

## OBITUARY

### **PHILIP HENRY SPEED (1910-1993)**

**Founder member and former Treasurer of the  
East Midlands Geological Society**

The death of Philip Speed in January of this year was a great loss to his family, many friends and members of the EMGS. He will be remembered for the way he was able to forge close links between professional geologists and amateurs.

Philip studied geology at University College, Nottingham, under the guidance of H. H. Swinnerton. His professional career was, for some time, with the British Geological Survey but by far the largest part of his working life was spent with British Rail, where he reached the status of Chief Geologist, responsible for all geological matters countrywide.

The inspirational teaching of Swinnerton undoubtedly rubbed off on Philip who developed a great love for geology. This enjoyment of the subject was shown most vividly in the great pleasure he had in passing on his own expertise in various part-time teaching capacities. Philip taught for a number of institutions in the East Midlands but largely for the Adult Education Department at the University of Nottingham, for whom he taught for 50 years. Many adult students were fortunate enough to attend his classes and it was largely from this group of extremely keen amateurs that the embers that fired the birth of the EMGS originated.

Philip's wide experience of geology throughout the British Isles enabled him to take his groups of students on what have been described as "memorable and wonderful field experiences" to all regions. He did, however, have a preference for the North, particularly the Lake District, the Pennines and perhaps his greatest love, Scotland. I had the privilege of being introduced to many parts of Scotland by Philip and I will particularly remember my first introduction to the Assynt area.

Philip was a tremendous colleague and friend. The great knowledge he had of the countryside, not only of geology but of flora and fauna and particularly ornithology was infectious. He had so many interests, being an extremely keen gardener and bee keeper as well as being noted for his knowledge of good eating and drinking establishments.

Despite this very full life, Philip made a most important contribution to the community, firstly through the energy he devoted to the Scout movement and later through the very influential role of his work for the deprived young of the East End of London, a far cry from his beloved Scotland. Philip had a rascally but marvellous humour; he was a great raconteur and will be remembered with much affection for a number of idiosyncrasies such as his complete failure ever to come to terms with bifocal lenses.

Philip will, however, be remembered most of all for his great love of life, the world and his great army of close friends. His passing is a tremendous loss to so many of us, particularly his wife Edith and his daughters and grandchildren.

*Ian D. Sutton*