

## School of Chemistry Community

Part of  
**THE EPS COMMUNITY**



### Welcome to your 2019 Chemistry Alumni Newsletter

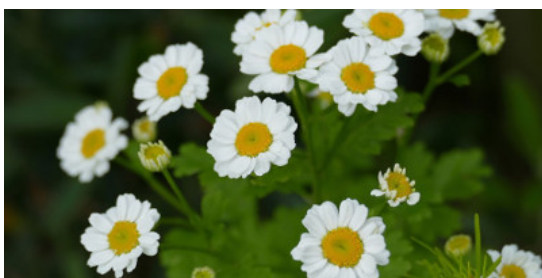


#### Hello!

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as Head of the School of Chemistry, succeeding Jon Preece. I've been at Birmingham for the last 18 months and in that time I have seen the School really gear up for transformation – which I am enthused to lead over the years to come!

It's my privilege to introduce this latest edition of our newsletter, in which we reflect on the last academic year and look forward to what the next brings.

[Read more from Rachel O'Reilly](#)



#### Hidden chemistry in flowers shown to kill cancer cells

Researchers at the University, along with Horticultural Advisers at Winterbourne Botanic Garden, have shown it's possible to produce a compound with anti-cancer properties directly from a common flowering garden plant.

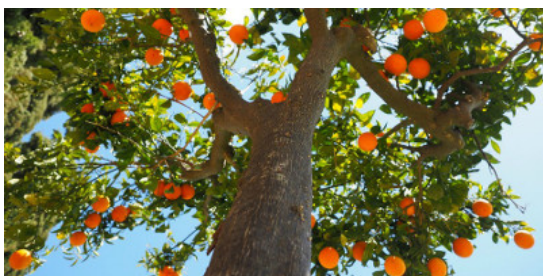
[Find out more](#)



#### Our dear friend, Roy Johnston

It is with great sadness, we regrettably announce that after a period of illness, Professor Roy Johnston passed away on Friday 16 August 2019. Roy was a great chemist and a wonderful colleague, and his loss is felt by many across the academic community.

[Read more about Roy](#)



## Making sustainable polymers from fragrant molecules

Our teams have developed a way of making organic polymers from the fragrant molecules in conifers and fruit trees. The technique could lead to a new generation of sustainable materials for use in biomedical applications or prototyping.

[Find out more](#)



## New antimicrobial coating could be key in fight against hospital-acquired infections

Our chemists have created an antimicrobial coating for steel surfaces which has proven to rapidly kill bacteria that cause some of the most common hospital-acquired infections.

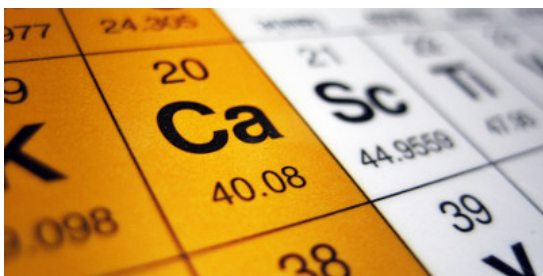
[Find out more](#)



## The problem with the plastics problem

Solving the plastics problem will not be easy. It does not have one single and simple solution. The problem is complex and often underestimated. Single use plastics, exemplified by plastic packaging will, and should, never be eliminated completely - to do so would risk other undesirable environmental consequences.

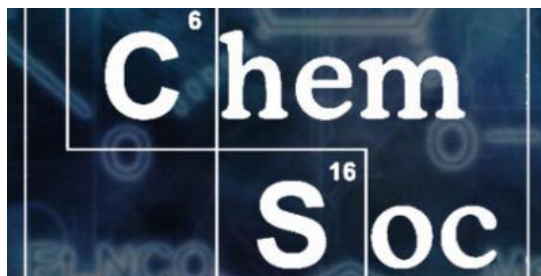
[Find out more](#)



## 150 years of the Periodic Table

We are marking the 150th anniversary of Mendeleev's periodic table of chemical elements with a series of short films. See how our researchers use the properties of elements to solve major challenges and transform our understanding of the world.

[Find out more](#)



## A brilliant year for ChemSoc

Our society has had a great year with new events, speednetworking with alumni, a new ChemNet group for advice and discussion, charity work and, of course, ChemBall. They even won the College netball tournament! Well done ChemSoc!

