

Alan W. Owen PhD



Alan was born and raised in Manchester. He graduated from Durham University with first-class honours in geology in 1973 and obtained a PhD from Glasgow University on Upper Ordovician trilobites and stratigraphy in the Oslo region, Norway in 1977. After an 18 month postdoctoral fellowship at the Palaeontological Museum in Oslo he was appointed to a lectureship in Dundee in 1978 and returned to Glasgow in 1989. He was promoted to senior lecturer in 1992 and reader in 2001. He was head of the division of earth sciences in the 2005 lead-up to its very successful amalgamation to form what is now the school of geographical and earth sciences. Among his many other responsibilities he was a member of the university court (2009-2013) and the honorary keeper of geology in the Hunterian Museum (2001-2016). He retired in 2016 but remains active in research.

Alan's research encompasses palaeontology (especially trilobites), palaeobiogeography, the Ordovician biodiversification and mass extinction events, Caledonide terrane evolution, stratigraphy and sedimentary geochemistry. It has resulted in over 120 papers, books and edited volumes.

Among his wider contributions to geology, Alan was vice-president of the Palaeontological Association (1992-1994), a voting member of the Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy (1992-2012), a leader of International Geoscience Programme project "Ordovician Palaeogeography & Palaeoclimate" (2004-2009) and a member of the NERC Peer Review College (2007-2010). He has been an editor of the journal *Lethaia* since 2008.

Alan joined the Geological Society of Glasgow in 1974. He has been one of the society's editors of the *Scottish Journal of Geology* (1983-1989) and a council member from 2003 to 2011. His term as president (2006-2009) included the 150th anniversary session (2007-2008), which he considers to have been a tremendous privilege. He has given several lectures to the society and led excursions to the Wandel Burn, Thirlestane Score (with Euan Clarkson, Edinburgh) and Spireslack Opencast Site (with Chris Burton).