

# A TRIBUTE TO PAUL NIX

(29<sup>th</sup> June, 1947 – September, 2008)



## PAUL'S LIFE

*Paul was born on 29th June, 1947 and lived all his life in Nottingham. Until his parents moved into a sheltered flat in 1998, he lived with them, and he continued living in the family home until his untimely death in early September 2008, just 9 years after his parents died.*

*Paul is survived by his Aunt, and cousins Elaine and Mel, who shared his childhood years.*

*On leaving school, Paul worked for a packing company, an engineering firm, and then joined The Boots Company in 1973, where he worked until his retirement in 2004 at the age of 55 as a warehouseman, a clock and watch repairer, and finally an auditor of companies making Boots Brand products.*

*Paul had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. His library of reference books, many of which were valuable first editions, covers two walls of his bedroom from floor to ceiling. And he had read them all!*

*Many of Nottingham's caves would never have been found and recorded if Paul had not been involved. He has over 10,000 photographs (most in slide form) which he took while the caves were being excavated. One of his fellow excavators bumped into Paul and I many years later, and fondly recalled the time when a cellar wall collapsed around Paul, burying him up to his waist in rubble, and there was Paul, snapping away on his camera!*

*He was also a part-time publisher and produced a magazine exploring the history of Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands for several years, using a second-hand offset printer in his garden shed. He remained fascinated with the history of our part of the world until his untimely death. Two of the publications he was involved with were Hidden History and Mercian Mysteries. Apart from his love of history itself, he collected old sayings and phrases.*

*But Paul didn't just research and write about history – he enjoyed living it, too. He spent many summers with a civil war re-enactment group near Portsmouth. Each summer, they spent two weeks living in an authentic village such as you would have found following the armies of the civil war from battle to battle. Paul's primary role was as the cutler (knife maker), and he only used tools and techniques available*

*during the civil war. He captained an all-female gun team which participated in displays throughout Europe – they were able to fire off 6 rounds per minute – which is better than many military units can do!*

*He also loved working with leather, and studied all the techniques required to make saddles and harness. He used to make leather mugs – and they didn't leak!*

*He was one of the first people to have a personal computer – a “Cambridge” computer which did less than an electronic typewriter. His second PC was a Commodore, and he quickly mastered the “BASIC” programming language. Always looking for a challenge, he set up evening classes to teach others this programming language, with considerable success.*

*As PC's became more versatile, Paul revisited his old publishing days, but electronically – he invented a new authoring media – EASY-BOOK. This was an application based on html programming language (the same language which is used to make web pages). EASY-BOOK allowed a budding author to write a book, complete with illustrations and footnotes, and publish the resultant book to disc(s) which were encoded, so that no-one could copy the discs and steal their work! If he had been able to finance the packaging and distribution, his unique product would, I am certain, have been a great success.*

*Paul found retirement boring, so he became self employed in 2005. He worked as a web designer and multi-media specialist. Most of his clients were members of Nottingham's active artist's community, with whom he became close friends. He will be sadly missed by them. He was going to help refurbish some of the frame knitting machines at the Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum until ill health curtailed his involvement.*

*Paul's interests were legion. Everything seemed to grab his attention. He particularly loved tools and old crafts and skills. He was an accomplished wood turner, leather worker, photographer and upholsterer.*

*What more can I say about Paul? He was a renaissance man – artist, intellectual, craftsman.*

*He will be missed by everyone who knew or worked with him.*

*Elise Hey*

## SUELLA POSTLES

*I remember Paul Nix as a young man who had a very wide range of interests in Nottingham.*

*His involvement in Nottingham caves and excavating with the NHAS society were one of the earliest times I met him.*

*He was involved in the clearing of the storerooms of Judge's restaurant on Milton Street/Mansfield road. My recollection was the place was dirty, dark and cold with no electricity but Paul worked hard amongst the decades of accumulated "stuff".*

*Latterly he and his friend Pete worked on extensive local history websites together. I very much appreciated their kind offer to set up a website specifically for the large amount of Brewhouse Yard history, family information and illustrations which are held in the Museum of Nottingham Life at Brewhouse Yard.*

*His dedication and contribution to the area's local history is much appreciated and will be missed. He had a great enquiring attitude and never behaved as though he knew it all.*

