

## Eulogy – Anthony John James Moulam

Anthony, known by his friends as Tony, was born on 29 June 1927 in Derby to parents Albert James and Mabel Elizabeth. Albert was a clock repairer and Tony had a sister, Eileen, two and a half years younger. They lived at 102 Stanley Street in Derby.

Tony attended Bemrose School in Derby and appears to have 'borrowed' a fair few exercise books for the purpose of recording his climbing activities!

As a youth Tony spent much of his spare time in the Peak District and his records often refer to him 'cycling out.' One account tells of him receiving a 'sit up and beg' bike for his twelfth birthday. To 'entertain' Tony, his parents told him to make lists, which he did, of flowers, birds, animals ... anything ... but he felt the hobby lacked purpose. Climbing soon solved this problem!

Interest in climbing began for Tony when he found *Let's Go Climbing*, Colin Kirkus' book for beginners which he read, surreptitiously in the school library where he was supposedly revising for his Higher School Certificate. After a few visits to Dovedale he was hooked, and a naïve 16-year-old began a journey which became his life's passion. With early attempts foiled by inexperience Tony joined Peter Harding climbing on Black Rocks in Cromford and they began a long-standing friendship.

Tony volunteered for the army in June 1944 although wasn't called up until the next summer. First stationed in Worcestershire he had enough freedom to climb in the Malvern Hills and then training at Exeter University explored further climbing opportunities on Dartmoor. After this he was commissioned to the Royal Corps of Signals based in Catterick where he formed a Mountaineering Club. Persuading the CO that climbing was a sufficiently dangerous sport to be supported by the army, members of the club were privileged to utilise Army Lorry transport, complete with drivers, to take them wherever they wished.

Tony's final posting was to Vienna where he was put in charge of the military telephone exchange and the section. While in Austria his outdoor pursuits switched to skiing (his log reports 'badly')!

Demobbed from the army in 1948, his journal reports "with an ill-fitting suit, a trilby and an invitation to continue education at the government's expense, at Manchester University." Once enrolled at Manchester he "devoted more of his time to climbing than Electrical Engineering" although graduated with a BSc in summer 1951. His journals show him out almost every weekend and alongside climbing taking part in much partying, singing, playing of table tennis, and drinking until the early hours!

After graduating, Tony started work with ICI in July 1952. He lived in digs in Manchester and continued climbing as much as possible. Shortly before starting he received a letter from the Climbers Club, on behalf of the Everest Committee, inviting him to join two expeditions: the first to climb Cho Yoo (26700 ft) in early 1952 and the second a year later, to attempt Everest if his efforts on the first showed him to be 'worth' including. Declining this invitation may have been his greatest regret.

Tony met Pauline Chapman at the end of October 1954 at a pub in Keswick. After meeting they climbed together, went to the pictures, the opera and out with friends. They married at St Barnabas Parish Church on 29 December 1953.

An account in Tony's log for 22 October 1955 is of him arriving at the Pen-y-Gwryd (a hotel much frequented by climbers) to find 'lots of film men there'. He tells of an evening talking and drinking and modestly reports how he 'did fireplace traverse' although a photograph shows that he was in fact demonstrating the technique to a very impressed Jack Hawkins!

The couple had two children – Peter and Clare. Perhaps not surprisingly, Tony was on a mountain top when Clare was born!

In 1969 the ICI job saw the family move to Bedfordshire where Tony specialised in technical sales and ultimately became Sales Control Manager for the Plastics Division.

The family joined Tony in his walking and climbing exploits with regular holidays being spent in North Wales, the Lakes or Derbyshire. Of note is the whole family climbing Snowdon on 30 May 1970 recorded by Peter, setting off from the caravan. Tony's record simply says 'children and PDM (long way)' while Clare's diary tells of Dad going into a tunnel and bashing his head and coming across a dead sheep!

