Christopher J. Burton (1941-2022)



Chris was born in Birmingham in 1941. His secondary education took place in various schools, including, from 1957 to 1960, Victoria College, Jersey. He was employed by the States of Jersey from 1960 to 1963 as a Junior Chemist. From 1963 to 1966 he studied for his BSc in Geology at the University of Exeter, and worked for his PhD, on "Variation Studies of some Phacopid Trilobites of Eurasia and North West Africa" at the same university from 1966 to 1969.

In 1969 Chris was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Palaeoecology at the University of Glasgow and he remained at the university until he retired from full-time work in 2006. He was appointed to the posts of Lecturer in Palaeontology in 1972 and Senior Lecturer in 1989, and served as Head of the Division of Earth Sciences from 1998 to 2004. From 1969 to 2014 he also served as Tutor in the Department of Extramural Studies, where he lectured and led field excursion classes in geology. His teaching fields included Earth history, stratigraphy, palaeontology, economic geology, geological mapping, engineering geology, environmental geology and hydrogeology. His research interests included the stratigraphy and palaeontology of the Devonian of South West England and of the Carboniferous of Scotland, and also studies of the Palaeozoic Chitinozoa of the Highland Border Complex.

Chris joined the Geological Society of Glasgow in 1970 and served on the council as librarian from 1973 until 2017, as publication sales officer in the late 1970s and as president of the society from 2003 to 2005. He was elected as an honorary member of the society in 2015. He acted as leader of numerous day and longer excursions, the latter notably to the Channel Islands, Shetland and Madeira. He contributed to various society publications, including the Glasgow and Girvan Guide, the Southern Kintyre Guide (with J. J. Doody), and the Guide to Madeira (co-author with J. G. MacDonald).

Chris died on 31 March 2022.