*I hope his next of kin will consider bequeathing the Paul Nix Collection to the Local Studies section of the Nottingham City Library or the University of Nottingham Manuscript and Special Collections section. There it would be conserved in perpetuity for the good of all who are interested in Nottingham's fascinating History.*

**Next Page: Paul, aged approximately 30, in one of the many caves in Nottingham which he discovered.**



## MAGGIE FORD

*Paul was one of the most stimulating creative people I have ever met. His optimism and enthusiasm for almost every aspect of human endeavour was boundless. His house was an Aladdin's cave that 100 years ago would have been the perfect model for The Old Curiosity Shop! For me personally, he constantly encouraged me to be positive about the possibilities for my very ambitious short film The Dress. The film was received with either enormous enthusiasm or with considerable negativity about it's 'lack of commercial credibility'. Paul knew how important the piece was for me and would always support my plans for the film - let alone bombard me with other suggestions for outlets! We often talked about the Peak District where I live and where Paul would often walk. He had an open invitation to stay in my little studio barn. Sadly he never got there. I talked to him about my fantasy of making a documentary about him - what a subject he would have been! Sadly, that too didn't happen. I'll just have to run the documentary in my head: "Paul, an unsung creative genius"*

*I first met Paul in late 1987 or early 1988 when he was an active member of the Nottingham Hidden History team with Bob Morrell and Sid Henley. On Tuesday and Friday evenings the three of them worked on publishing a quarterly magazine and Nottingham local history booklets. They also went on outings around Nottinghamshire collecting information most weekends. Sid was the only driver and Paul the main photographer. I joined them some Friday evenings and helped with the pre-computer preparation of publications. Paul would often keep us entertained recounting his experiences of discovering the caves under the city, or of re-enacting seventeenth century life in Hampshire.*

*Within a few months of first meeting Paul [??early 1988] he was – predictably – the first of my friends to acquire an Amstrad PCW computer; every possible accessory followed in due course. Sid and myself subsequently followed Paul's lead, although it was about a year later before Bob forsook his electric typewriter for a PCW. At the time I was spending several days a week working in Hartlepool so my PCW went in the boot and I spent my evenings typing up my card file notes on Leicestershire and Rutland holy wells, standing stones, medieval carvings and crosses into alphabetical gazetteers using LocoScript.*

*In June 1989 Paul, myself and four other people interested in 'Earth mysteries' (Alison Skinner and Clive Potter, both from Leicester. Rob Midwinter from Newark and Chris Fletcher from Burton on Trent) got together to form a Midlands-based counterpart to the long-established Northern Earth Mysteries group and the more recently started Gloucester Earth Mysteries group. Paul immediately volunteered to start a quarterly magazine called Mercian Mysteries and we decided the group would also be called 'Mercian Mysteries' and have fieldtrips every six weeks.*

*For the next eighteen months I would help Paul put together each issue of Mercian Mysteries. By now his PCW was augmented with a very basic second-hand PC XT and, soon after, a laser printer (for which he paid about £1000, even though the resolution was a meagre 300 dpi). All this equipment – and much, much more – was squeezed into his bedroom. I would sit on his bed, surrounded by relevant paperwork, while he beavered away on the keyboard. Hours would go by and I would return home nearer to midnight. The following Saturday I would collect him and the artwork for the magazine, we would drive to Trinity Square and then spend ages in a stationery shop photocopying about a hundred copies of each issue before going back to Cromer Road to put them in envelopes and add stamps. Eventually I would*

*drop them off at the PO sorting office on the corner of Huntingdon Street on my way back home.*

*The magazine was also sold in a number of 'alternative' bookshops – including Mushrooms in Nottingham – and the field trips attracted an ever-increasing number of people. Paul came on most of the earlier trips and most of the photographs I have of Paul are from such outings in 1989 and 1990.*

*By late 1989 Paul helped me buy my first PC from Andy 'Mac' at Prima soon after they moved to the back of the old Futurist cinema. I recall earnest discussion between Paul and some of the Prima 'techies' about whether GEM or Windows would win out. 'What's Windows?' I asked Paul in the car afterwards; needless to say Paul was using GEM and encouraging everyone – myself included – to try it out. At the time it was better than Windows – but who's heard of GEM now?*

