

Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2025

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Important Dates

2024/25 Term Dates:

Summer: Mon 28th April 2025 – Sat 14th June 2025

Semester 2 Exams:

Mon 19th May – Fri 7th June 2025

University Closure days:

Mon 26th May 2025 (Public Holiday)
Mon 25th August 2025 (Public Holiday)

Graduation: Thursday 17th July

2025/26 Term Dates:

Semester 1:

Mon 22nd Sept 2025 – Sat 24th Jan 2026

Autumn Term:

Mon 29th Sept 2025–Sat 13th Dec 2025



2023 Silver Award
Chemistry at University of Southampton

Welcome to the Spring edition of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering newsletter

This academic year has brought significant changes for the School, including a formal name change and the addition of more than eighteen new staff members. You can learn more about some of them in this edition.

We are also conducting a curriculum review of all of the undergraduate Chemistry programmes. Staff involved in the review are looking at all aspects of the programmes, such as **what** we teach and **when**, but also **how** courses are organised and assessed. This long-term project will come into effect for students joining us for the 2026/27 academic year, with those currently in the School retaining the current structure until their graduation.

We are also looking forward to this year's graduation on 17th July at Southampton Guildhall where we will be celebrating the achievements of all graduating students and their families.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and if you have any, suggestions, news, achievements or anything you'd like to share in future editions, we would love to hear from you.

Julie Herniman
Dawn Dunlop



Photo by Darren Bradshaw

Do you have an article you wish to contribute to a future edition?
Please email Julie Herniman J.M.Herniman@soton.ac.uk or Dawn Dunlop D.Dunlop@soton.ac.uk

Graduations and Awards

Congratulations to the following students on their Awards since our last newsletter:

PhD

Nabeel Anwar - *Large-Scale Density Functional Theory (DFT) Simulations of Lanthanide and Actinide Oxide Materials*

Michael Blakey - *Wiswesser Line Notation in Modern Cheminformatics; Implementations for parsing, conversion and compression of chemical entities*

Jodie Henningway - *The synthesis of birefringent chromophores for optoelectronic applications*

Syed Shah - *Organic Inorganic Hybrid Thermoelectric Materials for Energy Harvesting Applications*

Marian Powderly - *New Cyclic Scaffolds under Microflow and Pressure Conditions*

Nikita Rank - *Permanganate Mediated Enantioselective Oxidative Cyclisation of 1,5- and 1,4-diene Systems*

Weronika Razmus - *Combining X-ray Free Electron Laser Probes of Chemical Dynamics*

Davide Sarpa - *Simulations of rheological properties of lubricants under operational conditions*

Thomas Wakelin - *Kinetic studies of Metal Hexacyanoferrate electrode using Energy Dispersive EXAFS*

Oliver Blackman - *Operando XES and HERFD-XANES studies of Prussian Blue Analogue Battery Materials*

Muhammad Hashim Khan - *Numerical Study of Transient Response in Amperometric and Potentiometric Glucose Biosensors*

Liam Lu - *In-operando detection of gas evolution from lithium-ion batteries*

Charley O'Callaghan - *Transition Metal and Group 13 Triazamacrocyclic Complexes: Coordination Chemistry and Applications in 18F PET Imaging*

Joseph Arnold - *Crystal Structure Prediction of Energetic Materials*

Rebecca Baker - *Supercritical Fluid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry for the Analysis of Agrochemicals and Formulated Products*

Tom Demeyere - *Coupling of Modern Computational Techniques to Study the Oxygen Reduction Reaction*

Ashley Shiels - *Synthesis of Functional Polyaromatic Heterocycles and their Material Applications*

Celebrations and Congratulations

Congratulations to Professor Gill Reid who was awarded a well-deserved CBE in the New Years Honours earlier this year.



Gill received a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for services to Chemical Sciences and Inclusion and Diversity in the King's New Year Honours List 2025, recognising her extraordinary achievements.

Gill became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) in 2012, served as an Elected Member of RSC Council (2011-15) and was elected to Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE) in 2022. She became President-Elect of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) in July 2020, prior to taking up the role of RSC President from 2022-2024.

Professor Reid said: "It really is one of my proudest moments to be recognised in this way. That the citation refers to both the Chemical Sciences and Inclusion and Diversity, is significant to me. I firmly believe that we must strive to create a truly inclusive chemistry community that welcomes diversity and inspires young talent to follow careers in chemistry.

More than ever, bringing together different talents and experiences is essential to tackle the climate, sustainability and biodiversity challenges that the world faces.

