

## Welcome!

Welcome to the Autumn UKPN newsletter of 2012. In this newsletter, you can find out about all of the things that UKPN has been involved in during the later 2011 and early 2012, the changes that have been made to the committee following the Annual General Meeting in April and most importantly, the great opportunities UKPN has to offer in the coming months!



Photo: Laura Hobbs

## A message from the UKPN President

UKPN members, welcome to 2012-2013 where the year has already got off to a booming start! A host of skill development and career enhancing workshops, mentor panels and scientific networking events are in the pipeline to ensure that you are connected in polar sciences. Engagement of the general public remains high on our agenda as we enthuse at national science events around the country. With a multitude of education and outreach visits in schools around the country, we are “inspiring the next generation” of Polar Scientists. Join us and get involved to make it a brilliant year for the UKPN!

**Ella Darlington**



### This issue...

- 2012 events so far
- What's coming in autumn/winter 2012-13!
- UKPN new committee members

## About the UKPN

The UK Polar Network was established in April 2007 as part of the 2007-2009 **International Polar Year** (IPY). It is the UK branch of the **Association of Polar Early Career Scientists** (APECS). It comprises a dedicated management committee and the membership of over 300 early career scientists, from aspiring undergraduates to current Masters and PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and recent faculty appointees. The common thread among UKPN members is an interest in the Polar Regions and a desire to coordinate networking, education and outreach and information dissemination for early career researchers during and after the International Polar Year (IPY).

The aims of UKPN are threefold:

- To provide networking between and support for early career polar researchers
- To provide education and outreach to young people with regards to polar issues
- To provide information via newsletters and the UKPN website ([www.polarnetwork.org](http://www.polarnetwork.org))

To contact us and get involved, please email: [com@polarnetwork.org](mailto:com@polarnetwork.org)

## The UKPN Committee

The AGM held at the University of Sheffield in April saw some farewells and some new arrivals to the committee. Sian Henley (Edinburgh University) stepped down as President and will now take on the role of Vice President. In her role, she will help our new President Ella Darlington (Loughborough University) – congratulations to Ella and we wish her all the best!



Aisling Dolan (University of Leeds) handed over the UKPN Secretary position to Coleen Suckling (British Antarctic Survey and University of Cambridge). We thank Aisling for all of her hard work and are glad that she will remain a member of UKPN Committee as part of the Workshop and Events team. Also a huge thanks to Amelie Kirchgaessner who has very recently stepped down. Amelie has been with the UKPN since it's inception and should be applauded for her huge efforts and dedication to help drive the UKPN to its current success. We wish her all the best in her future.

Finally we welcome a few new members of the committee. Amber Leeson (University of Leeds) takes on the Treasurer position. Thanks to Jenny Gales (BAS) for all her work as the previous Treasurer. Thomas Perriment (University of Plymouth) has joined the Education and Outreach team, Joanna Scheidegger (University of East Anglia) and Jonny Day (Reading) have joined the Workshops and Events team and Matthias Biber (University of Bangor) is now

our Webmaster. Of course if anyone wishes to join the Committee, then please don't hesitate to contact us!

## Committee Members Profiles

### Laura Hobbs



I have just started a PhD at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, looking at the vertical migration patterns of marine zooplankton on an arctic wide scale. To kick this off, I have been studying a six week course at the University Centre on Svalbard (UNIS) in Longyearbyen, Svalbard.

I help with running the Education and Outreach section of the UKPN. Once I return from Svalbard, I will be involved in running some workshops at the Dundee Science Festival. If there are any members wanting to get more involved with the UKPN from Oban or anywhere in Scotland, please do let me know!

### Matt Biber



I am currently in my 4th year, studying Applied Marine Biology at Bangor University. My main interest is in marine benthic ecology and I hope to relate this to polar research in the future.

I am currently the Webmaster for the UK Polar Network and part of the organising committee of the Bangor Polar Symposium ([www.polarsymposium.com](http://www.polarsymposium.com)).