*My first PC was a second-hand IBM XT with a 40M hard drive – subsequently upgraded and repaired by Paul in various stages so a couple of years later only the case and 5½" floppy drive were 'original'. Following Paul's lead, I used it for desk top publishing. This was the birth of Heart of Albion Press, intended to produce less than a dozen self-penned booklets on Leicestershire and Rutland local history, all closely based on the alphabetical gazetteers I had started to compile on my PCW. Little did Paul or I know that 12 years later Heart of Albion would become my full-time occupation and it is still going, nearly 20 years after its gestation in Paul's bedroom.*

*During 1990 I took over putting together Mercian Mysteries – Paul had done the first five issues but, as ever, his enthusiasm for new projects was making it difficult for him to keep up with the schedule of a quarterly publication. Some years later I relaunched it under the title At the Edge and, in 1998, merged with a similar-minded magazine called 3rd Stone, which in turn has ceased publication.*

*Desk top publishing became much more exciting when scanners became available. However these were nothing like today's designs – the first ones were 6 inch wide 'hand scanners' that needed to be dragged carefully over the image. I think my first three scanners were Paul's 'cast offs' when he upgraded to the latest model. Similarly my first digital camera was to be one of Paul's which had been superseded by something brand new and a bit better. By way of part-exchange Paul was recipient of any computer or electronic equipment that was surplus to my needs but was 'too good to throw away' – I knew it would*

*be refurbished to help someone out or the parts used to repair other people's kit.*

*Paul continued to maintain and upgrade my computers, introducing me to Greg at Compuplus after the demise of Prima. We saw less of each other as I got busier with my work and Paul took on more and more. Nevertheless every month or three we would spend an hour or two nattering on the phone, with Paul enthusing about his latest ideas.*

*Paul and I went on day trips most summers. The last such was to Laxton in June 2007 where he got talking to an 'old boy' volunteering at the little museum there. The two of them were discussing repairing horse bridles and the like and Paul revealed something I was previously aware of – even though I'd known him for nearly 20 years by then – that he had worked alongside most of the surviving Nottinghamshire saddlemakers some 25 to 30 years ago, picking up their skills. 'It's about time I found someone to pass them on to,' he said in the car afterwards.*

## FRIENDS AT BOOTS

- *I'm so upset by this news.*
- *Not sure if you know his family/friends but if you do please pass on my sympathies as Paul was always a great help to me when I joined PQD.*
- *Paul gave me a lot of technical help with computers and with Tracy Morrow supported our Village Show on a number of occasions so it would be appropriate that I go and pay my respects (John Fox who I know you have been in contact with).*
- *Paul will live on as some one who touched the lives of everyone who met him, generous, engaging, a Wilford Road Treasure - privileged to have worked along side him - one amazing guy.*
- *I know that he will be missed but his work lives on via the internet and in our memories.*

- *Paul "The Master" Nix - a fount of all knowledge and a true entrepreneur to all those who worked with him at Boots Technical centre.*
- *One of life's characters who will be truly missed.*

## KARINA WELLS

*Although I only met Paul by 'accident' 2 summers ago, when I stopped off with my friend at the Ruddington Frame Works museum. We were on our old Dutch bikes and Paul stood there admiring them.*

*We got to talk and realised that we had so much in common. That at least was what I thought. Everything I have been involved with, sustainable living and my love for old and historic things he seemed to know a lot about.*

*After that Paul came for a cuppa and sorted out my computer, it became very clear that this gentle man could have met anyone and they too would have said they had a lot in common as Paul was a true genius. He was not only extremely kind and sociable but his knowledge was out of this world. I am sure I was meant to meet him that summer's day, as he inspired me enormously. If only I had been able to have known him longer... but I am grateful that he touched our lives even for this short a time.*

*May he rest in peace knowing that he made an amazing impact to this world.*

## ROB VAN BEEK

*I got an email from Chris Lewis-Jones about Paul Nix. This was a real shock to me and my family as we had got to know Paul and quirky ways quite well in the last few years - and I had come to rely on him for all kinds of technical advice.*

