

Ian Senior

Hart 1951 – 56

Ian Senior spent much of his childhood in the Terrace, Sedbergh, now Carus House, which at that time was the home of Bill and Ruth Gairdner. Bill was Form Master, along with A E Hammer, of Modern Language Sixth. Ian's family moved to join the Gairdners during WW2 to escape the bombing raids of the South. As soon as the war ended Ian's family moved to Oxford. Ian went to the Dragon School where he was very happy. A particular highlight of his time was taking part in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. In 1951 he won a minor scholarship to Sedbergh and duly entered Hart House, under housemasters John Coldham and later Peter Madge. Ian progressed through school to the Modern Languages Six, winning various prizes on the way including school colours and the Peter Langwill prize for wood-wind.

At Sedbergh he enjoyed fives, and particularly delighted in competing for Hart House, and shot on the school eight. He came second in the Ten in 1956, the pinnacle of his running career. He was head of house in his last term, Spring 1956, and won a minor scholarship in French and German at Trinity College thanks, in his view, to the brilliant teaching of Gairdner and Hammer.

While at Sedbergh he joined the National Youth Orchestra and played flute and piccolo with them for three years under the inspired leadership of Dame Ruth Railton. He started National Service with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and after Eaton Hall was seconded to the 23rd Battalion of the King's African Rifles in Kenya. After Trinity and a year of teaching French at Hotchkiss School, Connecticut, he entered Post Office HQ, then part of the Civil Service. He took an MSc (Econ) at UCL and, having left Post Office HQ, he worked with the Economist Intelligence Unit and various economic consultancies. He published a number of papers and articles on postal and pharmaceutical matters. Ian co-wrote a number of musicals and always enjoyed entertaining gatherings of friends with his songs and guitar.

In 1961 he married Jenny Hicks. They divorced in 1993 but remained close friends throughout his life. Ian very much enjoyed attending the London OS reunions and was a proud member of the 1525 Legacy Society. He is survived by two sons, Richard and Mark.