Robert John Price (PDF) (1936–2012)

Geomorphologist Dr Robert Price, who died on 29 November 2012, was a specialist in how ice shaped landscapes. His interest in the Quaternary period informed his contribution to more contemporary issues, and he became a consultant after retiring from the Geography Department of Glasgow University in 1990. He was a Council member of the Institute of British Geographers and Editor of Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers (1970–4).

Dr Tony French (PDF) (1929-2012)

Dr Tony French (University College London), from the 1950s to the 1990s one of leading British scholars of the geography of Russia, died peacefully on 24 November 2012 following a long period of failing health. Recognition of his contributions are described by his colleague Professor Hugh Clout.

Sylvia Sikes (1925-2012)

Sylvia SIKES DPhil, FZSL, FRGS. Zoologist and authority on the African elephant died peacefully, aged 87, on 3 October 2012 in Newbury. Author of books including Lake Chad (1972) and The Natural History of the African Elephant (1971), one of the most comprehensive books on the African elephant.

Professor Bernie Smith (1951-2012)

Bernie was Chair in Tropical Geomorphology at Queen’s University Belfast from 1998. An inspiring teacher, highly valued colleague and expert on hot deserts and tropical landscapes, he leaves a significant legacy of research and publications that will influence the direction of future geographical research and the work of local conservation architects, the wider building conservation community in the UK, Europe and further afield, and UNESCO. He was an active member of the Society and of the British Society for Geomorphology.
**Maryanne (nee Bankes) Chandor (1934-2012)**

Maryanne (nee Bankes) Chandor, died peacefully on 1 November 2012. She was a Life Fellow of the Society and a former Managing Editor of The Geographical Journal.


Professor Neil Smith died on 29 September 2012 in New York City. He was Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Geography at the City University of New York and also Sixth Century Professor of Geography and Social Theory at Aberdeen University. Neil was well known for his research and many publications on inner city gentrification.

**Ronald John Davies (1931-2012)**

Professor Ron Davies, who died on 13 September 2012, was an Honorary Corresponding Fellow of the Society. Born in Pretoria, he graduated at Rhodes University as MSc in 1954. Completing his PhD in London at LSE in 1961, he taught in the Durban division of the University of Natal until 1975 when he moved to Cape Town as Head of Geography. He was perhaps best known for his research on the urban system of South Africa and the apartheid city. He was an active member of the International Geographical Union and twice President of the South African Geographical Society.

**George Melvyn Howe (PDF) (1920–2012)**

Professor George Howe, who died on 27 August 2012, was President of the Institute of British Geographers (IBG) in 1985. He was formerly Chair in Geography at the University of Strathclyde, where he became an Emeritus Professor. He published widely especially in medical geography, earning the nickname ‘Mortality Mel’.

**Michael Horatio Westmacott (1925-2012)**

Michael Westmacott, mountaineer, died on 20 June 2012. Westmacott was part of the 1953 Everest expedition and his main job was in the Khumbu Icefall: pioneering the route, keeping it open and, finally, descending it to send news home of the successful ascent. Westmacott was educated at Radley School and the University of Oxford. He climbed extensively in the UK and the Alps before 1953, and continued to do so afterwards, making first ascents in Peru, the Hindu Kush and northern Alaska. He was President of the Alpine Club and of the Climbers Club. Trained as a statistician, he worked in agricultural research and then in Shell International until retirement.

**Rear Admiral Steve Ritchie (1914-2012)**

Rear Admiral George Stephen Ritchie, renowned for his influence on hydrographic surveying and cartography, died on 8 May. Born in Burnley in 1914, he attended the Royal Navy College, Dartmouth, and joined the Surveying Service, later
distinguishing himself during the Second World War. After commanding a number of survey ships, he became Hydrographer of the Navy from 1966 to 1971; and president of the International Hydrographic Bureau from 1972 to 1982. Founding President of the Hydrographic Society, Admiral Ritchie was awarded the Royal Geographical Society’s Founder’s Medal in 1972 for ‘hydrographical charting and oceanographical exploration’.

**Gaynor Asquith (1952-2011)**

Housing specialist and conservationist Gaynor Asquith died on 12 November 2011, at the age of 59. A Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), Gaynor championed community regeneration through housing and founded her own company, which later became part of arc4. In order to bring her skills to another part of the world, she also co-founded Project African Wilderness to help restore Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve in Malawi.

**Michel Peissel (1937-2011)**

Adventurer and scholar Michel Peissel died on 7 October 2011, aged 74, in Paris. Peissel travelled extensively throughout the Himalayan region, which he documented in a number of books, including *Tibet, the Secret Continent (2003)*. He held a Doctorate in Tibetan Ethnology from the Sorbonne in Paris, reflecting his interest in the region and its way of life. He was a member of the Explorers’ Club of New York and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), and lectured at the latter’s headquarters in London in the 1990s.