*I don't know what arrangements are being made for his funeral by I would like to attend.*

*I also think it would nice to create something to remember him - I don't*

*know if it would be possible create an small annual award for artists do a multi-media piece to carry his name?*

*Paul was a working-class Nottingham man with an extraordinary mind. Anything that caught his interest stuck forever to his Velcro-like memory. Equally anything that didn't interest him passed him by, was simply not part of Paul's world.*

*His knowledge and expertise were central to many of friendships and acquaintances.*

*We will miss his many skills, but we shall miss him more because he shared his knowledge and expertise so freely.*

*In fact Paul could share his knowledge too freely: when he was fired-up he was a master of the unrelenting one-sided conversation.*

*Once or twice, working at his house, I would hide in the lavatory for ten minutes in an attempt to break his onslaught of information, opinion and advice.*

*Well, not anymore.*

*Paul had a healthy disinterest in cash (which is also one of the reasons artists warmed to him...) but he believed in swops, exchanges, sharing.*

*I am not sure why Paul liked working with artists. Perhaps it was because there were no grey areas: we knew what we wanted artistically and he would try to get us there technically.*

*Finally I would say that the sad circumstances of Paul death do not give an accurate reflection of his life.*

*Paul's uniqueness could have turned him into an isolated and lonely figure but he did not allow this to happen.*

*He had many friends and many acquaintances precisely because he discovered he could swop his knowledge for company.*

## ELISE HEY

*I met Paul soon after I started working for Boots on Wilford Road more than 20 years ago. I was caught doodling while on switchboard relief duty, but fortunately, instead of getting into trouble, I was considered a “natural” for learning how to do computer graphics.*

*I took to this work like a duck to water, and this is how I met Paul. His love of computers and my work on a presentation for the Hygiene Team led us to in-depth chats where I tapped into his seemingly unlimited knowledge.*

*I found that Paul’s interests extended far beyond computers, though – ancient crafts such as wood turning and leather work, geology, archaeology, photography . . . . the list is almost endless!*

*The very best times we had were our trips – two holidays in Scotland, one to Cornwall, and, from September 2007 to June 2008, several times a week we would just load my scooter up the car and go out for the day, finding markets, museums, and pubs throughout Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire.*

*The biggest laugh we had was on our first trip to Scotland. We had both received a lot of teasing from our colleagues at Wilford Road, so, on our way back from the Isle of Skye, we stopped at Gretna Green and penned off a quick post card to the Admin section: “Must dash – loads to do. See you Tuesday, Love, Paul & Lissa”. The picture on the other side was a Model T dressed with white ribbons and flowers! Many years later, we would still chuckle over the reception we got when we returned to work!*

*Paul was my best friend, and after my older brother died in 2006, he became my surrogate “big brother” in all the best ways!*

*I miss him dreadfully and will always remember him!*

## JACK RICHARDS

*His brilliant web site(s) is/are a must for such researchers or for anybody who is researching. Take a look at : [www.Nottinghamhistory.co.uk](http://www.Nottinghamhistory.co.uk) - you will most likely need some long time to view the same.*

*Paul has helped many people with their web sites and with questions relating to Nottingham. He was knowledgeable about Framework knitters and there is a lovely section about them on his site.*

*For those of you who used to contribute to the [www.archivecdbooks.org](http://www.archivecdbooks.org) you will recall that when Mr Rod Neep first started producing cd's that many of us purchased over the years, well at the start I believe that Paul may have loaned some of his rare books to Rod so that in the long run, we have benefited.*

*Just a Tribute to a very dear friend, a sad loss to the History community, for the years that I knew him and the many days outings together in and around Nottinghamshire and his extensive knowledge of Nottingham and surrounding districts and helping me and others in building and maintaining there websites.*

*He will be sadly missed by many people, especially those whom he has helped. A friend that will not be forgot.*

## BRIAN BINNS

*I only met Paul once when I "won" the chance to buy a fairly rare "Edwardian Nottingham" edition from him. I collected it from his house and he showed me some of his amazing collection of photos etc, many of which he had rescued. As you say Jack, he did make a major contribution to making much of Nottingham's history available to a wider audience. He will be sadly missed, but his legacy will live on.*

