



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jon Davidson

I am delighted to take over the presidency of the Mineralogical Society which has been so impeccably nurtured by outgoing president Richard Patrick. I find a society that is vibrant, overseen by an especially dynamic and youthful Council. During my first term on the MinSoc Council five years ago, I joined wondering about the Society's role and relevance. I have gradually learned what they are, and now I believe we have an opportunity in steering the Society to make a real contribution to the mineralogical sciences. Among the issues we hope to address in the next two years are:

- More integration of our special interest groups. Our SIGS are particularly important as they are a strong voice for our early-career researchers, including undergraduate and postgraduate students. Supporting their activities is essential.

- Exploring the idea of "training workshops" in areas like thermodynamics, textural analysis, mineralogical modelling, and mass spectrometry. Many of my contemporaries will fondly remember the national training opportunities available to UK postgraduate students in the 1980s, which served as a basis for learning skills and networking with peers.

- Raising the profile of the Earth and mineral sciences in schools and to the public. A particular worry has been the erosion of the definition of our subject. Terms like geology, geography, environmental science and environmental studies are fused together, with the result that students arriving at university are unsure about what they are signing up for, and underprepared for the maths, physics, chemistry and biology needed for a modern geoscience degree.

I'm looking forward to a busy couple of years!

Jon Davidson, President
Mineralogical Society

LONDON CALLING

New Website

The Society's long-awaited new website has been launched. The URL is the same, but the site has been completely overhauled and much of the content rewritten and rearranged. Visit now and send any comments to kevin@minersoc.org.

The new content-management system will allow us to give permission to interested parties, e.g. special interest group secretaries, to make immediate changes to pages of concern to them. This will allow for a more dynamic site, with less reliance on a central webmaster. The website facilitates seamless linking to our membership module and to our online bookshop.

Meetings

Any reader who has ever tried to organize a scientific meeting will know the effort required: choosing a team, a theme, a venue and suppliers; inviting speakers; doing the advertising; setting up the website and online registration system; and then making sure they all work and are updated as you build to the event itself. Delegate numbers are

the least controllable aspect of most meetings, and therefore there is always an inherent risk in running events. The calendar of conferences, national and international, makes it increasingly difficult to find a slot for your meeting that allows you to achieve a sufficient number of delegates to ensure that you can pay the bills created by your conference! And all this in an environment where there is less and less money available to cover delegate travel, subsistence and registration costs at meetings.

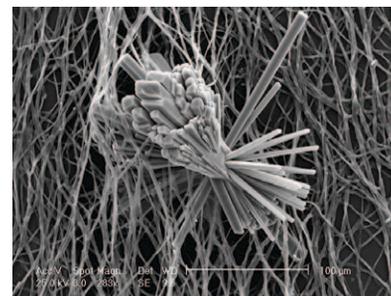
So, many groups have taken to collaborating with others for their meetings. This helps with the organizational and financial aspects, but the greater benefit is that it facilitates multi-disciplinary meetings where delegates can step outside their usual comfort zones to learn new things.

The theme of collaboration has been a growing one within the MinSoc for several years. In 2012, we will have two collaborative meetings. The **EMC2012** meeting, being held in Frankfurt, is a follow-on and extension of previous meetings in Cambridge (2007) and Edinburgh (2009) and involves ten national mineralogical societies. The conference website (<http://emc2012.uni-frankfurt.de>) lists 35 sessions arranged in 11 themes where it is possible to submit an abstract. A large gathering is expected for this event, so sign up before May 15 to ensure you get the early-bird rate.



The meeting "**Geomicrobiology and Its Significance for Biosphere Processes**" will have been held, or will be about to be held (19–20 April 2012), when this copy of *Elements* lands on your desk.

This is the first time the Mineralogical Society (through the Environmental Mineralogy Group) has collaborated with the Society for General Microbiology to co-host an event for the growing number of people interested in this topic. Visit www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/EMG-SGM.html for details of the meeting. Follow-up events are planned. The convenors are Jon Lloyd, Geoff Gadd and Joanne Santini.



Strontium oxalate dihydrate on biomass of *Serpula himantioides*. IMAGE COURTESY OF GEOFF GADD

Two more collaborative meetings have been planned for 2013. The first is "**Volcanism, Impacts, and Mass Extinctions: Causes and Effects**," co-organized by the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group (26–29 March 2013). This event will be held in London. Visit <http://massexinction.princeton.edu/> for details.

The other event is the Society's main meeting for 2013: "**Minerals for Life**". Already we have agreed to collaborate with colleagues at the Geological Society, IoM³, the British Zeolite Association and the Ceramics Society. A venue and dates will have been selected by the time of the next issue of *Elements*. The chairman of the organizing committee is Dr Mark Tyrer.

Other Forthcoming Events

13th Symposium of SEDI (Study of the Earth's Deep Interior) – Leeds, UK, 1–6 July 2012

SEDI is an international scientific organisation dedicated to the study of the Earth's deep interior. The ultimate goal of SEDI is an enhanced understanding of the past evolution and current thermal, dynamical and chemical state of the Earth's deep interior and of the effect that the interior has on the structures and processes observed at the surface of the Earth (website: <http://sedi2012.leeds.ac.uk/>).

