

CHRISTMAS LECTURE

The annual Christmas Lecture of the North West Region Analytical Division of the RSC took place at Manchester Metropolitan University on Thursday 5th December. Dr Christopher Vincent Jeans (recipient of the Collins Medal (MinSoc)) was the guest speaker and entertained the audience with accounts of numerous murder trials where he had acted on behalf of the defence as an expert witness on soil evidence. He showed the audience how, in addition to collecting samples and carrying out his own investigations, he consulted with a range of experts across a wide range of subject areas (pollen, spores, diatoms, ecology, soil mineralogy and geochemistry, metal, glass, histology etc) in order to check on the veracity of the evidence and test the conclusions presented by the prosecution. The development of new approaches to deal with sequential depositions of soil on footwear and small mud stains were especially interesting. The evening concluded with a most delightful dinner during which the participants, including a number of young analysts, had an invaluable opportunity to network and develop new contacts.



Sanja Potgieter-Vermaak (Chair of NWR-AD)