



# Sir Chris Bonington

Born in Hampstead in 1934, Chris Bonington was educated at University College School, London & the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He was commissioned in the Royal Tank Regiment in 1956 & spent three years in North Germany in command of a troop of tanks & then two years at the Army Outward Bound School as a mountaineering instructor. It was during this period that he started climbing in the Alps, making the first British ascent of the South West Pillar of the Drus in 1958 & then the first ascent of the Central Pillar of Freney on the south side of Mont Blanc in 1961 with Don Whillans, Ian Clough & Jan Dlugosz. At that time this was one of the most difficult climbs in the Alps & even today is considered one of the great classics of the Mont Blanc region. He made the first British ascent of the North Wall of the Eiger in 1962.

On leaving the Army in 1961 Chris joined Unilever as a Management Trainee but after nine months realised that he could never combine a conventional career with his love of mountaineering. Now married to Wendy, a freelance illustrator of children's books, Chris made the decision to go freelance & since 1962 has followed a successful course as a writer, photographer & mountaineer. They have two sons, Daniel & Rupert.

## **CLIMBS:-**

- 1961 First ascent Annapurna II (7937m) in Nepal with Dick Grant & Sherpa Ang Nyma.
- 1961 Second ascent Nuptse (7879m) third peak of Everest with Sherpa Ang Pemba. (first ascent by Dennis Davis & Sherpa Tachei the day before).
- 1961 First ascent Central Pillar of Freney, Mont Blanc with Whillans, Clough & Dlugosz.
- 1961 First ascent Central Tower of Paine, Patagonia with Whillans.
- 1962 First British ascent, North Wall of the Eiger with Clough.
- 1966 First ascent of Old Man of Hoy with Patey & Bailey.
- 1970 Leader, Annapurna South Face expedition. (Whillans & Haston made first ascent).
- 1972 Leader, British Everest expedition, reaching 8300m.
- 1973 First ascent Brammah (6411m) Kashmir with Estcourt.
- 1974 First ascent Changabang (6864m), Garhwal Himalaya with Boysen, Haston, Scott, Tachei & Sandhu.
- 1975 Leader, British South West Face of Everest expedition. (Haston & Scott made first ascent).

- 1975 First ascent of Ogre, (7284m) with Doug Scott.
- 1975 Leader, British K2 expedition to West Face K2.
- 1980 Climbing leader, British Mount Kongur expedition, making first ascent Mount Kongur (7700m) with Boardman, Rouse & Tasker.
- 1982 Leader, British Everest expedition, North East Ridge.
- 1983 First ascent, West Summit of Shivling (6501m), Gangotri with Jim Fotheringham.
- 1983 First British ascent (solo) Mount Vinson (4897m) – highest in Antarctica.
- 1985 Ascent of Mount Everest (8848m) as a member of Norwegian Everest expedition.
- 1987 Leader, Norwegian/British Menlungtse expedition.
- 1988 Leader, British/American Tibet expedition which made the first ascent of the West Summit of Menlungtse (7023m).
- 1988 Climbing leader, '*Greenland The Hard Way*' expedition which sailed to Greenland in the Suhaili, skipper Robin Knox-Johnston & attempted '*The Cathedral*', Lemon Mountains.
- 1992 Joint leader with Harish Kapadia, of Indian/British Kumaon expedition. (Graham Little made first ascent of West Ridge of Panch Chuli II - 6904m).
- 1993 Member British Greenland expedition to Lemon Mountains making three first ascents.
- 1993 Climbed Mont El'brus (5642m), highest peak in Europe & N.E. Ridge of Ushba.
- 1994 Joint leader with Harish Kapadia of Indian/British Kinnaur Expedition which made the first ascent of Rangrik Rang (6553m) in the remote Kinnaur Himalaya of northern India.
- 1994 First ascent of Drangnag-Ri (6801m) Rolwaling Himal, as a member of the Norwegian Everest 10th Anniversary expedition.
- 1994 Exploratory expedition to North & South approaches to Sepu Kangri (9956m) in the Eastern Nyenchen Tanglha range in East Tibet.
- 1994 Leader British Tibet expedition to Sepu Kangri – reaching 6100m.
- 1994 Leader British Tibet expedition to Sepu Kangri reaching 6800m on main summit & making first ascent Turquoise Flower (6650m).
- 2000 First ascent Danga II (6190m) in East Nepal with his son Daniel, brother Gerald & nephew James.
- 2000 Expedition to South Greenland climbing 3 unclimbed peaks.
- 2003 First ascent Jaraun Peak, 5205m, Sainj Valley, Kullu.
- 2004 First ascent Pimu Peak, 5490m, above Pimu Pass between Jambu Nala & Pimu Nala, Menthosa Range, Lahoul.

