



Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NEWS FROM LONDON

Have you read the EDI report yet? As noted in the previous issue of *Elements*, the report can be downloaded from the Mineralogical Society website (<https://tinyurl.com/2wwwmvrkz>). The survey was assembled by a Council-appointed committee of individuals who are either members of Council or who represent the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The committee includes: J. Lloyd (President), S. Gibson, M.-L. Bagard, E. Deady, J. Horák, H. Pendlowski, F. Cooper, L. Kelly, O. Lord, J. Scarlett, and K. Murphy (Executive Director, Chair).



Hybrid Meetings

The Society has run four meetings of its special interest groups since the start of 2022. One of these was entirely virtual (Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group in January 2022), and three others (Metamorphic Studies Group, Geochemistry Group, and Clay Minerals Group) were presented in hybrid fashion. The meetings of three of our other groups (Geomicobiology Network and Applied Mineralogy Group/Environmental Mineralogy Group) will also be available in hybrid fashion. The response from delegates so far has been very positive and this allows us to make our events available at little or no cost to delegates unable for whatever reason to attend in person. We are documenting the methods used in order to create a 'best-practice' document that others can avail of in the future. There are many options to consider and we seek the best/easiest route to make this offering an automatic option.

75th Jubilee meeting of the Clay Minerals Group



GEOMICROBIOLOGY
NETWORK



The Clay Minerals Group (CMG) is celebrating its 75th Jubilee during 2022. The CMG was founded during a meeting held at Burlington House (Geological Society), London, UK, on 24 January 1947. The first chair was G.W. Brindley, and the first secretary was D.M.C. McEwan, both names which crop up throughout the history of the group and of the science.

The current Chair and Secretary, Anke Neumann and Helen Pendlowski, respectively, along with Francis Clegg, the main organizer, welcomed everyone to the 2022 Jubilee meeting at London's Natural History Museum. The role of the group and its officers is to provide opportunities for clay mineralogists from the UK/Ireland and beyond to present their work to a like-minded audience. This has been done consistently and well throughout the past 75 years, with many exciting meetings/presentations and resultant publications. Careful management of the CMG's finances (including by the current treasurer, Francis Clegg, and

David Wray, former treasurer, who was also present) has allowed the group to support many speakers, researchers, and students over the years.

Simon Kemp, former Secretary and Chairman of the group will write a formal history of the group (building on that written by J. Bain in 1997), based on his presentation at the meeting, to be published in due course in *Clay Minerals*. He noted that Anke Neumann is only the second woman to lead the CMG following Barbara Neumann (<https://www.minersoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Neumann-article-Clay-Minerals.pdf>).

Full details of the group's year-long celebrations are shown at <https://www.minersoc.org/jubilee-year-2022.html>. This centrepiece jubilee meeting was held over two days, 25–26 May 2022, and clay mineralogists past and present gathered to celebrate the group's achievements.

Invited talks included:

- Simon Kemp (British Geological Survey) – A history of the Clay Minerals Group
- Christopher Jeans (University of Cambridge) – How to survive as a clay mineralogist!
- Claire Fialips (TotalEnergies) – Lithofacies-petrophysical-geomechanical relationships in the Vaca Muerta Fm, Neuquen Basin, Argentina
- Chris Greenwell (Durham University) – Chemistry between the sheets – the happy marriage of computer simulation and experimental methods in clay science
- Steve Hillier (The James Hutton Institute) – A tale of two halloysites
- Ian Wilson (Consultant) – A trip around some kaolin and halloysite deposits

Our plans are to post recordings of these talks online in due course.

Delegates were also treated to a behind-the-scenes tour at the Natural History Museum before a conference dinner at the Grange Strathmore Hotel. The banquet was attended by Jon Lloyd, the Mineralogical Society President, and Sally Gibson, President Elect, both of whom spoke warmly about the importance to the Society of the Clay Minerals Group and how the CMG will be integral to the Society's future as it approaches its own milestone of 150 years of existence (in 2026).



All CMG officers, past and present, who were able to attend the meeting gathered for this photograph. Included from left to right are Dick Merriman, Christopher Jeans, Helen Pendlowski, Francis Clegg, Anke Neumann, Dave Wray, Ian Wilson, Simon Kemp, Steve Hillier, David Morgan, and Chris Greenwell. Another, who attended online, was the former chair, secretary, treasurer, and editor, Derek Bain.

All of those who have helped the CMG throughout its 75 years of existence were acknowledged during the conference.

The strong bond between the journal (*Clay Minerals*) and the group received particular attention and the current joint Principal Editors, George Christidis and Chun-Hui Zhou, joined the meeting remotely from their locations in Athens (Greece) and Zhejiang (China), respectively.

