

# PENTANGLE ARTS

*Celebrating 46 Years!*

*As seen in the Vermont Standard – Oct 22, 2020*

## Pentangle Mourns Two Upper Valley Icons

**O**ur community recently lost two icons whose passion for the arts, music and theatre was well known across the Upper Valley.

On October 1st, Dave Clark, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Dave was much beloved in the Upper Valley, for his positive, generous spirit and love for the arts. He was a regular on our stage, joyfully singing and dancing in numerous Pentangle productions. His web site [www.yellowhousemedia.com](http://www.yellowhousemedia.com), founded in 2005 regularly promotes live music, dance, and theatre through weekly calendar postings. The site also features Dave's music with Wrensong, and his own recordings and writings.

He will be missed by so many in all the various circles he moved through. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Helen, dear friends, and family. We are enormously grateful to those close to Dave who chose to make donations to Pentangle in his memory.

On October 5th, Peter Fox Smith passed away at his home in North Pomfret. There is much that can be said about Peter Fox Smith's illustrious career as an educator, coach, and producer of the weekly Saturday afternoon radio program on VPR that for forty years featured opera and music.

It can also be that Peter Fox Smith was present at the "birth" of Pentangle Arts. On March 19, 1974, a meeting of artists and arts educators convened at the home of Polly Billings. Minutes from the meeting note that

Peter, as the Director of the Vermont Arts Council (VCA), hoped to lead the VAC in a direction where it would place particular emphasis on the need to make art participatory for all. He stressed the need to restore art to its original place as an "elemental aspect of life, indicating that this could only be accomplished with the active cooperation with the schools.

He urged the group to organize a local council which he said would benefit the area and would also be eligible for a \$500 grant from the VAC. In May 1974, Pentangle Council on the Arts, elected its first officers, most of whom remain in the area: Bob Belisle, President, Patsy Niles, Vice Chair, Peggy Merrill, Secretary, and Bo Gibbs, Treasurer.

Peter's passion for the need to make art participatory for all and the need for close coordination with the schools, rang true with the founders. As such Pentangle's Youth in Arts programs remain 46 years later a cornerstone of our mission.

Peter and his wife, Joanne, were frequent visitors in our house growing up. As a funny aside, their daughter, Alice and I took piano lessons in the front room at 3 Church Street. So disrespectful we both were to our balding teacher, my mother began to refer to Alice as "wretched Alice". Seeing Peter at our classical concerts or in passing he would with a chuckle give me updates on wretched Alice!

We extend our sympathies to Joanne, their children, including wretched Alice, close friends, and family.