre.

The Primary Team regularly attended various teacher conferences (e.g. the ASE, GA and of course ESTA conferences) where its members facilitated practical workshops for teachers to boost their confidence when teaching Earth sciences in their classrooms. These suffered from a lack of attendance as it became more expensive for teachers to attend, especially if cover

teaching was needed, which is such a shame as those who did take part found them very helpful and the Primary Team always received excellent feedback.

Over the years, ESTA Primary has had a big influence on the curriculum developments, especially with the science and geography content. New team members are needed to continue this important work.

Tracy Atkinson, ESTA Primary Co-ordinator

July 2024

primary@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Editor's Report for the year 2023/2024

Teaching Earth Science has not been published this year.

ESTA Newsletter Editor's Report for the year 2023/2024

The Newsletter is sent out by email to all contacts whether they have full, limited or lapsed membership, the latter so we can encourage rejoining or attending conference. The Mailchimp email has the facility to unsubscribe.

Unsubscribes:

One in January 2024

Two Newsletters were published in January and July 2024:

January: Total sent: 294. 58% opened the Newsletter. 5 soft bounces

July: Total sent: 295. 58.3% opened the Newsletter. 6 soft and 1 hard bounce

Most popular items accessed in descending order:

January 2024:

- Pakefield Pebbles Poster
- GeolSoc Geology from your Sofa Special
- Student Newsletter & RSC "How to teach Earth Science at 11-14"
- "Tibet maybe splitting into 2"; GeoSoc academic paper "What the Geological Record tells us about our present and future climate"; How to draw rocks; Earth Heritage Magazine

I suspect most people downloaded the Pakefield Pebble Poster not expecting an advertising poster but an educational poster. I have therefore contacted Essex Geological Society who have published some excellent educational posters to advertise in the June 2024 Newsletter (and perhaps offer posters free to members).

July 2024

- ESTA Conference – Liverpool website
- ESTA website (ac.uk website)
- Dunedin Academic Press; "Harry Young Rock Star" article; Pixabay
- ESTA Conference Booking Form Download
- "Compressing Time" Cryptogram; GeolSoc Sofa Geology; "KT Mass Extinction" article

It is interesting that Dunedin Academic Press, Pixabay and GeoSoc Sofa Geology appear in nearly all the Newsletters and yet for the first time many are interested in them. This validates my belief that some items should always appear. It is also interesting that the first time I included a frivolous news item “Harry Young Rock Star”, members were very keen!

I have thoroughly enjoyed editing the Newsletter over the last three years (which in effect I have written virtually single-handedly) but wish to hand it over to someone new with fresh ideas.

I have put all Newsletters into a form suitable for uploading to the ESTA website.

Joanie Marion, ESTA Newsletter Editor

July 2024

news@esta.ac.uk

ESTA Advertising Officer’s Report for the year 2023/2024

Only one query was received in the last year, and an advert placed on the website from Dunedin Academic Press.

All contacts (around 90 in total) from a list supplied by Maggie Williams were contacted last year to confirm details and enquire whether they were interested in advertising.

Only six responses were received, to which I forwarded further details about advertising, but received no responses from these.

My plan for September (after the holidays) is to contact some organisations which I have personally dealt with in my teaching role and enquire if they would like to advertise on the new-look website.

If any ESTA members have contacts who they think may like to advertise, could they please forward details on to me?

Richard Campbell, ESTA Advertising Officer;

July 2024

ESTA Conference Report for the year 2023/2024

University of Portsmouth 2023

Total Delegates	51
Full Conference Package Numbers	33
Saturday Only	1
Friday and Saturday	2
Exhibitor	15 Delegates; 10 Stands
Bring and Share Presenters	14
Field Trip Attendees	34

This year's conference featured a new format which revolved around Saturday's fieldwork to the Isle of Wight. On Friday afternoon there were laboratory tours, networking with industries who had attended the conference as exhibitors. The barbecue in the evening in the courtyard of the Portland Building went down well with delegates. On Saturday morning, the ESTA AGM and Bring and Share session took place – which delegates found incredibly useful. A shared google file has been created which contains all the material from the bring and share sessions and workshop sessions along with any material exhibitors have provided.

