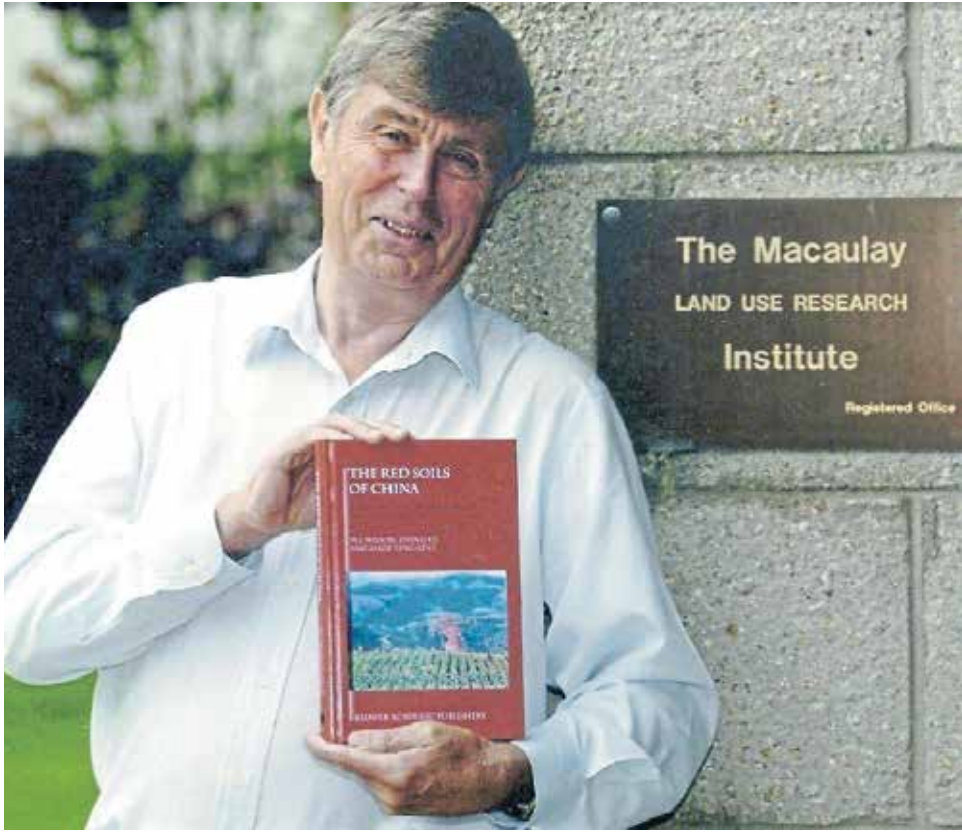


Aberdeen geologist who found clue



EXPERT: Dr Jeff Wilson with one of his respected books, outside the Macaulay Institute.

Dr Jeff Wilson

Aberdeen scientist Dr Jeff Wilson, who discovered a rock that was later used by Nasa for research into life on Mars, has died aged 86.

The Macaulay Institute scientist and university lecturer contributed to more than 300 scientific papers and was a world expert on geology and soil composition.

Michael Jeffrey Wilson, known as Jeff, was born on February 22 1937 in Liverpool. One of five children, he was the son of electrician and part-time magician Herbert, and wool shop owner Winifred.

In 1939 they moved to Merthyr Tydfil where Jeff attended Dowlais Catholic Primary School then Merthyr County Grammar.

Swansea University followed, where he excelled in geology. After graduating

in 1958 he attained a further BSc then a PhD all while working in Cardiff University as a geology lab demonstrator.

When it came time to apply for jobs, Jeff found himself at a crossroads. He went for two roles: one in Australia as a geologist, another with the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Aberdeen.

Offered both positions he opted for the Australian post pending a medical examination. When it was revealed he had contracted TB as a teenager without his knowledge, he moved to Aberdeen instead.

He took a room at the Malacca Guesthouse and there met fellow Welshman and scientist Dr David Jones, who also worked at the Macaulay Institute.

