

Ken's milestones at a glance



Born 6 December 1909 in Bromley, Kent. Youngest of three children: brother Leon and sister Mary.

Educated in London, Ken's first job was with Murrays, a London-based tobacco company.

Early **1930s** - served an agricultural apprenticeship on Exmoor, after which he and Leon farmed at Higher Holsome in Diptford.

During the **1930's**, Ken and Leon became agents for second-hand tractors and later teamed up with another agent - a Mr. Roseveare - to form Watkins & Roseveare.

Unable to serve in the armed forces because of asthma, Ken spent the Second World War working for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as a farm adviser, while keeping the farm machinery business going.

After the war, Ken and Leon added European farm machinery to their other businesses, which included Watkins' Tractors and Watkins' Garage (later becoming Ivybridge Motors).

8 July 1950 - Ken won the 100-Mile Commander Yorke Trophy, driving a Cooper Mk IV.

16 April 1959 - Ken married Mary Clayton in Harford church during a howling gale.

Early **1960s** - Ken joined the Devon Naturalists' Trust (now the Devon Wildlife Trust), eventually becoming chairman of its management committee.

1971 - awarded an MBE for his work with the Devon Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd.

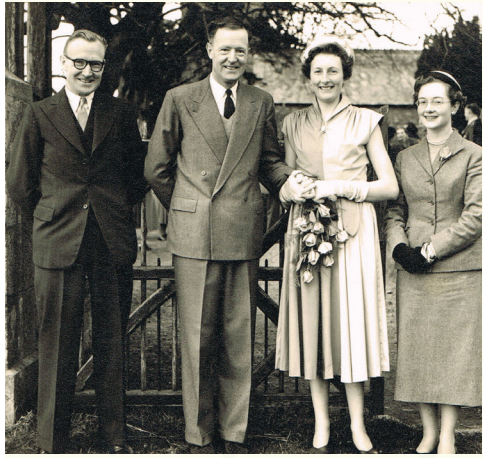
1972 - founded the Woodland Trust and purchased one of the first woods within the Avon Valley complex, which is a living tribute to Ken's vision.

1989 - received an OBE for services to conservation.

1995 - presented with the Peter Scott Memorial Award from the British Naturalists' Association.

13 November 1996 - died in Harford after a short illness.

2000 - Watkins Wood was planted by the Woodland Trust in Ken's memory, alongside the original woods in the Avon Valley.



Images from top to bottom:

- Leon Watkins marries Patty
- Ken and Mary on their wedding day
- Ken Watkins at work
- Ken with farm tenant Clive Venable

Images from top to bottom:

- Ken with his sister Mary and brother Leon
- Ken, driving what is believed to be an Allard
- Ken's pet badger, Meles (the Latin name for badger is Meles meles)
- Kenneth Watkins memorial stone



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