I would really like to thank my colleagues, collaborators, students and friends from across the chemistry community for all their contributions over the years and also for making what we do a lot of fun!"

Professor Michael Butler, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Sciences and Engineering, added:

"I am thrilled that Professor Reid's work in Chemistry and in diversity and inclusion have been recognised with this award; since joining Southampton in 1991 she has delivered world-class teaching and research, as well as excellent leadership, and her CBE is richly deserved."

Celebrations and Congratulations

Congratulations to Isabel Elliott



I was selected as a finalist of STEM for BRITAIN, an annual poster competition which aims to give Members of Parliament an insight into the research being performed by early career researchers at UK universities. I represented the University of Southampton, along with Grace Hayes (School of Biological Sciences) and Sunke Trace-Kleeberg (School of Ocean and Earth Science), at an event in Parliament at the House of Commons in March during British Science Week, sharing my PhD research with a poster to an audience of politicians and scientists.

I also had the opportunity to meet and chat to Satvir Kaur, the MP for Southampton Test.

It was an inspiring day, and I learnt a lot about communicating science to a lay audience – I would highly recommend any current PhD students to apply to the competition next year!

Congratulations to Associate Professor, Jonathan George who was awarded an A.J Birth medal which is the premier award of the Organic Chemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

Dr George was recognised for excellence in organic chemical research conducted in Australia by a member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.



Congratulations to our Prize Winners for the LinkedIn Chemistry Poster Day, sponsored by the ChemSoc Podcast. Rob Clarke won the Best Poster Award and 2nd Year Lucy Mannie won the Undergraduate Engagement Award.



Congratulations to Edward Jackman who won a poster prize at the Postgraduate Symposium on Future Directions for Chemical Synthesis at the University of Bath



Congratulations to Vincent Jacob who has been selected for an RSC programme, Broadening Horizons in the Chemical Sciences, which supports students and graduates from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds to pursue careers in the chemical sciences. "Over the next year, I'll gain access to personal mentoring, networking, and industry experience with leading companies like GSK, Syngenta, and AstraZeneca."

Congratulations to Dr Mohamed Hassan-Sayed on receiving confirmation of his Chartered Fellow grade of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) "This achievement reflects your dedication, experience, and expertise in the field of management and leadership, and we are pleased to welcome you to this level of membership within CMI."

Congratulations to PhD student Maciej Walerowski on being selected to participate in the 74th Lindau Nobel Laureate (Chemistry) meeting. The School is grateful to Prof. Mark E. Smith for supporting the nomination.



"We are thrilled to invite you to the **74th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting dedicated to Chemistry**, which will take place from **29 June to 4 July 2025 inclusively**. You have been selected as one of ca. 600 Young Scientists from throughout the world to experience and contribute to the unique atmosphere of this year's Lindau Meeting, and we are looking very much forward to welcoming you to Lindau 2025."

Southampton University President and VC Prof. Mark E Smith extended his congratulations -

"I am delighted to extend my congratulations to you on securing the nomination to attend the 74th Lindau Nobel Laureate (Chemistry) meeting from 29th June to 4th July 2025. This is a remarkable achievement, as one of c.600 people worldwide selected to attend and is testament to your hard work, dedication, and excellence in your field.

Your selection reflects not only your individual accomplishments but also the high regard in which you are held by your peers and the broader community. I am confident that your participation in this event will be both rewarding and inspiring, providing you with valuable opportunities to share your insights and to learn from other distinguished attendees.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. I wish you all the best as you prepare for the meeting, and I look forward to hearing about your experiences and the new perspectives you will bring back."

Congratulations to Owen Hewitt who has recently completed his apprenticeship as a level 3 apprentice laboratory technician after completing his end point assessment.

This included an interview, a demonstration of his day-to-day tasks as well as a written test. Owen is now a full-time staff member at the NCS.



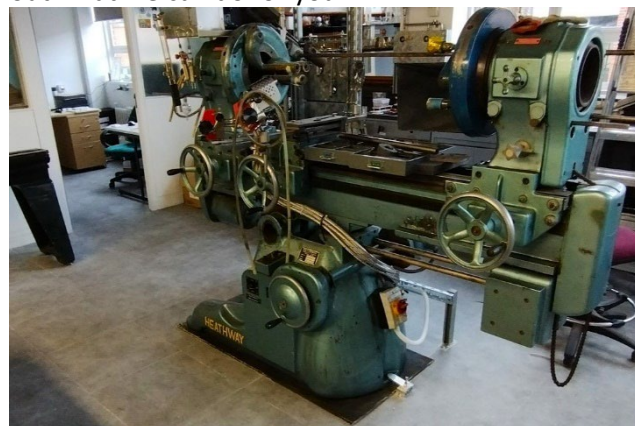
Owen also won a poster prize at the British Crystallography Association (BCA) Spring meeting for his poster on **"Apprenticeships: How to produce a new generation of scientists"**