During a trip home for Christmas in 1964, Jeff reconnected with former

school friend Ann Sullivan, by then a history teacher. They met up again a few months later and by the following Easter they were engaged.

Ann moved to Aberdeen and the couple tied the knot in November 1964.

They lived in Peterculter when daughter Jennie was born in April 1967. Two years later they moved to Glenhome Court, Dyce, and in 1970 their second daughter Elizabeth arrived.

Jeff continued to make his mark in mineralogy, travelling the world and earning a promotion to head of the Macaulay's soils microbiology division.

In his spare time he taught himself piano and played cricket.

On returning from his many travels Jeff loved to regale his daughters with stories of China, Australia, Europe, Asia, Africa and

to life on Mars dies at 86

America where he lectured and worked on research.

Over the years Jeff wrote hundreds of scientific papers and five books.

He was the first recipient of the Schlumberger medal for excellence in mineralogical research and was an honorary professor at Zhejiang University, China, for his contribution to red soil research.

As an honorary fellow of the Macaulay, which later became part of the James Hutton Institute, his achievements were vast.

In addition, Jeff taught for more than a decade at Aberdeen University. He loved to learn and pass on his knowledge. He was also a lecturer at Naples University, for overseas student summer schools and within the oil industry.

Jeff's greatest scientific achievement, however, was the discovery of

Macaulayite on a field trip at the foot of Bennachie.

He identified that unusually coloured rocks from the Aberdeenshire site were formed from granite weathered by tropical climates prior to the last ice age.

The location remains the only known source of this type of rock in the world – but the name Wilsonite was taken, so Jeff went for Macaulayite instead.

Nasa contacted him in 2009, seeking to examine Macaulayite as part of their study on Martian minerals to try to prove life on the red planet was sustainable.

In 1999 Jeff and Ann separated but the following year celebrated the arrival of grandson James. Their second grandchild, Alice, was born in 2007. James and Alice were beloved by their dotting grandfather.

Jeff married again, to a

fellow scientist, Ukrainian Lyudmyla Pavlova. Colleagues at the Macaulay, they first met at a clay conference in Belgium.

They lived in Dyce then Bridge of Don along with Lyudmyla's daughter, Masha, who Jeff raised as his own.

All three daughters paid tribute to the endless driving he did, without complaint, taking them to university or job interviews, and picking up their friends after nights out. They also remarked on his desire to study courses they were taking so he could discuss the subjects with them.

Jeff was also exceptionally close to his brother Martin, who on his guidance went into a career in biology. Martin loved his brother's forensic mind and memory – especially when it came to naming composers.

Jeff embraced his

sons-in-law and when Lyudmyla's older daughter and grandsons fled Ukraine, he welcomed them into his home.

Jeff continued working for the Macaulay Institute as an honorary fellow into his 80s, until his health deteriorated.

When he had to spend his remaining days in a care home, Lyudmyla visited every day with world news updates.

Jeff died on July 21 after a long illness. His daughters Jennie and Elizabeth were with Lyudmyla by his side.

The family said Jeff's academic work would always be "remembered, revered and referred to" – but added that he would be most missed "as a husband, father, stepfather, brother, father-in-law and grandfather".

● Lindsay Bruce



Jeff in his geology student days in his native Wales, top, and enjoying a family Christmas, above.

Death Notices

BRADY

Peacefully on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Rosaline Mary (nee Montgomery) aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Ian, sister to the late Edward and Colin, much loved mum to June and Karen, mother-in-law of Jim and Colin, adored grandma to Catriona, Hannah, Fiona, Lyndsey and Martin and proud great grandma. Funeral service to be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at Aberdeen Hillside Parish Church (formerly High Hillton), at 11am (thereafter interment at Springbank Cemetery), to which all are respectfully invited. Please feel free to wear a touch of sparkle. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu if desired may be given at the Church door for DEBRA UK. Sadly missed.

