

# Peter White 1935 - 2020

# Professor Deepak Lal 1940 - 2020



**M**y father Pete was born in Liverpool in 1935. His earliest memory was seeing the second RMS Mauretania being built in 1938 and then watching her maiden voyage past Ainsdale beach. At the end of the 1940s the family moved to Barry in South Wales, leaving Pete boarding at King William's College in the Isle of Man where the family had moved during the war.

Pete had a great time at school. He even featured in the local press which declared him a hero due to his discovery of a fire started by the PE master having a sneaky cigarette!

In 1954 Pete started his National Service which he didn't much enjoy but, typically, he always looked on the positive side and remembered the funny moments.

After reading maths at Jesus College, Oxford, Pete got a job at an IT company in what were the early days of computing. During his first few weeks of training he found himself in the back row of the class with Andrew, who would later become his brother-in-law when he married my mother Jan in 1962. They began married life in Asmunds Hill and as their family grew, they moved to Hampstead Way where they stayed for over 50 years.

Pete was very involved with the local branch of the Liberal Democrats. He also helped run the bar at the annual Proms at St Jude's and spent many hours helping Jan raise money for the North London Hospice. Pete was also Honorary Treasurer for 13 years at The Orchard Housing Society in the Suburb.

Pete's priorities were always his family and his dogs and he loved spending time chatting and laughing with his children and grandchildren. He was devoted to Jan and cared for her so lovingly when she became ill. Pete had a great sense of humour and was very sociable – his daily walks around the Suburb could take hours as he stopped and chatted with all his acquaintances! Pete was always positive, fun, kind and gentle and his passing leaves a very large gap.

ZIZ CHATER

*The full obituary is held in the HGS Heritage Virtual Museum, visit: [hgsra.uk/vm/peterwhite](https://hgsra.uk/vm/peterwhite).*

## Abbeyfield House: a home from home



**D**uring the refurbishment of my house in the autumn of 2019 I had little choice but to make myself scarce in order to escape the clutter, dust and

draughts. I was indeed lucky to be offered temporary accommodation in Abbeyfield House, a sheltered residential home for the elderly. Abbeyfield is conveniently located

in Holmsfield, a cul-de-sac off Erskine Hill, in a quiet and peaceful section of the Suburb's Artisan Quarter.

Formerly a children's home, this charming Edwardian red-brick property joined the Abbeyfield group in 1977. It comprises eleven bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities and kitchenettes. The house contains a comfortable communal sitting-room and dining room. In the summer months, residents will find a haven of peace and quiet in the beautiful, shady garden.

I cannot speak too highly of Abbeyfield's caring staff, under the watchful eye of Lin, the Managing Housekeeper, who has devoted herself to its residents for over 30 years. Whenever I asked for items in my room, such as an extra chair, or a light, these were quickly and willingly brought to me and nothing was ever too much trouble.

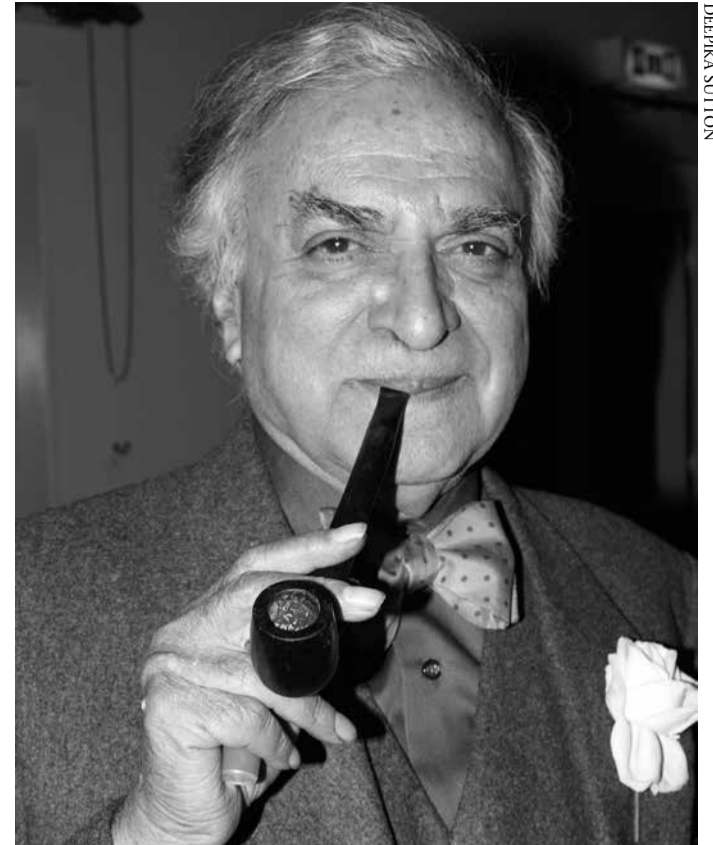
In conversations with the other residents, they all told me how well they were treated and they expressed their appreciation for the staff's thoughtfulness and kindness.

