

REMEMBERING PETER BRAY



Peter Bray (1943-2020)

Peter was just 77 years old, still a young man by today's age standards, when he passed away in Stoke Mandeville hospital on the 21st September. Peter had been poorly since the beginning of this year, albeit having suffered with arthritis and his mobility issues for a number of years now. His son Chris did say that his demise was non-Covid related. Peter was a regular attendee and really looked forward to the gatherings at the Hercules Pillars, meeting up with old colleagues, especially his ex-QA friends and associates.

Peter was an MOD-QA stalwart all his working life. He was also a Harefield man having been born, lived and married there. He left school at 16 in the late 1950's/early 1960's and started an apprenticeship at the QA Laboratories Harefield, in the good old days of; The Ministry of Aviation. Following his apprenticeship, he stayed on at the Laboratories, (I think in the Metrology Department) as a Craftsman 1, advancing to Tech Grade 3 (TG111) and rising

through the ranks in their various guises and Ministry name changes to reach the grade of SPTO. Interesting enough, during this period (around) 1985 DGDQA was formed and reorganised/rationalised. It merged most of the QA departments, Laboratory District Offices, Resident QA Outstations, Project QA Liaison offices, under one banner. Peter left MoD Harefield when the site closed, as part of the QA reorganisation and joined the DQA/AE Project team when it relocated to St. Giles Court in 1985. He continued to work with DQA in St. Giles Court covering the QA aspects within the D/MAP area until St. Giles closed in 1995 and then taking the early retirement package before the MoD Abbey Wood/RAF Wyton relocation. On Retirement, Peter worked at his local Greengrocers buying the fruit & Vegetables at 'silly' o'clock at Covent Garden market and selling on in the shop.

Peter was a very good tennis player and carried on playing well into his retirement. He and I also ran several local half marathons back in the 1980's. We used to run about 3 or 4 training miles every lunchtime from Adastral House (it was the only changing/shower facilities available to us) along a circular route by the Regents Park canal. I remember one instance when Peter forgot to pick up his sports bag from Adastral after our run. He remembered it several hours later, went to collect it, only to find a suspect package security alert at the building when he arrived there. Once he advised them, red faced, about his sports

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*bag being left in the changing room,!!!,
do I need to say any more as to his
popularity at that time !!! .*

*Peter had a great love for budgerigars
and had an aviary in his garden. I
remember going to Watford one day with
him to get some more breeding birds from
our good friend and colleague John
Burton.*

*In retirement, even when his joints began
to creak from all this activity, he
continued to go to his allotment, with his
dog Puff. He also took up Bowls and
played that until fairly recent times.*

*Peter was married to his beloved Mary
(who sadly passed away 8 years ago) and
had two lovely children Chris and Joanne
together with several grandchildren. He
lived in the same family home all his
married life, for over 40 years in Widmer
End, Bucks until about seven years ago
when he moved to an apartment in
Amersham.*

*Our grateful thanks to Treavor Checksfield for these
words about an old chum and colleague from times past.*

*We are also indebted to Peter's son Chris and daughter
Joanne for permission to publish this eulogy.*

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