

Obituary: Nancy Morris

Nancy Morris, also known as Mrs Tupholme, who died on 3 January 2014 at the age of 101 was Secretary of the European Association of Earth Science Editors (Editerra) from 1974. In 1977 she also became Secretary of the European Association of Life Science Editors (ELSE, earlier called the European Association of Editors of Biological Periodicals). Unsurprisingly, Nancy was one of the prime movers when Editerra and ELSE amalgamated in 1982. She then became Secretary-Treasurer of the new association, EASE.

Nancy was born in North London on 23 May 1912 and in the 1920s went to school in Stamford Hill, where she became a prefect and games captain. After a visit to France she became interested in fencing and later, working in London, she developed her interest in this sport and in squash. When her father retired in 1936 her parents moved to Farnham, Surrey, where she began her attachment to that town and to the family home, "Bruins", an attachment that continued for the rest of her life. During the week she lived in London, working in various offices before moving to the Geological Society in London's Burlington House, Piccadilly, for 22 years. Her marriage to "Tuppy" Tupholme around this time unfortunately was not a success and divorce followed.

In the early 1940s those working in the various organisations in Burlington House undertook fire-watching duties and in this way Nancy met Phyllis Boatwright, who was instrumental in her move to the Royal Society in 1962. Nancy stayed there until 1972, working for various committees and helping to organise both national and international meetings.

When Nancy's parents died she sold the family home but built a bungalow in the large garden so that she could stay in Bruins. Her work for Editerra, ELSE and then EASE continued busily, with many committee meetings and conferences in the cities of Europe. In 1985 she handed over her editorial association responsibilities to a Royal Society co-worker, Nadia Slow, at the 2nd General Assembly and Conference of EASE in Norway.



In retirement Nancy maintained her interest in geology and her love of driving (she was a member of the Institute of Advanced Motoring). She also joined the Farnham Society and served for some time on its committee. One of her many activities was writing short verses celebrating Christmas and other events, including editorial activities. Many of these, especially the annual one at Christmas, were shared with her friends and a few of the editorial verses were published in the newsletters of Editerra, ELSE and EASE. Much later she even provided the farewell that was read at the service in Farnham on 15 January 2014 that celebrated her long life:

Farewell

By Nancy

Don't grieve for me I do implore
 I've knocked up quite a goodly score
 And I have so enjoyed my life –
 A span that's covered peace and strife,
 From First World War to present day
 With sundry hiccougths on the way
 I've learned to lose and sometimes win
 Not always free of course from sin,
 But through the years as numbers mount
 I've found it's people really count.
 Relations living far and near
 Have been such fun and very dear
 And super friends that never pall –
 I've been so lucky – Bless you all!
 So as I take my leave of thee
 I say again – don't grieve for me.

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