

Memories of John Leonard Wells - By Bill Hunstone

John and I were at Duppas Primary School which is on the Waddon Estate where we both lived, he in Barrow Road and me in Coldharbour Way.

John was a year older than me and when he left to go to Lanfranc we kept in touch mainly due to his interest in the School's various sports. To be honest, I was never keen on sport but I remember one occasion when one of the teachers told me I had to write about the school cricket team and then read it out to the whole school at assembly on a Monday morning.

To a young boy this was a daunting task and I was absolutely terrified at the prospect: John was at his front door the weekend before the dreaded Monday morning as I was walking from my parents house past his to go and play with my friends on Purley Way playing fields at the top of his road.

He was a really friendly boy and when I told him what I'd been asked to write, he told me to call back when we had finished playing and he wrote all about the team on both sides of a lined exercise book for me to read out at assembly. His only request (which he wrote at the end of his summary about the cricket team) was that I read out "THIS WAS WRITTEN BY JOHN WELLS. ONE OF DUPPAS'S OLD BOYS" which I happily did.

John Wells was a very likable and genuine boy and whenever I have to go to a cremation or burial at the cemetery in Mitcham I always stop at the memorial to the Lanfranc boys to pay my respects and daft as it may sound I still talk to him on those occasions.