

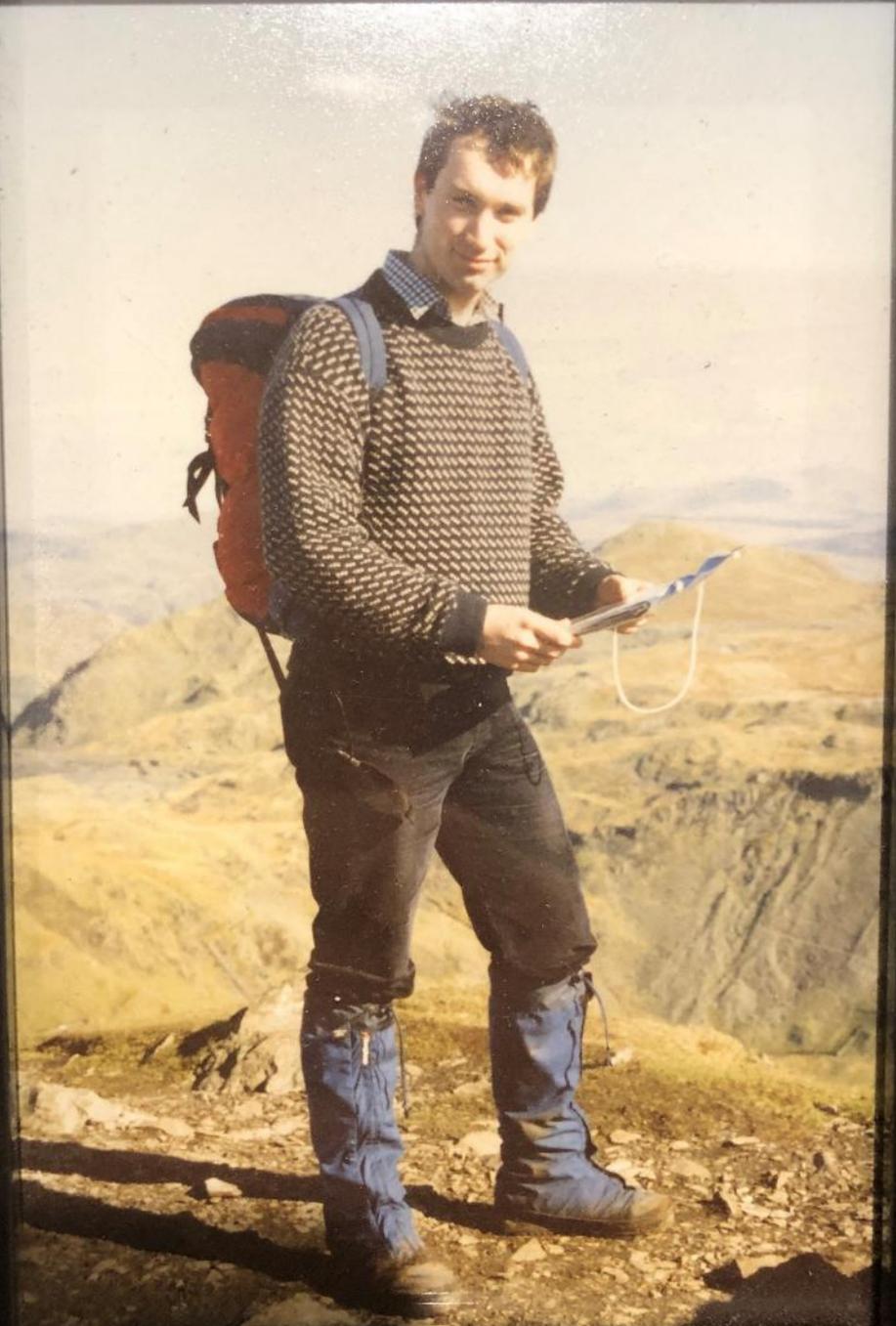


**MOUNTAIN LEADER
(Summer)**

Anthony Smith

Mountain leader

Eryri gold ambassador



The Beginning!

