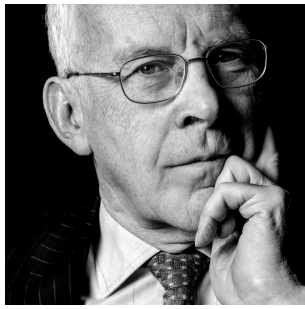




Sir Ian Wood KT GBE 1942 - 2026

TRIBUTES TO SIR IAN WOOD

Rt Hon John Swinney MSP, First Minister of Scotland, said:

“Sir Ian Wood stands as one of Scotland’s most influential business leaders and philanthropists, a figure whose vision, determination and generosity have left a lasting mark on the nation and far beyond.

“Through his leadership of Wood Group, he helped transform a modest family business into a global energy services company, playing a pivotal role in the growth of the North Sea oil and gas industry and establishing Scotland as a world-renowned centre of energy expertise.

“His devotion to his home city of Aberdeen saw him champion initiatives that have strengthened the North East of Scotland and supported the evolution of the region’s economy through his tireless advocacy for economic development, innovation and opportunity.

“From promoting technology and skills development to helping drive the transition towards a lower-carbon future, he has consistently worked to secure long-term prosperity for future generations.

“Equally significant is his commitment to philanthropy. Through The Wood Foundation, established by Sir Ian and his family in 2007, he has invested in transforming the lives of young people at home in Scotland as well as improving lives in East Africa, applying the same ambition and focus to social impact that defined his business career.

“Sir Ian Wood’s legacy is one of enterprise, leadership and generosity. He has helped shape modern Scotland, strengthened its economy, advanced its energy industry and demonstrated the profound difference that purposeful philanthropy can make.

“I am deeply sorry to hear of his passing, and I want to express my profound sympathy to Sir Ian’s family and friends at this incredibly difficult time.”

Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, said:

“Sir Ian Wood was one of Scotland’s finest sons. Ian was a giant of Scottish business, philanthropy and society. A proud son of the Aberdeen he was a tireless advocate for the Granite City and its people.

“Personally, it was a privilege to be able to know him, work with him on his philanthropic endeavours and like so many, many Scots I mourn his passing. My thoughts today are with Lady Helen, Nicholas, Graham, Garreth and the whole family for whom his loss will be most keenly felt.”

David Cameron, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, said:

“Sir Ian Wood was one of Scotland's great entrepreneurs and industrial leaders – a true titan of Scottish industry.

“Through his vision, integrity and unwavering commitment to the North Sea energy industry, he built a company of global significance while giving generously to the communities he cared so deeply about.

“He was the perfect choice to lead the Wood Review during my time as Prime Minister. Through his vision and leadership, he helped shape the future of the UK's North Sea oil and gas sector for years to come, striving to maximise North Sea revenue and increase the economic benefits from North Sea oil and gas.

“A thoroughly kind and decent man, he will be sorely missed, both in his Aberdeen home and by all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

“My thoughts and prayers are with Sir Ian's family at this sad time.

Stephen Flynn, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and MSP for Aberdeen Deeside & North Kincardine, said:

“Sir Ian Wood was a titan of industry and his achievements will rightly be remembered for generations alongside his enduring love for Aberdeen, and his dedication to ensuring the city and its people could thrive.”

Stephen Gethins, Scottish Energy Minister, said:

“So sorry to hear about the passing of Sir Ian. A champion for the North East and energy sector, and a loss for us all. Thinking about his family and many friends.”

Douglas Lumsden, Scottish Conservative MP for Aberdeen South, said:

"Scotland has lost a true guiding light of its business community.

"Sir Ian was a champion of everything North East, both as a paragon of its economy but also as a philanthropist who did so much good at home and abroad.

"He and his workers around the world forged an international reputation for excellence in energy.

"The Wood name also meant a helping hand to communities, wherever it went.

"It was an honour to listen to Sir Ian and learn from him when I served on the boards of Opportunity North East and the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

"I would like to offer my condolences to Lady Helen and the Wood family at this difficult time."

Andrew Bowie MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, said:

“My deepest condolences to Lady Helen and the Wood family.

“Sir Ian was a giant of Scotland’s public life for decades and our paths crossed on many occasions, on public platforms and in meetings about how to deliver for the North East.

“His living legacy has touched the lives of thousands of people around the world. He was a fantastic employer and poured his being into the communities he helped create, globally.

