



### VMSG Annual Meeting – Glasgow 2010

A reminder that this year's VMSG Annual meeting is being held in Glasgow from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January. Full information on the meeting can be found at the following website: <http://web2.ges.gla.ac.uk/VMSG> or via the main VMSG webpage ([www.vmsg.org.uk](http://www.vmsg.org.uk)). Registration and abstract submission are live. A reminder that **Early Bird registration ends on the Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October**, so make sure you register now to qualify for a conference discount. **Abstract submission also closes on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October**. The website provides extensive information on the conference and details on registration and abstract submission. We hope as many of you as possible will come and join us - registration includes the full scientific programme, tea/coffees/lunch, conference banquet, whisky tasting, a ceilidh, an icebreaker reception, and drinks reception during poster sessions.



Glasgow skyline – Finnieston Crane & the Squinty Bridge

We have also secured discount accommodation at a number of nearby hotels (all within 5 minutes walk of the conference venue). Please remember to quote VMSG2010 when making your hotel bookings.

The meeting will include the following sessions:

- Magma transport versus magma storage (VMSG Award session in honour of Steve Blake)
- Geochronology of igneous processes
- Isotopes as records of magmatic processes
- Transport, dispersion & deposition during volcanic eruptions
- Volcano-tectonics: lessons from the field & laboratory
- Research in progress

We look forward to receiving your abstracts! The conference starts at ~4pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January with an Icebreaker and dedicated poster session. Please remember to allow for this in your travel plans. While poster sessions will also be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> this is an excellent extended opportunity to view the posters.

### Breaking news: VMSG Field Trip to N. Ireland

Next year's VMSG field trip will be to the Palaeogene igneous centres of Northern Ireland, from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The itinerary of the trip is still provisional, but will look at parts of the Slieve Gullion and Mourne centres, faults, volcanic vents and the Giant's Causeway. The trip is being organised by Carl Stevenson (University of Birmingham). More details to follow in due course.



Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group 2010  
Annual Meeting  
University of Glasgow  
4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
<http://web2.ges.gla.ac.uk/VMSG>

Geochronology of igneous processes  
Isotopes as records of magmatic processes  
Magma transport versus magma storage  
Research in progress  
Transport, dispersion and deposition during volcanic eruptions  
Volcano-tectonics: lessons from the field and laboratory



*The Mourne, Northern Ireland*

## Committee

Two of our Ordinary members, David Brown and Brian O'Driscoll are due to retire from the Committee at the January meeting. Therefore, we are looking for two volunteers to join the Committee. These positions are available for 3 years, and are a great way to get 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 ([kate.dobson@ges.gla.ac.uk](mailto:kate.dobson@ges.gla.ac.uk)) by the end of November. Should there be more than 2 nominees then we will organise an e-mail election.

## Sensitive Sampling

Collecting good samples is an important part of any geologist's research. However, it is important that a balance is struck between data collection and preservation of our geological heritage. Responsible sampling is important at all localities, but particularly so at Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The BGS and Scottish Natural Heritage can be contacted to provide such information. Block sampling can provide a reliable alternative.

Drilling of samples is the only feasible way to obtain a reliably oriented sample with a consistent volume. This is vital in rock magnetic studies where either the remnant magnetism or magnetic fabric (AMS) is to be reported relative to the geographic frame. However, where oriented sampling is necessary, an alternative to field drilling is to collect an oriented block that is subsequently drilled in the lab. In the field an unambiguous fiducial mark is recorded on the block sample, which is then bolted securely onto a solid table in the lab. Owens [1] provides an explanation of the process of reorienting laboratory drilled sample data where one does not have to ensure the fiducial surface is perpendicular to the drill when drilling. Several recent studies have now used block sampling and Owens' reorientation technique [2-5]. For those who use Agico's rock magnetic equipment ([www.agico.com](http://www.agico.com)), the Owens' reorientation is currently being integrated into *Anisoft*.

The main advantage of block sampling is that it does not leave behind a noticeable artificial hole. The scar left from the block sample will weather over a few years or may not even be noticeable at all. There are always pros and cons. Block sampling provides a more aesthetically acceptable method of sampling, but it does not allow detailed strategic sampling at a metre scale. Often a surface or outcrop will simply not yield a block, for instance a flat glacial pavement – this would need to be drilled. However, block sampling only requires a hammer, chisel and compass and can be carried out alone. (Carl Stevenson)

## Forthcoming Events

### *Stress controls on faulting, fracturing and igneous intrusion in the Earth's crust*

A meeting to commemorate the work of Ernest Masson Anderson on the 50th anniversary of his death, from 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at the University of Glasgow. The meeting is organised by Zoe Shipton, Rick Sibson, Dave Healy and Rob Butler. There will be also be two field trips associated with the conference: i) a 1 day pre-conference field trip to the Solway Firth to examine the basin bounding faults, their regional structure, internal architecture and effect on igneous intrusions; and ii) a 3 day post-conference field excursion to the NW Highlands to examine igneous and tectonic structures. More details on registration and abstract submission will be available in early January 2010 (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/events/andersonconference/>).



*A Brazilian dyke*

### *LASI IV (Physical Geology of Subvolcanic Systems)*

From 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010, LASI IV will be held in Moab & Mount Hillers, Utah, U.S.A. The conference will include two days of field trips to the classic laccoliths and sills of the nearby Henry Mountains. **Please note the change in dates!** See <http://lasi.lmtg.obs-mip.fr> for details.

## Funding

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

## Editorial

Deadline for next newsletter: 4<sup>th</sup> December '09.

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