

Rosemary:

I have known Tony for 70 of his 90 years. His young sister, Margaret, and I met at school and became best friends all her life - she sadly died aged 70 but I have always kept in touch with Tony, visiting him with my family and he visiting us. As neither Margaret nor Tony married he was left without very close relatives but he had some very good friends, particularly among the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers.

I have such happy memories of activities we enjoyed as a group of friends in our twenties, hill walking, dancing, going to the theatre and concerts, meeting in each other's houses to play records.

Tony was a gentle man, very good company with a delightful sense of humour: a deeply good man. I shall miss him.

Rob:

When I first met Tony almost 25 years ago, I found him to be instantly warm and friendly. He had an unassuming, non-judgemental nature. I was taken aback by his genuine interest and concern for people. Tony made it very easy for you to like him. It took me a while to realise I'd met a one off. Tony was the epitome of a true friend. A very good listener who was always willing to offer guidance and support in the most subtle and caring way. He also had a great sense of humour. I can't think of a time when I was in Tony's company that we didn't make each other laugh. I will miss hearing him laugh.

When talking about his past or books he'd read, his attention to detail would often throw me. Whether he was talking about his school days at St. Anselm's, his time in the RAF, his climbing in Italy or the many walks he went on with the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers. The recurring theme in all of Tony's stories was the friends that surrounded him and of whom he always spoke with great fondness and respect.

Tony had a great love for classical music and we often went to see the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra perform. He took great pleasure in meeting the virtuoso performers after the concert and explaining to me the various parts of the music and how skilled you have to be to play them. He was also partial to a good action film from time to time and it became a tradition of ours to go and see the latest James Bond film. I'm grateful to have these memories for the rest of my life. I'm sure everybody who knew him can relate to this. His very presence was a tonic. He was a virtuoso.

Tony has left us with an everlasting impression of what it means to be a decent human being. For that we should be truly thankful to him.