



Student reports

Biannually VMSG invites applications for travel funding from postgraduate researchers registered at UK universities who wish to present their work at an international or national meeting. Reports from recent recipients of funding will be published in the newsletter.

Anna Hicks, University of East Anglia

I would like to thank VMSG for a travel bursary award to attend the 'Soufrière Hills Volcano – 15 years on' conference in April 2011. Although the conference was focussed on the continuing Montserrat eruption, it also provided a platform for delegates to present research not based on the Soufrière Hills volcano but relevant to volcano research in the wider Caribbean. This gave me the opportunity to discuss some of my Ph.D research, focused on volcanic risk reduction and uncertainty on the small island of Tristan da Cunha. A major element of my work is trialling established methods of quantifying uncertainty. One particular approach, the Cooke method of expert elicitation, is currently practised at MVO and used to great effect during the Scientific Advisory Committee meetings. I have been testing this method with UK-based experts in an attempt to better define the highly uncertain eruptive future of Tristan da Cunha.

Attended by only around 100 scientists, the small-scale meeting created a sociable atmosphere and a fantastic opportunity to discuss my results with senior academics in cognate disciplines, meet up with old friends and make new ones. It also gave me the chance to finally spend some time on the UK's most active volcano and see what all the fuss was about!



Giovanni Fontana, University of Oxford



With help from the VMSG Conference Travel Bursary I was able to attend the General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) in Melbourne, Australia, held 28th June to 7th July 2011. The IUGG General Assembly is held every four years and this year the meeting brought together 3,500 geoscientists from around the world, including many volcanologists attending the IAVCEI-led symposia. At the meeting I presented a talk titled "Emplacement temperatures of pyroclastic and volcanoclastic deposits in kimberlite pipes in Botswana" at the IAVCEI Kimberlite Volcanology symposium.

My PhD research focuses on characterising the emplacement temperatures of different kimberlite lithofacies using palaeomagnetic methods, and my results have provided new constraints on kimberlite emplacement processes. As I am in the final year of my PhD the meeting was an important opportunity to meet with fellow researchers, to share and discuss our work, and to discuss future projects, all of which I could not have done without the help of VMSG. I also found many talks in other sessions were particularly relevant to my research, especially those in the IAVCEI symposium on Monogenetic Volcanism, and the IAVCEI-IAGA session on Using Palaeomagnetism to Understand Volcanic Processes.

Attending the meeting was a greatly valuable and enjoyable experience and I am very grateful to VMSG for the award of a travel bursary of £300 to attend the IUGG 2011 meeting.

Deadlines

Applications for STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARIES close on 15th December

The conference and workshop travel bursary application forms have been updated. The next deadline for receipt of applications is on the 15th December and should be submitted to Louise Thomas l.e.thomas@open.ac.uk. If you have any queries, please get in contact with the VMSG secretary kate.dobson@ges.gla.ac.uk.

Forthcoming Events

The next VMSG annual meeting will be held in Durham, 4-6th January 2012.

The first circular for the meeting is attached to this newsletter.

VMSG fieldtrips for 2012

Please see the attached fliers for further information on the following overseas VMSG fieldtrips that will be running in 2012.

Gran Canaria: Through the Inside of a Volcano!

26th March – 2nd April 2012

Leaders: Valentin Troll and Abigail Barker

Adamello Massif, Italy

26th August – 1st September 2012

Leader: Jon Blundy

EMC2012

The Mineralogical Society is one of the National Societies responsible for organizing EMC2012. Go to (<http://emc2012.uni-frankfurt.de/index.php?id=4>) to read about the proposed themes. 500 delegates are expected to attend this meeting which follows from previous, similar events held in Cambridge (2007) and Edinburgh (2009). Please contact Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org) if you are interested in offering a session related to any of the themes mentioned on the site.

William Smith Meeting 2011

[Remote sensing of volcanoes & volcanic processes: integrating observation & modelling](#) 4-5th October

Sessions will cover:

- * Measuring, tracking and modelling volcanic gas and ash emissions and transport.
- * Observing and understanding deformation of the Earth's crust at volcanoes.
- * Bringing together multi-parameter observations and models to understand individual volcanic systems.
- * Surface remote sensing of marine floor volcanism and the inner workings of our planet's volcanoes.
- * The Future: how best to acquire and utilise data streams to answer the big scientific questions in volcanology over the next 20 years.

VMSG listserv

The VMSG email distribution list is now held on a listserv. Anyone that wishes to join the distribution list, or change their preferred email address, can do so by registering with JISCMail and editing [details](#).

New Committee Members wanted!

Two of our Ordinary members Carl Stevenson & Marie Edmonds are due to retire from the Committee at the January meeting. Therefore, we are looking for two volunteers to join the VMSG Committee. These positions are available for 3 years, and are an excellent way to become involved with, and contribute to, the VMSG community. Nominations (with a proposer and seconder from the VMSG community) should be sent to the Secretary (Kate Dobson) no later than Friday, 28th October, 2011. Should there be more than 2 nominees for these two positions, then an e-mail election by VMSG members will take place in November. We are pleased to announce that Professor Andy Saunders has agreed to stand for VMSG chair from 2012-2015.

Student Representative

The VMSG committee are also looking for a new Student Rep to replace Simon Drake, who steps down at the January meeting. The student rep serves on the VMSG committee for one year, and works as the voice on the committee. This is a great opportunity to get involved with running an organisation, to give something back to the VMSG community and help shape our future direction. It also looks great on your CV. If you are interested in standing please contact Kate Dobson with a short (1/2 size A4) blurb about yourself and why you want to stand. This position is open to all senior (3rd or 4th year) PhD students that have attended at least one VMSG meeting. The student representative can only be a successful if they are known within the community, so we ask that all nominees should supply the names and contact details of two supporting VMSG members. One of your supporting members should be a student, and the other should be an academic (lecturer or post-doc). Your supporting members do not need to be from your own department. Your academic supporting member *must not* be your supervisor. If contested, the Student Rep will be elected by an electronic vote alongside the other committee positions.

Editorial

The VMSG distribution list continues to grow and we would like to welcome all new members. All members of the VMSG community can contribute to the newsletter. Next deadline is 30th November '11. Please forward any articles, comments or notices of events, workshops and conferences to me before the deadline.

Charlotte Vye (cvye@bgs.ac.uk)

VMSG Committee Member, Editor and List Manager