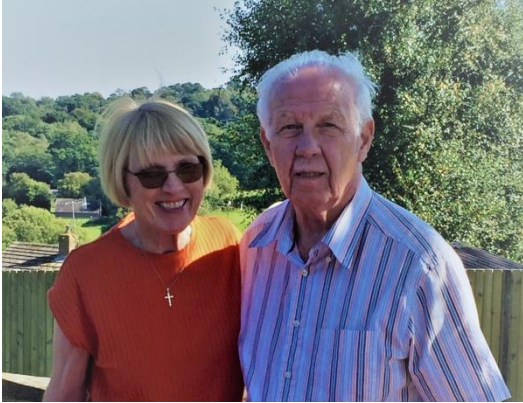


MAX'S DG.ENG STORY



Max and Angela Brooks-Usher

Max was born in British India in 1937. His father was a Station Manager with BOAC's flying boats. After partition in India he came to this country aged 11 arriving at Liverpool in post war Britain on a grey day.

His first impressions were of a grim place. His family settled in Whitstable, Kent and Max attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar school, Faversham. After his A Levels he completed a Rolls Royce engineering apprenticeship at Derby. This is where Max met Angela his wife of 56 years. They married in 1962 and had a daughter and a son who now both have children of their own.

Max joined the Ministry of Defence and worked at the Atomic Weapons establishment in Woolwich. He had an eventful time there; on one occasion during bomb testing off the East coast a missile was fired out to sea but then did a u-turn and returned to land - everyone ran! He transferred from there to Rolls Royce, Derby back to his old company but working for the MOD.

After about 3 years he achieved his next grade and went to work at Scottish Aviation in Prestwick. I think it was AQD because it changed from AID. He enjoyed working there and made many friends. He was also an active member of the Round Table and helped with many community projects.

On achieving his next grade we moved from Scotland to Yeovil, Somerset where Max worked at Westland Helicopters and Normalair-Garrett. He worked there for a number of years before transferring to work at British Aerospace, Kingston and Dunsfold. From there he transferred to Rolls Royce, Derby again and this time joined the EJ200 project for the Eurofighter. He worked in Derby for a few years then transferred with the job to Rolls Royce, Bristol. Max thoroughly enjoyed working on this project and retired in 1997 at the happiest point in his career.

We then relocated to West Sussex to live near our Daughter and family. We kept very busy renovating an old property and converting the buildings into a business which we run together. We have enjoyed living in Sussex and being active grandparents to our 4 grandchildren. Max had a healthy lifestyle walking his Labradors and keeping active. He still enjoyed his pipe and always enjoyed a pint! Sadly he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about 4 years ago which came as a real blow to him. He was keen to help find a cure and so took part in a drugs trial during the last couple of years; we thought it made a positive difference to him. The trial was stopped by Ely Lilley as they felt it was not having a long term effect. The Alzheimer's has now progressed and Max has significantly declined; he does, however, remain positive and content.

(Written by Angela Brooks-Usher)

(We are most grateful to Angela for allowing us to publish Max's Story.)