“And Sir Ian’s influence is in so many things: the Wood Review, the North Sea Transition Authority, the Oil and Gas Institute in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire’s STEM teaching programme and the multi-storey car park at ARI, Opportunity North East and so much more.

“The Wood Foundation’s work in east Africa transforms communities through teaching enterprise and self-sufficiency.

“He was very proud to be from the North East, and we are all very proud of his achievements.”

Kate Forbes, Former Deputy First Minister, said:

“Scotland has lost a great man. His talent for enterprise and industry, and love of the north east and Scotland were a winning combination. I had the great privilege of working with him on a number of projects. I always enjoyed his wit, humour and frankness, and never more so than when debating Scotland’s future and national prosperity. My thoughts are with his family and close friends. May his memory be honoured as thousands pick up the mantle and pursue his great ambitions for Scotland.”

Michael Shanks, UK Government Energy Minister, said:

“Very sorry to hear of Sir Ian Wood’s passing. I had the pleasure of meeting with him a number of times and always valued his experience.

“Over decades he built a legacy in engineering, oil and gas and in recent decades philanthropy around the world, always with Aberdeen at heart.

“So much of the foundation of the energy industry in Aberdeen and across the UK were built by Sir Ian.

“He was good enough to give a new Energy Minister some advice when I met him at the 60th anniversary of the first licence being issued in the North Sea – and I’ll treasure that.

“My thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues and the wider industry who knew him so well.”

Martin Gilbert, Founder of Aberdeen Asset Management and Chairman of Revolut, said:

“Sir Ian Wood was a giant of Scottish business. I had the privilege of knowing and working with him for more than 40 years, and his extraordinary work ethic, attention to detail and natural

charisma always stood out. He commanded enormous respect, but he was also incredibly supportive - particularly during the early years of Aberdeen Asset Management, where his guidance and encouragement were invaluable.

“Building a truly global company from Aberdeen was a remarkable achievement, and no one has contributed more to the north-east of Scotland. He was an exceptional businessman and an amazing man.”

Neil Bruce, CEO of Wood, said:

“Sir Ian’s vision, drive and determination built an extraordinary company with a strong sense of purpose and a deep belief in its people - qualities which have endured across generations.

“For all of us at Wood today, there is a profound sense of pride in the company Sir Ian created and the legacy he leaves behind. As Wood begins this next chapter as part of Sidara, we will carry that legacy with us – honouring the values and spirit on which Sir Ian founded the company.

“On behalf of everyone at Wood, I extend our deepest sympathies to Sir Ian’s family and all those who knew him.”

Sir Jim McDonald KT, GBE, Chair of Scottish Enterprise, said:

"Sir Ian was a Scottish industrial titan with a lifelong commitment to business success, economic development and philanthropic investment in people’s wellbeing; not least those in his beloved Aberdeen as well as in the international community. His influence on shaping Scotland’s industrial landscape has helped grow our global profile and create opportunities for those in the energy, engineering and manufacturing sectors.

"The name of Sir Ian Wood is synonymous with business leadership, societal impact and a successful Scotland. Those that knew him also saw his empathy, kindness and keen sense of humour, he took a genuine interest in people and was always there to offer advice and encouragement. He will be sorely missed, however, his impacts and contributions will be clear for all to see for many years to come.”

The Wood Foundation said:

“Sir Ian established The Wood Foundation in 2007, with a simple but ambitious belief: that every person should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of circumstances. Through his vision, generosity and unwavering commitment, the foundation has worked for nearly 20 years, alongside partners, communities and organisations to create lasting opportunities for young people, strengthen education and improve livelihoods in Scotland and across East Africa.

“Those that knew Sir Ian will remember not only his remarkable achievements in business and philanthropy but also his determination, humility and deep sense of responsibility to others. He believed passionately that real and lasting change comes through partnership, long-term commitment and investing in people.

“His vision has shaped every aspect of the Wood Foundation’s work. Today, that work continues with the same purpose and ambition that inspired him from the very beginning.

“Our thoughts are with Lady Helen Wood, their children, grandchildren and the wider Wood Family at this difficult time. We also recognise the many colleagues, partners and friends around the world, who were privileged to work alongside Sir Ian and who will feel his loss deeply.

“Although we mourn the loss of an extraordinary individual, we remain committed to carrying forward the values he lived by. The greatest tribute we can pay Sir Ian is to continue the work that mattered so much to him: creating opportunity, supporting communities and helping future generations realise their potential.