Technicians' updates

Drop-in for glassblowing

The glassblowing technicians are now running open-access drop-in sessions at the glassblowing workshop (B27:2017) on Fridays from 10am to 12:00 noon. This is an opportunity for researchers to request small jobs such as repairing cracked glassware, releasing stuck joints and grinding or cutting of tubes (i.e. jobs taking less than one hour). We also encourage you to use this as an opportunity to come and discuss any bespoke glassware needs you may have and to find out what we can do for you.



New team member

We have a new member of the operations team, Bobbie McVey, who has recently joined the school as Chemical Hazards Officer. This is a new post to support operations on the chemical side of things. The role includes providing advice on chemical safety matters and risk management as it relates to work with hazardous substances, as well as processing chemical waste and unwanted reagents. She is contactable at B.M.McVey@soton.ac.uk.

Introducing New Staff

The School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering has welcomed many new members of staff over the last year. Here are some words of introduction to a few of them.

Annette Taylor

I grew up in Leeds and undertook a BSc and PhD in Physical Chemistry at the University of Leeds. After a short stint in the US and France, I returned there as a Lecturer in Physical Chemistry in 2001, then moved to Chemical Engineering at the University of Sheffield in 2014, and Southampton in 2024.

I've always enjoyed travelling, but I have probably seen more of the rest of the world than Southern England. We are all keen walkers in my family, so I am looking forward to trying out the coastal walks and New Forest with them.



Bobbie McVey



I started working as Chemical Hazards Officer here at the end of January after an almost-decade stint at the University of Brighton. There I studied for both my undergraduate degree and PhD, the latter I recently graduated from, and worked there for a couple of years as a technician in Chemistry and Pharmaceuticals.

Outside of work I enjoy spending time outdoors and am a Parkrun enthusiast, currently working on my Alphabeteer challenge (attend a parkrun starting with every letter of the alphabet except X). Having grown up in the midlands, far away from any coastlines, I've always been drawn to the sea and I'm looking forward to exploring the region more.

I'm so happy to be somewhere that chemistry is thriving, and I'm looking forward to working with more of the staff and researchers here

Karl Michael Ziems

I am Karl Michael, and I joined the department as Lecturer in Computational Chemistry in January 2025.



In my research work I am looking at ultrafast dynamics simulations for atto- and photochemistry, as well as developing new algorithms to perform these simulations on quantum computers.

I am interested in trying to obtain first proof-of-principle simulation results for chemistry on currently available quantum devices and in developing new quantum software that can one day be used by quantum chemists on quantum computers.

Outside work I enjoy playing the trombone, playing ice hockey, and exploring nature around Southampton.

Sergio Vernuccio

I joined the School as an Associate Professor in Chemical Engineering in November 2024. Following my PhD at ETH Zurich, I worked as a researcher at Northwestern University in Chicago and as a Lecturer at the University of Sheffield. I also have industrial experience as a Process Engineer at Technip.



My research focuses on the understanding of reactive processes at a mechanistic level, combining theoretical methods with experimental techniques. I am particularly interested in the rational design of catalytic systems aimed at sustainable and environmentally responsible applications.

Beyond academia, I enjoy drawing, painting, caring for my plants, and spending time with my wife Alice and my young daughter Vittoria.

Magnus Hanson-Heine



I'm a quantum chemist specializing in spectroscopic simulations, with a particular interest in vibrational and electronic excited states. I'm also a contributing developer for the Q-Chem quantum chemical software package, having done my PhD and postdoctoral work at the University of Nottingham under Prof. Nick Besley.

I'm the proud owner of The Headington Shark House in Oxford (www.headingtonshark.com), which I've been running as an Airbnb for the past ten years.



In 2020, I collaborated with a fellow anarchist I met down the pub, to produce the world's first Computational Chemistry simulation performed entirely on a blockchain computer: <https://doi.org/10.1039/D0SC01523G>, which was reviewed quite positively in Chemistry World:

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/opinion/can-computational-chemistry-benefit-from-blockchain/4012030.article>

I like long walks and good food, particularly Thai, and I'm currently working as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Southampton.

