

Geoff Cross : Mountaineer & Sailor

By Peter Henery, April 2021

GEOFF CROSS died 1st April 2021 after a long period of health problems. He joined the Achille Ratti Climbing Club in 1963 under the guidance of Derek Price; this was following his attendance on the night school course on mountaineering that Derek ran in Preston. He quickly took to rock climbing and greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of the club. One of his favourite Langdale crags was White Ghyll and he revelled in it, climbing the route 'inferno', which he loved introducing new members to. In 1965 he travelled out to Chamonix for a season in the Alps, which culminated in an ascent of Mont Blanc.

Geoff found sailing in the early seventies, whilst studying at Bangor teacher training College in north Wales, where he started dinghy sailing as part of his course. During his time at Bangor he helped enormously with the initial conversion of Tyn Twr. It was after he graduated that he made a name for himself sailing as crew member on the Italian Yacht CS & RB 2 in the 1973/4 Whitbread round the world race. Once when asked about sailing around Cape Horn all he would say is, 'we made a snowman on the deck'.

He moved to rural Provence with his wife Pauline in 2002, in retirement, to be nearer to her family.