

Graham John O’Riordan

29th November 1942 – TBA

Born in Malmesbury, the oldest borough in England, eldest of 4 boys

1954-1960 St. Bartholomew’s Grammar School, Newbury

1960-1961 Clerk at Robert Benson and Lonsdale, Newbury

1962-1972 Supplementary List Seaman Officer

1962 BRNC and HMS Urchin DTS

1963-4 HMS Beachampton, Vernon Squadron, Portsmouth Midshipman and Sub Lieutenant, Navigation Officer

1964-5 HMS Parapet, Amphibious Warfare Squadron, Persian Gulf, Navigation Officer

1965-6 HMS Tilford, First Lieutenant, Singapore (Confrontation)

1966 A/SOO FOST, Portland, promoted Lieutenant

1966-8 HMS Duncan, Londonderry Squadron, Gunnery Officer

1968-70 RN Training Team Kenya, Mombasa. CO KNS Ndovu>Nyati>Simba
(a fantastic married accompanied job)

1971-72 HMS Maidstone, First Lieutenant, Belfast – Army accommodation then IRA and UDF prisoners

1967 Married to Elizabeth Ann Edwards (Liz) 16th December, son Patrick born February 1972.

1972-1973 Sales Jewsons (Builders Merchant) Plymouth having decided against buying a hotel in North Cornwall and a mushroom farm near Plymouth

1974 Investigated New Zealand, 6 weeks as a Civil Servant and then Dalgety Shipping – Liner Agency

1974-1975 Wellington New Zealand as Assistant to Operation Manager, Dalgety Shipping (Farrell Lines of New York)

1975-1979 Christchurch New Zealand, Branch Manager Dalgety Shipping, port of Lyttleton. Effectively South Island Manager – Farrell Lines, BP and Shell Tankers, Shipping Corp of India, RFA, US Sea Lift Command etc

1976 Second son, Timothy, born September

1979 Returned to UK via Kenya – learnt about Hill & Delamain.

1979 Joined H&D, a Freight Forwarder September 1979 for posting to Zambia.

1980-1983 Copperbelt Manager H&D based Ndola, Copperbelt, Zambia. Liz, Patrick and Timothy accompanied.

1984 Became Managing Director H&D (Zambia) based in Lusaka and main board director H&D Ltd in 1993

1995 Became majority shareholder H&D (Zambia) – agents for WEC Container Lines, German Cargo then Lufthansa Cargo

2002 Sold H&D (Zambia)

Joined MK Airlines as their representative in Zambia – MK a cargo airline with DC8 freighter aircraft and latterly B747 freighters.

2005 Joined Maersk – the largest container shipping company in the world as the Zambia manager. Set up office in Lusaka with 5 staff then transferred to Safmarine (Maersk subsidiary).

2008 Retired from Safmarine

In Zambia I was involved with the Wildlife Conservation Society, Zambia Ornithological Society, Rotary, The Friday Club and latterly the MOTHS (similar to British Legion). In Ndola I was a Special Constable and set up the Security Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. In

Lusaka I was an Honorary Wildlife Ranger. I was hijacked and kidnapped by some chaps that wanted my Land Rover Discovery!

2010 Having gone to Zambia for a 2 year contract we dragged ourselves away after 30 years and moved to Tauranga, New Zealand where our Kiwi born younger son now lives with his wife and three children. We spend three months of every year in Europe, avoiding the NZ winter and doing English grandparent duties for our two granddaughters in Exmouth. Not however in 2020.

Interests now include steam railways and the GWR in particular. I am modelling a GWR 'oo' layout which occupies half of our double garage. Fishing, mainly for trout. Also involved in Grey Power, Probus, Neighbourhood Support (Watch), U3A and Bay of Plenty Officers' Club.

I always dreamt of being a naval officer, my grandfather was a Paymaster in WW1. My naval service certainly shaped my life as has a nearly 53 years of marriage to Liz.

