

**Clay Minerals Group Bursary:  
Oral Presentation at the British Sedimentological Research Group (BSRG) 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Joe Emmings (PhD student, University of Leicester)**

I would like to thank the Clay Minerals Group (CMG), Mineralogical Society for providing a travel grant to enable me to attend and present at the British Sedimentological Research Group's (BSRG) 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting hosted by Keele University. I am in the early stages of my second year of my PhD research so the BSRG AGM represented a great opportunity to present the results of my first year of research, supervised by Sarah Davies at the University of Leicester and with co-supervisors at the British Geological Survey (BGS).

I presented on the topic of 'The Bowland Shale at Outcrop: Understanding the Role of Modern Weathering' in the 'Characterisation of Mudstone-rich Successions: Sedimentology, Mineralogy and Diagenesis' session (sponsored by the CMG). My PhD research proposes to understand the controls on the distribution of organic matter in the Bowland Shale (from hydrocarbon prospectivity and carbon cycle perspectives). There are limited cores through this part of the stratigraphy but abundant surface exposures; therefore an important issue is to understand whether or not rock samples taken from outcrop have been altered by modern weathering processes. I have determined the influence of modern weathering in our dataset: specifically the changes in the organic and inorganic geochemistry. I also suggest where samples should be acquired from outcrop, and what to avoid.

The session proved to be extremely valuable, with some excellent questions and discussion following my presentation; those questions are now helping me to identify aspects of this work for improvement. The AGM itself is a great forum to meet around 200 others in research and industry, to think and discuss; and ultimately to help each other to improve our knowledge. For me it provided ample opportunity to communicate my research to the sedimentological community and to prepare ahead of other upcoming conferences in 2016; a wonderful way to finish the year.

We greatly appreciate the CMG for the financial support it provides to research students,

Joe Emmings



Joe Emmings presenting at the BSRG 54<sup>th</sup> AGM