## Super September!

Many events occurred over the last few months in which UKPN has been involved, particularly for September. Here are some snapshots of what we've been up to.

## British Science Festival

Aberdeen 4-9<sup>th</sup> September. Several events within the British Science Festival were run by our members. A public debate 'The future of our polar regions: What must we do and how can science help?' was opened to the public. Throughout the festival our members ran classes for school children teaching them about the polar regions and the science behind it. 'Frozen science: life and work at polar extremes' the public event was a hit.



Everyone from small children to grandparents showed great interest and engagement. There was large interest to discuss polar research and the climate debate, especially with the recent Arctic sea ice decline articles and the talks at the festival on Lake Ellsmere. Those who had attended the public panel event also visited the stand to discuss polar science. Overall this is a great event to attend whether for dissemination of polar science or to learn more about science in general – with big names such as Brian Cox and Iain Stewart attending – who could refuse?

## International Glaciology Society



British Branch, Aberdeen 5<sup>th</sup> September. The UKPN organised a mentor panel for the early career scientists attending this exciting meeting titled 'Conquering field work'. This provided a great opportunity for these scientists to gain advice and tips from the experts on how not to get snowed under when undertaking fieldwork. This ranged from planning to executing the practical work. Thank you to our expert panel: Alison Cook (Swansea), Brice Rea (Aberdeen), Andy Smith (British Antarctic Survey) and Andrew Sole (Sheffield) for providing such valuable advice.

## Science Uncovered

Natural History Museum 'After hours' 28<sup>th</sup> September. Exploring living and working in Antarctica, the UKPN exposed polar science to the public. With a display of field equipment and scientific exhibits, members of the UKPN answered questions and highlighted the importance of our exciting work. In addition, members of the public were able to ask questions to those overwintering at Rothera, the British Antarctic Survey's research station on the Antarctic Peninsula, via conference call!



## UK Antarctic Sciences Conference

Cambridge 13<sup>th</sup> September. The UKPN organised a mentor panel for early career scientists, 'Publishing your work'. Thank you to Eric Wolff, David Vaughan, Tom Bracegirdle, Lloyd Peck (British Antarctic Survey), Jane Francis (Leeds) and Karen Heywood (Southampton) for providing advice and answering questions to early career scientists about publishing and reviewing science for peer reviewed journals. Also congratulations to Coleen Suckling for winning the best poster presentation at this exciting event.



## Other highlights

Outside of 'Super September' here are some key events which UKPN has been involved with in collaboration with UK institutes.

## Modelling Polar Sciences

Geography Dept., University of Sheffield, 2-4<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

Attended by 30+ masters students, PhD students and early-career researchers all

interested in learning about mathematical modelling and how it is applied in the polar sciences. Participants enjoyed talks and practicals covering topics from ice ages to ice divides all delivered by a range of highly respected academics.

The workshop provided an opportunity for young scientists to interact with each other and with some of the most respected and established academics in their respective fields. Everyone who attended took a huge amount from the event both academically and socially.

Thanks to Lestyn Barr, Jeremy Ely, Stephen Livingstone, Sarah Wrathmell, Tom Hurst, Amir Levy, John Owen, Sheffield University and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for funding.

**Jonathan Kingslake**



## Future events:

## Dundee Science Festival

12-13<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Following the success of our workshops at the British Science Festival this year, we've been asked to run workshops at the Dundee Science Festival. If you would like to help out with running these workshops please email [laura.hobbs@polarnetwork.org](mailto:laura.hobbs@polarnetwork.org) - volunteers would be greatly appreciated and it's a whole lot of fun

## BBC2 Operation Iceberg

To be aired on 30<sup>th</sup> October.  
UKPN member Povl Abrahamsen helped the BBC team on their quest to follow the spectacular story of an enormous Arctic Iceberg.



## Bangor Polar Symposium

8<sup>th</sup> December 2012.  
School of Ocean Sciences,  
Bangor University.



Are you an early career scientist who is interested in or involved in polar science? If yes then this could be the event for you!

