



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT



Prof. Frances Wall, new president of the Mineralogical Society

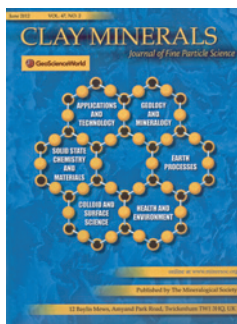
Many thanks to my predecessor, Prof. Jon Davidson, for his hard work during his two years at the helm. I look forward to picking up the threads of some of the initiatives he started, in particular working with the special interest groups (SIGs). It is nearly ten years since I completed an enjoyable term of office in the role of general secretary, and now, with the honour of serving for two years as president, it is instructive to review what has changed – and not changed – over the ten years. First, *Elements* was just starting as I finished. Joining the *Elements* inaugural group was one of the easier Council decisions during my time as secretary, and the venture has been tremendously successful – congratulations to all concerned! Among the things that have not changed, I would choose the continuing worry about decline in library journal subscriptions and whether we are responding in the best ways to the changing publications environment. The business model of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland relies on earning a surplus from our two journals, *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*, and using this to fund our other activities, particularly our SIGs, which convene meetings and are the heart of our society community. The treasurer, general secretary, executive director and custodian trustees are currently conducting a review of activities and finances to see if we have the most efficient set-up possible for society business. Do we need to ‘clip our wings’ in some areas to live within the means provided by the journals? An important question for SIG members is – do you publish in the society journals as your first choice? For many, I suspect, despite all the hard work of editors and production staff, the honest answer is usually ‘no’, me included actually, I don’t mind admitting. But what should we do to encourage submission of our best papers to our learned society’s journals? The recent open access special issues are an example of a well-received initiative. Are there other ideas we should pursue? I am keen to receive good ideas.

Frances Wall (F.Wall@exeter.ac.uk)
MSGBI President

NOTES FROM LONDON

Impact of Open Access on Citations

In the past 18 months or so, the Mineralogical Society has engaged in a new method of publishing content, a version of open access, where a special issue is published (which is in addition to the regular set of four or six in any given volume) and paid for by a sponsor or set of sponsors. This means that the content, or papers, are available to all Internet users, free of charge from the day of publication. Early indications are very positive. Usage of the material is up to ten times that of comparable restricted-access content. That in itself demonstrates the impact of this method. Citations vary from average to twice as high as normal. Overall, it is working out to be a worthwhile venture. And it has the added benefit of bringing our journals to the attention of readers who might not otherwise read them.



The effort in this regard continues in 2014: in *Mineralogical Magazine* we will have special issues of papers arising out of an IGD-TP meeting on geodisposal of radioactive waste in Manchester; they will comprise a set of papers on mineral scales in pipes and mineral reactivity with application to carbon storage. In addition, we have two thematic sets (not open access): one arising out of a March 2014 meeting on North Atlantic cratons, and another from presentations given during the Goldschmidt 2013 meeting in Firenze.

By the time this issue of *Elements* appears, we will have published the latest ‘Cambridge Clay’ issue, the seventh in this incredible series of special issues in *Clay Minerals*. The most recent meeting, from which these papers are taken, had the title ‘Clay and Carbonate Facies and Their Diagenetic Pathways in Reservoir Rocks’. Check the contents now at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsoc/cm or <http://gsclaymin.highwire.org/> – it’s the open access April 2014 issue.

Welcoming New Officers and Members of Council

Frances Wall of Camborne School of Mines is the Society’s first female president since its foundation in 1876! She will serve until the end of 2015.



Prof. John Adams

As mentioned by Frances, the Society has begun a campaign to review the Society’s activity and finances. Robust discussions have already taken place, and steps will be taken to ensure that we are as lean as we can be in terms of costs while affecting core and other activity as little as possible. Key to these discussions is our new treasurer, Prof. John Adams.

Welcome to these new Society officers and also to incoming Council members: Brian O’Driscoll (University of Keele), Claire Corkhill (University of Sheffield) and Chris Greenwell (Durham University). Thank you all for serving the Society and the mineralogical community in this way.



