

This is a personal tribute to our late President...

Mr Gordon Kinsey Esq.

Gordon sadly passed away on the morning of the 11th December 2014

How well I remember as some of you will reading this, that night in the Martlesham Heath Pavilion in late 1981 when we gathered in response to a centre page spread in the 'East Anglian Daily Times' showing various items discovered by the developers during their early development of the residential area, formally RAF Martlesham Heath. The article was by Roger Harrison a resident of Martlesham Heath (MH) and an aviation insurance consultant. It was an invitation to any one interested in forming an organisation/society to keep alive the history, story's etc. of this once famous RAF Station. If interested, come to the MH Pavilion to discuss the possibility. Roger had become a consultant to the developers of the residential area who took various items that they had unearthed for him to identify.

The hall was packed to capacity. Heading the cast of speakers was Gordon. With growing excitement the audience listened to Gordon, who had written his first book entitled "Martlesham Heath". Gordon had a long association with MH, one could say a life time association. His father was head gardener at Kesgrave Hall, now Milsoms a restaurant and hotel. Living local to the airfield Gordon would always be some where close by watching for something new in the shape of an aeroplane to appear.

Following that successful meeting a committee was formed of which I was a member. During the society's formation Gordon was always there to help with information and support. It was unanimously agreed that Gordon was to be the society's president, a position he was proud to hold until his death.

During WW11 Gordon joined the RAF and served in the far east as a Flight Engineer on Dakota's, a plane that Gordon regarded as the second love of his life for the reason I am about to tell you about. During that time Gordon met and married Margaret who he met whilst serving at RAF Ossington near Newark and who was, in his own words, his first love. Eventually No.2 Roundwood Road Ipswich became home and the family increased to five with the birth of three girls, Sallie, Margo and Carolyn.

Number 2 Roundwood Road was an open house to society members and visitors from far and wide. When Margaret became less mobile the world would come to them. Sadly when Margaret passed away Gordon felt the pain of that separation very deeply. With the help of his daughters Gordon began to recover but, illness began to plague Gordon's life and he sadly became less mobile to the point that, when leaving hospital after quite a long stay he was house bound until his death.

Gordon was everybody's friend. He always had time to talk and if it involved RAF MH, time would pass very quickly. Sadly they broke the mould when Gordon was born and his passing will have a profound effect on us all.

God bless you Gordon, you can fly freely now.

Martyn