

Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mineralogical Society and EMU to Co-Publish EMU Notes in Mineralogy Series

Following negotiations during the summer, representatives of the European Mineralogical Union and the Mineralogical Society have signed a memorandum of understanding so that from now onwards, they will work together in the publication of the renowned EMU Notes in Mineralogy series. This series will now be produced through the Mineralogical Society's London office and marketed and sold from there. Mineralogical Society President Michael Carpenter commented: "This is an excellent opportunity to use the expertise of the Mineralogical Society on a project of benefit to all the European Societies. There will be benefit for both organizations and undoubtedly a wider audience for the series." The books will be sold via an online EMU bookshop, hosted by the Mineralogical Society, of which more details will be available shortly.

MinSoc Gets Facetime with Members

facebook

The Mineralogical Society now has its own Facebook page. Go to www.minersoc.org and click on the Facebook logo, which you will find on the homepage. Facebook allows the Society to be more proactive in telling members and others about its activities.

Student and Senior Bursaries for 2010

The deadline for applying for Society bursaries is 15 January 2010. Anyone can apply, and there is a total fund of £6000 available each year. Go to www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html for details on how to apply and an application form.

Call for Nominations for 2011 Society Awards

The Society now awards three medals, the Schlumberger Medal, the Max Hey Medal and the Collins Medal. The closing date for nominations is 30 April 2010. Go to www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html for information about how to make a nomination.

2009–2010 Distinguished Lecturers Programme

The Distinguished Lecturers for the academic year 2009–2010 are Prof. Tony Fallick and Prof. David Manning. Each will lecture at four venues. Go to www.minersoc.org/pages/lecturer/lecturer.html for information about the venues, dates and times, and to read the abstracts.

44th-Annual VMMSG Conference, Glasgow, 4–6 January 2010

The Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group is a joint special interest group of the Mineralogical Society and the Geological Society. The two-day annual conference will bring together researchers from all fields. Conference themes include: magma transport versus magma storage; geochronology of igneous processes; isotopes as records of magmatic processes; transport, dispersion and deposition during volcanic eruptions; and volcano-tectonics: lessons from the field and laboratory.

For more information, visit <http://web2.ges.gla.ac.uk/VMMSG>

33rd-Annual MDMSG Conference, Glasgow, 5–7 January 2010

The 33rd Mineral Deposits Studies Group meeting will gather UK and international scientists for a series of lecture and poster presentations. The latest ideas on mineral deposits science will be aired by established academic, industrial and post-graduate members and guests, all in an informal, welcoming environment.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS:

- Professor Jake Lowenstern – *Magma intrusion, degassing, and hydrothermal setting of the Yellowstone Caldera*
- Professor Dick Tosdal – *Tectonic transitions in the porphyry-epithermal environment*
- Professor Gaston Giuliani – *Academic and economic geology of precious coloured gemstones: an update*

All are welcome – and Mineralogical Society members will receive a significant discount on registration costs. Student registration costs are nominal, and all students will receive a bursary (up to £80) at the meeting, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Register at: www.mdsg.org.uk or email a.boyce@suerc.gla.ac.uk.

Sustaining Membership

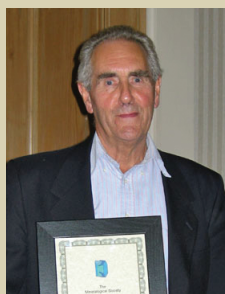
The Society's Sustaining Membership scheme has been launched. All members were invited to make a contribution to the student fund at the same time as the membership renewal reminders were sent out. Please do consider making a donation. This is one of the best ways to support our subject. The Society offers cut-price membership (free to students for the first year), conferences at which student presentations are welcomed and encouraged, and travel bursaries. An ad hoc committee has also been set up to encourage corporate partnerships between the Society and industry, and the first letters have been sent out. Donations from these groups will also be included in the student fund.

Kevin Murphy
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ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009: MICROANALYSIS, PROCESSES, TIME MEETING

Two hundred mineral and geoscientists gathered in Edinburgh in late August/early September for the **MicroAnalysis, Processes, Time** meeting, the annual meeting of the Mineralogical Society, jointly organized with the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie and the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, and attended by representatives from 23 countries. There was a busy programme, with two field trips, two short courses and three days of oral and poster presentations. A full report is available at www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/MAPT/MAPT.html.

During the conference banquet, the Max Hey Medal and the Schlumberger Award were presented to Dr **Andrew Walker** and Prof. **John Brodholt**, respectively. A podcast of the award speeches is available from the meeting report page.



Prof. Ben Harte delivered the 39th Hallimond Lecture during the MAPT conference.



Prof. J. Brodholt, winner of the Schlumberger Medal for 2009



Dr A. Walker, winner of the 2009 Max Hey Medal

LOCHABER GEOPARK – ARDNAMURCHAN LIGHTHOUSE

Taigh Solas Aird nam Murchan

Ardnamurchan Point, in the Lochaber district of western Scotland, is the most westerly point of mainland Britain, at 6°13' W. The lighthouse, designed by Alan Stevenson, of the celebrated Stevenson family of engineers, was opened in 1849. It is constructed of beautifully fitted, curved blocks of granite from the Ross-of-Mull, dovetailed in three dimensions. It stands on hypersthene gabbros of Centre 2 of the Palaeogene Ardnamurchan Central Complex, with its dramatic ring structures, and provides stunning views of the plutonic centres of the islands of Rum and Skye and the lavas of Eigg and Mull.