Geraint (Taff) Morgan

Professor Geraint (Taff) Morgan joined the School in April 2025 with a focus on Research and Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise. He joined after 31 years at The Open University, where he was a member of the teams that developed the Ptolemy and GAP instruments for the Rosetta and Beagle2 space missions. His team established leading analytical capabilities for the profiling of distilled spirits, particularly Scotch whisky. He also partners with several flavour and fragrance companies, helping optimize the development of novel products.

Prior to getting too old, and after dislocating a knee playing rugby, he was a hockey goalkeeper, playing for Milton Keynes HC 1st XI for over a decade, representing Buckinghamshire XI and subsequently the East of England Vets.



Efforts to remove stigmas of neurodiversity take another step forward with publication of RSC Report

The Royal Society of Chemistry recently launched a report looking at neurodiversity in the chemical sciences as we seek to create a more inclusive environment for everyone in the chemical sciences.

PhD student Johanna Fish played a part in helping to develop the report by sharing her experiences and viewpoints. Johanna is championing neurodiversity in the workplace and is keen to raise awareness.

"Diversity makes us all so much better, particularly in science where we all have different capabilities. I would love to see people empowered to use their own voice".

You can access the report [here](#).



Frontiers in Magnetic Resonance Conference in Southampton

On 31 March and 1 April 2025, the University of Southampton hosted the Frontiers in Magnetic Resonance conference in the Garden Court, bringing together researchers from across the UK, Europe, and beyond. Organised and chaired by Dr Giuseppe Pileio and Dr Thomas Robertson, the event marked the welcome return of the RSC's NMR Discussion Group (NMRDG) Spring Meeting, which had been on pause since the pandemic.



The two-day conference drew around 100 attendees and featured a fantastic lineup of internationally recognised speakers: Prof. Teresa Carlomagno (University of Birmingham), Prof. Lyndon Emsley (EPFL), Prof. Kevin Brindle (University of Cambridge), Prof. Jozéf Lewandowski (University of Warwick), our very own VC and President Prof. Mark Smith, and Prof. Malcolm Levitt from the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Talks covered a broad spectrum of magnetic resonance research, from energy storage and biomolecules to real-time reaction monitoring and medical imaging.

Delegates especially enjoyed the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art Interdisciplinary Centre for Magnetic Resonance within Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. The social conference dinner also proved a great success, offering plenty of time for conversation and connection.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with attendees appreciating the diverse programme and the chance to reconnect with the wider NMR community. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success!



The Chem Soc Podcast: In Our Element



by Alice Saxton, Chemistry Society Secretary

As you may (should!!) be aware, ChemSoc has launched a podcast! So far we've chatted with PhD students across many fields and stages of their journeys, plus a special episode with Aaron, Chemistry's School President. Our goal is to give a clearer picture of what doing a PhD involves, particularly to undergraduates – from choosing a research group and managing setbacks, to balancing work and life (with a few brilliant chemistry puns thrown in!).

We have loved the journey this podcast has taken us on, starting with zero experience, to scheduling, recording, editing and publishing with comparative ease, and ending up with a waiting list of people wanting to appear on the podcast, which is so cool, thank you!! It's been amazing to hear about people's projects and experiences, and we hope our listeners find it just as insightful.

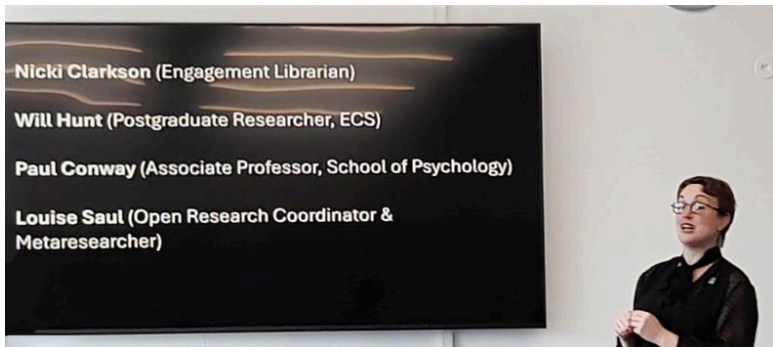
Whilst our interviews with PhD students have been both incredibly fun and very insightful (and will be continuing - don't worry!), we would love to begin a parallel series, potentially with lecturers or other guests exploring even more of the areas that make up the world of chemistry – watch this space – and if you'd like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

for more details or if you would like to be involved in the podcast, please contact Sam Perry s.c.perry@soton.ac.uk

