

## **ADVANCED COURSE ON BLUE-GREEN AND GREEN ALGAE IDENTIFICATION**

**Sunday 5 July – Thursday 9 July 2009**

**Venue: Hild-Bede College and School of Education, University of Durham, Durham, UK**

**Organisers: Professors Brian A. Whitton (Durham) and David M. John (London)**

The aim of the course is to provide training on identification of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) and green algae at a more advanced level than in the *Introductory Course on Freshwater Algal Identification*. This course is planned especially for anyone who has attended one of the introductory courses, but also for others with considerable experience of field material or who would benefit from refreshing their knowledge. The course focuses on identification, especially using modern methods such as interactive keys.

The course is a mixture of lectures and practicals, together with a field trip. Members should arrive by 1730 on the Sunday while the daily programme runs from 0900 to 2120 each evening. The field visit includes the Sunbiggin Tarn region (Cumbria), which has a range of wetland areas and a main river site. The course ends formally after lunch on Thursday.

Professors David John and Brian Whitton give the majority of the lectures, with contributions from Dr Alan Donaldson (consultant) during part of the course.

Residence and meals are in Hild-Bede College that is situated on a hill above the River Wear and therefore commands a fine view over the river and city; it also has an excellent reputation for food and drink. Arrangements can be made for special diet requirements. Parking is available inside the college; it is helpful, but not essential, to know in advance if you plan to bring a car.

Members are encouraged to bring a laboratory coat and boots for a short field visit and preferably fresh algal samples from their local waters. All else is provided, though some participants may find it useful to bring their own portable computer but must ensure the risk of loss is covered by insurance. The 2009 training manual will be distributed in advance.

**Travel** Durham is on the main rail line between London King's Cross and Edinburgh. Trains are about once an hour and the journey from London (260 miles) takes three hours. A taxi from the station to Hild-Bede College (about 1.5 miles, but a long hill for walkers) costs about £3.50. The nearest airport is Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There is a rail route from Newcastle airport to Durham, though this involves changing at Newcastle main rail station and the overall journey can take anything from one to two hours, depending on the connection at Newcastle. A taxi from Newcastle airport to Durham (26 miles) takes 35-45 minutes and costs about £40. The organizers can usually meet members at the airport.

**Cost** The inclusive cost for all participants is £375 (no VAT charge). Full-time students who are members of the British Phycological Society may apply directly to the Society for some support. Details are given on the BPS website, but it is recommended that applications be submitted as soon as possible. Hild-Bede College can provide accommodation for anyone wanting to stay an extra night at the beginning or end of the course (about £32 per night). Payment can be included in the main invoice, provided organizers are informed well in advance; otherwise it should be paid directly to the college after arrival.

**Booking** Provisional and firm reservations for one of 10 places should be made by email to [b.a.whitton@durham.ac.uk](mailto:b.a.whitton@durham.ac.uk) or fax +44(0)191-386-0619, to be followed by an official order to B.A. Whitton Algal Training, 74 Archery Rise, Durham DH1 4LA, UK. Payment or a proper order form is required by 1 June. A full refund will be made to anyone paying early, but cancels the reservation before 1 June, while a 50% refund will be made to anyone cancelling by 20 June.

**For Further Information** You are welcome contact Brian Whitton: [b.a.whitton@durham.ac.uk](mailto:b.a.whitton@durham.ac.uk), phone +44(0)191-386-7504 (home) or +44(0)191-334-1347 (university) or David John: [d\\_m\\_john@ntlworld.com](mailto:d_m_john@ntlworld.com), phone +44(0)208-464-6367 (home) or +44(0)7920120825 (mobile).