

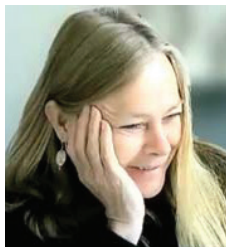


Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NOTES FROM LONDON

From the President



I'm honoured to have served as President of the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland for the past two years (2023–2024), after spending the year before that as President-Elect. It feels like the time has flown by, but it's been an absolute pleasure working alongside the amazing Society staff, Trustees, journal teams, Special Interest Groups (Applied Mineralogy, Clay Minerals, Environmental Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Geomicrobiology, Metamorphic Studies, Mineral Physics and Volcanology and Magmatic Studies), and other Council members.

One of the big focuses during my term has been ensuring that the Society is inclusive and welcoming. We've launched several initiatives focused on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI). Thanks to many productive discussions within the Society's EDI committee, we now have solid policies in place around membership, event organization, and awards. These are all evolving documents that will need regular updates, and we've still got work ahead on our journals and publications. See the Society pages in the October 2024 issue of *Elements*.

We've also put a lot of effort into encouraging new members to join. For example, we're offering free membership to 300 undergraduates, along with a complimentary subscription to *Elements* and discounts on books and conference registration. Plus, we're rolling out a new series of online lectures on *Skills and Training in Mineralogy*, designed to appeal to our diverse international community.

September 2024 marked the arrival of the first papers of our new journal, *GeoBioInterfaces*, completing our trio of publications alongside *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*, all published by Cambridge University Press. This partnership has really sped up publication times and boosted the impact factors and readership of our journals.

A key piece of work for many of our Special Interest Groups, Council, our staff and the wider mineralogical community over the past two years has been the creation of two international conferences: European Mineralogical Conference (August 2024) and the AIPEA-International Clay Conference (July 2025). These have/will raise the profile of our organization, its journals and other publications, membership, awards, grants and more.

One of the highlights of my time as President has been presenting awards that celebrate the incredible scientific and societal contributions of our community. At the European Mineralogical Conference (August 2024) in Dublin, the Mineralogical Society honoured Dr Luke Daly (University of Glasgow, Scotland) with the Max Hey Medal, Prof Luca Bindi (University of Florence, Italy) and Prof. Catherine McCammon (University of Bayreuth, Germany) with the Neumann Medal for 2023 and 2024, respectively, and Prof. Bob Hazen (Carnegie Science and George Mason University, USA) with the Hallimond Lecture. Prof. Ed Grew of the University of Maine was also awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Society, and Dr Karen Hanghøj gave the Public Lecture on 'Perspectives on the Energy Transition – Everything starts with a rock'.

The vibrancy of all learned and professional societies really depends on the voluntary contributions of its members. For me, these past two years have been an important way to give back to an organization that

played such a big role in shaping my early career and helping me thrive. I feel incredibly lucky to have had this opportunity, and I truly hope that the initiatives we've implemented over the past few years will continue to benefit others—especially those from diverse and under-represented communities, and those embarking on their scientific careers. Now, it's time to pass the baton. I'm confident the Society is in great hands with our incoming President, Prof. Sam Shaw from the University of Manchester, who I know will bring fresh energy and enthusiasm, and continue to guide the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland to even greater heights.

Prof. Sally Gibson
University of Cambridge

AWARDS FOR 2025

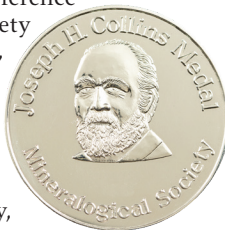
Please consider the Society Awards for 2025. The deadline is 18 April 2025. Note a couple of important points:

1. It is now possible to self-nominate.
2. We will use new, extended criteria (impact of the applicant's/nominee's work, their publications, service to industry, outreach/promotion of science, leadership or other service to the community, teaching and work to improve equality, diversity and inclusivity in our science).
3. Nominees/applicants do not have to be members of the Mineralogical Society or nationals of the UK or Ireland.
4. We will have a larger Award Panel.

EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL CONFERENCE 2024 – REPORT

emc² 18–23 August 2024
4th european mineralogical conference • Dublin, Ireland

The 2024 EMC (European Mineralogical Conference) was the fourth in the series under this title. Previous conferences were held in Frankfurt, Rimini, and Krakow. Following the usual protocol, the Mineralogical Society made a bid to the Presidents of the European Mineralogical Societies and won the right to host this year's event in Trinity College Dublin. The EMC initiative is owned by the European Mineralogical Societies and representatives of those Societies take turns to bid to organize the event in their countries. Thirty-eight sessions were proposed by members of the mineralogical community and



EMC Folks: Kevin Murphy, Sally Gibson, David Chew, and Emma Tomlinson.

the conference ultimately went ahead with 32. The full conference Programme and Abstracts volume is available here: <https://www.minersoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/EMC-Programme-and-Abstracts-FINAL.pdf>.

A stated aim at the outset was the need to make the EMC event as inclusive as possible. Key to achieving this was making the event fully hybrid and by offering free access to the online version to those attending from low- and middle-income countries. Below are some conference statistics:

Fifty-three people attended remotely and 457 attended in person. Fifty countries were represented including nine African and four South American nations.

There were 471 presentations, of which 166 were presented during two poster sessions. The 300+ oral presentations were presented in parallel sessions, up to seven running concurrently on some of the conference days. This was done in an attempt to allow delegates to have their choice of presentation mode.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity: Our Audience

The Mineralogical Society has been taking positive steps towards increasing the diversity of the kind of people attending its events. With this in mind, we invite delegates to share, anonymously, some personal information and that is presented here in summary form.

2.5% of the delegates at our event are neurodiverse.

In terms of ethnic breakdown, 65% of delegates are “white,” 2% are Asian or Asian British, 4% are Chinese or British Chinese, 1.5% are Indian or British Indian, 1% are Pakistani or British Pakistani, 2% are Black African or Caribbean, 3% are mixed-race or multi-ethnic, 1% are Arab, and 21.5% of delegates did not specify an ethnic background.

Employment 4% of our conference delegates work for a government, 5% work in industry, 43% have permanent academic positions, 18% have post-doc or fixed-term academic positions, 27% are post-graduate students, 3% are undergraduate students, and <1% did not respond to this question.

Publicity for the conference

5% of our delegates became aware of the meeting having read about it in *Elements Magazine*, 23% heard about it from a mailing list, 1% from a poster/flier, 2% from social media, 14% from a website, and 28% by word of mouth, 21% didn't respond to this question, and 6% said they heard about the event from “another” source.

A detailed report from the meeting is available from <https://www.minersoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/European-Mineralogical-Conference-2024.docx>.

MINERALOGY AND MUSEUMS 10

Cardiff, August 2024

The Society was also involved in helping to organize the Mineralogy and Museums Conference in Cardiff immediately before the EMC meeting.



This smaller meeting had 50+ delegates in attendance with more than a dozen participating remotely. The main structure followed the following seven interesting session titles:

- Session 1: Mineral Museums and Mining Schools
- Session 2: Using Mineral Collections for Exhibition
- Session 3: Best Practices in Mineral Collection Management
- Session 4: Digitisation in Mineral Collection Management
- Session 5: Mineral Collections & Societal Issues
- Session 6: History of Mineral Collections and Mineralogy
- Session 7: Mineralogical Research

The Programme and Abstracts volume is available for download from: <https://www.minersoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Mineralogy-and-Museums-10-Programme-and-Abstracts.pdf>.