### **AWARDS:-**

- 1974 Founder's Medal Royal Geographical Society
- 1974 Lawrence of Arabia Medal of the Royal Asian Society
- 1974 Livingstone Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society
- 1974 Hon. D. Civil Law (Northumbria)
- 1974 Hon. D. Sc. (Sheffield)
- 1974 Hon. D. Sc. (Lancaster)
- 1974 Hon. Doctorate (Sheffield Hallam University)
- 1974 Hon. M.A. (Salford)
- 1974 Hon. Fellowship (UMIST)
- 1974 Hon. Fellowship (North Lancashire)
- 1986 C.B.E.
- 1996 Knighthood
- 2002 Hon. Doctor of Letters (University of Bradford)
- 2010 Hon. Fellowship (University of Cumbria)
- 2010 Commander of the Victorian Order (CVO)

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:-**

- Chairman (Non-executive) Berghaus
- Visiting Fellow, Cranfield Business School

### **HONORARY APPOINTMENTS:-**

- 1985- President, Lepra
- 1986- President, British Orienteering Foundation
- 1986- President, National Trust Lake District Appeal
- 1988-1991 President, British Mountaineering Council
- 1992-1999 President Council for National Parks
- 1992-2001 Chairman, Corporate Forum, Council for National Parks
- 1996-1998 President, The Alpine Club
- 1997-2009 Trustee, Outward Bound
- 1997-2009 Chairman, Outward Bound Risk Management Committee
- 1997-2009 Trustee, Himalayan Environment Trust
- 1997-2009 Signatory, Mountain Wilderness Association
- 1999-2001 Chairman, Mount Everest Foundation
- 2000- Trustee, Mountain Heritage Trust
- 2002-2006 Chairman, Mountain Heritage Trust of the BMC
- 2004- Deputy Lieutenant, Cumbria
- 2005- Chancellor, Lancaster University
- 2009- Vice Patron Outward Bound
- 2009- Vice President Army Mountaineering Association
- 2009- Vice President, Young Explorers Trust
- 2009- Vice President Youth Hostels Association (England & Wales)
- 2009- Vice President, British Lung Foundation

### **BOOKS:-**

- 1966 I Chose to Climb
- 1970 Annapurna South Face
- 1972 The Next Horizon
- 1973 Everest South West Face
- 1974 Changabang
- 1976 Everest the Hard Way
- 1981 Quest for Adventure
- 1982 Kongur: China's Elusive Summit
- 1983 Everest: The Unclimbed Ridge (with Dr. Charles Clarke)
- 1986 The Everest Years
- 1989 Mountaineer – Thirty Years of Climbing on the World's Great Peaks
- 1992 The Climbers
- 1992 Sea, Ice & Rock (with Robin Knox-Johnston)
- 1994 Great Climbs
- 1999 Tibet's Secret Mountain: the Triumph of Sepu Kangri (with Dr. Charles Clarke)
- 2000 Boundless Horizons – Omnibus edition of the 3 auto-biographical books
- 2000 Quest for Adventure – Remarkable Feats of Exploration & Adventure 1950-2000
- 2002 Chris Bonington's Everest
- 2003 Everest Expeditions
- 2003 Omnibus edition of Everest South West Face
- 2003 Everest the Hard Way
- 2003 Everest the Unclimbed Ridge
- 2005 Chris Bonington's Lakeland Heritage (with Roly Smith)

### **TELEVISION:-**

1985 Chris devised, wrote & presented an award-winning Channel 4 TV series **Lakeland Rock**, which won the Golden Shot award at the Portoroz European Sports Film Festival 1986, for the best sports documentary. This was a world event with entries from America & Australia as well as Europe. The series also won a Bronze Medal at the New York Film & TV Festival in 1986.

**Everest Years** was an hour long TV documentary based on **The Everest Years** book & won the Gold Medal for sports programmes (highest award) at the 1988 New York Film & TV Festival. It also won the prize for the Best Mountaineering Film (the top award in the mountaineering category) at the Banff International Mountain Film Festival, which is the premier world mountain film festival.

Chris narrated & participated in **The Climbers**, a six-part series shown on BBC TV about the history of mountaineering & wrote the accompanying book, **The Climbers**.

Chris also wrote, narrated & fronted **Everest – Blood Sweat & Tears**, filmed in Nepal around Everest Base Camp, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest.

**MANAGEMENT TRAINING:-**

Chris Bonington completed a very successful management training video, **Leading to the Top** & for several years has lectured to the Sloan Programme of The London Business School & Cranfield University where he is a Visiting Fellow. He has become increasingly interested in the study of leadership, starting with his own experience as a successful expedition leader & using this to explore a wider application.

Listed below are some of the companies Chris has addressed over the years on leadership & teambuilding using a sophisticated live presentation illustrated by slides of his own ascent of Everest & short sound bites recorded at the time:-

Apple	Irish Telecom
Barclays Bank	Jardine Matheson
British Aerospace	Kodak
British Airways	Management Centre Europe
British Telecom	Marconi
BP	Minit International
Cadbury	Morrison Construction
Cedel	National Power
Civil Service College	National Gas
Compaq Computers	Prudential Insurance
Credit Lyonnaise	Quality Scotland Foundation
Hewlett Packard	Reed International
Digital	Searle Pharmaceuticals
General Motors	Shell
Guinness	Smith Kline Beecham
Gulf Petroleum	Sunlife
IBM	Woolwich Building Society
Institute of Personnel Management	Volvo

**For more information on Sir Chris Bonington,  
Contact: 0113-239-2222**