

# Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

[www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org)

## NOTES FROM LONDON

### Season's Greetings

Best wishes for the festive season from all at the Mineralogical Society, and thanks to Roy Starkey for this seasonal image.



Christmas Witherite  
'Christmas tree'  
with alstonite to  
the right. Fallowfield  
Mine, near Hexham,  
Northumberland, UK.  
R. STARKEY COLLECTION  
NO. 2830-034

### Membership Dues

It's that time of year again (!) when members renew their membership in the Society. Please log on to the Society website membership area at <http://minersoc.org> and click on 'Member Login' to pay. *Do it today – save the Society money and avoid further reminders!* Thank you.

### Bursaries

Remember that the deadline for applying for 2015 bursaries (senior and student) is **9 January 2015**.

### Nominations for Society Medals

The nomination deadline for Society medals for 2016 is **24 April 2015**.



### Review of Year's Activities

The December issue of *Elements* is a good time to review the activities of the Society during the year past, to look at what has been done well and to check for areas for improvement.

### Website

We started the year with our website being damaged by external forces on several occasions. This caused a lot of work (and a lot of heartache!). The pages have been rebuilt, a more robust security system put in place and a better backup system deployed. We still occasionally find pages which have not been restored correctly – please send us an e-mail ([kevin@minersoc.org](mailto:kevin@minersoc.org)) if you find something amiss.

### Journals

The journals have had a good year. *Mineralogical Magazine* has been blessed with lots of submissions, and a number of special issues and reviews are in the works. Stuart Mills has taken over as the reviews editor for *MinMag*. If you've got an idea for a review, please contact Stu ([SMills@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:SMills@museum.vic.gov.au)) or one of the principal editors, Roger Mitchell or Pete Williams. In particular, steps have been and are being taken to broaden the appeal of the journal.

Jeff Wilson has been appointed as the reviews editor of *Clay Minerals*. Working with Principal Editor George Christidis and the soon-to-be-deployed online manuscript-tracking system, we expect that the journal will soon reap the benefits of some high-quality reviews and submissions from a wider audience.

### EMU Notes in Mineralogy Series

Sales of the EMU series continue to be strong. We have a number of titles lined up for the next year or two, and several proposals are in the pipeline. The series has been included in the GSW-E-books product, and we look forward to seeing a positive effect on readership and citations.

### Meetings

Much work has been done during the past year on preparing for Euroclay 2015, a joint event of the European Clay Groups Association (represented in 2015 by the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society) and The Clay Minerals Society, with input from the International Natural Zeolite Association and the Geological Society. Already, five field trips, two workshops, four full days of scientific sessions and a great offering of social and accompanying-persons events are in place. Registration is now live at [www.euroclay2015.org](http://www.euroclay2015.org).

A novel aspect of the Euroclay event is a joint meeting of the editorial boards of *Clay Minerals* and *Clays and Clay Minerals*. Matters of mutual interest and concern to the two journals will be discussed over a congenial dinner.

### Special Interest Groups

The Society has eight special interest groups, one of which was launched officially during 2014. During 2013 a review of the purpose and activity of the groups was carried out, and is still ongoing. The outcome has been almost entirely positive. An opportunity to review the activities of the groups confirmed the ongoing need for all the SIGs, albeit with a somewhat changed focus.

We believe we have also identified areas of need which the Society and/or the SIGs might be able to fill. Training courses for students, the mineralogy of minerals processing and service to the museums community are just three examples. We are being careful to identify areas which are not already covered extensively by another organization and which complement the services provided by related groups.

### Member Survey

Early in 2014 a review of answers to a membership survey provided interesting information about the services offered by the Society. We continue to consider the points raised and to implement changes to better reflect the needs of our increasingly international membership and the needs of the growing cohort of younger and student members. One possibility is to webcast lectures to members and others who are unable to attend events run in the UK. Expect more information about this in the near future.