The fieldwork to the Isle of Wight on Saturday afternoon was enjoyed by delegates – particularly visiting the Dinosaur Isle Museum and visiting the nearby beach to look at the Lower Cretaceous succession from the terrestrial Wealden Group strata, through to the Upper Greensand Formation-Chalk Group transition. The conference dinner this year was held at the Still and West Pub in Old Portsmouth. We are extremely grateful to Professor Phil Manning who drove all the way down to Portsmouth to give his Presidential address at the conference dinner.

On Sunday morning, the conference concluded with the workshop sessions which included Degree Apprenticeships, Crisis and Disaster Management, Breathing Life into Fossils and Critical Elements for Green Technology – amongst others.

I would like to express thanks to Catherine, Tony, Mariem and the rest of the team in Portsmouth who have put in a huge amount of time and effort to allow the conference to run smoothly.

Improvements for next year

- It has been proposed that the booking form for future conferences be sent out earlier – in the January, if possible, to allow delegates time to pass any information on to their finance departments to secure funding which will hopefully encourage more secondary school teachers to attend.
 - It is not always possible to provide details until the spring term.
- Need to mention the representation of exam boards at the conference somewhere in the booking form/advertisement material – exam boards will not be offering training session during the conference.

Conference Accounts

Income	£
Sponsorship	

Envireau Ltd	550.00
Hydrock	300.00
SRK Consultants	2000.00
BAM RITCHIES	300.00
Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants	300.00
Soil Engineering	300.00
AECOM	300.00
Lochranza	100.00
Delegate bookings	7400.00
Portsmouth contribution to cover UoP staff	1500.00
Total income	13050.00
Expenditure	
Catering	3078.50
IOW Fastcat	793.40
Conference dinner	2026.80
Tote bags	362.34
Non membership fee to be transferred to ESTA account	640.00
Conference manager costs and accommodation	5288.19
Printing/stationary	35.74
Total cost	12224.97
Surplus	825.03

University of Liverpool 2024

We are delighted to announce that the School of Earth, Ocean and Ecological Sciences, University of Liverpool are hosting the 57th Earth Science Teachers Association (ESTA) Conference between 27th September – 29th September 2024.

This year's conference will focus on how geoscientists help to address global issues and will provide updating lectures, practicals and fieldwork courses. You will be pleased to hear that we have been able to hold the conference fees at last year's level.

Delegates can expect a packed programme which will be hosted from the Central Teaching Hub and Labs on the main campus at the University of Liverpool. Events will start from Friday afternoon with research showcases and campus tours followed by a keynote lecture by Professor Peter Burgess on our conference theme 'Addressing Global Challenges'. There will also be a chance to look around the exhibition stands and interact with industries. On Friday evening the drinks reception and hot buffet will be held at the Waterhouse at the Victoria Gallery and Museum.

We will offer a range of workshops and practicals in the Central Teaching Hub and Labs on the Saturday morning. Details of these can be found on the ESTA Conference 2024 website <https://esta-conference-2024.co.uk>.

After lunch there will be a keynote lecture by Professor Neil MacDonald on 'Building Climate Resilience' followed by the AGM and Bring and Share session in the afternoon. This year's bring and share will also include teacher training on exam techniques. The conference dinner in the evening will be held at Frederiks' – a short walk from the University Campus.

On Sunday there is a choice of four field excursions which will either take place on the Wirral or on Campus and will conclude the conference. These include; Deformation Structures on Thurstaston Hill, past glacial environments of the Thurstaston coastal exposures, Coastal Protection Schemes on the Wirral coast and an Urban Geology Trail.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Maggie and Peter Williams for all of their help organising the conference and setting up the brilliant conference website.

Amy Musker-Heaton, ESTA Conference Manager;
July 2024
conferences@esta.ac.uk

Appendix

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