

George Holmes Cowie

12th July 1947 - 12th January 2007



Aberdeen Crematorium

West Chapel

Wednesday 24th January 2007



~ My Memories ~

Dear George

So many people loved you! I mean really loved you. Where does your family begin organising a tribute to a so loved and respected man? We thought that a few words from close representatives of each corner of your life would be fitting.

Love you always S



This is death and this is how it goes.
There goes life flying out the window.
But come what will and come what goes.
Whatever is night is as intelligible as the grass grows.

George (Jnr)

—◆◆◆—

You were the best Dad, the best workmate, the best boss
and the best friend that I could ever have hoped for.

I will love you and miss you always.

Danny

—◆◆◆—

Dad, you were the best and will be sorely missed by us both.

Love forever

Hazel and Darren x

—◆◆◆—

Connor Cadger & Luke the lug will miss grumpy granda
and his wind ups always x



George was the best big brother anyone could ever have, I loved him, admired him, and was so proud of him.

My life will never be the same again.

Rob

Uncle George you asked me to sing today in fact it became a running joke between us, I would love to have been able to do this for you but I know that I won't be able to keep it together. You have been inspiring, kind and generous to me and my sisters. We all have fantastic memories to cherish of times we shared together. We all love you and deeply miss you.

Sarah, Danielle, Hannah and Elise.xxxx

Substitute father, Leslie Terrace - outside toilet! Pitmedden - Cowies Parties, "Jump the Plane is on Fire"! Warning off my first boyfriend, gave me my first job, enabled me to buy my first car, warning off my husband, Boxing Day, champagne, and most importantly the most honest, loving, caring, funniest man I will ever meet and best of all he was my Uncle!

Nikki - Neice

George and I have been, successively, colleagues, friends and finally brothers in law over the last 40 years and have never had a cross word in any of these capacities.

George was one of the good guys who you could always count on. A spade was called a spade, telephone calls were short and to the point and meetings were for actually taking decisions. You don't meet many like that now.

If given the choice between accepting a multi page, legally binding document, guaranteed by legal advisors or a handshake from George, there would be no contest as to which I would rely on.

George, I will miss you.

Ian W Strachan - Brother in Law

George was the most generous, sociable, supportive and loving person anyone could ever hope to meet. He was also a funny, funny man.

We go back a long, long way. Being cousins as well as friends, George has been part of our lives since birth. Growing up in Mastrick, the three of us lived within a mile of each other.

Early memories include a trip to Perth with parents, Sunday school picnics, George's Dad's home-made ginger beer and ice cream on Sunday visits, 'play' or 'funny' fighting behind the couch (from George's Mum - 'are they in earnest?' - sometimes we were), the Life Boys, adventures in the 'Mastrick Woodies', BB pitches on Tuesday nights in summer, the Boys' Brigade and our wonderful BB football team (George, of course, was team captain), camping at Potarch ('shooting the rapids' - our crude Blues song composed and sung with gusto in the late evening under the bridge, especially the last line), BB dancing on Saturday nights (embarrassed and embarrassing attempts to 'trap'), early Stones records on a Dansette portable record player on Sunday afternoons (sadly George's musical taste regressed in later life), his Dad, also George, passing away at 54 (George was only 18), Hogmanay at Arnage Drive, the quiz at the Beach on Sunday evenings, the Palace on a Saturday (having graduated from BB dancing), Sunday evenings in the Royal Hotel (four pints for 10 bob), George's home brew and under-age drinking, our unforgettable two weeks camping in Cornwall in 1966 with George driving Harry's Dad's work van (the three of us - we thought we were so cool - the Pretty Things at the Marine Ballroom, scrumpy, adventures with local 'talent' and a drubbing at a seven-a-side football competition), and the ups and downs of the early years of George and Sheila.

George and Sheila started seeing each other when very young (he was 17 and she was 14). There were a few on and offs at first, probably because they were surprised at, and perhaps even scared by, the depth of feeling that they had for each other. But this was not just teenage infatuation. He was devoted to Sheila and she was only ever the only one for him.

We were 'Best Men' at their wedding.

