

IAN COVENTRY (1950 – 2020)

Ian joined King Edward's School in September 1963 when he was twelve, entered the 3rd Form and placed in Ridley House (1963 - 1968). He quickly made friends and was always keen to relate to everyone his childhood days in India.

Ian was a keen sportsman and soon became involved in the school Under14 football and cricket teams. He was also a keen athlete, basketball player and later became involved in shooting. He made many friends, both male and female, and liked to socialise with pupils of his own age and older. Academically, Ian would do his best in the subjects that he liked but tended to make little effort in those that did not interest him.

On getting the required five 'O' Levels for the Lower sixth form (now entitled to wear a white shirt!) he took Geography, Geology and Art as 'A' Level subjects. Ian was made a House Prefect and given dormitory responsibilities. He gained his half school colours playing 1st XI football and cricket for the school which was a notable achievement especially as he had made his debuts for both teams in the previous season as a 5th year. He also played 1st team basketball for the school and was a successful sprinter in the House athletics competitions. Ian was made a School Prefect (black suit!) and Head of Ridley House in the Upper V1 and was awarded his full school colours for football and cricket. He had an enjoyable and successful five years at KESW.

After leaving school, Ian worked in advertising in London on the Honda cars account. He had always been keen on cars – learning to drive when he was 17 - and this was an ideal opportunity. During this time he met his wife, Christine, who worked in the city. Very often he would stay with her family rather than commute back to Guildford.

They bought a house in New Ash Green, Kent in the late 1970s and Ian continued to work in London. In 1983 following a move to work for Mazda cars at their new headquarters in Tunbridge Wells, Ian & Christine relocated. A few years later, Ian took up a marketing position with Citroen, based in Slough, which increased his commute. Their first son, Rowan was born in 1985 and then their daughter, Carys, in 1988. The family moved north to Cheshire where Ian took up a new advertising post. Their second son, Cameron, was born in 1995, and they returned south in 2000 to live in Leigh on Sea where Ian worked in the energy business. He continued to work until he suffered a severe stroke in 2013, at the age of 63.

Ian had kept in touch with a number of his contemporaries from King Edward's and had a memorable 70th birthday in January this year – luckily before COVID 19 cancelled celebrations. He was one of the few who have been able to celebrate their big occasion in 2020. Ian is greatly missed by his family and friends.



L to R: Peter Lambert (Grafton), Chris Phillips (Ridley), Ian Coventry (Ridley) and Derek Cubison (Ridley). Photo taken September 1994 on the morning of the 60s KESW Reunion.