

IN MEMORIAM

ALEXANDER JONATHAN DARCY (EAST HOUSE 1963-70)

Alex Darcy, who has died aged 65, entered 1a in September 1963 and left School seven years later from 7Gg2 (Mr E L Moor). He had been a member of the Debating Society, Seekers, and the Jazz Club and a Sergeant in the CCF, responsible for the Shooting Club.

We are grateful to his partner, Virginia Paterson, and to S C (Simon) Reed (1965-70) for much of the information in this appreciation.

Alex was of Anglo-Russian stock with a family that had rendered service in both World Wars to the Allied cause. His maternal grandmother was the daughter of the last Chaplain General to the Tsar's Army of the Caucasus. When her marriage failed Alex's mother, Nora, changed her name (and his) to Darcy (her favourite literary character).



Alex did not gain the place at University to study Geology that he had hoped for and it was not until he was in his 30s that, with the help of a legacy from his father, to whom he became close, that he trained as a commercial pilot.

His career now launched in earnest: 'for Alex the view from the cockpit represented the finest workplace in the world', wrote his cousin Nicholas Cooper.

Alex had married in 1982 but moved to Aberdeen when British Airways employed him flying out of Dyce to Norway. He remained in Scotland and bought Loanend Farm at Leslie, in 1998. During his subsequent career with Logan Air, then City Star, then Malaysian Airlines, the house remained a work in progress – and Alex did all the work himself. He loved the North East of Scotland and the life that it offered.

Eventually, another home became even more appealing to him, that of Virginia Paterson and her children. More than ten years ago he met Virginia in Aberdeen and in the words of the appreciation given by the Minister at the funeral service 'it was Virginia who made Alex the happy man that he was'.

Alex's interests extended to history and travel. He played the electric and acoustic guitars, enjoyed political debate, good food and malt whisky (with Balvenie his preference). He had recently been appointed an instructor at Moray Flying Club and his death in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary was sudden and unexpected.

KCB

A J Darcy, born 4 June 1952 died 28 October 2017, aged 65.