

Oh he's always cheerful whatever befalls  
But specially when he's at the beer festival

Now Ralph is the one man that we all admire  
The curry he eats would set us all on fire  
It's hotter and hotter and hotter by far  
Needs liberal dousing with pints of cobra

Well, we're all here this evening to thank God for Don  
A man of great kindness that went on and on  
With a generous nature he was gentle and warm  
An example to all since the group it was born

So here's to the men's group at old BPC  
Bringing us all together for friendship and tea  
(well; OK maybe not tea exactly but something close and I couldn't find a rhyme)  
For learning and working and good times for all  
And curry and beer I just don't mind at all

***This sketch from Mike Cox: "The Don Mackenzie Code"***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know that we were asked to bring a poem to read tonight, but I hope that you will excuse me if, instead, I tell you a secret that will soon be revealed to the world. For I count myself lucky to be standing here tonight, such is the danger in which discovery of this secret has placed me, for my research has uncovered a conspiracy that threatens the very fabric of the nation, a conspiracy on which I aim to blow the whistle, a conspiracy that will soon be published and known as - "The Don Mackenzie Code"!

There are those who see in Don's recent passing away hidden signs, codes, meanings, call it what you will. I have still to undertake more research, but consider the famous photograph of "The Last Men's Group Curry Night". It looks like any ordinary Men's Group Curry – Jack Mountford is under the table; Phil Townsend is on top of the table; and Neil Thompson is finishing up everyone's curry. But look more closely.

Don's tie has eagle motifs on it. The eagle... majestic bird of prey ... or comic from Don's youth whose hero was Dan Dare. But the tie is brown. Put them together – Dan Brown!

There's more!

Don is partially obscured by Paul, his son-in-law. So Don was his father, or Dad, which, if partially obscured gives you Da (which is also the incoherent grunt that Paul makes after too many lagers!). Dan Brown Da. So far so good.

Don's suit has a herring bone pattern in it, not his usual weave, but it looks like a series of "vs". VVV. Hmm, Latin, Julius Caesar ... "I came, I saw, I conquered", or in Latin "veni, vidi, vici", or could be ViNci if you bear in mind that N is the third letter in Don's name, so should be inserted in the third word. Are you getting the picture? Dan Brown Da Vinci.