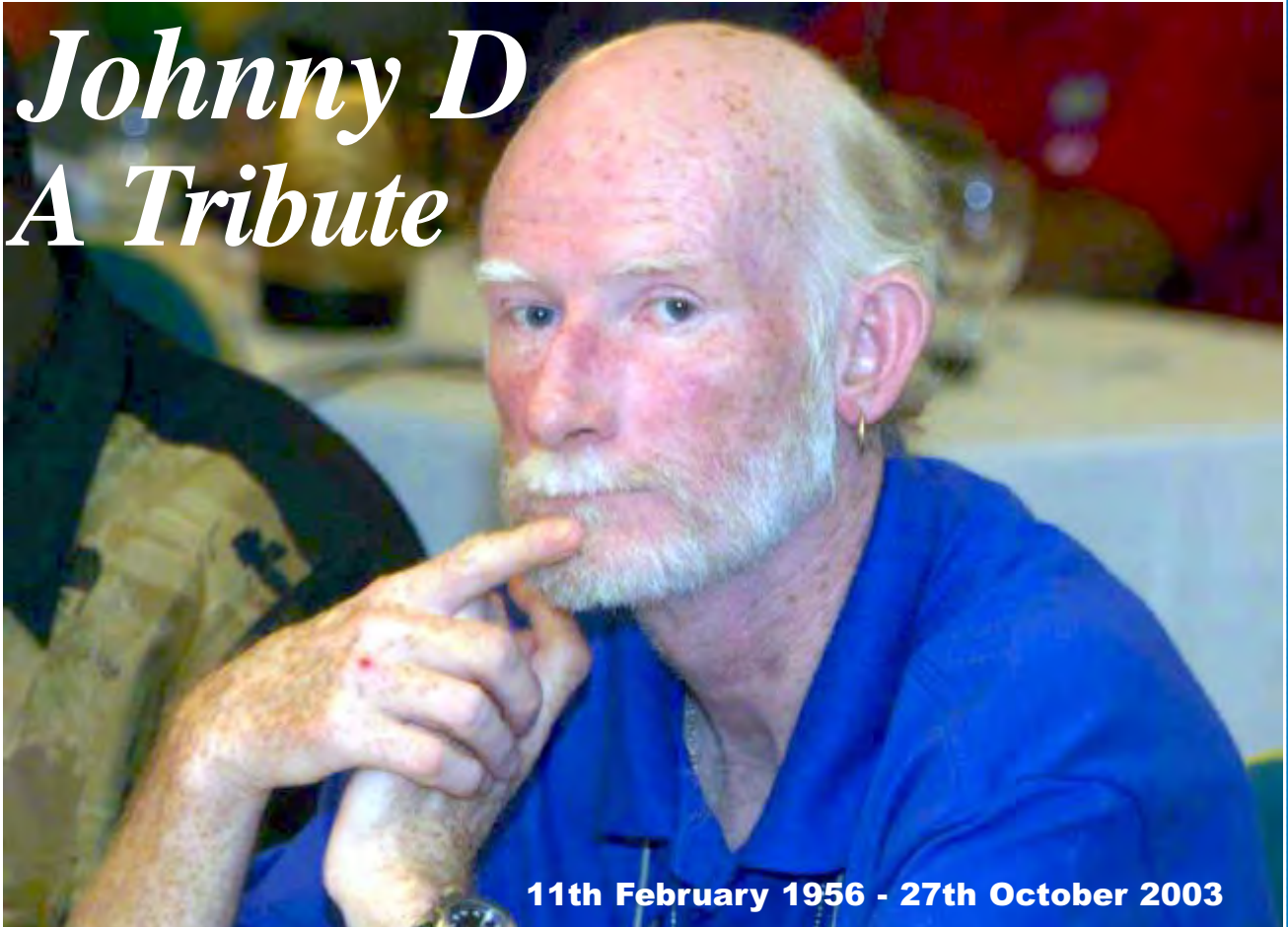


Johnny D A Tribute



11th February 1956 - 27th October 2003

John Drummond was born in Hong Kong on 11th February 1956. He was the son of Margaret and Gilbert Drummond. His father was working for Cable & Wireless at the time and the family moved around the world to Mr Drummond's different postings. The family also consisted of Johnny's half siblings – George, Gavin and Jane. They were a bit older than Johnny and were, when they became of age, placed in boarding schools in UK, and came to visit their brother and their parents during holidays. One of Mr Drummond's postings was Zanzibar, a small island outside East Africa. Johnny often talked about Zanzibar and its beauty and its people. Here Johnny found his first love – the housemaid's daughter. They were both three-and-a-half years old. Johnny always said that he learnt a lot from Zanzibar, things like respecting people without thinking about colour, religion, race or their status in the society. The respect and genuine care was something that followed Johnny through his entire life and created the foundation for his entire being.

After only a few years, it was Johnny's time to go to boarding School in the family's native Scotland. He never spoke in many positive words about the school. Johnny was not a person suited for uniformity, strict school discipline and limited scope for creativity. He often told stories about the dreaded freezing cold dormitories, where

the young boys from similar circumstances as Johnny, with parents working in far-away countries, laid shivering under the bed covers silently crying – longing for home. There were also more positive memories, the boys' appetite for bubble-and-squeak and the fierce fighting over who should get the caramelised, thick residue from the bottom of the huge pot of baked beans. Johnny also talked, not without a smile, about his career in the school's rugby team. I didn't believe it at first when he told me, but I have seen the photographs of the ginger-haired, skinny lad in his rugby outfit together with his teammates.

After Boarding School, Johnny entered art school and his educational career was crowned with a degree in sculpting. He was truly a man of the arts - painting, sculpting, literature and music were his passions and his general knowledge, especially in those areas was tremendous.

In the early eighties, Johnny was living in London, working in a patent office, having a stormy relationship, which eventually broke up. Johnny's parents, that had been in St Helena for some years suggested that Johnny should join them for a holiday to forget the collapsed relationship. He came for a holiday in 1983 and did not once leave St Helena soil for 17 years. In St Helena, he put his knowledge into use as a teacher, first as supply teacher



