

## John Yeo



John Yeo and Debbie Parker (pictured here in 2010) have been ever present at squadron reunions - until this year that is. Sadly John died a few days before the reunion. He had been seriously ill for weeks and his determination to attend was not to be.

When it came to compulsory National Service John chose the RAF, which began with square bashing at Padgate. Then, although he was newly married to Pamela, he was swiftly posted to Germany. He trained as an instruments engineer and then became a dual trade electronics engineer. He always asked for West Country postings (John was a Devon boy), but he always seemed to get Norfolk! But then came a posting to Aden before returning to Norfolk again and from there to Tengah and the Tigers. This was for John his most exciting posting of all, working on Lightnings. He loved this and he kept his connection with this group of lads, especially via reunions until the day he died. **(Below are the Tengah Tigers pictured in 2011. John is seated second from the right,)** John was at Tengah for three years after which came a posting to St Mawgan (nearer home) but then further postings to Berlin, Binbrook, back to Norfolk. And then to Civvy Street after 22 years' service. For the record his RAF career took him to RAFs Coltishall, Swanton Morley, Binbrook and Gatow as well as 131 MU at Aden.



Having left the RAF, John became a quality inspector in Torquay and he kept working his way up the ladder until he ended up with a top job at Aircraft Materials. A settled life meant he could indulge his passion for watches and cars via a Ferrari, a Lotus and later a DeLorean. But Pamela became very ill with cancer. John looked after her and did all that he could for her before she died in 1999. Now he was a widower at 65 and for the first time in his life he was alone. What should he do? Travel! All over Europe and back up to Norfolk (of course!) Then he met Debbie in 2002 at the 74 Squadron reunion in Stratford upon Avon. They were surprised to find that they

both lived in Newton Abbot and often ran into each other in town, stopping for a chat and a catch up. In 2006, Debbie's husband sadly died and John was very supportive of her, having been through the process of widowhood himself. In 2007, Debbie asked John if he would like to come to her house for dinner. He never left and John became a loving stepfather to Debbie's children as well as being a loving father to his own.


He and Debbie enjoyed their life together surrounded by John's seven grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and Debbie's five grandchildren (right). They travelled a lot in the UK and Europe and looked forward to reunions every year to meet with their long-time friends, but in later life John's health deteriorated. He became less mobile and with failing sight he had to stop driving and sell his beloved Ferrari and Lotus. They no longer travelled, other than to the reunion, and during John's last time in hospital he focused his recovery on being well enough to attend this year's reunion back at Stratford upon Avon once again. He didn't make it. He got within a day of discharge and then suddenly fell ill with a chest infection and despite his determination to get well again, he was simply worn out. Five months of fighting his illness had taken its toll.



With thanks to Debbie, John's daughter Barbara and son John Paul who wrote the eulogy spoken at John's funeral on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 from which this farewell is taken.

RIP John. From all your Tiger colleagues. You will be much missed.

LIGHTNING DURING TAKE-OFF IN DARWIN



COMMITTAL

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CLOSING MUSIC

"SHARP DRESSED MAN" BY ZZ TOP


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THANKS TO:


J & K Davey Funeral Care (Kingsteignton)  
Nancy Whitmarsh (celebrant),  
Mr Jim Jolly and Mr Bob Cossey (74 Squadron).

BEARERS:

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|---------------------|------------------|
| Richard O'Neill     | Jonathan Kernick |
| Richard Yeo         | James Smith      |
| Rob Ruppensburg-Yeo | Jonathan Holland |



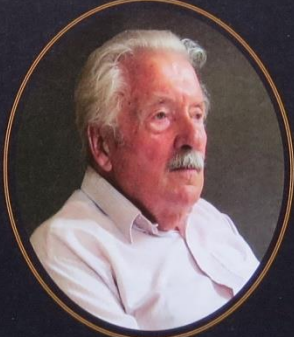
TENGAH TIGERS REUNION



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

JOHN FREDERICK YEO

18.02.1934 - 23.03.2026



"There is something stronger than death: The presence of those who are absent in the memory of the living"

-JEAN D'ORMESSON