

## BRANCH CHAIRMAN - TERRY AUSTIN

Born in Edgware, the son of a banker, I moved via Kent, Wales, and Henley-on-Thames before finally buying my own property in Maidenhead, and settling there.

Although I had ambitions to join the RAF, I began my career as an articled clerk to the firm of Chartered Accountants, which, after several name changes, was latterly known as Deloitte.

While working for Deloitte and living in Pentyrch, close to Cardiff, I suggested to my father, who knew the Group Commandant of the Royal Observer Corps in the area, that I might join the organisation, which I did, and thus began my 29 year membership of the Corps, ended only by its stand down in 1991, by which time I, too, had reached the position of Group Commandant, of the Oxford Group.



*Photograph: Pamela Austin*

My work eventually took me to London, where I was employed first by publishers Pearson Longman as their Group Chief Accountant; subsequently I transferred to the holding company Pearson plc, and many years later, to The Tussauds Group, another subsidiary, although I was now based in the waxworks museum, rather than Millbank Tower, as previously!

Early retirement became a possibility in 1999, so I told my boss that he could make his plans for future advancements without me, and duly retired in July 2000.

By this time, with the 1991 demise of the ROC already mentioned above, I had followed my wife Pamela into the RAF Reserves, serving in No 7006 (Intelligence) Flight, RAF Volunteer Reserve, which was later subsumed into the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and became No 7006 (VR) Intelligence Squadron, RAuxAF. Shortly after my retirement, the second Iraq war began in 2003, and with the first compulsory call-up of reservists since the Suez crisis of 1956, I found myself back in full time work in London, this time in a bunker for four months!

However, once that was over, thoughts turned to moving away from commuter-land, and late in 2004, the move was made to rented accommodation in Downham Market, followed by relocation in January 2005 to Stanhoe. That was the end of the relaxing retirement, as local organisations began to queue for my attentions – St Henry Walpole church in Burnham Market, Stanhoe Parish Council - following Pamela into the role of chairman - the Legion, the RAF Association, the Catenian Association – many of them, naturally, attracted by my accountancy qualifications, and their need for a treasurer.

My interests over the years have been gliding, which occupied me for over 20 years, and the highlight of which was a cross country solo flight of over 70 kilometres; sailing, which I continued to do intermittently until shortly before moving to Norfolk (I still belong to the sailing club in Salcombe which I joined 50 years ago); and finally photography, which I still do whenever the opportunity arises – both photographing aircraft, which has long been an interest, and as an active member of Brancaster Camera Club.