



Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group

May 2014 Newsletter (No. 23)

Hello!

Welcome to a long overdue edition of the VMSG newsletter. This edition features details a review of the VMSG 2014 Annual Meeting, its associated fieldtrips and workshops. I think that all who attended thought it was a fantastic event, and we extend our thanks once again to the organisers. Two new awards are announced from the Geological Society of London and the Mineralogical Society honouring early career scientists. Finally, a note on changes to the student bursary application system, upcoming events and awards of interest.

VMSG Edinburgh 2014 - Annual Meeting.

2014 is an exciting year for VMSG as it's our 50th birthday. We kicked off the celebrations with a bumper annual meeting held in Edinburgh. Here, organiser **John Stevenson** recalls a fantastic meeting.

The 50th anniversary VMSG meeting ran from 5-8 January 2014 and was jointly hosted by Edinburgh University and the British Geological Survey, and took place in the ideal setting at the foot of Arthur's Seat. It was attended by 225 delegates from 19 countries including Chile, Japan and New Zealand. In addition, 50 delegates enjoyed a pre-conference field trip to Arthur's Seat, while 35 and 9 delegates attended the post-meeting Microanalysis Workshop and National Museums Collections tour, respectively. The overall gender balance was 59% male to 41% female. Students made up 103 of the delegates and gave 25 of 40 talks and 65 of 115 posters. Given the high proportion of science being presented in poster form, extended coffee, lunch and drinks sessions were all held in the poster area.

Each day featured a keynote lecture. **Sally Gibson** gave the 2014 Hallimond Lecture on "Continental rifting and mantle exotica" to open the meeting and as a fitting tribute to Barry Dawson, to whom the first session was dedicated. The 2014 VMSG award was given to **Jon Davidson**, who introduced the Subduction Zone Magmatism session with a talk entitled "Interrogating crystals to understand magma systems". **Steve Sparks'** talk on the final day, titled "Integrating disciplines, models, experiments and observations to understand volcanic

processes", demonstrated the breadth of research that earned him a VMSG Lifetime Achievement award. In addition, **Sue Loughlin** was congratulated on being awarded an MBE for Services to Volcanology in the New Year's honours list. The quality of student presentations was excellent, as ever. The best student talk award (Bob Hunter prize) was given to **Shelly Tyson, and Luke Hepworth** won the best student poster (Geoff Brown prize). Check out our website for details.

The social side of the conference began with a bang when the Volcano Top Trumps team detonated a liquid nitrogen-fuelled rubbish bin volcano outside the center as VMSG's answer to a duck race. It was won by Tiger Duck from the University of Hull. Back inside, 108 of the 225 delegates managed to find their randomly allocated partners to claim an extra free drink. On the Tuesday, delegates worked off canapés with a brisk walk through Holyrood Park to Our Dynamic Earth, to arrive at a drinks reception in the Earth Galleries. This was followed by conference dinner, award-winner speeches, then a ceilidh until late.

Online, the conference was reported in articles in [Scotland on Sunday](#), [Huffington Post](#), and [Deadline News](#). It could be followed on Twitter on [#VMSG2014](#) and the volcano duck race was filmed in infrared and posted on [YouTube](#).

VMSG 2014 was supported by the British Geological Survey, Cameca, OMV, Thermalvision Research, ThermoFischer Scientific, Badleys Geoscience, Springer, FEI, Adrok, Panalytical, Cambridge Scholars. It was organised by John Stevenson, Evgenia Ilyinskaya, Jennifer Brooke, Kay Smith, Godfrey Fitton, Madeleine Berg, Kate Saunders, Charlotte Vye-Brown and Darren Wilkinson. See you in Norwich in 2015!

VMSG 2015

The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held in Norwich next year, hosted by the University of East Anglia. Details on registration, sessions and conference themes will be released this autumn.

Future AGM locations

If you are interested in hosting the VMSG Annual Meeting in 2016 or beyond, please get in touch!



The 50th Anniversary of The Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group, Annual Meeting 2014 in Edinburgh

VMSG Edinburgh 2014 – Field trip to Arthur’s Seat

By Leanne Gunn

The VMSG 2014 winter meeting kicked off, on a grey Sunday afternoon in Edinburgh, with a field trip to Arthur’s Seat. Whilst the more energetic members of the group braved the wind and impending rain clouds to climb to the top of Arthur’s Seat, the rest of us spent the afternoon on a geological mooch around Holyrood Park. In just a few hours each group was taken on a tour through magma processes, volcanic activity and lava sediment interactions, the basic foundations of many VMSG members work. For me it was a refreshing break from my office, a chance to look at rocks again in this world famous locality, and for others it enabled new insights into their research.