*On a practical note, I do hope that his vast collection of photos, many of which were on glass plates and his enumerable books are all going to be saved.*

IAN DOUGLAS

*My first introduction to Paul's wonderful life came when I was putting together a display of local artists for Broadway. "You need Paul Nix", I was told in the cinema's bar. Soon I was entering his home in St Ann's and leaving the everyday world of Nottingham behind. As if through a magic portal I found myself in this fabulous, if a tad dusty, Aladdin's cave of technology and art. Wall-to-wall computers, incredible techno gear, wacky bric-a-brac collections, the rural brassware, half-repaired machinery, stacks of self-published books, the marvels seemed endless. I had stumbled onto a genius.*

*More collaborations followed, web sites, art shows, photo restorations. Paul gave his time generously and without hesitation, with only one dictate. You worked alongside him, sharing the process step-by-step, pixel-by-pixel, and millimeter-by-millimetre. And Paul was a perfectionist to the nth degree. Every colour value had to be consistent, every line of text exactly aligned. Yes, sometimes he drove me crazy with his tireless pursuit of excellence. But through this passion for detail he taught me so much. Every encounter left me more knowledgeable on art, software, events and networks.*

*Paul was a man who, having taken early retirement from Boots, built a new life for himself as the computer-can-do guy for the local art scene. In other words he became an enthusiastic champion for all those impoverished artists on a low budget like me. While my colleagues were forking out serious money for a web site, Paul created mine all for the price of a day's company and a lift into town. And Paul's sites were not only unrivalled in their professionalism, they were original and engaging.*

*And what a huge archive Paul has produced, so much of his own work, so much of others. Where would we begin to catalogue his many varied interests? Heritage, conservation, jewellery, animation, photography, ley-lines, metalwork, we could go on and on. There was his plan to invent the environmentally-friendly house brick; the haunting film of the 'Windmill Woman'; his weekly trips to the Cattle Market to rescue and resuscitate broken computers. He was a living treasure trove of ideas, experiences, contacts, tricks, tips, and laughter. No one will ever to fill the gap he leaves. His untimely passing is a loss not only to you and me, but also to the Nottingham creative community as a whole.*

JOHN FOX

*Paul and I were not destined to be close friends but I will always remember and appreciate his generous offers of help, whether it be with computer problems or restoring the leather rim on my Ginetta's steering wheel for which he provided both expertise and materials. I was always struck by his infectious enthusiasm for all manner of bizarre subjects and half an hour in Paul's company inevitably left me inspired. More recently, he came along and supported the East Bridgford Show where I used to organise the classic and vintage car event.*

*Cheers Paul!! It's been a privilege to know you.*

BERT PANTON

*Meeting Paul might never have happened had he not phoned me to inquire about a job vacancy for a camera repairer. It was soon apparent that he was the man for the job and he had no difficulty in becoming highly proficient. As I got to know Paul better I became aware of his wide range of interests and skills. The most astonishing of the latter came when he volunteered to produce technical drawings for four radio cassette recorders. This required each product to be stripped down (up to 200 parts in each) and then drawn as exploded views. The result was to a standard that could not have been bettered by an experienced draughtsman - and all done in two and a half days.*

*The nature of the job changed and we went our separate ways and it was some years before we met again. By this time Paul was interested in computer technology with knowledge to a mind-boggling degree. Notwithstanding this, he never lost his interest in traditional skills which he practised however small, tedious or unusual they be*

*To me Paul was an amazing man who will not be forgotten. Knowing him was a humbling experience which all came about through that one phone call. He was always willing to help me and I know a wide group of others are similarly grateful. I have never felt able to repay Paul adequately for what he did for me and this tribute is the least I can do now. Paul used his gifts in an extra-ordinary way and his life should be remembered as an example of what can be achieved from ordinary beginnings and an example to all.*

## FRANK WAKELIN

*I first met Paul in the 1980's when working for Boots at the MTS Department; but it wasn't until after I retired in 1996 that we became good friends, when Paul started helping me improve my Computer, Photography and Sound recording interests, by spending time at my house and also visiting local areas of interest.*

*Paul was, generally speaking, a very private individual; and only after getting to know and trust you did he speak about the many interests and activities that he pursued during his very active life.*

