

John Ineson

Eulogy

John Ineson was born in Colchester on 19th November 1933. He attended Colchester Royal Grammar School for a couple of years. When he was 9 years old he went to Framlingham College as a boarder. He experienced a sadistic headmaster who seemed to get enjoyment from tanning the boys three strokes for running up the corridor. While at school on Sunday afternoons, the boys would often get up to mischief. They sometimes would go for walks in the countryside, on one particular Sunday they came across a decaying old farm cottage, so they decided to help it 'fall' down. The farmer suddenly appeared and caught them red handed. He saw an opportunity and made a deal with the boys, if they stacked all the materials neatly into piles the headmaster would not be told. Ironically this farmer was later to become one of his customers.

Another of his earliest memories was having pyjamas made out of parachute silk, which during clothes rationing were sometimes available without needing coupons. At school he excelled in swimming and athletics winning various cups, although, by his own admission he was not academically gifted. At the age of 13, he had to decide between Latin or Art. Of course, at that age you think you know everything and therefore he chose the easy way out and said Art, there was no way that he would ever need Latin in the future. Little did he know then that he would have to take exams as a Seed Analyst at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge and would have to identify 100 weed seeds and name them in both English and Latin.

He left school at the age of 16 in the third form without taking or passing any exams.

Before joining the family firm, W A Church of Bures Ltd, he spent a year during 1950-51 on the farm of Andrew Faulds at St Osyth where he learnt some aspects of seed growing. With those early mornings and the commute from his home in Clacton to St Osyth, his parents used to take turns to cook him his fried breakfast before he set off on his temperamental motorcycle, hoping it would get him there on time.

In 1952 it was 2 years in National Service in the Royal Airforce. It was during this time that he was sent to Canvey Island to help with the flood relief in 1953.

In February 1954 after National Service, he came back to Bures and spent the rest of his working life there within the family business where, for some years was in charge of the Ministry Licensed Seed Testing Station. Later on in his career he became a Director and the Company Secretary of W A Church Bures Ltd. He retired in June 1993 but in 2002 he was asked to write the history of the company to celebrate its centenary. Its title being 'Church of Bures the first 100 years'.

In the 1950s and 60s he became involved with many interests which included the 'Young Farmers Club' at Sudbury where he won the 'Public Speaking Cup' and became part of the team that went on to win the County Competition. He belonged to the Bures Dramatic Society as it

was known then and took part in a few of their productions. For 10 years he was a member of Sudbury Round Table until he left at the retiring age of 40.

When he first joined Church of Bures, he lived in the vicarage with Vicar Brown who had him helping with the Scout troop, from then on scouting was his main interest. He had already been a cub at Colchester Grammar School in 1942 until he went to Framlingham College but this involvement with Bures Scouts was a new adventure. He held a Scout warrant for over 40 years and was a Scout Master of the 1st Bures troop for 5 years. During this time he chartered a Dakota aircraft to take 30 boys to Austria from the grass airfield at Southend airport, this was the 1950s, sometime before foreign travel became the norm. He was appointed the International Commissioner for Suffolk for over 20 years and in 2005 he was presented with the 'Silver Wolf' the highest award in scouting.

The Bures Agricultural Club was another interest where he became secretary for 13 years, one challenge he was tasked with was running the annual ploughing match. In 1964 while organising the match he was stumped to find someone who would sell the draw tickets. His Uncle Douglas suggested that maybe he should ask Diana, the pretty girl up at Overhall Farm. He duly called on her and a friendship immediately developed. On October 2nd 1965, one year and four days later they were married. Mark arrived in 1967 followed by Jane in 1969. They started their married life in a maisonette in Sudbury while their new home in Newmans Green was being built where they lived for 17 years before building and moving to Highfields Farm Bures.

In the 1960s he began to collect Mafeking Siege banknotes from the Boer War of 1899-1902. Gradually his collection grew and extended to include all Prisoner of War and Siege money for this period. His book 'Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War' was published by Spink & Son of London in 1999 and this well illustrated book has become the definitive work on this subject.

A stamp collector since he was nine years old, this hobby has stayed with him throughout his life. He became an international specialist of the stamps of the Mafeking Siege of the Anglo-Boer War of 1900 and for many years expertises these stamps for the British Philatelic Association. He was a founder member of the Sudbury Philatelic Society in 1965 and until recently, regularly attended their meetings. He was also a long time member of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society and belonged to many Philatelic Societies both in this country and abroad. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society in 1973 where he was elected a Fellow in 1986.

For the past few years as many of you will know, Ebay has taken over his life. Many a trip to Hungary and Romania with his money belt strapped around his waist where he would buy collections and sell on eBay piece by piece. The utter joy he had when he saw the bidding going up. He also recently started to sell a lot of his own collection including his big stamp collection last July at Grosvenor Auctions. This created great interest worldwide and has helped him purchase Twinsmere that was to be his final home but sadly he was not able to see it finished.

2024 was a bad year for his health. After his cancer diagnosis followed by a severe infection his body finally gave up. RIP