



Peter Goodwin (1942–2017)

The great love of Peter's life was wood, and he lived it daily. He followed his brother Jeremy (who died four years ago) into the family firm of top quality furniture makers, Titchmarsh & Goodwin, in Ipswich and was a director. Their father, Gordon Goodwin, along with Lawrence Titchmarsh, had founded the firm in 1920, although its origins could be traced back as far as 1770 when George Goodwin, the son of a Woodbridge carpenter, was apprenticed to a firm of cabinet-makers in London.

Peter's responsibilities included the management of an area of woodland to provide timber for the business, along with the firm's sawmill at Witnesham near Ipswich. I will remember sharing his excitement at the first cutting of a trunk of mulberry that he had stockpiled after the 1987 storm. He was trying, in vain, to prove the traditional view that this was the burr wood used by firms such as Coxed and Woster on early 18th-century cabinets, rather than field maple as it is now known to be. However, we enjoyed the experience hugely!

Peter went on to become Chairman of the Royal Forestry Society in East Anglia. He always hoped that cabinetmakers would become more involved with woodlands to produce more high quality British timber as well as supporting the environment for wildlife. To this end he co-founded Woodland Heritage and, as Chairman of its Trustees, worked tirelessly for the charity for over 23 years under the patronage of HRH The Prince of Wales. He played a key rôle in raising awareness of Acute Oak Decline disease and in 2011 was presented with the Royal Forestry Society's Gold Medal for distinguished services to forestry.

Peter had considerable interest and knowledge of antique and contemporary furniture and he regularly judged and awarded prizes on behalf of the Woodland Trust at the annual Celebration of Craftsmanship and Design exhibition at Cheltenham, even when he was ill last year. He would, no doubt, have been with us at our Annual Conference at Ipswich this summer. Our thoughts are with Sally and all his family on the loss of such a dedicated and amusing friend.

Christopher Claxton Stevens