

Bursary Report

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I wish to thank the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland (MinSoc) for their support enabling my attendance at the 2023 Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group (VMSG) conference in Bloomsbury, London this January. This represented the last conference opportunity for me before my PhD Viva in February 2023 and one of the few opportunities I've had to present in-person during my PhD (Covid-19) so I found attending highly valuable. I connected with both new and old faces and got to expand my network at a time where I am actively job seeking and for that opportunity, I am very grateful to MinSoc.

At the event I presented an oral presentation titled "Strongly peraluminous granitoids record an increase in biological nitrogen burial across the Precambrian-Cambrian boundary: Implications for reconstructions of bio-productivity and atmospheric pressure through time". Although closely linked to the magmatic aspects of the VMSG community, this talk inspired a surprising number of biological discussions and really aimed to show the importance of the interface between magmatic systems and biologically derived elements (in this case nitrogen). This pushing the boundaries of what volcanologists and geoscientists may routinely think about led to a number of fascinating discussions.

One of the many highlights of the conference was attending the fabulous conference dinner held at the Natural History Museum in their Earth Hall which really acted as an amazing round up for a fabulous conference. I enjoyed being surrounded by a impressive array of geological and paleontological materials and eating some great food with amazing scientists. St Andrews geoscientists provided a strong turn out and all thoroughly enjoyed the warm hospitality shown by the London VMSG organisers. Thankyou to MinSoc for your support which allowed me to enjoy one last in-person conference as a part of my PhD.



Photo caption: A happy bunch of St Andrews geoscientists at the NHM conference dinner for VMSG2023. Toby Boocock is 3rd from the left.