



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NATURE'S TREASURES II: THE WONDER OF MINERALS AND GEMS

The second in our 'Nature's Treasures' series of meetings will take place on Sunday, 13 December 2009.

THE EXCITING LINE-UP OF TALKS INCLUDES:

- **Alan Collins** – Diamond: A unique mineral and the ultimate gemstone
- **M. Feely** – Teaching gemmology in the Emerald Isle: A geologist's perspective
- **N. Moles** – The Russell Society: Promoting mineralogy and helping mineralogists in the UK and Ireland
- **R. Siddall** – Nature's palette: Minerals and crystals in pigments and paints
- **Guy Clutterbuck** – Gems from mines to market
- **J. Faithfull** – 250 years of mineral collecting at the Hunterian Museum
- **C. Carlon** – Mining the ocean
- **J. Ralph** – title to be confirmed

Go to www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature2/nature2.html for abstracts and details of how to register. See the report of last year's event at www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature/nature-archive.html.

FUTUROCLAYS: ADVANCES IN CLAY SCIENCE FOR FUTURE GEOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

Annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society • Newcastle, UK, December 14–16, 2009

Clays and clay minerals are abundant and widespread in soils and sediments worldwide, and clays form well over 50% of the sedimentary rocks, which occupy about three-quarters of the Earth's surface. They are widely used in agricultural, industrial and environmental engineering applications due to their remarkable physical and chemical properties, such as large surface area, low permeability, large cationic exchange capacity, swelling behaviour, etc. In recent years, scientific research has largely focused on the development of new clay-based technologies. In particular, several teams of researchers have been studying Fe reduction and reoxidation in Fe-bearing clays and clay minerals and the application of the process to the remediation of contaminated land and waters. Many others have concentrated their research on the development of organoclay materials, pillared clays, and other clay-based materials for environmental and agricultural applications.

NEW ADVANCES IN THESE TOPICS WILL BE ADDRESSED BY A NUMBER OF EMINENT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDING:

- Prof. **Joseph W. Stucki** (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA) (the 10th George Brown Lecture) – Evolution of the study of redox reactions of Fe in smectites
- Dr **Ravi Kukkadapu** (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA) – Effect of Fe mineral (oxides and clays) reductive biotransformations on remediation of radioactive metals from contaminated aquifers
- Dr **Eric Ferrage** (HydrASA Laboratory, Université de Poitiers, France) – Recent advances in the characterization of organizational properties of water in expandable clays
- Dr **Deeba M. Ansari** (Imerys Minerals Ltd., St Austell, Cornwall, UK) – Current and future demands for clay minerals – an industrial perspective

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: David Manning (chair), Claire Fialips, Maggie White, Andy Aplin, Joe Harwood, Uzochukwu Ugochukwu, Phil Renforth and Sani Yahaya.

Please go to www.minersoc.org/pages/groups/cmgi/cmgi.html#fialips for details. Online registration is now open.

MINABS ONLINE ARCHIVE FINDS NEW HOME

As *Elements* readers will know, *Mineralogical Abstracts* ceased publication of new abstracts at the end of 2008. The contract which covers the online service, minabs.com, has also come to an end. The Mineralogical Society has been working to ensure continued availability of the existing online body of abstracts, which covers the years from 1982 to 2008.

We are pleased to announce that the abstracts are being transferred to the custodianship of GeoRef, where they will be available free for the foreseeable future. It is intended that the process be complete by the time you read this. During transfer of the data, MinSoc has taken steps to correct a problem endemic to the online service, namely that some scientific and technical characters, such as Greek letters and algebraic symbols, did not display correctly on many browser platforms. Our focus has been on accurate transfer of the online data. We would be grateful if users could report any obvious and systematic errors.

The existing URL for the service, www.minabs.com, at present is still directed to the historic service. The new MinAbs Online service will also be available from this URL. More recent abstracts now display their digital object identifier (DOI), which links to the original article referenced in the abstract, though it will not guarantee access unless the user has an appropriate subscription. There is a new search interface, which we hope users will find helpful.

MinSoc would like to thank GeoRef for offering to host MinAbs Online, and also for their considerable help in resolving problems during the data transfer.

EMpower Lecture Programme 2009

8 October – University of East Anglia
Legacy liability research challenges at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Laura Peacock, AWE Aldermaston

13 October – University of Leeds
Science and Technology at Sellafield
Mike James, Sellafield

29 October – University of Edinburgh
Research & development challenges and decommissioning
Graham Fairhall, National Nuclear Laboratory

4 November – Lancaster University
Regulating the build of new nuclear power reactors
Dave Watson, HSE – Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

12 November – Imperial College, London
Opportunities & challenges of nuclear new build
Jeremy Western, British Energy – part of EDF Energy

26 November – Cardiff University
Regulating risk we can't see – how we use science to protect the environment from radiation
David Copplestone, Environment Agency

Sponsor: Environment Agency

www.EMpowerinfo.org