

InMemoryOf

Derek Brian Hopkins

Joined Haywards Heath & District Probus Club 2008

Died 11th January 2021



Colleague, friend and Probus member, **Derek Brian Hopkins**, died on 11th January at age 90. His funeral was held in Burnley on 16th January 2021.



Derek was born on 8th December 1930 and he joined the RAF in 1952 and served 18 years, seeing some active service in the bomber squadron. He met his wife, Mella, at a Christmas Ball in the Officer's mess and after being introduced they danced all night and were married for over 60 very happy years.

On leaving the RAF, Derek moved into civilian flying roles, becoming Senior Captain for Tradewinds Airways visiting many places in Africa and the Far East. When he was forced to give up flying due to a surprise illness, Derek ran a chauffeur-driven limousine company for many years, driving the rich and famous whenever he was required.

Derek joined the Rotary Club of Cuckfield and Lindfield in 1990 and he wrote the Club's Newsletter for 13 years. He was the Club President in 1998-99 and during that year, the Club raised over £15,000 for local and International charities. Derek was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship in 2008 in recognition of his outstanding service, one of the highest awards available in the Rotary Organisation.

In 2002, Derek published his autobiography which many Rotary and Probus members were able to buy.



Derek was not a man for changing times and when Rotary found it necessary to adapt to new parameters, including the introduction of lady members, he decided to resign. However, his public-spirited interest in the local community was not lost because he was invited to join the Probus Club of Haywards Heath & District in 2009.

Derek thoroughly enjoyed Probus and loved telling stories and would tell them at many meetings together with providing the Probus members with a monthly joke sheet.

He thought that Probus stood for Prostrate Removed Other Bits Under Scrutiny!

Derek loved company and relished his lunch meetings and was known to enjoy his food whether it be at a good restaurant or just having a full English breakfast.

Derek was a very special person and a true "old school" gentleman. We shall miss him.

Written by Mike Harper

The Order of Service for his funeral is very uplifting:

<http://onesmartplace.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Derek-Hopkins.pdf>