



Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group

April 2015 Newsletter (No. 27)

Welcome to the second edition of 2015 VMSG newsletters in which you can find out: preliminary information for VMSG 2016 in Dublin, upcoming VMSG-related events, and a new 'fieldwork' section promoting the field activities of VMSG members.

VMSG Report from the Chair

By Dr Mike Widdowson (chair of the VMSG)

It is a great pleasure to have been asked to take on the role of Chair of VMSG. I am greatly looking forward to serving over the next three years, and have already welcomed new members to our VMSG Committee following a call for nominees last November. These new members bring fresh ideas and dynamism to the work of the Committee, and are already actively working on behalf of our Group. We have the forthcoming 2016 VMSG conference planning progressing well thanks to our colleagues in Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and our Committee members are looking into new avenues to further develop our profile, and encourage VMSG underwritten conference sessions and field trips.

November 2014 to March 2015

VMSG Meeting and Conference 2015

VMSG got off to an excellent start with our annual conference and meeting, this time hosted by our colleagues from UEA and held in in Norwich city centre (5th-7th January 2014). The meeting took place over three days and was set in the impressive, ornate and one-time Barclay's banking hall now run as a fashionable city centre meeting venue by the OPEN Youth Trust. The meeting attracted 202 delegates and was an impressive showcase for national and international research. More than half the delegates were students, and contributions came from researchers from Great Britain, Sweden, Ireland, Switzerland, Iceland, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, USA, New Zealand, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Monserrat, Ethiopia, and Canada. The conference meal venue was an equally impressive venue – the 'Top of the Terrace' meeting rooms overlooking the Norwich City football pitch.

The conference comprised a total of 32 talks (11 from students) and 92 posters (c. 50 from students). The VMSG Award for 2014 was presented to Jenni Barclay (UEA), Michael

Stock (Oxford) won the Bob Hunter Prize for the Best Student Talk; and Anna Barth (Cambridge) won Geoff Brown Award for the best student poster. Extra prizes, in the form of new publications donated by the attending Publishing Houses, were awarded by the LOC and session leaders to the best student presentation (talk or poster) in each session. Awardees included: Rebecca Astbury (Edinburgh); Tom Pering (Sheffield); Robert Jones (Leeds); Danielle Charlton (UCL); and Anna Barth (Cambridge).

VMSG offers special thanks to Anna Hicks and Jenni Barclay for leading the local organising committee (LOC) team, which included Richard Herd, Amanda Hamer, Katie Preece, Jon Stone, Roland von Glasow, David Litchfield, Charlotte Monteil and Peter Simmons all of whom contributed to ensuring we had an excellent meeting. Russell Rajendra is also thanked for all his effort in ensuring the registration and financial aspects of the meeting progressed smoothly.

VMSG would also like to thank the sponsors many of whom provided a range of impressive and informative displays: ThermoFisher Scientific, Cameca, ESI Environmental Specialists, Teledyne CETAC Technologies, Socachim sample preparation specialists, TVR Thermalvision Research, Rigaku analytical instrumentation, SciMed Scientific and Medical Products, Adrok geophysical services; Springer, Wiley and The Geological Society publishing houses. The Mineralogical Society, Premier Inns and Norwich city FC are also thanked for their support with organisation, venue and accommodation deals.

VMSG Developments

We have had a substantial change in VMSG Committee membership following five individuals offering to take on the two vacant positions as ordinary members of committee; VMSG conducted hustings of its membership and Janine Kavanagh (Liverpool) and Sebastian Watt (Birmingham) were elected to serve. At the same time, Kate Dobson (Secretary; Munich University) and Mike Widdowson (Treasurer; Open University, Hull University) stepped down from their roles having both completed 5 year tenures. Kate was co-opted to remain on Committee, and Mike stepped up to take on the role of VMSG Chair; with these two 'veterans' the VMSG benefits from continuity and experience. Professor Andy Saunders (Chair; Leicester) stepped down having completed his 3 year tenure. Andy is warmly thanked for his wisdom and

contribution to VMSG over the past 3 years. He has provided careful steering of our Committee, and has worked to ensure that our SIG achieve its goals and develop over this period.