Then there was the house building at Pitmedden, George's annual select team against the local amateurs harassing friends and acquaintances to get a team together - 'It was dark and I was a wee bit boozy' being the excuse for failing to recognise Alex McLeish if he had played before and who he had played for (Scotland was Alex's reply), the birth and development of their wonderful children and happy, eclectic house parties at Pitsruan Place and Westholme Crescent. George loved to host parties and had quite a number of party tricks, many borrowed from his Uncle.

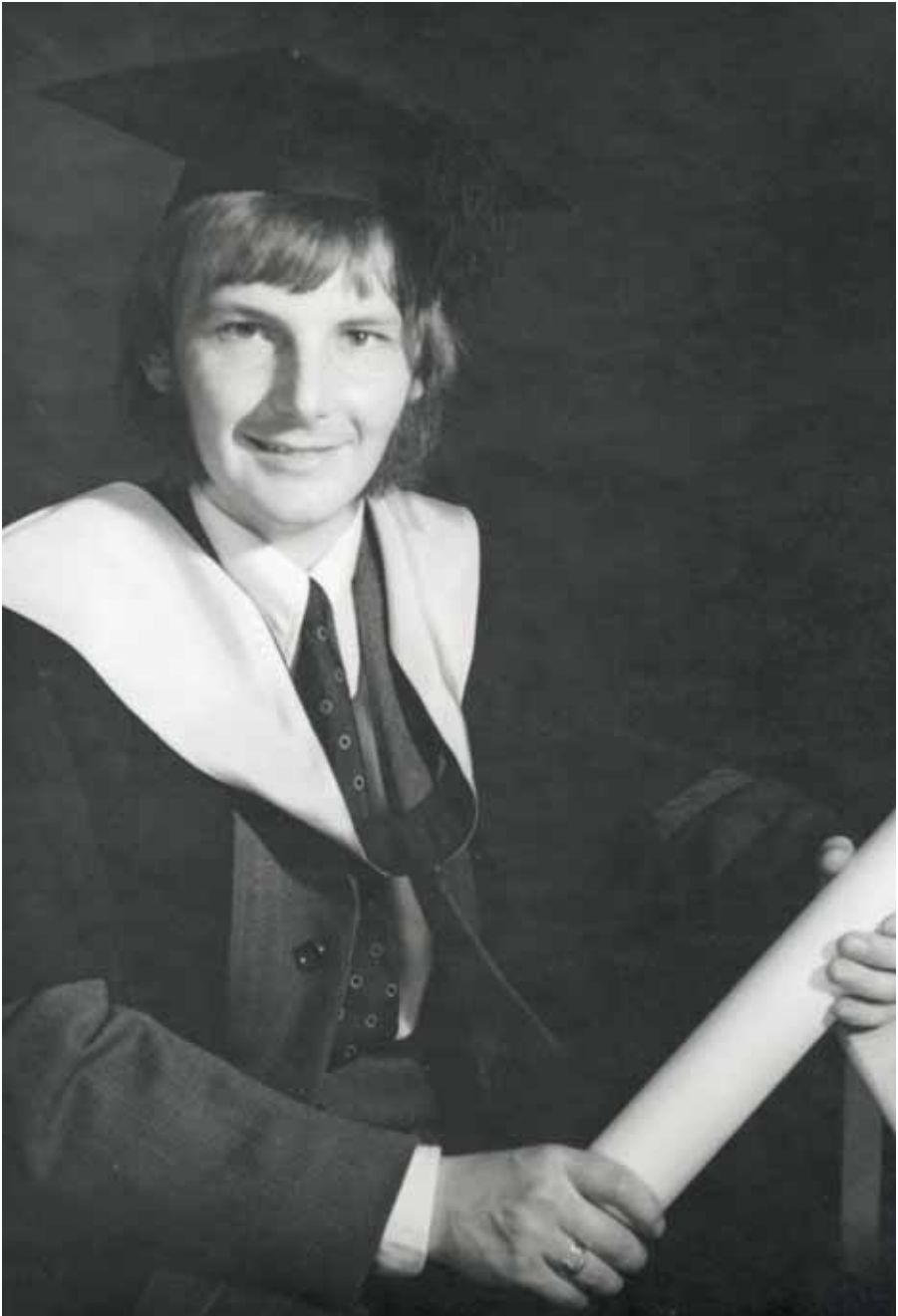
Although sharp as a tack and shrewd in business, George was a simple man with relatively simple tastes and an infectious love of life. He was happy and he made other people happy. He was devoted to Sheila and lived for his family. The extended family was also important to George and he loved nothing better than to bring us together.

