

CHRIS PHILLIPS (1950 – 2021)

Chris arrived at King Edward's in September 1961 when he was eleven and like all 1st Form pupils, was placed in Junior House under the watchful eye of the Junior House Prefects, Carol Chitty and Paul Wood. The boys' dormitory was based on Northside with Mrs. Trump firmly in charge! His school number was 212.

Chris settled in quickly and made many friends his own age and with older pupils. He was very keen on sport, playing football and cricket for the School but took part in the many other sports that were on offer. He also joined the Scouts at School, attended the weekly troop activities, and then went on the annual scout camp (July '62) to a site (field!) near Lancing.

At the beginning of his 2nd year at King Edward's, Chris was transferred to Ridley House (Southside dormitory) which was his choice since he had already made many older friends and they welcomed him especially as he would boost Ridley's sports teams. Chris was very good at the technical subjects – woodwork, metalwork and technical drawing and made many useful household objects, which are no doubt still around today.

As Chris progressed, his popularity increased socially along with his female following. He passed his statutory five 'O' Levels or more to get into the Sixth Form and wear a white shirt and took Geology, Geography & Games (!) for 'A' level. He also went on a residential geography trip to Bordeaux in April '67, with Ian Coventry and Pete Lambert to study wine growing – not sure how much work was actually achieved!

Chris was made a House Prefect at the beginning of the U6th and given both School and House responsibilities. By this time, Chris was playing 1st XI football and cricket, also played basketball for the School team gaining his School colours for all three sports. Chris was a talented athlete being able to throw the javelin an exceptionally long distance, which broke the School record. He had a very enjoyable and successful seven years at King Edward's and made many friends.

After leaving school, Chris took up a position in Midland Bank and over a number of years held a variety of roles. One of the perks of his work enabled him to become a member of the Midland Bank Sports Club which enabled him to continue playing some of the sports that he played at school – in particular cricket and tennis - and attend many of the club's social functions. Chris was also a cricket fanatic and he spent many occasions at Lords watching cricket matches.

Chris had two boys, Matthew and Alexander, from a previous marriage when Ian Coventry, his close school friend, was his best man.

Chris and his wife Mary lived in Stowmarket, Suffolk, during the summer and then flew out to South Africa for the winter. This continued for many years and eventually they sold their property so that they could return to live in the UK. However, when travel restrictions were imposed due to COVID, it prevented them from returning home in the Spring of 2020.

Two years ago, Chris had quadruple heart bypass surgery in the UK which had been completely successful and had a replacement knee last November, again without complications. We were, therefore, very shocked to hear that Chris had contracted COVID and passed away on 8th January.

Chris had kept in touch with a number of his contemporaries from King Edward's. His sister Suzanne (Suzie) was in the same year as Chris and the many kind responses on the Old Witleians Facebook page indicate just how popular he was and how well he was remembered at School. He had just celebrated his 71st birthday at the end of December which he was at least able to do in a warm climate.

Chris is sadly missed by all his family and friends.



(1961 – 1968) Ridley House