



# Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

[www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org)



## RICHARD PATTRICK SIGNS OFF AS PRESIDENT

Two years fly past and one realises that presidents are, while of course important, dispensable. It is the professionalism and loyalty of the office staff and the energy of the academic volunteers that drive a society forward. The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (like many others) is blessed with riches on both accounts, and it has a bright and developing future, punching above its

weight. The ability to award the internationally accepted Chartered Science (CSci) status has been hard won and will help the Society profile. However, we know full well we can only succeed if we continue to work with all other mineralogical societies and cognate disciplines, ensuring that mineralogy has the profile it deserves in a world where 'spin' of the non-electronic kind is all too important.

**Richard Pattrick**, MSGBI President

## FROM LONDON

### Journals

Like many journals, *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals* are still in the transition between paper and e-only subscriptions. The savings in costs are not as much as you might think, and there are still many out there who have not yet availed of their online access. Coupled with the global recession, these are challenging times for publishers of all sizes, and especially those who rely on their journals' income to support other activities. The Mineralogical Society receives a growing proportion of its journal income from e-journal aggregates, e.g. GeoScienceWorld. We are also examining other possibilities for broadening our income base, for example, selling journal and book content in 'course pack' form, in conjunction with colleagues at MSA, and possibly downloading in other formats, such as on mobile devices.

Our journals performed well this year: they both rose in the ISI rankings, both were well oversubscribed in terms of the numbers of papers submitted and both provided healthy sums to the Society's overall financial position.

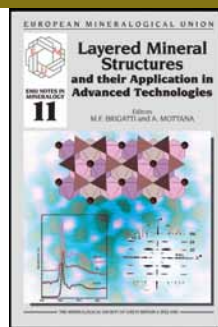
### Mineralogical Magazine

The June 2011 issue of *Mineralogical Magazine* consists of the abstracts from the 2011 Goldschmidt Conference – these are available for all to see online. Go to [www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsoc/mag](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsoc/mag) or <http://gsminmag.highwire.org/> to see the content. The August 2011 issue included a thematic set of papers arising out of last year's "Nuclear Waste Management" meeting (see list in *Elements* 7: 345). These papers will be widely read and cited and have broadened the journal's readership.

Mark Welch stood down as Principal Editor this year after five years in the journal hot seat. Mark did a great job and worked tremendously hard during his term of office. He is having a well-deserved break for a couple of years but will no doubt be back in another Society role in the future.

### Clay Minerals

*Clay Minerals* had another solid year. The editorial team had a very fruitful meeting in Antalya, Turkey (during the Euroclay meeting), and ideas discussed there will help to position the journal for the future.



### Books

Another EMU book – *Layered Mineral Structures and their Application in Advanced Technologies* (M. F. Brigatti and A. Mottani, editors) – was published this year, which now brings the series up to date. The books are available for sale in our bookshop, accessible at [www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org).

### Meetings

A report of the Society's annual meeting was published in the October issue of *Elements*. It was a small but perfectly formed meeting with loads of interesting science.

### Facebook

Did you know that *Elements* has a new Facebook page? Be sure to 'friend' it and to post a comment. This is a great place to express views about content in the magazine that others can read immediately. The editors plan to monitor the content and publish extracts in the magazine. How else can *Elements* use social media to good advantage? Please tell us.

### People

At this time of the year we acknowledge those who have served the Society throughout the year, in particular those who leave after a period of service. **Richard Pattrick** comes to the end of his two-year stint as President. He has worked exceptionally hard at moving the Society forward. Thanks Richard. Back to supporting Macclesfield Town for you! **David Morgan** has just completed 10 years as a Custodian Trustee



David Morgan

of the Society. The Custodian Trustees are a subset of the Finance Committee, responsible for the Society's investment portfolio and overseeing all aspects of financial management of the Society. As well as serving in this capacity, David has been an ordinary member of Council, Chairman of the Clay Minerals Group, Vice President, President, and Principal Editor of *Clay Minerals*. He will continue his active involvement in the Society through his participation in the Chartered Scientist scheme and as Chair of the Awards Committee for two more years. Many thanks, David, for all the hard work over the years. Thanks also to **Ben Harte** who stood down this year. Ben has had an equally illustrious history in terms of involvement, having served as Society President and Chair of the Metamorphic Studies Group, and having organized several important conferences.

Finally, to all members of Council, members of the Special Interest Groups, those who helped to organize meetings or reviewed papers or helped in any other way – a big thank you. Please continue to promote our Society amongst your colleagues and students. Remember, one positive word from you is worth more than anything we can do centrally from the office. We strive to continue to increase our membership numbers, to have more papers in our journals and books and to have more delegates at our meetings. You can help us achieve these goals.

### Membership Dues for 2012

Your 2012 dues are due now. The sooner you pay, the less time and money we spend on administration! We look forward to hearing from you! Best wishes for 2012

**Kevin Murphy** ([kevin@minersoc.org](mailto:kevin@minersoc.org))  
Executive Director

## WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2012

Jon Davidson becomes the Society President on January 1, 2012. Be sure to welcome him to his new role.

**Medals**

As usual, we will be looking for nominations for our medals and awards. Go to [www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html](http://www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html) to read about how to make nominations for the Schlumberger, Max Hey and Collins medals. It is now possible to use a nomination form, which should help to cut down on the paperwork required.

**Geochemistry Group Meeting**

Building a Habitable Planet: The Geochemistry of Earth, Oceans and Atmospheres, 15–16 March 2012, The Open University. Topics will include all aspects of geo- and cosmochemistry relevant to the formation and evolution of the Earth as a habitat for life. Registration fee: £30 (2 days); £20 (1 day). For further information, please go to the Geochemistry Group's web page: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/specialist/geochemistry/page10650.html](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/specialist/geochemistry/page10650.html).