We know little of George's business life but what we do know is that the same values that underpinned his personal and family life shaped how he ran his companies. He loved people and people loved him. But he was nobody's fool and woe betide anyone who thought they could take advantage of his generosity and affable nature.

George was strong, brave and true. Since August, when we first heard that he was so ill, not a day has gone by in which Sheila, Georgie, Danny and Hazel have not been in our thoughts. And they always will be.

George was a big part of our lives. We will miss him always.

Mike & Harry - Cousins and Best Men at George and Sheila's Wedding



George's Graduation 1968.

"...in you all my dreams come true" - The Pogues

In Sheila and the kids all George's dreams came true.
When God takes someone away from us He leaves something special;
Something to hold on to, something to cherish and sustain us.
George Cowie was one of the most generous people who ever lived.
We warmed to his strength and depth of character.
He had much to boast about but not such a word passed his lips.
In life we loved him, in death we mourn him.
Such a life does not pass this way very often. Those of us who knew him were the lucky ones.
So long but not goodbye.

The Thursday Prince Of Wales crowd

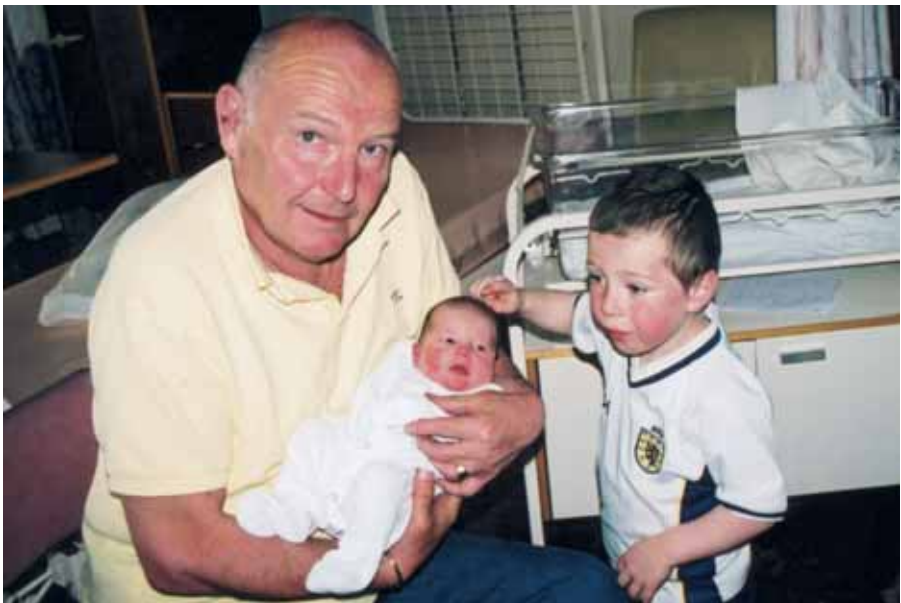
We have known George for over 40 years through good times, bad times, sober times and quite a few drunken times. In all that time George always looked on the positive side of life, never complaining about his lot and was always willing to lend a hand in everything from child minding to house building. We feel privileged to call him a friend as well as a special brother-in-law and uncle.

Jim, Pete & Families

"For it matters not how much we own- the cars, the house, the cash what matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash!

For George the cars, the cash did not matter but he lived and loved that is how he spent his dash".

Adam, Lynde Bremner & Family



George with his Grandchildren.

~ Service ~

Rev. Ian Aitken

Hymn

By cool Siloam's shady rill

By cool Siloam's shady rill
how fair the lily grows!
How sweet the breath, beneath the hill,
of Sharon's dewy rose!

