



# Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 3

September 2014

## President's Message

As the summer recess draws to a close, so does my term as President. When I came to office, there was a lot of confidence in the Oil and Gas industry in Aberdeen and news of the record levels of investment. There has been a dramatic turnaround as concerns grow over rising costs and declining production in mature basins and operators in Aberdeen have been laying people off. Locally this is possibly not helped by uncertainty over the Scottish future but in just a few days we will know the outcome and hopefully, whichever way the vote goes, things will stabilise again. Hopefully we will see a continuation of the record investments and return to increasing production and drilling activity. This really will be a decision for the next generation.

The History Project has made it to another milestone as the go-ahead has been given for the print run. Place your orders in time for Christmas! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the students and staff of Borders College who worked with Richard Crockett and Liam Murray who was selected to complete the graphic design.

Before the chains of office are handed over, I will be attending the Retired Members' Lunch at Newtongrange. This will be my first time visiting the National Mining Museum Scotland so I am really looking forward to the opportunity to meet more of the MIS members and also having the chance to see the museum. With my background in oil and gas, the mining industry is something I know little of so I am sure I will have the opportunity to learn not only looking round the museum but also from the collective experience that will be present in the room. I will hand over the reins to Mark Friel at the AGM on the 8 October and I wish him the best of luck for the year and look forward to the interesting technical programme he has put together for the next year.

Finally I would like to thank the Council for their support during my tenure and everyone for attending presentations through the year.

Alex Crossland [alexjcrossland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alexjcrossland@yahoo.co.uk)

## R W Thomson Lecture

The 2014/15 R W Thomson Lecture will be held on 22 April 2015 at the Garvock House Hotel, Dunfermline. This year the event will be hosted by The Mining Institute of Scotland but is supported by all the local societies in Scotland. Professor Paul Younger, Glasgow University will deliver a presentation entitled *Energy: Can we really have it all – secure, low-carbon and cheap?* Refreshments and buffet will be available from 6.00 pm with formal proceedings starting at 6.30 pm.

## Sir Andrew Bryan Award

The IOM3 Premier Awards and Prizes were presented at an awards ceremony held in London on 15 July 2014. The Secretary, David Seath, was presented with the Sir Andrew Bryan Medal. The award is made to an individual who has made sustained and outstanding contributions to the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining and its technical committees. In particular, David has remained a loyal and active member of The Mining Institute of Scotland throughout his career and has guided its development in difficult times into a broader based local society serving all professionals with energy interests in Scotland.

The President of IOM3, Professor Jon Binner made the presentation to David at the event.



David (pictured on left) receives his award

**AN INSTITUTE EVENT IS THE PLACE TO MEET FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES BOTH OLD AND NEW, WHY NOT JOIN WITH US?**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8 OCTOBER 2014 – 5.30PM AT ENTERPRISE BUILDING, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH WITH VIDEO LINK TO BP, ABERDEEN & UWS, PAISLEY

### **TECHNICAL MEETINGS**

12 NOVEMBER 2014\* – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN

#### ***Engineering in Mature Subsea Oil & Gas Operations***

Speaker: Mark Dempsey, BP

3 DECEMBER 2014 – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO H-WU, EDINBURGH & UWS, PAISLEY

#### ***Issue 2 of the Oil & Gas UK Well Integrity Guidelines***

Speaker: Steve Bedford, BP

7 JANUARY 2015 – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO HW-U, EDINBURGH & UWS, PAISLEY

#### ***Pressure core analysis: historical use in gas hydrate investigations and its applicability for other unconventional oil and gas resources***

Speaker: Peter Schultheiss, GEOTEK

25 FEBRUARY 2015 – 7.30PM AT THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WEST MAINS ROAD, EDINBURGH WITH VIDEO LINK TO BP, ABERDEEN & UWS, PAISLEY

