



## Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group

January 2014 Newsletter (No. 26)

### Here's to a successful new year!

Welcome to the first edition of 2015 VMSG newsletters and my first one in charge of production. For those of you that do not know me, my name is Craig Magee and I have taken over from Becky Williams (who has done a sterling job!) at organising the newsletter, Twitter, etc... for the VMSG committee. In this first issue of 2015, we welcome our new committee, summarise the excellent VMSG 2015 in Norwich, and highlight future VMSG-related events you may be interested in.



*Me! - Craig Magee*

### Welcome to our new committee!

A number of committee members stepped down this January, so here is the new look committee:

Chair: Mike Widdowson  
Treasurer: Victoria Smith  
Secretary: Richard Brown  
Student rep: Tom Pering

The committee is also made of ordinary members - Seb Watt and Janine Kavanagh have joined us. Kate Dobson has stayed on as an ordinary member. Sue Loughlin, Lorraine Field, Craig Magee, Chiara Petrone and Pete Marshall all remain on the committee. Tom Pering is the new role of student rep.

I'm sure the community would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to those committee members who have stepped down this year. Rebecca Williams, Madeleine Humphreys and Adrian Jones have served on the committee for three years as ordinary members, and Jen Truby has been the student rep for 2014. Lastly, but by no means least, Andy Saunders is stepping

down as chair of VMSG. During his tenure he helped grow the group to new strengths. Thank you to all.

### VMSG 2015 – Norwich

*By Dr Anna Hicks*



The University of East Anglia has a motto - do different. Our first distinction was to host VMSG 2015 at the impressive OPEN venue in Norwich city centre. The giant banking hall meant that we could easily fit our 200 delegates, and all of the posters, into one space. We also wanted to put our stamp on the conference - to showcase UEA's strengths in interdisciplinary and applied volcanological research - so our scientific sessions were carefully chosen both to appeal to a wide audience, and to bring something different to proceedings. As such, between our magma session, research in progress, emissions and monitoring, we introduced an applied volcanology session and trialed a panel debate.

Proceedings began first thing on Monday 5th January with a session entitled "Tambora's legacy: volcanic emissions into the atmosphere" (Jerry Phillips convening; Clive Oppenheimer keynote presentation). The popular second session, "Research in Progress" (convened by Paul Cole), was split over two days with five talks on the Monday and three on Tuesday, along with a memorable keynote presentation from the VMSG Award Winner, Jenni Barclay.

The other sessions were, "Geophysical, geochemical and petrological monitoring (Jess Johnson convening; Marie Edmonds keynote presentation)", "Reconstructing volcanic and magmatic histories" (Kathy Cashman convening; Madeleine Humphreys keynote presentation)" and "Important problems in applied volcanology" (Jenni Barclay convening; David Pyle keynote presentation).



*Jenni Barclay's keynote – "Rocks and risk via Robert Owen"*

We also conducted a pilot panel session. This was designed to stimulate discussion about how the UK volcanological community interact with other research teams, in-country partners, volcano observatories and the wider public in volcanic regions. Following short presentations from the panel members, there was a lively discussion from the floor, particularly focused around good collaboration, and sharing data. *A summary of the discussion will be shared with VMSG members, and the wider volcanological community, in due course.*

Many delegates remarked that the 2015 conference was extremely sociable and friendly. Perhaps this was due to another new addition to VMSG – our volcano-themed pub quiz – expertly chaired by Jenni Barclay on Monday evening. On Tuesday night, we were treated to an excellent conference dinner at Norwich City Football Club, hosted by Delia's Catering. This year we opted for a disco and were 'entertained' by some incredibly cheesy tunes provided by DJ Magma (at the request of the delegates, I might add).

If you're interested in viewing the full story, please visit - <https://storify.com/VolcanoJenni/vmsg-2015-norwich>. What a great way to start the new year – thank you to all of the delegates for visiting us in Norwich and we look forward to what Dublin has to offer in 2016!

#### **VMSG Stats:**

Number of registered delegates = 200

Student numbers = 84

Non-student numbers = 98

Sponsor numbers = 12

Other = 6

See also: <https://infogr.am/vmsg-2015---gender>

Local organising committee: From UEA, Richard Herd, Anna Hicks, Jenni Barclay, Amanda Hamer, Katie Preece, Jon Stone,

David Litchfield, Charlotte Monteil, Roland Von Glasow, Peter Simmons, and from the Mineralogical Society, Russell Rajendra.