**Kevin Murphy** ([kevin@minersoc.org](mailto:kevin@minersoc.org))  
Executive Director

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# Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

[www.socminpet.it](http://www.socminpet.it)

## JOINT SGI-SIMP MEETING, MILAN, ITALY



SIMP President Bernardo Cesare and, in the background, SGI President Carlo Doglioni

The Geological Society of Italy (SGI) and the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) held a joint congress at the University of Milan on 10–12 September 2014. During the three days of the meeting, more than 850 participants from 33 countries attended 37 sessions and presented 780 contributions (410 talks and 370 posters). Four workshops and three short courses were attended by more than 150 researchers. Five plenary lectures (given by James E. T. Channel, Stefano Merlino, Benoît Ildefonse, Luca Bertelli, and Olivier Beysac) on hot topics in paleomagnetism, crystallography, ocean deep drilling, geological exploration, and the carbon cycle were greatly appreciated.

The SIMP thanks the University of Milan and the Earth Sciences Department “Ardito Desio” for the warm welcome and for the human and economic contribution that ensured the success of the congress. The closing ceremony and Geo-Show in the Aula Magna of the University of Milan was sold out. The next SIMP congress will be held in Florence in September 2015.



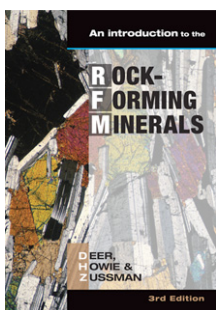
The volunteer “blue boys and girls” helped to make the congress a success.



Final bow of the actors in the Geo-Show. Researchers from industry and academia, as well as Italian “anchormen,” participated in the show to the great satisfaction of the public.

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## DHZ SPECIAL EDITION OF CRYSTAL VIEWER™



Originally bundled with the textbook *Introduction to the Rock-Forming Minerals*, by Deer, Howie and Zussman, on CD-ROM, we are pleased to now make the software available for download directly from the CrystalMaker™ website ([www.crystallmaker.com/dhz/](http://www.crystallmaker.com/dhz/)). This should prove easier for international customers and will allow updates of the software, as required. This is a special edition of CrystalViewer that includes the crystal structures of 100 minerals, as illustrated in DHZ. The aim is to provide that missing “third dimension,” with full three-

dimensional manipulation and scaling, a choice of different model representations (ball-and-stick, polyhedral, space-filling, etc.), plus interactive measurement tools. (Please note that terms and conditions apply, as specified on the downloads page.)

## CLAY MINERALS GROUP-ENVIRONMENTAL MINERALOGY GROUP JOINT MEETING



Xing Su

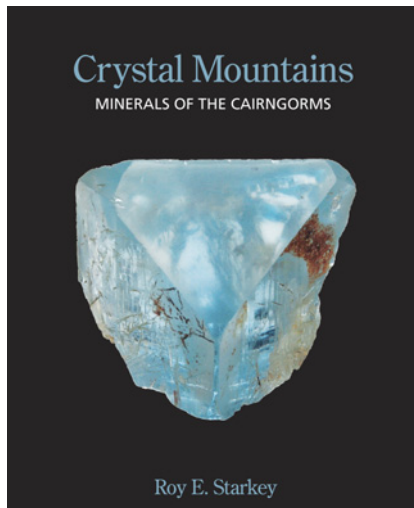
On 24 September the Clay Minerals and Environmental Mineralogy groups of the Society came together for their first joint Research-in-Progress meeting. This was a good success and will be repeated again in the future. The winner of the best student presentation was **Xing Su** of the University of Sheffield, with ‘Controlling the dispersion of clay in polymer nanocomposites using a chemical blowing agent.’

## IMA REPORT

A report of this event, to which K. Murphy (Executive Director) and F. Wall (President) contributed, is available elsewhere in this issue (page 471).

## NEW BRITISH MINERALS BOOK

New books specifically about British mineralogy don't come along very often and so are definitely worth celebrating. Society member Roy Starkey has written and published (September 2014) *Crystal Mountains – Minerals of the Cairngorms*.



A review of the book for *Mineralogical Magazine* is being prepared. Meantime, information about the book (including orders) is available at <http://britishmineralogy.com/>.