

JOHN FREDERIC CAPPS (R46-53)

The following was sent in by Malvern Tipping OF at the time of John's death :

I have just taken a call from Ian Capps, the managing director of Thurton Foundries Limited in Norfolk, which does castings for our cliff railway in Shropshire. Ian, who is not an OF, is the younger son who took over the running of the foundry from his father about 15 years ago.

Ian has telephoned to advise that John died last night aged 79. As you will know, John organized the Norfolk OF suppers for many years, only giving up in recent years due to dementia. For the last couple of years he had been in a care home at Bungay.

John had been a keen hockey player at the college. His interest in hockey remained with him for the rest of his life and he spent many years as a referee in Norfolk. I got to know John about 25 years ago when on attending at Thurton Foundries to place an order for a casting, my eye was caught by some leaflets on Norfolk windmills. His son, Ian, explained that John was chairman of what was then the Friends of Norfolk Windmills. When I explained that I was living in Framlingham at the time, Ian told me that his father was an Old Framlinghamian. John and I served for many years together on the committee of the Friends of Norfolk Windmills. We were the only two Britons to be made honorary members of the Friends of the Mallorcan Mills. As a result, in the 1990s we went on several trips to Mallorca together, always taking the heritage railway from Palma to Soller. John hosted a visit from our Mallorcan counterparts in Norfolk. I once had a coach party of Mallorcans in fits of laughter when I explained that John enjoyed his time as president of Loddon Ladies' Hockey Team.

John kept in touch with Norman Borrett for many years and remained good friends with his OF contemporaries: Norman Porter, Tim Askew and Roger Askew.

John was a Past-President of what then used to be known as the Institute of British Foundrymen. He was casting metals into his early 70s. John is survived by two sons and two daughters together with his loyal and hard-working wife Maureen, who did so much to help keep the foundry going during the difficult, early years.

Ian has requested that I ask you to notify SOF members. Funeral arrangements have yet to be made.

Attached is a photograph taken of the three of us in 2012 on the casting of a sheave pulley wheel for Bridgnorth Cliff Railway (Left to right: son Ian Capps, John Capps OF and Malvern Tipping).