**George Band OBE (1929-2011)**

Mountaineer George Band died on 26 August 2011 at the age of 82. He was one of the last surviving members of the successful British ascent of Everest when Hillary and Tenzing reached the summit in 1953. Band himself made the challenging ascent of Kangchenjunga, the world’s third-highest mountain, in 1955. Born in Taiwan, Band studied geology at Cambridge, worked in oil exploration worldwide and was awarded an OBE in 2009. He was a Life Fellow and Council member of the Royal Geographical Society as well as President of the Alpine Club and British Mountaineering Council. He published books about mountaineering including *Everest Exposed* in 2005.

**Basil Leonard Clyde Johnson (PDF) (1919–2011)**

Basil Johnson, who died in Canberra on 25 August 2011 aged 91, had capitalised upon the peripatetic nature of his life’s trajectory to become a quintessential geographer. Born in Midlothian, Scotland, he researched in South Asia in various capacities, as an academic and consultant; held Chairs at Monash University, Melbourne, and the Australian National University; and was a life Fellow of the RGS-IBG. He published widely for academic audiences but also wrote novels and poems;
and leaves behind him the Basil Johnson Photograph Collection at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**R.E.G. ('Ron') Davies (1921-2011)**

Ron Davies died near London on 30 July 2011, 3 weeks past his 90th birthday. Shortly before he died he saw an early copy of his final 'magnum opus' Airlines of the Jet Age: A History (Smithsonian Academic Press), on which he laboured for a decade. Two-thirds of his life was devoted to the study of civil aviation through which his interest and knowledge of world geography expanded. Curator of the Department of Air Transport in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. from 1981 to 2011, he wrote 25 books on airline history, wrote numerous articles for magazines, had a life-long interest in travel and an incredibly wide-ranging knowledge of all things geographical.

**Emeritus Professor Kenneth Brailey Cumberland CBE (PDF) (1913-2011)**

Professor Cumberland, Honorary Member, died on 17 April 2011, aged 97. Originally from Bradford in Yorkshire, Professor Cumberland became a central figure in New Zealand geography as a teacher, advocate, writer and presenter both in his adopted land and around the world. In 1961 he was elected a Vice President of the International Geographical Union and in 1973 he became the first geographer to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He was well known for his radio and television appearances and was made a CBE for his services to education and communication. His memoirs, Milestones and Landmarks, will be published in 2011.

**John Sunley (1936-2011)**

John Sunley FRGS, who died on February 14 2011, aged 74, was chairman on the charitable foundation founded by his father Bernard and head of the family's successful businesses in the construction industry. A host of charitable projects across the country bear the Sunley name, including the Sunley room at the Society named in grateful recognition of the donation of £100,000 made by the Sunley Foundation as a contribution to the Unlocking the Archives project. The Sunley Foundation's grant contributed to the matching (25%) funds the Society needed to raise.

**Professor Robert I. Woods (PDF) (1949-2011)**

One of the most eminent historical demographers of his generation, Bob Woods enjoyed a distinguished and productive academic career, publishing more than 50 journal articles and 12 books. He held the John Rankin Chair of Geography at Liverpool, served as President of the British Society for Population Studies (1991), was founding co-editor (1997-92) of the International Journal of Population
Geography (now known as Population, Space and Place), and was a recipient of the Society’s Murchison Award (1999).

**Rex Ashley Walford OBE (1934-2011)**

Rex Walford was a teacher, a natural enthusiast, a leading international name in geography education, a long-serving Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and one of the first group of Chartered Geographers. Rex supported the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in many ways over more than 25 years. He was the first Vice President (Education) from 1996 to 1999, simultaneously chairing the Society's Education Committee. He will be remembered as an extraordinary man with an infectious enthusiasm, warmth, dynamism and intellect.

**Professor Karl A. Sinnhuber (1919-2010)**

Professor Karl A. Sinnhuber, FRGS, died at Gmunden, his home village in Austria, on 5 November 2010. After wartime military service, Professor Sinnhuber came to the UK as an exchange teacher in Glasgow. He was then appointed to academic posts at the University of Southampton, UCL and Surrey, before moving to Vienna where he occupied the Chair of Economic Geography until his retirement. He taught courses on Germany, the historical geography of Central Europe, and map projections, and made important contributions to political geography, publishing a textbook 'Germany: its geography and growth' (1961). He was Honorary President of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Wirtschaftsraumforschung. He is survived by his wife, three children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**John Bryan Heaney (1931-2010)**

John Heaney was an explorer, a widely travelled oilman, and a long-serving Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and long standing member of the Geographical Club. He died on 3 November 2010, aged 79 and is survived by his wife, son and daughter and five grandchildren.

