

X-RAY FLUORESCENCE (XRF) PAGE

Spring Meeting 21-23 April 2009

Loughborough: There is a full three day parallel XRF programme with sessions on: "*General Applications, New Developments in Instrumentation and TXRF, Environmental - including a plenary and joint XRF/XRD session, Trace Analysis, Method Validation and Portable Instruments*". There is also a commercial exhibition and Exhibitors Forum to update your product knowledge. Details of the programme are on pages 7 and 8 of this Newsletter or the latest information and how to register can be found on or from the XRF web pages. If the current economic climate means that you can only attend one meeting this year then this is the one to go for!

Posters: There is still time to present an XRF poster at this meeting. Submit your poster by 2nd February via links on the meeting web page.

WEB Newsletter: We are always on the look out for articles for the web and Newsletter, so if you have something to offer contact the editor. Don't forget that we need your help in expanding our **supplier pages** on the web to build it into a really useful guide for XRF users.

The main **BCA web pages** have been revamped to make it easier for more people to add content
<http://www.crystallography.org.uk>

Expect to see changes to the Group pages over the coming year as we migrate to a similar format. Your ideas and input for the revamp are welcomed.

May 2010 One day Meeting.

We are in the early planning stages for this meeting, so there is a chance for you to have some input. If you have some ideas on what we should cover at the meeting or even offer a talk, just contact any of the XRF committee members. (see back page).

A tribute to James Allan Smith

In 1959 a Hilger diffractometer on a Raymax 60 generator with a continuously-pumped X-ray tube was a wonderful way to learn about leaky vacuum systems. A few years later a combined PW1540/PW1050 XRF/XRD system and a Cambridge Instruments Microprobe were commissioned at Joseph Lucas Research in Birmingham. At this point Jim retired to the microprobe room where it was thought that he often studied the structure and composition of the back of his eyelids.

Some 20 years later this pipe smoking analyst recognised the value of co-ordinating information from the range of analytical equipment used in a steel works laboratory. A mountain of punch paper tape could be found on the lab floor and somewhere amongst it Jim would be muttering to himself. He managed to collate data from XRF and emission spectrometers and as paper transformed into magnetic tape; Winchester were replaced by floppy discs, the analytical world appreciated the benefits of the Laboratory Information System. Jim could also be relied upon for guidance on steak houses after a hard day commissioning Philips software with the best providing both ice cream and custard with apple pie.

On leaving the Philips Analytical Department at Pye Unicam, Jim set up Cotswold Computers to concentrate on software support and development. There are laboratories, literally around the world, that have reaped the benefits of his computing skills.

Jim was a great sportsman; particularly cricket, rugby, football and golf, reaching high levels of achievement as a left-arm fast bowler. On Thursday 27th November 2008, his many friends joined his wife Judy and family for a service to remember his life and achievements that was cut short following the diagnosis last summer of pancreatic cancer.