

DONALD FERGUSSON MORRISON M.B.E 1909-2011

Donald Morrison who died on 14th September, 2011 was 102. He was a Strachur man. He was an Argyll man. And he defended Britain in World War II.

Highland by birth and culture, Donald grew up speaking Gaelic, piping and playing shinty. He played in the Strachur Shinty team until he was 43 and he was in the Miss Joan Campbell Pipe Band up until the war.

In 1997, the Queen honoured Donald with an M.B.E. for services to the community. He had been District Registrar in Strachur since 1933, having become an assistant to his father in 1930. In 1994, Donald featured in the 'Strathclyde Insider' in an article entitled "Meet the Council's oldest employee". At that time Donald had been registrar for 64 years, the longest serving registrar in the country.

Employed locally as a mechanic, Donald was a prominent and active member of the community throughout his life. He was a member of Strachur Memorial Hall committee for 30 years; secretary of the local branch of the Royal British Legion for 25 years and he founded the Memorial Hall Badminton Club of which he was secretary and treasurer for 10 years. Donald was a member of Strachur church; a member of Lodge St.John 50 Inveraray and a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles. And Donald was a Burns man. He was renowned for his spirited recitation of 'Tam o' Shanter' which was captured on CD in his 100th year.

Donald's long memory and local knowledge has immense value and he was regularly sought out by people on the genealogy trail. Strachur and District Local History Society secured the information which Donald passed on and now many of his memories and stories will be added to the website ensuring it is available to be read by as wide an audience as possible.

When Donald's 100th birthday was celebrated locally, Pipe Major Craig Campbell played the tune DONALD MORRISON, M.B.E. CENTENARY MARCH which had been specially composed by Donald Files, Oban.

On his death, Donald left 2 sons and 2 grandsons and a daughter -in-law.

(Thanks to Cathie Montgomery and others who spent many hours interviewing and recording Donald and to Anne Fiddes for a huge amount of typing)