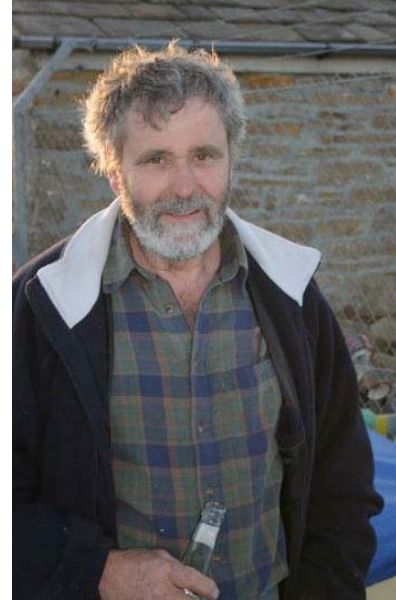


## Tribute to Davie Marcus, a true perfectionist.

Orcadian Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009

The recent death at the age of 63, of David Seatter Marcus brought sadness both to Westray where he was born, and to Stromness where he made his home. Davie, as he was always known, was born the eldest of a family of five, and with his sister Iris and brothers John, Eric & Alan grew up at East Thorn. His father was a farmer/fisherman and his mother knitted to supplement what was a rather precarious income.



Perhaps it was in these early days of his life that Davie acquired the determination, and the beginnings of his considerable skills, at making things which were needed, working with his hands in any number of practical ways, skills which have served him well throughout his life.

After attending the Westray school, he went to Kirkwall Grammar School, and on completion of his education there, began the training for his future occupation. He was apprenticed as a joiner and cabinet-maker to Sammy Burgher in Westray, and a short while after completing his apprenticeship he moved to Stromness. This was where he lived and worked for the rest of his life, apart from a spell in Flotta, and in Shetland. He worked with "Pi" Anderson at the boatyard at the Nav school, and then moved out to Ness with them.

Having met Christine, they married in Stromness Kirk in 1971, and began married life at No.6 Southend. It was here that both daughters Genya and then Eilidh, were born.

It was while they were still young, and when Davie was working for Lilley's Construction in Flotta that he and Christine bought the house in Dundas Street, and which he worked on himself to bring it up to a high standard. Though he had about him a relaxed attitude to life, Davie was a perfectionist when it came to his craft, and whatever he did he did well.

Over the following years of the family growing up, Davie worked in Shetland, for Erlend Flett in Flotta, with Tom Worthington and with Heddles.

His recent employment was with Angus Sinclair, for whom he had completed some beautiful work, in the house on the hill, and on their yacht. His skills by this stage extended far beyond those of joinery, and including many others requiring precision craftsmanship of a high standard.

His interests ranged far and wide, Davie being a man who lived his life to the full.



He was able in so many areas, learning to shoot, and competing in the Island Games, as a diver in his younger days, fishing on the lochs and of course spending many happy hours on the sea with the Sailing Club. He had a snipe and enjoyed racing and competing and socialising at these events. Eilidh remembers how much she enjoyed spending time with her dad on these occasions.

He was a great cook, and made home brew, rhubarb chutney, bare bannocks and clouty duff.

Full of fun, Davie had a permanent twinkle in his eye, which betrayed a mischievous sense of humour.

He was gifted musically, and repaired a fine fiddle he found in Shetland, and went on to make first the tools he would need, and then to build his own fiddle.

He took pride in his work but wore his expertise lightly and was generous with his time for others. An injury to his hand affected his ability to play but he persevered and worked at it relentlessly.

He could draw and paint and proved to be a good photographer, and in recent years took to a computer without difficulty.

Nothing fazed him, and he would tackle any new skill with a positive attitude, which of course ensured that he mastered it.

He encouraged his family to take the same attitude, and assured them that these things were within their grasp. He could mend anything no matter the material and would fashion the parts which were needed, drawing on his early experience when it was not an option to just go out and buy a new part. The family tell of wishing that he would go and buy a new wetsuit as he mended and made do with the same one,



which was in danger of compromising his modesty. But Davie remained unpersuaded.

Generous with his talents and with his time, there are many who will remember with gratitude his willingness to help in any way he could, his refusal to accept payment for small jobs, and his lovely ease with people, of all kinds. He showed great patience with youngsters, always willing to pass on his skills. Tributes have come to the family on the news of his sudden passing, relating how Davie had helped and befriended visitors to Orkney, and those he met in other places, all without fuss or bother.



Davie was a strong fit and able man, making his sudden passing as shocking as it is saddening, but he was a delightful man with a gentle caring and considerate heart. His family will miss him terribly, his time getting to know his grandchildren Connor and Erin Rose all too short, and he will be remembered in the communities of which he was part within Orkney with great warmth gratitude and affection, and by all who met him.

With Christine, Gayna, John, and his grandchildren, with Elidh we mourn the loss of a good man, and with them will long cherish irreplaceable memories of the time he was among us.

Rev. Fiona Lillie.