WHAT’S ANOTHER YEAR?

So, here we go … another year in the life of the MinSoc.

When I was a kid, I judged time by how long it was until the next World Cup (football) or the next Olympic Games. I still do that to a certain extent (!), with the rugby world cup now added to the mix.

Nowadays, I also judge it by when the next International Mineralogical Association (IMA) meeting is due, but also the European Mineralogical Conference (Poland, 2020), and the International Clay Conference (Turkey, 2021). We at the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (MinSoc for short) are making extensive plans for our visit to Melbourne (13–18 August 2018) where our Australian colleagues, ably led by Stuart Mills (now a Principal Editor of Mineralogical Magazine), have organized what looks like being one of the best IMA meetings yet: see https://www.ima2018.com.

Get ready for a feast of science, a fantastic line-up of invited speakers, including a lecture by Juraj Majzlan, the MinSoc’s Hallimond Lecturer; the R.A. Howie memorial lecture, by Emma Hart of Portsmouth University (UK); field trips; meetings of all the international bodies which keep the subject of mineralogy afloat; a sizeable commercial exhibit; and, of course, the wonderful city of Melbourne itself to enjoy.

The MinSoc will also have a booth at this year’s IMA meeting: this gives us the perfect platform from which to meet members, authors, and others interested in our organization; the opportunity to work in support of the international community; and, of course, people will be able to purchase copies of books, join the society and talk to us personally. We may also display books for other organizations like ours who are not attending the meeting. So, plan to attend this important meeting. And come along and visit our booth.

Other Meetings

Also on our busy schedule for this year are:

Clay Minerals Group – Research in Progress
27 June 2018, University of Sheffield (UK)

Granulites and Granulites
10–13 July 2018, Ullapool (UK)

Society News

European Microbeam Analysis Society (EMAS) 2018 Workshop
4–7 September 2018, Bristol (UK)

The European Microbeam Analysis Society (EMAS) will, in 2018, present a workshop aimed at the earth-science research community to bring them up to speed with the latest advances in microbeam techniques as applied to their samples. It will be 20 years since the MinSoc presented its own Microbeam Techniques in Geology workshop in London – and now, MinSoc is joining EMAS to present the current workshop.

Techniques covered include scanning electron microscopy, electron probe microanalysis, cathodoluminescence, electron backscatter diffraction, transmission electron microscopy, Raman spectroscopy, Fourier transform infrared microscopy, laser ablation mass spectrometry, secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), nanoscale SIMS, atom probe tomography, plus a range of synchrotron-based techniques. Each subject will include tutorials from analytical experts together with lectures from earth scientists who have applied the various techniques to their own materials.

The workshop is to be hosted in the conference facility at Wills Hall, part of the University of Bristol.

MINSOC Journals

The journals published by the MinSoc (Mineralogical Magazine and Clay Minerals) have seen significant change over the past year. We have partnered with Cambridge University Press for publication of the journals (see Elements v13n6). This has already borne fruit in terms of improved access to the content and the ability to draw on the skills and experience of the large professional team at Cambridge.

GeoScienceWorld (GSW) has also changed its technical provider from Highwire to Silverchair. This has seen a significant change but should lead to quicker processing of material for online publication, and, more importantly, better and more rapid technological development.

Members can access all of the content on both our journals on GeoScienceWorld by logging in at www.minersoc.org and following the links to the content. You may also choose to access the content on our new site, hosted by publishing partners Cambridge University Press, by logging in at the MinSoc website (www.minersoc.org).

As mentioned above, Stuart Mills has been appointed as a Principal Editor of the Mineralogical Magazine. He has been in place since late 2017. Thank you, Stu, for taking on this role – we look forward to working with you. Roger Mills and Pete Williams continue to serve in that capacity also.

This is an exciting time.
Since 2007, the European Mineralogical Union (EMU) has awarded poster prizes, and, since 2010, it has also awarded grants at international conferences to young scientists working in mineralogical sciences and allied disciplines. These young scientists include undergraduate and graduate students and researchers who are within four years of having completed their PhD. For the poster prizes, EMU usually delegates the choice of prize recipients to the conveners of the sessions; applicants should contact session conveners directly once they submit their abstracts. Grants consist of financial support in a sum predefined by the Executive Committee of the EMU. Grants are handed to the recipients by EMU representatives at the conference, and photographs and a brief description of the recipient and the awarded contribution are posted on the EMU web page.

For the Goldschmidt Conference that was held in Paris (France) 2017, EMU honoured two young scientists with grants. First, a grant was awarded to Claire V. Stead (session 07e), who was rewarded for her contribution as lead author on the paper “Diffusion and Distribution of Rare Earth Elements in Olivine”.

Second, a grant was awarded to Ivo Martins (session 18c) for his contribution to the paper “Paragenetic Meaning of the Bi- and Ag-rich Phases from the Panasqueira Lode System (Portugal)”.

Claire writes about her work, “My work centres on the measurement of rare-earth elements (REEs) in olivine, with a focus on olivine from the mantle. The work I presented at Goldschmidt in Paris, with the support of the EMU, examined the diffusive behaviour of the REEs in natural olivine. In moving forward, I’m now using Raman spectroscopy to bring new insights to metasomatic processes in the subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM).”

Ivo writes: “I am a young Portuguese researcher, currently finishing my MSc thesis in economic geology, especially as it relates to the Variscan orogeny and W–Sn lode systems.”

A poster prize was not assigned.

During the council meeting in Paris, it was decided that the European Mineralogical Union will also support two young scientists to attend the IMA meeting in Melbourne (Australia). Each travel grant will include financial support of €500. To be eligible, the potential awardee should be a young scientist within 3 years of having completed their PhD and have an affiliation with a European research institution.