

## OBITUARIES

### **David Finlayson**

DAVID FINLAYSON died suddenly on 21 May 2012 after a short illness. He was born in Caithness on 2 May 1919 and his love for the county and for all things northern never dimmed. He had a long and distinguished career as a physicist, first at Aberdeen University and then for many years at the University of St Andrews, but members of the Society for Northern Studies will remember him best as the quiet, unassuming man with the mischievous grin who was involved in the organisation of so many aspects of the Society's affairs for over fifteen years. David first joined the committee as Membership Secretary in 1987 and went on to become Treasurer as well as Membership Secretary until his resignation in 2004. During this time he organised many enjoyable Society conferences and, in one instance, became co-editor of the resultant monograph, *Mannin Revisited*. People will have their own individual favourite but the conference which David was most proud of having arranged was the trip to the Åland Islands. David and his wife, Angela, hosted many a dinner party at their home in Kingsbarns for people interested in northern studies, whether dialect, folklore, history, music or place-names. David will be remembered by many in the Society as the person whose efficiency made things work, and what higher accolade could there be.

*Doreen Waugh*