[Read more about ChemSoc](#)



## Launch of a brand new website

We're excited to launch to you, our alumni, the brand new EPS Community website; you're the first people to see this! Chemistry and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, in which we are part, has a community of over 85,000 graduates, students, staff and friends. This new site celebrates everything that brings our unique community together and explores opportunities for you to join in. Come along to one of our events, see what our 38 student groups are up to, learn about your fellow alumni, and discover how you could get involved. Let us know your feedback by emailing [eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:eps-community@contacts.bham.ac.uk), we'd love to hear from you.

Take a look

# WE ARE BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI

## Share your story and inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire students and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. Whatever you're doing, they want to hear from you. Plus, anyone who submits a profile before 1 November will receive an Old Joe magnet.

[Share your Birmingham story](#)



## Could your company work with the School of Chemistry?

We are keen to strengthen our links with industry, both local and further afield! If you are working in a related area, simply like to be kept up-to-speed with research activities in the School, or would even like to get involved directly, please contact our Director of Research, Professor Tim Albrecht.

[Email Tim Albrecht](#)

# MENTORING

## Could you mentor a student?

We're looking for enthusiastic alumni and professionals to provide expertise, advice and inspiration to help our students start their careers. Mentoring makes a real difference; we all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off. If you'd like to be that person, please get in touch.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)

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## News roundup

The UoB/BAM Centre for Collaboration in Chemistry and Materials Science, led by Prof. Tim Albrecht has recently been established. Its goal is to foster collaboration between the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing in Berlin, Germany, and the School of Chemistry and other departments at UoB. With 1700 staff and extensive state-of-the-art laboratory facilities across Berlin, including nanofabrication, dedicated beam lines, and high resolution microscopy, BAM is the national materials testing and referencing laboratory in Germany. Collaborative activities include staff and student exchange and joint research projects; a first phase of pilot projects will start in October. [Find out more here.](#)

[Global success continues for University of Birmingham](#) in World University Rankings, climbing four places in the 2020 THE Rankings to 112th globally.

Professor Jon Preece [promotes the benefits of industrial placements](#) in the UK chemical industry.

Internationally renowned researcher, Professor Dirk-Peter Herten, [named Chair in Cell Biology of Membrane Proteins.](#)

Students who participated in the National Student Survey have ranked Chemistry at the University highly with [98% of our final year students expressing overall satisfaction](#) with their course.

Dr Simon Cotton, has written about the [molecule behind the recent shock rise in global CFC emissions](#), Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11), and why we should all be concerned about its continued usage.

Chemists develop [DNA 'barcodes'](#) to scan for infection.

[Medical diagnostics for cancer](#) to be developed through University of Birmingham and Sona Nanotech Inc. collaboration.

Emeritus Professor Richard Tuckett recently made the case for [controlling climate change to avoid a global migration challenge](#) that will make the current migration issues in Europe seem minuscule.

Professor Rachel O'Reilly, along with Physicist Professor Konstantinos Nikolopoulos, [receives prize in the Second Annual Blavatnik Awards](#), which recognises young scientists in the United Kingdom.

Alumnus [Ron Carrington](#): scientist whose life-long research helped make antibiotics widely available.

Chemists find a way to turn [carbon dioxide into a 'green' polymer.](#)

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## Events

### [Sustainable civil nuclear power workshop](#)

17 September 2019, 9:30am-5pm  
Old Gym, University of Birmingham

### [My Life in Maths and Shaping the Brain - London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures](#)

19 September 2019, 6:30-8pm  
Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

### [Wetting of hydrophobic and superhydrophobic surfaces workshop](#)

20 September 2019, 10:30-11:30am  
G34 Engineering Building, University of Birmingham

### [Book to the Future](#)

18-19 October 2019 The University's annual festival of the written and spoken word, featuring free workshops, panel discussions, performances and author talks, including:

- [The return of race science, Angela Saini](#)  
18 October, 5:30-7pm
- [From Brum to bakes, Candice Brown](#)  
19 October, 6-7pm

### [Join In Hong Kong](#)

24 October 2019, 6:30-8:30pm  
Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Admiralty, Hong Kong

### [Careers and Coffee](#)

29 October, 6-8pm  
Cherry Reds, Birmingham City Centre

### [Join In New York](#)

13 November 2019, 6:30-8:30pm  
Four Seasons Hotel, Barclay Street, New York

### [Join In San Francisco](#)

14 November, 6:30-8:30pm  
Waterbar, 399 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

### [LGBTSTEMinar](#)

10 January 2020  
University of Birmingham

### [House of Lords Reception](#)

24 April 2020, 6:30-8:30pm  
House of Lords, London

### [EPS Societies' Awards](#)

10 June 2020, 7:30-11:30pm  
Great Hall, University of Birmingham



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