

## Peter Brunton

Good afternoon everyone. As current Bagman and a former Squire of East Surrey Morris Men I am pleased to be able to say a few words about Peter on behalf of East Surrey and the wider Morris community.

I have known Peter for about 30 years, first encountering him as Squire of Greensleeves MM when I attended my first Rye Weekend in about 1991 and later as a member of and English concertina player for East Surrey Morris Men from around 2000.

During his membership of East Surrey Peter became a highly valued and respected member of the side. This reflected his knowledge and experience of the Morris with his dancing career stretching back to 1966, his accomplished concertina playing, his generosity in all senses and his commitment to the side. One thing that everyone in the side would confirm was that on entering a pub, Peter was always the first to offer to buy a round. He was quite firm that you should accept his offer and equally difficult to persuade that it was about time for someone else to buy the first drink. Between us we think we owe him about 100 pints!



Another aspect of Peter's generosity and contribution to the side was the work he did to organise East Surrey's annual Charity Carol Singing Tour, including finding a suitable date, getting in touch with the nominated charity, arranging collecting buckets and literature, liaising with pubs and counting and banking the collections. Over the last few years we have raised well over £1,000 for local and national charities which wouldn't have happened without Peter's efforts.

Although retired from paid employment for some years Peter continued to embrace modern technology. He would often send emails out to the side perhaps warning of a phishing scam, offering some redundant piece of kit to a good home or just passing on something that had appealed to his sense of humour. He also operated a Twitter account @pjbprinces with frequent tweets on recent ESMM tours or forthcoming events. This made maintaining the side's account a lot easier as I could often just retweet what Peter had produced.

Peter was also an enthusiastic photographer, often sharing photos via Twitter or other means. The East Surrey archive and scrapbooks contain many of Peter's photographs taken at Rye or on local tours.

Peter had wide-ranging interests and I can recall his intelligent and witty contributions to many conversations in the Hope after practice nights and elsewhere. These covered a vast array of subjects including the merits of fixed wheel bicycles, philosophy, chillies and garlic etc! I want to finish by saying something about Peter's commitment to East Surrey MM which was exemplary. He would always try to support programmed events when he could and there have been a number of occasions where, but for Peter and his concertina we would not have been able to fulfil a programmed commitment. So, thank you Peter for what you have contributed to the side and to the wider Morris world, from all the current and former members of East Surrey MM

including those unable to be here today and from members other sides including Greensleeves and Black Swan. It has been a pleasure to count Peter as a friend and a fellow East Surrey man.