

InMemoryOf

Derek Humphrey

Joined Haywards Heath & District Probus Club in 1990

Died 3rd March 2023



Derek Humphrey

Derek was born in Whitstable, Kent, in 1929. His father was a carpenter who had emigrated to Canada to find work before returning to Kent to marry. Derek's mother was the daughter of one of the owners of a small shipyard in Whitstable, which served the local fishing industry.

Derek was at home during WW2 and vividly remembered waves of enemy aircraft passing overhead on their way to London. He recalled sheltering under the stairs as machine gun cartridges clattered onto the roof of the house and watching as a Dornier 17 was shot down and crashed into the sea in front of the family home.

Secondary education was at Simon Langton Boys School in Canterbury, but a lack of money in the family meant Derek left at 16. He joined Lloyds Bank in the Canterbury branch as a Junior Clerk, or "*the lowest of the low*". That was the start of a 40-year career in the bank, interrupted only by two years of National Service in the RAF, mostly in Egypt.

Bank computerisation got underway in the early 1960s, and Derek was involved from the start. He was heavily involved in the decisions to purchase and install mainframe computers both in head office departments and the Registrar's department. He was seconded to the Committee of London Clearing Banks (CLCB) to set up the first cooperative computer project for the member banks. This became the BACS system familiar to many bank users. Further promotions followed, and Derek became General Managers Assistant before being seconded again, to the Joint Credit Company to set up the "Access" credit card (You may remember the "*Flexible Friend*" adverts). He returned to Lloyds to become Head of Research & Development and Chairman of the CLCB Committee to examine the introduction of payment terminals in shops and stores, later became Chip & Pin.

Derek retired from the bank in 1985. In his retirement, he enjoyed watching cricket, making furniture (he said that he had received a full carpenter's apprenticeship by the time he was 8!), and of course, being a member of Probus, which he joined in 1990. He was pleased and proud to serve as President of Haywards Heath & District Probus Club in 2000/1. He also enjoyed following the exploits of his children and grandchildren. He had married Jo in 1954, and they spent just short of 65 years together, much of that time in Haywards Heath and Lindfield. After Jo's passing in 2019, Derek moved to the small village of Norton St Philip, Somerset and passed away peacefully on 3rd March 2023 in a care home in Bath.



He is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

Derek listed his interests in retirement as Model Making, Oil Painting & Computers.

As is our custom, the Club will make a donation to The British Heart Foundation in memory of Derek.

Derek contributed much to Probus and will be sorely missed.

The Funeral

Derek will be cremated on 3rd April, with a service to follow at St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip, Bath.