

There and Back, for Peter



Just some of the cyclists taking part in yesterday's Pete's There and Back charity cycle ride held for Peter Webber, who died in December aged 51. Mr Webber was for 10 years the chairman of the event's beneficiary Help a Guernsey Child. Story Page 6. (Picture supplied)

French fishermen use cable link site for symbolic protest

MORE than 100 fishermen gathered in Normandy on Saturday at the point where the power cable providing electricity to the Channel Islands is connected to France, to continue protests over their post-Brexit fishing rights in Jersey waters.

The fishermen were joined in their protests on Armanville beach in Normandy by several regional politicians.

They gathered in the latest move to oppose plans to restrict access to Jersey waters for a number of vessels from 1 October.

Although talks have been ongoing since a flotilla of French boats blockaded St Helier Harbour back in May, the fishermen say that nothing has happened and they feared they will lose their livelihoods, if Government of Jersey restrictions over how many days they can fish and what equipment they can use are introduced as planned.

There has been a threat from French politicians about cutting power supply to the islands and so the beach was used as a symbolic base from which to protest.

ESS president fires warning shot ahead of tax debate

'P&R must be fully behind its own GST proposals'

ATTEMPTS to sort out Guernsey's financial problems are likely to fail in the States next week without the full backing of the Policy & Resources Committee.

That is the view of Employment & Social Security president Peter Roffey, also a member of the Tax Review steering group. The long-serving deputy agrees millions of pounds have to be raised in order to balance the books, regardless of any savings that can be found through cuts and efficiencies.

'I hope P&R are fully and forcefully behind their own proposals,' Deputy Roffey said, 'as it would be disappointing if they don't do a proper selling job on them. That would make it more likely they'd fail and if they do, we'll just be sticking our heads in the sand.'

P&R will ask States members to agree, when they meet on Wednesday of next week, that Guernsey should introduce a goods and services tax.

The report from the Tax Review steering group, led by Deputy Mark Helyar and including deputies David Mahoney and Roffey, alongside non-States member Mark Thompson, urged P&R to 'seek direction from the States... that any restructure of the tax system should include the introduction of a GST and that this should be a broad-based system similar to that applied in Jersey and New Zealand.'

However, Deputy Helyar has said he is against GST, saying it harms the poorest in society, leads to a lazy government and encourages a cash-in-hand economy, as well as creating red tape.

As the treasury lead for P&R, it will be up to Deputy Helyar to convince members of the merits of the tax, if the committee is to succeed in getting it approved.

The policy letter being presented is a green paper, and so cannot

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be amended by the States.

If approved, it will prompt further work on the details of a reform of tax, which will then return for future approval and passing into law.

In the context of an annual deficit forecast to be in the region of £87m., Deputy Roffey is convinced that the new tax will be necessary.

'However much we grow our economy and however many cuts we make, we will have to raise millions more through taxes and social security contributions,' he said.

The steering group's report marks out three separate options for consideration. One is to raise income tax by 3% and ring-fence the money for health care. The second is to bring in a GST at 8% and the third is to set the rate at 5%. All options also include a re-

What difference a year makes on GST

Candidates answered 'What is your opinion of introducing a GST?' on the official website for the 2020 general election. This is what the tax review steering group said:

'Against it as it harms the poorest in society' – Mark Helyar.

'I am against GST and will not support' – David Mahoney. 'I'm against it. It would be regressive' – Peter Roffey. 'In principle against it, but certainly there should be a moratorium on any tax increases for the next 18 months to two years' – Peter Ferbrache.

vamp of the social security contributions system to make it fairer.

Deputy Roffey favours the second option.

In the ESS response to the P&R green paper, he said: 'Of the two options which include the introduction of a broad-based GST, the committee's preference is option 2. This option raises more tax from GST and provides more opportunity to implement mitigating provisions which make the overall package the most redis-

tributive and the best for lower and lower-middle income households of the three proposed.

'It also leaves the island less reliant on the taxation of income than either of the other two options.'

A majority of candidates claimed to oppose GST prior to last year's election, and Deputy Roffey has said that he expects considerable resistance to it in next week's debate.

P&R in listening mode, page 3

Charity ride held for much-loved former Help a Guernsey Child chairman

Cyclists out in force for Peter's There and Back



by Nigel Baudains

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CYCLISTS of all abilities took to the road yesterday for a charity ride in memory of a loved islander.

