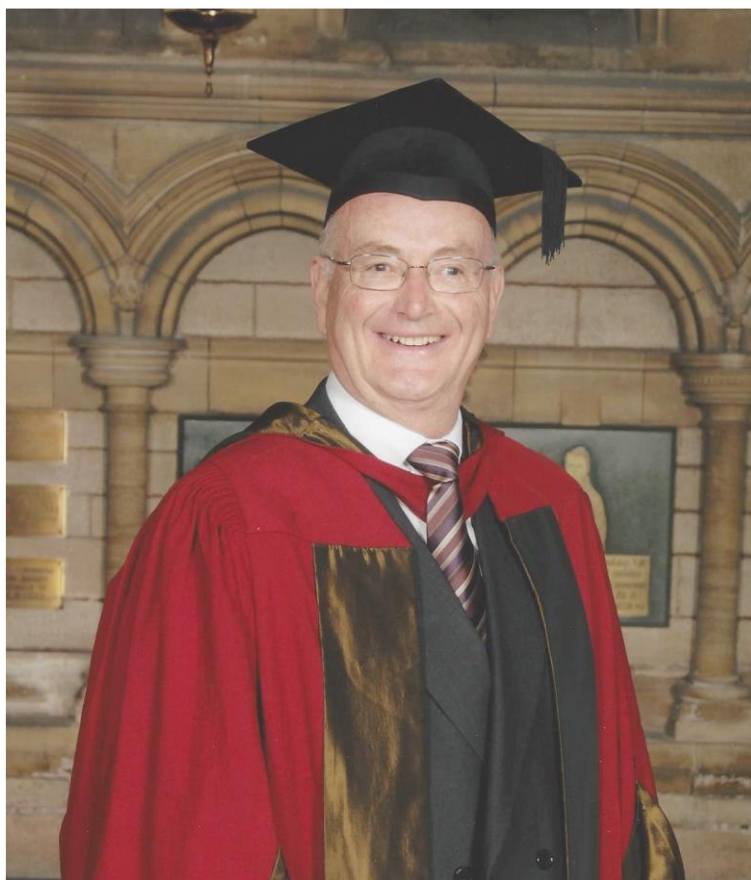


PROFESSOR KEITH ATKINSON C.Eng C.Geol FIMMM FCSM



Keith Atkinson was born in Port Talbot, South Wales. The youngest of four children, he went to Dyffryn Grammar School, where he represented the school at rugby and cricket. He was the first in his family to go to university and he gained an honours degree in geology with subsidiary pure mathematics and physics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He went on to obtain a doctorate for work on the marine geology of Cardigan Bay. Later as a research fellow he worked on the Lower Palaeozoic rocks of North Wales, including some work with the British Geological Survey.

He joined the Camborne School of Mines in 1969 as a lecturer in geology and was promoted to Senior and then Principal Lecturer. He supervised the first M.Phil research student at the School and was responsible for establishing CSM's first taught masters course, the M.Sc. in Mining Geology, in 1979. He also won the first NERC funded PhD studentship to be awarded to the Camborne School of Mines.

Professor Atkinson was appointed Assistant Principal in 1986 and Professor of Mining Geology in 1992. At the request of the Principal, Dr Peter Hackett, he led the negotiations for CSM to merge with the University of Exeter in 1993. He served as Head of Camborne School of Mines from 1994 until 2002.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter (1997 – 2000) Professor Atkinson was responsible for restructuring the University's numerous departments into 17 Schools. As DVC he was responsible for the creation of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, helping to secure nearly £7 million worth of endowments from the United Arab Emirates. At the request of His Highness, the Ruler of Sharjah he was asked to assist in the establishment of the University of Sharjah in the

United Arab Emirates and was the first non-Arab Trustee on the governing body of that University. He assisted the Ruler in establishing an Institute of Technology in Sharjah and was also appointed a trustee of a trust which awards funds for Research and Chairs at another British university.

When he retired as Head of the Camborne School of Mines in 2002, he was awarded the title Emeritus Professor in recognition of his distinguished service to the University. Professor Atkinson then became the first Cornwall Provost of the University of Exeter, responsible for establishing the University's new campus at Penryn, which was shared with University College Falmouth, now Falmouth University. CSM relocated to the new facilities at Penryn in 2004, re-equipped and housed in purpose built laboratories. This was part of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) initiative and he served on the CUC Executive Committee from its inception until 2007. He helped to secure the £49m grant which funded the first phase of the joint development of the campus, and went on to lead Exeter's participation in the second phase of development of the campus. He retired as Provost in September 2007.

Professor Atkinson was awarded the Fellowship of the Camborne School of Mines by the Camborne School of Mines Trust in 2008. The Fellowship is awarded to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to mining and minerals education in Cornwall. He laid the foundation for mining and minerals education to become a flourishing and successful academic department in the University.

He is the co-author and editor of two text books and of over 70 scientific articles in learned journals and served on the Editorial Board of the Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology.

A Chartered Geologist and Chartered Engineer, Professor Atkinson was a fellow of the Institute of Materials, Mining and Metallurgy and of the Geological Society of London, having served on both their Councils. He was awarded the IMM Goldfields Silver Medal in 1990 for an academic paper published in their Journal. He served on the Mining and Minerals Sustainable Development forum of the International Institute for Environment and Development between 2000 and 2002.

A Past President of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, he was awarded their William Bolitho Gold Medal for 'Services to Geology' in 1998. He served on the Lord Lieutenant's Committee for Cornwall and was a member of the steering group for the Cornwall Mining World Heritage site. He served on the boards of a number of companies, and locally he was President of the Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust.

He won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2009 Cornwall Works WISE awards. This award recognises an individual's outstanding contribution to excellence in employment and skills activity in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

He was married to Maureen and had two daughters Caroline and Roz and three grandchildren Mia, Toby and Ludo.

He died on 2nd August 2017 aged 74.

Please note: much of this content has been taken from an article published at the time of the award of the Fellowship of the Camborne School of Mines.