

InMemoryOf

Brian Bridges

Joined Haywards Heath & District Probus Club 2018

Died 30th October 2020



Brian John Bridges passed away at St Peter & St James on 30th October 2020. His family were with him to the end.



Brian was born on 7th September 1938 in Gravesend, Kent and grew up in Faversham and Canterbury. In 1957, he started his National Service at Catterick, North Yorkshire with the Royal Corps of Signals, where he was to meet Alan Tatnall. Many years later, Alan introduced him to Probus.

Brian's father was a policeman so it came as no surprise that Brian would follow in his footsteps - starting his career as a police cadet at Maidstone Police HQ.

It was at the Star Ballroom in Maidstone that Brian met his wife-to-be (Joan) enquiring of her "do you waltz?" They were married on 13th August 1960 at *All Saints Church*, Maidstone and started married life in a police house in Rusthall, near Tunbridge Wells, where Brian was posted. Daughter Sarah was born in 1964 and son Jonathan in 1967. Brian and Joan bought their first house in Shepherd's Walk, Hassocks around that time. After a transfer to Sussex Police, he was promoted to Sergeant and worked at Crawley Police Station (his favourite station). His long and distinguished Police career continued with promotion to Inspector at Lewes.

After retiring from the Police, Brian joined the Special Branch at the Ministry of Defence in London. It was there he worked as a Special Investigator (a position he loved) with Dennis Hines. Dennis was Sue Pollins' uncle.

Brian and Joan moved to South Chailey in 1976. He continued working until 2003 when he retired. He said that retirement was a joy enabling him to spend more time with his wife and family and to follow his interests and hobbies, such as aircraft of World War 2. He volunteered at Tangmere for a time. He particularly enjoyed holidays in Kingham, in the Cotswolds, as his father's family came from there.

Brian's funeral was held at St Richards Chapel, Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on Monday 16th November 2020 and it was streamed on webcast.

As is our custom, the Club made a donation to St Peter & St James in memory of Brian.

Martin Pollins added:

"Brian did sterling work for our Club, as Welfare Officer, even though he joined less than three years ago. I knew Brian from another organisation where we were members. I know that Brian really enjoyed being a member of Probus and meeting old friends. He was the inspiration for the idea of a magazine (*Nil Desperandum*) to keep in touch with members during the pandemic and to keep members cheerful.

"Brian said that he was very content with his lot with no regrets about his life and wouldn't have changed a thing. He found his true vocation to service in the Police Force and was obviously very good at what he did with a special gift of being a 'people person'.

"With Brian's passing, the tributes to Brian came pouring in and rightly so. He was a lovely man, calm and placid, caring and sympathetic coupled with a great sense of humour. He was a good friend and will be sorely missed."



He rose to eminence by merit, lived respected and died regretted.

Written by Martin Pollins