

**Editorial***Jonathan Ling*

Despite the Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic around the world, the activities of CASTME continue as ever. It is important that real scientific advice, applications, and solutions are sought, disseminated, and applied in all Commonwealth Countries: pseudo-science will be the continuing enemy of us all. One definition of science is the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. However, this is too vague unless the application of “the science” is to be effectively evidenced and applied by well thought out and designed experiments and methods producing the technology to engineer the most effective and timely solutions. This requires considerable mathematical analysis and understanding of the infection, how it spreads and how its distribution can be limited and ultimately destroyed. Really effective education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics within the social and medical spheres is essential for us all to understand how to deal with this terrible virus: for ALL age groups. CASTME has a serious role and a responsibility here, now and in the future.

CASTME Activity Sheets*Dr (The Lady) Tunnicliffe, CASTME Chair*

CASTME has started an Activity Sheet which is intended to be issued at least 3 times per year, corresponding to the intervals of a 3-term year. Two have now been published. They are using a simple inquiry approach with a few activities and relevant information. It will NOT be replacing the newsletter and is a quite a different enterprise. Please send copy to STEM@sdtunnicliffe.co.uk. A new dedicated email address will be supplied for that and for the Awards submissions. See our website www.castme.online for further details,

Early Years (up to 5)*Kath Nugent, CASTME Vice Chair*

Rachel Morgan, a CASTME Adviser in the UK, has created “Talk- and- Do-at -Home” and “CASTME Activities.” for parents and carers to use with young children: at home and in the community before the start of formal school. She says, “Play with everyday objects with children and talk about what happens!”

Instagram: [@castmeactivities](https://www.instagram.com/castmeactivities) **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Talk-and-Do-Science-at-Home-116167663504654/>

Please email comments, photos or activity ideas to ukcastme@gmail.co.uk. Some examples from the pages are:

- Rachel Morgan, CASTME Adviser, UK: Hanging the Washing, Autumn is coming, Wooden blocks, Irreversible Changes-cooking eggs, Butterflies, Fruit and Vegetables, Stones and Pebbles, Ice Cubes
- Dr Lalit Kishore, CASTME Adviser, India: Paper folding
- Dr Daniela Cassola, NCW CASTME Group, Malta: Light and Shadow

Captain Richard “Dick” Twomey (1930-2020)

CASTME is very sorry to announce that Captain Twomey died on the 9th of July 2020. Dick was a highly valued partner of CASTME. He shared its vision and organised several interesting and valuable activities in Mauritius and across the Commonwealth. An account of some of his work was included in the previous Newsletter 14 **in the article, BUILDING a FUTURE for our CHILDREN. As an on-going tribute**, CASTME will support and nurture Captain Twomey's inspiring work with young people in Mauritius and around the world.



**Talking points in a paper-folding, toy making and playing exercise**

From Lalit Kishore, CASTME Adviser, India



An activity with a five-year child by the caregiver that involved paper folding and cutting which provided a pair of flappable rabbit ears. A video was made – of which a snapshot is shown here.

The activity not only resulted in enhanced attentiveness, fine-motor development and use of scissors as a low-level technology tool and its handling with pincer grasp, but it also became the talking point to build some science vocabulary too.

This is an example of an activity to motivate caregivers at home to do some paper folding activity and making a talking point for scientific-technological literacy since the child finds a lot of technological devices at home. The talking points in this activity, were as follows:

- Pull, push, force
- Movement, motion
- In-and-out, to-and-fro
- Inward, outward

The purpose was to make use of hands-on experience to link with see-and-speak or look-and-name methods to build the vocabulary related to science and technology which has become common in daily lives at home.

**CHARITY COMMISSION**
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Baroness Stowell (Chair), Dr Helen Stephenson (Chief Executive), and other directors are holding their **Annual Public Meeting** on Thursday 1st October 2020 at 11am and invite CASTME members to attend. Due to the impact of Covid-19 this year's meeting is a virtual event open to all members of the public and charity representatives.

Baroness Stowell will speak about the role of charity in a post Covid-19 world, while Dr Helen Stephenson will provide insight into the Commission's work and how it is delivering support and services through the current pandemic, and the priorities looking to the future. A live virtual audience is invited to join in on the day to ask the Chief Executive and directors questions during an interactive Q&A session. It will be broadcasting live on a YouTube channel from a location near the Commission's Liverpool office.

If you wish to join us for the event, please sign up here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/charity-commission-for-england-and-wales-annual-public-meeting-tickets-115331228810> and you will be sent a link for the live YouTube broadcast closer to the time: Thursday 1st October 2020 11:00 – 12:45 BST.

If you have any questions about the event, please email events@charitycommission.gov.uk



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e-Newsletter

The Commonwealth
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Sreepur's Anniversary

Pat Kerr MBE, then a British Airways flight attendant, laid the foundation stone for the architect designed Sreepur Village in 1989. CASTME's Chair to Trustees, Sue Dale Tunnicliffe, local dignitaries and the chief architect, commemorated Sreepur's 30th anniversary last year. The continued generous support of donors has helped to empower the lives of thousands of women. It is keeping more families together and gives them hope for a brighter future. Many resulting agricultural activities and Mothers Talking Everyday Science have been reported in earlier newsletters. To mark this most significant event in 'Sreepur', a luxury candle has been designed and hand-poured by the UK chandler and home fragrance expert, Rachel Vosper. Every candle was sold: 50% of the proceeds go towards helping more families in Bangladesh, lighting the way for a brighter future. See <https://www.sreepurvillage.org/>



During the Covid 19 Pandemic – From Sreepur

Mothers at Sreepur learning about corona virus and precautions



As in many places around the world, the village has been in lock down. Staff at SPP were given the option of going home on half pay or staying on full pay.

It runs on fund raising so Pat is worried only enough reserves for a few more years unless they get more donations.

Planting a Sustainable Future

With the world in isolation, the Nutrition Programme is key in aiding more families living in poverty. It is with the generous support of donors that in this time of crisis they can continue to train mothers in Homestead Gardening, Sack Gardening and Literacy in Agriculture. With these essential ingredients, more mothers will be better equipped in providing a sustainable life for their families, feeding them out of poverty and into a healthy future.



Supplies by motorbike



Goutam lives in Dhaka and normally works at Sreepur. Back in May, once shops were reopened, he brought some food for Pat who had been living on various cabbage menus!

He brought supplies from Dhaka: his motorbike got though even though the roads were closed, but not allowed on-site and items such as packs had to be dipped in disinfectant.

People and food can still not come across the red line and the food is sprayed with disinfectant before being brought in. This was the first time in a month that Pat received butter, baked beans, lemons and cooking ingredients.



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ASE Annual Conference 2021

To be held online from 6th January 2021 to 9th January 2021 between 08:30 and 17:30



- International Day: Wednesday 8th January
- Technician programme: Wednesday 8th January
- Primary, 11-19, Research and Futures sessions: Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th January inclusive

The Programme is viewable online: <https://ase2021annualconferenceonline.sched.com>

Tickets will be on sale until December 2020

CASTME links Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Educators across the Commonwealth

It has a UK-based board of trustees, with regional branches and advisers in the Commonwealth

Editor's Note: For the next edition of this newsletter please send articles to **Jonathan Ling** at:

j.g.ling@btinternet.com by 30th November 2020

CASTME website: <http://www.castme.online>

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