Holyrood Park has huge geological significance as a place where geological ideas combined with astute observations led to the geological theory that today we take for granted. The trip to Arthur’s Seat was therefore not just a chance to stroll around and interrogate an ancient volcano but a chance to visit the famous Hutton’s section. Perhaps most humbling was a brief visit to Hutton’s Rock, an early example of geological conservation which now extends to the whole park.

The new website

You may have noticed that our website has undergone a superb revamp (thank you to Peter Marshall, our new website manager). We can still be found at <http://www.vmsg.org.uk/> but we can also be found on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). The website has details of our awards, bursaries, upcoming events and a list of PhD opportunities for budding volcanologists and magmatic specialists.

The front page of the website is updated regularly with news and upcoming events, so remember to check back often!

Student Bursaries

We have now set up electronic submission for our student bursary applications. From now on applications will be entirely online. There are two types of student bursary available, and financial awards are made up to £300. One is to support a student to present their research at a conference. The second is to support attendance on a field course or workshop. There are two rounds each year, one awarded at the January AGM and one awarded at the June committee meeting. The deadline for the next round of applications is the 1st June 2014. We hope that this new system will make submitting and processing these applications more streamlined and much easier! Reports from students who received the awards in 2013 are now on our website. Take a look to read about the conferences the students presented at, and field courses and workshops they attended.

The Geol Soc of London – Early career award

The Geological Society of London has launched an Early Career Geologist Award. To enter the regional event you must prepare a written submission on a piece of geological work that you’ve done. To find out more information, visit the website: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Education-and-Careers/Grants/The-Early-Career-Geologist-Award>

The Mineralogical Society – Best paper award

The Mineralogical Society has launched a brand new award in honour of Prof. R.A. Howie. The award recognises the lead author of the ‘best paper’ accepted for publication within three years of **award** (i.e. not submission) of his/her PhD thesis.

Have you read a paper recently on VMSG science that you thought was outstanding? Were you the co-author on a paper led by a recent PhD graduate? Please consider nominating the

paper for this award. The recipient will receive £1000 in funding to attend a conference to present a paper entitled the 'R.A. Howie Memorial Lecture'. *Nominations are due the 1st September.*

Visit the website: <http://www.minersoc.org/best-paper.html>

Notices

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

- Goldschmidt 2014 (*Sacramento California, 8-13 June, 2014*)
<http://goldschmidt.info/2014/>
- IAVCEI Meetings:
http://www.iavcei.org/IAVCEI_meetings/futuremeetings_IAVCEI.htm
 - 1st International Workshop on Volcano Geology (*Madeira, Portugal, 7-11 July*)
 - Tephra 2014 - Maximizing the potential of tephra for multidisciplinary science (*Portland, Oregon, 3-7 August*)
 - Cities on Volcanoes 8 (*Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 9-13 September*)
 - 12th Field Workshop on Volcanic Gases (*Atacama, Chile, 17-25 November*)
 - Georisk 2014 (*Madrid, Spain, 18-21 November*)
 - 5th International Maar Conference (*Mexico, 17-22 November*)
 - IAVCEI General Assembly - 2015 (*Prague, Czech Republic, 22 June – 2 July, 2015*).
- International school 2014 - The peralkaline volcanism at Pantelleria (*Pantelleria, Italy, 28 September – 1 October, 2014*)
<http://www.aivulc.it/>

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.

- EGU: *deadline 15th June 2014*
<http://www.egu.eu/awards-medals/robert-wilhelm-bunsen/>
- The Geological Society: *deadline 1st October 2014.*

<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/About/Awards-Grants-and-Bursaries/Society-Award-Nominations>

- AGU: *deadline April 2015*
<http://honors.agu.org/awards-medals-prizes/>
- Mineralogical Society: *deadline April 2015*
<http://www.minersoc.org/awards.html>

Public engagement activities

It's been great to see so many of our members getting out and about, telling the world about our science. VMSG members are regulars in the excellent *I'm a scientist: get me out of here!* event, and we've even had a few winners (<http://imascientist.org.uk/>). VMSG science was even taken down the pub for the Pint of Science event earlier this month (<http://www.pintofscience.com/>). Future events include the London Volcano at the Natural History Museum (<http://londonvolcano.com/>) and volcanoes and mass extinctions at the Cheltenham Science Festival (<http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science/whats-on/2014/can-volcanoes-wipe-out-life-on-earth>).

If you have a future outreach event you want to tell us about, get in touch!

New committee members

Welcome to Chiara Petrone and Craig Magee who joined the committee as ordinary members at the Edinburgh AGM. The committee also welcomes Jen Truby who is the new student representative.

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.

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 November 2014, for inclusion in the next newsletter.

All previous newsletters are available for download from the website.

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