Johnny at university

◀ Continued From Page 3

at the Secondary Selective School and became an established member of the teaching staff at Prince Andrew School in January 1989. Johnny enjoyed teaching and took genuine interest in his students' achievements and progress. In March 1998 he felt that it was time to move on to something different and he successfully applied for the post as Information Officer in St Helena Government and Editor for the St Helena News. As we know, the St Helena News Media Board was created the following year and Johnny continued as Editor for the *St Helena News* and its successor, the *St Helena Herald* until shortly before his death.

If there is one thing we can remember Johnny by it is that he was a person who really cared about people. He cared about young people. He cared about what St Helena can and will offer them. He cared about the island community. That is why he felt so strongly about Island issues. During his time as a teacher he got to know a lot of young people and was concerned about them, not just as a group but individually. No-one was more pleased than Johnny when our young people did well.

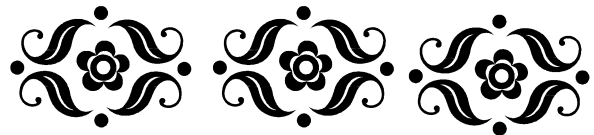
He took up the job as Editor of the *St Helena Herald* because he felt it was here he could help the community, where he felt he could express the views of the people. His last editorial in the Herald last week sums up what he was trying to do, saying also that it is not easy in a small community to express an opinion that is not popular. The editorial also shows how modest he was in what he thought he had achieved. He ends thanking the staff of the Herald for their dedicated and enthusiastic efforts, yet if you speak to members of staff themselves you will find out just how much has been Johnny's contribution particularly the help he gave to new people. He was generous of his time and very supportive. Nothing was too much trouble. The staff will also tell you that he had a great sense of humour. Johnny was part of the Island community. St Helena was home. He felt Saints should be proud of who and what they are and felt he could help but taking an interest in the St Helena dialect. He had started to compile a list of Saint words and supported Emma Jane in her interest in St Helena family names and origins. With Mike they formed a group that extended to other matters of interest



changing light and colour on Flagstaff and the Barn. He would stay until there was no light, no colour. He would keep the memory of what it was like before the sun set.

