

In Memory Of

Angus Gilhespy Robson

Joined Haywards Heath & District Probus Club 2001

Died 15th May 2019



Angus Gilhespy Robson was a Valentine's baby born to Tom and Doris Robson in 1930. He died 89 years later with two daughters, four granddaughters and four great grandchildren. His parents hailed from the mining village of Winlaton in County Durham. Angus was born in Forest Gate, London.

His primary schooling was at Rainsford Way Infant and Primary School in Hornchurch, Essex and he won the academic prize every year. He went on to the Liberty School in Gidea Park having passed the scholarship. The link with the Liberty School and friends he made there lasted a lifetime. He became secretary of the 'Old Boys Club' and played football for them well into middle age.

After he eventually hung up his football boots, he took up golf and enjoyed many years at Haywards Heath Golf Club, again making close friends. Watching sport was also a real pleasure throughout his life; enjoying cricket, football, rugby and golf.

During his time at the Liberty, Angus was fast tracked to matriculation and went on to do A-levels, but two things happened which influenced his future career. He was very involved with the Hornchurch Gliding School where he was recommended for a RAF commission. It

was here he met Eddie Simmonds, his staff sergeant whose sister, Elsie, helped out with the teas at the gliding school mess. It clearly was love at first sight, and they were married in 1953 at St Lawrence Church, Upminster. Elsie was always at Angus' side until her untimely death in 2001.

A successful career in insurance in London was preferred by Angus who decided against the RAF commission. His insurance career spanned forty years and he became an expert in consequential loss at the Alliance. He studied for professional exams again winning prizes and a fellowship. His sharp brain and high integrity served him well and he finished his career as chairman of Brown Shipley Insurance Services. He was made a Freeman of the City of London during his working life.

Angus always maintained his interest in technology, even mastering a new iPad in the last few months of his life.

Music was also a very important part of Angus's life. He learnt to play the piano to accompany his mother, who sang in the Congregational Church Choir. Angus also played the bugle, trumpet and fife in the ATC band. In later life, he took up the guitar.

At 18, Angus told his father, a strong Congregationalist, that he could not follow his faith and remained a non-believer throughout his life. However, he lived his life with Christian values of honesty, decency and loyalty.

He was a voracious reader, and able to learn new things with ease. He loved new challenges, such as playing Bridge, which he played with his usual enthusiasm. When he retired, Angus studied for a degree in History and Philosophy, achieving a 2.1.

Angus joined the Haywards Heath & District Probus Club in 2001 and was its Secretary from 2006 to 2015. Probus provided Angus with both companionship and interest.

From the warm tributes the family have received, it is clear that we have all lost a true gentleman, who lived his life with simple rules of truthfulness and contentment but had an extraordinary love of learning.

As is our custom, the Club made a donation to St Peter and St James Hospice in memory of Angus.

Epitaph on a Friend by Robert Burns

An honest man here lies at rest,
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd;
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.