Lo! such the child whose early feet
the oaths of peace have trod,
whose secret heart, with influence sweet,
is upward drawn to God.



~ Speakers ~

George Cowie
(Jnr)

Dennis Sherriffs
(Cousin)

Bill Grant
(Best Pal)

~ Desiderata ~

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater or lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career; however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is. Many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is a perennial as the grass. Take kindly the council of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. You have a right to be here, and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

Found in Old St. Paul's Church Baltimore 1692

Hymn
By cool Siloam's shady rill

By cool Siloam's shady rill
the lily must decay;
the rose that blooms beneath the hill
must shortly fade away.

O thou, whose infant feet were found
within thy Father's shrine,
whose years with changeless virtue crowned,
were all alike divine.

Dependent on thy bounteous breath,
we seek thy grace alone,
in childhood, manhood, age, and death
to keep us still thine own.



~ List of Songs ~

You'll Never Walk Alone - Gerry & the Pacemakers

Coronation Street Theme
(he never missed an episode)

Honey - Bobby Goldsboro

A Pair of Brown Eyes - The Pogues



George and John Coutts having a Printagraph Board Meeting at Skibo Castle.

George Holmes Cowie
Read
Generous Honest Caring

Bill Lumsden - James Aiken Sheetmetal

George to me Dod to some and Cowie to others
Partner and friend but more like a brother
A churchillian figure filled with vigour
With a zest for life like no other
Forever forward not looking back
Tough yet soft honest and true
This is the George I knew

Neil Stewart - James Aiken Sheetmetal & Jasmine Holdings

A unique business partner and Chairman, his integrity and support never wavered. His abilities in seeing the best in people provided all the encouragement needed. As well as a business colleague, he was a good friend and always there to listen and give advice. George was an exceptional person and behind him a wonderful family.

John Scott & Danny Donald - Aiken Group



George,

Through tears and laughter we not only built a house and a company, but more importantly we built a friendship that would last forever. A friendship that would never die. Precious memories, never forgotten. Always in our thoughts

Love always

Meg Coutts and Family xx

Printagraph are extremely privileged in having George as our Chairman for the past twenty-odd years. Not just because of his brilliant Business and Accountancy skills but also for his trust, honesty and support.

As individuals we are all richer for having known him, and benefited from his wisdom. There was always an air of confidence, happiness and sharing when you spoke with George, either on the shop floor, on the golf course or having a relaxing drink. There was never a hidden agenda, and you got exactly what it said on the tin.

We will all miss George but his memory will remain with us forever.

Ian Park & Charlie Leslie - Printagraph

George, you may not have been the biggest in the year, but you were a giant of playground fitba, a colossus of a friend, and your passing will leave a huge gap at all of our reunions... and you still haven't admitted that it was you, who tied Norman Edwards shoelaces to his desk in Mr. Nicolson's maths class!

Dave Yule on behalf of Aberdeen Grammar School years 1951-65

I got to know him well in the 1970's as his banker when he bought James Aiken along with Neil. Our business relationship continued for the next 30 years. George was decisive and capable of making tough decisions and could never be accused of prolonging meetings or waffling!

Socially George and Sheila and their family, were generous hosts and wonderful company. George was a competitive and fair sportsman and when the game was over his arm was extended in genuine friendship. In recent years croquet joined golf as his active sport and he introduced a new half and full time tradition. He served port to all of the players from a crystal decanter. We thought it made a change from the half time orange we were accustomed to in our football days.

I believe the reason George was held in such affection was that he liked people and respected others. I will miss a great friend.

Charles Henderson - Financial Advisor, Henderson Financial

To me, George was someone that I looked up to.

I loved his laid back manner, his business sense and the way that he was committed to his family as they were to him.

I'll miss you George.

Len Hubert- Aberdeen Radiators and ARL Brightstar

So many happy memories for over 30 years.
We'll miss you so much.

Jim, Terry, Kim & Laura

George - your "Nae awa tae bide awa".

Love from The Clarks

Uncle George was one in a million. He loved a good party, and always made sure that no-one ever had an empty glass. Boxing Day will always be your day to us. Love you always.

