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Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

NOTES FROM LONDON

Strategic Planning

The Mineralogical Society, like many other organisations, has this year begun to develop a strategic plan for the next three years, which will allow the Society to work towards its goal of advancing the mineral sciences in the twenty-first century. A working group was set up under the chairmanship of President Ben Harte and, over two days of meetings in Cambridge in early February, worked through a number of issues. These included membership categories, widening the interest of the Society, the role of the special interest groups, future scientific meetings, publications, marketing and administration.

One of the key benefits of this initiative is that a group of officers, members and staff set aside uninterrupted time to review how the Society was operating and what was working and what was not. A second benefit was that it opened up a dialogue between the Council and the special interest groups, several of which had underlying concerns which were allowed to surface in a frank and open meeting of Council with group chairs and secretaries at the beginning of March. The next steps include the rationalisation of the membership structure and subscriptions, the study of our administrative set up and systems and the development of a marketing plan for membership recruitment and sale of publications.

Frontiers in Mineral Sciences – Cambridge, 26–28 June 2007

In the June issue of *Elements*, we published a full listing of symposia for this key meeting next year, which will address recent advances in research into the properties and behaviour of minerals. Registration is now open, and the deadline for abstract submission and early registration is 28 February 2007. Full details on the conference can be found on the conference web page at www.minersoc.org/Frontiers2007.html

Clay Mineral Stratigraphy of the British Isles

Clay Minerals in Onshore and Offshore Strata of the British Isles: Origins and Clay Mineral Stratigraphy (see advertisement next page) is at last published, and editors Chris Jeans and Dick Merriman are to be congratulated on bringing this major project to a satisfactory conclusion. This book follows on from R.M. Perrin's 1971 book *The Clay Mineralogy of British Sediments*, a masterly compilation of several decades of clay mineral research at the time. This new book fills in the gaps left by Perrin's work and brings the whole subject up to date. It draws on the success of an international series of conferences on clay minerals diagenesis held in Cambridge in the 1980s and 1990s, supported by the petroleum industry. The new book has been supported by funds from the Clay Minerals Group, the now disbanded Joint Association for Petroleum Exploration Courses (JAPEC) and the Society.

Adrian Lloyd-Lawrence

THE SOCIETY'S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS THE MINERAL PHYSICS GROUP (MPG)



Michele Warren, secretary of the Society's Mineral Physics Group, describes the ascendancy of mineral physics in the UK in recent years, the excellent resources for research in this area and the contribution of the group to that work. Michele has a background in computational modelling for solid-state physics and is a lecturer in Earth sciences at the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at The University of Manchester, one of the UK's major centres for research in mineral physics.

The Mineral Physics Group of the Mineralogical Society was set up in 1996 and exists 'to advance the understanding of the fundamental physical and chemical processes that determine the properties of minerals'. Research in mineral physics now covers not only the fundamental structures and properties of bulk minerals under pressure and temperature but also their response to environmental influences, such as radiation damage, toxic trace metals and organic molecules, as well as their growth and stability. While our scope is wide, we always seek to trace the observed behaviour back to the underlying physics and chemistry, usually at the atomic scale.

There is a fairly even balance between experimental and computational work, and a wide variety of techniques is used. The UK has excellent resources for mineral physics and chemistry, both in-house and at central facilities, and group members come from both Earth science and physics communities, with overlaps with several other disciplines, such as materials science, chemistry and, increasingly, biology. Recent UK (NERC) and European (ESF) funding of e-science, molecular environmental science and mineral science has increased both the breadth and depth of this work and allows the mineral physics community to explore the ever more challenging problems. In particular, this last decade has seen a huge growth in the contribution of computer simulation to the mineral sciences.

As a special interest group, we aim to stimulate interest in mineral physics, encourage the exchange of information both within and beyond the group and arrange discussion meetings. The latter often take the form of one-day 'Research in Progress' events, at which research students are particularly welcome. We are planning to hold another of these soon and also hope to elect new committee members at the meeting. If you are interested in finding out more, whether about our interests or how you could help on the committee, please contact John Brodholt (j.brodholt@ucl.ac.uk) or Michele Warren (m.c.warren@manchester.ac.uk).

2006

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NEW

Clay Minerals in Onshore and Offshore Strata of the British Isles: origins and clay mineral stratigraphy

Edited by: C.V. Jeans and R.J. Merriman

Clay Minerals in Onshore and Offshore Strata of the British Isles is an invaluable source of information for the professional or student concerned with the:

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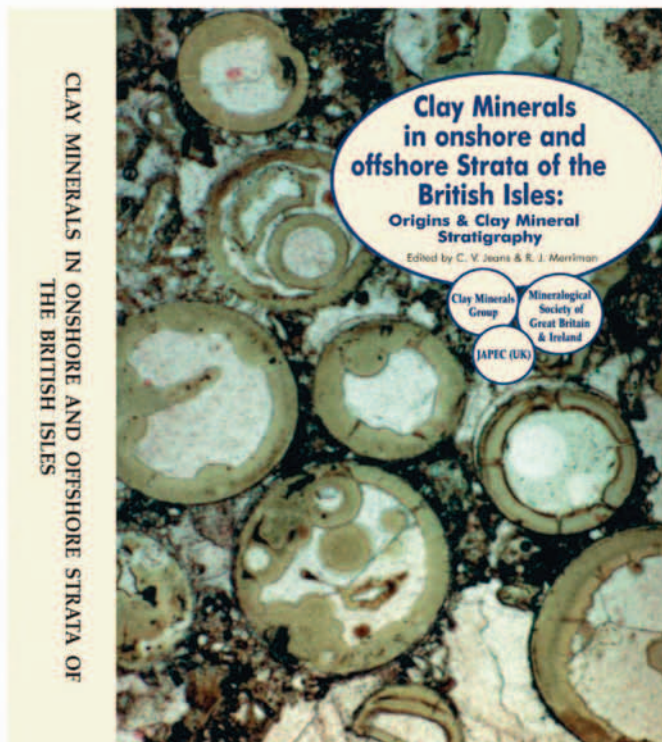
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