

PERSONAL HISTORY: -

Innes Alfred Duffus I.Eng., F.I.M.I., A.I.R.T.E.

Born at 8 Bank Avenue Downfield Dundee 4th March 1929
 Married Muriel Hilda Southall at Lickey Church, Rednal, Birmingham on 17th November 1951
 Two Daughters, Carol and Lynn, born 1954 and 1956.

Education

Downfield Primary School 1934-1939.
 Dundee High School 1939-1946.

Training

Wolseley Motors Ltd Drews Lane, Ward End, Birmingham. 1947-1950 as part of Engineering Apprenticeship.
 Studied at Birmingham Central Technical College and Aston Technical College on Design and Electrical Engineering courses.
 Alfred Duffus Kingsway Circle, Dundee. Completed Apprenticeship to fulfil SMTA requirement.

H.M.Forces.

Entered R.E.M.E. March 1952. Commissioned November 1952.
 Member of Combined Services Rifle Team 1952-1953.
 Served as Assistant Workshop Officer with 5 AGRA(AA) Wksp R.E.M.E. at Delmenhorst, West Germany and as E.M.E. Tels on Headquarters 4 AGRA(AA) at Oldenburg West Germany as acting Captain. 1953-1954.
 Served in Territorial Army with 153(H).Inf Wksp. R.E.M.E. (TA) as Workshop Officer 1954-1959.
 Promoted to rank of Major and Commanded above workshop 1959-1965

Business.

Ran family business of Alfred Duffus Motor sales & Service 1954-1979. During that time the company was agent for Isetta, Triumph, Volkswagen and Opel cars.
 Member of SMTA Council 1962-1967
 Member of SMTA Petrol Committee 1966-1968
 Member of SMTA Education Committee 1964-1967
 Chairman Dundee & District Branch of SMTA 1962-1966
 Volkswagen Dealer 1967- 1975
 Scottish representative on National Committee of VW Dealers 1972-1975.
 Opel Dealer 1975 – 1979
 Scottish Chairman of Opel Dealers Committee.
 General Manager A. Simpson & Son Motors Clerk Street Brechin 1979-1984. Agents for Vauxhall and BMC.
 Formed Carlyn Services Ltd and served as Managing Director in 1983, having joint responsibility with Marilyn Mauran as the other Executive Director. Premises owned or leased:- Kingsway Circle Service Station, Fintry Service Station, Arnwood Service Area, East Dock Street Filling Station, and Tayside Service Area, incorporating Truck Stop Dundee.

Other Interests

Member of Park Wynd Rifle Club 1942-47
 Member of R.E.M.E. Rifle team 1952 and 3. Winner of two trophies at Army meeting Bisley.
 President Dundee Junior Chamber of Commerce 1967-1968
 Member of Transport Committee Dundee Chamber of Commerce 1968-1973.
 Founder member of Dundee Chamber Club and committee member till 1979.
 Member of Board of Directors Dundee Chamber of Commerce 1967-1968.
 Member of Earl Haig Committee 1966-1979.
 Founder member of Dundee Committee for Cancer Relief

Member of Dundee Junior Chamber Speakers Club 1966-1992
 Member of Telephone Samaritans 1965-1992 serving as Vice-Chairman for four years.
 Member of Dundee Association of Social Services 1972-1976. Serving as Vice-Chairman with a seat on the Adoption Committee and responsibility for interviewing Social workers and staff.
 Member of National Insurance Appeals Tribunal 1966-1972.
 Member of Hammerman Craft since 1966 and Deacon in 1988-1989
 Member of Bonnetmaker Craft 1977 -
 Member of Master Fund Committee of Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee 1986 -
 Archivist to Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee 1999 –
 Member of CREATE Project for renovation of McManus Galleries & Museum £M7.5 2003.
 Appointed Honorary Member of Weaver Trade, the first for 150 years 2011.
 Appointed Archivist to the Guildry 2012
 Elected as Assessor to the Dean of Guild 2012
 Inducted as Honorary Fellow of University of Abertay 2013

Father was Alfred Duffus founder of the Garage at Kingsway. Born in 1897, he was the youngest of 17 children of Henry Beveridge Duffus. Henry had several careers, namely outfitter, representative of a charity for the prevention of cruelty to children and latterly caretaker of St. David's Rooms 78, Nethergate Dundee. He and three of his sons all held office in Lodge 78 St. David's between 1911 and 1914.

Alfred Duffus served in the First World War, having been in the reserve army, and actually on the island of Inchkeith in the Forth at annual camp on the outbreak of war. He moved to the Drill Hall in Broughty Ferry, before embarking for France. He was in the Royal Engineers and was called upon to defuse the first ever unexploded land mine dropped in France. The photograph of this event is in the Imperial War Museum.

After the war he went to South Africa where, as a blacksmith he was employed by the Railway Company.

In 1922 he returned to Dundee on his marriage and started in business as the Downfield Carrier. He later opened the garage on the then new Kingsway By-pass and became not only the local garage and carrier but ran a taxi business.