**Professor Louis Rey (1931-2010)**

Professor Louis Rey, FRGS, died on 26 October 2010. A scientific advisor based in Lausanne, Switzerland, Professor Rey was a Regent’s Lecturer and Visiting Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles and at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The author, co-author, or editor of 16 books and 130 papers and notes in eight languages, he had presented 250 lectures worldwide. He worked as a research scientist at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, France, as a professor of physical-chemical biology at the University of Dijon, France, and as Head of Corporate Research and Development for Nestlé, Vevey, Switzerland. He was also a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Savoy.
Dr Paul Mackintosh (1929-2010)

Dr Paul Mackintosh Orgill Massey attended Oundle School and St John’s College Cambridge, where he studied medicine. A keen and talented rower, he rowed for the Cambridge blues in 1949 and 1950, joined the Thames Rowing Club in 1948 and won silver rowing in the VIII’s at the 1948 London Olympics and 4th place in the coxed four at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. He was the team doctor for the 1964 Tokyo and 1968 Mexico City Olympics. Employed by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey Grahamland, Antarctica 1954-56, he sailed on the RRS John Biscoe. Massey Heights (63°58′19″S; 57°57′0″W) on James Ross Island are named after him. He was a Medical Practitioner and held major appointments at the Middlesex Hospital. He is survived by three daughters and two sons.

Richard (‘Dick’) Lawton (1925-2010)

Richard (‘Dick’) Lawton, died on 22nd March 2010, aged 85. After war service in the Royal Navy, he completed his BA (1948) and MA (1950) and became Assistant Lecturer in 1949. Rising through the ranks to his chair in 1970, he was Dean of the Faculty from 1977 to 1980, retiring in 1983. He served as President of the Institute of British Geographers in 1986. Dick’s academic interests were broad, embracing nineteenth century historical geography and modern population and urban planning issues. He is remembered as a vigorous and loyal colleague with an enduring legacy at Liverpool and in the wider academic community.

Dr Phillip Garth Law AC CBE (1912-2010)

This redoubtable Australian polar explorer and recipient of the Royal Geographical Society’s Founder’s Medal (1960) died on 28 February 2010, aged 97. Such was his stature – with no less than 28 expeditions to the Antarctic and its islands – he was frequently referred to as ‘Mr Antarctica’.

Alf Gregory (1913-2010)

Alf (‘Greg’) Gregory died on 9 February 2010, aged 96. He will be remembered as the official stills photographer on the first successful ascent of Everest in 1953 and as a keen mountaineer. His remarkable portfolio of photographs was used to illustrate the many subsequent books about the Everest expedition.

David Wright (1939-2009) (PDF)

David Wright died on 20 November 2009 after a battle with cancer. He will be remembered as a geographer and author whose work inspired children around the world.
Professor Michael Williams (1935-2009)

Professor Michael Williams died at Oxford, on 26 October 2009, aged 74. He is remembered for his work in historical geography and environmental history, which ranged in scale from the regional to the global, for his superb editing skills, and for his excellence as a teacher.

Professor William Birch (1925-2009)

Bill Birch died in Bristol on 12 June 2009. He was one of those geographers whose careers straddled a major period of disciplinary change and whose main contribution was to promote the ‘new’ as a leader and administrator rather than through his own research.

Professor Jim Johnson (1930-2009)

Professor James (‘Jim’) Johnson died on the morning of 12 March 2009 at his home in Lancaster; he was aged 78. He will be remembered for his research in historical geography and population studies, his books on urban geography, migration, and Ireland, and above all else for the inspirational nature of his teaching.

Professor Gerald Manners OBE (1932-2009) (PDF)

Gerald Manners, who died on 16 February 2009 after a battle with cancer, earned distinction in three areas of life: as an academic, an adviser to government, and as chairman of a number of major charitable bodies.

Professor John Barrie Thornes (1940-2008)

John Thornes was a charismatic leader, a stimulating teacher, an indefatigable and passionate fieldworker of natural ability who possessed a remarkable and original research mind.

Professor Tony Chandler (1928-2008)

Professor Tony John Chandler died at his home near Eastbourne, on 17 July 2008, aged 79. He is remembered for pioneering work in urban climatology, air pollution and regional climatology.

Professor Mark Blacksell (1942-2008)

Andrew Mark Yates Blacksell, a human geographer with unusually widespread interests and expertise, and a man of enormous character and warmth, died of cancer on January 12th 2008, aged 65.
**Sir Edmund Hillary (1919-2008)**


**Professor Mike Barnsley (1960-2007)**

Professor Michael J. (‘Mike’) Barnsley, our friend and colleague, died on the 6th of December 2007 in Swansea’s Singleton Hospital, following a recurrence of the melanoma he had suffered from in recent years. Mike will always be remembered as an inspirational teacher, a charming and unassuming gentleman, a marvellous mentor and a wonderful man.