

UKPN Newsletter

January 2008



UK POLAR NETWORK

UK Polar Network is the UK Branch of the **Association of Polar Early Career Scientists**. We carry education and outreach activities and provide a Network for UK based polar early career researchers from any discipline

UKPN are grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their support in the last few months.

British Antarctic Survey

Earthzine

International Arctic Science Committee

International Glaciological Society

Royal Geographical Society

Scientific Committee on Arctic Research

University of East Anglia

Dominic Hodgson, Magnús Már Magnússon, Gudrun Nina Petersen, Hamish Pritchard, Richard Turner, Jaap van der Meer, John Woodward

And to those who have involved in other ways, *much appreciated!*

Click on the [blue](#) text for Hyperlinks

Happy New year and best wishes for 2008!!! Welcome to our January newsletter! It's been all change in UKPN in the last few months and we've all been really busy. This is a rundown on what's been going on.

Committee Changes

Due to the amount of activities we are involved in, we have expanded the committee so that each working group now has 2 coordinators. In addition, James Cheshire has decided to step down as UKPN Coordinator, although he remains on the Committee as Polar Discovery Conference Representative (more on that later). Here's a quick introduction to our new committee members.

Adrian McCallum – UKPN Coordinator

G'day all. I've recently moved to Cambridge from Australia to commence a PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute. I'm essentially looking to investigate the strength of snow for engineering purposes, and whether we can develop a useful in situ testing method which can give a ready appraisal of the snow's strength. I've come to the Polar sciences late, after spending almost 20 years in numerous roles across the Australian Defence Forces. Throughout that time I've been aiming to ultimately forge a career as a Polar scientist and explorer, but it's just taken me a while to get there. I've led or participated in numerous expeditions to the Himalayas and sub-polar regions over that time, and I'm looking forward to getting out and about to places cold and white throughout the next few years. I'm very excited about the opportunities that we as young Polar scientists have before us, and I look forward to meeting and dealing with many of you as we become the 'new-guard' in this field. For further info check out my SPRI webpage [here](#)



Helen Atkinson – Career Development Coordinator

I've just started my PhD at BAS with Howard Roscoe, in atmospheric chemistry. I'm looking at halogen emissions from diatoms in sea ice, and their influence on climate. My first field campaign will be to Hudson Bay in Canada next February to take ice cores, sample diatoms and measure halide ion concentrations. I graduated from Leeds this summer with a MChem, before this I was an electrical engineer. I completed an apprenticeship with BNFL, got bored, spent a few years travelling and working as an electrician to fund the repairs on the campervan, then went back to university for a career change, discovered atmospheric chemistry, and here I am. I'm also student representative at BAS so if anyone wants to be involved with social events in Cambridge please [get in touch](#).

Richard Gravelle – Education and Outreach Coordinator (Schools)

I'm the new Schools Coordinator in the Education & Outreach working group. I am from Neath in South Wales, and I graduated from Aberystwyth University in 2006 with a BSc. (Hons) in Geography and an MSc. in Glaciology. I am currently applying for PhDs on the relationships between glacial dynamics and climate change, although I have very broad research interests. To date I've carried out fieldwork in Iceland, Arctic Sweden and Switzerland and I'm hoping to add to this list soon! As both my parents are teachers, I was keen to get involved with UKPN and the Education & Outreach group to try and help polar sciences become more recognised within school curricula, and to allow pupils to see and learn about the things that first got me interested in glaciology.



Angelika Renner – Funding Coordinator

I am a PhD student in physical oceanography at the University of East Anglia and the British Antarctic Survey. Currently, I am looking at surface currents around the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula using data from ocean models and observations. Besides my PhD, I am involved in a couple of sea ice related projects in the Arctic. If I am not in the office, you most likely can find me somewhere outdoors, preferably on the water or on some hills and of course in high latitudes!

Nanna Karlsson – Web & Communications Coordinator (Web Development)

I started my PhD at The University of Hull in July 2007 after finishing my masters degree at the University of Copenhagen. I am interested in the impact of climate on high latitude ice deposits both on Earth and on Mars. I have been working with ice flow modelling, internal layers of glaciers and the use of remote sensing in glaciology. My PhD project is on the internal stratigraphy of the Pine Island glacier in West Antarctica and its similarities with the layering in the Martian ice caps.



