

## A tribute to Roy Maycock– Joe Clinch

I knew Roy as President of our Society for a little over 10 years and already some 45 years after its founding. In reality, I had met him before I joined the Society through our common interest in classical music. Hilary and I had season ticket seats to attend the Milton Keynes City Orchestra at the theatre as he did in adjacent seats. It was Roy that encouraged me to join.

It is primarily as a plant identification expert and mentor that I will remember Roy. He was at times too quick for me to write down what he had helped us to identify but was always patient in repeating the name of the species. Some of my best memories of him relate to venues new to me where I had agreed to lead a Tuesday evening Summer Programme field trip. One stands out – Flitwick Moor. I had never visited the site before and managed to persuade the local Wildlife Trust BCN reserves manager to walk me round it on the recce. I turned up accompanied by Roy and was able to introduce him as Society President and Bucks Plant Recorder which duly impressed. This set the scene for a memorable and stimulating walk through the reserve with Roy delighting in pointing out one of the mires where Sphagnum Moss (*sphagnum sp.*) thrives underfoot with a scattering of Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) (Roy always added that it was not a grass but a sedge!) an uncommon habitat in southern England. Then there are his lasting published legacies to the Society: joint compiler (with Aaron Woods) of the vascular plant section of ***Milton Keynes More than Concrete Cows: Real Animals and Plants Too*** (published by the Society in 2000), and ***A Checklist of the Plants of Buckinghamshire***, again jointly compiled with Aaron Woods (published by the Society in 2006). Now with no Roy (or Mary) to ask I find myself checking back to these definitive sources of what had been identified by him and others in the past.

With failing health Roy had to withdraw from most Society activities. I would phone him at home from time to time and here I found another side to Roy. We had both graduated from Durham University Roy a few years before me and his memory of his time there was remarkable particularly in relation to Upper Teesdale the location for many of his student botany field trips.

So thank you Roy for your part in founding and leading the Society, for sharing your expertise with us for more than 50 years, and your personal encouragement and friendship.

**Joe Clinch**

**October 2024**