- **Ruthin the Walking Club**
- Photo: Cnicht 1989
- I moved back to Manchester where I served as a police officer before studying law and walking stopped
- 1997 return to Ruthin
- 2015 Ill heart attack health step by step recovery
- 2020 Covid Years
- Began to walk on the Clwydians and eventually stood on the summit of Moel Famau.
- On western horizon Eryri.
- The outlines of old friends Tryfan, Siabod, Yr Wyddfa, Carneddu.

No gortex



Eryri Ramblers



Tre'r Ceiri



Tryfan



Moel Siabod

- Tre'r Ceiri – Di Jamal
- Carnedd Moel Siabod – Roy
- Cym Ystraddlyn – Di
- Dinorwic Quarry and Anglesey barracks with Nigel
- Tryfan - Dick
- Fuse was lit
- Wanted to lead
- Enrolled in a training course with Paul Poole Mountaineering



Mountain Leader Award (Summer)

- Award for persons who wish to lead others in the Mountains of the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Summer conditions
- 1971 Cairngorms tragedy. Worst mountaineering tragedy in British Mountaineering history. Party of 5 children and 1 teacher died on the Cairngorms in blizzard conditions.
- Disaster led the British Mountaineering Council and Mountain Training to establish close links and develop the Mountain Leader award.
- DUTY of CARE
- Award to provide a level of competence: Route Planning, Navigation, Assistance etc.



Mountain Leader Award (Summer)

- Overseen by Mountain Training (Cymru)
- 18 years of age and at least 12 months experience mountain walking
- Register with Mountain Training candidate management system
- Must have a minimum of 20 Quality Mountain Days
- Must be a member of a Mountaineering Council (BMC) or mountaineering of Scotland or Mountaineering Ireland
- Attend a 6-day training course

Qualify Mountain Day (QMD)



- A quality mountain day as a leader should take place in mountainous terrain in the UK or Ireland.
- Wild country which may contain unavoidable steep and rocky ground where walkers are dependent upon themselves for immediate help.
- Lake District
- Northwest Highlands
- Central Highlands
- Grampian Mountains
- Southern Highlands
- Western Islands and Islands
- North and Far North Scotland
- Mountains of Mourne
- Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog

Qualify Mountain Day (QMD)



- The leader is responsible for planning and decision making
- An unfamiliar location is explored
- A mountain is ascended
- Navigation skills are required or taught
- Skills practised
- Judgement and decision making required
- 5 hours or more journey time

Training



- **Day 1**
- **Capel Curig.**
- Introduction to the Award
- Analysing weather forecasts
- Crimpiau methods of navigation in the mountains – fundamental skills, bearings, Pacing and Timing.
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- **Day 2**
- Weather forecast
- Equipment
- Macro navigation and group management in a mountain setting.
- Carnedd Moel Siabod

Training



- **Day 3**
- Discussion leader responsibilities – advice clothing, footwear, food, water, sunscreen.
- Group management – steep ground and emergency rope work in ascent or descent.

- **Day 4**
- Introduction to geology and flora of Eryri also mythology.
- **Cwm Idwal**

Training



- **Day 5 and 6**
- Mini expedition and overnight camp.
- Water hazards
- Micro navigation in poor visibility

Post Training



- Explore new mountains and put new skills into practice
- Refresher one day courses Nature of Snowdonia with Mike Raine, Night Navigation, Maps 1:40,000 and 1:50,000. Rope work. Paul Poole
- Lakes
- Scotland
- Camping at least 4 wild camps
- First aid certificate.
- Need minimum 40 Quality Mountain Days for assessment.

Assessment



- **The journey continues**
- Mid July 2025.
- **Assembled Tyn Y Coed**
- SPLIT WEEKEND 5-day course.
- Mid July 2025. Blazing Hot.
- 3 of us me Simon and daughter of my old boss at CPS. No pressure.

