



H Morton Neal

21 November 1931 – 8 June 2021

Morton was a great supporter of Scouting spread over many years.

Initially this support was in Northwood/Eastcote District where he became District President prior to 1987. He supported in particular 1st Northwood Scout Group, a Group which his grandfather helped to start in 1914. Many young people benefited from his generosity and high regard for Scouting and the development of young people.

Morton was County President of Greater London Middlesex West Scout County from 1987 – 2007 and a Vice-President since then. During his tenure as President, he used his experience and contacts in helping the County to raise funds for the purchase of 'Paccar Scout Camp at Chalfont Heights' which is now listed as one of the five best activity centres in the UK.

Morton was an elected member of the Council of The Scout Association from 1976 to 2008, and the Association awarded Morton the Silver Acorn in 2001.

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Morton Neal was born into a family of builders – the Harry Neal Ltd company – and knowing that his career would be with the company he studied and attained a degree in Civil Engineering at Imperial College, London. He served his National Service in the Royal Air Force where he became a Flying Officer. In 1954 he met and married Cecilia and they moved to Sarratt. He turned the garden into a plantsman's paradise full of highly unusual and rare plants and trees. He was President of the Sarratt Horticultural Society for many years.

When his father retired Morton became Chairman of Harry Neal Ltd. Among the many projects the company carried out was the building of Baden-Powell House in the early 1960's. The company also built the Chapter House at St Albans Cathedral in the early 1980's. The company were awarded a Gold Medal in 1961 by the Worshipful Company of Tyler's and Bricklayers.

Morton and Cecilia were very interested in the Arts and this led to Morton, as a trustee, organising the raising of funds for the Samuel Courtauld Institute to move into Somerset House. Morton was a Trustee of the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture, Chairman of the Connaught Hotel and a Director of the Savoy Board. He was also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters and became Master of the Company.

In 1991 he was awarded a CBE for his work in chairing the City & Guilds of London Institute for 12 years (1979 – 1991). He also became part of the Hertfordshire Community and he was High Sheriff of the County in 1999 – 2000.

A former County Commissioner, Chad Lake, found Morton to be the most congenial and generous colleague, a pleasure to work with and someone who really believed in Scouting and what it can do to develop young people and give them 'Skills for Life'.

Thank you, Morton. Your memory lives on at 'Paccar'.