

Peter Clarke (03/02/1944 – 19/06/2009)

Following a long and protracted illness it is with sadness that we have to inform you of the death of Peter Clarke. Peter was one of the founding fathers of Bright Books and was very much instrumental in the way Bright Books is today. From humble beginnings on a market stall Peter's vision and drive helped shape the modern Bright Books, moving it from the market stall toward the supply of books to schools (filling a Bedford van up every morning and dropping off boxes of books) and then onto Library supply. Incorporating a servicing department and expanding from children's materials to books for all, his vision and drive eventually led Bright Books to grow to a staff of over 20.



Peter had a passionate belief in the power of reading. As an ex teacher he knew the value of children having access to good reading materials. His enthusiasm for books never waned. His belief was that Bright Books should source and supply reasonably priced books and those savings should always be passed on.

Peter's legacy at Bright Books is everywhere, in the way we do things, in the company culture, in the invention and innovation that we instil and in the way we treat each other (he achieved Investor in People status).

On a personal level, Peter was the man who gave me a chance. I wandered into Bright Books one day on my way to a job interview. I had a couple of hours to kill. The late Peter Myers pointed me in the direction of Peter's office. He was busy but he looked up, he made time, introductions were made and for the next two hours we talked. I returned the following day with some research I had done for him, again we talked. After about a week of meetings, my wife Jane asked me 'Have you got a job or not?' I wasn't sure but I wasn't to know that Peter had gone into battle with the others to create a position for me.

Peter was at his best when he was pursuing new ventures and in 2003 he left Bright Books to set up a blossoming publishing company (SEN Press) producing books for people with special educational needs.

Peter was a man of honour and decency, a man who believed everyone should be given a chance in life. A man of great humour and sparkling company, he was to me a mentor, a friend and somebody who I could discuss sport with for hours. He will be sorely missed. Our sympathies are with Christine, Sarah, Helen and Adam.