Jonathan and Natalie

So many happy times with George over the years. Christmas Day will never quite be the same. We'll miss you but always remember.

Muriel, Eddie, Martin, Nick and Jo

Uncle George,
Thank you for the happy times, particularly the riotous Boxing Day parties!
We'll miss you.

Simon and Ben Smith

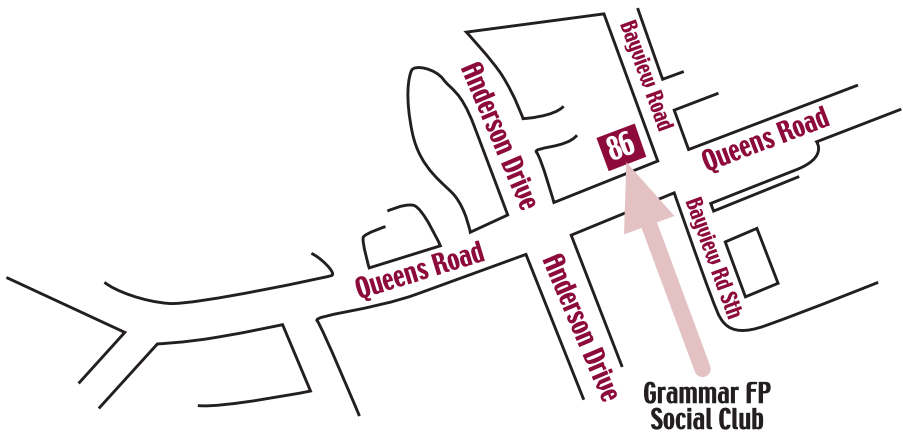


George with cousins, Harry and Mike.



~ Funeral Tea ~

George always said that he wanted today to be a Celebration of his Life. The Cowie Family would be honoured if you could join them for refreshments (and of course Champagne!) at the Grammar F.P. Club following the service.



The Cowie Family would like to thank all friends, family and colleagues for their incredible support throughout George's illness.

We'd also like to thank Doctor Stark and all at Victoria Street Medical Group, all of the Staff from the Anchor Unit and Doctor Carle and Staff at Roxburghe House for their professionalism and compassion while George was in their care.

There will be collection boxes for local Cancer care at the Grammar F.P. Club.



'Dad took news so bravely it helped us all'

George, 59, loses battle with cancer



HAPPY TIMES: George Cowie with his family a week before the diagnosis. Back, son-in-law Darren. Middle, from left, Connor, Sheila, Danny, daughter-in-law Ang. Front, George, George junior, Luke and Hazel.

A POPULAR city businessman has died after losing his battle with cancer.

George Cowie, 59, was diagnosed with the illness in August and was told it was terminal.

The cancer then spread from his gut into his bones and liver.

Today his family spoke of their fond memories of the grandfather-of-two, who died at Roxburghe House with his loved ones by his side.

His son Danny, 30, said: "He was such a great guy and he took the news of the diagnosis so well.

"I think the fact that he handled it so bravely helped us all through it."

George owned Jasmine Holdings and through the company was a major

By Suzanne Mackie

shareholder and chairman of four Aberdeen businesses.

He was involved with Printagraph, a printing company based in Berryden; James Aiken Sheet Metal, a fabrication, precision engineering and

ventilation company based in Wellington Street; Finesse, a limousine and industrial coatings company based in Cotton Street; and the Aiken Group, an engineering company based in Waterloo Quay.

George lived with wife Sheila, 56, in Westholme Crescent North in Hazlehead. The couple have two other children - George junior, 34, and Hazel, 30.

George and Sheila took grandchildren, Connor, 8, and Luke, 4, to Lapland in December.

Danny said: "It was really from then his condition deteriorated but he wanted to do it."

After his diagnosis, George whisked Sheila off to Rome.

Danny said: "When he got the diagnosis he set his mind on taking those two holidays."

George lost his fight for life on Friday.

His funeral will be held on January 24, 10.25am, at Aberdeen Crematorium's West Chapel.

"He was such a great guy"