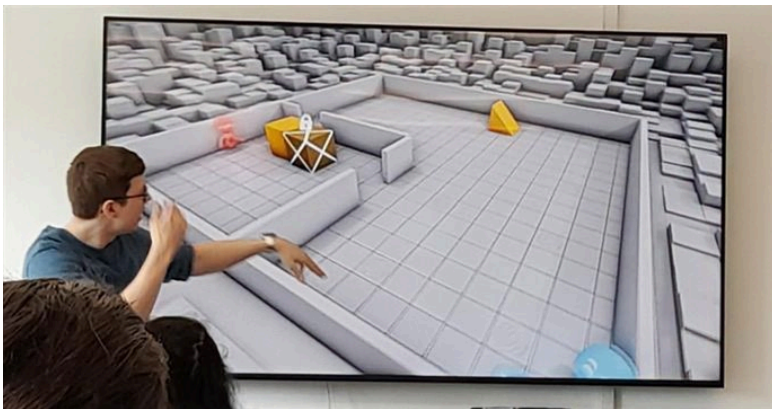


Lunchtime Comedy Club

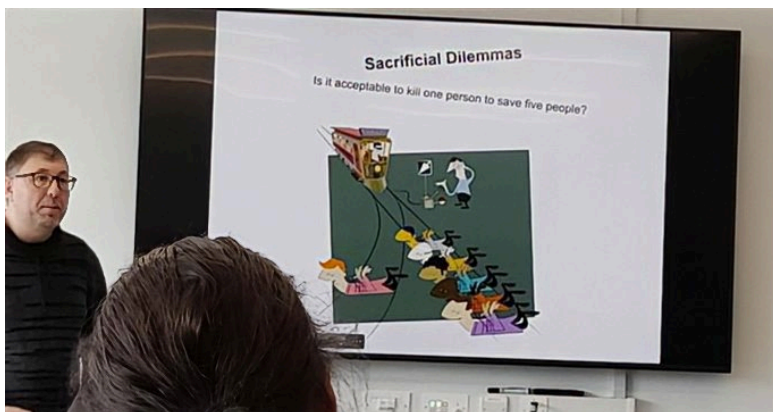
by Janice Sumner



19th March saw about 30 people meet in the common room to be treated to a brilliant set of 50 minutes of comedy from across the university. For those who came not quite expecting what they were coming to, the breadth and diversity was fantastic. As one person said, 'what a great session! You didn't need to have a science background to get it!' Our first comic, Will Hunt (ECS) talked about his work in AI and robots, suggesting we may end up with people eating machines! He then moved into how AI can play hide and seek with the characters having manic smiles on their faces as they chased their prey.



Paul Conway (Psychology) was up next with the trolley dilemma, asking the audience would you kill one person to save five lives? Sharing the various ways this may happen including the fat man scenario. He also shared with us the bizarre fact that Jeremy Bentham (English Philosopher 1748-1832) is preserved and on display at UCL!



Our very own Louise Saul (PSDI) was next with how her career in research ruined her life, by not being able to watch TV or films without spotting the inaccuracies and the hilarious story of moving her friend with the University hearse.

Nicki Clarkson, our engagement librarian finished the set with a missing word round with witty audience participation.

Huge thanks to Nicki Clarkson who pulled this all together for something totally different for a lunchtime. One piece of feedback was, 'the session was fun and entertaining. Just the thing I needed after 2h of giving lectures!'.



Look out for future events advertised across the school.



Undergraduate News

On Wednesday 26th March 2025, the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering held its annual Poster Day. Thank you to everyone who attended the event, it was good to see everyone.

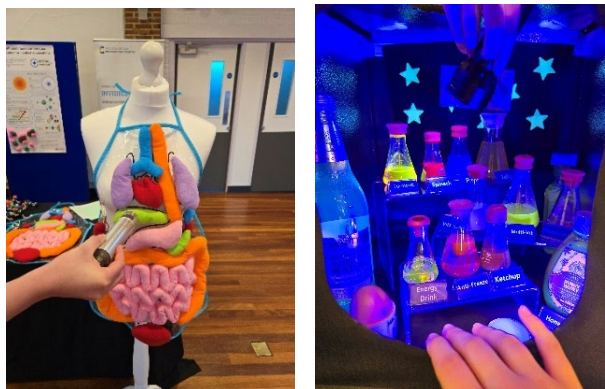


***Congratulations to our Poster Prize winners:
Sara Honskusova, Archie Jardine, Sarah Madeira, Harvey Cooke and Wei Bo Ng***



SOTSEF 2025

The School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering once again had a great turnout at SOTSEF with a new high score of seven stands organised by SusMat and S³ volunteers! This covered MRI with tours of MagRes, the uses of lasers with the 'Mars Rover', discovering green fuel cells, uncovering the unseen world of UV light and radiation, and exploring crystallography with the Atoms, Crystals and Diffraction stand to name a few.

