

Tallest Jelly Competition

As part of the Norfolk Food and Drink Festival, the Institute of Food Research and the Institute of Physics bring back the Tallest Jelly competition for its 7th sticky year, outside at the Forum in Norwich on Friday 27th September.

Full details at the website, <http://www.ifr.ac.uk/jellyvision> including how to enter, the all important rules and details of previous events.

Schools are asked to arrive at the Forum by 11:00 to be judged and unveil their creations and try to claim the prize for the Tallest Jelly - a scientific/engineering challenge bringing in food science and so much more.



Fascination of Fungi Day

This year, for the first time, a host of public engagement events involving science and the arts will run concurrently across the UK - including Norwich - to introduce the general public to the wonders of the Fungal Kingdom.

The Norwich event is being coordinated by Dr. Jenni Rant from the SAW Trust. It will take place on Sunday 13th October between 10am-4pm at the John Innes Centre and will be a free event for families with lots of hands-on activities to explore the world of fungi. Working with volunteers from the JIC, IFR, UEA, NNUH they aim to show the science and biodiversity of fungi, plus Tas Valley mushroom farmers, the WI, fungal forray walks at UEA and members of the Norfolk Craft Brewers Association doing brewing demos and SAW artists and poets running collaborative arts and fungal folklore storytelling.



Portable Planetarium

In September, the Portable Planetarium will once again be available for week long loans by TSN members. A compulsory training session will be offered early in the term enabling over 10 weeks of loans to be fulfilled between now and Christmas. The date for this will be announced shortly by email.

The loans will begin on Thursdays, with returns arranged for the following Wednesday. The total cost for training and a 1 week loan will be £150, discounted to £100 for those who have become members of TSN. This loan will not count as one of your allocated loans.



Theatre Trip ...

Continuing our evolutionary theme, November 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Alfred Russell Wallace: he, along with Darwin, was credited with discovering the theory of evolution by Natural Selection.

Theatre na Nog, have produced a show about the life of Wallace that will be performed for 1 night only, on the 14th November, in Hertford where Wallace went to school. The evening will also include a showing of a film "Alfred Wallace: one in a generation."

TSN is offering a trip to Hertford for the evening open to any member. According to numbers this may involve minibus/coach hire. Contact TSN now to express your interest. For more information about Wallace's life and a great time-line see <http://www.nhm.org.uk/wallace100>

News from Science Learning Centre

The Science Learning Centre network is also changing, and from the start of the new term schools in Norfolk and Suffolk will be served by the Central region of the SLC, run by the University of Hertfordshire. More details at <http://www.slcs.ac.uk/central>

There are 2 courses to note in our region at present - *Practical Work in Biology* (22.10.13) at Bungay High School, and for primaries *Preparing for the new science National Curriculum* which TSN will host here at the hn Innes Centre (21.11.13). Keep checking their website for updates as new courses are confirmed.

and finally ...

TSN is hoping to run the *Health and Life Science Student Careers Convention* again next year. The event will be geared to Year 9 and upwards (teachers to decide), and will be held at the John Innes Centre on Wednesday 5th February 2014 (*subject to funding*).

Information about ALL TSN activity can be found at www.tsn.org.uk
Kit Club bookings via tsn.kits@nbi.ac.uk
Alternatively telephone The Kit Club on 01603 450619
(answerphone available)

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TSN News-extra

The same but different ...

'Same but different' is a term often associated with evolution and natural selection. In evolutionary terms the differences that are most useful persist and are maintained through future generations. The *difference* for the coming year with TSN is that we are introducing an annual membership fee for all our members. As with evolution, we believe this change is indeed essential for TSN to survive. We discussed this change at length with our Steering Group and over the last few months have canvassed the thoughts and opinions of the many Kit Club users who have been collecting/returning kits.

So, as a new academic year falls upon us, TSN is writing to all members announcing this new way of working. For the first time in our nearly 20 year history we will be charging a membership fee for all our members. That is however, the only change. The *same* high-quality service that we have offered all schools will continue, all geared towards enhancing your abilities to make school science more engaging and providing links to real-science:

- the availability of science partnerships
- access to >100 high-quality kits
- occasional events and cpd
- newsletters and email updates
- telephone and face-to-face support



Image kindly supplied by Galen Leeds photography

TSN partnerships will continue but they cannot be part of the membership offer as they cannot be guaranteed. They will still be offered to members according to demand and arranged to match the needs of the individuals. However, without basic membership of TSN, you will not be offered a scientist partner.

TSN has built a large community over the years. We really hope that many, if not ALL of YOU, will actively support this transition to social enterprise. Even this change *will not guarantee* TSN's long-term future, to do that we would have had to double our maximum rate for all. However, we WANT to continue to

work with ALL of YOU, even though we are now charging to use our services and effectively asking "how much do you and your school value science and the support TSN provides."

Basic Membership:

For each teacher this will allow you to keep-in-touch with the activities that TSN promotes and includes a personal invitation to our Annual Meeting, with its entertaining science talk and refreshments. Members will receive prior notice on bookings for events and Master Classes together with discounted rates for our cpd events and loans of the Planetarium (see over). Without at least basic membership this is the last edition of TSNews you will receive.

Should you decide to borrow more kits than you sign-up for at the start of the year, top-up's will be allowed.

We hope you'll find ways to cover these costs, payable from September, and help us build a supportive community of practitioners passionate about science education. Indirectly your support of TSN will help others too, from the smallest primary schools to the largest secondary academies. Do contact TSN's coordinator, Dr. Phil Smith, to discuss any queries about TSN's new structure (phil.smith@nbi.ac.uk, 01603 450304).

TSN Membership Rates

(with effect from 1st September 2013)

Basic Membership, £25

BRONZE: Basic Membership + 1 kit loan/year, £60

SILVER: Basic Membership + up to 3 kit loans/year, £100

GOLD: Basic Membership + 4-8 kit loans/year, £150

TSN Team Membership, £250*

* This category is for schools where there are 3 or more teachers signed-up to our school package of individual memberships plus unlimited Kit Club use, or for a school where more than 8 kits are borrowed in the academic year.