The UKPN, Endeavour Society and Bangor University's School of Ocean Sciences are hosting a one day informal 'Bangor Polar Symposium' which will allow early career scientists to network, gain advice on polar careers and present their research to a friendly audience. There will be keynote speakers, participants are offered a chance to present their research and there will be a wine reception. Experts will offer their advice as part of a mentor panel on "How to get yourself into polar science and general research".

To register by 10<sup>th</sup> November please visit:

[www.polarsymposium.com](http://www.polarsymposium.com)

## Explore!

16-18<sup>th</sup> November. Royal Geographical Society (RGS).

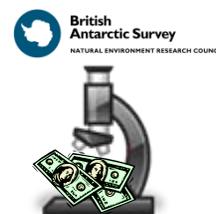
The RGS is holding their annual fieldwork and expedition planning weekend and the UKPN will be there. 100+ field specialists and explorers will provide advice through workshops, seminars and 1-1 consultations. The RGS is kindly giving UKPN members a

discounted rate of £55 for this exciting weekend in London, non-student prices are £85 so this is a great saving on what is already an invaluable weekend.

## Grant Writing Workshop

March 2013. British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.

The UKPN are currently in the early stages of organising a 2 day Grant Writing Workshop.



Participants will be asked to bring in short mock grant applications for travel and small research grants based on pre-set mock criteria. The workshop will provide advice for writing towards such grants with speakers anticipated from SCAR (Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research) among other reputable funding source organisations. Using this advice, participants will assess each others applications providing a great opportunity to become self critical, gain new ideas and receive constructive feedback.

## Polar Ocean Acidification – Virtual Poster Session

APECS Virtual Poster Session – late November 2012.



All those who wish to present their work in the form of a poster (you can talk to people through a live web feed when your poster is on display) – please contact Coleen Suckling (UKPN Secretary) by 10<sup>th</sup> November on [coleenclaire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:coleenclaire@yahoo.co.uk).

Recycled posters from previous conferences are welcome!

## APECS Career Discussion Panel at AGU

3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1815-1915, Golden Gate C1. Marriot Marquis San Francisco.



UKPN members Christine Dow and Allen Pope are organizing an APECS careers discussion panel at AGU. This panel discussion, led by experts in the field, will address the exciting career opportunities and challenges faced by scientists who study these frozen realms. The panel will introduce themselves briefly and then we will open the floor for a moderated conversation on any aspect of careers in polar science that the audience would like. This event is held in partnership with the Cryosphere Focus Group of the American Geophysical Union.

Confirmed panellists include Dr. Robin Bell (Cryosphere Division President-Elect) and Dr. Ginny Catania. More panellists TBA - check back at [apecs.is/agu2012](http://apecs.is/agu2012) for updates!

## Keep track with Twitter and facebook

Want to keep up to date with news, events and opportunities? Then please join us on facebook and/or Twitter (search for UK Polar Network).



Some of you may have noticed that we are currently experiencing some technical difficulties with our website. Please be patient, we will have it running back to normal very soon.

## NERC Institute Merger

NERC (the Natural Environment Research Council) offered an opportunity to consult on a proposal to merge BAS and NOC (British Antarctic Survey and National Oceanography Centre respectively). The UKPN Committee have submitted a consultation in focus of early-career scientists, since it is they who will drive the future of science. If you wish to see our response then please contact the Committee with the email address below.

[com@polarnetwork.org](mailto:com@polarnetwork.org)

## Want to get more involved?

Do you want to be involved in any of the upcoming events, or perhaps have ideas of your own you would like to exercise? Would you be interested in inspiring school children into the polar world? Perhaps you would like to be involved in a Committee role? We are always looking for keen early career people to get involved with the UKPN. Even if you're not sure what you could do, please get in touch with us and we can help get you in the right direction for gaining experience and meeting other people interested in all things polar!

We hope to hear from you!

[com@polarnetwork.org](mailto:com@polarnetwork.org)



## Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have supported the UKPN as well as all of our amazing members!