UKPN Newsletter

January 2008



UK POLAR NETWORK

Committee

UKPN Coordinator
Adrian McCallum

Secretary
Helen Freeman
info@polarnetwork.org

Career Development
Helen Atkinson
Liz Thomas
careers@polarnetwork.org

Education and Outreach
Events
Emma Irvine
Schools
Richard Gravelle
education@polarnetwork.org

Funding
Narelle Baker
Angelika Renner
funding@polarnetwork.org

Web and Communication
Web
Nanna Karlsson
Communications
Cameron Rye
webmaster@polarnetwork.org

Polar Discovery Conference Rep
James Cheshire

Committee Members
Kate Hendry
Ruth Mugford

You can contact any of the committee members using the format

firstname.lastname@polarnetwork.org

IPY YSC and APECS

Following a meeting in Sweden at the end of September, it was decided that the IPY Youth Steering Committee and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) would be officially merged under the name of APECS. APECS is still

recognised as an endorsed IPY project. UKPN will form the UK branch of APECS – but don't worry, we aren't limiting our membership to scientists.

Narelle has been elected to the APECS Executive Committee as Treasurer, Liz is heading up the Professional development and James is involved in organising the Polar Discovery Conference in Edmonton, Canada, with the aim of informing school age students and educators about polar science. More details to come on this!

Check out the APECS website and sign up for the mailing list [here](#)

New Logo and Website!!!

We have a fantastic new penguin and polar bear logo which you can see at the top of this Newsletter. It was kindly designed for us by Graphic Designer Rebecca Pickett – you can check out her website [here](#). We think its fantastic, thanks very much Rebecca!

Our website <http://www.polarnetwork.org> is now up and running so go and check it out. The website will provide a portal for our networking activities, including conference registration. It will also contain links, photos, educational resources and lots more. Content will be added over the coming weeks and months. If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see on it then email Nanna and Cameron at webmaster@polarnetwork.org. If you are going away on fieldwork and want to write a Blog email [Tamsin Gray](mailto:Tamsin.Gray)

UEA Network day

Our last Network day was held in November at UEA Norwich. Aply organised by Emma Fiedler and Libby Jones there was a really interesting array of speakers, with talks looking at both poles on subjects as diverse as ice sheet modelling, fieldwork in Greenland, Marine sediment and life on a BAS Ship. We also got to see Part two of the film we watched at the BAS Network day, Starring Vivian Fuchs and Edmund Hillary. Thanks to all the speakers, to UEA for sponsoring the event, to those of you who attended and of course to Libby and Emma for all their hard work.

If you are interested in organising a network day in the future then email careers@polarnetwork.org



Network Day Organisers Emma and Libby

The Royal Geographical Society Explore Conference

On the 24th and 25th November Narelle Baker, Liz Thomas, James Cheshire and Jose Xavier were panellists at the RGS Explore weekend. The weekend is designed for people who enjoy exploration. The beauty of the weekend is in the range of the people who attend; we found ourselves talking to people who had climbed Everest 5 times one minute and the next being asked for advice about how to get into the Polar Sciences. Many of the attendees had organised, or were participating in, large expeditions with successful educational projects about the Polar Regions. The weekend was a chance to talk with these people, and also recruit members of the expedition community for our own work. It was also extremely inspirational, leaving us contemplating our very own UKPN expedition. Any ideas...?

Hey!!! Have a look at this!

"Adopt a School Scheme"

The Education & Outreach working group will soon be starting recruitment for volunteers to take part in school visits as part of the Adopt a School scheme. The Adopt a School scheme provides a much needed link between polar researchers and schools. You will be free to choose your school, what age group you work with, and the subject you talk about. By getting involved in the Adopt a School you may be providing the spark that will inspire a child or student to follow a career pathway towards polar research!

For more information, please see the UKPN website at <http://www.polarnetwork.org> or email education@polarnetwork.org.

<<Upcoming Events>>

Don't forget about Early Career Researchers workshop prior to the SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference in St Petersburg in July. It should be a really good event providing a place for Early Career Scientist from all over the world to come together. Liz is busy lining up speakers and Narelle is securing funding. We are also organising 2 day workshop prior to the IGS Glaciology in the IPY Symposium in Northumbria in 2009. We are also planning on being involved in some schools work during the conference. And on a slightly smaller scale. We have are planning on holding a UKPN Network day immediately after the 2008 IGS British Branch Meeting in Swansea next September. Keep your ears out for more information or to be involved in any of these events email careers@polarnetwork.org

Thanks to [Sinhue Torres \(NOCS\)](#) and [Helen Freeman \(Swansea\)](#) for putting this newsletter together. Feel Free to Send it on to anyone you think may be interested. Is this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive it every quarter, email [Helen](#)