

Arthur Duncan Waugh 1923 - 2013

Arthur Duncan Waugh was born in Simla, India, the middle one of three children. He never forgot the Urdu he learnt and used it during his war service.

He was a scholar of Rugby and then Merton College, Oxford. In 1941, after a year at Merton, he joined the army and volunteered to serve in India, where his father was still serving in the ICS. He was then sent to Persia due to his facility with languages.

He returned to Merton after the war and finished his degree in Greats. After completing an intensive Arabic course he went out to the Sudan. During this period he met Daphne on Victoria station and began a relationship that ended in over 62 years of marriage, five children, four grandchildren, wonderful sons and daughters-in-law and a host of lasting friendships.

Duncan and Daphne married in 1950 and went back to the Sudan. It was a very different life for both of them, with Duncan away a lot as a District Officer and Daphne stuck in the middle of a strange country on her own.

Always intrepid, Duncan and Daphne decided to drive back from the Sudan to the UK in a Vauxhall, with two young children. Duncan had a wealth of stories to tell about that trip and had an obvious love for the people and the country of the Sudan. He was very pleased to be invited back by the Sudanese government for the



jubilee celebration of independence in 2006. Back in the UK they bought a house in Woking before going abroad again to Kenya. After five years in Nairobi they returned home for good. After renovating the house he took up a new hobby - constructing the lean-to using whatever materials he could scavenge.

Settled back in the UK Duncan started working for 'The Office' (MI5), which he continued to do until retirement and beyond. Not an ambitious man, his knowledge, great memory and linguistic ability meant he rose up the ranks to the place where he felt happy. He loved his work but did not talk about life at the office, believing that serving the Queen and country was sufficient.

And then they moved to Shipton - a happy decision; it is the place where they lived longest. They could not have been made more welcome. Duncan loved field-walking and attending the history society, participating in the pantomimes and barber shop quartet and singing with the Wychwood Singers. He enjoyed reunions at Rugby and Merton, OED meetings at Oxford or going up to town to the theatre and the Royal Academy.

We all feel very grateful to have known such a clever, kind, thoughtful, occasionally stubborn, funny and gentle man.

Alan Waugh