Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

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FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Jon Lloyd

I am delighted to take over from the excellent leadership of Bruce Yardley, who has done a fantastic job steering the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (MinSoc) through some very challenging times. The MinSoc has a long history, spanning nearly 150 years, but has always been progressive and receptive to new ideas. Over the last 12 months, I have been struck by how quickly the society has adapted to the COVID-19–enforced virtual world, running its business and scientific meetings online, and undoubtedly extending its reach to a wider community in the process. This will remain a priority as the MinSoc looks to reach out to the broadest possible representation of mineralogists in the (hopefully) post–COVID-19 world, using all means possible.

I first became involved with the society via the special interest groups (SIGs), helping establish the MinSoc's Geomicrobiology Network. I am now looking forward to working more closely with the impressively wide range of vibrant SIGs, serving the core interests of MinSoc while reaching out to new members, including those at key disciplinary interfaces such as biology. Recently, I enjoyed greatly the virtual New Topics in Mineral Sciences meeting organised by Bruce Yardley and Thomas Mueller entitled "Diffusion in Minerals Rocks and Melts: Potential and Pitfalls". One of my first jobs is to build on this very successful meeting, and help put together a follow-up New Topics session for December 2021. The aim will be to run a hybrid meeting (with virtual and physical attendance) to explore the mineral–microbe interface through time and space. I hope this will be of interest to many who are keen to discuss the intimate and complex interplay between life and the geosphere, and this meeting will complement the exciting range of mineralogical meetings and publications being planned for 2021 and beyond, including our upcoming 150th anniversary in 2026.

Prof. Jon Lloyd
University of Manchester (UK)

SOCIETY MEDALS 2022

Nominations are now sought for the 2022 medals. Closing date is 16 April 2021.

This year we have a new medal, the Neumann Medal. This is in honour of Dr Barbara Neumann, a clay mineralogist who invented the synthetic clay Laponite®. Read the article "Dr Barbara S. Neumann: Clay Scientist, Industrial Pioneer, Creator of Laponite®" at https://doi.org/10.1180/clm.2020.35 for more information about this extraordinary woman.

This medal replaces the Schlumberger Award. However, the criteria for the award remain unchanged.

"To recognise scientific excellence in mineralogy and its applications; mineralogy being broadly defined and reflecting the diverse and worldwide interests and membership of the Society with its various specialist groups. Evidence of such excellence should be in the form of published work by a currently active scientist. Nominations on behalf of both younger scientists and well-established workers would be welcomed. Nominees do not have to be Members of the Mineralogical Society."

SOCIETY MEDALLISTS 2021

The society is delighted to announce the 2021 winners of its medals. They are as follows:

The Max Hey Medal to Anouk Borst (University of St. Andrews, Scotland). This medal is to "recognise her outstanding contribution to the field of research into critical metal resources. In a relatively short research career, she has addressed an extraordinary breadth of topics from the Archaean to the present, spanned three continents, mantle to the surface, and even includes an analysis of Lunar material and Mars analogues".

The Collins Medal to Warren Huff (University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA). Much of Warren's research deals with the study of K-bentonites, which are the remains of explosively erupted volcanic ash. The K-bentonite layers are now mostly altered to clay minerals (mainly smectite and, subsequently, illite), although some original volcanic crystals remain. Study of both clay minerals and volcanic minerals sheds light on the nature of the source volcanoes, as well as the natural processes by which the volcanic ash layers have been buried and altered to their present form.

Warren has supervised 20 MSc students and 11 PhD students. His students serve as members of staff in universities, research institutes and in industry. He applied novel educational approaches to the study and teaching of Earth sciences.

The Schlumberger Award to Eric Oelkers (University College London). Eric is an extremely prolific and very highly cited geochemist who is currently pushing forward research into carbon storage and geothermal power, as well as research into the kinetics and thermodynamics of mineral dissolution and precipitation. According to Google Scholar, Eric is one of the top 50 most-cited geochemists ever (!) and is the 2019 recipient of the Schlumberger Award for outstanding contributions to geochemistry over a career.

The medals will be awarded at a scientific or other event during 2021.

METAMORPHIC STUDIES GROUP 40th ANNIVERSARY MEETING 2021, CAMBRIDGE (UK)

This online meeting was held 29–31 March 2021. The following invited speakers participated:

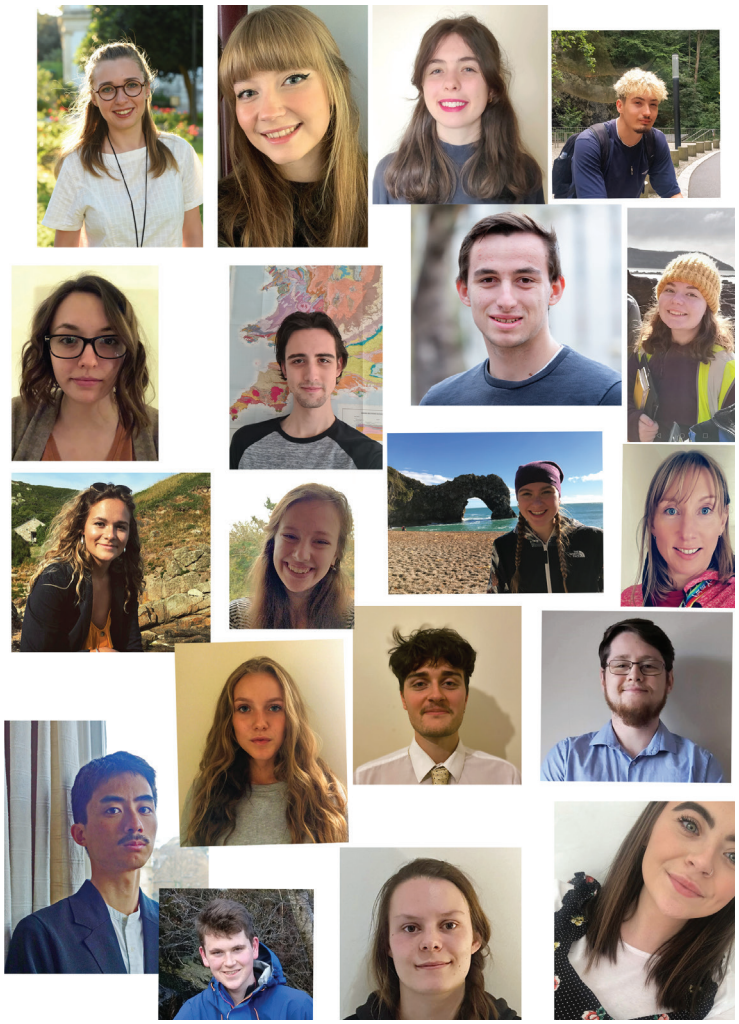
- PIERRE LANARI: Mapping equilibrium relationships in metamorphic rocks — petrological modelling beyond equilibrium phase diagrams
- BRUNA CARVALHO: Fate of CO_2-bearing fluids trapped in granulites — old perspectives and new insights
- FREYA GEORGE: There's no accounting for oscillations: rhythmic garnet zoning unrelated to heterogeneous high pressure low temperature fluid transfer?

Details are available at: https://www.minersoc.org/msg-rip-2021.html

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2020

The following is our latest list of Student Award winners. This award is given to a second-year student (or student in the penultimate year of their undergraduate degree course) with the highest ranking marks in mineralogy and petrology, or an equivalent exam.

Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)	Ethan	Brady-Arnold
University College London (England)	Bethany	Pittard
National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland)	Amy	Benaim
University of Southampton (England)	Isobel	Nicolaysen
Newcastle University (England)	Wing Yan	Ye
University of Birmingham (England)	Mia	Wroe
University of Plymouth (England)	Elissa	Gillies
University of Manchester (England)	Benjamin	Mayor
Durham University (England)	Maeve	McLoughlin
Imperial College, London (England)	James	Wood
University of Brighton (England)	Isaac	Watkins
St. Andrews University (Scotland)	Alessia	Paschodimas
University of Hull (England)	Stefan	Percy
Keele University (England)	Joshua	Catton
University of Derby (England)	Lauren	Martin
University of Liverpool (England)	Sam	King
Aberystwyth University (Wales)	Daniel	Schoen
University College Dublin (Ireland)	Elizabeth	Andres
University of Cardiff (Wales)	Grace	Kinnell
University of Portsmouth (England)	Sarah	Holt
University of Cambridge (England)	Joseph	Benson
University of Edinburgh (Scotland)	Akinori	Suganuma
University of Leicester (England)	Gemma	Brown
University of Exeter (England)	Lydia	Bridges
University of Aberdeen (Scotland)	Katrina	Court
University of East Anglia (England)	Bridie	Duchesne
Bristol University (England)	Dan	Evans
University of Exeter (England)	Ben	Clitheroe
University of Glasgow (Scotland)	Keri	McCafferty
Birkbeck, University of London (England)	Anastasia	Kokori
The Open University (UK and Ireland)	Joe	Winnett



NEW TOPICS IN MINERALOGY 2: MINERAL–MICROBE INTERFACE THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

2–3 December 2021

VENUE: London (+virtual)

The Mineralogical Society is delighted to announce a two-day "New Topics in in Mineral Sciences" meeting focusing on the importance of the mineral-microbe interface. Topics explored will span the role of mineral surfaces in the emergence of life on Earth (and potentially other planets), through to the key role of this interface in controlling modern global biogeochemical cycles. Recent advances in the fundamental understanding of these important processes will be presented, alongside more applied aspects of the mineral-microbe interface. The latter will include new biotechnological innovations underpinning sustainable mineral bioprocessing, biomineralisation, bioremediation and energy applications. We are planning a hybrid meeting, with presentations from international leaders in the field, alongside contributions from early career researchers working across the "geo" and "bio" disciplines.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVITY (EDI)

The MinSoc has appointed a committee to consider equality, diversity, and inclusivity by consulting with members and others and to make a series of recommendations to council about future changes. Their first report is expected by April 2021.