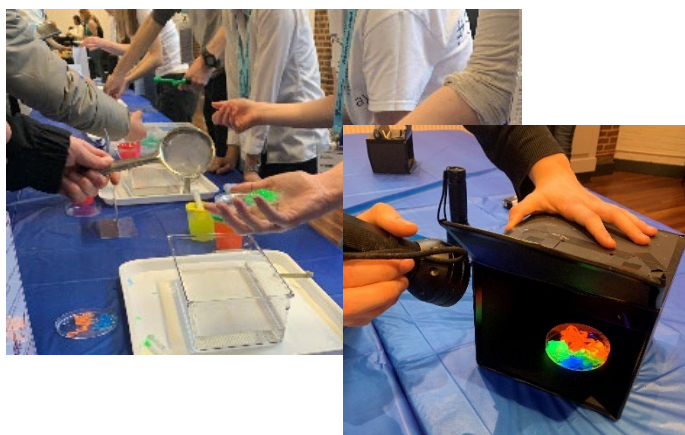


There was a popular lab tour showing the new Chemical engineering teaching labs, and volunteers from the RSC local section showing the public that chemistry makes scents!

A great number of helpers and volunteers from ChemSoc to run the ever-popular Slime Time stand.



The new improved alginate slime offers a great new environmentally sustainable activity. And kids and adults alike had fantastic fun making literally buckets full of slime and seeing it glow under UV light.



The Spectroscopy in a Suitcase stand made a return, speaking to A-level students and engaging with teachers to sign up for School-led SIAS outreach activity, where we take an infrared spectrometer to classrooms to teach A-level students about spectroscopy.



(Niamh and Ellie volunteering at the SIAS stand)

The Magnetic Resonance Group invited participants to help out their little "patients" and assist the team in providing a diagnosis for them, participants watched a live magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) experiment, learned about instrumentation and methodologies used, and saw the amazing images it produced.

Tom Robertson – "Very pleased to have been able to run 'MRI in action!' again for [#SOTSEF](#) this - a very successful event with about 200 members of the public visiting our lab and seeing what MRI is all about."



Thank you to all the volunteers and organisers for making this such a successful event. We even had a few past members of the Reid group returning to help out with volunteering, showing how much fun it is.



Outreach Activities

Festival of Chemistry: “Discovery Days”

We were delighted to host the Salters’ Institute for 2 Discovery Days on April 2nd and 3rd.



The event was aimed at 14-16 year olds and gave them an opportunity to explore Chemistry and see how it can be a pathway to many careers. Eight schools attended across the two days with a total of 90 students participating.

From the beginning to the end of the day, the percentage of those who felt aware of the opportunities in STEM increased from 41 % to 87%. This 46% increase is likely attributed to students being able to talk to a range of people working in different areas of STEM. At the end of the day the percentage of students inspired to pursue a career in STEM also increased from 26% to 43%, demonstrating the benefits of listening to a variety of industry professionals speak on careers panels, broadening their knowledge of jobs available to them.

Through feedback taken on the day from the students, the favourite part of their day was making aspirin with 68% of students identifying it as a highlight in the free text comments on the evaluation postcards. In addition to enjoying the practical more generally, students also highlighted the new experience of being in a university lab, with more independence and access to different chemicals than at school as being their favourite part of the day.

Thank you to all who helped with the coordination and running of the days.

Beyond Chemistry: Niamh Yates

Hi I’m Niamh and I’m currently a second year PhD student undertaking research for Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry. In September 2024 when starting my PhD, I joined the university ice hockey club, the Southampton Spitfires, despite not having skated since I was 10 years old... Now, I’m proud to play for both the Women’s and the D team!



Training is every Sunday evening at a very late hour, which can be tough to get up for a Monday morning meeting... We regularly play matches against other universities across the UK, including Cambridge and Birmingham. Every April over various weekends, all the teams travel to Sheffield to play in the National tournament. For both years, I’ve had the honour of being the Captain of the D Team and this year, we finished 4th in our table narrowly missing out on competing in the Silver Cup final.

I also play for the local women’s development team, the Solent Valkyries. It is a great environment for me to improve my skating and hockey skills. I have really enjoyed playing ice hockey and am excited to see what happens in the future!



