

Atmospheric Electricity at Durham - JA Chalmers Anniversary Meeting

26th May 2017 1400 to 1700

Department of Physics, University of Durham

Organised by the Atmospheric Electricity Specialist Group and NE branch of the RMets



Alan Chalmers (in 1965)*

The Physics Department at the University of Durham hosted an influential research group in atmospheric electricity until the mid-1970s, led by Professor Alan Chalmers (1904-1967). The group made fundamental findings in fair weather atmospheric electricity and the electrification of cloud and rainfall, and trained many international researchers in experimental physics. Chalmers' book *Atmospheric Electricity* (2nd edition published in 1967) was a comprehensive and classic text, through which his name is still widely known. It remains an important introduction for modern researchers in atmospheric electricity. This meeting marks the fiftieth anniversary of his death and will review the contributions of the Durham group, both as a model of environmental physics activity and for its legacy to atmospheric electricity.

Venue: Lecture Theatre OCW17, Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics, Department of Physics, University of Durham. (Directions to the Department of Physics are available at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/physics/contact/location/>)

Programme

1400 - 1405 *Welcome and Introduction – Giles Harrison (Atmospheric Electricity Group Chair)*

1405 - 1430 *Arnold Wolfendale (Durham Physics) – Alan Chalmers: the man*

1430 -1500 *Karen Aplin (Oxford Physics) - Atmospheric electricity at Durham*

1500-1530 *Paula Chadwick (Durham Physics) – Gamma ray astronomy and atmospheric ionisation*

1530-1600 *Tea*

1600-1630 *Joan Kenworthy (Durham Geography) – The Observers*

1630-1645 *Discussion*

1645 *Close*

Registration is encouraged for this meeting, through <https://www.rmets.org/events/atmospheric-electricity-durham-ja-chalmers-anniversary-meeting>

*Image of JAC from: Meade D.M. (2000), John Alan Chalmers (1904-1967) *Physicist and Durham Scout Leader*. In: G.R. Batho (ed) *Durham Biographies* vol 1. Durham County Local History Society