

If you are as old as me you will remember when, as a child, you went to the school down the road because you had to walk or cycle. Also, when Banks appreciated you as a customer and when small villages had a Butcher's, Baker's and Grocer's shop plus a Pub., a Policeman and a Doctor's surgery? Well times change and some things seem to get worse and others better! Education seems to be constantly changing, trying to keep up with political views and the fast changing world children are growing up in. Recent financial pressures have seen a changes to staff in schools and in the Local Authority. My old base at the Turner Road Centre is closing and we now have just one science adviser based at the Woodside Road Centre in Norwich. Some schools are also changing - to Academies, Trust Schools or even Free Schools, but remember that what ever school you are, you will still need the support of organisations like CLEAPSS and the Radiation Protection Service. The funding for this may have previously been provided through the Local Authority but this might well have to change. If schools have to pay from their own budget it can easily be overlooked by the school's financial officers because they are not aware of what happens in science departments. Some of this support is required to cover employer's legal responsibilities and CLEAPSS provides sensible health and safety advice for employees and sound and practical support for teachers. Remember that the Local Authority may well no longer be your employer! If you have trouble with CLEAPSS membership, contact CLEAPSS who can advise you and provide advice for the Senior Managers in your school.

There are now packages to buy from the Local Authority to suit all types of schools. So, if you want the continued support of CLEAPSS, the radiological protection, my health and safety audits and this Techlink, please encourage your head of science to return the contract which will have been sent out from Adrian Tebbutt, the Science Adviser. If you want more advice or information about whether your school has 'bought in' please ring 01603 303324 and speak to Lisa Battle or Nicola Bruce.



Picric Acid

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2010/1001/breaking49.html>

The above story brings back memories for me as I had a very similar experience in the late 60's. Picric acid when dry is highly explosive and is pressure sensitive. When I found a bottle in a store and noticed that it was very dry I was very reluctant to unscrew the lid! Things then developed very quickly. The army and police were called and the road was closed off. It was all a bit of an anti-climax as nothing happened when the bottle was smashed by a marksman. I thought that after that experience we had dealt with the problem in Norfolk schools but I believe some was found recently and dealt with in a similar manner. If you find any Picric Acid please make sure it is kept damp and if it is DRY nuclear power in Japan be very careful and contact CLEAPSS.



Nuclear power station in Japan

<http://mitnse.com/>

While following the disaster in Japan I was interested in how the nuclear power station operated. I had a very basic idea of how it produces electrical energy but hearing different specialists explain what was happening increased my knowledge. The above news website is one of many but I thought this was a good site for pupils if they wished to improve their knowledge so it may be worth mentioning to your teachers at the appropriate time.



Future Courses in Norwich

Two **CLEAPSS Health and Safety Courses** are being planned for October 2011

9.00- 4.00

Norwich Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road, Norwich, one for Heads of Science on the 20th and one for Technicians on the 21st October.

Portable Appliances Testing Course

1.00-4.30

Norwich Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road, Norwich

Book by phoning Nicola Bruce/Lisa Battle 01603 433276. Date will be provided when we have six applications.

ASE's National Technicians' Conference

Remember this conference has an Enthuse Award and will cost your school nothing. Jointly hosted by the National Science Learning Centre and the ASE the conference provides a mixture of optional workshops and lectures, plus an exhibition of equipment and resources. It is a one day conference but it will be run twice and you can attend either one day or both. The dates are July 7th and 8th 2011 at the National Science Learning Centre in York. You must register on the NSLC site first to complete online registration.

www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk/centres/national/courses-and-events/32825-43654

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