This is the memory we will keep alive of Johnny, the varied colours and light of his life and his concern for the Island and its people.

Mike and Basil



Thanks

Johnny Drummond's family in England and Germany would like to thank Dr. Topliss and all the staff at the hospital for the excellent care they provided to Johnny in recent months. It has meant an enormous amount to us knowing that he has been so well looked after so far away.

Messages of condolence

It was with great sadness that I and other friends of Johnny Drummond learned of his passing on Monday morning. We know that Johnny has been ill for a while, but nevertheless we are still shocked. Johnny was a good man, he worked hard and did his level best to make sure that whatever he undertook was done to the best of his ability. He was a great teacher, words I have heard from many of his former students from Prince Andrew School. And he was equally good as the Editor of the *St Helena Herald*, which he developed from the ashes of the 'government newsletter/mouthpiece' into a credible news provider, not afraid to delve deep, point the finger and criticise when he felt it was warranted, and he did this still with compassion where it was needed. As I said he did his best always. Johnny was also a true Scot, kind, generous, gentle and a true friend. The world is a sadder place

without him. Rest in peace Johnny.

Johnny's Friends in the Falklands



On behalf of the DFID team, this is to express our sadness at the passing away earlier today of Johnny Drummond. As your piece in last week's Herald quite rightly made clear, Johnny's contribution to St Helena - and especially to the development of its news media - has been considerable over the years. We shall all miss his penetrating wit and deep personal commitment to the island and to its people.

Clive Warren

Continued on Page 6 ▶

Messages of condolence's

◀ Continued From Page 5

I am so very sorry to hear of Johnny's death. Knowing of the seriousness of his illness we know that he is no longer suffering, but it is still very sad to know that he has gone from our lives.

I have many fond memories of Johnny from the time when I was a part of the Radio Station staff and I am glad to have known him. His Editorials and articles in the St. Herald will be sadly missed. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Joy Lawrence



Mr Drummond was an extraordinary Colleague, Teacher, Person but most of all friend, May his death be merely a celebration of his remarkable life!

Thinking of you all

Shelley



I was very upset to hear that Johnny is no longer with us, and reading his last editorial was very sad. I would like you all to know that both Karrie and I will keep fond memories of him, and that Johnny will not be forgotten in this part of the world.

With our heartfelt condolences,

Dani and Karrie Schreier

We were terribly sad here at the Commonwealth Press Union to hear about the death of Johnny Drummond. We invited Johnny to our Commonwealth Editors' Forum and CPU Biennial Conference in Barbados in 2000 and he proved to be possibly the most popular participant. He was simply thrilled to have had the opportunity to travel to Barbados and indeed to the UK, where he had not been for 17 years - if I remember correctly. In Barbados, all the editors from around the Commonwealth (approximately 90) were fascinated to learn about St Helena. Unwittingly, Johnny gave St Helena so much publicity single-handed.

Jane Rangeley, Training Director

Commonwealth Press Union



I too would like to add my words of appreciation for Johnny and his company while in Barbados in 2000. We communicated for some time after, as we shared much in common being small and working in BOT's. My condolences also to his family, relatives, friends and staff. May be rest in peace.

Bennette Roach

Editor, The Reporter, Montserrat, West Indies

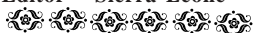


I am very disturbed by the news of the death of Johnny. I met him only once at the Barbados conference and took to him as a man courage, who was proud of his native St. Helena.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Regards to all.

