He describes his later career as more like Inspector Morse or Frost – losing his early naivety, growing grumpier, but still retaining a sense of optimism. Talking tough, but tough talk born from empathy was his trademark at Durham. Moving people from antisocial behaviour to pro-social behaviour.

He found it personally rewarding meeting university staff – nuclear physicists, astronomers, criminologists, cleaners. He liked being challenged, indeed this is what started most of our own conversations and research projects – including restorative justice and the checkpoint programme – Mike's flagship projects.

Being open to challenge, being bold even when his own officers described him as 'a