

In Memoriam: Alan S. Rodger

It is with great sadness that we report that Prof. Alan Rodger, Editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research (Space Physics)* and former Interim Director of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), passed away on January 3, 2020.

Alan was born in 1951, and brought up in Edinburgh, Scotland. After completing his degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Manchester, he joined the BAS (British Antarctic Survey) in 1972 and completed two winters at the Argentine Islands station (now the Ukrainian Antarctic Research Station Vernadsky). He acquired the nickname “Florence,” because of his care and skill in nursing one of his companions who had suffered a serious injury in the middle of winter. His compassion and care for others marked him out as someone special.

On returning to BAS he built an international reputation, publishing over 91 research papers and widely collaborating. Alan worked on a number of problems in magnetosphere-ionosphere physics, combining ground-based observations at Halley with satellite data such as DE-2. He became well known for his work on the mid-latitude ionospheric trough. His review paper became one of his most highly cited papers. When the first SuperDARN radar was installed at Halley (originally called PACE), he was quick to exploit it. He used radars to study the ionospheric footprint of the cusp, and put forward a theory for the formation of polar patches: pointing out that a large dawn-dusk component of the interplanetary magnetic field plays a key part in their formation. His research was recognized by a DSc from the University of Manchester, and a visiting professorship at Aberystwyth University.



Alan broadened his research into climate change, and became Head of Science Programmes and then Interim Director of BAS during a difficult period. He provided the leadership and direction that was needed. He served on international committees, particularly the Science Advisory Board of the Birkland Centre for Space Science in Norway.

In retirement, Alan was a dedicated Editor of *JGR Space Physics* for six years, shepherding over 1300 manuscripts through the editorial process, and providing insightful contributions to publication policy and practice.

Alan also served on the Boards of Governors for various schools, and contributed to local Council work. He was a modest, quiet, and gentle man who always had time for others and a passion for cricket and golf. He dealt with his debilitating illness with dignity and calmness, never letting it get the better of him. He leaves behind his wife Mary, sons Chris and Alex, and a grandchild. He will be sadly missed.

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