



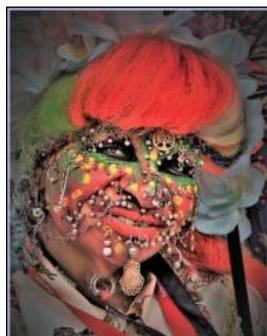
# DAVENTRY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



© Peter Cosentino

## Peter Cosentino 1951 -2018

Almost before I had walked through the front door Mandy, Peter's wife, said enthusiastically 'Look it's in here'. Not sure what she was talking about I followed her into the living room and there on the mantelpiece was the Hollis trophy. 'He would have been so proud', she said. The trophy, not the easiest to display in some homes, looked exceptionally well underneath a large piece of modern art work on the wall. Mandy added that Peter didn't think he would win it in a million years and he would have been so, so pleased!



The four images that won Peter the Hollis Trophy

In other parts of the room were pieces of Peter's very accomplished kiln-fired pottery. I remarked on how much I liked them especially the fire-pit pieces, one of which I have at home. Mandy asked if I knew that Peter was working on his fourth book about pottery. Apparently the working title is 'I threw it my way', she told me and laughed. I didn't know he had written one let alone had authored three published works with a fourth on the way. He had also written fiction books that have been published. I told Mandy that, to be honest, there was so much I didn't know about her talented and modest husband until recently when a lot of his life was revealed in her eulogy to him.

I said I thought this was the case for many of the DPS members and I knew they would be interested to learn about the life and achievements of a popular member. The following is a shorter version of the eulogy given by Mandy which she had called -

### ***'A life well lived'***

Peter was born in Lauria, Southern Italy and had travelled by train to England aged 5 with his mother Maria.

He attended Staverton School, at first with no English. He continued his education at the Abbey School in Daventry and from there went to Bishop Wulstan School where he was head boy in his final year.

His interest in pottery began when he was eleven years old and he was soon accomplished enough to be selling his pottery to his teachers.

He went onto Teacher Training College in Worcester. Pottery was his main and abiding passion but he was also very involved with music at the time. He set himself up as a DJ and was quite successful and he also was responsible for booking bands for the college. Status Quo slept on the floor of his college rooms and Fleetwood Mac almost were extended the same privilege but a local group Bronco got there first!

In the late 70s Peter opened his own pottery shop called 'Cosentinos' and his continued love of pottery and success has led him to write three published books on the subject and hold many exhibitions far and wide.

Together for 42 years Peter and Mandy married in 1980 and, with the birth of their first of three sons Tom,

Peter gave up the pottery shop and went back into education. A move to Towcester saw the arrival of their second son Matthew.

In 1986 Peter moved to Daventry. He was a successful teacher and progressed to become head of the art department and then assistant principal at Rugby College. He continued studying and was awarded a MA and could have taken a PHD and become principal but he decided he did

not want to sacrifice his time with his family which was completed in 1991 with the birth of Christopher.

Throughout his life Peter enjoyed sport. He had to play as a hooker at Rugby but never lost his love of football and it had been whilst at Worcester he had become a life-long Manchester United fan and later a season ticket holder. Peter was then delighted to support his own sons with their footballing experiences as manager of their junior football teams.

Peter was always keen to pursue new interests such as fishing, skiing, travelling, cooking, gardening and more recently walking football and photography. He continued with his love of pottery and music but found, unusually for an Italian, that he didn't have a great singing voice. However, he was an ardent fan of Mandy and the Daventry Choral Society of which she is a member attending all of their concerts and overseas tours.

Walking football, one of his newer past-times, had given him new friends and resulted in him going to Albufuera in Portugal twice to play in international tournaments there. If Peter had chosen to leave this world it was a comfort to know that he would have wanted to go after having played a game with his mates while he still had his boots on.

Peter was well travelled both in respect of his job and his family. Far and above anything else Peter was very much a family man and he loved sitting around the kitchen table with a cup of tea or a glass of wine and said 'You and the boys are my world'.

He was extremely close to his Mum and Dad and his much adored sister. Peter was a good man and lived his life to the full and as a family we have no complaints other than we would have liked a little longer with him. However, we are the Cosentino family, we will always be the Cosentino family, even if we are a man down.'



Peter and Mandy, with their three sons Tom, Matthew and Chris and Jazz the dog

It certainly was a life well lived and Mandy's pride in all Peter's outstanding achievements is clear to see but most all she is comforted by the wonderfully happy time they had together. She said there were so many more laughs than tears and given her time again she would have, without hesitation, certainly signed up again to be with him. I then found myself laughing, having not expected to during this visit, when Mandy told me yet another funny anecdote. It was easy to appreciate that this had been a house full of fun and laughter and would continue to be so if Mandy had anything to do with it.

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