

We plan to have a retrospective exhibition of Des' work later this year

If you would like to make a donation to charity, Des, in his later years, loved watching the birds in the garden so there is a link to the RSPB through the undertaker's website at ivanfisher.co.uk

Desmond Forster Miller

7th October 1942-

31st December 2023

Anarchist

Artist

Historian

Musician



Kind, faithful and true

Funeral held on 31st January 2024
Earlham Crematorium, Norwich

Humanist Celebrant Mags Allison

Music will be

Rig-a-Jig-Jig playing *Wayford Bridge* and
Hindringham long dance tunes
Elizabeth Cotten singing *Freight Train* and
Des playing *Rosalie my Prairie Flower*

Reading from

Armed Joy by Alfredo Bonanno

Des was born in a north London hospital during an air-raid and grew up in Dovercourt on the Essex coast, with his mother and stepfather, his father having gone down in a submarine in 1943

He left school at sixteen and went to Colchester School of Art, working through his holidays and maintaining an uneasy balance between an old-fashioned working-class home and a new life of galleries and nude models

Des unfortunately developed dementia in the last few years of his life but the intensity of his work did not diminish



As well as his vivid and characterful pictures, Des could tell a great story. Anyone who heard his descriptions of the seagulls feasting after the 1953 flood or of the cats and horses on a frosty morning in United Dairies' stableyard, will have those pictures in their minds forever



On moving to Leeds in the late 60s, Des found a spiritual, musical and political home

He met Mick Rose who says

I first met Des in the early 1970's. He was getting to grips with an R30 printing machine in the back room of a charity shop. He and some fellow politicians were starting to produce and print Leeds Other Paper (LOP) - a small left wing monthly publication. I joined in on the printing side, which became Leeds Community Press. Des had an art school background and we spent many an hour in the Royal Park pub discussing politics and how to organise things ...

Leeds Other Paper, influential among the alternative news sources of the time, made a considerable contribution to the street politics of the 70s and 80s

In the 90s and the new century, Des turned to the local cultural history of Norfolk, founding Rig-a-Jig-Jig: A Norfolk Music History Project, with related band



Some of the Rig-a-Jig-Jig band pretending to be Victorians