Ibrahim El-Tayyib, Editor - Sierra Leone



I remember John. I still see his bearded look, telling the story of his remote island. I even wrote about him when I returned to Trinidad after the conference. It was a good story, along with the Vanuatu experience. Condolences to his family on behalf of Trinidad.

May be rest in peace.

Francis Joseph, Newsday

Trinidad, West Indies



I am so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing! May he rest in peace! He had such an interesting story to tell about the time it took him to get off St. Helena to go to Barbados. It was all so amazing, that and the general way of life there. Hope he went smiling, despite the illness. Johnny Drummond - a decent soul in quaint old St. Helena!

Carla-Rae Briggs

Editor, Grenada Informer

West Indies



I was so sorry to hear the news as it was through you that Fenella, my daughter, met Johnny and we renewed our family links with St Helena. I am absolutely fascinated by the place.

Jill Nicholas

Assistant Editor, The Daily Post

Rotorua, New Zealand

We regret to learn the death of Mr Johnny Drummond who passed away at the General Hospital earlier today.

In the mid 80s Johnny joined the Education Department of the St Helena Government as a Supply Teacher and in January 1989 was established as an Arts Teacher at Prince Andrew School and remained in this profession until March 1998 when he was transferred on promotion to the post of Information Officer in the Broadcasting Section of the Office of the Chief Secretary. In October 1999 the St Helena News Media Board was established and Johnny, in the same capacity, was seconded to the Board. His contributions to both professions while working with the St Helena Government have been valued and greatly appreciated by all who worked with him and our condolences are extended to his mother and other members of his family overseas.

Public Relations/Information Office

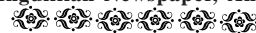
Office of the Chief Secretary

27 October 2003

I met Johnny at the Commonwealth Editors and Publishers Forum in Barbados in 2000. He was a live wire at the forum. I remember him being so astonished to see Barbados with everyone having a cellular phone, the crowds and the shopping. His first surprise seemed to have been his arrival in England on his way to Barbados and the many people he saw. He also seemed taken up with his month-long trip by boat before reaching anywhere (England)!

Best personal regards.

Nat Hodge, The Anguillian Newspaper, Anguilla, West Indies



I am so sad to hear about John Drummond's unexpected death - that is a real shock as he and I hung out together in Barbados and became good friends as we were both far away from home living on small islands. He was a bit isolated on St Helena and it was an amazing trip for him to get to Barbados. He was not in the best of health there and was fond of a drink. Is his newspaper still going and can we get a contact e mail to send messages of condolences? I will certainly be having a shell of kava tonight in Vanuatu to remember him by. It could not have been easy running a newspaper in such a remote, isolated outpost as he did in the South Atlantic famous for being where Napoleon died in prison. John was always full of gratitude to CPU for giving him the opportunity to feel he was part of the newspaper industry running such a small weekly newspaper by inviting him to Barbados and he carried memories of that time with him I am sure until the day he died. He learned a great deal from his CPU experience at the forum.

Marc Neil Jones

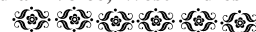
Editor, Vanuatu Daily Post



Who could fail to remember this intrepid sailor! I am deeply saddened to hear of his death and would like, through you, to send my condolences to his grieving family and friends.

Leslie Pierre

Editor, The Grenadian Voice, West Indies



In fact, we at Thomson Foundation had one further contact with Johnny Drummond after Barbados. In February and March this year I despatched a colleague to St Helena for a six-weeks consultancy (it had to be six weeks because that is the minimum stay on the island, what with the spasmodic mail boat and all that). We worked both with Johnny's newspaper and the island radio station. Unhappily, at that stage Johnny was at home ill - but still doing some work from home. My colleague, who went to see him to pass my regards, was amused to report that Johnny had filled his house with large stocks of non-alcoholic beer! He was no longer allowed to drink but wanted to persuade himself that a binge was just around the corner.

John Ryan

Press Division Controller

The Thomson Foundation

37, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BB, Wales, UK.