

The Dynamics of the Man

– An interview with Tony Clarkson as he retires from NLPtCA

Last month the NLPtCA Team received a farewell email from Tony Clarkson letting us know that he was retiring and giving a short but intriguing summary of his association with NLP, Neurolinguistic Psychotherapy, the ANLP and NLPtCA. He packed a lot into about four lines.

So, we decided to find out about bit more about Tony and his career. Board Member Patty Everitt arranged to talk with Tony about his journey with NLP and NLPt. She says: “It was a real pleasure to “meet” him.”

Tony was introduced to NLP at a time, like many others, when he was suffering.

Tony owns a thriving, successful company manufacturing textiles, selling internationally and employing upward of 500 staff. When the recession hit in the 1990s, Tony spent three years fighting off imminent closure making survival plans on a day by day basis. As the recession itself receded the company emerged financially robust and ready to grow.

And yet ... Tony realised that the struggle had changed him – perhaps not in the eyes of those around him but he felt he was not the confident person he had been and that the things that had motivated and inspired him no longer did so. He felt he had been scarred by the experience of the recession; he didn't want to answer the phone when it rang, or open brown envelopes that appeared in the post.

However, the universe provides, and at that time a friend was raving to him about NLP. After his first brush with NLP he felt differently; he was able to access some of the joy he had felt before the recession and he was convinced that NLP had a lot more to offer him.

During his first NLP course he learned the Fast Phobia Cure which he took back to his company and successfully worked with many of his staff to banish their phobias. Life seemed to be offering him some interesting avenues to explore and he decided to follow them. He established a Board of Directors for his company and essentially left them to it while he spent several years traveling the world and attending every NLP-related course he could find. He learned with and from the great and the good including John Grinder and Robert Dilts, Tim Hallbom and Suzy Smith.

“The more I got into NLP the more I was enthralled”

“I learned that you can change yourself to be anything you want to be”

... And lots has changed since Tony's introduction to NLP 30 years ago.

Tony joined ANLP and noticed that there were many different points of focus amongst the members: business, training and Life Coaching to mention but a few. Tony's direction, however, was different. For him and a few others the focus was on therapy.

Paving a new path

Derek Jackson, President of the ANLP at that time, recognised the specialist agenda of therapy and suggested to Tony that NLP therapy could be a distinct and specialist body. While not all of the ANLP committee were convinced, the therapy group did separate from ANLP and became NLPtCA, an independent company limited by guarantee.

The “break-aways” formed a committee to create and hold the standards required for the new Association to become part of UKCP.

“NLPtCA is the best performing part of UKCP honouring the requirements of UKCP.

It punches above its weight.”

As Tony continued to work with clients, he developed his own therapeutic approaches based on what worked for his clients and what did not.

Good vibrations

Using his business and therapy experience Tony founded the charity, The Sanctuary of Healing, which specialises in working with clients with complex physical, emotional and spiritual conditions. Clients presenting with autoimmune diseases, multiple sclerosis, ME and fibromyalgia contacted The Sanctuary of Healing for help. [We heard from Malcolm Bray about some the work with clients with non-specific illnesses that takes place at The Sanctuary of Healing, at the 2019 NLPtCA Members Event].

Tony remained curious – a good attitude to hold! Why, for example, would 7 out of 8 clients he worked with in a day get better while one did not? What needed to happen to allow that one person to heal themselves? The full range of medical testing showed that, in theory, the client was perfectly healthy and

normal, but that wasn't the experience of the client. So, asked Tony, what were the tests not looking at?

His research led him to the "electromagnetic body", the electric field generated by the vibration frequencies of the body's cells. When the body is diseased, cells vibrate at the wrong frequencies.

He went back to school to learn and took the research and experience from Eastern Europe medical practice to develop the Electromagnetic Therapy offered at The Sanctuary of Healing – a technique to restore cells to their healthy vibrational frequencies. Further, the technique harnesses the natural vibration frequencies of particular crystals to amplify the healing effects. While not claiming to cure, the effects for those with autoimmune diseases has been significant allowing them to move on with their lives instead of feeling stuck in pain.

The Sanctuary of Healing now has "an amazing Board of Directors", including retired NLPtCA member Malcolm Bray, so Tony can ensure that its future remains secure.

Over and beyond

A spiritual aspect to Tony's life and work as a therapist was developing – a recognition that there is "something else" going on over and beyond the physical, mental and emotional.

Through personal circumstances as godfather to a child with cystic fibrosis he became aware of the work of a Healer in Brazil – John of God. Tony took his godson to attend John of God; thousands were also there seeking healing. The effects for his godson were so dramatic that they attended annually for 11 years until his godson's death. One huge change for his godson was the way he related to his condition, moving from hate to (and these are Tony's words) love and curiosity. [Note: John of God is now disgraced and is serving a prison sentence for sexual abuse; Tony remains deeply grateful for the healing that his godson found].

Life lessons

Patty asked Tony what he would say are the key lessons he has learned through his NLP and onward journey. He answered: "*NLP, electromagnetics and a spiritual (not to be confused with a religious) journey.*" When he works with clients whose outcome is to get back to where they were before all this (whatever that might be) happened, Tony is clear:

"I can't help you get back to where you came from – if you go back there, you'll end up here again. There has to be new learning and new wisdom in order to go forward.

Let the past go."

And he adds

"It's the difference that makes the difference!"

Patty then asked: From this point in your own journey what words of wisdom would you offer someone considering becoming a therapist, Tony?

"Be a therapist! It's the most rewarding thing you can do."

... and to someone starting their journey as a therapist?

"It's a life lesson where you are the teacher and the student."

... and for NLPtCA?

"you have the highest ethics and standards – congratulations on those standards."

What an insight into the life and career of such a dynamic personality. Patty reflects: "It truly was a pleasure for me to listen to learn!"