BRUCE

Peacefully at Fordmill Nursing Home, on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, David Lindsay, aged 83 years. Loving husband of Fiona, dear father of Joy and the late Colin, grandfather of Stewart and Scott and father-in-law of Grant. Funeral service at Parkgrove Crematorium, on Wednesday, August 30, at 2.30pm, to which all relatives and friends are welcome. No flowers please. Donations in lieu, if desired, may be made towards Diabetes U.K.

CAMPBELL

(Wick) Sadly but peacefully after a battle with leukaemia, at home in Watten with family, on Friday, August 11, 2023, Ivor (aged 83 years). Beloved wife of the late Ian, sister to the late Edward and Colin, much loved mum to June and Karen, mother-in-law of Jim and Colin, adored grandma to Catriona, Hannah, Fiona, Lyndsey and Martin and proud great grandma. Funeral service to be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at Aberdeen Hillside Parish Church (formerly High Hillton), at 11am (thereafter interment at Springbank Cemetery), to which all are respectfully invited. Please feel free to wear a touch of sparkle. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu if desired may be given at the Church door for DEBRA UK. Sadly missed.

DIJKER

It is with great sadness, that we announce the passing of our much loved dad, Sijbrand 'Simon' Dijkster, who left us peacefully at ARI, on August 7, 2023, surrounded by his loving children. Beloved husband of the late Helen Dijkster, greatly loved dad of Aletta, Kees, Katie, Simon, Anna and all our family dogs – past and present. He also very much appreciated all the friends and acquaintances made during his dog walks at Strichen. Funeral service on August 25, at 11am, at Moray Crematorium, Buckie. Always remembered and forever in our hearts and lives.

FARQUHARSON

Peacefully, at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, on Thursday, August 10, 2023, Charles Robertson Farquharson, aged 86, husband of the late Sheila Farquharson (nee Hendry), a loving father, grandfather, and father-in-law. He will be greatly missed by all his family. Funeral service on Wednesday, August 23, at 11.30am, in the East Chapel of Aberdeen Crematorium. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to the Alzheimer's Society.

FRASER

(Kintore) It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Isobel Fraser (nee Duffus), at home, on Monday, August 14, 2023. Dearly loved wife of late, devoted mother to Russell and Steven, dear mother-in-law to Anna, and proud grandmother of Ethan and Charlotte, beloved sister and aunt and good friend to many. Funeral private at her request.

FRASER

(Stonehaven) Peacefully at Mowat Court Care Home, on Sunday, August 13, 2023, Audrey, aged 92 years. Wife of the late Iain, loved mum of Duncan, Sheila, Kim and the late Catriona, dear mother-in-law of John and Brian, cherished grandma and great-grandma. Funeral service to be held at Baldarroch Crematorium, Crathes, on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 1pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

HEATLY

Peacefully, at Rubislaw Park Care Home, on Friday, August 11, 2023, Brian (formerly of General Accident Insurance, Aberdeen and Inverness), aged 94 years. Beloved husband of Mary, much loved dad of Kevin and Anne, a dear father-in-law, granddad, old grandad, uncle and a friend to many. Private family cremation followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Craigiebuckler Church, on Friday, August 25 at 1pm. All welcome. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu, if desired, may be given at the church for Brian's favourite chosen charities.

HOPES

(Elgin) Alan, passed away very suddenly, at home, on Saturday, August 12, 2023, aged 65 years. Beloved husband and soulmate of Glynis. He leaves three children he simply adored and who loved him beyond words. He was a loved father-in-law, son-in-law, brother, uncle, cousin and loyal friend. Our two family dogs were his extended family and he spoiled them with so much love. We are broken hearted at our loss. We would like to invite family and friends to join us in saying farewell, at 11am, on Thursday, August 24, at a service in Graham J Rattray's Funeral Home, Shore Street, Lossiemouth, IV31 6PB and then on to Elgin Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Dress code is simply what you feel comfortable wearing. Donations can be made, if desired, at the service, for Children 1st.

