

## **John Bowen**

### **Remembered by Martin Price**

John was a colleague of mine at Bournemouth and Poole College for many years. We worked in different parts of the College, but I regularly encountered him, especially in my capacity as a Staff Governor.

In particular, I remember his work to develop the Study Art Gallery at the Poole site. This was intended as a permanent home to the College's extensive art collection, including works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Jacob Epstein. It was also to be an exhibition space, bringing community artists into the College, enabling them to meet and work with our students, the next generation of artists. The vision of an inclusive environment, where all in the community could learn and explore art together, was typical of John's character: a man who wanted to reach out to and work with anyone who had a passion for the arts – and to enthuse and motivate those who didn't!

John was a gentle, calm and supportive person. His passion for art, creativity and humanity was always enveloped in a kind and open approach. He would engage with anyone, treating them with respect, and genuine interest in their lives and interests. He valued people and sought only to encourage and enlighten them.

He was a generous person – always seeming to have time to talk, despite the pressures of his work. He was also a warm and entertaining companion, as I discovered when invariably seated with him at the Governors' Dinner.

When, after my retirement, I became reacquainted with John through PEDAS, where my partner Marylyn was a very active member - he hadn't changed! But I was able to see the huge love and respect he generated in his roles as President, resident art expert, judge and teacher. He was the heart and soul of PEDAS; he will be sorely missed – indeed he is irreplaceable! However, he will be remembered with great love and affection, and I hope realisation of that will bring some comfort to Diane and his family.