“Sir Ian’s legacy will endure – both through the continued success of the foundation’s work and in his belief that every individual deserves the chance to succeed in life.

Jennifer Crow MBE, Chief Executive of Opportunity North East, said:

“Sir Ian knew the north east of Scotland could compete with the very best in the world. He believed the private sector had both the ability and the responsibility to help build that future, working alongside government, universities and philanthropy. His ambition was always long term: prosperity through enterprise, investment and employment.

“When we founded Opportunity North East ten years ago, with our board members and sector boards alongside him, Sir Ian turned that conviction into action. He cut through complex issues, focused people on what really mattered, and brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, universities and public sector partners to turn ideas into projects we could fund, build and deliver. Hundreds of people give their time, expertise and influence because they share his confidence in what the north east can achieve.

“I have worked alongside Sir Ian since 2008, and I learned more from him than from anyone. He trusted people with responsibility and expected delivery. He encouraged us to look beyond our own organisations, learn from the best internationally and apply that thinking here in the north east. And whatever we had achieved, his question never changed: what else? What more can we do for the region? I will miss that question.

“Opportunity North East will continue the work Sir Ian began — with the same confidence in this region, and the same commitment to answering it, together.”

Stanley Morrice OBE, Vice Chair of Opportunity North East, said:

“Sir Ian founded Opportunity North East on a clear conviction: that the private sector had a responsibility to lead the diversification of this region’s economy, and that it could only succeed by working with partners across the whole ecosystem.

“I joined the board in 2020 because that conviction had been proven — a decade of delivery, funded by Sir Ian and matched by others. As chairman, he set the standard. He cut through

complexity, focused the board on what really mattered, and expected every project to deliver. He gave his time generously and asked the same of us all.

“On behalf of the board and our sector boards, our thoughts are with Lady Helen and the Wood family. Our task now is to continue the work Sir Ian began, together, with the discipline and ambition he expected of us.”

Maggie McGinlay, Chief Executive of ETZ Ltd, said:

"The legacy of Sir Ian Wood's journey from a small family business to a global energy company remains visible throughout North East Scotland, reflected in the hundreds of innovative and entrepreneurial energy supply chain companies that thrive here today.

“When Sir Ian stepped down as Chairman of Wood more than 14 years ago, he could have been forgiven for taking a well earned break. Instead his focus shifted to economic development and philanthropy and a key question - what next for energy? He was curious about new, emerging markets, and wanted to understand where they could bring opportunity and growth for North East Scotland’s energy sector and importantly the supply chain that he so passionately championed. And it was this leadership and vision that led to the establishment of Energy Transition Zone Ltd (ETZ Ltd) in 2021.

“I had the privilege to work with Sir Ian for well over a decade – when he was Chair of Opportunity North East and then also of ETZ Ltd. Three things stood out for me. His desire to be ever curious; to explore opportunities in emerging markets such as digital tech and renewable energy and drive action to unlock potential for North East Scotland.

“His desire to get things done, to make a difference. It was never about talking strategy; it was always about taking positive action. And his unquestionable commitment to North East Scotland. He wanted to see this region thrive for future generations and was prepared to invest his own money as well as his time and his leadership to achieve that ambition.

“For someone of Sir Ian's stature, no individual can fill the space he leaves behind. Instead the responsibility rests with us to continue his legacy through the power of partnership, the focus on delivery and through valuing what, in Sir Ian’s own words, is this region’s greatest asset: its people”.

Trevor Garlick, Acting Chair ETZ Ltd, said:

“I first met Sir Ian when at bp, and Wood Group was our major supplier. What stood out then and remained true throughout his career, was his belief in the power and value of the supply chain, and in the critical relationship between operators and the companies that support them.

“Sir Ian understood that the North East supply chain was not simply there to serve the industry but was one of the region’s great strengths in its own right: a source of innovation, skills, exports and long-term economic opportunity. He worked consistently to ensure that supply chain companies had a strong voice as the North Sea developed and as its future role for renewable energy was being considered.

“That belief carried through his work on the Wood Review, the creation of the Oil and Gas Authority and, later, the establishment of Energy Transition Zone Ltd. His legacy is not only in the global company he built, but in the confidence he gave this region to keep adapting, investing in its people, industries and future.”