Maternal Great Grandfather was John Duncan, Miller at Barry who is referred to at Barry Mill, now under the care of the National Trust for Scotland.

Celebrating anniversary with a giant team photo

by **Andrew Argo**

ABERTAY UNIVERSITY staff celebrated the institution's 125th anniversary yesterday by gathering for a giant team photograph.

The Bell Street establishment was opened as Dundee Technical Institute on October 15, 1888, by Swire Smith, a woollen manufacturer from Yorkshire, who said: "through the foundation of this institute... the ladder of learning has been raised aloft in Dundee."

A total of 238 students enrolled in the first session, with classes offered in jute, spinning and applied art.

Many of the students went on to management positions in major textile companies.

Staff celebrated yesterday with a photograph in the main lecture theatre and an official Abertay anniversary cake, picked in a blind tasting from recipes submitted by staff and students.

Principal Nigel Seaton said: "I'm very pleased to be celebrating this anniversary with colleagues from across the university's schools and services. 125 years ago we were founded as the Dundee Technical Institute, with the stated aim of giving access to higher education to anyone who would benefit, no matter their background.

"The subjects we teach have changed dramatically from those based on the textile industries and maritime trade that first made Dundee an economic and technological powerhouse in the 19th century, but our mission remains the same.

"Today, our graduates in the fields of science, technology, business and the arts are still contributing directly to the economy and to society at large, not just in Dundee, but in communities across the world."

The University of Abertay Dundee



At the Hannah McClure Centre last night there was a reception to mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of Abertay University as an independent institution. Innes Duffus was conferred with an honorary fellowship. From left: principal and vice-chancellor Professor Nigel Seaton, Innes Duffus, university chancellor Lord Cullen of Whitekirk and Lord Provost Bob Duncan. Picture: Kim Cessford.

came into being when Dundee Institute of Technology won the right to use the title of university.

In 1997 it launched the world's first computer games technology degree, and in 2006 the UK's first online degree.

● Last night Lord Provost Bob Duncan was among guests at a reception to mark the university's 125 years, hosted by chancellor Lord Cullen of Whitekirk.

to the economy and community, the university conferred an honorary fellowship on Innes Duffus, archivist of both the Nine Incorporated Trades and the Guildry of Dundee.

Hello me

Each week we invite a Courier local to write a letter to their younger self. What would they tell themselves? What lessons have they learned? This week, **Innes Duffus**, archivist of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee and regular contributor to the Craigie column, looks at his past, present and future

"THE picture below was a studio portrait taken around 1934, and I was about five or six. What was going through my mind was the excitement of having my picture taken and behaving properly — very difficult for me! My mother in particular always had ambitions for me and was very keen on a good education. Sadly, I was more interested in sport, shooting and country pursuits generally. At this time I had no real sense of where life would lead, but knew I would eventually end up in the family business.

I remember my excitement, aged eight, when we had our first ever holiday away from home to Blackpool in 1937 when we stayed in a real hotel.

Father was a blacksmith by trade. Called up as a territorial in the early days of the First World War he was soon in France and there is a picture of him in the Imperial War Museum after defusing the first unexploded land mine dropped in the First World War. He went on to open a garage at Kingsway in 1932.

Thanks to Mother, I had a privileged education at Dundee High School, after which I was very fortunate in winning one of very few places available at Wolseley Motors Ltd in Birmingham as an engineering apprentice. It was there I met a beautiful semi-professional singer, who also worked with the Austin Motor

Company, and we married in 1951. After leaving the army in 1954 we produced two lovely daughters within the next three years.

After National Service I took over the garage business but also remained for 10 years in the TA commanding the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop in Dundee for the last six

of these. Other interests took over including Telephone Samaritans, Junior Chamber, Earl Haig Fund Committee for donations. I obtained the VW dealership and built the business from its humble beginnings to a sizeable local company. I opened the filling station at Fintry in 1962, and ran Kingsway from then on as a filling station, built the filling station at Tealing, leased Dock Street filling station and eventually

bought Truck Stop which I continued with until I retired in 1998.

Two years later I was asked to become the first archivist of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, a post I still hold today. Among other things we have built a large website visited by several thousand visitors monthly.

Earlier this month I had the great privilege of being granted an Honorary Fellowship of Abertay University. Not bad for a blacksmith's son.

What would my advice be to my younger self? Fill your life with activity. If you join



Innes Duffus as a lad (left) and (above) with his wife Muriel.

anything you must really mean it and give it 100%. When you leave, as in life generally — never look back. That is in the past and you cannot change it. My philosophy in life comes from a poem by Robert W. Service:

*It's easy to crawfish and crawl;
But to fight and to fight when hope's out of sight —*

*Why, that's the best game of them all!
And though you come out of each gruelling bout,*

*All broken and beaten and scarred,
Just have one more try — it's dead easy to die,*

It's the keeping-on-living that's hard.

The only condition is that you are fortunate to marry someone who supports you through thick and thin: that is the most important bit. Without that you can do nothing. For the future, my goodness there is still so much to do . . ."