Peter Webber, who died in December aged 51, was for 10 years the chairman of the event's beneficiary Help a Guernsey Child.

The multi-choice rides started and finished at the Model Yacht Pond, going to Bulwer Avenue, L'Ancrese and The Imperial Hotel for distances of five, 12 and 35 miles respectively.

'Peter's There and Back' was sponsored by his former employer, Cazenove Capital, and organised by his friend and fellow Only Fools and Donkeys charity member Matt Collas.

'Peter got involved with OF&D in 2018 when he went to the Loire with us as a helper and when he came back he got a bike,' he said.

Mr Webber became hooked on cycling and would ride with friends every Sunday.

'When he passed away, doing a memorial cycle ride seemed very apt,' said Mr Collas.

'Peter hated hills so I tried to pick the flattest course I could.'

A Help a Guernsey Child board member for three years, Clare Carre took over as chairman following Mr Webber's death.

'The genius that Peter brought was his connections and he had



Pete's There and Back charity cycle ride held yesterday. (Pictures supplied)

the ability to bring people together,' she said.

'It brought a good community approach to what we are trying to do. It was the connections he had that meant when children were in need we could act quickly which is very important.'

Mr Webber's brother, Richard, had travelled from the UK espe-

cially to be at the event.

'I think it's a tribute to Peter that so many people have turned out today,' he said.

HGC board member and former Bailiff Sir Richard Collas said Mr Webber was always very willing to help young people.

'He was chairman of the Bailiwick Scouts and worked with the

'I think it's a tribute to Peter that so many people have turned out today'

Peter Webber's brother Richard

Rugby Academy and Guernsey Round Table as well as Only Fools and Donkeys and he was passionate about the ethos of Bright Beginnings,' he said.

Cazenova Capital chief executive Giles Neville said Mr Webber, who worked for the company for three years, was a passionate and kind-hearted character who gave so much of his time to his charity work.



'He would have been so touched to see this today'

MR WEBBER'S widow, Linda, said she felt her husband was with her as she cycled the 35 miles from the Model Yacht Pond to the Imperial Hotel and back yesterday.

'I wasn't going to do the five or the 15 and I had to do the lot,' she said.

'Anything I can achieve from now on is for Peter - it's what gets us through.'

Mrs Webber said she was not the committed cyclist that her husband was.

'I can see why he fell in love with cycling,' she said.

'He would do his two hours of a Sunday morning come rain or shine with these great people.'

'He would have been so touched to see this today.'

'He was a very humble man and if people went out of their way to do something for him he was always very moved. Whenever we do something he will always be there and I hope we've done him proud.'

Son Oscar, 18, said riding with his father and the Only Fools and Donkeys charity had helped him discover competitive cycling.

He chose to ride a 51-mile route yesterday.

'I think Dad would have been so proud at the turnout today,' said Oscar, who has just completed his A-levels.



The various routes saw riders starting and finishing at The Model Yacht to Bulwer Avenue, L'Ancrese and The Imperial Hotel for distances of five, 12 and 35 miles respectively.

Money raised to go towards Bright Beginnings cycle shed

MONEY raised from yesterday's event will be used to build a shed at Delancey Park for the Bright Beginnings charity.

It will be fitted out with balance bikes for use by deserving children, some bikes for adults, and all of the necessary safety equipment.

Help a Guernsey Child board member Sir Richard Collas said planning permission for the 10ft x 20ft structure had already been obtained.

'It is such an appropriate place as Bright

Beginnings is based in the former St Sampson's Secondary School and you have the cycle track going around the park alongside it,' he said.

The project was expected to cost £12,000, of which the £6,000 which was collected at Mr Webber's funeral would be put towards it.

Organisers said yesterday that they did not know how much would be raised from the cycle ride but indicated that people were being very generous.

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OBITUARY

Peter Webber

Following last Sunday's charity ride in his memory, **Rupert Pleasant** pays tribute to his best friend Peter Webber, a hugely popular figure in business and charitable circles in Guernsey, who died in December aged just 51 after a short illness

I HAVE been friends with Peter Webber since nursery school. We first met when Peter was standing outside the school building – with his head stuck in some railings. I enthusiastically joined him in that position, and before we were freed by firemen, we had begun what became a life-long friendship.

That friendship extended through Beechwood and into Elizabeth College, before Peter left Guernsey to join Bryanston School in Dorset, where his great uncle had been headmaster in the 1960s.

