

# Wimbledon's Women Geologists

The Geological Society began admitting women in 1919. Of the twelve women who were first elected to join, three were connected to Wimbledon Museum.

Mary Johnston was on the Museum Committee and donated fossils, flint tools and photographs that you can still see today. Like the other women mentioned here, Mary travelled around the world for her research.

Dr Gertrude Elles was born in Wimbledon. Gertrude studied at Cambridge, but received her doctorate from Trinity College in Dublin because Cambridge did not give degrees to women until 1948. About 720 women did the same between 1904 and 1907. They were called the 'Steamboat Ladies'.

From a young age, Jane Donald was fascinated by molluscs, such as snails and mussels. Jane published a paper about molluscs in 1881 and one about fossils in 1885, continuing to research both throughout her life.

Gertrude Elles (far right) at Wimbledon High School in 1891

Image courtesy of Wimbledon High School Archives

Mary Johnston on a quarry face at St David's, Pembrokeshire, 1911

Courtesy of the Geologists' Association Carreck Archive

'Gertrude Elles at Church Stretton in 1921'

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