

## Dudlev Frank Wright

Dudley Frank Wright was born on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1935, at Colchester Lexden Maternity Hospital, the first born son of Frank and Mary Wright. Dudley was just four years old when during World War 11 he was evacuated to Kendal in Cumbria, where there was no enemy bombing. Here, he was looked after by his cousins in his aunt and uncle's house until it was safe to return home.

Until he was ten years old Dudley lived in the flat above the butchers shop in Crouch Street with his parents and his beloved Dachshund Rudolph or Rudi for short. The family then moved to "Scarletts" in Layer-De-La-Haye which had a beautiful garden, tennis court and cricket net.

Dudley began his schooling in Colchester at St Mary's, before joining the Royal Grammar School, and then Framlingham College in Suffolk as a boarder. At Framlingham Dudley met his lifelong best friend, David Mead.



Dudley was the older brother to Carolyn who was born when he was 15 years old. He lost touch with her several years ago and would write every Christmas without fail. Sadly he never received a reply which hurt him greatly.

In 1951 whilst at Framlingham, Dudley went to Catterick in Yorkshire with the Army Cadets for a weeks training. Conditions were very basic, and at the time there was a serious polio epidemic which Dudley contracted. After his recovery he returned to school, but was then struck down by a kidney disease which meant he was unable to complete his education.

Dudley's grandfather was the chief meat buyer for the Co-op. His father, Frank who was born in Halifax moved to Colchester in 1933, and bought 43 Crouch Street which then became Frank Wright & Son, following in his own dads footsteps.

Upon leaving school, Dudley joined his father at the family business. He excelled, and was soon managing the shop, charming customers, and establishing Frank Wrights as one of the most renowned and successful independent shops in Colchester.

Despite his own questionable cooking skills, Dudley was often heard giving culinary cooking advice to his customers, much to the amusement of those of us who knew he was quite capable of burning his own toast!

Dudley married his beautiful wife, Barbara in 1968 after a whirlwind courtship. They held their wedding reception at The Taibooth in Dedham, and then drove to Scotland for their honeymoon in a convertible TR7.

In 1971 they welcomed their son Roger, with their daughter Lucinda arriving two years later whilst Dudley was watching Ipswich Town play Wolves at Portman Road !

Dudley was sports mad and played table tennis for Essex and hockey for the Young Conservative Club. He also opened the batting for Colchester & East Essex, and it was no coincidence that he insisted that Lucinda was christened Lucinda Barbara Wright, the initials spelling LBW or Leg Before Wicket.

Dudley was a member of Colchester Golf Club, enjoyed squash, snooker, chess and in retirement regular games of bridge with good friends. He was also a season ticket holder at Ipswich Town and Colchester United and Charlton Athletic when he was growing up.

Dudley was never more content than sitting in his favourite chair with a glass of red, reading a good book, doing the crossword or watching sport on the TV.

In his latter years he enjoyed a sleep in his chair after lunch, which was always followed by a strong cup of tea (the teabag had to be left in) and a slice of cake. He had a seriously sweet tooth, so boxes of chocolates, biscuits and bags of sweets had to be hidden, or they would be eaten in one sitting!

Dudley adored his three grandchildren, Hugo, Edward & Ralph and was extremely proud of their achievements, however big or small. He was also very close to his son-in-law Robin who he admired greatly. He was a brilliant father, making many sacrifices and working long hours to ensure his children received the very best education.

Dudley was chivalrous, honorable, kind, generous, loyal and liked by all who were lucky enough to know him. He also had a wicked sense of humour, a trait he shared with his daughter.

With his health deteriorating, we take great comfort in knowing that Dudley is now at peace and once again meeting up with David and his many other good friends who are no longer with us.

The world has lost a true gentleman. We will miss him dearly.

