

# Bulletin – December 2023

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## Committee Contact Details

### Chairman

Bill Edwards

### Secretary

Dermot Hanna

### Treasurer

Michael Roberts

### Other Committee Members

Simon Binyon

Keith Earnshaw

Bruce Green

Hooshang Zavareh

### Linked-in page:

Royal Society of Chemistry Consultancy Group

RSC: <https://my.rsc.org/groups/home/157>

## The Consultancy Group

The Group is one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's many Interest Groups. The Interest Groups are member-driven groups which exist to benefit RSC members, and the wider chemical science community, in line with the RSC's strategy and charter.

The Group provides a forum for RSC members who are consultants. The Group arranges meetings and workshops to provide networking opportunities and training in aspects of setting up and running a consultancy business.

There are currently vacancies on the Consultancy Group Committee. If you are interested in helping to support the work of the Group please contact the Group via the RSC link: <https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through>

The presenter, Alan Bodley, is a chemist, marketer and a member of the Marketing Interest Group. Alan provided a great overview of the value of spices in food compared to those foods that are eaten due to their nutritional aspects, but have a generally bland flavour.

The Spice Trade was developed as spices that grew in the Far East were transported via the Middle East to Europe via the Silk Road and later by shipping routes. The shipping routes became more dominant as they could carry larger quantities than by road. The East India and Dutch East India companies were main East to West operators between the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Portugal and Spain found new spices in the Americas and shipped those back to Europe. India was the major producer of black and white pepper.

Turmeric has claimed to have an active ingredient, curcumin, which is a cancer cure. Research by the USFDA has indicated that this is not yet proven.

The New World was responsible for chilli, pimento and paprika being brought to Europe by 1590CE although the origins of chilli go back to around 7500BCE, in what is now known as Bolivia.

Alan suggested adding flavour to porridge with the addition of allspice, nutmeg or ginger. Mashed potato could have more colour by adding turmeric.

Following the meeting, a selection of "spicy" food and drinks were consumed by the attendees as a practical exercise!

## RSC and CICA Joint Meeting

Our first joint meeting between Consultancy Group and CICA (Chemical & Industrial Consultants Association) was held at the Priory Street Centre, York on 24<sup>th</sup> of September. A total of 15 people attended including the two speakers.

In the morning session, Bill Edwards gave a talk on Plastic Waste with an emphasis on food packaging material. After lunch, Ellis Marshall from Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre, Teesside University, gave a

talk on their activities on carbon capture, the development of the hydrogen economy, smart energy systems, the development of circular economies and the digital monitoring and simulation laboratory. Both talks stimulated questions and answers from the audience.

Further event information can be found by contacting the RSC using the following details:

Royal Society of Chemistry,  
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 432509  
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 423623  
Email: [eventsdatabase@rsc.org](mailto:eventsdatabase@rsc.org)

The Consultancy Committee is investigating holding further meetings in the North of England. If you can recommend venues with good transport links, please