

News story: Celebrating the first female president of the APA

The career and legacy of Joan Davena Peden (1920-1997) have been charted in a paper in the [Journal of the Association of Public Analysts](#)

Joan Peden was the first female to head a department for Somerset County Council and to hold the post of President of the Association of Public Analysts.

She was an enterprising and innovative Public Analyst (Official Control Scientist) remembered with considerable respect within the profession. She was willing to embrace modern analytical techniques, successfully confronted lack of transparency in feed additive declarations and tackled challenges such as pesticide bioaccumulation and heavy metal environmental pollution. Coupled with an engaging literary style, consummate expertise and natural personal authority, Joan Davina Peden was an exemplar Public Analyst. She was a woman ahead of her time, who set standards in all her areas of activity.

The open access paper was a collaboration between Michael Walker from the Government Chemist team with Professor D T Burns from the Institute of Global Food Security in Queen's University Belfast.

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For further information about the work the Government Chemist does, or for food/feed analytical queries contact: