

A celebration of life Anthony Sadler, Tony

5th February 1931 - 28th January 2021

2.00-2.30 pm, 16th February 2021, Cam Valley Crematorium

a personal goodbye

Humanists UK is a registered charity no. 285987 and limited company no. 228781 in England and Wales. Humanists UK, 39 Moreland Street, London, EC1V8BB, 020 7324 3060

Humanist
Ceremonies

The Tribute

Mark has told me this about his father.

Tony was born in London on February 5th 1931, the son of William and Helen Sadler, with two older sisters, Joan and Betty and an Uncle to Butch, Lorelea, Joanne and Jackie. He went to Latymer School and entered into a career in Banking aged just 18. He went to work in Nigeria in 1955 working for the 'Bank of British West Africa'. During his tenure he managed multiple branches in areas of northern Nigeria.

In 1957 he married Jean and his son Bruce was born in 1958, in Jos in the plateau province in the north. Jane their daughter was born in 1960 also in Jos. Tony loved sport and played tennis every day after work. However, the Biafran War, (the Nigerian Civil War) disrupted Tony and Jean's life and Jean returned to England to have their second son Mark in 1967.

Whilst Tony was not known for his overt displays of affection, sometimes recoiling when approached for a hug, he loved and was deeply proud of his children, their partners Steve, Kim and Ellie and all his grandchildren, Lee, Emma, Amy, Jack, Louis, Grace and Oliver and he was also a great grandfather to Isabella. It was back in England that Tony and Jean met their very good friends, Derek and Fiona. Sharing very happy times spent playing sport (Dad used to tell us how he let Derek win at squash), laughing over drinks and going out with the children. Later at Blackbirds, he would enjoy dinners and debates with Maggie and Richard, and of course spending many days discussing a range of diverse topics with Robin.

Tony was very sociable and was popular with everyone he met.

He was an autodidact, interested in new ideas, appreciative of good literature, good wines and the film world. He was well known for avidly reading all film reviews and would only see those with the highest critical acclaim, even if they turned out not to be to everyone's taste.

He also closely followed the careers of Paul and Simon Barry with great pleasure and was particularly proud for his family name to appear in Simon's series Continuum, something he shared with everyone. His enjoyment didn't end at just films. He was often heard recounting the latest Scandinavian drama and series such as the Sopranos, but woe betide anyone who rang or called when he and Jean were watching their favourite daily episode of Neighbours.

Tony was also very proud of his family and enjoyed shared Sunday meals and barbecues, and sitting under the tree at Blackbirds and in the garden at Mortlocks with all the family.

His drink of choice was an ice-cold gin and tonic, he particularly enjoyed it when Jane introduced him to the addition of berries into it.

Days were spent doing the Times crossword, Mark and Bruce loved getting their hands on the cryptic whilst Jean, Robin and Ellie had to settle for the concise, and how pleased they were when they could complete them with very little help from Tony, particularly when he sat waiting to be able to take them over.

Tony would always listen to opposing points of view and offer reasonable compromises in awkward situations.

His family and friends appreciated his devilish sense of humour and his wise council. We as a family had to slightly deflect his occasional gloomy predictions about the weather and the state of the world, by warning him that the weatherman predicted hurricanes and tornadoes over Great Bardfield but he took it all in good part.

Tony would have been very surprised by the outpouring of affection from so many people, as he was a very private person, but I am sure he would have been pleased.

Tony's granddaughter Amy and Grandson Louis are going to pay tribute to their grandfather.

Tribute: Amy Flood

I Love you Grandad, you made us so happy. I hope you are having a great time with Dad.

You meant so much to us and we cared about you. I hope you can see us from heaven with Dad and we want you to know how much we miss you.

Don't forget that we love you and don't forget about us.

We will treasure you in our hearts. Be happy as we celebrate your life.

Tribute: Louis Flood

Anthony (or Tony) Sadler was not only a husband to Jean, and father to Bruce, Jane and Mark, but also a grandfather to no less than seven grandchildren: Lee, Emma, Amy, Jack, Louis, Grace and Oliver. And a great-grandfather to Isabella.

Unsurprisingly, having such a large kin meant that he was a man in great demand. But he never failed to make time for others.

He had a constant presence throughout all of our lives. He entertained us at countless Sunday lunches with his gloomy sense of humour – always predicting the end of days, which to the best of my knowledge, is still yet to happen. He celebrated at more birthday parties than he would even have had for himself as a nonagenarian. And at Christmas, purchasing the annual turkey, and cracking jokes with his familiar, wry smile.

For a man nearly constantly surrounded with people, it was rather comical that at times he shied away from tactile affection. But it was not for lack of geniality, for he compensated generously with the time he would spend with each and every member of his family, engrossed in conversation, showing genuine interest in the latest developments in their lives.

In the latter stages of his own life, many of us would sit and chat with him on the sofas and, eventually, by his bedside; talking about a range of subjects: the weather, sport, current affairs, the weather again, music, technology and philosophy. His thirst for learning remained unquenched until the very end – forever absorbing new ideas and information.

However, during this period, he would often recount memories of when he was nimbler with greater energy. Telling tales of the young boy that played in the bombed streets of London who was subsequently evacuated to the countryside; or the man that left grey England with his wife to raise a family from Nigeria; and as the elderly gentleman, who would babysit and play sport with his grandchildren. These images are how many of us remember him, wherever he may be now.

It is a rather difficult task to even attempt to fit the stories of a nine-decade life in such a short space of time. But equally it is something that Tony Sadler would have wanted. As a husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, he avoided the limelight. Nonetheless, we all saw through this modesty and recognised him for what he was and always will be: a truly great man.