

A celebration of life

James Drewery

1927 - 2019

2 pm, 15th May 2019, Exeter Crematorium

*a personal goodbye*

Humanist  
Ceremonies

Jim was born in Aberdeen in 1927 where he grew up with his sisters Dorothy and Lydia. He had an especially close relationship with Dorothy. On leaving Robert Gordon College, Jim did his National Service with the Gordon Highlanders based in Somaliland where, he said, the Somalis ran rings round them all. He achieved a first class degree in psychology at Aberdeen University and then started his career in clinical psychology which took him to Belfast, Edinburgh and Dumfries before he arrived in Exeter in 1974. His therapeutic work, leadership and teaching were underpinned by his desire to make a lasting difference to those in distress and to enhance and promote their well-being – but more on this from Gilli shortly.

Jim's activities on land and water shaped the pattern of the years - he taught Janice to sail and she became a very skilled and indispensable crew member. There were walking trips between Christmas and New Year; skiing in February; sailing in the spring and fishing in the summer. And later, when Jim lost his mobility, Janice ensured Jim got a change of scene down at St Columb Major. And he always enjoyed visits from his family. And it's from Jim's family that we hear first.



#### *Remembering Jim – Barbara*

It is an honour to be able to speak about my dad, Jim, on behalf of my sisters today.

Throughout his life and right to its end he showed tremendous courage, grit and determination. It was amazing how he managed the latter years of his life with such endless patience, grace and goodwill, remaining thankful and positive in the most trying of circumstances.

He was generous of spirit; had great intelligence, dignity, courtesy and a real sense of humour.

As his daughters we grew up and spent many happy holidays in our seaside caravan at Cardoness on the Solway Firth in Scotland.

Possibly as a result of this, we all have sought the sea whenever possible, and have all found ourselves living by the sea.

He leaves us all with a rich legacy of a love of great hospitality, good food and wine. We all remember many happy celebrations at Woodbine Terrace around superb food (courtesy of Janice) and good music.

He had a strong love of natural beauty. His love of fishing, sailing and skiing has percolated down through the generations.

He was married to Janice for nearly 40 years. Theirs was a true love story. Thankfully, they enjoyed some very good and happy years; sailing, walking, skiing and going on fishing adventures, Mediterranean holidays and developing their beautiful home in Woodbine Terrace.

I was fortunate to be able to join them for a short time on their first venture abroad, in their beautiful boat 'Therapeutic'. We left the shores of Plymouth one misty morning and I spent a wonderful couple of weeks with them, firstly crossing the English Channel to Douarnenez in France, going down the coast to Bordeaux and then entering the canal system. It was an amazing adventure and I remember so well, pouring over the charts with dad, getting excited about the different ports we were to visit and then entering a new port and exploring the sites and the restaurants! A wonderful trip.

Sadly 15 years ago, ill health started to limit Jim's life. As his cruel condition increasingly impacted his life and reduced his independence, Janice gradually and sensitively increased her care with real ingenuity as she found ways of helping him. She always anticipated his needs and put in place the next level of care at exactly the right time.

As a family we haven't sufficient words to describe her loving thoughtful devotion to him which allowed him to remain at home for more years than we could have ever imagined possible.

The family are so very appreciative of the carers from Surecare, Gail in particular, who supported Jim so well at home for many years. Eventually after years of care at home, he required 24 hour support. He was offered a place at Dales nursing home and we are very grateful to the staff there who cared for him. Your kindness and skill towards Jim and us all as a family, at such a difficult time, was valued by us all.

Memory of Jim's courage and dignity, his sense of humour and lovable nature will remain with us always.

He influenced all of us here in different ways, and he always encouraged us to achieve and be the best we could be. His legacy is personal to all of us and he leaves a big Jim sized hole in our hearts.



### *Reflections on Jim's professional life – Gilli Watson*

In reflecting on Jim's professional life I have held in mind colleagues and friends who also worked with Jim and knew his work.

I feel very privileged to have trained on the clinical psychology Course established by Jim in Exeter and very grateful to have learned the professional practice of clinical psychology that Jim advocated.

Jim was passionate about psychology and about people. He was passionate about the good that psychology could bring to people. He was deeply committed to establishing clinical psychology as a strong profession on a par with psychiatry that could offer psychological understandings of difficulties and distress.

As trainees, Jim expected us to speak up for psychology, to represent psychology powerfully in the services we worked in and to challenge medical views in ward rounds, with colleagues, in team meetings. As trainees this was a challenge for us and to us. So our training with Jim was a powerful lesson in finding our voice as psychologists and in using our voice – one that has stayed with me throughout my professional life. With Jim we were taught the practice and value of therapy – not the manualised depersonalised therapy that was being developed elsewhere – but psychological therapy that did justice to peoples lived experience and distress and that offered healing and recovery. We were invited by Jim to look at what we brought from our own lives to psychology – Jim was a very early advocate of Reflective Practice well before it was included in other training courses.

With Jim Orford joining Jim in Exeter, bringing his expertise in Community Psychology, the two Jim's together offered a training course that was unique in the country demonstrating psychology's role in both individual and in social change – both were very important to Jim.

Jim also was head of the Exeter Department of Clinical Psychology and attracted many senior psychologists from around the country to work with him in establishing psychological services across Devon including for people with learning disabilities, for older adults, for children and families, for adults in mental health services. Jim ran an open and progressive department – he was keen that psychologists continued to learn and grow professionally and encouraged ongoing training, journal clubs, seminars. He welcomed non-psychologists and encouraged debate and discussion across professions.

It was a department in which Janice was also a leader as Head of Child and Family Psychology – this could have been problematic – but they managed themselves with profound professionalism and dignity and were a strong team together.

Jim's legacy in clinical psychology is rich and full – he was a pioneer at the forefront of establishing the profession of clinical psychology; he was a pioneer at the forefront of developing training in clinical psychology establishing the first training programme in Edinburgh, helping to set up the first programme in Glasgow and setting up the Training Programme in Exeter, all of which continue strongly today; he was a leader in the profession.

Jim's influence as a psychologist will live on in the many people in Devon who benefited from the Psychological Services his department established, in the many people he worked with as clients, as colleagues, as trainees who became trainers, supervisors and practitioners of Jim's kind of psychology.

Many colleagues I know will want to join me in acknowledging the enormous gratitude to Jim for what we have learned from him as a trainer, as a head of psychology and, very importantly, as a person.



### *Remembering Jim – Janice*

It has been heart-warming to hear how much Jim was loved by the family and how esteemed and respected he was by his colleagues and trainees. There have been tributes to Jim's courage and cheerfulness, there were of course dark moments when dealing with his condition was challenging for us both. However, his generosity of spirit always won through. His life became extremely constrained but he did not begrudge any opportunities I had to meet friends, attend concerts or

take short breaks away. And he encouraged me to do so. He was interested in what I was doing and he would like to hear all about what had happened.

Jim loved to have news of the welfare of his grandchildren and supported their life choices. He was delighted to see his great grandchildren. Lorna and Will, India Rose. He was able to see photos of baby Noah.

Those things that he was still able to do, he enjoyed. Follow the news when I read the paper to him, watch sports on TV in the afternoon, listen to audiobooks of the adventures of Jack Reacher or of Captain Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin.

His patient acceptance of his situation enabled him to take pleasure in these activities.

I feel it important that we should take inspiration from that ever present joy in life that he had to the last. Our best way of remembering him is to seize the day and enjoy life to the full, and this in the coming years I will endeavour to do.

We had over forty years of life and love together and I mourn his loss. I shall miss his welcoming smile and embrace.

He was the great love of my life and he will be in my heart forever.