

Tyne and Wear Branch of the Geographical Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 29th June 2010

Chairperson's report

Over the past year the branch has been very busy organising a variety of activities and public lectures that are becoming more and more popular with local schools and teachers.

The public lectures are closely linked to the AS and A2 syllabuses which make them an attractive link between lesson and exam content. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the planning and delivering of these lectures as they play a vital role in enhancing the links between schools and university.

Activities include our now annual 'Where can Geography lead me? Why does Geography need me?' event. The event for KS2, KS3 and KS4 is widely accredited with praise as it is a unique event that includes a variety of workshops for children of all ages and their teachers. Adam Nicholls lead the day with a very interesting and highly informative presentation regarding the rise of China. The event was publicised in the INSIGHT magazine of Northumbria and on the branch page of the national GA website.

On two occasions (the second is on Thurs. 1st July) the GA as worked alongside STEM, introducing year seven and eight pupils to Geography in the local area. They attended the above event as well as a fieldwork event that will be held around the Ouseburn River using the 8Way Thinking tool. These have been highly successful and thoroughly planned by all those involved, thank you.

A new development has occurred this year whereby we invited John Smith, Chief AQA Examiner, to hold a morning workshop regarding the AQA Paper 4B (Issue Evaluation Exercise) for year 12 and 13 students. This was very popular and many students and teachers gave very positive

feedback from the session. We are hoping to invite John again next year together with Cameron Dunn from the EdExcel exam board as the event was so popular.

This year's national GA conference was held in Derby and many of our committee presented their work regarding the use of '8 Way Thinking with i-Pods and New Technology' presented by Steve Rawlinson, Cath White and Lucie Chruszczewski. The session was very popular and informative due to the up-to-date concept of using ICT together with Thinking Skills. A full report of this session is available on our webpage.

Due to work commitments Lucie has temporarily relinquished the role of Promotions Officer, until work commitments have eased off. Cath and I have shared the responsibilities between ourselves.

Promotional business cards have been created for the public lecture series and are available twice a year from the committee. These will be in conjunction with the promotional flier that will be posted out twice a year and a reminder via email each month for the following lecture.

As our branch is dynamic and innovative we have been selected by the national GA as the focus branch of the 'about us' section of the national GA website. This is a wonderful compliment to everyone and now that the website is fully up-to-date everyone has easy access to find out what we are about and what we are doing in the north east. For future events (from Sept. 2010) please see our webpage:

<http://www.geography.org.uk/aboutus/branches/contactsprogrammes/tyneandwear>

Over the past six years I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside people who share their passion for Geography. Together with the promotion of the local area and Northumbria University as places to explore, the next generation is encouraged to create plans for the future of where they can take their own passion for Geography.

Lisa Conlan
Chairperson