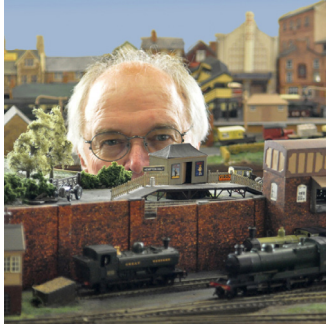


COLIN ROBINSON (1941–2013)



Colin was born in central London, in the middle of the Blitz. The family was very soon bombed out and took shelter in the back of his grandfather's sweet shop. From Marylebone Primary School, he won a scholarship to Mercers' and then City of London Schools. His Mechanical Engineering course at University College London failed to rouse the slightest interest, but there he discovered, and developed, a life-long love of photography. He also met Mary, a student in the French Department; they married three weeks after their final exams in 1964.

Photography landed him a job as a trainee with the BBC, the start of a 32-year career that took him from film editor, director, and both radio and TV producer at the nascent Open University studios at Alexandra Palace, to Head of the OU Production Centre in Milton Keynes. He believed in the power of communication, especially through pictures, both moving and still. Some of the 1970s OU programmes were not the greatest television – but they were the forerunner of today's series like 'Coast'.

Colin found great satisfaction in teaching others how to direct TV programmes, running courses for overseas students and travelling to China to help set up studios there. But by 1996 he'd had enough of budgets, schedules, HR and trades union problems, and jumped at the chance of early retirement and a return to his first love – photography.

Described by a former senior BBC colleague as a 'polymath', he was one of the founders of Deddington OnLine and was instrumental in setting up the now 1,000 strong Gallery of pictures on Deddington OnLine; he created a model Deddington Junction and Hempton Halt railway; was passionate about all matters 'green' – and the Great Western Railway; he exhibited computer generated prints based on his 10,000+ collection of images; he loved his family, his garden, and this village which was his home for 40 years. His belief in the Reithian traditions of inform and educate also extended to entertain – who can forget his Elton John and drag queen at 1970s New Year parties?

As Colin said: 'I've led mock infantry attacks, laid bricks and stone, made a few things in wood, done engineering drawings, chaired meetings, given speeches, organised exhibitions, built and painted models and edited websites. I've photographed weddings, aspiring models, peasants in Peru and an orchestra in the Albert Hall.' As an old QC friend said, 'not bad for a boy from the buildings'.

For a little fella he had enormous presence, easily recognisable by his signature red silk hanky and red socks as he marched around the village. He leaves a big gap in our lives.

Mary, Matt and Jamie Robinson