*It was only when he spoke about these interests in detail, that you realised what a brilliant and knowledgeable person he was, particularly in all things associated with Computing, Photographic, Electrical (equipment repair and installation), Workshop techniques, Artistic work, Hand crafting, (including "Framework Knitting"), and not least of all, his great interest in History. This included Re-enactments of the "Civil War": Constructing Buildings using reeds/rushes and Cowpats: Local history of Nottingham and surrounding areas; just to name a few.*

*The most unexpected of Paul's interests that I found, was earlier this year when we were standing in my garden drinking coffee [ **Paul had to have a LARGE mug of very milky coffee at least once an hour.** ] when I mentioned that I was thinking of installing a "Hand Water Pump". Paul, (who only ever came to my house wearing Jeans and a Tee-Shirt), reached into his pocket and pulled out a " Fold-Up Water Divining Rod " and instantly indicated to me where the best place would be to place the pump. !!!*

*What a wonderful, surprising and amazing man. I will never forget him. I realise that I was very privileged to have had him as a friend.*

*Like all who knew him, I know that he will be sadly missed.*

## CHRIS LEWIS-JONES

*The creative community of Nottingham was saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Paul Nix, web designer, inventor, antiquarian, blacksmith, photographer, filmmaker, projectionist and all round 'good egg'. Paul became interested in contemporary art as a consequence of working with contemporary artists (becoming the most prolific artists' website designer in the area).*

*Paul produced an excellent website for NCAN, which he expanded (to its limits) during the succeeding three and a half years. He spent many hours tramping round dark, dank and (usually) badly-lit studios, doing his very best to photograph artwork in the most favourable conditions, before scurrying back to his front room/office in St Ann's, where he would, with encouragement and sandwiches from me, catalogue, enhance, clean up, juxtapose, tag, reduce and upload images and texts, always in plenty of time for the annual Open Festival in October (which the site both marketed and documented). This he did throughout 2005, 2006 and 2007. Apart from the occasional meal (of mashed potato and Lincolnshire sausages in onion gravy), he never accepted any payment for this Herculean task.*

*In addition to designing and maintaining web sites for artists, Paul did similar work with and for local schools, museums, amateur archaeologists, historians, Nottingham Land Roots and residents' associations, much of it voluntary. Despite his erudition, he remained down to earth, 'old school Nottingham'. Not only would he call a spade a spade...he'd fashion one for you too, effortlessly, out of a chair leg and an old tea tray, whether you wanted one or not!*

*He was loveable eccentric, and we shall miss him very much indeed*

**Chris Lewis-Jones, (Former Chair) NCAN, (Chair) Oldknows Studio Group, St Ann's Hill Rd., Nottingham, NG3 4DB**

## PETE WOODWARD

*Just a Tribute to a very dear friend, a sad loss to the history community, for the few years that I knew him and the many days outings together in and around Nottinghamshire and his extensive knowledge of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire districts.*

*I first meet Paul when researching a village near where I live in 2002, after this I spent many hours days and night with him teaching me about manipulating images and webpages .*

*Paul has helped me many people with their web sites and with answered questions relating to Nottingham or Nottinghamshire, including teaching me how to build a webpage that has developed into a vast site called My Broxtowe Hundred.*

*Paul's interests were legion. Everything seemed to grab his attention, wanting to know "who,what, where or why". He particularly loved tools and old crafts and skills. He was an accomplished photographer and leather worker.*

*You will be sadly missed by all.*

## KEVIN MARRIOTT

*I met Paul through work but like many others at Boots came to know him as a friend.*

*Paul was a true gentleman, always ready to help others. His knowledge of a wide range of subjects never failed to amaze.*

*My kids met Paul when they were quite young and thought of him as an amiable wizard, to a greater or lesser extent....we all did!*

*Paul repeatedly said he had one foot in the past and one foot in the future and that's how I will always remember him...a man with true vision regarding matters of technology but an understanding of the journey taken to get to the present.*

*A thoroughly nice bloke....I'll miss him.*

PAM MILLER

*I first met Paul in 2007 at The Broadway Media Centre at a Creative Collaborations (Nottingham Creative Network) workshop. He described himself as a 'multimedia specialist, who worked with creatives. You have an idea, together we realise it.' I was intrigued by this man who, unlike most of us who sat round the table describing our businesses, was very short on words and had such humility.*

