



Peter Collins' Celebration Service

Ian & Carol Leaver

Our first meeting with Peter was in Salcombe at the start of Dayboat week in the early 70's. We had just arrived when a car roared into the car park towing Minnehaha. The driver enquired as to where he had to report to and a friendship of over 40 years began.

Soon after we were invited to a sailing weekend in Padstow, little realising that the following year we would actually be living in Cornwall ourselves. Soon we were members of Padstow sailing club sailing at weekends with Peter and friends. Peter also helped us out by drawing up the plans for a much-needed extension on our very small bungalow.

After a couple of years Peter's circumstances changed and he decided to work abroad. The three of us kept in contact by letter and making tape recordings of news from Cornwall. [No Email or Skype in those days.]



On his first leave he came home with Karen and then the four of us kept in contact and we looked forward to their visits whenever they were home on leave.

Peter's eventual retirement meant that we spent more time with the couple. During this time it was Peter to the rescue again as he helped us to do battle with the planners to get permission to build our existing house. Peter was a great one to have on your side, as one of his many strengths was that he would never give up.

The couple were very involved with their community Mylor Bridge but understandably wanted to spend more time with Anne and granddaughter Ethne. It was a great sadness to us when they decided to live in Australia as we knew we would be seeing very little of them.

Probably our last memory of Peter, and it's a good one, is of the holiday we spent together in 2007 when we visited them [in South Australia]. Peter and Karen hired an old but comfortable stern wheel paddleboat from a local sheep farmer and we clanked our way happily along the Murray River. Peter was his usual energetic self. He was either steering the boat, BBQing meals, going walkabout to look for wildlife, fishing or swimming in the river. Never a dull moment.

Our biggest sadness has been not being able to support Peter and Karen more over the past very stressful weeks. Our not being able to attend the funeral, we feel, not so important as we know Karen will be well cared for by her lovely family and friends. On a selfish note, it will make it easier for us to remember Peter in all the many good times. We can almost allow ourselves to think that he is still out there in the wild doing his bit for nature conservation and it will be our way of coping with the loss of a very good friend.

Love

Carol and Ian

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