



Philip Holland (1937-2012)

We were saddened to hear in August of the death of Philip Holland, who was a member of the RFS for many years. He suffered from myelofibrosis for some time, and this later transformed into acute myeloid leukaemia. Sadly he contracted pneumonia during a prolonged stay in hospital but passed away very peacefully.

Philip was born on 17 May 1937 in Hale, Cheshire, the eldest of three children. He attended Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and then the University of Bangor where he studied botany. Following graduation, he spent time travelling and teaching in France: he enjoyed telling people that he had a French pension. During his time in France, Philip was seriously injured in a car accident and spent many weeks in hospital before being flown home to

England. He spent his working life in the north east of England, teaching biology at Middlesbrough High School, and later becoming head of an education development centre. He took early retirement at the age of 52 when he was offered voluntary redundancy, and returned to Hale about 16 years ago to help his siblings to care for their elderly mother.

His interests were many and varied. He had a vast collection of books and was very well read. He enjoyed tracing his family history, loved steam locomotives, gardening and poetry, and enjoyed collecting antique clocks, furniture and paintings. I met up with him a number of times at RFS conferences - a quiet, friendly and reserved person, but very knowledgeable on a wide range of topics. Besides the RFS he was an active member of Hale Civic Society and Hale Family History Society. He also belonged to a steam locomotive restoration society and several family history societies around the country. His funeral was on 28 September 2012 at St Mary's Parish Church, Bowdon.

David Bryant