Joint High-Pressure Mineral Physics Seminar and COMPRES Annual Meeting – Lake Tahoe, California, 9–13 July 2012

The international High-Pressure Mineral Physics Seminar has been held every five years since 1976 and gives researchers an opportunity to present their latest results and cutting-edge techniques in high-pressure mineral science. The resulting publications have been seminal works. This year the eighth High-Pressure Mineral Physics Seminar is joining with the tenth annual COMPRES meeting. This four-day meeting will explore all aspects of high-pressure mineral physics in its broadest sense. The meeting will be held at the Granlibakken Conference Center and Lodge in Lake Tahoe, California (website: <http://compres.us/>).

Fieldtrip: Magmatic Processes in the Shallow Crust, Adamello Massif, Italy, 26 August–1 September 2012



This field trip will explore the magmatic processes and products of a sub-volcanic feeder system and shallow-level intrusions in northern Italy. Cost: students, £350; non-students, £450; flights not included. A

deposit of £100 is payable by 31 April 2012. Leader: Jon Blundy. More information at www.vmsg.org.uk.

SOCIETY OFFERS CHARTERED STATUS

Chartered Scientist (CSci) is a mark of achievement in science. The use of the title promotes public confidence in scientists by ensuring a common high standard of education, training and continued competence. In October 2003, the designation Chartered Scientist was added to the now familiar list of chartered professions: biologist, accountant, surveyor and so on.

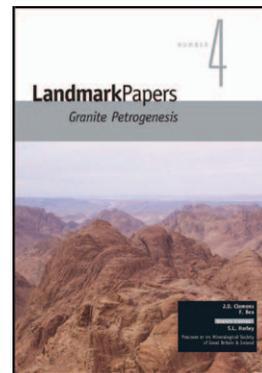
“Chartered” is an internationally recognized benchmark of quality and excellence, and it will do much to improve the profile of science and scientists. Although not all mineral scientists will wish to achieve the level of qualification necessary to earn the title, its existence confers chartered standing on the profession as a whole. Chartered status will become the cornerstone of the Society's professional qualification framework and is a prestigious achievement for ambitious professionals in mineral science (sensu lato).

The designation Chartered Scientist was made possible by a Royal Charter issued to the Science Council on 14 October 2003. The Science Council cannot confer Chartered Scientist status on individuals directly but only through professional member bodies that have been awarded a license. The term for such a member organization is Licensed Member Body, and such a body can charter individual members who meet certain criteria. The Mineralogical Society was awarded Licensed Body status in 2011, and so we now seek our first CSci applicants.

If you wish to apply for Chartered Status, please visit the Society's website at www.minersoc.org/chartered.html. Application in year 1 costs £50. CSci will cost £45 per year thereafter, in addition to regular membership fees.

Landmark Papers: Granite Petrogenesis

The latest volume in our Landmark Series has been published. *Landmark Papers: Granite Petrogenesis* (edited by J. D. Clemens and F. Bea) is organized into a number of sections that represent what the editors regard as the main research fields in which progress has been made in understanding granites and their genesis. The origin of granitic magmas is part of the cycle that unites tectonic processes with the generation of mantle magma, crustal growth, the transfer of mantle heat to the crust, high-grade regional metamorphism, crustal melting and crustal differentiation. The extended subject area is far too wide to deal with in a single volume and, therefore, the selection has been limited to papers dealing with the formation, physical behaviour and chemical evolution of granitic magmas; the book just touches on the matter of associated ore deposits. John Clemens and Fernando Bea are world experts on the subject of granite petrogenesis. Clemens' most important work has been on the origin and evolution of granites and silicic volcanic magmas, experimental studies and modelling of partial melting, and the ascent and chemical evolution of granitic magmas, and these continue to be his main interests. Bea's research interests have been in the petrology and geochemistry of granitic rocks and the mechanisms of generation of granitic magmas, and he has studied in detail the role of heat-producing elements.



The book is available at the Society's online bookshop. Go to www.minersoc.org and click on “Online shop”.

Rock-Forming Minerals



Mineralogical Society members can now buy a copy of one of the volumes of *Rock-Forming Minerals* by Deer, Howie and Zussman (published by the Geological Society) at a reduced price (50%). Contact the Sales Department (sales@geolsoc.org.uk) to secure your discount. Go to www.minersoc.org and follow the link to the site.

And finally, remember that the MinSoc is the only society to offer a year's free membership to students. Please encourage your students to join, and they will receive their own copy of *Elements* for a year. They will also be eligible to apply for Society bursaries and to pay reduced rates for Society publications and conferences.

Act now!

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director



Prof. R. A. Howie, an Honorary Life Fellow of the Society, passed away on March 10. Prof. Howie was the long-time editor of *Mineralogical Abstracts* and one of the authors of the *Rock-Forming Minerals* series (Deer, Howie and Zussman). He was engaged with the mineralogical community and still working (on the third edition of *Introduction to the Rock-Forming Minerals*) right up until the time of his death. He will be sadly missed. An obituary will be published in *Mineralogical Magazine* in due course. See also page 84.