

## Tony Anholt

I met Tony when we both appeared in the series *Howards Way* in the mid-1980's and we later married. In 2000, I divorced Tony – his behaviour had changed beyond belief.

A year later Tony suffered what was believed to have been a stroke. I still loved Tony and as he only lived round the corner from me I would visit him and help with things like shopping. Eventually, the doctors realised that it was not a stroke which Tony had experienced. He was suffering with a brain tumour...



This was my second experience of brain tumours in very short succession. I had just recently nursed my girlfriend Helen up until her death from secondary brain cancer, having being cured previously of lung cancer. She had died very quickly as she didn't want to undergo radiotherapy on her brain. Helen had been a psychologist in the Army and she was terrified about losing her mind. Ironically, the day I realised that this was actually happening, was the day Helen died. It was as if she had decided that she had had enough and it was time to go.

Tony's brain tumour was diagnosed as an inoperable glioma. He lived for 15 months with the knowledge that he was going to die and the last three months he was too paralysed for me to be able to move him so we found a nursing home round the corner from a hospice, which could take care of his palliative treatment.

It was awful to see Tony dying in front of my eyes. He had a horrible death. It was so cruel... Bits of Tony's body seemed to shut down at a time. It was such a painful experience and death. I really think it isn't right that anyone should have to suffer in this way.

I realised then that we needed to raise much more money for research into brain tumours and certainly increase awareness, as well as support others going through this awful disease. That is why I agreed to become patron of Hammer Out, the brain tumour charity which offers assistance and support to patients, their families and carers in the south-west of England.

Tracey Childs, Patron of Hammer Out - March 2010

[www.hammerout.co.uk](http://www.hammerout.co.uk)

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