

Next Generation Education Programme | University of Liverpool Herdman Symposium, 17 February 2024

It was a rainy and early start for Ian Sayers, Clare Tansell from CGG, and me, Maria Iredale from GESGB. As we trudged up the hill from Lime Street Station to The University of Liverpool, we took turns carrying what felt like 20kg of North Sea Maps.

It was the annual Herdman Symposium and the GESGB were hosting a stand to talk to the students about the benefits of becoming a member of the Society and generally who we were. This is an initiative that all elements of the Society are involved in, with the Young Professionals being one of the biggest drivers.

There were around 90 delegates, and it was amazing to see the age range, from first year undergraduate to those well into retirement and beyond. One thing they all had in common was a passion for their subject. Everyone was 'just buzzing' for the programme to start and before they went in many came to our stand to hear what the GESGB membership was all about.

No one was allowed to pass without being handed a North Sea Map, whether they wanted one or not, and they collected leaflets about the mentoring programme and special offers for student memberships.

We were asked a couple of times if we were selling cake (we could have made a killing - will make a note for next year) if we had meetings in Liverpool and if we covered engineering. Clare did a wonderful job talking to all the students and as an ex-Liverpool student herself, common ground was easy to find.

When everything was put away after the final break, we all headed off to a bar (The Antisocial), for the networking and social part of the evening. All the delegates were motivated by what they had seen and there was a tangible fizz in the air from all the excitement that learning and passion, together produce.

Can't wait for next year now!