Assessment - Days 1 and 2



- Bank Holiday weekend Litter
- Carnedd Moel Siabod
- Yr Wydffa
- Navigation skills
- Flora and fauna
- Emergency use of a rope (not planned)
- Group management.

Assessment - Day 3 Mid September



- **NEMESIS**
- The Moelwynion – The Mountain Leaders Graveyard.
- Croesor to somewhere.
- Map nav with 1:50,000.
- Night nav and flood lights
- Ring Contour
- Hailstones and lakes

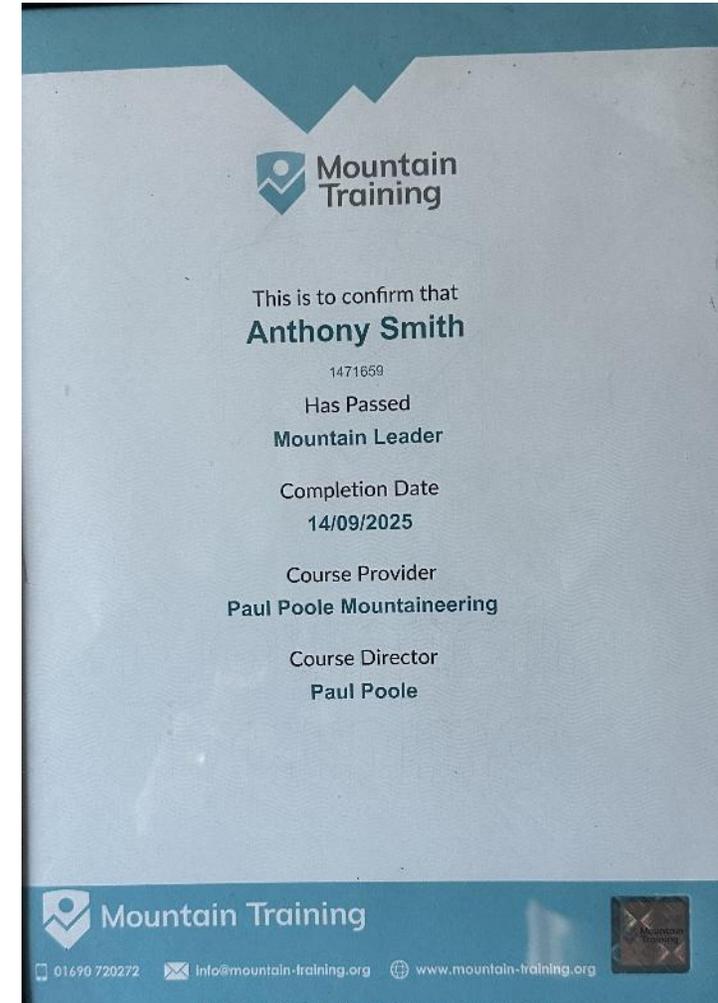
- FAILURE

Assessment - Day 4 Mid September



- Around Rhosydd and Moelwyn Mawr
- Night Nav 2 attempt
- Success bulls eye x 2

Assessment - Day 5 Qualification



My Aide Memoire



- TRUST your COMPASS and tie it to you
- Take 2 Maps and secure map case with carabineer,
- it won't blow away!
- The Sun is NOT your friend – protection factor 30 +
- A warm hat x 2
- Gloves at least two pairs often 4
- Water is heavy – hydrate night before and in morning carry 1 litre and a filter.
- Easy pace, reduce sweating and chills
- Eat on the move and take lots better to overestimate

My Aide Memoire continued.



- Head Torch with spare batteries.
- Whistle – 6 blasts for help
- First Aid kit
- Blizzard Survival jacket,
- Group Shelter
- Always leave details of route and report when off the hill.
- Phone is to communicate not navigate.
- Rope ? – probably not.
- Garmin GPS with SOS



**“The world is not in your
books and maps, its out
there”**

Gandalf Lord of the Rings

With thanks to

Eryri Ramblers and

Paul Poole Mountaineering

The End