

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of John Gordon, former Chairman and long-term supporter of the Trust. Our President Peter Moreland has written the following personal tribute:

CJD Gordon – 1925 – 2006

With the death of John Gordon in August, the Trust lost a very staunch supporter who had given much time and effort to its affairs almost since its creation.

John was a very private person, a Scot with a mischievous wit; he had strong and deeply held views on the countryside. As a small boy, he suffered an unfortunate setback when he lost his mother, and his subsequent upbringing must have had a considerable effect on his attitude to life. During the War, he joined the Seaforth Highlanders and with them served both in Europe and the Far East, his unit forming part of 6th Airborne Division. He was awarded the Military Cross.

With peace, he decided to farm in Kenya and there met his future wife Didi (who died in 2004). John greatly enjoyed the outdoor life and it was harsh indeed that, thanks to the Mau Mau, the family lost virtually all their possessions and had to return to the UK to make a fresh start.

The family lived in several areas from Scotland down to Sussex, while John pursued a mixture of jobs centred on land management and forestry. In this way he added to his knowledge of tree planting and maintenance, and also of the problems presented by the planning system. Ill-considered planning and development of many rural areas was rife in the '80's (and later), and moving to Holditch brought him face to face with proposals which he (and the Trust) considered totally unsuited to the very special environment and the changing pattern of work-a-day life.

His contributions to the Public Inquiries, which eventually led to the present more reasonable situation, were of the greatest value, and we are all indebted to him.

Peter Moreland.