

It is with deepest sadness that we have to report that Dr John Peter George (Peter) Farr has died.

Peter was a twin brother to Elizabeth and was born in Bristol in 1931. He then went on to study chemistry at the University of Birmingham between 1948 and 1955. After graduating and obtaining his PhD, Peter served his National Service in the Royal Navy Scientific Service at the Services Electronics Research laboratory (SERL) in Harlow, Essex where he ran an electroplating shop that contributed to restoring the radar network in the eastern Mediterranean. Peter's time at SERL greatly influenced his later interests as he continued with this liaison for the rest of his professional career. In recognition of his long term services to the Ministry of Defence, in 1988 he was made Honorary Senior Principle Scientific Officer at the Ministry of Defence (RSRE Malvern).

Peter returned to the University of Birmingham in 1958 as one of the first two-year DSIR Post Doctoral Senior Research Fellows in physical chemistry, where he studied the electrocrystallisation of metals. This post influenced the rest of his life and he would often fondly reminisce about the impact that the late Dr John Randles, also in the department, had on him. In 1959 Peter was appointed as a Joseph Lucas Research Fellow in the University's Department of industrial Metallurgy (later to become the School of Metallurgy and Materials); he held this post for 14 years, after which he was appointed to the teaching staff, where he remained until his retirement in 1998.

Peter first became involved in the (then) Institute of Metal Finishing in 1961, becoming a Fellow (FIMF) in 1993. Two years later he first served on the IMF's Council, when he established its Science Committee, so that the Institute could better focus on the rapidly changing technologies that surface engineering was undergoing. Peter also initiated the Institute's membership of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, where he played a very active role for the following 20 years by providing a communications conduit that interfaced between the surface engineering sector and Parliament.

In 1998 he became the Institute's Senior Vice President and was President from 1999 to 2001. His Presidency was during a turbulent and uncertain period for both the Institute and the surface engineering sector in general, but Peter determinedly guided us through these times and left us in a very solid and robust state with a greatly increased exposure and status.

Peter was granted the Freedom of the City of London in 2000 and as a Freeman, he was eligible to drive a flock of sheep across London Bridge. He did consider using this freedom but could not borrow a flock to drive!

Peter was always very keen to take on voluntary tasks, including the editorship of numerous prestigious and globally accredited scientific journals. He felt very privileged that his professional employment allowed him to take on voluntary editorial positions such as editor of "*Electrodeposition and Surface Treatment*" between 1972 and 1975, when it became "*Surface Technology*", for which he was editor until 1986, when it became "*Surface and Coatings Technology*"

where he remained as editor until 1988. In 1991 he became Editor-in Chief of our publication "*Transactions of the Institute of Metals Finishing*" – a position he held until 2001 when he became Honorary Editor until 2010. Peter then became Honorary Editor Emeritus, a position he held for the remainder of his life. During this period, he oversaw the transition of *Transactions* to "*Transactions of Materials Finishing*", as our Institute changed its name to better reflect the diverse nature of surface coatings and engineering.

In recognition of his efforts both within the IMF and the surface coatings and engineering industries, the Institute has awarded Peter many awards and he became the most awarded individual the Institute has ever honoured for personal and voluntary contributions. In 2004 Peter was given the **Hothersall Memorial Award** – a biannual award given to individuals in recognition of their outstanding service to the materials finishing industry. This was followed in 2010 with him being awarded the Institute's **Gold Medal** – the highest accolade we can bestow on any person, for outstanding personal, scientific or technical achievements relevant to the objectives of the Institute. Until this date, this award had only been given 13 times since the Institute's inception in 1925. In 2017, despite him being officially "retired" for almost 20 years, Peter was awarded the **Johnson Matthey Silver Medal**, which is given to individuals of academic, public and industrial organisations for high quality research in the field of precious metal coating.

Peter's voluntary contributions to surface technologies were not limited to the IMF; during his early career, he was also closely involved with the Royal Society of Chemistry, which he joined in 1958. He was later elected as a Fellow (FRSC) and served on the Industrial Physical Chemistry Group from 1976 until his official retirement from the University of Birmingham in 1998; between 1990 and 1995 he was the group's Chairman. During his membership of the Group, Peter represented the RSC in several meetings with the Czechoslovak Academy of Science in 1979, 1983 and 1989.

Throughout his career, Peter was a great proponent of close liaison between members of surface science's academia and industry; from 1990 he diligently worked on the Society for Chemical Industry's Electrochemical Technology Committee, helping to provide an interface for mutual collaboration.

Typical of Peter's personal interest in others, he was very concerned about the welfare of students and during his time in President of one of the University Halls of Residence, he provided some much needed pastoral care to many of the students who found their changes in lifestyle to be challenging. He also voluntarily served on numerous University bodies and in his final years within the University, he was a University Harassment Advisor. Not content with his academic life, Peter would use some of his vacations to enthusiastically teach students to sail on Coniston Water and introduced many others to the delights of fell walking and occasionally, skiing in Aviemore.

Peter married Dr Margaret Rose in 1970 and they had two daughters – Abigail and Naomi, all of whom survive him and to whom our condolences are sent.