



Hall of Fame

Julian Pettifer

Julian Pettifer is a television and radio journalist and environmentalist.

He was born on the 21st July 1935 in Malmesbury and grew up in the Wiltshire countryside. His parents were Stephen Henry Pettifer and Diana Mary Pettifer (nee Burton). He has a brother Stephen.

The early surroundings in Wiltshire, combined with his father's interest in animals and wildlife as a vet, left their mark on the young Pettifer, sparking an interest that would continue as a lifelong career as a television and radio presenter. Julian was educated at Marlborough College and graduated from St. John's College, Cambridge.

After a stint with the army in Korea and then graduating from Cambridge, Pettifer went on to, in his own words, "accidentally" begin a career in journalism at Independent Television (ITV) in 1958. He started by presenting a daily news and current affairs show and it is here that he began to realise the emerging convergence of nature and current affairs. This view was further entrenched when Pettifer began working at the BBC on the tonight programme where he was heavily involved with the reporting of the war, and wider situation, in Vietnam.

It was not until the 1980s that Julian fully immersed himself into the wildlife film industry. This began with him working with Robin Brown on a series called 'Nature Watch'. Here Pettifer worked with a number of personalities such as Miriam Rothschild, Konrad Lorenz and Carl Jones to name but a few.

Later on in his career he made a number of feature programmes about natural events such as the El-Nino phenomenon, as well as programmes about the emergence of Climate Change. Julian Pettifer started work in television during the early days of ITV but soon moved to the BBC as a globe-trotting reporter for programmes such as Tonight, 24 hours and Panorama.

During this time he covered many international news stories and was made BAFTA Reporter of the Year for his coverage of the war in Vietnam in 1968.

He then moved to documentaries and wrote and presented a number of acclaimed programmes for both the BBC and ITV including Diamonds in the Sky, a look at the social impact of international air travel; Automania, an extensive history of the motor car, and Missionaries, which traced the remarkable story of missionaries around the world.

An interest in the environment saw a change in direction of Julian's journalistic career and in recent years he has written and presented many programmes concerned with the environment and wildlife including Naturewatch for Central Television, Nature, and The Living Isles for the BBC.



He was President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and is Vice President of the Wildlife Trust.

In 2010 he was awarded an O. B. E.

Recently, Julian has returned to the world of current affairs, contributing reports for BBC Two's Assignment and Correspondent programmes, and a highly praised film for Channel 4 that re-examined the reporting of the Vietnam war.

He presented BBC Radio 4's Asia File and now presents BBC Radio 4's Crossing Continents.

Julian is now retired but he continues to travel and write.