In 1974, with colleagues from ICI Tony also went on various 'outward bound' courses at a centre in North Wales called Celmi. This saw him making a wetsuit, bought on mail order, to use when following a set rope in the dark, often through rivers.

Having already climbed in the Alps, keen to explore further afield in 1976 with a group of like-minded friends Tony visited Africa and climbed Mounts Kenya and Kilimanjaro. Then in the summer of 1978 with two friends from the same group he went to America and climbed in the Grand Teton National Park.

Peter remembers climbing with Tony and his friends, mainly in the Peak District and particularly recalls his father letting him lead most of their routes, being happy to second and give his son both the experience and greater enjoyment of the occasion. Clearly Tony was altruistic in his outlook and keen for his children to enjoy the outdoors.

While at ICI Tony made many visits to Scandinavia and the family holidayed in Sweden and Norway in 1980. He finished working for ICI in March 1981 then started with H R Smith the following month. After a couple of years Tony left to join a company called Complas based in Freeland. This took him to Oxfordshire and after a period of commuting, he and Pauline agreed to separate in 1984 and towards the end of the year Tony bought his first house in Witney.

In early 1985 whilst purchasing a television set in Rumbelows, Tony had parked outside the shop on double yellow lines. That was where he first met a traffic warden, Annie Price who wanted to know whose vehicle it was. Being the charmer he was, he not only managed to persuade her not to book him, but also offered to buy her a drink in the Conservative club that evening.

After that first date their relationship went from strength to strength and he gained a second family: Janice, Russell and Nick. When his work meant yet another move, this time to Burnham-on-Sea, Annie and Tony spent alternate weekends between his home and Witney. They took part in family occasions including celebrating Janice's wedding to Nick in 1990 and holidays, often with Russell and Clare.

When Tony retired in 1993, he moved back to Witney to be near Annie and her family.

A year later Joseph was born and played an active role in days out. Joe remembers a time when he got stuck up a slide at the wildlife park and Tony was told 'as you're the climber, go up and fetch him.'

The couple had many friends and enjoyed an excellent social life especially at the House of Windsor where Tony ran a successful investment club for his close friends holding their meetings in the pub with a pint in hand.

Tony's love of climbing was shared with his new friends and in 1996 he helped them complete the national Three Peaks challenge.

In 1997 he enjoyed his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrating with a party at the House of Windsor, surrounded by his family: Clare, Peter, Janice, Russell, Nick and Joseph as well as many, many friends. A special barrel of beer was brought from the Heskett Newmarket brewery in Cumbria by his friend Arthur – and named in his honour.

Tony still had his sense of adventure and marked his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in style with a flight in a tiger moth. A week later he joined in the celebrations for Russell's wedding to Liz.

Tony and Annie went on many holidays together, both abroad and in this country. They enjoyed walks and relaxing, usually finishing with a glass of wine or pint of beer and perhaps a pub lunch or supper.

Although now unable to climb, Tony continued to be an active member in the climbing community and contributed many articles to the Climbers club magazine and regularly attended their annual dinner, often as a guest speaker.

Sadly, Annie died in 2017 and naturally Tony was very upset.

He then focussed his energy on collecting many interesting things. The Vanner Road postman had never been busier. Those of you who have visited his home will know how that collection grew and grew and grew!

Tony was a keen cruciverbalist (crossword solver to those not in the know), a great conversationalist and an avid reader, getting through at least two books a week. He was knowledgeable in so many subjects, showed an interest in others and their hobbies and was a proud man. His shirts were smart, usually checked or striped, rarely plain always wearing formal trousers and definitely never joggers.

He was resolutely stubborn, highly intelligent, and ultimately an honourable man. He was extremely proud of both of his families especially his grandchildren and their many achievements.

Tony's health and mobility declined rapidly after his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was very well cared for by family, friends and neighbours and the lovely carers from Olive Tree. He passed away peacefully in his own home, as was his wish, with Janice and Clare by his side.

Tony will be greatly missed by all those that knew and loved him.