When last did you visit the Mineralogical Society (MinSoc) website? It is updated constantly so check back regularly. Most recently, the Environmental Mineralogy Group has launched its ‘outreach video’ competition and is looking for budding filmmakers to make short videos about minerals for use by members of the public. For more information go to www.minersoc.org/emg.html. The sample video is by James Byrne, Society PRO and secretary of the Environmental Mineralogy Group.

Legacy of the Pandemic

One of the good things to come out of the pandemic has been our willingness to pivot, to look at other ways of doing things. We found that hosting virtual events meant that we could engage with a wider audience, people who might not normally attend MinSoc events. We aim to continue these services to the community into the current academic year. The Geomicrobiology Webinar Series will continue from the great work done last year. We will be hosting a series of society webinars by award winners from the past few years where it has not necessarily been possible to host the winners at a conference or other event.

Further details will be sent via the society’s E-Bulletin in due course.

Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group

The January 2022 VMSG will again be entirely virtual, though, as per the January 2021 event, virtual with a twist. Virtual yoga anyone?

This year’s v-meeting will be hosted by David Neave and the team at the University of Manchester (UK). Details will follow and can be viewed at https://vmsg.org.uk/.

Society Bursaries

The Mineralogical Society and its Special Interest Groups (SIGs) offer a number of bursary schemes, totaling up to ~£15,000 per annum. The Student Bursary, the Senior Bursary, and the Hazel Prichard Bursary are offered centrally, and, in addition, each of the eight SIGs offers funding also. Details are available at https://www.minersoc.org/bursaries.html.

Read reports from students and others who have received society funding here: https://www.minersoc.org/bursary-report.html.

A recent winner of the Hazel Prichard Bursary was Joana Lluch of St. Andrew’s University (UK); she was able to travel to the Groote Eylandt mine in Australia, engage in the mine workflow, and take samples to perform geochemical studies for her master’s dissertation project which redefined completely the genetic model for this deposit. The Hazel Prichard bursary is named in honour of Dr Hazel Prichard, formerly of Cardiff University (UK), and is awarded jointly by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the Geological Society in conjunction with two of their special interest groups: the Applied Mineralogy Group and the Mineral Deposits Studies Group.

Don’t delay – apply now!

Neumann Medal

The society’s newest medal has been created. As noted previously (www.minersoc.org/neumann.html), this medal is named in honour of Dr Barbara Neumann for her mineralogical work in industry.

We have taken the opportunity to refresh all of our medals – here are the new photos:

Nomination deadlines for our medals are 15 April 2022, but don’t leave it until the last minute to assemble your nomination. Get some help from one or two colleagues and start now! Details are given at www.minersoc.org/awards.html.

Geochemistry Group – New Careers Initiative

“Out of Academia and Into Science” consists of a series of events, which are free to attend, showcasing the diverse range of careers open to geochemistry (and related) PhD graduates.

More details at: www.geochemistry.group/events.

World Congress of Soil Science

The 22nd World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) is a leading international soil science conference that is held every 4 years in different countries and attended by over 3,000 soil scientists from around the globe. The 22nd congress is being organised by the British Society of Soil Science on behalf of the International Union of Soil Sciences. The theme for this congress has the title “Soil Science – Crossing Boundaries, Changing Society” and will focus on the link between soil and society, with sessions covering soil systems, soil processes, soil management, and how we interact with and use soils around the world.

The meeting will be held in Glasgow (Scotland, UK) from 31 July 2022–5 August 2022.