

## The Joy Of Growing Old

I have always been reluctant to reveal my age on the basis that I would be put in an age box. And that would limit people's expectations of what I might achieve. But this attitude changed completely when I reached the age of 84 on 14th January 2017 and had **the best birthday celebration of my life.**

The transformation began when I received an invitation from my 59-year-old daughter, Melanie Parker. It was headed: **Dad's Birthday Weekend Of Fun And Activities.**

To begin this life changing experience I was driven to an art studio where I painted a dolphin landscape on a plain white vase that was later returned to me - fully glazed. But that was just a prelude to being plunged into the Hull City Of Culture 2017. During which I saw how the once run-down town I knew so well had been transformed into a vibrant city full of joyful visitors - a city that was a delight to wander through.

One of the most stunning attractions was a breath- taking, gigantic, street- length work of art. It was a single blade from an electricity wind farm generator built in Hull. Its installation required a set of traffic lights and other obstacles to be secretly removed, without planning permission, during the night before the official opening of Hull City of Culture. When the day dawned children and adults were able to gaze in wonder and touch the smooth alloy surface of a masterpiece of British engineering.

When night time came the city came alive with brilliant audio visual displays on buildings surrounding the Ferens Art Gallery that were filmed and put on Facebook by my son Ashley - the man who rode on a friendly wild dolphin when he was a thirteen year old boy. A growing old celebration doesn't get better than that. Or does it?

In fact I found my joy of aging experiences hugely stimulating. They made me keener than ever to push forward with other projects I want to pursue. Top of these is to continue my avowed mission - which is to make the world a better place to live in by spreading the message of the **Dolphin Dreamtime of Joy, Love And Freedom.** This followed by the setting up of **Dolphin Human Communication Centres** where both species will collaborate freely, directly and indirectly, to establish common bonds, both spiritual and scientific, using sound and vision.