

# A celebration of life

## Peter William Hardisty

29 June 1931 – 8 September 2021

Wednesday 29 September 2021, Wakefield Crematorium



*a personal goodbye*

Humanist  
*Ceremonies*

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*Born in Leeds on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1931, Peter was the second child of William and Jessie Hardisty, joining his big sister Molly, who was eight years his senior. The age gap meant Molly was off out in the world while Peter was still just a young lad, but he always remembered her coming to pick him up from school in a military vehicle when she was serving with the RAF. Peter joined up himself, when he was old enough, proud to serve in the same regiment his father had been in during World War I: The Green Howards. Peter spent much of his seven years in the army in Malaya and spoke of fighting alongside the Gurkhas out there.*

*It was a challenging posting, but Peter had his sweetheart back home to cheer him through any hardship. He and June had met at a fairground – apparently, she caught his eye flying round on the chair-aeroplanes – and they started going out before Peter joined up. They wrote to each other throughout their enforced separation, and would meet when he was home on leave, often walking to Roundhay Park if it was fine, and going sledging there when it snowed. They married on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954 at St Cyprian's Church in Harehills, enjoying a few days in Jersey on honeymoon. The newly-weds spent their early married life in Warminster, while Peter was stationed on Salisbury Plain, before moving in with June's parents in Leeds when he came out of the army. Here they welcomed to the world their first child, Lynne.*

*Peter and June got a house in Wortley, and became parents to Janet, before Peter got a job in Ossett, which was where they had their son, David. Peter worked at the shunting yard, as a signal engineer for British Rail, and he was happy in his job. He was a real grafter, doing extra hours in the mill of a local shoddy merchant in order to support his family. And he was a very practical man too, spending hours tinkering with whichever car they had at the time, in order to keep it running. In later years, when he could afford a slightly more reliable vehicle, Peter enjoyed a bit of adventure behind the wheel. He and Lynne both had Suzuki Jimny's at the same time and booked onto an off-roading day together. Peter went first, and pitched straight off down the track that was meant for the souped-up purpose-built models, leaving Lynne and John no choice but to follow. They eventually emerged, both cars completely covered in mud and with creaking suspension, but Peter was totally delighted with himself and beaming from ear to ear.*

*Back when the kids were young, holidays were often spent visiting Peter's parents once they moved to Bridlington, Peter happy building sandcastles and playing in the sea with the children. Janet remembers her dad taking her camping one time too, along with a friend and some of her cousins; she also remembered the girls being designated to sleep outside the tent in the rubber dinghies, the age of chivalry obviously being over by 1976!*

*Peter was supportive of his kids and did what he could to help them on in life. He taught Janet to drive, though lessons could be something of a trial when they would drive over to Bridlington, as Peter would just nod off and leave her to it! He genuinely could have fallen asleep on a washing line given the chance!*

*Once their children were grown up, Peter and June moved to Stevenage, Peter still working for British Rail, and they made a good circle of friends down there. Peter liked to go to the club on a Saturday night, for a pint and a catch up with mates. He also loved spending time in his garden and would be out there for hours just pottering contentedly, June joining him when the weather was good enough to sit out with a book.*

*Peter and June did enjoy their get-aways in the sun, usually to Tenerife, but he was quite a homebody at heart, and was just as happy out walking the dogs. Peter used to say, 'It's not a home without a dog,' and he was fond of all the ones they had over the years, but especially of the most recent two, Kelly the Irish Setter and Megan the Golden Retriever. And he was always a willing volunteer when Lynne's dog Alfie needed walking.*

*Peter retired and used some of his new-found free time to take up genealogy, tracing his family tree back to the eighteenth century. In 2001 he and June moved back to Yorkshire, settling in Skelmanthorpe near to Lynne and John, and Janet and Dave. Peter was welcoming to both his sons-in-law, especially if they came bearing beer! It was a running family joke that Peter would turn up at Christmas with a pack of the basic John Smith's, then proceed to drink all the (pricier) draught cans that John or Dave had bought in! In fact, Dave still has one of Peter's old cans in his fridge...it's been there ten years and counting! Peter was a true Yorkshireman when it came to looking after the pennies, and many's the time June would be mortified in the Co-op as he exclaimed, 'How much?' to the girls on the till, and pointed out, 'I'm only a poor pensioner.' But to be fair to him, he had worked hard for all he had, and didn't like to waste it.*

*One of the biggest bonuses of moving nearby was Peter and June being able to see more of their grandchildren. Peter was a proud grandad to Stephanie, Adam, Louise, Rachael and Lucy, and a great-grandad to Izzy, Eva, Luke, Molly, Ava, Tommy, Jacob, Daniel, Reuben, William and Aeryn; he loved to tell everyone he had eleven great-grandchildren! And he also loved to hear about how they were all getting on; he was so proud of all the generations of his family.*

*His grandchildren have many fond memories of their grandad, especially of his jacuzzi bath, which they would fill to overflowing with bubbles. They remember happy times staying with their grandma and grandad in Stevenage, visiting Whipsnade Zoo and going to the airport to spot planes. On a trip to the shops, Peter would let them help themselves to pick and mix at Woolworth's; it always ended up being a very expensive treat! Stephanie and Adam both remember their grandad pottering in the garden, with his tortoise. And Adam remembers he and his grandad both having a BT cell net phone, and that his grandad never really accepted it when he eventually traded up for a better one. While Janet's girls said how their grandad would say something to June to wind her up, then grin at them behind her back. He also used to joke with them that the strawberry birthmark on his head was where June had hit him with a frying pan!*

*Of course, that couldn't be further from the truth, though June did tell me that she and Peter always worked so well together because they were entirely different; certainly she preferred soaps while Peter would watch cowboy and war movies in the other room. But they really did work so well together, not only managing to receive a card from the queen on their Diamond wedding but celebrating seven more anniversaries together since then. In recent years they have taken great care of each other – Peter was June's rock through her own health challenges, and she did all she could to look after him just as she always had through their marriage. He was mostly appreciative, though sometimes couldn't resist a mischievous comment; on at least one occasion that resulted in a Yorkshire pudding ricocheting off his head courtesy of his lovely wife!*

*When Peter's care needs became too much at home, he moved into Scissett Mount, and the staff there all made a proper fuss of him and enjoyed his company. He was soon renowned as a real character, with his Yorkshire Born and Bred sign on the door, and he settled in well, even complimenting the food. Peter's family are grateful to his carers for looking after him so well in his final months.*

*Peter was proud and honest, a hard worker and a good friend. Above all he was a loving dad, grandad and great-grandad, and a devoted husband. He is hugely missed but will never be forgotten.*

