

## Obituary on Michael (Mike) Headon

26th February 1947 - 10th April 2025



Peacefully on 10th April 2025 at St David's Hospice, Llandudno, aged 78 years, surrounded by his family.

Beloved husband of Pamela, loving father of Siân and Gareth, fond father-in-law of Tom and Anya, a proud and much-loved grandad to Cerys, Michael, Catherine, Bethan and Nicholas, dear brother of Fred and fond brother-in-law to Vin, Caroline and Lindsey, a dear uncle and great-uncle and a loyal and long-standing friend to many. Mike will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral service to be held at Colwyn Bay Crematorium on Friday 9th May at 2pm.

## **On Michael (Mike) Headon**

### **Obituary by Hans Günter Brauch**

Michael Headon has been a good friend since an exchange of our two grammar schools organised at the initiative of Mike's German teacher at the then West Monmouth Grammar School in Ponty Pool in South Wales and the English teacher Mr Hans-Jörg Schmidt at the Nicolaus-Kistner Gymnasium in Mosbach in South Germany. This resulted in a visit of a group of grammar school pupils from Ponty Pool in Mosbach and a visit of students of the Nicolaus-Kistner Gymnasium in Wales. My exchange partner was Michael Headon from Caerleon near Newport in Monmouthshire.

One episode I remember very well. During my first visit to the United Kingdom I lived with Michael's parents and his brother Fred and his grandfather who had fought as a soldier in World War I and WW II against Germany. Mike's Granddad was first very reserved to me as a young German who was born as Mike in 1947. After the first two days Mike's granddad treated me as if I were an additional grandson.

From my first visit to Caerleon a lifelong friendship emerged since 1962 until Mike's death in April 2025. I received Mike's last long Email on 4 December 2024 when he informed me about the worsening of his health situation. His last words were "With all best wishes to one of my best friends, and also to Úrsula and her family" Mike. My last Email to Mike I sent him on 9 December 2024 from Cuernavaca in Mexico. In the last years of our life we suffered both from a cancer disease and metastases and we exchanged about the details of our medical treatments and therapies in the UK and Germany.

In 1965 und 1966 Mike was the first British correspondent of our high school newspaper "Tintenklecks" (Ink Stain). In 1965 in his first German article Mike compared his experience with the British Grammar school with the German High School (Gymnasium) in Aachen where he was a reaching assistant for three months. We stayed in close contact during our studies at the university and thereafter and visited each other occasionally in South and North Wales and in Mosbach.

Since 2003 I have been the editor of the Hexagon Book Series on Human, Environmental Security and Peace (HESP) and since 2012 of two additional Springer Briefs in Environment, Security, Development and Peace (ESDP) and on Pioneers in Science and Practice (PSP); since 2016 on the Anthropocene: Politik, Economics, Society and Science (APESS) and on Pioneers in Arts, Humanities, Science, Engineering, Practice (PAHSEP) that were all published in English by Springer Nature Switzerland.

After we retired from our professional duties we cooperated for several years as series and language editor. Mike also language edited many texts of my partner Ursula Oswald Spring and her daughter Erendira Serrano Oswald (Mexico) and Omar Serrano Oswald (Switzerland, Germany) who are now both professors in Cuernavaca (Mexico) and in Bern (Switzerland).

As a sign of my gratitude for our close cooperation I invited Mike and Pamela to my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 1 June 2017 to Mosbach where Mike attended as an observer our brainstorming in the attendance of Paul J. Crutzen, the Dutch Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, who had coined the concept of the 'Anthropocene' in February 2000. We enjoyed this stay in Mosbach from 30 May to 4 June 2017 where they stayed in a hotel in the medieval centre of Mosbach, a town of half-timbered houses. Before he resigned for health reasons as language editor, Mike had suggested as his successor as language editor, Dr. Vanessa Greatorex from Chester in England who resumed her cooperation with me in autumn 2017.

Mike was one of my best and longest friends for nearly 65 years. We share the social background and the value system that stressed cooperation in making the children of former war enemies to close friends and during the past few years our mutual struggle against cancer. Our mothers supported our goals by exchanging Christmas cards which Mike and I translated to our mothers.

During this time of deep sorrow my feelings are with Pamela, Sian, Gareth and Fred and their families. Mike will remain a good friend in my heart and memory. Mike's soul may rest in peace.

Mosbach, 26 April 2025

Hans Günter Brauch

## **Our last personal meeting from 30 May to 4 June in Mosbach**

### **30 May 2017, Walking Tour and Dinner in Mosbach's Market Place**



### **Mike's participation at our brainstorming on the Anthropocene**



### **1 June 2017 (HGB's birthday dinner with colleagues)**



**2 June 2017 (birthday dinner with HGB's family)**





**3 June 2017 (visit to Castle Guttenberg and Heidelberg)**



**Visit to Heidelberg**





**4 June 2017 in my home in Mosbach**



All photos were taken by Dr. ASM Mostafizur Rahman. © AFES-PRESS e.V., Mosbach