

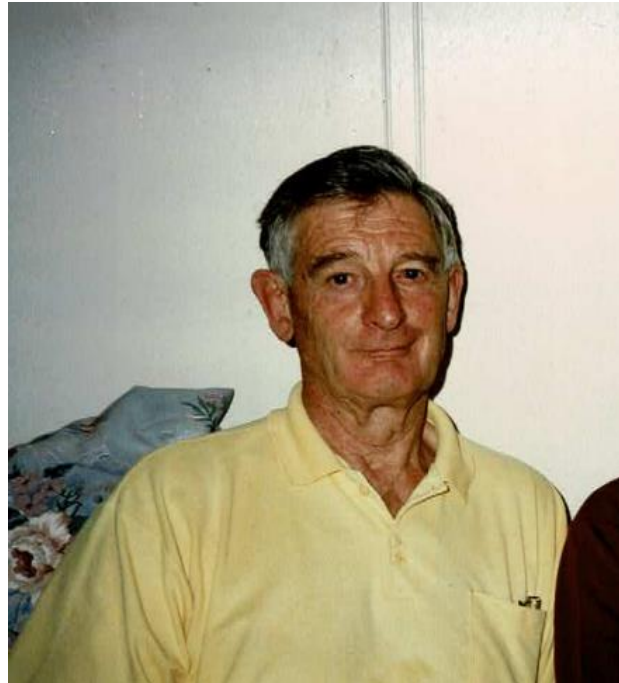
Colin Hugh Rigby

Colin Rigby passed away on 27th March 2021, after a short period of ill health. Colin was born in Norwich in 1929 and had a relatively normal childhood with his family until his early teenage years when he lost his dad to meningitis. As he put it himself, he graduated early as a teenager and was sent to Framlingham to 'put him through the mill'. It worked as he left with 6 credits. He tried some chemistry mixing elements and bomb debris to make fireworks, which didn't work; but success came with discoveries at the local munition store which resulted in an excellent rocket. He was inspired by electricity and took an apprenticeship at Laurence, Scott & Electromotors (LS&E) and qualified as an electrical engineer. Weekends were filled with frequenting local dance halls and riding pre-war motorcycles. He went on to spend 5 years in the merchant navy working on Elder Dempster Lines and Canadian Pacific Empress Liners; seeing the world before returning to Norwich to LS&E and meeting Diana, who he married in 1960. He briefly moved to Commercial Union, and when he was overlooked for promotion, he switched to Lloyds Register of Shipping, which he always said was the best move in his life! The family grew to 4 children and having undertaken an intense language course they were sent to Italy where he worked in the Milan office. First living in an apartment in Milan then moving to the countryside to a rambling old house. With a caravan as a holiday home the family spent weeks away at the Italian lakes or touring the major cities, and even up to the alps in the caravan for skiing. The cycle was broken when Lloyds needed a surveyor to start with immediate effect in Iran, working, amongst other things on the gas pipeline running from the Caspian Sea, through Iran. This was a temporary move for the family, and they were soon back in Italy but for a short time as he was sent to South Korea where he oversaw the building of 11 ships for the Nigerian National Shipping line in what was the biggest shipyard in the world in Ulsan.

Colin was moved back to the UK when Diana was found to have a malignant melanoma. It was back to East Anglia, Colin worked in the Lowestoft office, and Diana received successful treatment for her cancer. The work was varied and amongst his list of jobs was offshore work on North Sea Gas platforms.

As a man of faith it was no surprise to the family when he decided to take early retirement and go abroad with Diana to help others. Their first venture was on a boat to help Vietnamese boat people, however the boat never got further than the mediterranean! But it was all good experience, Diana had been a nurse and she took a course in tropical medicine at Liverpool University, which was a must for their next venture. They worked for 5 years in a small mission caring for orphans in Mozambique. The mission had endless work for an electrical surveyor who could turn his hand to anything, and Diana busied herself running clinics. Word moves fast when there is health professional in town. They moved to Uganda and attempted to set up clinics, but they were fraught with bureaucracy. There was another stint back in the UK due to ill health and they were then off to Tanzania. After 3 years there they retired and moved to be halfway between 2 of their children. They spent time travelling visiting family, one of whom lived in the alps. Colin always insisted in fitting in a ski trip in but the family got increasingly concerned and he gave up at the age of 84! They moved to West Bridgford in Nottingham about 8 years ago, to be near one of his son's, and found an assisted living apartment, beside the river Trent. Always the fixer he set about modifying furniture and working out how to make the most of cheaper off-peak electricity to heat the apartment. He advised all the other residents and produced instructions on how this could be done. Even just a few days after having a pacemaker fitted at age 91 he was down in the laundry room doing the weekly wash and using the time to discuss plans for the next residents meeting!

As he died during the restrictions of the pandemic there were only 30 at the cremation and the celebration of his life at St Giles church in West Bridgford. However as his son in law was adept at streaming services from his church, he set about doing a live stream on Facebook for those who were not allowed to attend.



Colin approximately 2015

Colin in the motor bike years



Colin in Norwich, mid 1950's



Captured mid event (not sure of date)



It would seem never far from the water, here on a canal boat holiday fishing something out of the canal he accidentally dropped!