



W. Bro Duncan Moore 1946 – 2013

I am indebted to Cathy and the family, with assistance from Simon Barter, for the information contained within this eulogy. Since Duncan John was known by both his Christian names at various times in his life, I shall, at Cathy's request, use them both today.

Duncan John Moore was born in London on 21st July 1946, was adopted at six weeks of age and moved to Litherland in Lancashire. Litherland remained an Urban District Council until 1974 and Duncan John was always proud to see himself as a Lancastrian rather than a Liverpoolian. He was an exceptionally gifted youngster and secured a scholarship to Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby – one of the 'nine great schools' in England – where he excelled as a student. It was here that his life-long passion for history developed.

After leaving school he worked at the family garage before starting his own haulage firm. He spent some time in Wales where he embraced the Welsh culture and became fluent in the Welsh language. He subsequently worked for Cammell Laird, the shipbuilders, and John Moores, part of the Littlewoods group before working for Knowsley and finally Liverpool City Council, where he met Cathy.

Duncan John and Cathy were married in Cyprus in 2006 and moved to the island in 2007. His love of the island began when he would visit his son Tommy and daughter Lesley, who were both stationed here with the army. His grand-daughter Catherine was born in Larnaca hospital. He always said that Cyprus was not a place where you visited only once. He loved the nature of the people and the culture of the island and became fluent in Greek.

He had fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In 1969, Duncan John married Susan, and they had a son, David. Although the marriage ended Duncan John saw David often and loved and supported him.

Initiated into Freemasonry in Cheshire in 1971, he commenced a career in Masonry that saw him hold Grand Rank, or equivalent, in most Masonic Orders. He became active in several Provinces and was a member of the Knight Masons of Ireland and was active in Scotland and Belgium.

With his interest in history and symbolism, Freemasonry was a perfect science for him and his involvement in research led him to publish articles for Masonic journals as well as submitting papers to Merseyside and Manchester Associations for Masonic Research. He wrote many histories of Craft Lodges, including his most recent for Othello here in Larnaca, and became a regular contributor to 'The Square' magazine in addition to writing two books. He also helped others to develop their skills by holding writers' workshops in his home.

In 1977, a Brother in his lodge brought his daughter to a Masonic function and Duncan John was introduced to her. Lilian became his wife and she had four children already whom Duncan John loved and treated as his own. Sadly, Lilian died thirteen years ago.

Duncan John started his own regalia company in the mid-1990s. With his in-depth knowledge and many contacts it became a successful business. His enthusiasm for Freemasonry inspired both Lilian and Cathy to become Lady Freemasons. They both thought "If you can't beat them, join them".

In his forties he met his natural family – one sister and three brothers – only to find that his brother was a Mason and they had a mutual friend, Jim Greenwood, whom many of you will remember with great affection. Duncan John was an avid Freemason in the Craft, Royal Arch, Mark, Royal Ark Mariners, Knights Templar, St Thomas of Acon, Allied Masters,

Rose Croix and others, and as I mentioned earlier, held very senior office in all degrees.

He was never very good at practical things, says Cathy, he could not bang a nail into a wall without hitting his thumb or knocking down the wall, but, there are very few Masonic scholars who could hold a light to his Masonic knowledge.

Some people were intimidated by this knowledge and regarded him as aloof, but those who really got to know the man saw a funny, gentle, caring, knowledgeable, witty and generous man who freely gave his time in support of others.

Of course, we all have our faults and foibles and Duncan John was no exception – he supported Chelsea – never forgetting his roots. My personal recollections would inevitably focus upon the tremendous ability that Duncan John had to retain and deliver the ritual which is an essential ingredient in all Masonic ceremonies. Coupled with his knowledge and wealth of experience of many orders and many different locations, this ability set him aside as exceptional and earned him the regard and admiration of those fortunate enough to have known and worked with him. His ever present sense of humour and a seemingly endless stock of anecdotes endeared him to us all.

Duncan John made a major contribution to Freemasonry in Cyprus, both when he visited the island and during his and Cathy's all too short period of residence. He will be sorely missed.

Delivered by Rob Cowin on behalf of the family on Monday 18th February 2013.