

MICHAEL LEON MULLENDER MBE (G42-50)

He was born on 3 September 1931 in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

In July 1952 he was appointed 2nd Lt in the Royal Corps of Signals.

He worked for the UK Atomic Energy Authority as a Physicist and rose to be a Senior Scientific Officer at AWE Aldermaston. He was awarded the MBE in Queen's Birthday Honour list in 1983 for services to the Ministry of Defence and voluntary work with young people - he gave over 60 years of service to the Scout Association.

He was also awarded the Gazette Good Citizen award in November 1993 for his work as Warden of Crabtree Campsite (a residential activity site for the youth of Basingstoke).

Following his retirement from AWE Aldermaston in 1994, he volunteered as an adviser with the Citizens Advice Bureau for 15 years.



In 2014, jointly with his wife Beryl, he was named Basingstoke's Unsung Community Hero. This award is chosen by public vote. Between them they had clocked up 117 years of service to Scouting, both starting in the 1950s as assistant Cub leaders.

He was also the recipient of the Scout Association's Silver Wolf for services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature.

He died of prostate cancer in Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital on 18 December 2015 aged 84. A celebration of his life took place at St Mary's Church, Old Basing near Basingstoke on 6 January 2016. He leaves his wife Beryl and three sons.

The following obituary was contributed by his wife Beryl

Michael (or as he was more generally known to many, Mike) was born in Lowestoft in September 1931. His father, Arthur, was Manager at Bessey and Palmer, Coal Merchants, in Lowestoft and his mother (Madeline) worked in the local auction rooms in Oulton Broad for many years. During most of the war years Mike was evacuated to Derbyshire and thence to Hertfordshire and much missed the Suffolk countryside and the sea. Most of his family in generation past had been fisherfolk - trawler skippers, sailmakers, net-menders and the like. He returned to his Suffolk roots in 1942 at the age of 11 to further his education at Framlingham College.

Having completed his education with distinction in 1950, he opted to do his national service rather than going to University and was selected for a short-term commission in the Royal Corps of Signals. Taking up civilian life again in 1953 and after a short spell in the Quality Control department of Birds Eye Foods pea factory in Lowestoft, he joined the Scientific Civil Service and relocated to the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston (AWE). He worked at the same establishment for over forty years as a nuclear physicist managing a nuclear reactor and a high-voltage particle accelerator and wrote a number of scientific reports about his experimental work. Being very aware of responsibilities with respect to safety he served on the

multiple reactor safety committee and played a significant part in the Pochin Enquiry into Health and Safety in 1978. It was for his contribution in these roles together with his voluntary work with young people that he was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honour List of 1983.

It was at AWE he met his wife Beryl whom he married in 1958 and they subsequently moved to Old Basing where they lived for most of their married life and brought up their family of three sons. Notwithstanding his career commitments Mike always found time to devote to voluntary organisations and was an adult leader with the Scout Association for over sixty years serving in a variety of roles ranging from Cub Scout Leader, Assistant District Commissioner for Cub Scouts, the warden of a Scout and Guide Camp site and Local Training Manager responsible for training new leaders in their respective appointments. His services were recognised by him receiving the Silver Wolf from the Association for services of the most exceptional nature – the highest award Scouting can offer to its voluntary leaders – and the personal gift of the Chief Scout.

After his retirement in 1994 Mike trained to become a voluntary adviser with the Citizens' Advice Bureau. He remained with them for over 15 years taking a special interest in Employment Tribunal and Debt issues. He was always ready to offer wise advice and counsel to anyone who needed help and was much respected by the community. He, jointly with his wife Beryl, was voted Basingstoke's Community's Unsung Hero in 2014.

Mike was a DIY enthusiast and was happy working as a plumber, electrician, car mechanic or a general handyman and 'go-fer'. Things did not always go to plan however such as when he put his foot through the ceiling whilst fixing flooring in the loft of his home; or trapping the cat under the floorboards as he installed the central heating! He also loved his garden, kept a meticulous lawn and supplied his family with fresh vegetables throughout the years.

Mike died of metastatic prostate cancer on 18th December 2015. In modern-day speak, Mike was the epitome of a 'servant leader' - those people who focus primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. He had lived in the vicinity of Basingstoke for over 60 years. Michael is survived by Beryl and their three sons. He is sadly missed by his family, his friends and his voluntary colleagues but his example shines through even the bleakest day and we look back on his life and achievements with great pride.

Postscript:

Beryl later wrote that amongst Michael's effects she had found a rather old photo album, which includes a series of photos of Princess Alice's visit to the college to plant a tree with the Headmaster of the time and a photo of Michael with Garrett House officials taken in the summer of 1950. There are signatures on the reverse; Jenkers, Chilcott, Hutton, Matthews can be deciphered and a little research would probably clarify the names of the other three whose signatures are less clear. She offered to pass these on to the SOF. Contemporaries might find the above of interest. Michael also told Beryl that he took the photos on the day of Princess Alice's visit and they were developed in a dark room that he and a friend set up in the college (illicitly?). Whilst developing them that evening, he and his friend had been disturbed by the Headmaster knocking on the door and telling them sternly to make sure he received a full set of the photographs on his desk first thing the following morning!