

## Report on Duncans Funeral

Hi Everyone, Tim our chairman wanted to send you all this but is having issues with his email. forwarded message

Hi All,

For those that couldn't make Duncan's funeral, I thought that I would submit this report.

Although there were several Floral Tributes and I organised one from GWOCGB, some regions contacted me asking what was requested. The family requested any donations raised, to be for Cancer Research UK.

Duncan Mitchell's Funeral Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 10.30 at the Abbey Church  
Kilwinning

We headed north Monday for Duncan's Funeral, pleased to be in the car, as Storm Jonas started to get going. Horizontal rain and gusting winds made the journey interesting. We were more than a little concerned, thinking of those hardy soles, riding their wings.

We decided to go straight to the Segton Inn, Duncan's good friend Ian Garrett's pub, to finally meet the man who had been keeping me informed of Duncan's health, and has ultimately, been responsible for organising the funeral. A quick tour of the church to look at parking arrangements etc followed.

We then drove to The Hallmark Hotel, Irvine. This is where the Wake was to be held, so, like many of the Goldwing friends, we had booked a room.

The hotel was full of GWOCGB members, past and present and several GWEF inter reps. Ex Alba member Rob Anderson had flown in from Australia, and had managed to see Duncan before he passed over.

Duncan had asked Rob to ride his 1800 behind the hearse.

I had been asked to organise 12 pallbearers, 6 to carry into church and 6 to carry out. There were plenty of volunteers, with a bit of juggling heights etc the team was chosen.

Tuesday morning, the bikes met at the Segton Inn, where at 10:15 they would join the hearse for the short journey to the Abbey Church.

6 wings and a BMW formed the cortege, including Peter Rakestrow from Exeter and Chris and Annie Easter travelling from Tavistock, hardy wingers, battling the deteriorating weather from Storm Jonas.

We had arrived at church earlier to check out the slope upwards from the church gate to the church door. The cross wind was very strong and I thought that it would be unwise to carry the coffin, I spoke to some of the others and it was decided that we would use the Undertaker's trolley.

The Pallbearers would then push Duncan into the Church.

The service was very good and Ian Garrett provided the eulogy.

Duncan's niece, Gail, sung a song, that she had written for her Uncle Duncan, she had a great Folk style voice, there can't have been a dry eye in the house !

During the final hymn, the undertakers wheeled Duncan back down the aisle and placed the coffin back in the hearse for Duncan's last journey, to the cemetery.

We joined most of the mourners on the ¼ mile walk to the cemetery, for a short service and the internment, the horizontal rain continued.

We drove back to the hotel and went straight to the room to dry off and then joined the guests at the wake.

Rob Anderson had been allowed to bring Duncan's Wing in through the front entrance and then into the room, this was greeted with great applause.

We were offered a drink and the hotel provided a hot sit down buffet of soup and a roll, hot sausage rolls, followed by sandwiches and cakes plus hot drink, most welcomed after the cold damp morning.

There were about 180 for the buffet.

By about 2:00 pm most mourners had left or returned to their rooms.

It was one of Duncan's last wishes, that, he wanted to buy his friends a "three course dinner" so at 7:45pm, 71 of us sat down for the meal.

When coffee was served, I stood and thanked Duncan for his hospitality and raised the toast. This was followed by several of his friends, sharing anecdotes of great times with their good friend.

The day was roller coaster day of emotions, and one thing common to all of us was, that Duncan Sinclair Mitchell will be sorely missed.

RIP Duncan

Tim Brooks

Chairman

GWOCGB

---