MCCANN

Peacefully at Woodend Hospital, on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, Mary McCann (nee Cooper), aged 85 years, formerly of Dorothy Perkins and Secrets. Beloved wife of Frank, much loved and loving mother of Frank and Stephen, mother-in-law of Brenda and Tracey, loving grandmother of Jack and also a dear sister, aunt, cousin and friend to many. Funeral service at Aberdeen Crematorium, Hazlehead (East Chapel), on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 1.30pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only, please, but donations, if desired, to Alzheimer Scotland. Resting at Mark Shaw Funeral Services, 26 Abbotswell Crescent, Aberdeen. Very sadly missed.

McGARRIE

(Elgin) Peacefully at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on Saturday, August 12, 2023, Mary (May), beloved wife of the late John (Jack). She leaves behind her sons Michael and Bruce, and also Karen, Angela, Keri, Sean, Duncan, Scott, Sophie, Elena and Rory. Funeral service, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at W.G. Catto Funeral Home, Linwood Road, Elgin on Tuesday, August 22, at 1pm, thereafter to Elgin Cemetery. Flowers and donations, if desired to May's favourite charities, may be given at the chapel.

Missed a family notice?

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

LESLIE

Peacefully, at Ninewells Hospital, on Monday, August 14, 2023, Alexander (Sandy), Beloved husband of the late Jean, dearly loved father of Lindsay and the late Laura, father-in-law of Myles, much loved granddad of Cara, Ryan, Leah, Christy and Sophie and a special friend to many. Funeral service to be held at Perth Crematorium, on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 3pm, to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, please.

McHATTIE

(Lochussie) Christine passed away unexpectedly, at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on Sunday, August 13, 2023, aged 69 years. Beloved wife of the late Ronald, much loved mum of Fraser and Stephen, mother-in-law of Ramsay, loving granny of Marlene and a good friend to many. Funeral service to be held at Inverness Crematorium, on Thursday, August 24, 2023, commencing at 2pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only, please, but a donation, if desired, can be made at the service for Ward 4A, Raigmore Hospital and Macmillan Cancer Care. Enquiries to Mairi Urquhart & Son, tel: 01349 880901.

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

REID

(Potterton) Suddenly at ARI, on Monday, July 31, 2023, Bill, aged 81 years, beloved husband of the late Mary (Ray), much loved dad of Stephen, George, Fiona and Philip, a loving father-in-law, granddad and great-granddad. Funeral service, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at Aberdeen Crematorium, Hazlehead (East Chapel), on Monday, August 28, at 1.30pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

ROSS

(Robert) Peacefully, at St Vincent's Hospice, Howwood, on Monday, August 7, 2023, Robert (Rob), formerly of Lower Carse, Ardersier. Beloved husband Sandra, much loved father of Ryan. Funeral service to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at The Hurler Crematorium, Glasgow Road, G53 7TH, on Tuesday, August 29, at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. A collection will be taken on retreat, on behalf of St Vincent's Hospice, Howwood.

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

SMITH

(Formerly Kirkhill) Peacefully in the care of Fodderty House Care Home on August 15, 2023, George Alexander Smith (Gordie Broon), aged 91 years, formerly of Kirkhill, beloved husband of Betty, also a dear dad, granda, great granda, father-in-law, uncle and special friend to Sandra. Funeral service on Monday, August 18, 2023, at 12.30pm in Wardlaw Church of Scotland, Kirkhill; thereafter to Wardlaw Cemetery. All welcome to attend. No flowers please. Donations if desired in memory of Gordie towards Fodderty House Care Home (Residents & Staff Fund) may be given at the door. Arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons.

WALKER

Peacefully at Garloch Care Home, with Richard and Vera by his side, Rosemary (nee Cadger), aged 91 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Ian, cherished mum of Richard, much loved grandma of Peter and David, proud great-grandma to Murray. Funeral service to take place in Aberdeen Crematorium, East Chapel, on Friday, August 25, 2023, at 10.30am, to which all family and friends are warmly invited. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, at the chapel exit for Garloch Care Home. Special thank you to all the staff at Garloch Care Home for the care for Rosemary especially in her final days.

