

Maurice Wonnacott 1951-2020

We were shocked and very saddened to hear of the death of Maurice Wonnacott (K 64-69) at the age of 69. Maurice was a very charismatic and popular boy at Fram. He was a House Captain and a very talented sports player, being School Captain of rugby, cricket and squash. In addition, he represented the college in the hockey first team.

The Kerrison House notes in The Framlinghamian of Summer 1969 stated the following: "All of the leavers will be sadly missed, but perhaps most of all, we shall miss our House Captain, Maurice Wonnacott. For the last year, he has been a splendid leader, as well as a conscientious trier on the games field. In Kerrison, the presentation of a House Square is a rare occasion. It is fitting that Wonnacott is to become one of its rare owners".

Peter Barker (K 64-68) commented; "After we left Fram, I would regularly spend weekends with "Maurie" at his home in Twickenham, attending rugby matches, pop concerts and skating at the Richmond ice rink. We travelled around the country in his, often overheating, Hillman Imp, visiting OFs, for example; Jeremy Page (K62-70) and Dave Brierley (65-70). Being rather young, we also did some silly things, like running out of petrol and spending the night in the car until the local garage opened. One night, we missed the last tube train home and had to walk back from The Lyceum in The Strand to Twickenham, just getting home in time to set off for work. In addition, we spent two very enjoyable camping holidays in Looe, Cornwall".

He then moved down to Crediton, Devon and ran an antiques shop until he bought the former Market House Inn on Parliament Street, renaming it The Three Little Pigs. During the 1980s, he owned and ran some of the most popular pubs and clubs in Devon, including The North Bridge Inn, The Crown and Sceptre, as well as the famous Timepiece in Exeter. He was always keen on sport, playing for Crediton RFC and sponsoring the first team, the ladies team and Sandford Cricket Club. He was a well known and respected person in Crediton.

Maurice died whilst he was on holiday in Greece, a place he loved. The funeral was held on 8th October at Crediton Parish Church. Due to the volume of people, who wanted to participate, he was driven through the town, past The Three Little Pigs, on his way to the church.

Maurice's wife, Sandy Wonnacott, described the scene as follows; "On the day of his funeral, because of the Covid restrictions, we were limited to 30 people at the church, but it was very humbling when literally hundreds of people lined the main high street and the town square to show their respect on route".

Everybody, who knew Maurice at school or later, would remember seeing a crowd around him. He was always an enthusiastic and very popular person. Along with Sandy, Maurice leaves sons; Ashley, Ben, Aidan and their youngest, Taylor, also grandchildren Casey and Jaxon.

If you wish to mention any recollections about Maurice or send a message to Sandra, please write to Peter Barker (K64-68) peter@barker.demon.nl

These two websites give further details of his life:

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/tributes-following-death-man-who-4490389>

<https://www.creditoncourier.co.uk/article.cfm?id=143616&headline=Sad%20loss%20of%20two%20Crediton%20Rugby%20Club%20champions&ionls=news&searchyear=2020>

Photo 1: Maurice as the School Captain of the rugby team in 1968



Photo 2: Maurice at his pub, The Three Little Pigs, in 2013

