

Tribute

Dugald Fleming Brown was born on 21st October 1943 in Bellshill, Lanarkshire, to May and Neil, and his siblings were Moira, Ian, Gail and Alex. May was clearly a full-time mother, and Neil, whose real first name was Cornelius was in the RAF during the Second World War but working on boats. He also worked for the Co-op and was a church elder in the Church of Scotland. Because Dugald was also his grandfather's name, our Dugald was often called Douglas at home and as an adult became plain Dug. The family moved to Tranent near Edinburgh and Dug attended Ross High School where he was a top student in all subjects and was also very sporty. The family used to go on holiday to the Norfolk Broads and it was here that Dug developed his love of sailing, inspired by his father. Very sadly Dug's dad Neil died in his early forties and it was thus that Dug took on responsibility for being the bread winner in the family and instead of going to university he joined the RAF aged seventeen, and was able to send money home.

Having signed up for nine years Dug trained in radar at RAF Locking before being posted to Berlin, where he spent his twenty-first birthday. After a brief period back in the UK, Dug then went to Singapore for two and a half years and it was here that he became part of a group of friends with whom he has remained in touch over the years. These were all people who shared Dug's passion for sailing and Dug won many awards in sailing during this time.

His final posting for nine months was back in the UK, on the Kintyre RAF base at Machrihanish. Tana happened to be visiting family in July 1970 and it was here that she met Dug who was out with Tana's friend Margaret. Tana said it wasn't love at first sight but almost, particularly as Dug bought her a double vodka. She thought he was great fun and at the time a Michael Caine look-a-like and a few weeks later when they met at a party Dug's first impression that she was pretty special was confirmed.

They went to a concert in August 1970 and unbeknown to Tana, Dug kept the tickets and presented them to her in a silver frame for their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, with the inscription which said that his five shilling investment then, had paid dividends many times over. They were married in June 1971, spent their week's honeymoon in Tana's parents' caravan on Kintyre and lived in a flat in Edinburgh for a year.

Dug had decided on retail for a job after leaving the RAF and as there was a postal strike at the time the job in the electrical department of Curry's had more or less chosen him rather than the other way round. Thus began the career which was to see Dug work for Curry's, Fine Fare, Gateway and Somerfield, in different towns all over the UK although the family's home remained for the most part in Dunfermline, where Duncan was born in 1978. Tana said that Dug was a wonderful dad, hands-on and completely smitten with his son and she was very soon aware that she was no longer Dug's favourite.

Holidays were always spent on Kintyre, in their own static caravan from 1990, fishing, playing golf but chiefly pottering about in the sailing boat that Dug had spent a winter building in their garage, in the hope that he and Duncan would enjoy this passion together. Although Duncan loved the water and swimming and fishing he never did

take to sailing so pottering about was what they continued to do. The community on the caravan park was a firm band of families who grew to know and love each other very much and they have spent over forty years socialising, laughing, singing, eating and drinking together, supporting each other's hard times, such as Duncan's illness when he was ten and celebrating each other's successes, his university place aged eighteen.

When his brother Ian died in his forties, Dug was reminded of his dad's early death and he made a bid to become fitter. The whole family joined the Moray Road Runners in Elgin and Dug ran his first marathon in Elgin, another in Glasgow and twenty years ago did the London Marathon, hampered somewhat by having cracked ribs. He also did many half-marathon races. He bought a metal detector and the family searched for treasure in the ancient settlements near Campbelltown.

Dug's final position with Somerfield was in the Head Office in Bristol when he was running the car fleet and he and Tana were able to buy their house 'Kismet' in Wookey twenty years ago in 1997. They have made a happy life in the village, socialising, playing skittles, Dug has been a school governor at Wookey School going each year, dressed in his Lamont tartan, to teach the children about Burns' Night, and initiating them in the taste of haggis. Dug loved children, had a natural affinity with them and was delighted when Duncan and Angela had two children of their own, his grandchildren Freya and Ben.

Dug had always enjoyed art although at school it wasn't considered a subject to take seriously and it had remained a hobby. As Dug was ambi-dextrous he did fine work with his left hand and the heavier strokes with his right. Dug could also write with both hands at the same time, from different edges of the paper. His home is full of watercolour originals or prints of his work done over many years, but particularly in his retirement, when he was sixty-one. He has done beautiful watercolour paintings of the cathedral, prints of which have resulted in good sales for their coffers.

Dug had been living with diabetes since 1992, then, nine years ago had a quadruple heart by-pass. He took to the gym again and was always interested in monitoring what he was putting into his body. Four years ago, he was aware that his memory was beginning to cause him problems and in hindsight this was the beginning of vascular dementia which has become more challenging for himself and his family over the last few years. Having gone to Torrwood eighteen months ago, Dug has lived a contented life, with dignity, popular and friendly, a gentleman to the end.