



Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



Jana Horák

The COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions over the past 19 months have imposed changes on the way many of us work, reducing access to facilities and mobility which we normally take for granted. Although there has been a dividend in more accessible virtual communication and development of skills to use it creatively, the constraints placed on us have shown us just a glimpse of the barriers that others face every day in their professional lives. This, combined with the influence of wider societal movements such

as Black Lives Matter, have caused the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland (MinSoc) to review and examine the culture and environment in which it operates. Pre-Covid trail blazers in this area were the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group (one of our Special Interest Groups, or SIGs), which produced an Equality and Diversity Statement, emphasizing their commitments to inclusivity in their activity, supported by a members' survey, and discussion sessions to identify the key issues which undermined equality.

Earlier in 2021, MinSoc Executive Director Kevin Murphy led on a society survey to solicit information, ideas, and opinions from both members and non-members within the mineral sciences to gain a picture of the extent and nature of discrimination, to address the lack of inclusivity within our profession, and to explore views on how we can redress this. We are now in the process of turning the findings into meaningful actions, mindful that this is only the beginning of the journey. An immediate development will be the appointment of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) officers on all SIG committees and on council to ensure that inclusivity is embedded in event programmes.

Making mineral science more inclusive is predicated on a more diverse graduate population, which in turn relies on raising awareness of geoscience as a career to a wider community. We aim to address this by providing support for a stronger public engagement programme, underpinned by schemes such as the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) ambassador mentors and a Nuffield Foundation Student Research placement for penultimate-year school pupils: this aims to provide pupils with an insight into science topics and to be supervised by a scientist. There are clearly more ways in which we can support and promote inclusivity and equality within the society, and this will be a priority for us as we start to build up to our 150 year anniversary.

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75-YEAR JUBILEE OF THE CLAY MINERALS GROUP: A YEAR TO CELEBRATE!

Founded in 1947 with an inaugural meeting in Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society was (one of) the first 'special interest groups' that have contributed so much to the life and success of this society. Coming into its 75th year in 2022, the Clay Minerals Group will be celebrating this jubilee year. On its behalf, the committee is inviting everyone to celebrate with us!



The committee has been organising and coordinating a jubilee year of activities and events to excite clay scientists and make the topic accessible to the wider, mineral-interested community. The main event will

be the 2-day 75-year Jubilee Meeting taking place at the Natural History Museum in London, UK (25–26 May 2022) (<https://www.minersoc.org/cmj-jubilee-meeting-2022.html>), where we will celebrate the past, present, and future of clay research and the Clay Minerals Group. This year will also see the presentation of the 2022 George Brown Lecture by Yael Mishael at the International Clay Conference in Istanbul (Turkey) (25–29 July 2022) and of the 2020 George Brown Lecture by Sabine Petit at the Mid-European Clay Conference in Kliczków Castle (Poland) (11–15 September 2022). These research events will be complemented by a series of interviews highlighting the diversity of minds and hearts behind the fantastic world of clay mineral research and application: 75 tweets on past, present, and future activities of the Clay Minerals Group; clay mineral trivia and surprising facts; and many more activities.

To keep informed about all that is going on during the jubilee year, follow us on Twitter (@CMG_minsoc) and LinkedIn [Clay Minerals Group (MinerSoc)]; look forward to our new Group Newsletter; and check the schedule of activities and events available on the group's webpages (<https://www.minersoc.org/cmj>) and in particular the page devoted to the celebrations: <https://www.minersoc.org/cmj-jubilee-meeting-2022.html>.

RECENT CONTENT IN CLAY MINERALS

- In-situ synthesis of zeolites by geopolymerization with NaOH/KOH mixed solution and their potential application for Cd(II) immobilization in paddy soil**
 D. Wu, Y. Huang, G.Q. Xiao, X. Li, X. Yao, Z.X. Deng, R. Tan
- Optimization of bleaching power by sulphuric acid activation of bentonite**
 Hale Bayram, Gokce Ustunisik, Müşerref Önal, Yüksel Sarıkaya
- Adsorption of cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) surfactant for organophilization of palygorskite clay**
 R. P. Silva, A. G. B. Gois, M. O. Ramme, T. N. Castro Dantas, J. L. M. Barillas, V. C. Santanna
- Investigation of unexplored kaolin occurrences in southern Mauritania and preliminary assessment of possible applications**
 D. Küster, Stephan Kaufhold, Emanetoullah Limam, Omar Jataoui, Oumar Ba, Abdellahi Maham Zein Mohamed, M. Pohlmann-Lortz, M. Ranneberg, K. Ufer
- Synthesis and optimization of a montmorillonite-tolerant zwitterionic polycarboxylate superplasticizer via Box-Behnken design**
 Jun Ren, Shuqiong Luo, Shi Shi, Hongbo Tan, Xianfeng Wang, Min Liu, Xiangguo Li
- Analysis of the chemical composition and phase structure of 'Ru-type ware' bodies under the influence of firing temperature**
 Bo Wu, Weijuan Zhao
- Enhanced thermal stability and adsorption performance of MIL-53(Fe)/montmorillonite**
 Fengli Dai, Junhui Guo, Yufeng He, Pengfei Song, Rongmin Wang
- Preparation and characterization of quaternary ammonium salt and 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane-modified sericite mica**
 Chunguang Xiao, Feng Lang, Yu Xiang, Yi Lin, Duxin Li

