

Editorial

Nicholas Salmon

The last few months have been a sad time for Morrisians, with the death of John Brandon-Jones, David Rodgers, John Kay – and most recently – Ted Hollamby. As one of the younger members of the committee of the Society, it is difficult to come to terms with the loss of so many people I have known and admired.

I thoroughly endorse Joe Mirwitch's tribute to John Kay. John was one of the most gentle, honest and principled men I have ever met. I recall, when I first joined the committee, that John drove me to Baker Street Station through the darkened streets of London – the 'great wen' as Cobbett called it – and kept pointing out buildings that he detested as they had been erected for profit rather than with regard for our environment and social happiness.

He, along with Morris, made me *see* what buildings really were. I have no doubt that we would not have bought our seventeenth century listed cottage in Somerset if it hadn't been for John. When you see a derelict building with a tree growing inside, the branches of which were coming out of the windows, it is difficult to have the imagination to know what it could be. But John taught me, as did Morris, that when the people of the past, our ancestors, built houses they knew what they were doing and were sympathetic to their environment. Spring Cottage now stands as a tribute to the craftsmanship of the past.

John's work for the Society cannot be underestimated. His last crusade was to try and finally unite the Society and the Trustees in a single body. I urge those Trustees who still oppose this idea to think again and honour his wishes. This would be a fitting tribute to the most decent of men. I might add that the Society's thoughts go out to John's widow Ann.

On a lighter note – if that is the right word – I shall be getting married to Bridget Jane Williams on 1 July 2000 in Wells, Somerset. Peter Faulkner, the previous editor of the *Journal*, has very kindly agreed to edit the Autumn 2000 issue. Many thanks Peter. He can be contacted via the Society's Kelmscott House address.