We are grateful to the following companies supported the conference by exhibiting or by sponsoring proceedings: ThermoFisher Scientific (Platinum Support); ESI (Gold Support); Teledyne Cetac Technologies, Socachim, Thermal Vision Research, Springer, Rigaku and SciMed (all Silver Support); Adrock (Bronze Support) and Wiley who provided a prize donation.

#### **Prizes**

##### **Bob Hunter Prize for Best student Talk**

Michael Stock (Oxford) "A temporal record of magmatic volatile evolution through texturally constrained apatite analysis"

Honourable mention: Jacqueline Ratner "Terrain mapping using structure-from-motion photogrammetry and crowd-sourced data".

##### **Geoff Brown Prize for Best Student Poster**

Anna Barth (Cambridge) "Gas migration through crystal piles"

Honourable mention: Jodie Dyble (Hull) "Micro kinematic indicators in the Green Tuff ignimbrite: can they tell us about caldera collapse". Jodie is a 6th Form Student.

Honourable mention: Emma Liu (Bristol) "The influence of near-surface magma-water interaction on magma fragmentation and degassing during the 2500BC Hverfjall fires, Iceland"

##### **Best student presentation (talk or poster) in a session**

Session 1: Rebecca Astbury (Edinburgh) "A petrographical and geochemical study of Mount Sorik Merapi, Sumatra, Indonesia"

Session 2: Tom Pering (Sheffield) "Developing a low cost method for measuring volcanic water vapour emissions at high resolution"

Session 3: Robert Jones (Leeds) "Developing a probabilistic method for rain-triggered lahar forecasting at Tungurahua Volcano"

Session 4: Danielle Charlton (UCL) "The importance of effective hazard communication and data sensitivity: hazard mapping of Campi Flegrei"

Session 5: Anna Barth (Cambridge) "Gas migration through crystal piles"

*Congratulations to all!*

#### **STREVA Workshop – Understanding risk**

*By Prof Jenni Barclay*

Following VMSG, a short workshop co-sponsored by the STREVA Project and the School of Environmental Sciences at

the University of East Anglia was convened. The theme of this workshop was 'Understanding Volcanic Risk' and the emphasis was on discussion with a few keynotes and key topics producing lots of heated debate! Collectively we had participants who brought direct experience and analysis of volcanic risk in the Caribbean, South America, Iceland, the United States, Italy, New Zealand and Indonesia. Discussion quickly focussed in on the trusted role that scientists play within scientific crises, the insidious problems invoked by dealing with scientific uncertainty, responsibilities for risk and whether 'volcanic risk' is something that can be truly mapped out in a way that effectively reduces risk. It was really interesting to hear some proper debate about 'vulnerability' in this context.

Some excellent suggestions for how to reduce (via research that improves understanding of volcanic process) and convey (via research that works alongside affected population to understand their risk) uncertainty followed. Finally some discussion amongst the group as to the value of interdisciplinary research garnered some varying views; the key conclusion is that not everyone needs to work at disciplinary boundaries but a healthy respect for other fields that add value to understanding risk improves research effectiveness. The main discussion points will be summarised and available shortly on the STREVA website: [www.streva.ac.uk](http://www.streva.ac.uk). Please contact Jenni Barclay if you want to find out more. Many thanks to all of our enthusiastic participants!

## Notices

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

- RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum Mid Term Conference 2015, 25-26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, University of Sheffield, UK
  - 13<sup>th</sup> February abstract deadline
- EGU 2015, 12 – 17 April 2015, Vienna.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jóannes Rasmussen Conference, 5 - 7 May, 2015.
  - Evolution of basaltic provinces
  - Drilling Volcanics
  - <http://jrasmussen.jf.fo/>
- 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](mailto: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:

- GSA: deadline 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015  
<http://www.geosociety.org/awards/>
- AGU: deadline April 2015  
<http://honors.agu.org/awards-medals-prizes/>
- Mineralogical Society: deadline April 2015  
<http://www.minersoc.org/awards.html>

### **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>

### **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](http://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**



*The VMSG newsletter 'Needs You'!*

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

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