



VMSG Annual Meeting Report

Cambridge, 5-7th January 2011

The 2011 meeting at Queens' College, Cambridge, was a great success, with 197 registrants and over 150 scientific abstracts submitted, both of which exceed all previous records! We were very pleased to see representatives of a large number of universities around the UK and from overseas, many of whom were research students.

The meeting began with opening remarks from the President of the Geological Society (and Cambridge geologist) Bryan Lovell. Scientific sessions were Research in Progress and General Contributions (the first session, which focussed heavily on student presentations), Crustal Storage of Magma, Volcanic Margins, Volatiles in Magmas, Mantle Processes and Science of Volcanoes and Society. All of the sessions were well-attended and benefited enormously from excellent keynote talks from Jon Davidson, Bob White, Jon Blundy, Richard Katz and Freysteinn Sigmundsson. We thank our session chairs: Madeleine Humphreys, Dan Morgan, David Pyle, Hugh Tuffen and Thor Thordarson, and all the student helpers for their contribution to the meeting.



*Val Troll and Trollaval...
VMSG Golden Rum Trip 2007*



Indonesian work: Val, with local guides and PhD students Jane Chadwick and Mairi Gardner

The first day concluded with a fantastic presentation from this year's VMSG Award winner, Prof. Valentin Troll; topped off by a champagne reception and the conference dinner.

As always the judging of the best student talk and poster prizes was incredibly difficult, but the VMSG Committee awarded the Best Student Talk Prize went to David Ferguson (Oxford), and gave two awards for the Best Student Poster Prize to Samantha Clark (Durham) and Ester Jolis (Uppsala).

by Marie Edmonds



Student reports

Biannually VMSG invites applications for travel funding from postgraduate researchers registered at UK universities who wish to present their work at an international or national meeting. Reports from recent recipients of funding will be published in the newsletter.

Sarah Brown, University of Portsmouth

With help from the VMSG I was able to attend the 6th international Cities on Volcanoes conference, held in Tenerife. This was an amazing opportunity to meet a huge number of people from the volcanology community from around the world, to discover what research is being undertaken through the oral and poster presentations, and to see the wonderful island of Tenerife as well, as the conference centre was nestled beneath cinder cones on the flanks of the volcano Teide. I presented a poster on my PhD research entitled "Effusive and parasitic vent activity at Somma-Vesuvius, Italy", and was very grateful for the comments and feedback on this that I received, and for the input from people I'd have otherwise never met. In all, attending this conference enabled me to make new



contacts, re-establish old connections, and engage in lots of stimulating discussions on a whole variety of topics relating to the broad subject of volcanology, and it was fascinating to see

everyone's different approaches to studying and living with volcanoes. I am very grateful to the VMSG for its financial support, helping me attend a thoroughly interesting and valuable meeting. Many thanks to VMSG.

Anne Forbes, The Open University

Thanks to the help of a VMSG bursary I attended the 2011 annual meeting in Cambridge. The setting was Queens' college, home of the famous mathematical bridge. This was the second VMSG meeting I have attended, and as previously I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. It was a lively meeting with a varied series of talks and posters. I presented a poster ('Columns in rhyolites') on the work from my PhD so far on columnar jointing in ice-interaction

rhyolites in Iceland. I gained invaluable feedback on my poster and broader aspects of my work. I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and found the final session of talks 'The science of volcanoes and society' particularly interesting. Thank you very much VMSG!

Forthcoming Events

VMSG weekend field trip '**Inside Scafell and Langdale calderas, English Lake District**', led by Peter Kokelaar and Mike Branney. Provisional dates **22nd-25th May 2011**. More details available soon.

The next VMSG annual meeting will be held in Durham, 3-5th January 2012.

Further details on the meeting will be announced in the future on the VMSG website and within newsletters.

New VMSG student representative - Simon Drake



I am a part-time, 4th year PhD student studying Palaeogene siliceous pyroclastic density deposits from the Isle of Skye, NW Scotland. In a wider context I am interested in the deposition of

ignimbrites, their lithofacies, and the evolution of ash aggregates. Since starting my PhD I have become a regular delegate at VMSG. Fieldwork is my passion and I have been able to attend events such as the VMSG Ardnamurchan workshop. As this year's student representative I hope to further "spread the VMSG word" to post-graduate students and interested undergraduates. I will post updates on the VMSG facebook page that are of interest to other students. Thank you to all who gave feedback at the recent Cambridge meeting. It will prove invaluable in the future.

Editorial

The VMSG list has expanded in the last year and we would like to welcome all new members. If your preferred email contact has changed please let me know. All members of the VMSG community can contribute to the newsletter. Next deadline is 13th May '11. Please forward any articles, comments or notices of events, workshops and conferences to me before the deadline.

Charlotte Vye (cvye@bgs.ac.uk)

VMSG Committee Member, Editor and List Manager