

## JOHN DOUGLAS WADDELL (R39-46)

He was at the College for the whole period of WW2, having won a County Council Scholarship. He served as Head Prefect in the Junior School and Prefect in the Senior School during that period and represented the school at all three major games.

After National Service while awaiting a place at Downing College, he joined the Eastern Daily Press in Norwich as a reporter and by the time Cambridge beckoned had been moved to the paper's London office as Labour Correspondent.

Cambridge suddenly seemed less attractive, particularly so when he was soon thereafter offered a job on a national newspaper, the now defunct *News Chronicle*. Within a year he had joined its political team as assistant to Ian Trethowan who was to become the Director General of the BBC. Disenchanted with politics after the Suez Crisis debacle, he moved within the *News Chronicle* to responsibility for the staff producing a daily column under the name of John London.

The *Daily Express*, then at the height of its influence under the colourful ownership of Lord Beaverbrook, offered him similar editorial control of a team writing the William Hickey column to which he devoted two hectic years of his life.

Marriage (to his Canadian wife Kitty then working as a feature writer on the same paper) seemed to call for a rather more measured life style and he joined the Ford Motor Company in Britain as its Publications Manager eventually becoming its Director of Press and Public Relations.

While in New York at the presentation of an international environmental award won by a programme he had devised for Ford to sponsor called " Save the Village Pond", he was asked to take over as Vice-President Public Affairs for Ford in Canada. Two years later he was back in Britain as Vice-President, Public and Government Affairs, Ford of Europe. He was also for many years a member of the board of Ford of Britain.

In retirement he became more involved with the College as one of the OF members of the governing body. He designed and oversaw the publication of Leslie Gillett's books, *The Second Sixty Years*, which brought the College history up to date and *Remembered Days* celebrating the Society's centenary. He also redesigned and for almost a decade edited the Old Framlinghamian magazine. More recently he was responsible for the recollections of wartime life at the College entitled *Their Swords are in Your Keeping*. He is a Vice-President of the Society.

The above was kindly written by John.