The current membership of the VMSG Committee is as follows:

Chair: Mike Widdowson (Hull)

Secretary: Richard Brown (Durham)

Treasurer: Victoria Smith (Oxford)

Ordinary Members: Kate Dobson (LMU Munich); Sue Loughlin (BGS); Lorraine Field (BGS); Chiara Petrone (Natural History Museum); Craig Magee (Imperial College); Sebastian Watt (Birmingham); Janine Kavanagh (Liverpool); Student Representative: Tom Perring (Sheffield); Website Manager: Peter Marshall (Open University)

Looking to the future, and strengthening links between SIGs, we are discussing the possibility of a joint workshop at the next meeting (Dublin, 2016) in collaboration with MDSG, and have started discussion regarding a more formal link between the annual VMSG meeting and that of TSG.

VMSG Finance

The finances of the group continue to remain strong. Recent outgoing monies include £200 for student prizes (best talks and posters) from the Norwich meeting; £1600 agreed for 8 student travel bursaries. We expect a number of applications for student support for forthcoming meetings (i.e., EGU, and Goldschmidt) at our June Committee meeting. In addition, we have recently agreed to sponsor 'The Sorby Conference on Fluid and Melt Inclusions (ECROFI23)' in Leeds in June 2015 and The University of Edinburgh's Scottish Sensory Centre and the British Sign Language Glossary project for Geography and Earth Sciences at £500 and £300, respectively.

Prizes and Awards

A recent meeting of at the Meeting of Council of the Mineralogical Society included the Chairs of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which includes VMSG. Council asked the SIGs to promote applications for their prestigious awards. There are several awards/medal nominations on offer. One is the newly instigated 'Howie Award' for the best student paper deriving from a PhD project (which last year went to a volcanology student who had been a previous VMSG prize winner). Another is the Max Hey medal for excellence in research contributions from younger researchers within 15 years of their first degree. Finally, there is the hugely prestigious Schlumberger Award for scientific excellence in mineralogy and its applications (in the very broadest sense). This is for established researchers who have contributed significantly to their field. Looking at the previous recipients' list, there are at least four igneous petrologists/volcanologists who have been awarded this medal. As SIG chair I've been asked if the VMSG would like to

nominate an individual from our ranks. The nomination will stay 'on the table' for three years. The deadlines for the medals are the end April, but we can always nominate for next year's round. If you have a suggestion, please alert the VMSG Committee through the Secretary, and we will aim to support suitable nominations.

VMSG 2016 – Dublin

By Dr Emma Tomlinson

The 2016 VMSG meeting will be held at Trinity College Dublin from 6th to 8th January.



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



In recognition of the contribution of John Joly, former Chair of Geology and Mineralogy at Trinity, the theme of the meeting is "Magmatic volatiles: from source to atmosphere". The meeting will include the following sessions:

- Deep Earth processes and element cycling in the mantle
- Magmatic histories and magma evolution
- Role of volatiles in magmatic and eruptive processes
- Eruption histories and eruption forecasting
- Environmental and climatic effects of volcanism

Further session suggestions can be made to the local organising committee at VMSG2016@gmail.com. Registration will include the full scientific programme, tea/coffees/lunch, conference dinner with whiskey tasting and shindig, an icebreaker reception and drinks reception during poster sessions. The meeting will be preceded by a workshop on quantitative trace element mapping by LA-ICP-MS on 5th Jan and succeeded by a fieldtrip to the Giants Causeway on 9th January.



Field Activities

If you are interested in seeing what members of the VMSG community are working on, or interested in advertising your own field research, then this is the section for you! To contribute, please send me a brief summary of the fieldwork and a selection photos (I will add what I can depending on space)!