David Whitehouse, Chief Executive of OEUK, said:

"Sir Ian Wood was one of the defining figures of the North Sea era. Through the Wood Review, he challenged industry and government to think differently about collaboration, stewardship and maximising the value of the UK's offshore resources. The review led to the creation of the Oil and Gas Authority, and the sector we know today would be very different without Sir Ian's vision, leadership and persistence.

On behalf of Offshore Energies UK, I pay tribute to a remarkable leader whose legacy will endure for generations. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and former colleagues at this sad time."

Steve Olivier, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Robert Gordon University, said:

"It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Sir Ian Wood.

“Sir Ian's contribution to Robert Gordon University, to Aberdeen and to Scotland was truly exceptional. An Honorary Doctor of the University and Chancellor of RGU from 2004 to 2020, he served our institution with distinction, dedication and unwavering commitment, helping to shape and strengthen our institution while inspiring generations of students and graduates.

“A visionary business leader, philanthropist and champion of education, Sir Ian believed deeply in the power of learning, innovation and enterprise to transform lives and communities. His support for RGU, reflected both through his leadership and the lasting association of the Sir Ian Wood Building with our campus, leaves an enduring legacy that will continue to benefit future generations.

“Beyond RGU, Sir Ian played a pivotal role in the economic and social development of the North East of Scotland. His achievements in business, his generosity through philanthropy and his steadfast commitment to the region have left an indelible mark on Aberdeen and far beyond.

“On behalf of the entire RGU community, I extend our heartfelt condolences to Lady Helen Wood, his family, friends and colleagues. We remember Sir Ian with deep gratitude, admiration and respect, and we honour a life of remarkable achievement, service and impact.

“His legacy will continue to inspire our university community for many years to come.”

Jim Savege, Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council, said:

“An absolute powerhouse of an individual leader, Sir Ian had a twinkle in his eye, an impatient ambition, and a sharpness that were hard to match.

“Along with many individuals across the North East, I had the pleasure to work alongside Sir Ian over the past decade. A large focus of our joint work was the establishment of Opportunity

North East Limited, forging a strong cross sector partnership to lead and stimulate sustainable economic growth across the region. Alongside this, the broader partnership work with The Wood Foundation across many Aberdeenshire Council schools has made a profoundly positive impact on many young people across Aberdeenshire, and has served to strengthen the vital working relationship between schools and businesses.

“Impossible shoes to fill, yet I know that I will be alongside many across the region today, indebted for Sir Ian’s leadership, grateful to have learned so much from him, and inspired to continue driving the shared agenda of partnership and growth for the North East ever forward.”

Russell Borthwick, Chief Executive at Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, said:

“Sir Ian Wood is one of the most influential figures in the modern history of the north-east of Scotland. Through his leadership, vision and determination, he helped build a world-leading business while playing an unparalleled role in shaping the region's economy and international reputation. Few individuals have left such a profound mark on Aberdeen and the wider region.

“Sir Ian believed passionately that business should be a force for good. Alongside his extraordinary commercial success, his philanthropy, support for education and commitment to economic development have transformed communities and created opportunities for generations. He was a tireless champion of the North-east, always ambitious for its future and unwavering in his belief that it could compete with the very best in the world.

“His legacy will endure in the businesses he built, the institutions he strengthened and the countless lives he touched. On behalf of the Chamber and the wider business community, we extend our deepest condolences to Lady Helen and Sir Ian’s family, friends and colleagues. The North-east has lost one of its greatest champions, and his contribution to our region will never be forgotten.”

Dave Cormack, Aberdeen Football Club Chairman, said:

“Sir Ian was a giant of Aberdeen and one of the defining figures in our city's modern history. His vision, entrepreneurial spirit and generosity helped transform not only industries, but also communities, creating opportunities that will benefit people for generations to come.

“While his achievements in business were remarkable, it was his deep commitment to Aberdeen and the North-east that made him such a respected and admired figure. He believed passionately in this city and consistently sought to make it a better place for those who lived and worked here.

“On behalf of everyone at Aberdeen Football Club, we send our heartfelt condolences to Lady Helen, his family, friends and colleagues. Our thoughts are with them all as they mourn the loss of an exceptional man whose legacy will endure across our city and far beyond.”

Neil McCulloch, CEO of Adura, said:

“I count myself very fortunate to have known and worked closely with Sir Ian and found him to be an inspirational figure who achieved a huge amount for the industry, region and city that he loved. Sir Ian’s generosity, vision and drive to lead the Wood Review and later establish both Opportunity North East and the Energy Transition Zone means his legacy will last for generations. A true pioneer, my thoughts are with Sir Ian’s friends and family.”