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

TransMission Group

The TransMission Group is run by Student Wellbeing. This group is for anyone who identifies as transgender, non-binary or is questioning their gender identity. The group is a safe space to meet and support each other in a confidential and private space.

Whilst staff are present to facilitate the group, this group aims to be run mainly by the participants, for the participants with staff support. This is not a workshop, therapy service or counselling.

We will happily provide signposting to external and support services as needed.

TransMission Group

^ Group Description

This group is for anyone who identifies as transgender, non-binary or is questioning their gender identity. The group is a safe space to meet and support each other in a confidential and private space.
Whilst staff are present to facilitate the group, this group aims to be run mainly by the participants, for the participants with staff support. This is not a workshop, therapy service or counselling.
We will happily provide signposting to external and support services as needed.

Dates and Times

These group sessions will be held in the **Wellbeing Centre (28 University Road) Group Room**. We aim to run the group once a month on a **Wednesday afternoon**. Please see scheduled dates below:

New dates to be added for 2025/26 Academic Year.

No booking is required for this event. Please arrive before 2:30pm and stay as long as you like up until 5:00pm.

More details will be shared via the link below:

<https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/StudentWellbeingSupport/SitePages/TransMission-Group.aspx>

CCE First Aiders for Mental Health

Below are our contacts for First Aid for Mental Health, they can be reached via their university email or contacted via Teams. Sally is also the Schools Wellbeing Champion.

Sally Dady
ext. 24143
B29/2037



Tom Robertson
B27/1143

CCE Harassment Officer

Jess Silvester

I have worked as a teaching lab technician in the chemistry department since 2021, but I also studied here as an undergrad, so I am very familiar with both the campus and the city.



I have worked in a number of labs where I have led various teams and dealt with conflicts within them. Being a non-binary person in a STEM field gives me an insight into some of the difficulties people can experience in the workplace, this encouraged me to join the harassment contact team in late 2021.

ED&I is central to the ethos in Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, and we have a committed team that works hard to build a positive environment for all members of our School to be able to develop and succeed. As a school we have been involved in the [Athena SWAN charter](#) for the advancement and career progression of women in science for many years and its principles run through all we do.

The school holds a Silver Athena SWAN Award, the first department at the University of Southampton to achieve this status twice.

If you would like to know more about our work, there is lots of useful information on our website which also includes our Early Career Support Hub.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/chemistry/about/Equality/index.page>

For more information about the ED&I or to raise any issues or concerns please contact Dr Julie Herniman

Do you have an article you wish to contribute to a future edition? We also welcome your feedback on the newsletter.

Please email Julie Herniman J.M.Herniman@soton.ac.uk or Dawn Dunlop D.Dunlop@soton.ac.uk



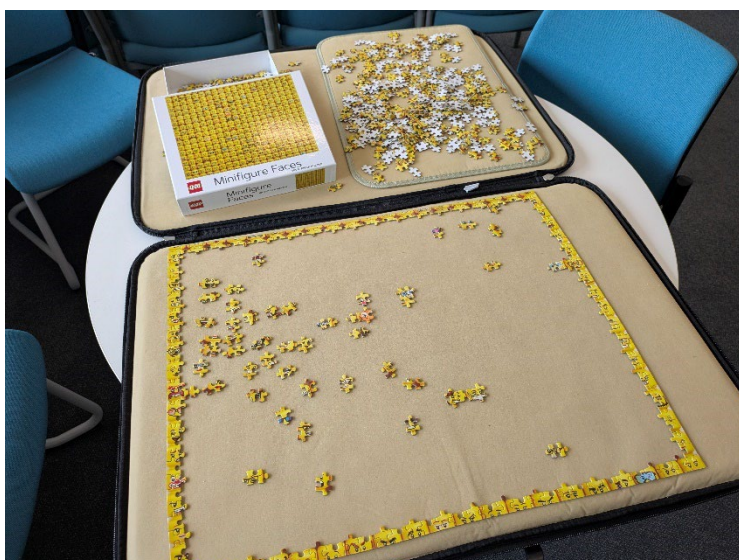
Wellbeing

Common Room Jigsaws

Since our last newsletter you may have seen the introduction of the jigsaws in the common room. With funds from the EDI committee, a jigsaw board/carrier was purchased and since then many people have brought in or donated jigsaws for everyone to get involved in completing.

It's been a huge success, with many staff and students taking some time out of their busy studies and work to relax and complete a few pieces, and often more! Many saying it becomes addictive wanting to complete it but also allows themselves time to switch off and relax.