*As I learnt more about The Broadway Media Centre/Trent University Creative Collaborations initiative, I realised Paul probably had something really good to offer my business and was I right! This man was full of ingenuity and creativity. We were soon in conversation and he offered to build me a new website, one which I would be able to update myself. This certainly captured my imagination, as I was unable to do that with the website I already had. I booked a slot in my diary to meet him.*

*When I arrived at his terraced house in St Ann's, I was amazed to see what an aladin's cave it was. Every bit of wall space was used up with the display of his treasures and it was sometimes difficult to concentrate on the task in hand of building the website, with so much to look at! As our meetings at his house evolved (where we would sit side by side realising our ideas about the website), I was in awe at his technical ability on the computer. I always used to joke 'give me a paintbrush anytime', when I couldn't keep up with his technical wizardry! (I am a professional artist – painter, printmaker and mixed media artist). There were times, I know, when he felt frustrated that I didn't have his computer knowledge and became very impatient with me, as well as with the slowing down of the internet; at times our creative personalities clashed. Paul was very much a perfectionist, but the results of his endeavours were always, in my mind, amazing. When I explained that I wanted a sense of transition on my website, to capture the quality of my artwork, he ingeniously faded images into one another – like the nuances of colour in a painting. I was spellbound.*

*My sadness now is not only that Paul is no longer around for me to learn from and marvel at his new creations -or enjoy his sense of humour and kindness - but that he never had the chance to complete my website. (My parents had become very ill leading to their admission to a nursing home and hospital during the Summer/Autumn of 2007. After my mother's death in December 2007, I withdrew from my art and website design altogether.) I will always wonder what Paul would have*

*done to develop the presentation section of my website.....Maybe he would have included the photographs he'd so kindly taken in April 2007 of my 12-year solo retrospective held in Nottingham. We were in the process of sorting/selecting images the last time I saw him. He had so many ideas about my website and I know he was justly proud of the work he'd done on it (as he was of other artists' websites he'd built).*

*One thing, however, he did insist on was that no two websites could be the same, 'that would be boring'. He always wanted the challenge of starting from scratch, devising new and wonderful ways in which to capture the quality of the artist's work. That in my mind summed up Paul – always up for a challenge, whether it be making a piece of painted jewellery/abstract art from compressed soil, teaching himself how to make pewter mugs or making an ecohouse, to name but a few. (When I once asked him if there was anything he couldn't do, he replied that he was like his uncle, like chewing gum, everything stuck to him!) Much reference will be made to all his interests and achievements in this biography, so I will leave it up to those who knew Paul better than I. All I can say is that the world (and in particular Nottingham) will be so much the poorer with his passing.*

*God bless you Paul and thank you ...for all your help, all those little anecdotes about your fascinating life and an opportunity to work with someone who I am sure is irreplaceable.*

#### JOHN TRACEY MORROW

*I first met Paul at Boots, and during many morning coffee breaks we discovered that we had many shared interests. His first 'favour' was to make a cowboy gun-belt for my eldest son Gavin.*

*As I was a pistol shooter in those days, he often talked about:*

- *Winning a medal at the Cosford Airpistol National Competition.*
- *Possessing an old blackpowder shotgun which was the envy of his Clay Pigeon Club.*
- *Taking part in cowboy, Fast Draw, competitions.*

*To be honest, there wasn't much that didn't interest him, as long as it was artistic, or had an historical context:*

- *He was a Civil War re-enactor.*

- *He helped to build a medieval re-enactment village, and demonstrated early forge work ON A TREE STUMP.*
- *He and his friend Pete photographed, and researched information, on Strelley Hall and our Country's first railroad built in 1604 (which ran from Strelley to Wollaton Park). Mary and I went to Strelley to watch him and Pete at work. He had a series on poles sticking into the ground and he was Dowsing to obtain the outline of cottages that were demolished, to improve the view, when Strelley Hall was built.*
- *He advised the Hungerhill Allotment Group (at the Top of Cromer Road) how to produce an eco-house using straw bales.*
- *He was 'mystic Nix' at a Boots fund raising event: he could read palms, cast runes, and tarot cards.*
- *Caving has been mentioned, and copies of two booklets that he produced are in the County Library.*
- *Somewhere in his life, he worked in the 'Stables' at Elvaston Castle where he repaired saddlery.*

