

InMemoryOf

Michael Woodroffe Chester

Joined Haywards Heath & District Probus Club 1997

Died 2nd February 2021



Michael Woodroffe Chester (born 26th June 1932).



“Mike Chester was inducted into Probus by President Frank Legg in 1997, a vintage year, as John Butler and Francis Page were also inducted at that time by Frank.

“Mike was a London Solicitor in Stones Porter. His father was also a solicitor with his own firm. When his father retired, Mike became a partner in Stones Porter, but this was after his education at Charterhouse followed by National Service in the King's Africa African Rifles serving in Kenya and Malaya with Dai Curtis! Both Mike and Dai also spoke Swahili - part of the job for a commissioned officer in the regiment. Afterwards, Mike went to Magdalene College, Cambridge.

“Although never on the rowdy part of the lunch table at Probus, he was quietly influential first becoming a committee member followed in 2008 as President, taking over from Roy Page (later Francis Page – don't ask).

“Shortly after I joined Probus I sat next to Mike at lunch and we discovered that, although we had not corresponded, I dealt with another of his firm's partners for several years, so the name Stones Porter was not unfamiliar to me. Mike's contacts with my company were somewhat above my paygrade.

“He commuted to London for most of his working life, but this was not without its benefits for he met this pretty girl on Haywards Heath Station and, being charming and witty, the rest is history as they say. He and Ann-Marie were married in St Wilfrid's Church in 1972 where he was a regular worshipper, together with Ann-Marie, for 47 years. He loved travelling and had visited most countries in the world.



“Sadly, Mike became ill at the start of 2019 and had to move into a nursing home where in the end the Coronavirus conveyed him to his Maker on 2nd February 2021.”

In recognition of his years of service to the Haywards Heath & District Probus Club, Mike was awarded Life membership last year.

As is our custom, the Club made a donation to a nominated charity in memory of Mike.

We shall miss him, a great loss to our Club.

Written by Robin Harrison