Abbeyfield guests look after themselves for breakfast in their rooms and meet for lunch and supper in the dining room. Lunch is the main meal of the day and the home-cooked meals are varied and appetising. I always enjoyed them, in particular, the tasty puddings.

Although I was pleased to return to my house after five weeks away, I recall the intervening time as being a period of home from home. What better could one possibly ask?

For further information on Abbeyfield House call 8455 2607 or go to [www.abbeyfield.com](http://www.abbeyfield.com).

DAVID LITTAUR



**P**rofessor Deepak Lal combined the skills of an economist, a widely read historian and a keen observer of contemporary politics. Educated in India and living intermittently in India throughout his adult life, Deepak experienced the trauma of partition and the subsequent political challenges.

In 1960 Deepak studied PPE at Oxford, returning to India to pursue a career in the Indian Foreign Service. After a brief spell in Tokyo, Deepak resumed his affiliation with Oxford as a research associate and lecturer at Christ Church and Nuffield Colleges. In 1970 he took up a post at UCL where he later became Professor of Economics.

In 1973 Deepak took a year's leave from UCL to work as a consultant to The Indian Planning Commission in New Delhi. He took up this post as an enthusiastic advocate of planning in the optimistic belief that government intervention in economic affairs might bring prosperity to India. He soon realised most economic decisions have more to do with securing political advantage for a privileged few than ensuring greater material well-being for the citizens of India.

Despite returning to academic life, Deepak remained committed to carrying out research relating to economic development, particularly the alleviation of poverty in India and other developing countries. The monthly column he wrote for The Business Standard, an influential newspaper published in India, was instrumental in making his views known and securing a following.

Deepak's many publications from 'Wells and Welfare' (1972) to 'War or Peace, the Struggle

for World Power' (2018) reflect his diversity of background, geographical settings and interests and all benefit from his unique intellectual curiosity and imagination. The unifying thread linking Deepak's prolific output and many achievements was his arguing the case for classical liberalism as the most certain foundation for economic growth and democratic political institutions that sustain civil society and individual liberty.

Deepak described himself as 'a gypsy'. However, as well as his strong affiliation to New Delhi, he was securely anchored to HGS where we have lived since 1973. Deepak valued its beauty, whether peering out of his study window at our wonderful garden where trees and flowers

share space with robins and foxes and the odd visiting cat, or when walking on the Heath. He admired the architecture and compared it favourably to Lutyens' New Delhi. Latterly Deepak used his walker to stroll around Central Square, stopping to sit on a bench to assess the state of the new raised gardens or the condition of a church roof.

Deepak always enjoyed HGS events, most especially our annual street party, The Proms and New Year's Eve fireworks. And of course, Deepak was grateful that HGS is a 'real neighbourhood', where we knew, depended upon and enjoyed the company of people living next door or on an adjacent street, many of whom are life-long friends.

BARBARA BALLIS LAL

## Henrietta's Orchard

(continued from page 1)

benefit organisations, we plan to run skill building workshops, including effective orchard tree care and pruning and to create fun and healthy activities for residents and local school groups.

Following planting, the young fruit trees will need extra attention during the first few years, including watering and weeding but then should

become largely self-sustaining in subsequent years.

All kinds of help will be appreciated, from advice and creative input helping to establish the community orchard, hands-on volunteering with planting, tree and wildflower meadow maintenance and harvesting, to organising or simply enjoying the orchard-related events.

Do get in touch and help make this a HGS community achievement – interest in the orchard will be welcome at any time but we want to have the orchard group established before the end of 2020 so, if you want to get involved, please email now: [fruitorchard@hgsra.uk](mailto:fruitorchard@hgsra.uk) or call 020 8458 2402.

MARIA SCHLATTER



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