

## **Emeritus Professor John Stringer – OBITUARY**

Passed away peacefully after a short illness on 21st January 2018, aged 92.

Born in 1925 in Tettenhall, John gained a scholarship to Wolverhampton Grammar School (WGS). As well as his studies, John attended several scout camps, in expectation of war joined the Auxiliary Fire Service, and was later joined involved in the Air Training Corps rising to the rank of Flight Sergeant. He was to study mathematics in the sixth form.

In 1943, John gained a scholarship to St. John's College Cambridge to read mechanical sciences. John rowed for Lady Margaret Boat Club. He obtained a first class degree in 1945.

After Cambridge, John was posted to the Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment (MAEE) at Felixstowe to do experimental work with flying boats.

John then worked at the British Iron and Steel Research Association (BISRA), where he first encountered Operational Research (OR) (using scientific methods to solve management problems).

In 1950 John moved to London Transport where he applied OR techniques to a number of problems including average waiting time for busses, energy consumption of tube trains, and influenced the cabin design of the Route Master bus.

After 5 years John moved to the British Electricity Authority (later Central Electricity Generating Board - CEGB) as head of OR. John left CEGB in 1962 to join British Oxygen (BOC) for a short time. John was an early member of the Operation Research Society (ORS) and became a member of its membership committee. In 1963 the Institute for Operation Research (IOR) was formed as part of the Tavistock Institute, John joined and in 1965 was appointed deputy director. Following the death of the director Neil Jessop in 1969, John became director.

In 1976 John was appointed as a founding professor at the Australian Graduate School of management, where he worked on energy questions and the management of large-scale engineering problems.

John and his wife Norma returned to Ewhurst Green in East Sussex to retire in 1986.

For some years John continued consultancy work, and working with the Major Projects Association (MPA) on 'The Planning and Inquiry Process and Infrastructure Projects'.

John was visiting professor at Kent and Southampton universities.

In 2000 Through the Society of Retired Chartered Engineers in SE Kent, John became involved in organising a conference on Renewable Energy, concluding that emissions of carbon dioxide could be reduced to 20% of their current levels by 2050 without recourse to nuclear power.

John was a founder member of Battle and District U3A, and became its president.

John is survived by sons Julian and Colin by his first wife Josephine.

His second wife, Norma, died in 2011 after 39 years of happy marriage.