



# Antony Tolson

North Wales Fire & Rescue

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When Antony Tolson dies, he will be leaving his prized collection of guitars to The Fire Fighters Charity. This, he says, is his way of saying thanks for the difference it has made to his life, as well as hundreds of others.

When he joined the North Wales fire service as a fit 18-year-old, neither thoughts of writing a will nor his own mortality were on Antony's radar: “When you're young, you think you're invincible,” he says. “You do the car washes and make donations, but you think you'll never get ill or injured, and you'll be able to stay as fit as you always were. But now I'm getting older, it's harder to maintain the same level of fitness I used to have. At 51, I don't think I'm doing too badly, although my body is starting to give up on me!”

After a hiatus hernia operation, Antony twice attended our Cumbrian centre, Jubilee House. Surprised by how quickly he saw improvement, he said spending time with like-minded people was just as healing as the structured parts of his days.

“It would be awful to come here and not have anyone to talk to who gets it,” he says. “You're mixing with people who have had the same sort of life you've had and on top of that, the facilities are fantastic. If I didn't have somewhere like this to come to, I would not have been able to progress as I have. This is why I chose to leave a contribution to the Charity in my will. We'd be completely lost without these facilities, but as long as people continue to raise money, they'll always be here.”

“Choosing to leave a gift to The Fire Fighters Charity in your will is a deeply personal decision,” says Trusts and Legacies Manager Lisa Matthews. “You may not be around to see its impact, but your gift will allow your friends and colleagues across the fire community to benefit from support that could change their lives forever.”

[www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/antony-tolson](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/antony-tolson)

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