



### VMSG Award Winner Prof John Gamble

Prof John Gamble, Professor of Geology and Head of Department at University College Cork, Ireland, has been awarded the VMSG Award for 2011. John was nominated by Jon Davidson and supported by Val Troll, Chris Hawkesworth and Pete Kokelaar.



John completed both his undergraduate degree and PhD from The Queen's University of Belfast and he was awarded a DSc in 2000. Following his PhD, John moved to Australia to take up a lectureship at the University of Newcastle, N.S.W. From here, he moved to the University of Wellington in New Zealand where he spent most of his career before coming back to Ireland a decade ago to take up a headship and a chair at University College Cork.

John enjoys world-wide renown and has been afforded several exceptional honours abroad for his work in Antarctica and in the SW Pacific. His research constitutes substantial and insightful advances in the understanding of magmatism at destructive plate margins and is highly cited. This includes the paper with Malcolm McCulloch on the 'Geochemical and Geodynamical Constraints on Subduction Zone Magmatism' in 1991, the first paper to identify, constrain and quantify the major subduction zone enrichment processes and the extent of the slab flux in the light of physical parameters.

The extent of John's scientific contributions, his significance to the VMSG community, and his leadership role are well summarised with the following extracts from his award nomination:

*'John has an enviable record through his considerable contributions to the community, his mentoring and support of students and younger colleagues, and the quality of his research.'* CH

*'The impact and importance of his work is reflected in the honour of having a submarine volcano named after himself, the 'Gamble Igneous Complex' in the Kermadec chain.'* VT

*'John Gamble's publication output is prolific and highly regarded in general; his h-index is 20+, which is high in*

*Earth Sciences; his scientific rigour is reflected in his editorial role for the Journal of Petrology; his commitment to scientific communication and participation is reflected in his numerous roles in convening conferences and workshops and his memberships of numerous scientific panels and boards.'* PK

*'I give you John Gamble: he has contributed a lifetime's insights into arc petrogenesis, has infused his knowledge and enthusiasm into several generations of petrologists and geochemists, and has undoubtedly enriched our VMSG community.'* JD

The VMSG Award talk will be given at 16:15 on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January as part of the annual meeting in Durham.

**J. GAMBLE, C. MCKENNA, R. ELLAM, R.G. FITTON; P. LYLE, P. RENNE.** *'Merging the cycles of early Palaeogene intrusive and flood basalt magmatism in N.E. Ireland'*

### Deadlines

#### **Applications for STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARIES close on 15<sup>th</sup> December**

The conference and workshop travel bursary application forms have been updated. The next deadline for receipt of applications is on the 15<sup>th</sup> December and should be submitted to Louise Thomas [l.e.thomas@open.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:kate.dobson@ges.gla.ac.uk).

### 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.

#### **Melissa Plail, University of East Anglia**

I would like to thank the VMSG for supporting me with a £300 travel bursary. This enabled me to attend and present my research at a conference in Montserrat 'Soufrière Hills Volcano, 15 years on' held in April 2011. My research focuses primarily on the petrology of the mafic enclaves, their degree of interaction with the andesite and how this is potentially driving the current eruption at Soufrière Hills. At the conference, I gave an oral presentation entitled 'Mafic enclave diversity during recent Phase V activity at the Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat'. This was the first

oral presentation that I have given at a conference, and I found the experience invaluable and have learnt much from doing it. Furthermore, this was a great opportunity to receive feedback about my research, and discuss various aspects of it. There were many diverse presentations at the conference covering a range of subjects, which provided me with the opportunity to consider my research within a wider context. During the conference, there were various field trips to attend. I found the trip to view the recent deposits particularly beneficial, as I had the opportunity to go into my field study area with fellow researchers.



Attending and presenting at an international conference has greatly benefited my research at this stage of my PhD, and I appreciate the support given by the VMSG to enable this to happen.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **The next VMSG annual meeting will be held in Durham, 4-6<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

The talk schedule for the meeting is attached to this newsletter. Full meeting programme and presenter instructions can be found on the conference website <http://www.vmsg2012.org/>

### **VMSG fieldtrips for 2012**

#### **1. Gran Canaria: Through the Inside of a Volcano!**

26<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012

**Final payment due 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

#### **2. Adamello Massif, Italy – open for registration**

26<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012

Leader: Jon Blundy

Please see the attached flier for further information.

### **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](#).

### **Change of Committee Members**

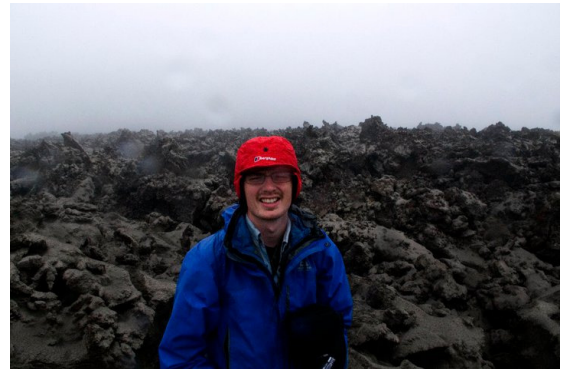
Our sincere thanks are extended to David Pyle who stands down as VMSG chair. David was an excellent chair, guiding our community through some interesting times, including the Eyjafjallajökull 2010 eruption, and representing the UK for IAVCEI. At this time the following members are also standing down: Carl Stevenson, Marie Edmonds, Louise Thomas and Dougal

Jerram, whose efforts in maintaining our VMSG website are particularly appreciated. Simon Drake has completed his term as student representative. The efforts of all of these members in contributing to the efficient running of VMSG are acknowledged and thanked.

Following the recent elections we are pleased to welcome Becky Williams (University of Leicester), Madeleine Humphreys (University of Oxford) and Adrian Jones (University College London) as ordinary members of the VMSG Committee. We also welcome Tim Watton (Durham University) as the new student representative.

We are pleased to announce that Professor Andy Saunders has agreed to stand for VMSG chair from 2012-2015.

*Student Representative – Tim Watton*



Hello, I am 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD Student at Durham University. My research is focused on field examples of architectural variations in hyaloclastite and related volcanoclastic sediments in different environmental settings. I have undertaken fieldwork in Iceland, U.S.A, Namibia and Scotland. I have also worked on borehole cores from Hawaii (NHM New York) and the Faroe-Shetland Basin. My goal is to understand the depositional processes leading to complex facies relationships seen in each area and facies-specific hyaloclastite rock properties (e.g. porosity/permeability studies). Lately I have been compiling the history of the pre-emergent to emergent surtseyan volcanic system at Hjørleifshöfði, Iceland and assessing its link to the Katla system. My research project is part of the Durham Volcanic Margins Research Consortium and I am kindly funded by DONG Energy E&P UK Ltd. As your new student representative I hope to look at ways to set up a web-based system for applications to the VMSG travel bursary. I would also like to highlight the significance of links between volcanological research and the petroleum industry. I am committed to voice the issues of the student community in the VMSG committee.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> February '11. Please forward any articles, comments or notices of events, workshops and conferences to me before the deadline.

**Charlotte Vye ([cvye@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:cvye@bgs.ac.uk))**

**VMSG Committee Member, Editor and List Manager**