**Joint Meeting in Frankfurt**

Go to <http://emc2012.uni-frankfurt.de/> to read more about our joint European Mineralogical Conference being held in September 2012. Early indications suggest that this meeting will be brimming with good science. Plan to attend now.

**Field trip of the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group****MAGMATIC PROCESSES IN THE SHALLOW CRUST, ADAMELLO MASSIF, ITALY**

26 August–1 September 2012



A chance to explore the magmatic processes and products of the sub-volcanic feeder system and shallow level intrusions of Northern Italy. Cost: £350 – Students; £450 – Non-students, flights not included. Deposits of £100 payable by 31 April 2012. Leader: Jon Blundy. More information at [www.vmsg.org.uk](http://www.vmsg.org.uk)

**BURSARY REPORT**

Lucy Greenwood

The Mineralogical Society kindly awarded me a bursary to travel to Canmore (Alberta, Canada), for the 26<sup>th</sup> Himalaya-Karakoram-Tibet Workshop in July 2011. At this international conference I presented a talk on the significant new structural findings I have made in Bhutan, my field area in the Eastern Himalaya. Along with the experience of presenting my work to an international audience

in my field, I learned a huge amount from invaluable discussions with experts in this area. These included Prof. Djordje Grujic of Dalhousie University, Prof. Lincoln Hollister of Princeton University and Prof. Aaron Martin of the University of Maryland, who are world authorities on Himalayan tectonics. I was able to forge links that may be helpful when applying for positions after I have submitted my thesis.

The two-day conference was followed by a three-day field trip across the Rocky Mountains to the Coast Mountains, finishing in Vancouver. Experiencing this impressive region under the guidance of those who have worked in the area for decades was a great opportunity and allowed me to compare it to the Himalaya and broaden my understanding of large mountain chains.

I would like to thank the Mineralogical Society for their financial support. It allowed me to gain valuable knowledge and experience which I can take forward into the final year of my PhD and beyond.

**Lucy Greenwood**

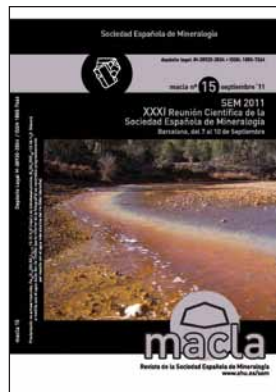
**Sociedad Española de Mineralogía**

[www.ehu.es/sem](http://www.ehu.es/sem)

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) took place from September 7 to 10 in Barcelona. It was organized by the SEM in collaboration with the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, and the Spanish Research Council.

As in previous editions, the scientific sessions were multidisciplinary, covering hydrochemistry, fluid–rock interactions, atmospheric geochemistry, crystal growth, and mineral deposits. The increasing importance of the environmental and geochemical disciplines, already noted in previous meetings, was confirmed. There was a significant increase in contributions on fluid–mineral interactions, from atomic to field scale. New topics, such as geological CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and the mineralogy and geochemistry of atmospheric particulates, were offered for the first time. A total of 96 contributions were presented, including 4 keynotes, 42 talks, and 54 posters. The keynotes were: “Geochemical Processes in a Subsoil of the Iberian Pyrite Belt,” by Ricardo Amils (Centre of Astrobiology, CSIC-INTA); “Global Tectonics and Chromite–Platinum Mineralization Monitoring

Genesis and Evolution of Ural–Alaskan Type Complexes,” by Giorgio Garuti (University of Leoben); “Road Dust – Sources, Properties and Abatement Strategies,” by Mats Gustafsson (Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute); and “Morphology of Gypsum Crystals,” by Juan-Manuel García Ruiz (Laboratory of Crystallographic Studies, CSIC–University of Granada). Extended abstracts of all contributions can be found in the 15<sup>th</sup> volume of *MACLA*, the journal of the SEM ([www.ehu.es/sem/revista/REVISTA.HTM](http://www.ehu.es/sem/revista/REVISTA.HTM)).



Prior to the scientific sessions, a seminar entitled “Nanoparticles in the Environment” was held. Six lectures were given: “Nanoparticles in the Environment: Where Are They?,” by Laurent Charlet (University of Grenoble); “Characterization of Inorganic Nanoparticles: Traditional Methods and New Tendencies,” by Victor Puentes (Catalonia Institute of Nanotechnology, Barcelona); “Large Facilities and the Structure of Nano-Sized Minerals,” by Gabriel Cuello (Institute Laue-Langevin, Grenoble); “Nanotoxicity: The Impact of Nanoparticles on Health,” by Antonietta Gatti (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia); “Nanoparticles in the Atmosphere,” by Xavier Querol (IDAEA-CSIC, Barcelona); and “Fate and Effects of Engineered Nanoparticles in Aquatic Systems,” by Renata Behra (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology Dübendorf).

During the banquet, prizes for young researchers were awarded to Marta Navarro Rojas for her work “Zeolite Synthesis by the Laser Ablation Method” and Montgarri Castillo Oliver for her study “Use of Indicator Minerals in Diamond Exploration: A Comparison between Barren and Fertile Kimberlites in Angola.” Their studies were selected from among 32 proposals, indicating a high participation by young researchers, confirming the trend of recent SEM meetings.

A field trip to the Catalonia salt-mining district took place on September 10. Drs. Albert Soler, Neus Otero, and Fidel Ribera led the visit to a salt mine and the astonishing Cardona diapir outcrop. They gave details on the impacts of salt mining on the watersheds and buildings and provided information on remediation work.

Next year, the annual meeting of the Society will be held in Bilbao, in conjunction with the Spanish Society of Clays meeting.