OUR OPENING TIMES

9am - 5pm
Monday - Friday

Call
01224
691212

Missed a family notice?

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

Acknowledgements

DICKIE

(Rosehearty) Caroline, Nicola and all the family of the late Joey Dickie, would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received by way of cards, messages, flowers, visits, home bakes and phone calls at this sad time. Special thanks to the community nurses team, Moira from Macmillan and the nurses and staff at Philorth Ward, Fraserburgh Hospital, for their kind care and excellent attention given to our Mam, thanks to Rhoda McDonald for her comforting and uplifting service and Gordon Jay for the lovely music. To the Davron Hotel for the lovely teas and Pink Petal for the beautiful flowers, huge thanks to Paul Deans and his staff at Fraserburgh Funeral Services for their professional and caring handling of all the funeral arrangements and his help and support to all the family. Finally, to all who paid their last respects at the Kirk and Kirkyard and who generously donated £750, to be shared between Philorth Ward, Fraserburgh Hospital, Rosehearty Bonfire Committee and Pitsligo Parish Church (Rosehearty). "Gone from our Home, But Forever in Our Hearts".

MENZIES

(Crathes/Dunkeld) Norma and family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received from them following the sad loss of John Crichton. Special thanks to the staff at ARI, Ward 109 for their care, to the Rev. Tony Stephen for his comforting service, to Brian Smith Funeral Services for the arrangements, to the Tor-Na-Coille Hotel for the lovely refreshments and to all who paid their respects at Baldarroch Crematorium and generously donated £523.00 to HMS Camperdown of RNR, Dundee.

MICHIE

(Inverurie) Sandy, Colin, Fiona and Brian would like to thank family, friends and neighbours, for the love and support they have received from them following their sudden loss of Kay, a cherished wife, mum, nana and friend to many. Special thanks to Eric P Massie Funeral Directors for their personalised care and respectful guidance throughout. Grateful thanks to the Reverend Euan Glen for his warmth and care, prior to the funeral and then both in the church service and at the graveside. Thank you to Sentimental Inspirations for the beautiful floral tributes, to Kerry and her team for going above and beyond with the refreshments at Kemnay Bowling Club following the service, to Kay's amazing care team for the beautiful exceptional and loving care and finally to the incredible number of people who attended Kay's funeral, ensuring she had the send off she deserved and giving so generously to her desired charities, raising an incredible £1200.

NICOLL

Bob, Amy and Robert would like to thank family and friends for the many cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy following the sad passing of Sheila; many thanks to The Rev. Malcolm Rooney for his touching service, and to all who contributed so generously at the Church; £900 was raised and will be donated to The British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK, thanks also to George Stewart Funeral Directors for their care and compassion.

WRIGHT

(Elgin) Natalie, Brodie, David, Jackie and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and colleagues for their kind messages, cards and flowers following their sad loss of Andrew (Andy). Special thanks to Laura Gordon for the beautiful service and to Steven Thomson Funeral Directors for their dedicated care and support. Thanks also to the staff at the Mosses Tavern for the afternoon teas. Our thanks to all the biker 'brothers and sisters' for their respectful funeral tribute and ongoing support for the family. Thanks to all who paid their last respects at the service and graveside and who generously donated to charities close to Andrew's heart.

Missed a family notice?

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

Today's Text

BUT the Lord Almighty shows His greatness by doing what is right, and He reveals His holiness by judging His people. — Isaiah 5, 16.

Missed a family notice?

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

Missed a family notice?

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/familyannouncements

THE FONDEST Farewell

Pay tribute to your loved one

Losing someone special is heartbreaking and there will be many memories you have of them which you will treasure.

You can remember a loved one by paying tribute to them in the pages of our newspapers and let others know about their passing.

These carefully written words can become a lasting keepsake for years to come.

To discuss or book a death notice - call 01224 691212

or email: yourads@dcthomson.co.uk

and we'll help you create a fond farewell in commemoration of your loved one.