#### ***Making better use of the ground beneath our cities; the Glasgow experience is that it helps to ASK...***

Speaker: Dr Diarmad Campbell, BGS

10 MARCH 2015\* – TBA AT THE MANAGEMENT CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

#### ***The construction of wind turbines in adverse ground conditions***

Speaker: Alan Bowery & Mike Tavern, Grontmij

22 APRIL 2015\* – 6.30PM AT THE GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL, DUNFERMLINE, FIFE

#### ***Energy: Can we really have it all – secure, low-carbon and cheap?***

Speaker: Professor Paul Younger, University of Glasgow

### **OTHER EVENTS**

17 SEPTEMBER 2014\* – 12.30PM AT THE NATIONAL MINING MUSEUM SCOTLAND, NEWTONGRANGE, MIDLOTHIAN

#### **Retired Members' Lunch & Technical Update**

Speaker: Alex Crossland, President

4 MARCH 2015\* – 1.30PM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

#### **Young Persons' Lecture Competition 2015**

\* No video-conference link available

## **Oil & Gas Division Update**

As students start their new academic year and The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) prepares for the 2014/15 session the Oil and Gas Division is ready to support both. The MIS technical programme contains a number of presentations of direct relevance to the Oil and Gas Industry. The Division has organised technical seminars on: completion engineering, subsea engineering and sand cleanout techniques for students at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. These seminars will provide the students with information on the latest developments in these areas and will be delivered by practising engineers using recent case studies. For the HNC and HND Petroleum Engineering students at the Fife College, the Division has organised a visit to the International Coiled Tubing and Well Intervention conference and exhibition in Aberdeen. This event will enable the students to see the latest equipment and techniques being deployed to maintain and enhance oil and gas wells. The students will also receive a seminar on well servicing techniques which has been designed to complement their studies and provide them with the latest information. The Division will also provide a speaker to cover Oil & Gas at the seminar arranged for students at the University of St. Andrews.

Continuing professional development is a requirement for Chartered Engineers and the Division microsite on [www.iom3.org](http://www.iom3.org) contains information on upcoming training courses: current courses advertised include a range of metallurgy related courses in the Aberdeen area. The IOM3 is in the final stages of upgrading the website and you can expect to see the refreshed site soon – please let the IOM3 know what you think of the new site as a lot of work has gone into it. As always myself, or any of the Division Board members, would welcome your input – so please feel free to get in touch. In particular we would like to hear from any younger members that would like to get involved with the Division activities.

Steve Bedford.

Oil & Gas Division Chairman

[bedfords2@bp.com](mailto:bedfords2@bp.com)

## **Arkwright Scholarship**

Catriona Sinclair has forwarded her final year report: "I have now left school and will start at the University of Cambridge in October studying Natural Sciences (Physical). I am thinking about taking the Materials Science modules as one of my choices as I found the work I did at BP last year very interesting and would like to learn more. I would like to thank you for all the support that The Mining Institute of Scotland has provided for me over the last two years."

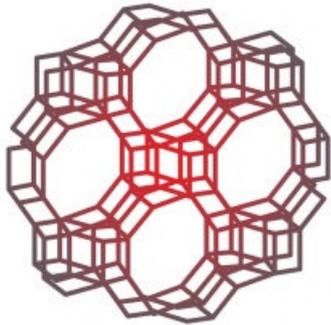
Catriona achieved an A grade in all four advanced highers she sat this year. Well done!

## Minerals for Life

Last year, the Mineralogical Society, in conjunction with the Geological Society, the British Zeolite Association and IOM3 held the conference 'Minerals for Life'. The ambition of the event was to bring together those in academia with those working in industry to share experiences and skills.

### OVERCOMING RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS

## Minerals for Life



The mineral sciences span an increasingly broad range of subjects. The traditional core disciplines of characterisation and classification have burgeoned in recent decades, as the range of analytical tools available has grown very rapidly along with our systematic understanding of mineral chemistry. Similar advances in exploration, mining and process engineering brings these fields to a state of advancement such that they would be unrecognisable to a practitioner of fifty years ago. Over the same period, our environmental awareness has developed greatly and the role of our subject remains at the core of many methods of environmental remediation. Moreover, it has helped foster environmental responsibility in operational practice. The science underlying minerals as functional materials covers many new fields, with wide applications spanning medicine, electronics, construction and many others, as we develop new applications for minerals and their products. The contribution of minerals to human well-being has never been more prominent than it is today. After all, if we don't grow it or catch it, we must dig it from the ground!

The 'Minerals for Life' event was originally conceived as a way of bringing the best of current research activities to an audience spanning the minerals community as a whole. It was arranged around four broad themes with numerous cross-cutting presentations and ideas. The organisers were also very grateful to Imerys, The Mining Institute of Scotland, GT Vision and Ashapura Group, Mumbai for contributions which helped with funding for overseas speakers and in other ways.

Graham Smith

## Hidden Riches

When The Mining Institute of Scotland won the IOM3 Local Society of the Year it received £1,000 to spend on a project. Council decided that the money would be put towards the funding of a publication, which would be a celebration of the life and times of the Institute. Albeit the Council knew that the cost of such a publication was likely to exceed the prize it agreed to push ahead and invited Richard Crockett to be the project manager and editor-in-chief.

At its last meeting Council finally agreed to the printing of *Hidden Riches*. Although there are still some decisions to be made, the book will be available by the time of the AGM on 8 October 2014. Those attending the AGM will be the first to receive a copy. Thereafter, the book will go on sale as well as being made available to libraries and other bodies.

