

## Obituary

### Our Tribute to Richard Barker

Richard was made President of the Martlesham Heath Aviation Society in May 2015 following the death of its 1<sup>st</sup> President Mr Gordon Kinsey. They were very different characters, chalk & cheese is the phrase that comes to mind, but both had MHAS running through their veins.

I well remember Richard's joy at being asked to take on the Presidency. He had worked with Gordon on establishing the RAF, Commonwealth and Dominion Air Force Memorial behind me.

Prior to its erection Richard would stand each day looking out from his office wondering why there was no memorial dedicated to them. So he set about establishing one, and in 1991 the memorial was dedicated at what was a wonderful and unforgettable event.

Richard was a very generous man. All the memorials behind me got a wash and brush up immediately prior to the Remembrance Service which he paid for personally.

Richard was particularly interested in the WW2 'Special Operations Executive' known simply as the SOE. Amongst Richard's friends were ex-British agents (British Spies) who were parachuted into France and other European countries to help those countries' resistance groups to foil the German advance. Also French agents who found sanctuary in this country when things became too difficult for them to stay in their own country.

Richard did indeed have a wonderful group of friends up and down this country.

We send our sincere condolences to Ann Richards, his wife, Michael and David his sons and to all his grandchildren.

Richard your work is done.... Rest in Peace.

*Martyn*

*Friend & MHAS Chair*

