

Dr Peter Chapman : BUA / BCal Medical Doctor

Sadly we learn that Peter passed away on Friday 16th August 2024, aged 101. Peter passed peacefully at home. My sincere condolences go out to Peter's family, many friends and former colleagues.

Peter joined BUA as a SMO in 1968 and followed through into BCal as the company Doctor and was known to many as "Doc Chapman". A photo of Peter in 1971 to the right.



Service Information

Peter's funeral service was held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at All Saints Church, Hammingden Lane, Highbrook near Ardingly / Balcombe.

Peter Remembered

From Vanessa Ridgway van Perlstien: Lovely person, glad I met him

From Jim Will: RIP doc chapman, a very nice person, met him through his son who was an engineer on my shift.

From Clive Clemson
It was a pleasure to have known Peter, especially during the 80s when he had his Clinic in the Gatwick Penta Hotel, his extensive medical career is remarkable, how many Doctors retire at 90, a true legend and a thoroughly nice man in all respects, may he RIP

From Diane Clark: Thoughts are with you all. God bless.

From Phil Bowell
He really was one of the truly great men in the history of BCal. I am sure like so many, we all have so much to thank Peter for - he truly was a great man. I had the pleasure of meeting him last year with Peter Smith, just before Doc Chapman's 100 birthday, and he really was in great form. He was the Peter I knew, respected and appreciated in the heady days of our great carrier. It should also be said that it was not just BCal. Peter looked after the health and well being of so many different airline's staff, both UK and International. Many will be mourning this sad news. It should also be said he had a great life and certainly lived it to his best advantage. Rest in peace Peter - thanks for all you did for Pauline and I - we owe you so much. Fly High - with much sorrow to his family, friends and colleagues.

From Valerie Armstrong: Very nice doctor what a wonderful age. Condolences to his family

From Graham Waters: R.I.P.

From Tina Harvey: Sad news but what a wonderful age to live to! Sleep peacefully Dr Chapman

From Derek Jenkins: Sad News, I remember him very well.

From Madelene Gibson: RIP, he helped me during an emergency, lovely man

From Chris Gilbert: Very sad news indeed. He was an institution in the aviation medical world. A lovely man as well.

From Sally Simmonds: Sorry to hear, he was a stalwart at BCal. RIP, Doc.

From Sue Jackson-Page: Remember my medical with Doctor Chapman in 1971!. RIP and condolences to his family.

From Nikki Mitchell: I remember my medical too in 1978! Condolences to his family.

From Ray Henning
What a great age! I remember him well when he did my medicals for my PPL with the Mercury Flying group back in the BUA days.

From Steve Taylor: RIP Doc Chapman. Lovely man

From Patricia Nightingale: I remember Doc Chapman, great Dr, very sad to hear he's no longer with us. RIP

From Andy Kynoch: Bloody shame, great man, a real gentleman. He looked after me and my brother, Doug.

From Davina Smale: Thank you Doctor Chapman

From Brenda Painter: Sad news but what a great age. RIP

From Roger Warren: RIP Doc Chapman

From Biddi Geoghegan: Condolences to all of Dr Chapman's family and friends. He is well remembered by everyone- 101 - wow !

From Geoff Johnston
He was a lovely man and it was Doc Chapman that discovered I was deaf, so he referred me to Crawley Hospital audiology to get it sorted. Long may he RIP.

From Pauline Bowell
Rest peacefully Doc Chapman, I'll never forget your professional & personal help and support when I was so ill back in 1997. You truly were one of a kind. You'll never be forgotten by all the BCal family. Rest in Peace now, you've earned it

From Pippa Barrett: He was a lovely man.

From Paul Read: An amazing man!

From Nick Washington-Jones: Remember him very well. Very helpful and kind. RIP. My condolences to the family

From Stephen Kerr: Sad news, RIP Doc Chapman.

From Jenny Thomas: Ahh I remember him well from my flying days. Rest in Peace Doc Chapman

From Walter Riggans
Peter was a true Gent. I had my Emirates joining medical at his Surgery and although he was not actually doing the medical, he heard I was there and popped in to say hello and have a catch up - which from memory took a while. RIP to a great person.

From Caron Phillips: RIP Dr Chapman, and condolences to his family and friends

From Bob Hewitt: If my memory serves me correctly he sat on my interview board. Thank you Doc Chapman. RIP.

From Tim Trowbridge: I remember Doc Chapman as good kindly man for all.

From Jeannie Ruggles
I will always remember how kind he was to my sister Margaret Wilson when she was so ill. My condolences to the family.

From Kathy Perry
Sad news RIP Doc Chapman. What a great age. I recall when you grounded me with a perforated eardrum after a 1-11 flight from EDI and working in ticket fraud for a Mr Peters til I could fly again! Many thanks to you and Sincere Condolences to your family and friends

From Richard Friend
There is probably not a BCal staff member who hasn't been at one time or another examined, poked, prodded, consulted, and helped by Doc Chapman. What a gentleman. Now time for a well earned rest. Thank you. RIP.

From Alec Gair: Sincere condolences to the family. RIP Doc Chapman.

