

# Notices

## Celebrating the 250th birthday of John Dalton

September 2016 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Dalton, a pioneer of modern chemistry who developed atomic theory.

Dalton argued that all matter is made of atoms – a fundamental particle that could not be divided – and also identified that the mass and properties of an atom determine which element it is. His atomic theory proposed that chemical reactions consisted of atoms being combined, separated or rearranged to form different chemical compounds.

He was colour blind, and his paper entitled 'Extraordinary Facts Relating to the Vision of Colours' was actually the first time the condition had been officially described or noted. His brother also suffered from the condition, a fact he used to conclude that it must be hereditary.

He also developed the law of partial pressures of gases, which is known to this day as 'Dalton's Law'.

A resident of Manchester for many years, Dalton was mentioned on BBC Radio 4's *The Matter of the North* as part of a piece about 19th Century Manchester.

On 26 October 2016 the Royal Society of Chemistry will award a blue plaque in his memory to the Ape and Apple pub, fittingly on John Dalton Street, in central Manchester. A ceremony to hand over the plaque will take place in the Chemistry Department of the University of Manchester, in Brunswick Street, and will form part of wider celebrations celebrating the life and work of this pioneering chemist.

Dalton was also celebrated in a special symposium at the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Seville.

## Thermal Methods Group event at the National Physical Laboratory

The Thermal Methods Group is pleased to announce a two day thermal methods meeting at The National Physical Laboratory (NPL), the UK's National Measurement Institute, and world-leading centre of excellence in measurement. NPL has a major thermal analysis facility and is heavily involved in international standardisation of these methods. The meeting will take place on 9 and 10 November 2016.

The first day will comprise a training course for those wanting to explore the full potential of Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC).

Differential Scanning Calorimetry is a widely accepted materials characterisation technique used in a wide range of application fields, from food, pharmaceuticals and packaging, to aerospace and energy. The course will be delivered by experts in the field and will provide an in-depth understanding of this versatile technique.

The topics we will cover include: Introduction to DSC, Fast scan DSC, Measurement of accurate equilibrium transition temperatures, Data analysis, High temperature DSC, Modulated temperature differential scanning calorimetry (MT DSC) and simultaneous techniques.

The course will be presented by Prof. Jim Ford (Liverpool John Moores University), Prof. Ted Charsley (Huddersfield University), Dr Ian Scowen (Lincoln University), Dr Jan Hans (Netzsch GmbH), Dr Paul Gabbott (Thermal Methods Group), Dr Vicky Kett (University of Belfast), and Dr Nicole Hunter (Thermofisher Scientific).

Those attending the day will receive a CPD certificate.

The second day is entitled Applications of Thermal Analysis for the 21st Century.

The increasing role of thermal analysis techniques in a wide range of applications not only provides opportunities, but also measurement challenges, especially for emerging materials. This seminar aims to bring together scientists, engineers, metrologists and industry specialists to present and discuss the research, innovative developments and measurement solutions offered by wide-ranging thermal analytical techniques and their economic impact.

In addition to the meeting, an exhibition of the latest equipment by all the key suppliers of thermal analysis equipment will be on display.

Find further information and register for individual days at [www.thermalmethodsgroup.org](http://www.thermalmethodsgroup.org) or email [sam.gnaniah@npl.co.uk](mailto:sam.gnaniah@npl.co.uk)

## Successful symposium on energy materials

The RSC Solid State Chemistry Group helped to sponsor the 3rd Energy Materials Symposium held at the University of Bath on 8 September 2016. More than 85 delegates attended the event on materials for clean energy applications.

The symposium was part of an EPSRC Programme Grant on 'Energy Materials: Computational Solutions' led by Prof Saiful Islam, FRSC, that supports a five-year project to develop new materials for the next generation of energy devices, including more efficient solar cells for homes and better batteries for electric cars.

The invited speakers were Prof Sylvie Hebert from Caen, France, Prof Ken Durose from Liverpool, Prof Jawwad Darr from UCL and Prof Peter Slater from Birmingham.

Saiful said: "This annual conference has been great in bringing together researchers working on the materials science of green energy technologies such as solar cells, lithium batteries, fuel cells and thermoelectrics. The meeting was designed to showcase research in this important field and to encourage new collaborations, especially between computational and experimental groups."



Consortium team and keynote speakers. Back (left to right): Nora De Leeuw, Peter Slater, Steve Parker; Middle (left to right): Ben Morgan, Richard Catlow, Suhuai Wei, Paul Sherwood; Front (left to right): Saiful Islam, Sylvie Hebert, Ken Durose, Aron Walsh.