

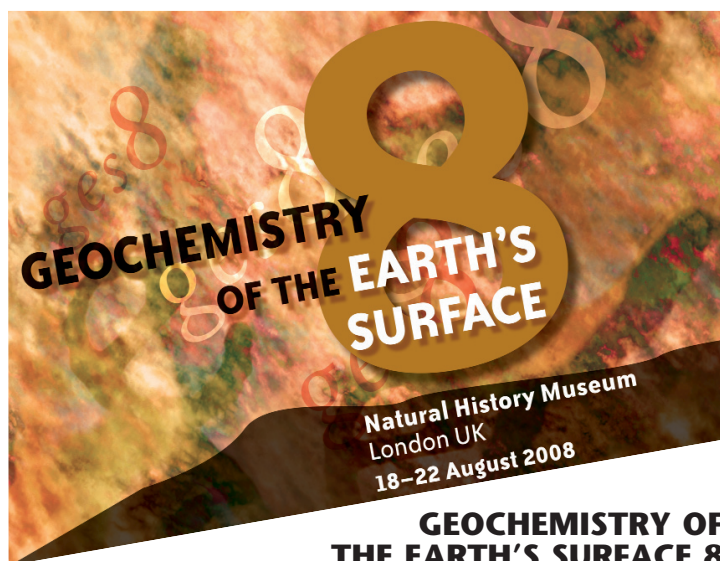
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Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

NUTS AND BOLTS

I remember once commenting to the manager/coach of my team that the summertime grass on the pitch was too long for football. He replied, with admirable patience, that, because of all his other football-related duties, he hadn't had time to arrange to have the grass mown that week. My mind often drifts back to that when I see delegates drifting in to register for a conference, or members coming to pick up a copy of their journal, and wonder whether they are aware of the volume of work that goes into producing journals and preparing for meetings. A large number of committees, both regular and *ad hoc*, is required to make a learned society tick: Officers/Executive, Publications, Meetings, Council, Special Interest Groups, Finance, Website, Membership/Fellowship, etc. We also have teams of people working on journals: Associate Editors and reviewers who work continually for the good of a journal are often the unsung heroes. The Mineralogical Society is fortunate in being able to count on the volunteer services of a large number of people interested in promoting their science and their Society. Go to the Society website to view the committee list (www.minersoc.org/pages/msinfo/committees.pdf) or to the journal pages to see lists of the Associate Editors. We're very grateful to them all. When next somebody asks you to help out the Society by reviewing a paper, joining a committee, organizing a session at a meeting, or anything else, please remember that with the help of many, the Society can continue to provide the level of services that the members need and deserve. And me, I never complained about the grass again.

Kevin Murphy
Executive Director



GEOCHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE 8

This year's GES meeting will be held at the Natural History Museum in London. An exciting line-up of invited speakers has been put together by the convenor, Mark Hodson. Please visit the conference website at www.ges8.com.

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- Spectroscopic studies of kaolins from different Brazilian regions – R.B. SCORZELLI, L.C. BERTOLINO, A.B. LUZ, M. DUTTINE, F.A.N.G. SILVA AND P. MUNYACO
- Characterization by Mössbauer spectroscopy of iron phases in highly weathered serpentinitic soil from southern Cameroon – C. VAN CROMPHAUT, E. VAN RANST, V.G. DE RESENDE, R.E. VANDENBERGHE, E. DE GRAVE AND G. LAMBIV DZEMUA
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- Clay minerals from Brazilian Latosols (Oxisols): a review – C.E. SCHAEFER ET AL.
- Reflectance and emission spectroscopy study of four groups of phyllosilicates: smectites, kaolinite-serpentines, chlorite and micas – J.L. BISHOP ET AL.
- Linking the redox cycle of iron oxides and Fe-rich clay minerals: an example from a palaeosol of the Upper Freshwater Molasse (Switzerland) – C. MARCHEL AND H. STANJEK
- Physical alteration of antigorite: a Mössbauer spectroscopy, reflectance spectroscopy and TEM study with application to Mars – J.L. BISHOP, M. DARBY DYAR, E.C. SKLUTE AND A. DRIEF

VMSG ROCKS DUBLIN



The annual Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group meeting was held in Trinity College, Dublin, this year, and was organized by Valentin Troll and Brian O'Driscoll.



A festive Grafton Street in Dublin's city centre. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB THOMPSON

It was the largest-ever such event, with more than 150 delegates from a dozen countries. Devotees of VMSG are a close-knit group, and their meetings are always well run and interesting. The invited speakers were Marian Holness (with Ed Sawyer), who spoke on the subject 'On the pseudomorphing of melt-filled porosity'; D. Morgan (with V.M. Martin) on the topic 'Diffusion modelling for obtaining volcanic timescales in olivine'; and J. Maclennan (with A. Jezierska) on the theme 'The distribution of compositional

heterogeneity in the Icelandic mantle'. A visit to the Jameson distillery (including the inevitable sampling of their wares) was followed by a conference banquet at the same venue. The newly instituted VMSG award, which recognizes contributions to the science over the previous 3–5 years, was presented to Marian Holness; and a life-time achievement award to Henry Emeleus.



The abstracts volume for this meeting is available on the VMSG page of the Mineralogical Society website at www.minersoc.org/pages/groups/vmsg/vmsg.html. Next year's meeting will be held in Bournemouth and is being organized by Nick Petford and Nick Thompson.

The committee for VMSG in 2008 is composed of J. Davidson (chair), K. Goodenough (secretary), M. Widdowson (treasurer), L. Thomas, D. Jerram, T. Thordarson, M. Holness, C. Solana, R. Gertisser, D. Brown and B. O'Driscoll.