Come along if you haven't already and help to complete the next puzzle. Below is the current one in progress – A 1000 piece “Lego Minifigure Faces” jigsaw!



Here are some of the previously completed jigsaws:



Wellbeing Cafe

On the 13th of March, the common room played host to another Wellbeing Café for students. Many students joined the team for some fun, creative activities and free hot drinks and snacks.

Activities on offer include:

- Arts and crafts
- Lego
- Painting
- Sewing
- Colouring

Look out for future café events in the new academic year and come along to relax and chat.

Coming Soon – Pets Corner!

We will be introducing a new section to the newsletter from Autumn 2025 called “Pets Corner”

It's well-known that pets can bring a lot of joy and improve wellbeing in our busy lives, so we would like to hear from you if you have a pet, whether that be a dog, a cat or perhaps you have something more unusual or exotic!

Please send in a photo and a name of your pet if you are happy to share that with the Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Community.

Please send your pictures to Dawn d.dunlop@soton.ac.uk or chemedi@soton.ac.uk

Student Resources - Study tips and support for exams and assessments

The exams and assessments period for semester 2 is coming up and we know it can be a stressful time, that's why we're sharing tips and practical guidance to help you head into your exams and assessments with confidence.

Optimise your revision with help from the Library

For top tips on how to get ahead this exam season, take some time to discover The Library's Exams website.

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/sash/exams>

From managing your time effectively to getting the most from your reading material, the study skills tab is a great resource for optimising your revision sessions.

Use GenAI responsibly

It's important that you align with our position on using Generative AI (GenAI) to supplement your studies. Check out the University website for guidance on how to use GenAI effectively and responsibly throughout your time here.

Academic Responsibility and Conduct

In addition to aligning with our position on GenAI, it's important that you understand and adhere to The University's Academic Responsibility and Conduct Regulations. They outline policy on topics such as plagiarism, cheating and collusion—breaches of which could negatively impact the outcome of your exam.

You have a responsibility to act in accordance with these regulations, so it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with them ahead of the next exams and assessments period. You can read our Academic Responsibility and Conduct Regulations on our website here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yk2dc46z>

Where to find support

Academic Skills Hub/Drop-in

The Academic Skills Service offers a variety of resources to help you develop your academic and study skills, including guidance on getting smart with online academic integrity.

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/sash>

You can join a writing café or drop-in to an academic skills 1:1 during the times below, or book a 1:1 online appointment at a time that works for you.

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/appointment>

Mondays & Fridays – Writing Café. Building 38, Lounge Cafe Space, 14:00-16:00

Tuesdays & Thursdays – Academic Skills Drop-in. Academic Skills Hub, Hartley Library, 13:00-16:00.

Wednesdays – Maths and Stats Drop-in. Academic Skills Hub, Hartley Library, 10:00-12:00.

Additional academic support

Your Personal Academic Tutor can provide one-to-one support throughout your time at university and help you to resolve any challenges you may be facing.

You can find out who your Personal Academic Tutor is, and how to get in touch with them, visit the Knowledge Base. Plus, get instant access to other additional support, including guidance on exam arrangements and Special Considerations, if things do not go to plan.

What to expect on the day

If you're sitting an exam or assessment in person, there are a few things you should know before heading into the exam room. We've covered everything, from standard process and what to bring to best practice and top tips, on the Exams and Assessments SharePoint <https://tinyurl.com/47ce5yvb>

We'd recommend taking some time to read it over and watch our helpful exams and assessments tips videos before the semester one period starts.

Exams and assessments guidebook – available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3kp757w5>

And remember...

You've got this!

Remember to take frequent breaks, get lots of fresh air and plenty of exercise—check out activities from BeActive, on the MySouthampton App to help get you moving. If you need any further support with exam and assessment queries or if you just need someone to chat to The Student Hub is here for you 24/7. Reach us in person, using the online chat, by emailing studenthub@soton.ac.uk or calling 02380 599 599.

Student Wellbeing Resources

Here are some resources that may help students' find support with their Wellbeing and Mental Health.

Student Hub, Student Wellbeing Sharepoint:

<https://shorturl.at/qXY23>



Managing Assessments, Study and Wellbeing

<https://shorturl.at/yTZ48>



With Semester 2 exams period approaching, see these guides for managing stress before, during and after your assessments; and a guide to what you need to know about your assessments.

Wellbeing – Before, during and after exams

<https://rb.gy/0r93q6>



Exams and assessments: A guide of what you need to know <https://rb.gy/c11r52>

