

## **GEORGE EDWARD LODGE TRUST**

**By Brian Bird**

*What a lesson to all of us, what a life to have led. To have made a living out of the thing you liked best in the world. To of known that your work sends those who see it back delightedly in thought to the salmon river, the forest, the crags and the hills, and the deer and the birds they have watched there.*

From J.K. Stanford's obituary of George Lodge in *The Field*, 25<sup>th</sup> February 1954

I would like to start by acknowledging Mr John Savory's book, on George Edward Lodge, titled GEORGE LODGE artist naturalist, published by Croom Helm Ltd, 1986. This book has helped immensely in my research work.

### **Bannerman and Lodge 1944 – 1985**

The first G.E. Lodge Trust was set up in 1944 in order to fund the publications of the twelve volumes of *The Birds of the British Isles*, written by David Bannerman and George Lodge did the illustrations. *The Birds of the British Isles* was a prodigious undertaking at the time, and was published by Oliver and Boyd from 1953 to 1963. Lodge himself donated £5,000 of his own funds towards the Trust and this helped kick-start the project. He also contributed 384 original paintings towards the reproduction. After Lodge's death in 1954, the Trust continued under the wing of David Bannerman.

The G.E. Lodge Trust Fund income raised by the sale of *The Birds of the British Isles* grew and this allowed the Trust to support other publications. David Bannerman died in 1979, and his cousin General Sir Philip Christison chaired the Trust. Other trustees included Donald Watson, Archie Bryson and Andrew Macmillan – In 1985 the trustees decided to wind up the trust.

### **George Edward Lodge Trust 2007**

In 2007 Brian Bird, Michael Woodford, June Woodford, Oliver Swann and Dick Treleaven, agreed to recreate a G.E. Lodge Trust, based on similar sentiments of the original Trust. The above named trustees / devotees have raised the required capital required to become a charitable trust. Although the previous Trust had accomplished the trustee's objectives, it did not appear to embellish the larger picture surrounding George Lodge, the man himself. This time around gives an opportunity to promote, educate, and preserve archive material connected to him. To many ardent admirers, he can be seen as a national treasure, and we feel his recognition is well overdue compared to other wildlife artists of the day – so this is an opportunity to help put the record straight.

It is hoped that his life skills and work will be acknowledged by many more admirers of those interested in his contribution to art, natural history, falconry, ornithological and taxidermy work. The new age of the Internet provides a greater scope to celebrate his life achievements, and to be able to share this information on a larger scale for all to enjoy.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Trusts cause by way of a donation, personal item or a photograph of a painting that could be placed on the website. The Trust would be most grateful, and needs your support to succeed.

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**Trust Volunteers**

As the Trust grows and develops so will the extra duties connected to the day-to-day running – there are possibilities in the future that extra voluntary help might be required.

- Membership Recorder
- Research Recorders
- News Letter Editor

If George Lodge has placed a spell on you, and feel that you could help in anyway, please contact Brian Bird.