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Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

NOTES FROM LONDON

Countdown to 'Frontiers 2007'

It is now less than five months until the 28 February 2007 deadline for submission of abstracts and conference registration. We are hoping this meeting will be an international forum to highlight much of what is new in research in the mineral sciences. A full listing of 21 symposia and their convenors appeared in the June issue of *Elements* and is also available on the conference website at www.minersoc.org/Frontiers2007.html. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to register your interest in making a presentation with one of the session convenors. We have tried to keep registration fees low for this three-day conference, and for members of the supporting societies the registration fee is only £195.00. Students are particularly welcome and will be charged only £50.00. Accommodation is available at Fitzwilliam College for £44.06 (incl. VAT) per night.

New Awards Committee Established

Council has been concerned for some time about the small number of candidates put forward for the Society's two medals. The Schlumberger Medal is awarded to recognize scientific excellence in mineralogy and its applications, and the Max Hey Medal recognizes excellent ongoing research carried out by young scientists (*normally* under 35 years) who are members of the Society. Nevertheless the calibre of candidates put forward in recent years has been outstanding. A new awards committee is now established under the chairmanship of Prof. Michael Carpenter of Cambridge University. The committee will in addition comprise six members appointed by the special interest groups. The aim is that each member will serve for three years, but in order to avoid the simultaneous retirement of the entire committee, appointments are being staggered initially so that some members will only serve one or two years. The benefit of the new structure is that the chair will have no vote and so will be free to actively search for suitable candidates. Also, members of the committee will not be eligible to propose candidates, allowing them to cast their votes impartially. It is also hoped in due course to appoint overseas members to the committee to widen the net. The work of the committee will be largely undertaken by e-mail and telephone, thereby lessening the need to meet in person. The first medallists to be chosen by the new committee will be for the 2007 awards.

New Council Members

At the Council meeting of 15 June, Dr Kathryn Goodenough (British Geological Survey, Edinburgh Office) and Dr Michele Warren were elected as ordinary members of Council to serve from 2007 to 2009. Kathryn studied Earth sciences at Worcester College Oxford under Dave Bell, Keith Cox, Steve Moorbath and John Reavy. She studied the alkaline igneous rocks of the Gardar Province of SW Greenland for her PhD at the University of Edinburgh under Brian Upton, Ian Parsons and Adrian Finch. She has carried out extensive studies of the highland rocks of Scotland and recently began mapping the Oman-UAE ophiolite complex. Since 2002 Kathryn has contributed significantly to the work of the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group as group secretary. Michele Warren received a BA in natural sciences from Cambridge University before

going on to the University of Edinburgh where she completed her PhD research on *ab initio* lattice dynamics. She has been secretary of the Mineral Physics Group since 2004. Michele is now a lecturer at Manchester University where she pursues her research interests in surface processes and phase transitions in minerals.

We are also pleased to welcome to Council in recent months appointees from the special interest groups – Kathryn Linge of Kingston University (secretary of the Geochemistry Group), Simon Harley of Edinburgh University (chair of the Metamorphic Studies Group), Jon Davidson of Durham University (chair of the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group) and Karen Hudson-Edwards of Birkbeck College, London (chair of the Environmental Mineralogy Group).

Adrian Lloyd-Lawrence



Kathryn Goodenough



Michele Warren



Simon Harley



Jon Davidson



Karen Hudson-Edwards



Kathryn Linge

2006 and 2007 Mineralogical Society Training Workshops in Electron Probe Microanalysis (EPMA) in Mineralogy For Postgraduates and Advanced Researchers



For full details and how to register for these 'hands on' training workshops go to <http://www.minersoc.org/education>

Natural History Museum, London

Course Dates

7-10 November 2006

27 February – 2 March 2007

19 – 22 June 2007



MINERALOGICAL
SOCIETY



WINNERS OF THE 2006 SOCIETY MEDALS



The Schlumberger Medal 2006 to David Vaughan

David Vaughan is a very young recipient of the seventeenth medal in this series, which is awarded for excellence in the mineral sciences. David has published over 200 papers, most of which are focused on or related to mineralogical research. At Manchester University he established the Williamson Research Centre for Molecular Environmental Science, a premier UK research centre open to all members of the UK's mineral community. David's major research contribution has been to provide a much greater understanding of the electronic structures of minerals, thus enabling rationalization and prediction of physical properties, crystal structures and the behaviour associated with dissolution and oxidation. A pioneer in the research field now termed 'mineral physics', David undertook the first studies of complex silicates and sulphide minerals by high-pressure Mössbauer spectroscopy. He has published several books, including a seminal text on sulphide mineralogy, *Mineral Chemistry of Metal Sulfides*, still the major source for work in this field after 27 years. David has been president of the Mineralogical Society and the European Mineralogical Union and was an MSA Distinguished Lecturer.

The Max Hey Medal 2006 to Dominic Fortes



The Max Hey Medal for 2006 is awarded to Dominic Fortes for his outstanding research work in planetary science carried out over the past six years at University College London. His research at UCL has involved the use of experimental and computational mineral physics methods to study the properties of planet-forming ices. The technical challenges of working with ice should not be underestimated, and Dominic has developed techniques that open up great possibilities for planetary research. He is now poised to make a major impact on our understanding of the chemistry and behavioural evolution of icy moons. His data are now being used to predict the internal structure of bodies such as Saturn's moon Titan, and these ideas in turn are being used to interpret the data returning from the Cassini mission. Dominic's work has also been recognized by the British Crystallographic Association, which awarded him the PANalytical Prize for outstanding research covered by his PhD thesis.

Dominic has an impressive list of first-author papers and is now extending his research through collaborations with the Institute of High Pressure Physics Troitsk (Russia) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena in the USA.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Go to the Society website at www.minersoc.org and click on the MinSoc Info and How to Join buttons for more information and to download an application form. Alternatively contact the Mineralogical Society at 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR or phone +44 (0)20 7584 7516 or e-mail info@minersoc.org



Frontiers in Mineral Sciences 2007

A joint meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Mineralogical Society of America, the Mineralogical Association of Canada and the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

Fitzwilliam College and the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge UK

26-28 June 2007

www.minersoc.org/Frontiers2007.html

**Abstract and registration deadline
28 February 2007**