



### VMSG Annual Meeting Report – Glasgow 2010

The VMSG Annual Meeting in Glasgow (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> January) was a resounding success with 140 delegates from throughout the UK, Europe and America. Presentations and posters provided an outstanding array of research projects in the community. The quality of student presentations was highlighted by the difficulty committee had in selecting winners. The award for best student presentation went to Simon Drake (Birkbeck College) and best student poster to Trish Clay (Open University).

The organisation and social events at the Glasgow meeting set a high standard for future meetings. I'm sure no-one will forget the dramatic rendition of Davie Brown's Ode to the Haggis, the whisky tasting tour of several of Scotland's finest distilleries and the spirited ceilidh. A selection of photos of the revellery can be found on the newly formed VMSG facebook group.



*Steve Blake receiving the VMSG award from Steve Sparks*

Furthermore, two of the Mineralogical Society Awards for 2010 were awarded to members of VMSG. Henry Emeleus received the Collins Medal for an outstanding contribution to pure and applied aspects of Mineral Sciences and associated studies during a long and active career.



*Henry Emeleus on receipt of the Collins Medal*

Randy Parrish received the Schlumberger Medal for scientific excellence in mineralogy and its applications.



*Randy Parrish receiving the Schlumberger Medal*



*Annual Meeting 2010 formal dinner in the GUU*

The efforts of Davie Brown, Kate Dobson, Fiona Meade and their team are especially thanked in making the meeting such a success.

### Awards

It was a great pleasure that several awards were announced at the annual meeting to members of the VMSG community. Steve Blake received the VMSG Award for significant contributions to our understanding of volcanic and magmatic processes.



# In the Footsteps of Giants: Irish Legends and Palaeogene Magmatism

## Forthcoming Events

### VMSG Field Trip

*'In the Footsteps of Giants: Irish Legends and Palaeogene Magmatism'*

30<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Locations: Attacal, Co. Down; Ballintoy, Co. Antrim

This year's VMSG field trip will be to the Palaeogene igneous centres of Northern Ireland. The Northern Irish sector of the British and Irish Palaeogene Igneous Province (BIPIP) is a classic area in British and Irish geology containing key subvolcanic complexes – the Mourne Granite Centres, Slieve Gullion Ring Complex and the Carlingford Complex – and the UNESCO World Heritage site the Giant's Causeway. This region is also steeped in mythology where the fabled giant Finn McCool acquired his name (Finn or Fionn meaning fair) when he was tricked by a witch to dive into an enchanted pool at the summit of Slieve Gullion. Then there is the eponymous Giant's Causeway which was part of a spat between Finn and the Scottish Giant Fingal (of Fingal's Cave on Staffa).

On this trip we will visit localities in the Mourne Granites, some new road cut outcrops through the Slieve Gullion ring-complex, cone sheet outcrops of the Carlingford Centre, faulting and intrusion relationships west of the Antrim Basalt plateaux, the Portrush Sill and, of course, the Giant's Causeway. The aim of the trip is to consider the structural relationships of these subvolcanic intrusions, the implications for their emplacement and examine new evidence for tectonomagmatic relationships in this sector of the BIPIP.

### Costs:

Full price £350      Student £280

Price includes full board YH accommodation and a field guide. Places are limited to 30, given on a first come first served basis and are already filling up fast. Registration deadline 1<sup>st</sup> July (or when places are filled).

Please contact Carl Stevenson for a registration form and details about payment [c.t.stevenson@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.t.stevenson@bham.ac.uk)

## Committee news

We are pleased to welcome Rob Ellam (SUERC) and Charlotte Vye (BGS) as Ordinary members of the VMSG committee. As they step down we would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian O'Driscoll and Davie Brown for their work on the committee over the past years.

A word from the new Student Rep, Becky Williams (University of Leicester).

Thank you to all the students at the Glasgow VMSG meeting who attended the student forum. It was great to see the student community being well represented and to hear your feedback about the society. In response to the call for an online student forum, a Facebook group has been set up for all members of the VMSG community. Please use this group to discuss research, fieldtrip or workshop ideas and for networking opportunities. Remember that the next student bursary application deadline is June 15th, so start planning ahead for any conferences you have coming up later on in the year. Finally, I'm interested in getting your feedback, so if you have any matters you wish to bring to the attention of the committee, please get in touch! Thanks.

## Editorial

Davie Brown did a fabulous job getting the VMSG newsletter up and running. He is sincerely thanked for his efforts and leaving some rather big boots for me to fill as the new newsletter editor. I will try to avoid focusing on my preferred research areas of basaltic lava morphology, emplacement, geochemistry and African volcanism... If you have any contributions to future newsletters please send the details to me.

Deadline for next newsletter: 31st March '10.

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

VMSG Committee Member, Editor and List Manager