

Many agree he was a remarkable man, who cared for and thought of others, as his selfless acts, physical bravery and career clearly demonstrated.



Captain Angus Buchanan VC MC.

Angus sadly passed away on 1st March 1944 from wounds sustained in the Great War.

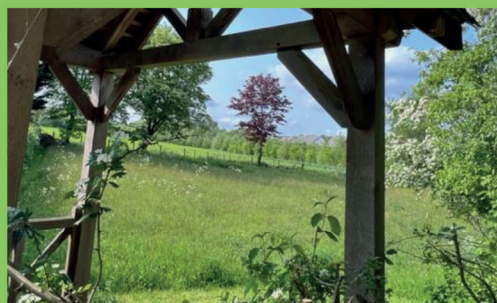
The grounds now stretch to some 40 acres for you to wander around, enjoying the lovely views of the surrounding area. From spring to summer the land is left to produce a wonderful wild meadow. There is seating around the grounds for you to stop a while and enjoy the views. You will also find the Memorial Stone in his honor.

For a moments reflection visit Angus' grave in the adjoining cemetery.



You will find his resting place to the right and just beyond the garden of rest.

As you wander through to the natural burial area under the porch to the far right at the back of the graveyard, you will see the resting places of service personnel killed in both world wars, marked by Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones.



In September 2011, Monmouth School for boys, opened "Buchanan House", a boarding house for 6th formers in a fitting honor of their former Monmothian.

As you are at a high vantage point whilst walking around the grounds, see how many land marks you can pick out?

We hope you have enjoyed your walk-through history and CWW thank FODLHS for assistance with the historical facts.

To contact and find out more about Coleford Welcomes Walkers scan the QR code below:



The information within this leaflet has been compiled by volunteers to the best of their ability, if you notice any inaccuracies, please be kind enough to let us know. This leaflet was funded by Gloucestershire County Councils Build Back Better Grant.



A WALK-THROUGH TIME OF ONE OF COLEFORD'S MOST DECORATED AND RESPECTED RESIDENTS

Captain Angus Buchanan VC MC
11th August 1894 – 1st March 1944

This is a progressive 15-minute walk from Coleford town center to Angus Buchanan VC Recreational Grounds

Starting at the Clock Tower in Coleford, whose bells last rang in honor of Angus, you will find a memorial stone laid in the ground in his honor.

Heading up St. John Street then taking a left-up Box Bush Road passing St John the Evangelist church, which houses a plaque in his honor, cross over the road and either take the narrow footpath up or turn right along Bowen's Hill Road. On reaching Victoria Road turn left, up the hill.

Pass through the specially commissioned wrought iron gates, incorporating the image of the Victoria Cross. You have entered the Angus Buchanan VC Recreational Grounds.

So, who was Angus Buchanan?

It all began in Monmouth in 1881 when Dr. Peter Buchanan married Hannah Allen Williams, taking on five children from a previous marriage. Together they had two sons, Angus, and Hugh.

Angus went on to become a rather reluctant local household name and to this day is remembered for his service to not only his country but to the community he loved and called home, Coleford in the Forest of Dean.

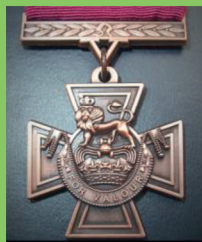
Having spent his early years at St. John's School Coleford, then Monmouth School, he went on to study at Jesus College, Oxford, on a Welsh Classical Scholarship, before breaking from his studies of Classics to join the army in 1914. His tutor would later say that Angus never really got the subject!

He was just 19 and starting on his life's journey.

On 7th January 1916, aged 21, in his rank of Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion South Wales Borderers, where he fought in Gallipoli, he was awarded the Military Cross.

At the time this was the 2nd highest military decoration in the British Armed Services.

On 5th April 1916, Angus, in his role of temporary Captain, selflessly saved the lives of two comrades whilst also being wounded, under heavy fire in Mesopotamia.



His outstanding valour, was noted and Angus was awarded the highest and most prestigious award of the British Honors System for Gallantry, The Victoria Cross.

For time served and availability of rank, he rose to the rank of Captain.

During WW1 the Victoria Cross was awarded to 627 deserving recipients. Angus's *Victoria Cross is currently on display at the Lord Ashcroft Victoria Cross Collection at the Imperial War Museum, London.*



In July of the same year, The Russian army awarded Angus the Order of St. Vladimir 4th Class (with Swords) for his most conspicuous bravery shown on April 5th 1916.

On 13th February 1917, Angus's life was changed forever, when he was shot in his right temple by a Turkish sniper. He was removed to Casualty Clearing and then to India. Medics saved his life but were unable to save his sight. His military career was over. He hailed his survival to that of his loyal Batman, Private Mark Perry.

On 8th November, at a ceremony at Durdham Downs, Bristol, Angus was presented with his Military Cross and Victoria Cross by King George V.

You can view this occasion at; [ROYAL VISIT TO BRISTOL AND BATH - INVESTITURE AT DURHAM \(DURDHAM\) DOWNS](https://www.britishpathe.com/video/royal-visit-to-bristol-and-bath-investiture-at-durham-durdham-downs) - British Pathé ([britishpathe.com](https://www.britishpathe.com))

During his service, he was also awarded the 1915 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

J N L Baker from Oxford University was quoted as saying, *"This cruel blow did not daunt him, he came back to Oxford determined to be an ordinary undergraduate. Every branch of college life he followed with great interest and intimate knowledge."*

His nickname, on returning to Oxford in 1921, having learnt Braille, was "Buchanan the Undergraduate VC".

Angus became very good friends with T.E. Lawrence, (better known as Lawrence of Arabia) a fellow Alumnus, who was also a war hero in his own right. Away from the applause they were able to lay aside their heroic personas.

In naming "The Buchanan Tower Room" in Oxford University, they have ensured that one of their most courageous former students is remembered by generations of students to come.

In January 1921, he unveiled a war memorial in tribute to the 76 Old Boys who lost their lives in World War 1, in the old Junior Common Room, now known as the "War Memorial Room".

He had a successful career in Oxford as a solicitor before returning to Coleford where he continued to practice until he retired.

The local community wanted to bestow a lasting tribute to Angus and on asking what form he would like this to take, he said a play area for children to play in safely

He is currently the only UK holder of the Victoria Cross to have a recreational park named after him!

Can you spot the initials set out in large stones in the garden to your right opposite the play area as you pass through the gates?