As elsewhere in Scotland, the great light now runs automatically. The buildings have been developed as a visitor centre by Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust, who approached the Lochaber Geopark Association, part of the European Geoparks Network, to establish a geological display in one of the outbuildings. LGA is a charity, with most of its interpretative and educational work done by volunteers like myself, and MinSoc very kindly provided £500 towards display cabinets for local mineral, rock and fossil specimens. Motorists approaching Ardnamurchan from the east pass through Strontian, where they see a board bearing the words 'Strontian, the village that gave its name to the element Strontium' (see *Elements* 4: 216). We have assembled samples from the mines, including strontianite and brewsterite from this type locality, as well as examples of the rock types of the Ardnamurchan complex. Motorists can also arrive on the ferry from Tobermory, on Mull, to Kilchoan, a journey that is perhaps unique because both villages have minerals named after them!



The permanent exhibition was opened on 8 September, with MinSoc represented by Kate Dobson and David Brown of Glasgow University. With admirable timing, the British Geological Survey was able to provide a first copy of its beautiful new map of Ardnamurchan. The walls are occupied by interpretative boards at two levels: Low down, children travel through time with a friendly dinosaur and a sheep in a rocket-propelled lighthouse. Higher up, adults travel from the Neo-Proterozoic, through the Caledonian collision and the opening of the North Atlantic, finally arriving in post-glacial times when the internal workings of the volcanic centres were revealed.

Ian Parsons, University of Edinburgh

SENIOR BURSARY REPORT

International Discussion Meeting on Continental Geology and Tectonics – Xi'an, China, September 2009

In 1993, when I visited the fledgling Earth Sciences Department at the University of Hong Kong, it was pointed out to me that China was virtually untouched by modern geological research and that there were "easily 300 PhDs out there, waiting to be done". Much has changed in the intervening 16 years, and now China is becoming a scientific force to be reckoned with. After much recent investment in geochemical instrumentation, the country is producing a huge volume of high-quality geochemical data.



Hugh Rollinson (far right) with other members of the post-conference field excursion to the Dengfeng area of the North China Craton. PHOTO ANLIN GUO

The discussion meeting entitled 'Continental Geology and Tectonics' was hosted by Northwestern University, in Xi'an, China, and gathered about 20 senior western scientists and a larger number of Chinese scientists. The principal themes of the meeting and post-conference field trips were Precambrian crustal evolution and the genesis of intercontinental orogenic belts. For me this was an important meeting inasmuch as it opened my eyes to another Archaean craton – the North China Craton. This craton is significant in crust evolution models for having allegedly lost its underlying mantle lithosphere sometime during the Mesozoic and is perhaps the prime example of cratonic lithosphere delamination. After having visited the area, the geological literature on this important region is for me more meaningful and more intelligible. I am grateful to the Society for their support. (Read Hugh's full report at www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/bursary.html).

Hugh Rollinson, University of Derby, UK

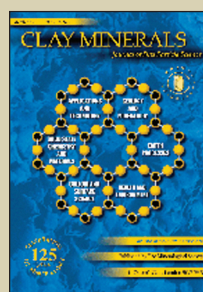
MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE AND CLAY MINERALS

The latest tables of contents are available at <http://gsminmag.highwire.org/> and <http://gsclaymin.highwire.org/>, respectively. Here are just some of the interesting papers you will find:



- Plastic deformations in kyanite by tectonometamorphic processes: a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study – G.D. GATTA, N. ROTIROTI, AND M. ZUCALI
- Zigrasite, $\text{MgZr}(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$, a new phosphate mineral from the Duntun Quarry, Newry, Oxford County, Maine, USA – F.C. HAWTHORNE, N.A. BALL, J.W. NIZAMOFF, AND W.B. SIMMONS

• Synchrotron X-ray absorption spectroscopy and X-ray powder diffraction studies of the structure of johnbaumite $[\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{AsO}_4)_6(\text{OH},\text{F})_2]$ and synthetic Pb-, Sr- and Ba-arsenate apatites and some comments on the crystal chemistry of the apatite structure type in general – C.M.B. HENDERSON, A.M.T. BELL, J.M. CHARNOCK, K.S. KNIGHT, R.F. WENDLANDT, D.A. PLANT, AND W.J. HARRISON



- Natural nanoclays: applications and future trends – a Chilean perspective – M. CALABI FLOODY, B. K. G. THENG, P. REYES, AND M. L. MORA
- Comparing the efficiency of ordinary kriging and cokriging to estimate the Atterberg limits spatially using some soil physical properties – O. BASKAN, G. ERPUL, AND O. DENGIZ
- Characterization of size, aspect ratio and degree of dispersion of particles in filled polymeric composites using FIB – Y. ZHU, G.C. ALLEN, J.M. ADAMS, D. GITTINS, P.J. HEARD, AND D.R. SKUSE

Members with a subscription can access these and other papers online by logging in (you'll need your membership number) at the Mineralogical Society website homepage (www.minersoc.org).