

Peter Heywood

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Personal Profile

I bring together a rare mix of creative, technical, and organisational skills. After ten years as a chartered civil engineer and more than two decades as a journalist and internet publisher, I embarked on a new career as an artist, designer, and maker.

My work is idea-driven: I thrive on conceiving projects, solving problems creatively, and collaborating with specialists to realise innovative concepts as engaging three-dimensional works.

I aim to amuse and intrigue while encouraging reflection. My projects span automata, robotics, sculpture, and installations, made from conventional materials such as metal, glass, and ceramics, as well as unconventional ones including chocolate, tea leaves, egg-shells, recycled cans, and electronics/software.

Alongside my studio practice, I play an active role in **Looe's creative community**—as a trustee of **Looe Shedders CIO**, and as a **director of Creative Looe CIC**, where I initiated its first public art and community project, the **Creative Looe Festival**.

Education

- **BA (Hons) Contemporary Craft (First Class)** – Plymouth College of Art (2018)
- **BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering** – University of Nottingham (1967)

Selected Creative Experience

2020–2025

- Development of *Snakebots* series, extending ideas from *The Snake Pit*.
- *My Prostate Cancer Journey* – ongoing body of personal narrative works, including *Chapter 2* and *Radiotherapy Sketchbook*.
- Series of playful automata using clothes pegs: *Strong Man*, *Sawing Man*, *Hammering Man*.
- Community collaborations in Looe, including *Message in a Bottle*, *Rainbow Fish*, *Carnival Dragon*, and *Reindeer*.
- Director of **Creative Looe CIC**, leading development of the inaugural **Creative Looe Festival** (2025).

- Trustee of **Looe Sheddars CIO**, supporting creative and skills-based community projects.

2012–2019

- **2019** – Community art projects in Plymouth and Looe.
- **2018** – *The Snake Pit*, robotic snake installation, selected as a “Pick of the Show” by *Design Week* at London Design Fair.
- **2018** – Designed part of a mining exhibit for the Eden Project.
- **2017/18** – Commission for Tate Exchange (Plymouth College of Art & Tate Modern collaboration).
- **2016–2019** – *Teapotty*, a touring cabinet of strange teapots, exhibited at multiple venues.
- **2015** – *Ghosts* sculpture selected for Plymouth Art Weekender.
- **2014** – *Zip* sculpture exhibited in Plymouth City Council’s Open Art Display.
- **2013** – Winner, surface design competition for giant sunfish sculpture, Plymouth.
- **2012** – Winner, competition to design and help fabricate the gates for **Devonport Column** (Grade I listed monument, Plymouth).

Earlier Career

- **1999–2007** – Co-founder and Founding Editor, **Light Reading** (New York), a leading technology news website sold in 2005.
- **1977–1999** – Journalist based in London and Paris, specialising in technology and business.
- **1967–1977** – Chartered civil engineer, working on major infrastructure projects in the UK, Algeria, and Zambia.

Key Skills

- Concept development and creative problem-solving.
- Hands-on making across multiple materials and processes.
- Collaborative working with specialists and community groups.
- Experience in leadership, project development, and organisational roles (business, arts, and community).