As a boarder, he left behind the family home in Candie Road, St Peter Port, and his parents, both doctors – Brian, also serving as the island police surgeon, and Barbara, specialising in child psychiatry. Peter certainly inherited his love for the finer things in life from his father. He had five brothers and sisters – Richard, Christopher, Nicola, Julian and the late Jeremy.

The hundreds who packed the Town Church and Church Square for his funeral would probably know Peter best from his work in private banking in the island or his charitable activities, but also easily recognise his lively personality and genuine love of life. After a business studies degree at Buckingham University, he returned to Guernsey. Short-lived stints with the Tourist Board and in accountancy proved neither role was quite for him and he switched to Credit Suisse to begin a long career in private banking. Peter spent 22 years with Credit Suisse, rising to the rank of director and head of business development for the bank in Guernsey. Although mainly based in the island, he spent time in London, Chicago, Jersey, and Geneva, where he met his wife, Linda. The couple married in 2002 and have one teenage son, Oscar, who has become an aspiring cyclist with the Velo Club.

When he left the bank, he took a short contract with Locate Guernsey before joining Cazenove Capital as client



Peter Webber was well known in Guernsey for his work in private banking and his charitable activities.

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director, focusing on local business development. Peter's little black book of Channel Islands contacts is a thing of legend, and his infectious personality, professionalism and easy disposition made him hugely popular with clients and business colleagues. This is what Peter genuinely enjoyed – meeting people and sharing his infectious sense of humour. His mental recall was the sharpest I know – with a huge knowledge base on an infinite number of topics – his wisdom and optimism touched so many people around him as a role model and an inspiration. Outside of work he would be known for his outstanding support for charity and community, a passion for travel, and his deep love of friends and family. For most of his life Peter was a great believer in giving back to the community and supporting the greater good of society. This started in his early 30s when he joined the Guernsey Round Table, of which he was a member for more than 16 years, including a stint as president. Peter was a capable coordinator and also

a great introducer of new members to the group. He formed a very close bond with a number of members who became friends.

Round Table's commitment and dedication to community has been unquestionable, and the money they raised for charity over many years is both spectacular and very humbling, something that Peter was exceedingly proud of.

Peter was also chairman of Help a Guernsey Child for more than a decade and under his stewardship the charity went from strength to strength and raised many thousands of pounds for deserving children in the Bailiwick. Peter was also chairman of Guernsey Scouting for six years and was chairman of the Guernsey Rugby Academy until his tragic passing – having spoken with Peter on his charitable work, he said that he was massively proud to have represented all of these bodies over the years.

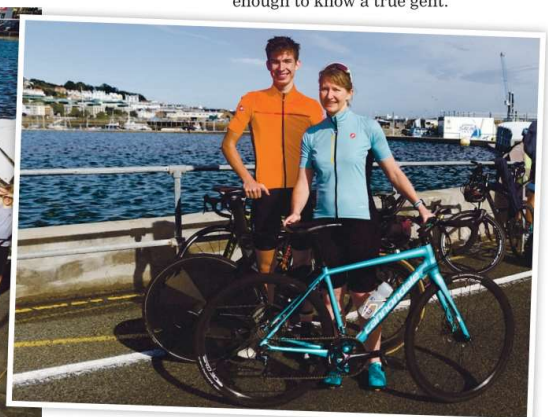
His empathy, wisdom and counsel will be greatly missed. Peter's talent was connecting the dots – being able to coordinate the various committees on which he sat and being

a catalyst for action, so that decisions became reality and that help went to the right places within the community.

On reflection, I have no doubt whatsoever that if Peter had not been taken from us so cruelly, he would have entered politics, where he would have held one of the key roles within the States of Guernsey, or equally he would have been appointed as a jurat to the Royal Court of Guernsey.

His enthusiasm for travel extended to the places where many others never reach. Among the destinations he toured were East Germany in the 1980s, Vietnam and Cambodia, including the Killing Fields, Kazakhstan, and North Korea, and more family-oriented trips with Linda and Oscar, including the US, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and Egypt, regular skiing holidays, and more recently, cycling with Oscar in Europe.

Peter was always cheerful and always willing to give of his time. He never had a harsh word about anyone. These are some of the reasons he connected with, and was loved by, so many people. Remember the colleague, remember the friend, and smile that you were lucky enough to know a true gent.



Left: Participants in Sunday's charity cycle ride in memory of Peter. Above: Linda Webber and son Oscar after completing the ride. (Pictures by Stacey Upson, 4870836, 4870837)