Bob Drummond, Executive Chairman at Hydrasun, said:

"I am truly heartbroken by the news of Sir Ian's passing.

"I first joined Wood Group on 1 October 1992 as Managing Director of Wood Group Engineering, having just turned 37. I can still remember how excited I was to be working with Sir Ian. I admired him enormously, was inspired by him, and, if I'm honest, was a little in awe of him too.

"Over the years, I came to know not only one of the finest business leaders I have ever had the privilege to work alongside, but someone I regarded as a father figure. We would often meet on Saturday mornings in his office at Greenwell Road, sharing a cup of tea and a rowie while talking about the business and the future. Those are memories I will treasure forever.

"Sir Ian's contribution to Aberdeen, the North-east and Scotland is beyond measure. He built a remarkable global business, but he also transformed communities through his generosity, his vision and his unwavering belief in the potential of this region. His legacy will endure for generations.

"I will always be grateful for his friendship, his guidance and the confidence he placed in me. It was one of the greatest privileges of my career to work with him, and I will never forget our time together. My thoughts are with Lady Helen and all of Sir Ian's family and friends."

Sir Tom Hunter, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist, said:

“I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Sir Ian Wood – he was one of my heroes.

“I first met Ian when we were doing a business programme for STV; I was in my early thirties and turned up in my fancy car to show off.

“When we were leaving Ian got into an old taxi - he was getting the train back to Aberdeen and I’m sure he had a hole in his cardigan!

“I learned a lot from Ian - firstly don’t show off; he wore his wealth lightly.

“From humble beginnings to building a global empire, to being a great philanthropist, Scotland was lucky to have him. Our thoughts are with the Wood family.

“Ian, I’ll see you down the road my friend.”

Richard Lochhead, Former MP and Scottish Government Minister, said:

“I’m so sorry to hear about the passing of Sir Ian Wood - a business legend rooted in the North East of Scotland and a hugely significant Scottish personality.

“Not only did he achieve huge success in business and in particular the offshore sector building a multinational company out of the oil boom but he supported a plethora of good causes and was utterly devoted to the wellbeing of Aberdeen and the North East.

“And he supported good causes overseas too.

“I first met him soon after being elected back in 1999 when I was a newly elected MSP living in Aberdeen and found myself sitting next to him at a big oil dinner. I was a bit overawed. But he couldn’t have been more friendly.

“Our paths crossed many times thereafter and as a Minister I had many meetings with him and we shared many platforms. He had boundless energy, was always fair and reasonable and great company. Someone you valued being with because you always learnt so much and benefited from his wise advice and huge knowledge and experience.

“He was always down to earth. I remember when I invited him into Parliament and I bought him a coffee and then apologised for not offering him a biscuit or cake. He told me not to worry as he dug into his old battered briefcase and produced two different packets of shortbread from different rail journeys. He also had a great sense of humour.

“It is difficult to imagine Aberdeen and North East Scotland life without Ian who leaves behind a magnificent legacy.

“He will be sorely missed and my thoughts are with his loved ones.”

Neil Gordon, Chief Executive at Global Underwater Hub, said:

“Sir Ian Wood’s passing is an enormous loss to Aberdeen, the North East of Scotland and the wider energy industry.

“Sir Ian was one of our region’s greatest champions. His contribution extended far beyond building one of the world’s leading energy services companies. He understood the fundamental importance of the offshore supply chain, its people, skills, innovation and ability to generate employment, exports and long-term economic value.

“Through the many organisations and initiatives he created, championed and funded, Sir Ian helped companies grow, encouraged new industries to develop and opened opportunities for countless individuals. Many people whose lives and careers were positively influenced by his work may never have met him, but they nevertheless benefited from his vision, leadership and generosity.

“He remained deeply committed to Aberdeen and the North East throughout his life. He recognised the continuing importance of the oil and gas industry while also working tirelessly to ensure that the region’s exceptional industrial capability could evolve and play a leading role in the energy transition.

“Sir Ian leaves an extraordinary legacy of entrepreneurship, philanthropy and public service. His

determination to turn ideas into action and to use his success to create opportunities for others will continue to inspire generations to come.

“On behalf of everyone at Global Underwater Hub, I extend my sincere condolences to Lady Helen, their family, his friends and all those who worked closely with him.

“He will be greatly missed.”