

A man with a gift for helping others

FROM the 1980s, Glen worked as chef in pubs and hotels throughout the Island.

Progressive sight loss eventually forced him to abandon this career, but he did not retire from life. Adapting remarkably quickly to impaired vision, he committed himself to improving the lot of disabled Islanders, while also training to be a counsellor. Once qualified, he and another sight-impaired counselling student planned to go into partnership together.

Glen was very independent, getting on with things with quiet and amiable determination, his innate alchemy translating any difficulty life threw at him into something positive and useful. He could not be ruffled, radiating calm even when arriving at his destination much later than expected, having caught the wrong bus. Others might stress for him, but stress wasn't in his nature.

Glen was caring, wise, insightful and funny. His considered opinions were invariably prefaced by a drawn-out, heavily nuanced 'Well ...', which conveyed, in itself, the full flavour and import of the statement to follow.

He could see humour in everything. When he once mistook cat food for tuna paté, he laughed about how good it tasted. When, early one New Year's Eve, with many better

Appreciation

things to do, he was forced to spend several hours in A & E having the cast on his foot replaced, he was still able to laugh that he, a large, severely sight-impaired man sporting both a crutch and a long cane, had just been run over in King Street by a mobility scooter.

Throughout his life, Glen accumulated friends, and never lost them. He gave his full attention to whomever he was with, and whatever he was involved in. After his death, Facebook was red-hot with messages from those who had loved him.

Everywhere his friends were staggered to realise their number, and later, when his tributes were aired, those same people were awed by the scope of his commitments and achievements.

Tributes from the many groups and organisations Glen was involved with all agreed about his dedication, warmth and sense of humour. While everyone said how much he would be missed, it was also noted that this extraordinary man's memory and influence will live on.

Sanctuary Trust described Glen's positivity,

drive and desire to help others, remarking that he was funny and not afraid to laugh at himself, while St Mary's Youth Club said that Glen was up for anything, really got involved with the young people and their activities, and never took a break.

The Vision-Impaired Partnership Board considered Glen an inspirational role model, and EYECAN described him as part of the team, remarking on his popularity and outlining the many different ways in which he worked with the charity.

Senator Paul Routier, chairman of the Service Users' Forum, said that Glen used his personal experience in a positive and constructive manner to help others and to change things for the better, and the Disability Partnership, describing Glen as a big man with a big heart, remarked that it owed it to him to continue the fight for disability rights.

Eye Count Support Group said that Glen had been a pillar of strength, a support for many, who never showed weakness, and his counselling tutor commenting that he was already accomplished in many of the skills demanded by counselling and would undoubtedly have made a big difference to those requiring his service as a counsellor in the years that should have come.



■ Glen Robertson, a man with a big heart and a big appetite for helping people

Glen Robertson's life was far too short, but he thoroughly enjoyed it. He achieved a great deal, and enhanced the lives of everyone who knew him.