Council will apply to the Trust for a grant to part-fund the book but the amount of any award will not be known until after the AGM. Members wishing to get a first edition will have to attend on 8 October. Sales will be through the National Mining Museum Scotland and reasonably priced due to the anticipated generous assistance of the Trust.

It is planned to publish extracts from *Hidden Riches* on the website but you will need to get a copy to read the full story.

## Benevolent Funds

There are two funds available to assist members, ex members and their dependents who are in need.

These are The Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining Members Benevolent Trust and The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust Benevolent Fund. Anyone requiring assistance (or just as importantly who knows someone in need of assistance) is invited to contact Jim Wishart (Tel. 01592 750552) for an informal discussion. In the event of Jim being unavailable please contact the Secretary.

IOM3 members renewing their subscription are requested to include a donation to the Members Benevolent Trust (MBT) to allow the Trust to be able to continue with its work.

The MBT is currently looking for potential trustees. The MBT Board meets twice a year, in early March and early November, in London and pays reasonable travel expenses. Additionally, Trustees usually attend the AGM in early July. Between these meetings Trustees are consulted by email on actions on new applications and changes in circumstances of existing beneficiaries. It is not overly onerous and can be very rewarding. Any members interested in becoming a MBT Trustee should contact Jim Wishart for further information.

## **COUNCIL 2013/14**

**PRESIDENT: ALEX CROSSLAND\***

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: MARK FRIEL\***

**JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: JON LATIMER\***

**SECRETARY: DAVID SEATH**

**TREASURER: IAN PURDIE\***

**BENEVOLENT FUND: JIM WISHART**

**YOUNGER MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE: BERAN TANILIR**

**STEVE BEDFORD (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**GORDON BEETHAM (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**SIMON BRASSEY (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**MARGARET COPLAND (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**RICHARD CROCKETT (ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS)**

**MARTIN DOWNING (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**CRAIG DURHAM\* (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**JOE HEFFERNAN (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**KEN MACKIE MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**BABS OYENEYIN\* (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**GRAHAM SMITH (CONFERENCE ORGANISER)**

**JIM SOMERVILLE (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**ALLAN THOMSON (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**VACANCIES (5)**

**\* DIRECTOR OF THE MINING INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND**

**SPECIFIC ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS.**

**THE COUNCIL ARE KEEN TO FILL THE VACANCIES AND SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE ABOVE (CONTACT DETAILS ARE ON THE WEBSITE).**

## **Election of Council**

The Council of The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) hereby invites nominations for election to the Council from Corporate Members, Associate Members and Technician Members. There are several vacancies to be filled at the AGM on Wednesday, 8 October 2014. Younger members would be especially welcome to fill some of these existing vacancies.

The Council shall receive for inclusion in any Corporate Member ballot list the name of any Corporate Member submitted in writing and duly signed by not less than two Corporate Members; in any Associate Member ballot list the name of any Associate Member submitted in writing and duly signed by not less than two such Associate Members and in any Technician Member ballot list the name of any Technician Member submitted in writing and duly signed by not less than two Technician Members where available, within MIS.

The Council shall prepare and issue to Corporate Members, Associate Members and Technician Members in MIS as appropriate, a ballot list of those individuals properly nominated to stand for election to the Council in the categories of Corporate Member, Associate Member and Technician Member respectively. The result of the ballot shall be reported to the Annual General Meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no ballot shall be necessary where there are no vacancies in any category or where the number of nominations is less than or equal to the number of vacancies in any category.

Nevertheless, should there be nobody seeking nomination through the above process, the Council has the power to co-opt members on to Council. Therefore, if any members (regardless of grade) would like to offer their time to serve on Council then an informal discussion can be held with any of the existing Council members. Contact details for all Council members can be found on the website ([www.mining-scotland.org](http://www.mining-scotland.org)).

### **SECRETARY'S ADDRESS**

**Mr David Seath BSc(Hons) CEng FIMMM  
10 Woodhill Grove  
Crossford  
Dunfermline  
KY12 8YG  
Tel/Fax: 01383 432856  
Email: [D.Seath@btinternet.com](mailto:D.Seath@btinternet.com)**

Members can receive all correspondence by email. Please contact the Secretary if you wish to receive correspondence electronically but currently don't.

### **Retired Members' Lunch**

The Retired Members' Lunch will be held on Wednesday, 17 September 2014 at the National Mining Museum Scotland, Newtongrange, Midlothian. The President will give a short address on current developments within the society and industry. This social experience presents an opportunity to meet up with old friends and former colleagues. There is no charge to attend as the meal is subsidised by The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust. However, booking with the Secretary is essential.