

John Willington Dunphy

John was a student at the College from 1953-1960. He was the third son of Hester Walter Dunphy and Dorothy Wilkes of Showell Lane, Lower Penn. From his father John inherited his pioneering spirit. Hester had been brought up on the Albertan frontier and he had volunteered for overseas service with the Canadian Army at the age of just 18 in 1939. By the age of ten John was camping on his own in west Cornwall and by the age of 12 he cycled with a slightly older brother, from Exeter to St Austell, youth hostelling on the way. John was a born seaman. He could take command of a small boat and row and sail from eight years old. Family holidays were spent camping in a farmer's field in west Cornwall and it was from here that John explored the many creeks of the Fal river and became acquainted with the port of Falmouth, its docks and shipping movements.

From his mother Dorothy, who had been brought up in Bilston as a Methodist, he inherited his moral values - a care for those less fortunate than himself and a generosity of spirit. Dorothy taught all her sons to cook, clean, DIY techniques, to be self-sufficient and to care for others.

It is therefore no surprise that John left TC before 'O' levels and enrolled at the Merchant Navy College at Plymouth. Passing out as a cadet officer within the year he joined the Bank Line who operated a large fleet of ships sailing in the Indian Ocean. Voyages were usually between East Africa- Pakistan-India- Burma, discharging and picking up cargoes in the days before containerisation.

After his career at sea John married Jane Corbett from Compton and then joined the West Midlands Police, serving at Wolverhampton, Netherton and Brierley Hill. He brought to the police his sense of fairness, initiative, common sense, an ability to work with and engage with local communities and people of all ages, whilst honouring the Queen's Warrant.

John died of pulmonary fibrosis in March 2020 after an illness bravely fought. He was pleased that one of his sons had his adventurous spirit and served in the Royal Navy and that his eldest grandson is currently serving in the Gulf on board a RN frigate on a second tour of duty.