

PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Dr Don Aldiss**

Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**

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Dr Don Aldiss Interview

phd_001_001_01
Clip 1

[00:42:14-00:42:32]

The first thing was that in July 1974, I graduated in June 1974 and I was due to start this research in September '74. Now in July 1974 there was a coup d'état in Cyprus.

[00:46:48-00:46:59]

Anyway, things quietened down in Cyprus and eventually I went there the following spring.

[00:49:17-00:50:24]

I think November 1975. And I set off to the Oman Mountains with, well basically one other chap. We spend several weeks there driving around and looking at rocks and yeah having a great time. It really was very enjoyable. Another one of Ian's contacts was with University of California and he'd got wind of a discovery in the Sierra Nevada in northern California of a newly discovered ophiolite which hadn't been recognised before. And so he arranged for me, basically told me to buy myself a plane ticket and head off to California. We had contact with the UCL Davis and so I pitched up and spent a month and a half there, looking at rocks in northern California. And that was extremely enjoyable.