

# Professor John David Gage 1939-2005

## PERSONAL TRIBUTES

### TOWARDS THE DEEP SEA: JOHN'S EARLY YEARS

John Gage, born 14 November 1939, was a native of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and his early interest in marine biology stemmed from diving along the south coast of England. He went to the University of Southampton to study Natural Sciences and eventually to the University of Cambridge to study for his PhD.

John's early interest in marine biology

In 1967 he was appointed to the Scottish Marine Biological Association and ultimately successful decision to retire in November 2004.

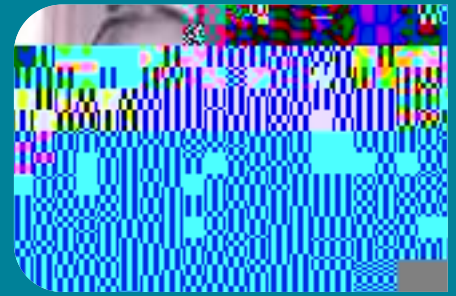
John also painted on a broader canvas: He maintained his interest in the NE Atlantic by involvement in a series of EU-funded programmes. But he developed an additional interest in oxygen minimum environments, and conducted cruises to the Oman Margin and later the Pakistan Margin.

These are all scientific facts evidenced by extensive publications culminating in the first text on deep-sea biology for over 20 years.

John always wanted to find out more and to see how the results of his science were being used. Unlike many, he didn't give the impression that the science belonged to him, he was keen for others to take his ideas forward, to use them. He was a gentleman scientist of the old school.

He was always interested in what I was doing, yet my work seemed to have little or no connections with his. But he was more than happy to spend time

*Dr Dave Long  
British Geological Survey*



> John's work in the Rockall Trough proved for the first time that seasonal growth patterns exist in deep-sea animals.

I was the last student to complete their PhD with John (2000) before going on to do a post-doc with him. Working with John always remained challenging, both at an intellectual and a personal level.

He taught me many things: to be a determined person, to have a desire to succeed, and to be incredibly diplomatic and compromise when the need arises. All these have stood me in good stead.

John and I may have had our disagreements, but he was my mentor, the person I wanted to tell about the exciting things we had discovered in the Antarctic (pages 8-9), and about more recent work that was undertaken on seamounts and banks in the NE Atlantic. Both of these areas John never got to explore, however, I feel that he would have been really pleased to know that we are finally undertaking work that he would have loved to have done.

*Dr Bhavani Narayanaswamy  
(John's academic daughter)  
SAMS*

EQUIPPING THE RESEARCH VESSEL