

Thomas House

At the end of 2006 approximately 180 people attended a function hosted by the Radcliffe Group to commemorate their former Chairman, Jack Thomas, when the building was renamed Thomas House in his honour.

Ted Goodwin, Managing Director of the Radcliffe Group, started the formal proceedings recalling anecdotes about Jack and paying tribute to his chivalrous qualities and organisational skills.

The plaque was unveiled by the Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce President, David Tipple, who had known Jack personally through their mutual involvement with the Chamber of Commerce's Tax and Legal Committee, of which Jack had been a member for some 20 years. David remembered Jack's common sense and down-to-earth advice, never scared to ask the questions that others may have been too timid to voice, as well as his ability to make things happen, by participating himself rather than being content to be just one of life's spectators.

Claire Arnold, Jack's daughter, concluded the formal part of the event, by thanking everyone, especially the staff who had organised such a great event, on behalf of Jack's family. Also in attendance were the 30 existing staff, Jack's widow Jenny, his son Matt and Claire's husband Mark as well as many ex-staff and clients.

Top insurance companies were represented with fund managers from London attending in Jack's honour, showing the respect and high regard that Jack was held in. Others had travelled from Devon, Bristol and even Spain to be present at the event, which was held in Radcliffe's garage. The building had been magically transformed with the clever draping of fabric and carpet so that the structure was unrecognisable in its usual utilitarian state.

The consensus from everybody there was that the event was worthy of this great man, who will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered.

It has been a busy time for Radcliffe's as they had, just prior to this event, received two awards, presented to them by the comedian, Jack Dee. The awards saw Radcliffe's placed first nationally for life assurance and third for total business production in the Bankhall Awards.