Fieldwork at Popocatépetl and Colima volcanoes, Mexico

By Dr Chiara Maria Petrone (Natural History Museum), Dr Julie Prytulak (Imperial College) & Martin Mangler (Imperial College)



We recently secured a NERC grant dedicated to a detailed study of one of the most active volcanoes of the world, Popocatépetl (Mexico). The focus of the project is to explore the dynamics of magma mixing and its influence on Popo's eruptive activity through crystal residence times and crystal-scale isotope studies. In order to collect samples for the project, we went to Mexico in January, taking off from London on 18/01 and pitching camp in the small town of Amecameca, at the foot of Popo. From there, guided by the collaborating Popo-expert Hugo Delgado-Granados from UNAM (Mexico City), we went up the volcano's flanks every day and collected almost 200 kg of rock samples from all major units of the last 23 ka. Back in the Museum, the lava and pumice samples collected will be analysed very carefully, in order to find out more about the timescales of eruptions at Popo, and the control of magma mixing on eruptive styles.



Sampling a 2 Ka BP pumice layer

After two weeks of fieldwork at Popo, Chiara and Martin went to Colima volcano, where they prospected for possibilities of research collaborations on the highly active volcano. They also captured spectacular pictures of the erupting volcano during a flight around the summit and fieldwork at its flanks. To see these pictures and find out more about the trip, go to Martin's Mexico blog on the NHM site:

http://www.nhm.ac.uk/natureplus/community/research/earth_sciences_news/blog/2015/01/22/popocat%C3%A9petl-cloudy-with-a-chance-of-plinian-eruption-part-i-from-downtown-london-to-sky-high-mexico-in-24-hours

Notices

Upcoming conferences, workshops & field courses of relevance to the VMSG community:

- EGU 2015, 12 – 17 April 2015, Vienna.
- 2nd Jóannes Rasmussen Conference, 5 - 7 May, 2015.
 - Evolution of basaltic provinces
 - Drilling Volcanics
 - <http://jrasmussen.jf.fo/>
- Melts, Glasses, Magmas short course, 8 - 12 June, 2015.
 - 1 May registration deadline.
- VERTIGO: Volcanic ash: FIEld, expeRimenTAl and numerical investiGations of prOcesses during its lifecycle short course, 15 - 19 June 2015, Perugia
- IAVCEI General Assembly, 22 June - 2 July 2015, Prague, Czech Republic.
- VMSG 2016, Dublin
 - Watch this space!

Fieldtrip Co-ordinator:

Janine Kavanagh has taken on the role of fieldtrip co-ordinator for the VMSG committee, so if you are interested in running a VMSG fieldtrip, please contact her for further information at Janine.Kavanagh@liverpool.ac.uk

Upcoming awards of relevance to the VMSG community:

Do you know an outstanding member of the VMSG community? Please consider nominating them for awards and medals bestowed by other societies. Remember, these recognise both early career scientists as well as those well established. For example:

- **AGU: deadline April 2015**
<http://honors.agu.org/awards-medals-prizes/>
- **Mineralogical Society: deadline April 2015**
<http://www.minersoc.org/awards.html>
- **VMSG Award nominations: deadline 31st May 2015**
<http://www.vmsg.org.uk/>

Student bursaries:

Applications for VMSG-funded conference and workshop bursaries for students are due in on 1st June.

PhD studentships:

We are collating all VMSG-related PhD studentships for dissemination. Please circulate to interested undergraduate students and others. If you want your PhD to be on the list, please let our student representative know.
<http://www.vmsg.org.uk/students/phd.php>

Fundraising:

Geology for Global Development (GfGD) is a UK based not-for-profit, working to equip young geoscientists with the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to make a long-term contribution to the fight against global poverty. This year we are fundraising to strengthen resilience to volcanic hazards in Guatemala, aiming to recruit 100 people to raise £100 each. Find out more about this project and how the money will be spent on our website (www.gfgd.org/guatemala).

VMSG Distribution List

The VMSG mailing list is managed by jisc-mail. As a list member you can subscribe to the list or change all your details yourself by subscribing to jisc-mail.

VMSG can also be found on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

How to join or leave the group?

Go to the group homepage at www.jiscmail.ac.uk/vmsg and choose the 'Subscribe or Unsubscribe' link from that page. You will receive a confirmation email which you will need to respond to.

Editorial

Please forward any articles, comments or notices of events, workshops and conferences before 1st September 2015, for inclusion in the next newsletter. All previous newsletters are available for download from the website.

Dr Craig Magee (c.magee@imperial.ac.uk)