

Lachie Drumfhraoich was born 84 years ago today at Druimfhraoich, the elder of <sup>two</sup>~~four~~ children, Mary being his sister. He attended Cornaig School and then having lost his father at the age of 11, went to Keil School Dumbarton as an early teenager where he gained many awards and prizes. He entered Stowe Collège Engineering in 1945 where his academic interest flourished.

He served in the Royal Navy but being a modest man, he never spoke much about his years there. After the Navy he joined the Met Office and during his time with the Met he was detached to different stations. Romance was in the air in 1965, he was engaged the following year to Flora and they were married in 1967. Before his marriage he had the offer of promotion which would have meant more detachment duty but turned it down as this would allow him to stay at Druimfhraoich with Flora.

Lachie kept sheep before he got married but with his wife & helper, cattle were added to the croft. Crofting and agriculture were important to him. He was the first in Tiree to acquire a Blue Faced Leicester tup and breeding mule ewes was a special interest. He was a good community man serving as Secretary to The Hall Committee and Agricultural Show Committee. He liked competing at the local show and if one of his mules won a prize, that was special to him. A member of the Scottish N.F.U. and Scottish Crofting Foundation meant that he could support the organisations that were fighting the crofting corner.

Lachie and Flora have been hosts for United Auctions buyers for many years and that company and some of the buyers are represented here today.

Lachie had his own meticulous way of doing things and was always happiest when he and Flora were doing a job themselves, be it dosing or shearing or whatever. They never fell out although they were very different in character, Lachie referring to Flora as Instant Whip.

When we arrived on Tiree 28 Years ago it was Lachie & Flora and Hector & Mairi Corrairigh who helped unload our worldly possessions from a pick-up at Kenovay to allow the vehicle to get back on the ferry in a 45minute turnaround. Lachie liked to help neighbours and although he had no children of his own he adored all young people and was a loving uncle to all his nephews and nieces. He was fond of all my family and took a keen interest in what they were doing no matter where in the world they happened to be.

Lachie Druimfhraoich was a one-off for all the best reasons. Having worked in crofting communities for 31 Years, I thought he was outstanding for his meticulous book-keeping, his honesty and integrity, his organisation and tidiness. He was unfailingly polite. Many a time when I couldn't find a specific drill bit or needed a spare fan belt my wife would say "Oh, I wish you were like Lachie". You see, Lachie knew where everything was and had spares for his spares. I wish I were like Lachie.

Although a regular worshipper in Tiree parish Church, he declined to become a full member, stating that he wasn't good enough. How many of us would measure up to Lachie?

An American golfer, famous for his modesty and humility once said of himself, "I Know a little about golf and know how to be a decent man." Lachie knew quite a lot about crofting and knew how to be a very decent man. Tiree has lost a true crofter and a valued member of the community. We will be much the poorer for his passing.