

OBITUARY



PETER AUTIE (Former Voice Chair)



Peter was born in London in 1939 and his earliest memories were of bombs, aerial dog fights and blitzed houses. His father was an electronics research engineer who was keen that Peter should follow the engineering and technical path, so he attended a technical school in Westminster followed by apprenticeship in the motor industry qualifying as a car body design engineer, and worked in the motor industry in the late fifties/early sixties until, with the motor industry in decline, he applied for an RAF commission; following 16 weeks of square-bashing, barrack room cleaning and ground school training, he commenced training as a pilot: by then, all initial training was on jets. In 1973 he was promoted to Squadron

Leader, and later spent several enjoyable years in Whitehall as a staff officer before the highlight of his career: a posting to Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1984 for a three year tour as an Air Attaché. Latterly he specialised in logistics and saw service in that rôle around the world including Yemen, Germany and Cyprus as well as in many UK locations. On retirement from the RAF in 1994 he headed back to Whitehall - deep beneath it - as the Site Manager in the Government Crisis Management Centre.

When Peter finally gave up his security pass and retired to Norfolk in 2003, life took an unexpected turn.... Amateur Dramatics. He had ventured on to a stage in 1986 with a motley bunch of expats in the British Embassy, Kathmandu, where attempts at music-hall, panto and revues were well received by the otherwise culturally starved community! Peter joined the Creakes Drama Group, appearing in nearly 30 productions over the next 18 years, both plays and pantomimes. He played a variety of roles, but often comic character parts: his timing was impeccable and his facial expressions could always generate hoots of laughter.

In the 2013 production of "Allo, Allo!" his rôle was the French Resistance messenger, LeClerc, and "I will say ziss only once" became his catchphrase! He last appeared as King Richard 1 in the panto "Robin Hood" in January 2020. The post-rehearsal debriefs in the Jolly Farmers were an essential part of the line learning process... Peter has taken his final curtain call and will be missed.