*He also was an accomplished guitar player, and used to play in pubs with a band. On his retirement he bought a new electric guitar, although I never saw him play it.*

*He loved art and photography (always experimenting - casting jewellery in cuttlefish bone for example). He made films. He made a steady-cam and he and I made a camera-boom: that was used by Nottingham University Cine Club.*

*Digital computer special effects and artwork were part of his repartee.*

*For my sins, I introduced him the world of Charity Shops and many of our Saturday afternoons were spent seeking out computer books, bric-a-brac, and 'bargains'. Wherever we went in the car, it stirred an anecdote from his historical interests. (On a trip to Mansfield, for instance, we had to stop by the side of the road to see the site of the Red Shoes Murder. At Balloon Woods Cross Roads, we had to see the Ancient Footpath).*

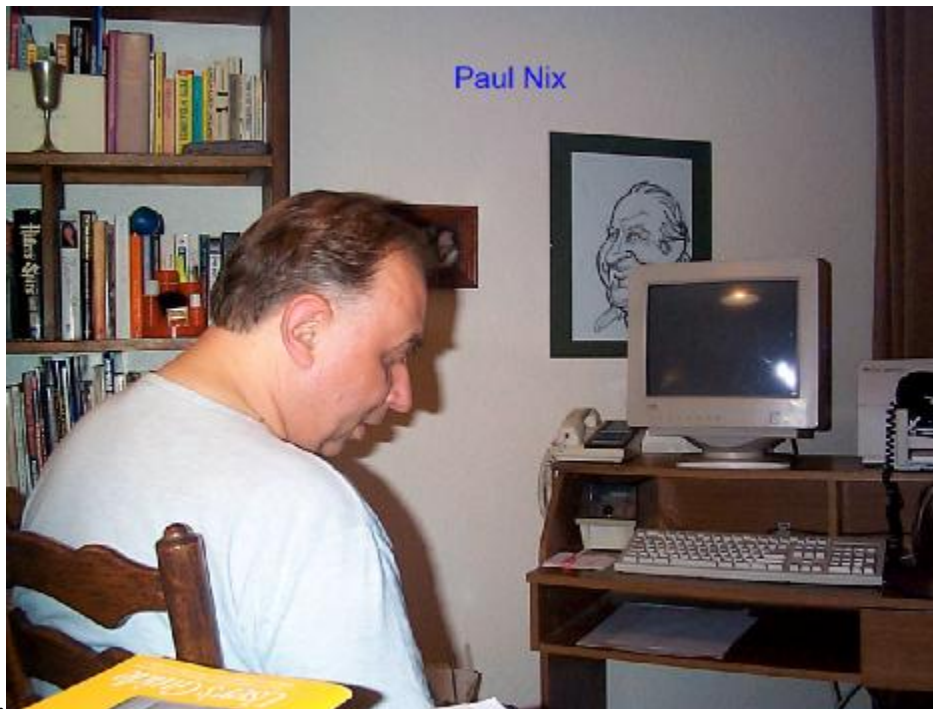
*He was very generous with his time, and for a meal, he would carry out do-it-yourself tasks for neighbours and friends. He built up a small, well equipped workshop in a spare bedroom, to help in these tasks.*

*Paul was single minded, and a perfectionist. He didn't like to lose control of his tasks and worked from first principles.*

*For example, he hated Microsoft for their complex web—design software. He worked in HTML (the simplest form of web based design code), and as a result, his Web creations were both fast to load and full of innovations.*

*His didactic approach to life was refreshing.*

*He was a mate.*



*I want to thank all of Paul's friends for their support during this sad time. I would also like to thank the people who have contributed their tributes to this booklet, and Karina Wells, Greg Sanghera, owner of Compulus and Bob Trubshaw for their help in ensuring that it could be made.*

*In deference to Paul's interest in recycling, I have used Recycled Paper in the production of this Tribute Book.*

*Elise Hey*