

## **John Raymond (Ray) Eachus – Old Boy (1947-1954)**

Ray Eachus Old Boy (1947-1954) – In Memoriam

John Raymond Eachus (known to all his friends and family as Ray), was born on March 8th 1936, but sadly passed away on 20th October 2014. Ray was born at the family home in Litherland, Liverpool, of parents, father John Ernest (Jack) and mother Blodwen, and sister Gill.

Ray's education first started at Meliden School in North Wales at the age of five, when the family was evacuated from Liverpool during the blitz. After this period the family returned to Liverpool where he continued his education and enjoyed many happy years at St Phillip's Primary School, Litherland, before passing a scholarship to Merchant Taylors' School Crosby.

At Merchants' he proved himself to be good academically, but also enjoyed other activities such as scouts, Army Training Corps, walking, climbing and camping. Often he would say "I'm just off for a bike ride" and eventually after some hours would phone to say he was in the Lake District! This obviously was the start of his extremely adventurous and interesting lifestyle and his love of Kendal mint cake.

Ray's first job after leaving school in 1954 was as a Civil Servant for The Admiralty in Westminster, London. He then went directly to do his National Service for two years starting at Formby Barracks, followed by Officer Training at Eaton Hall in Chester, and "passing out" as a 2nd Lieutenant for the King's Regiment. He was recruited to the Intelligence Corps in Cyprus meeting and inspecting in-coming ships for illegal substances and arms along the Mediterranean. On one such occasion he was greeted by the Ship's Captain....who just happened to be his cousin Brian Cormack and ended up being treated to dinner – what a coincidence!

After completing his National Service he turned down an offer of staying in the military or to further his education. He went to Bristol University to read Modern Foreign Languages and graduated Hons 2.2. It was also during this time that he met his future wife-to-be, Shirley, and they became engaged in 1960.

His first teaching post was at Newquay Grammar School in 1961. Also, it was not long after that they married (in 1962) and lived happily in Cornwall until 1964 when their first child Rosie was born. Then Ray felt the need for change and they moved back to Bristol and he took a post at Lawrence Weston Comprehensive School until 1968, when he became Head of Lower School at Portway. In 1970 he became Deputy Head of St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, and became Head in 1974, where he remained until his retirement in 1996.

During this time Ray and Shirley were happily married and had two more daughters, Katie and Jenny. All three have done extremely well and Ray was indeed very proud of them all. In turn they have produced 7 grandchildren – 5 granddaughters and 2 grandsons – all of whom he loved dearly.

Ray was a devoted family man, highly respected, professional, a committed Christian, a loving brother and a friend to all who knew him. Over 400 people attended his funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, on November 3rd 2014.

Gill Richardson nee Eachus  
Old Girl (1955 Leaver)