

Poster Presentations

[MS41-P07] **Crystallography for the People.**
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The Young Crystallographers Group (YCG) represents the young up-and-coming crystallographers within the British Crystallographic Association (BCA). Members of the YCG and BCA have engaged in public outreach projects this year, aimed at communicating the basic principles and applications of crystallography to the general public, especially in light of the Bragg Centenary Celebrations.

In March 2013, the Big Bang Fair was held at the Excel Centre in London. This is a very large science festival for schools and families to learn about different aspects of Science and Engineering, with over 50,000 people attending. The Science and Technology Facilities Council in the UK and the BCA funded a crystallography stand in collaboration with Diamond, ISIS and the YCG. The stand was based on the YCG's "The Structure of Stuff is Sweet" event and young and old alike had the opportunity to make unit cells from marshmallows, crystallise lysozyme, and to learn about the principles of diffraction using a lego beamline!



The YCG have also helped develop a science outreach programme with @Bristol, a science centre in Bristol, UK, with hands-on activities

to encourage children to do some "real" science. This involves teaching some basic principles of crystallography based around sugar and chocolate to fit in with the theme of "kitchen chemistry." The activities include 3D tessellations to teach children about crystal packing, chocolate tempering to describe the polymorphism, as well as a number of other ideas.



Over the past two years the YCG have run an outreach stand at the Diamond Light Source Open Days, communicating the beauty of crystallography to over 3000 people. This is a great opportunity to explain our science to the public using activities to describe unit cells, atomic structure and waves.

An outline of the events, pictures and comments from participants are presented, as well as our plans for future events building on these foundations to further strengthen the YCG's engagement with the wider community. Please come to the poster to find out more about the YCG, and what we do. We also welcome suggestions for what we can do for you, and for further outreach activities.

Keywords: Outreach; Bragg centenary; Public Engagement