

TRIBUTE TO PAST MASTER PETER ENGLISH

Peter passed away on December 15th and his Funeral Service was on 3rd January in March Cambridgeshire. The Company was represented by Past Master Peter Matthews and his consort Lis. The Master and Clerk were unable to attend due to other commitments.

This tribute is based on one delivered by his brother Roger during the Service.

Peter was born in St Ives, Cambs in Feb 1939. His parents both worked in a Fosters clothing store in the town and then moved into the Fosters store in March, where Peter was brought up. He secured a scholarship to Kingswood Public School, Bath, where he enjoyed all aspects of school life, but never allowed his love of sport get in the way of his studies. His hard work resulted in successes at O and A levels. He interviewed for Cambridge University, but was told that Imperial College was best for civil engineering – and that is where he obtained his honours degree. He worked during holidays at Fenland County Hall in the highways department. During this time he joined the local Young Conservatives in March, where he met Angela who was to become his wife in August 1962.

His first job was with Taylor Woodrow Engineering on the Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk and hence Aldeburgh was the first family home. The happy marriage produced two daughters Tracy and Helen and then five grandchildren Abigail, Emily, Benjamin, Jonathan and Adeline. Peter's career took him all over the UK, and to Brazil, Germany and the USA. The projects included nuclear power stations, reservoirs, North Sea oil platforms and Heathrow T4; his first job as project manager was the London Underground ticketing system. When he left Taylor Woodrow he was appointed to the position of contract manager to the Millennium Dome construction (and those of us in Water Conservators will remember Peter speaking enthusiastically about the project). Peter was proud that the Dome was built on time and on budget during 1997 to 2000 and that it has continuing life as the O2 arena. Soon after the finish of the project Peter and Angela retired and decided to return to their roots in March.

As we would expect, Peter's personal life was also very active. He was a Chartered Civil Engineer. He was an active spectator of sport and a life long keen golfer. He was interested in politics and current affairs and expressed himself eloquently in giving his opinions; given an alternative life he would have been a Professor of History at Cambridge University. In his retirement he has written a book on his family history and an account of the rise of the British Empire. He was an active Rotarian in March, many of whom were at the Funeral Service. Peter was very proud of three things outside of his family and civil engineering achievements. His collection of waistcoats, his MBE in the New Year's Honours List for 2000 for his work on the Dome, and of course his membership of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and our Company. He was Master 2001-2002 and the Order of Service had a picture of Peter in the Master's robes.

We all remembered Peter fondly and wished him peace.

Past Master Peter Matthews

