



In July 2015, the Euroclay 2015 meeting was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. This event ran over seven days in early July and included five field trips, a workshop, a short-course, numerous social events, including a superb banquet, five parallel sessions and two poster sessions. More than 500 delegates, including ~130 students, attended.

The programme consisted of the following 16 sessions:

- Bentonites: linking clay science with technology
- Industry perspectives in clay and fine-particle science
- Developments and applications of quantitative analysis to clay-bearing materials, incorporating 'The Reynolds Cup School'
- Asian Clay Minerals Group Research in Progress (II) (part of Euroclay2015)
- Clay and fine particle-based materials for environmental technologies and clean up
- Beyond smectite-based nanocomposites
- Bioreactive clay minerals: impacts on environmental and human health
- Structural characterization of lamellar compounds
- The many faces of chlorite
- From microscopic pore structures to transport properties in shales (workshop follow-on session)
- Clay minerals in the oil and gas industry
- Computational chemistry studies of clay minerals - bridging length and time-scales
- Natural zeolites – environmental, biomedical and industrial applications
- Clays in the Critical Zone: soils, weathering and elemental cycling
- Clay mineral indices in palaeo-geothermal studies, hydrocarbon and geothermal prospection - third Frey-Kübler symposium
- Halloysite: a unique, diverse and widely useful natural nanomaterial

The pre-conference workshop was:

Filling the gaps – from microscopic pore structures to transport properties in shales and was organised by Reiner Dohrmann, Chris Greenwell and Thorsten Schaefer under the auspices of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) "Clay Club" in association with Euroclay2015, The Clay Minerals Society and The Geological Society.

The mid-conference short-course was:

'The Chemistry of Clay-Polymer Reactions' and was delivered by Benny K.G. Theng, Landcare Research, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Field trips

The field trips were:

The pre-conference ***Strontian and Isle of Mull zeolite*** excursion ran from Monday 29th June to Saturday the 4th of July and was led by Linda Campbell, Alan Dyer, and Craig Williams (with co-leader Oneta Wilson).

- ***Dob's Linn and Grey Mare's Tail*** – Southern Uplands, led by Simon Kemp (with co-leaders Hugh Barron and Maxine Akhurst).

- The ***Devonian–Carboniferous*** upland–acid coal swamp transition 325–350 million years ago exposed in the sea cliffs of S.E. Scotland, led by Christopher Jeans, Jennifer Huggett, Elena Kuznetsova, and David Wray (with co-leader Euan Clarkson).

- Soils and geological time along ***The James Hutton trail***, led by Jeff Wilson (with co-leaders Allan Lilly and Helen Pendlowski).

Additionally, a 2–3 hour walking trip around the spectacular city centre Volcano Geology of Edinburgh was an option taken up by >150 delegates on the Wednesday (***Arthur's Seat***), led by Derek Bain (with co-leader Stuart Munro and numerous other volunteers).

For a social side to the conference, delegates were offered the option of tasting some Scottish Whisky. All delegates also enjoyed the Conference Dinner and Céilidh which took place at 'Our Dynamic Earth'.

Accompanying persons

Delegates' families and partners were also catered for with a number of social events:

Trip to ***Stirling Castle***. Situated prominently above Stirling on a Carboniferous sill crag 45 miles from Edinburgh, Stirling Castle is one of the largest and most important castles, both historically and architecturally in Scotland. A place of power, beauty and history, it was one of the favoured residences of Scottish Kings and Queens.

Visit to ***Rosslyn Chapel*** at Roslin, Midlothian. Dating back to the mid-15th century, this fascinating chapel with its many intricate stone carvings has, since the late 1980s, featured in speculative theories concerning its supposed connection with the Knights Templar, Freemasonry and the Holy Grail as featured in the book *The Da Vinci Code* and film of the same name.

Visit to the ***Royal Yacht Britannia*** now berthed at Ocean Terminal, Edinburgh. This large oceanic liner was used by Britain's Royal Family for state visits around the world from 1954 to 1997.

Back to the science.....

A novel part of the event was that the editorial boards for *Clays and Clay Minerals* met (over dinner) to discuss matters of mutual interest. We also took the opportunity to discuss future marketing strategies for our journals.



*Joint Dinner for Editors of *Clay Minerals* and *Clays and Clay Minerals**

The Awards Ceremony saw us celebrate the contribution to the conference made by the many guest speakers. Awards were made on behalf of the Clay Minerals Society and the Mineralogical Society.

Awards for the best student poster and best student oral presentation were made jointly with the European Clay Groups Association and Association Internationale pour l'Etude des Argiles (**AIPEA**). The winners were as follows:

The best student oral presentations were by Bhabananda Biswas, Mathias H. Köster and Sayako Inoue.

The best student poster presentations were by Cristina Fernández-Barranco, Katherine Rothwell and Darja Komar.



AIPEA (and other) student award winners during the Euroclay 2015 conference

Finally, the entire clay community recognized meeting organizer, Steve Hillier, for his work in putting together such a great meeting.



Steve Hillier (left) meeting organizer, with W. Crawford Elliott, President, Clay Minerals Society.