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Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

NOTES FROM LONDON



The Society Gets its Own Home at Last!

The Society has rented premises at 41 Queen's Gate in London's South Kensington area for over 50 years, but this year the owners of the building, the Royal Entomological Society (RES), have decided to move out and sell the building for development. The building, a Grade II-listed Victorian property built by William Jackson in 1870, was bought in 1920 by the RES for their headquarters. The Society is grateful to the RES for the stability this building has provided. However the Society, undaunted by the prospect of being without a base, has seen this as an opportunity to invest in its own premises. These will be located in Twickenham, 11 miles from the centre of London and a five-minute walk from Twickenham railway station (35 minutes by train from Waterloo). The building it has purchased (see photo) is in a private mews in a quiet residential area. It comprises around 1000 square feet over two floors. Downstairs there is a reception area, kitchenette, lavatory and store cupboard leading into a smart meeting room, which opens onto a patio at the back. The meeting room will be large enough for most business meetings except Council. Upstairs there is enough space for up to five work stations and general storage. We hope to move into the new premises on 1 March 2007. The address for correspondence will be The Mineralogical Society, 12 Baylis Mews, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3HQ.

Founder's Descendants Make Pilgrimage to Cornwall

Following the erection of a plaque to the Society's founder, Joseph Henry Collins, in June 2005 in Charlestown parish church, Cornwall (see *Elements* 1: 235), news of the event filtered through via the Internet to the descendants of our founder. The Society had tried to contact members of the family at the

time of the dedication of the plaque but without success. It wasn't until the following year that the Society was contacted by the great-great-grandson of Joseph Collins, Peter Collins. Then the family got into action, and in August 2006 members of the Collins family (see photo) covering three generations came

together in Cornwall from as far away as New Zealand and Canada to celebrate our founder's achievements. Michael Collins, the great-grandson of Joseph Collins, has studied the family history. He kindly presented the local China Clay History Society with J.H. Collins's heavily annotated copy of Molesworth's *Pocket Book of Engineering Formulae*, which will be kept at the St. Austell China Clay

Museum at Wheal Martin. The family intends carrying out further research into the achievements of our founder. The Society is extremely grateful to Professor Colin Bristow of Carlyon Bay for bringing this matter before the Society and the family. Currently the Society's Council is considering introducing a new medal award to be named after the founder for mid-career achievement.



The Collins family poses with the spirits of Clay Country Past at the China Clay Museum, Wheal Martyn. Far left, Ivor Bowditch of Imerys plc with Brian Collins (great-grandson) on his left; far right Michael Collins (great-grandson), with Peter Collins (great-great-grandson) on his right. PHOTO COURTESY OF COLIN BRISTOW

Undergraduate Student Award Winners for 2006

Each year the Society presents awards to the best students in the mineral sciences in their penultimate year of study as undergraduates. The awards comprise a certificate of excellence, one of the Society's book publications and two years' free subscription to *Elements* magazine. The scheme is offered to all university Earth science departments in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The following students were given awards in 2006.

Louise ALEXANDER, Birkbeck
 Neil BENNETT, University of Birmingham
 Holly BRIDGWATER, University of Leeds
 Elizabeth BURTON, University of Brighton
 Oliver DUFFY, The University of Manchester
 Iain GRAHAM, University of Leicester
 Rebecca HAMLIN, University of Exeter
 Anna JAGEN, The University of Edinburgh
 Bethan JAMES, University College London
 Alex KAYE, The University of Liverpool
 Gus LOGAN, University of Cambridge
 Edward LYNCH, National University of Ireland, Galway
 Cora MCKENNA, Trinity College Dublin
 Hannah MILNE, University of Aberdeen
 Louise MUNRO, University of Glasgow
 Rachael OGIIVIE-HARRIS, Bristol University
 Katie PREECE, Keele University
 Alex QUAS-COHEN, Cardiff University
 Mark REDDING, The University of Reading
 Timothy RICE, Kingston University London
 Michael SOULSBY, University of Derby
 Nicola TRAYNOR, University College Dublin

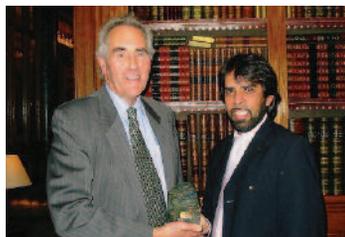
The President's Luncheon and Medals Ceremony

The President, Professor Ben Harte, held a luncheon for invited guests at the Grange Strathmore Hotel, Kensington, on 16 November. This occasion, attended by Council members, past presidents, staff and invited guests from other organizations, was an opportunity to present this year's medal awards. The senior award, the Schlumberger Medal, was presented to Professor David Vaughan (photo) of the University of Manchester for his major contributions to mineralogical research. The Max Hey Medal, awarded each year to an

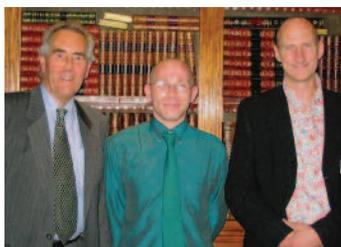
outstanding young research worker, was given to Dr Dominic Fortes (photo) of University College London for his research in planetary science. Details of the medallists' achievements were given in the October 2006 issue of *Elements* (p. 309). The lunch was also an opportunity for members to express their gratitude to Russell Rajendra, the Society's Finance Manager, who completed 10 years with the Society this year and received a presentation from the President (see photo).



David Vaughan,
2006 Schlumberger
medallist



Ben Harte presenting Russell Rajendra (right) an award for 10 years service to the Society



Ben Harte (left) with 2006 Max Hey medallist Dominic Fortes (centre) and citationist John Brodholt (right)

The Society's Annual Accounts for 2005–2006

The Society's annual accounts for the period from July 2005 to June 2006 show total income of £420,523 against expenditures of £414,949, providing a small surplus of £5574. After a promising start to the year the stock market slowed, providing a more modest gain (unrealised) of £15,586 than in the previous year in the value of the Society's investments. The total value of all funds at 1 July 2006 was £1,165,974. The full accounts can be downloaded from the Announcements page at www.minersoc.org/pages/announce/announce.html.

Frontiers 2007 • 26–28 June 2007, Cambridge, UK REGISTER NOW!

Hurry now to register for this important meeting showcasing what's new in the mineral sciences. If you get your registration in online before 28 February, you will enjoy the benefit of discounted registration fees. Full details of the meeting and online registration can be found on the website at www.minersoc.org/Frontiers2007.html.

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

Abstract and registration on our website
Deadline 28 February 2007



GES - 8



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface 8 18–22 August 2008, London, UK

The 8th Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface will be held in London, UK from 18–22 August in 2008. The meeting is being organised by Mark Hodson on behalf of the IAGC, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the Natural History Museum. The meeting will include the following themes:

- Mineral weathering
- Contaminated environments & toxicology
- Biomineralisation
- Speciation
- Synchrotrons and environmental science
- Marine records of climate change
- Environment and Health



Natural History Museum

Contact Mark Hodson (m.e.hodson@reading.ac.uk) for details. A web site will be established shortly.