
Obituary

JIM CODLING: 1921-1982

On 1982 April 5 Jim Codling, Senior Lecturer in Science at Kingston Polytechnic, died suddenly. He had been in poor health for some time but had continued working until the end.

Born in 1921 at Haverfordwest, he was educated at Haverfordwest Grammar School, and then in 1939 served in the RAF working on radar. He left the RAF in 1945 and spent a year on a teacher-training course at Dudley; in 1948 he married Joy Edith Kempster.

Jim Codling's introduction to the BAA was in 1950 through Fay Cambell, daughter of Don Cambell, later President of the Association, who was in his class on general science and astronomy at the Townsend Girls' School at St Albans. Subsequently, he held a meeting at St Albans which included John Heywood and Frank Hyde; this led to the formation of the Radio and Electronics Section of the Association of which Heywood became the first Director. In 1960 Jim was appointed Head of the Science Department at the Clare Secondary School in Haverhill and it was here that he built and operated his first radio telescope. In 1962 he was awarded the Guinness Prize for his work in astronomy. A decade later he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Natural Science at the Gypsy Hill College, later to become the Kingston Polytechnic. Here he gained a Diploma in Education and, in 1977, a Master's Degree in Education through a thesis on radio astronomy.

His consuming interest was always in teaching physics, and he introduced his students to numerous projects in electronics and astronomy. He was also interested in methods of teaching, and participated in the implementation of the Nuffield O-level physics course. During his visits to schools to follow the progress of student teachers, he would take small pieces of apparatus and experiments he had devised to help in teaching. In his spare time he undertook voluntary teaching in the children's wards in the local hospital, an action indicative of his generous nature and concern for all those around him.

In 1966 Jim Codling was awarded a Royal Society grant for a school radio-astronomy project under the direction of Anthony Hewish of the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University. Jim built a radio telescope on the Gypsy Hill site but also made frequent visits to Lords Bridge radio-astronomical observatory. In the year before his death he was obtaining some very interesting records of solar pulsations and was working for a Higher Degree at the Royal Holloway College, University of London.

Jim Codling contributed many articles on radio astronomy and allied subjects, and with particular reference to the educational aspects, to the *BAA Journal*, *School Science Review*, *Wireless World* and *New Scientist* among others. He prepared a report on astronomy in education and, as Assistant Director of the Radio Astronomy Section of the Association, he advised and helped very many people in the construction and use of radio telescopes. He will be greatly missed.

John Smith and E. R. Wooding