

Michael M J Plumridge 1939 - 2011

Fellow Cachalots were saddened to learn of the death of Mike Plumridge, who went aloft on 10 April 2011, following a long illness.

A submariner, who later specialised in anti-submarine warfare, Mike became the inaugural secretary of the newly formed Solent Branch of the Nautical Institute in 1974 and made it his mission to bring together Royal Navy and Merchant Navy personnel in the area. He performed this task with typical enthusiasm and efficiency, organising meetings alternately at RN and MN establishments, thus setting the precedent in the formative years of the branch.

Having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Mike's last naval appointment before retiring in 1984 was in naval intelligence in London. He then transferred his considerable professional talents full time to the Nautical Institute, becoming firstly Assistant, then shortly afterwards Deputy Secretary at Head Office. His responsibilities included the branch network, membership, fellowship and technical matters. He established branches in Cyprus, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Canada, New Zealand, Tasmania and Ukraine (the latter presenting the newly retired naval officer with unique problems, Ukraine at the time being a recently emerged Soviet Bloc country!).

Although he retired as Deputy Secretary in 1998, Mike continued work on behalf of the Institute and three years later completed "A Nautical Odyssey: The History of the Nautical Institute". This meticulously researched book traces the origins of the Institute over its first thirty years and continues to be in demand as a work of reference.

He will be sorely missed by the international community of mariners, not only for his untiring efforts on their behalf, but for his sociability and fellowship.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife Elisabeth and their family.

Leslie Morris