

Obituary



J.R. Godfrey by John Hawkins

Old Courtiers will be sad to hear of the recent passing of John Godfrey, former Deputy Head.

Most of John Godfrey`s career was at Ripley Court School. He joined the staff in about 1961 having previously taught at the Westminster Abbey Choir School. He had a Cambridge MA degree in Modern Languages and was appointed Head of French. In about 1965 he became Assistant Headmaster to W.M.Newte and retired at the age of 65 in 1992.

He was heavily involved with Ripley Court where apart from his teaching he ran the 1st X1 Cricket and Hockey and in the Winter Term the U11 Soccer. He compiled the school timetable and contributed to the administration of the School and supported the two headmasters under whom he served. He was a first class teacher and put in many hours beyond the call of duty.

In spite of being a disciplinarian he was affectionately known as "Ostrich" and always took the boarders to Richmond Ice Rink at weekends where he displayed his skating skills. Another highlight was the annual trip to France in the Summer where he took the leavers for the day "to improve their French"!

Out of school he was an excellent host and invited staff to his house from time to time. After retirement he was involved with the Church in Shalford. He is survived by his wife Joyce and by their two children, Simon and Jessica.