

## A Potted History Of My Life

After leaving the Merchant Navy in 1963 I joined the Royal Navy and did my seamanship at H.M.S.Raleigh before going to H.M.S.Pembroke in Chatham to do my catering training.

After training I was posted to, my own county of Cornwall and H.M.S.Seahawke at Culdrose.

After a long weekend before I was about to join H.M.S.Eagle as an officers tiger my naval service came to an abrupt end due to a massive nervous breakdown.

After my recovery I went back home to Cornwall and eventually ended up in Newquay with various jobs in and around the catering industry.I met my first girlfriend in 1966 and married that year.We produced three sons,my eldest in 1967,the next in 1968 and the youngest in 1969.

During that period I did some entertaining as a singer in clubs and hotels part time and went under my semi professional name of Yan Peters.

I also joined the Newquay Operatic society and a local Revue Company called "Fun`s A Poppin" where we put many shows on at the Cosy Nook theatre from 1970 to 1980.

When the revue company folded,I carried out my singing in and around hotels in the area for charity and later joined the Royal British Legion as their producer for the summer shows they put on with the occasional shows for the poppy appeal at the Cosy Nook theatre, where, on one occasion I had Jethro,the Cornish comedienne as my side kick

I also served on the Legions committees and for a period was their club chairman.

I was also actively involved with Newquay 1900 week for many years where we dressed in Victorian costume and I made many of the costumes my then wife and I wore.

In 1990 and 1991 illness struck again and I finished with the entertainment world. I undertook assisting a second-hand book stall for Cancer Research and running stalls and coffee mornings for a local church, all for therapy to overcome my illness, which developed into epilepsy.

I had a strong interest in art and painted many oil and water colour paintings and developed this by becoming a supervisor part time for the Newquay disabled club running the art classes up until 2002.

My marriage of nearly 36 years came abruptly to an end in 2001 and I ended up in warden controlled accommodation but 4 months after my divorce was absolute I met a male friend which developed into much more than friendship.

I moved to St Austell nearer to his home and the bond grew stronger and in May 2007 we entered into a civil partnership, we finally moved into a home together by January this year,2008.

I have over the years of knowing him got back to some singing again, this time aided by backing tracks, and perform for elderly and disabled people voluntary.

I have designed about 200 greetings cards which I hand make with parchment paper and also paint Tall ships and frame them, on a small scale.

Up until 2007 I was the membership secretary of my local branch and club of the Royal British Legion, where I have served also as the entertainments secretary, recruitment officer. and as group chairman.

I am in the process of writing a murder mystery, my life story and some poetry, all of which is on the back boiler at the moment while I settle into a routine of my new home.

At 63 coming on 64 I keep myself as fit and active as I can, being forced to retire from my care home job at 47 years of age I needed to keep afloat.

From the timid young lad in my Vindi days where my only memories of staff are Captain Poore and Daddy Greenstock I had to toughen up which stood me in stead for what I had to do as a father in the years to come, and the heartaches I was to face.

Now a father of three grown up sons and grand father of 9 my life has changed, to me, for the better having found true happiness.

There was only one way to go when I lay in the gutter and I did it by rising up. In doing so I was able to see the world and all those in it at a different perspective.

As long as we have love, trust, honesty and loyalty with someone just go for it.

I do not believe in judging those who seem different to other people, live and let live. And move on.

Now at 63 plus I am doing all the things I did as a young man, I may get tired now and then but I have a total zest for life, and a disciplined mind and body that I put down to my Merchant and Royal navy training.

Peter Crago Goodman