From Andy Lewis: Dr Chapman saved my Dad and gave him c.35.years of life after a heart attack in 1986. God bless him. RIP

From Phil Cornford
That's very sad news. I knew him well from BCal days and subsequently doing my PPL medicals for many years and also visited him at his lovely home in Highbrook.

From John McGurk: Sad News. As the medical proceeded, he used to gently joke that he couldn't find anything wrong with me...

From Sally Ann Beischer: Very sad news, but what a great age, RIP Dr Chapman

From Ruskie Dee: RIP Dr Chapman

From Anne Lindup: Dr. Chapman was a legend. RIP

From Kris Massie: My condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

From Riaz Butt
Sad news, I saw him a couple of times, a lovely and gentle person he was. Rest in peace Doc. Chapman. My thoughts with his family .

From Steve Hogarth
I owe my whole flying career to Dr Chapman having been "under his wing" for the best part of 56 years. A guiding light for me since my time as an engineering apprentice at BUA. Remarkable physician, kindest of gentlemen and the best raconteur when you were having a medical. RIP Peter - the aviation world has lost so much in your passing.

From Tony Rider: RIP Peter, fly high. Condolences to Andrew & Family

From Robbie Fisher: An absolute gentleman. Thoughts to all his family and friends.

From Ray Astridge
Sorry to hear this. I understand, as the story goes. Doc Chapman got a nurse to drop a drip of Skydrol in an eye to see what all the 'fuss' was about. He soon found out!! Rest in peace Doc. Condolences to Andy and all the family.

From George Banks: So sorry to hear this a wonderful skilled doctor and kind and good person. RIP Doctor Chapman.

From David Williams: Doc Chapman !! "One of the best". Looked after me a number of times. RIP SIR

From Kerry Coles: R.I.P. Dr. Chapman

From Victor Attwood
I have known Peter since the 1960s when I was with Hunting Clan, and Peter was the BOAC doctor based in the Queens Building at LHR. BOAC were contacted to look after our medical requirements. Peter was a great Doctor, always helpful, and with a wicked sense of humour

From Robert Wainwright: RIP Doc. You did good.

From Peter Barry
I did visit him a few times on the roof of Caledonian House and met him a few other times - an absolute gentle man and a gentleman!! May he rest in blissful peace.

From Ranald Noel-Paton: He was a dear and wonderful man

From Christopher Anderson
After seeing me arrive for work on 06:30 with sunglasses on he stopped me and took a look at my eyes, I couldn't bear bright light. After a quick exam, and within hours, I was on train with an appointment at Moorefields Eye Hospital in London. I was diagnosed with Iritis, which, untreated can cause destruction of the Iris. I am forever grateful for his interest in all of us, plus the installation of the eye wash bed for our frequent Skydrol accidents. RIP Peter.

From Roz Isted: Sad to hear. Condolences to his family and friends

From Helen Dunn: He made the century. Well done Peter. All sympathies to his family.

From David Heal: A wonderful and kind Man. RIP Dear Doctor Peter

From Phil Baker
Peter and his team helped me resume my overseas career after contracting hepatitis in Lagos in '79 and being declared unfit to work abroad. Then I was sent to Accra in '82, which proved the company had a sense of humour?

From Jeff Youtan: RIP Peter.

From David R Holder: RIP Doc Peter sincere condolences to the family and friends

From Ken Beattie
What a bit of sad news. Peter did my first medical for BCal in 1978 and one of my last in 2018. A real gentleman!! RIP.

From Denise (Dinks) Boden
I was Peter Chapman's Secretary at Gatwick and known as "the old bat in the goldfish bowl". We had an abandoned kitten found in the station to look after one day. On another occasion I was asked to take a gentleman to Crawley Hospital who had been seen in the unit and when I had successfully dropped him off Peter told me he was having a heart attack..... and many other stories.....

From Bob Millichap
What a really sad loss - the finest doctor I have ever come across and such a delightful man who was totally devoid of the imperiousness often found at senior levels of his profession. I will always be exceptionally grateful for his unstinting encouragement and medical support in allowing me to transition from B.CAL into a flying career after the BA takeover. Very many thanks indeed Peter and may you Rest In Peace.

From Mike Jeffs
My sincere condolences on to Peters Family. Doc Chapman helped me overcome an injury in the 1970's when I was with BCal. He got me into RAF Headley Court for extensive physiotherapy and helped me to get my license back RIP Doc.

From Ann Hood: RiP Doc Chapman, thank you for your dedication keeping us healthy and jabs up to date.

From Denys Murphy
Peter Chapman, what a man! I first came across him as a 1-11 sprog, circa 1970, it was a lecture to the course I was on, on anoxia. He had rather a bruised face, and said when opening "Mine name's Chapman, I'm the company doctor, and I walked into a lamp-post". Oh, well. Thereafter, he did my medicals whenever required, and I remember saying to him once, "Peter, do you actually remember me and the others, or are we just hunks of flesh that turn up for a medical every six months?" He replied, " Oh no, I DO you remember you all, for example I remember you were a bit anxious about indigestion and jet-lag a while ago, and then there was that time...." I don't think he ever forgot anything. So, a remarkable man. And he knew all the right people, big male of (Prof) Doug Chamberlain the cardiac specialist and head of the CAA medical department at one time, Mel Jennings the urologist at Redhill and also up in London, and many others. And Peter would fight your corner, his track record of 'getting people's licences back' when things looked bleak was second to none. A dedicated professional, and just the right man to safeguard the welfare of all who needed his attention. I'm so pleased he 'passed my way'. Thankyou, Peter. RIP.

