

## Professor Hazel Prichard, 1954-2017

It is with great sadness that the IAGOD community learned of the passing of Professor Hazel Prichard on 1 January 2017. Hazel had an enormous contribution to the world of economic geology and in particular, her boundless enthusiasm for platinum group element deposits the world over. She spent many years as a secretary for the IAGOD Commission on Ore Deposits in Mafic & Ultramafic Rocks (CODMUR). The following words are by her colleague at Cardiff University, Dr Iain McDonald:



"Hazel was a stalwart of the UK minerals deposits community and a great champion for the discipline of Exploration Geology throughout her long and distinguished career. I first met her at the first MDSG meeting I attended as a pretty green PhD student in 1992 and since I moved to Cardiff in 2001 I have had the pleasure to get to know her very well. Over those 16 years we sometimes clashed but Hazel's persistence, dogged determination, honesty and bubbling enthusiasm for mineralogy and ore deposits meant that I was never cross with her for long.

Those of us that knew Hazel can say for sure that there will not be another like her. As a woman in a male-dominated discipline she was a constant champion for equality and for equal opportunities for female students and postgraduates. I know that many of the most successful female graduates from Cardiff in the last decade cite Hazel as an important inspiration for them during their time at university.

In the field, Hazel was unforgettable. I have fond memories of Cardiff undergraduate field trips to Cornwall and Cyprus where Hazel, with her ever-present handbag of useful items, would be first off the bus and full of energy to lead a gaggle of weary or hungover students on to the next outcrop. Her enthusiasm for field geology and for mineral deposits was both engaging and inspiring and her teaching methods that required students to literally crawl over the rocks with hand lenses will not be easily forgotten by those who went on those trips. For me, the harzburgite outcrop at Kennack Sands on Lizard, the open pit at Agrokipia and the umbers below Theotokos Monastery on Cyprus will always be synonymous with her and all will feel a little more desolate and empty for her passing.

As many know, Hazel's great passion was the platinum-group elements. She devoted herself to these fascinating metals and their various minerals and made numerous fundamental contributions to our understanding of them over her distinguished career. Since her initial discovery of platinum group elements on Shetland, Hazel has probably visited and collected samples from more PGE deposits than anyone else I know. Her office at Cardiff was a treasure trove of interesting mineral specimens - the very tip of an enormous personal collection that had been carefully gathered and curated over decades of fieldwork on every continent except (as far as I know) Antarctica. Over the course of that career, Hazel supervised many PhD students who

have gone on to have hugely successful careers. I know many who will hopefully look back fondly on the remarkable woman who inspired them and cared deeply about their welfare and their research. She leaves an enormous legacy of research, including much of it sadly unfinished, among her many friends and collaborators and it is my sincere wish that over the next few years those of us that worked with Hazel can complete and publish as many of the projects that were so close to her heart, and which she was so cruelly prevented from finishing herself.

Hazel was at her best with students, particularly the undergraduate students on the Exploration & Resource Geology degree scheme at Cardiff that she led for over a decade. The obituary on the Cardiff webpage only gives a hint at the work that Hazel put in to make the degree scheme a success, and the pleasure that she took from every cohort of graduating students. For many years, Hazel was the living heartbeat of that degree scheme and it pained her deeply to have to give up running it. Through unstinting hard work, dogged determination and pure unwillingness to take no for an answer she built and developed the Exploration placement component of the degree scheme into the success that it became. Dozens of ex-Cardiff Exploration alumni got their first start and their first experience of the minerals industry through the placements that Hazel set up. Cardiff University finally honored her for this remarkable effort with an Enriching Student Life award in 2014 but perhaps a more fitting tribute (and one that Hazel would almost certainly have valued more) are all the successful ex-Cardiff students working in the minerals industry. And if any of them read this and think back to their days as undergraduates, raise a glass to the remarkable lady who taught you, cared about you and helped you in more ways than you probably knew at the time.

Earth Sciences at Cardiff will go on but it will not go on in the same way that it did when Hazel was with us. Part of me still expects to hear her voice, full of enthusiasm about some new discovery, as happened so often when I walked past her office on the way to teach a practical class. Hazel was a remarkable woman, a great and talented scientist, and a true friend. A light went out in our mineral deposits community on New Year's Day and there will never be another one quite like her.

If there is a layered intrusion with a platinum deposit anywhere in the afterlife then I know who will be happily panning for PGM in some stream draining off it..."

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