



Auvergne

This year's VMSG field workshop was held in Auvergne from 12th to 18th April. Led by Benjamin van Wyk de Vries we were treated to a voyage around the Auvergne region and its spectacular and varied volcanic rocks.

The first full field day started at the Lemptègy volcano, a series of scoria cones with remarkable bombs. We were then treated to a traditional Auvergne lunch washed down with some local produce, which helped to animate the afternoon visits to the Maar de Beaunit. From here we travelled to our base in Besse.



Bomb, Lemptègy

Days 2 and 3 were focused on the Puy de Sancy/Mt. Dore stratovolcano with its trachyandesite domes and block and ash flows. These days also afforded spectacular climbs, scenery, 1980's skiing attire and sledging. In the afternoon of day three we examined the ignimbrites of La Bourboule caldera and its phonolite domes.

On day four we travelled to Perrier to study its remarkable debris avalanche deposits, which triggered heated debate on the dimensions of a "megablock." Day five saw us return to the Puy de Sancy where we climbed up to the magnificent trachyandesite dykes of the Vallée de Chaudefour. In the afternoon we visited maar and landslide deposits at le Dent du Marais.

Our final day saw us in Gergovia where we examined peperite in its many diverse forms and some newly discovered carbonatite pyroclastic rocks.



Trachyandesite dyke, Vallée de Chaudefour

In the evening we visited the Bonjean winery in Blanzat, where we were treated to a tour of the wine cellars, a wonderful Auvergne meal and of course a healthy sampling of their produce! A truly memorable occasion.

Everyone on the trip would like to thank Kathryn Goodenough for stepping in to drive the second minibus at short notice, and R-FM for their daily soundtrack of ABBA, Boney M and Bonnie Tyler, but most importantly Ben van Wyk de Vries for organising and leading this excellent trip. I think we would all agree that Auvergne offers wonderful geology, scenery, produce and hospitality, and is a must see for any volcanologist.



Amy Broddle, Becky Williams and Kathryn Goodenough (l-r), la Dent du Marais (Chateau Murol in the background)



Ben van Wyk de Vries discussing debris avalanche deposits



John Reavy, Neil Madden, Kate Dobson, David Brown and Becky Williams(l-r) at a very big cliff!

Forthcoming Events

Micro-Analysis, Processes, Time (MAPT)

Mineralogical Society Annual Meeting 2009, 31st Aug - 2nd Sep, Uni. of Edinburgh. Includes VMSG session on "Frontiers in microanalysis and microtextures in magmatic rocks." See: <http://www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/MAPT/MAPT.html>

Climate Forcing of Geological and Geomorphological Hazards

The Third Johnston-Lavis Colloquium (Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th September 2009, University College London) on the theme of *Climate Forcing of Geological and Geomorphological Hazards* (<http://www.abuhrc.org>).



Glasgow skyline with the Carboniferous lavas of the Campsie Fells in the background

VMSG 2010

Next year's annual meeting at the University of Glasgow from 4th to 6th January is being organised by Kate Dobson, David Brown and Fiona Meade. The full webpage and registration will go live in early July (<http://web.ges.gla.ac.uk/vmsg/index.htm>). Please register and book your accommodation early.

LASI IV (Physical Geology of Subvolcanic Systems)

From September 13th-16th (dates tentative) 2010, LASI IV will be held in Moab, Utah, U.S.A. The conference will include two days of talks and posters, along with two days of field trips to the classic laccoliths and sills of the nearby Henry Mountains. See <http://lasi.lmtg.obs-mip.fr> for details.

VMSG Award

The deadline for the VMSG Award passed on 1st June. Due to a shortage of applications we have extended the deadline to Monday 22nd June. There are numerous worthy candidates for the Award within the VMSG community and we strongly encourage you to apply.

The award is bestowed annually on an individual who is deemed to have made *a significant contribution to our understanding of volcanic and magmatic processes* over the preceding 3-5 years. Such a contribution will most likely be in the form of a paper or series of papers, although other forms of evidence (e.g. convening paradigm-changing workshops and conferences) will also be considered. There is no age or nationality limit and researchers at any stage of their career will be considered. The nominee should ideally be a part of the VMSG Community, through participation in VMSG meetings and activities and/or interaction with other VMSG scientists. Nominations should be sent to Kate Dobson (Kate.Dobson@ges.gla.ac.uk). Details can be found at: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/d.a.jerram/VMSG/vmsgawardannouncement2009.pdf>.

Funding

A final reminder of the 15th June deadline for postgraduate travel grants. See: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/d.a.jerram/VMSG/funding.html>

Editorial

Deadline for next newsletter: 24th August '09.

David Brown (David.Brown@ges.gla.ac.uk)
VMSG Committee Member, Editor and List Manager