From Frances Taylor: RIP Dr. Chapman. Sincere condolences to Dr. Chapman's family and friends.

From Joanna Dyckes: So sad, gave me many of my travel vaccines and did dad's medicals; what a good old age

From Angela Williams: Such a lovely man, RIP in peace Doc

From Scott Thomson
Sorry to hear about Dr. Chapman, he was a good guy, also had a good innings. Have many good memories.

From Nick Bailey
Strangely I used to "enjoy" seeing Peter when he was the ADI company doctor, I reminder him being very direct and explaining medical diagnosis in layman's terms - he told me that the MRI scan on my back was such that "a milkman" could read it!

From Jim Stott: RIP Doc Chapman. A wonderful man who did many of my annual medicals. Thank you.

From Guy Boyling: One of the greats in the Aviation World. Lovely man

From Neil Titterrell
Doc Chapman gave me a wonderful opportunity as an apprentice along with Stuart Cain in caring and preparing Andy's Lotus Formula Junior race car. I will always remember his kindness, enthusiasm and the experiences this gave me, most noticeably the importance of keeping your tie out of the way whilst engineering - his becoming embedded within the fibre glass sheeting while rebuilding the Lotus body! One of life's true gentlemen - Rest In Peace.

From Jeremy Dixon: An excellent Doctor. A real gentleman and a very good friend.

From Carol Anderson
What a special person Peter Chapman was - my first memory was from our training course in BUA, when he gave us an outline of what we might encounter in the air! In the Medical Centre he was such a capable and caring doctor. A truly remarkable person - always ready to listen to our medical problems and provide us with a thorough diagnosis and support. Such sad news - sincere condolences to his family.

From Yvonne Burgon
I was sad to learn that Doc Chapman has passed away. He was so well regarded by my husband Barry Burgon and all his colleagues . It was amazing that he lived to such a good age. My condolences to his family and all those who benefited from his sound advice and judgement over all his years with dear old BCal.

From Jacqueline Dillmann
Doctor Chapman was such a wonderful man, a real human being. He was like a friend when you met him. I am very sad. My sincere condolences to his family. May he rest in peace after his exceptional life.

From Elizabeth Lockhart-Mure
Peter was truly an industry legend. I remember him so well and with much affection. Condolences to his family

From John Frost
Just sat down at Highbrook Church after walking up from the Bluebell Railway. A recent grave very close by. It's Dr Chapman who was my AME for decades. Very upsetting. Lovely man, old school. He was 101 and worked well into his nineties... only retiring when his young secretary in her seventies decided to retire. Thank you for all the medicals, Dr Chapman, for laughing at my repeated doctor with the broken watch joke, incredible service to the medical profession and to aviation. Greatly missed.

From Samir Alvi
I was so sorry to hear about the passing of my mentor. Peter was directly responsible for helping to formulate the 1% rule with respect to pilot incapacitation that has stood the test of time and is still in use today. Always helpful, he was instrumental in facilitating my subsequent career as an AME and in setting up the current Aeromedical Centre at Heathrow. Peter had a towering and mischievous intellect coupled with kindness and a self-deprecation that was his hallmark. Thank you for everything - you will be greatly missed and never forgotten. May you rest in peace.

If you would like to leave a message in remembrance please drop me a line anytime at BCaltribute@outlook.com

Condolences were extended by:

Dave Thaxter, Jim Will, Linda Collyer, Richard Church, Christopher Anderson, Audrey E. Bateman, John Morgan, Richard Blackwell, Dave Phillips, Christine Swift, Victor Attwood, Alan Saunders, Laurie Evans, Brian Schooley, John Stocker, Riaz Butt, Nick Ridley, Kris Massie, Richard Heywood, Phil Holt, Susie Douglas-Smith, Anthea McClelland, Peter Durran, Jan Mitchell, Ivor Phillips, Mel Sanders, Jackie Hebert Hayes, Kathleen Chappell, Jacqui Byrne, Andy Hudson, Andy Lewis, Richard Holland, Jenny Holland, Roger Moore, Ray Bridgman, Julie Hourigan, Karen Rayner, Valerie Edwards, Nick Washington-Jones, Janet Willis, Terry de la Haye, Pauline Bowell, Pat Cresswell, Julie Burgess, Sylvia Murphy, Davina Smale, Janice Belshaw, Sally Simmonds, Robin Frazier, Sue Jackson-Page, Christine Jegu, Blanche Melvin, Tina Harvey, Vanessa Holland, Graham Waters, Brian Russell, Freddie Gorman, Stella Bullman, Joy Inch, Deanna West, David R Holder, Denise Stevens, Ian Corby,

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