The usual focus on students and their work was in evidence during the event with excellent presentations during day two of the programme. Student presentation prizes were awarded to Hassan Majiya (Sheffield Hallam University) – ‘Bentonite-Chitosan composites or beads: for co-adsorption of lead (Pb) and copper (Cu) from binary aqueous solutions’ (oral presentation) and Max Rose (University of Manchester) – ‘Controlling and modelling the impact of bentonite microbial communities on steel corrosion during radioactive waste disposal’.

A copy of the programme and abstracts volume is available from the meeting page (found in the meetings archive section of the website: <https://www.minersoc.org/cmg-jubilee-meeting-2022.html>). There was an enjoyable blend of pure and applied science in the programme, which reflects rather well the programme for the founding event 75 years previously! Two of the invited speakers (Ian Wilson and Steve Hillier) gave significant time to halloysite, a hot topic in clay mineralogy at present!

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1. Editorial to No. 1.
3. J. D. BERNAL's address.
5. G. F. WALKER. The mineralogy of some Aberdeenshire soil clays.
8. R. C. MACKENZIE. Investigations on clays at the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen.
9. J. WHITE. Research on foundry bonding materials.
12. C. H. EDELMAN. Recent work on clays and clay minerals of the Wageningen group.
14. B. S. EMODI. Electron micrographs of various montmorillonites.
15. A. L. ROBERTS and G. W. BRINDLEY. A review of clay mineral research in the University of Leeds.
18. R. K. SCHOFIELD. Some problems connected with the retention of ions by clay constituents.
21. J. LONGUET. Studies on nickel hydroxide.
23. J. MERING. Work carried out at the Laboratoire Central des Services Chimiques.
24. S. HENIN. Observations on the formation and evolution of clays.
26. S. CAILLERE. Application of differential thermal analysis to the study of soil clays.
27. A. HOYOS. Current research work on the clay minerals at the University of Granada, Spain.
30. E. K. CLARE. The influence of the clay fraction on the engineering properties of soil, with some suggestions for future research.
34. E. FORSLIND. Note on work in progress at the Swedish Cement and Concrete Research Institute.

Table of contents from the first ever issue of the journal (originally known as the *Clay Minerals Bulletin*).

And the good work of the CMG goes on. Below are details of the 2023 Research in Progress meeting.

Clays and construction:

2023 Clay Minerals Group Research-in-Progress meeting

18 May 2023, University of Leeds

This meeting will explore recent advances in understanding the role of clay minerals in construction, and how they can be used to shape and improve the built environment. This topic area spans everything from clay-based renders to improve air quality, the role of clay minerals in geotechnics, calcined clays in low-carbon cements, natural earth building, and much more.

We invite abstracts on any topic in clay mineral science in general, including research-in-progress. We particularly encourage those with interest in the theme of clays and construction, early career researchers, and those working in industry. Visit the CMG pages on the Mineralogical Society website for more details (www.minersoc.org/cmg.html).

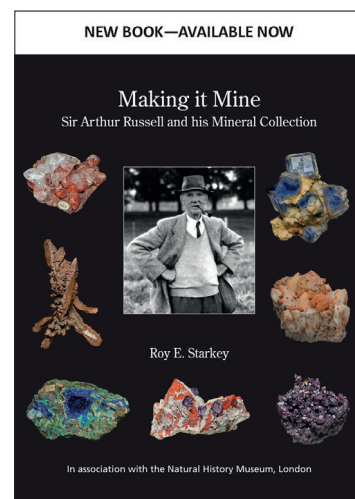
Sir Arthur Russell – new book available

‘Making it Mine’ explores the fascinating story of Sir Arthur Russell, 6th Baronet (after whom the Russell Society is named – <https://russellsoc.org/>), as he pursued his quest to build the finest collection of British minerals ever assembled. The book delves into his family history, the background to his passion for mineralogy, and his single-minded determination to secure the very best specimens for his collection. The book will appeal to all those interested in British mineralogy, to mineral collectors and dealers, to historians of mineralogy, museum curators, researchers, and to anyone who is simply interested in the treasures of the natural world.

Roy Starkey is a former President of the Russell Society, member of the Mineralogical Society, and author of three books on mineralogy:

- *Crystal Mountains: Minerals of the Cairngorms*
- *Minerals of the English Midlands*
- And this new book on Russell.

Copies are available to purchase from www.britishmineralogy.com.



MEETING IN 2023

Metamorphic Studies Group Research in Progress 2023

University of Oxford

4–5 April, 2023

<https://www.minersoc.org/msg-rip-2023.html>