

Hello Gwenda. Thank you so much for getting in touch after Katharine told you about our contact earlier today. You have an exceptionally good friend there and I am so grateful that she followed up on the message I left on one of Mike's Strava activities.

What can I say; you and your daughters must be devastated at losing Mike and I imagine you must still be churning with the shock of its suddenness.

Do you know, I only met Mike twice, at a couple of our audio-nerd get togethers but I came to think of him as a good friend through our mutual interests in audio and cycling and we had many exchanges on-line – he was always kind and generous. We had only recently set-up a virtual Audio-Talk cycling club on Strava and had ideas about organising a club run. It was because of that friendship that I became concerned that he had not posted for several weeks and started to make enquiries, which is where Katharine came into the story. To be honest, my thinking was more along the lines of the Covid situation being the reason for the quiet, so it was a real shock to hear the reality this morning.

The conduit for our contact and friendship was initially the Audio-Talk forum, where a small group of us 'meet' to share conversations about current affairs, motorcycles, cycling, our sheds and even some audio topics! Mike was very well liked and respected on Audio-Talk, as illustrated by the comments that have followed my posting the sad news of his passing, some of which I have pasted below.

Pre65: *"Very sad"*

Ant: *"A lovely bloke. My condolences to his family and friends"*

Cressy Snr: *"Sad news indeed."*

Nick: *"Very sad."*

Greg: *"Sad news indeed."*

IslandPink: *"That's terrible . What a loss. I can picture him at the last Owston, difficult to believe."*

Steve S: *"That is sad news, he was a lovely bloke ... far too young to go."*

Simon: *"Blimey, that's a shock. No age."*

Jack: *"Very sad indeed. 56? Way way too early..."*

Ali Tait: *"Ah that's so sad, he was a really good bloke."*

Dave the bass: *"Sad news."*

I am sure other tributes along similar lines will follow over the coming days.

Please accept our combined condolences from all of Mike's friends at Audio-Talk; he'll be missed.

Regarding Mike's audio projects, I guess they may be a bit of a mystery and perhaps a bit daunting but I'm sure, in the fullness of time, we'll be able to help you get some joy from them if that is the case; they are of course a legacy unique to him. Let me know and we will see what we can do.

You related the positive memories of Mike's last couple of days, a long ride on the Friday and tinkering enthusiastically with an audio project on the Saturday – cherish them as they're part of who he was and things that brought him joy.

I will leave it there for now. Absolute best wishes to you, your daughters and your wider circle and please do get in touch if we can help.

Best regards

Ray