Brian O’Driscoll



Claire Corkhill



Chris Greenwell

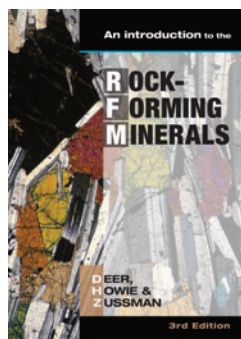
North Atlantic Cratons Meeting



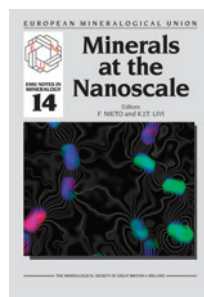
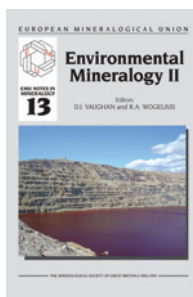
The Society was involved in the organization of the North Atlantic Cratons meeting held in St. Andrews in late March 2014. More than 80 delegates attended the excellent scientific programme followed by a well-attended field trip to the Scottish Highlands. A full report will appear on the Society’s website in due course. The organizing team consisted of Hannah Hughes, Josh Hughes, Kathryn Goodenough, Dennis Schlatter, Adrian Finch and Kevin Murphy.

Books

■ In the past year, sales of our books have been going very well. The 3rd edition of the *Introduction to Rock-Forming Minerals*, by Deer, Howie and Zussman, has been jumping off the shelf. Don't worry, we still have copies for sale! At a book launch in November 2013, Prof. Jack Zussman spoke movingly and amusingly about the history of DHZ and the roles of the authors and others in various aspects of production. Visit www.minersoc.org/dhz.html to see a video recording of the event – it's well worth 20 minutes of your time.



■ Volumes in the EMU series have been well received by reviewers in *Elements* and have been selling well on both sides of the Atlantic. These are priced very affordably for individuals and institutions. Buy yours today at www.minersoc.org.



"*Raman Spectroscopy Applied to Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage* (#12) is an outstanding contribution that should be included in the personal library of anyone interested in Raman..." *Elements* 9: 233

"This volume (#13) helps define the modern field of environmental mineralogy, which is still in its infancy." *Elements* 9: 396

"The overall series has been exceptionally well done since the first volume in 1997 and this latest volume (#14, published in 2013) is no exception..." *Elements* 9: 477

Whither Twitter?

As we move closer and closer to online-only journals, we publishers think about finding ways to let readers know about exciting new content in our journals. I still enjoy pushing back my chair and browsing the contents of my paper journals as they land on my desk, but those days are numbered. The editor of *American Mineralogist* has been doing a good job of highlighting new content in that journal via MSA-Talk. And every page of every website I visit these days seems to have the ubiquitous social media links.



Some time ago, I signed up for Scholarly Kitchen (scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/). Every day, or every second day, a link to an interesting article (on subjects related to scholarly publishing) appears in my inbox. I'm

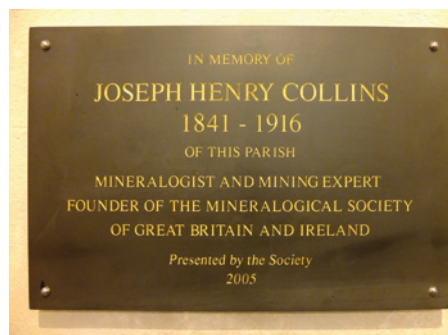
interested to know whether journal readers out there would like to receive messages like this about content in *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*? Not too many, but something to replace that contents list on the back cover of the paper journal. I know we all have too much e-mail to read. I object to lots of spam, but have no problem with mail that carries value. Let us know what you think.

Membership Survey

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to complete the membership survey. It's been some time since we foisted such a survey on you, at least 20 years, so we appreciate the detailed responses received. We will publish our findings in forthcoming issues of *Elements* and welcome continued contributions to the discussion. Our aim is to provide a service tailored to your needs as much as we can.

History

A plaque to honour the Mineralogical Society founder, Joseph Collins (after whom the Society's Collins Medal is named), has recently been refurbished.



The plaque was erected some years ago in St Paul's, Charlestown, Cornwall. Charlestown (including the church) is part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Joseph Collins lived nearby at Crinnis House (now demolished) and was

actively involved with the church, which was built in 1846–1851. Charlestown is a well-preserved, late 18th–early 19th century harbour built by Charles Rashleigh to export china clay and copper ore, which were extensively mined within the parish.

RUSSELL COMMEMORATION



The 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Russell has been commemorated by the publication of an article by Roy Starkey of the Russell Society (a sister mineralogical society). The open access paper contains much previously unpublished information about Russell, and extensive use is made of the *Mineralogical Magazine's* online journal archive. Enjoy reading about one of Britain's most important mineral collectors in this wonderful collection of memories, photographs and other research (www.russellsoc.org/russell.html/russella).

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director

Please note that not all subscription payments have been received yet. Please contact the Society to arrange payment as soon as possible. Alternatively, go to www.minersoc.org and click on 'member login'.