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8th September 2010

Dear Member

LT COL JOHN DAVIS OBE – 1947 to 2010

The accompanying Friends Newsletter went to print just before John Davis died suddenly at the helm of his Sunbeam yacht in Chichester Harbour on Saturday 28 August 2010.

John had sailed in the harbour since his boyhood days and developed a life long passion for Chichester Harbour.

He was appointed Harbour Master and AONB Manager in 1997 after an active and successful career in the Royal Marines. The Conservancy could not have made a better choice. He soon proved to be an outstanding Harbour Master and was awarded the OBE in 2005 for his services to the environment and sailing.

John impressed wherever he was and whatever he was doing. His imposing presence was always tempered with a smile and a friendly word. He was highly respected in all circles for his extensive knowledge of the harbour and firm grasp of environment and local marine issues.

The harbour enjoyed John's inspirational leadership for almost a decade and a half, covering a critical period of new legislation and responsibilities for harbour authorities. He quickly came to grips with and stayed abreast of it all, always applying a steady determination and a stubborn refusal to accept anything that was not in the best interests of the harbour.

He was highly competitive and used this to great effect not only in sailing but also in driving his many achievements as a Manager and Harbour Master. His greatest achievement being to build an AONB and Harbour organisation regarded by many as a model of best practice both nationally and within Europe.

John was an enthusiastic supporter of the Friends of Chichester Harbour and Chichester Harbour Trust. He was always most appreciative of our work and often boasted that the success of these two organisations was the envy of all other AONB's in UK.

We will remember him with pride and enormous affection.

Yours sincerely

Martin Rhodes

Chairman