Tribute to a dear colleague and friend

Stephen Lloyd (17 July 1951 – 20 August 2014)

Stephen Lloyd was respected and admired for his enduring commitment and outstanding contributions to the charity legal sector. Andrew Phillips (Lord Phillips of Sudbury), the founder of BWB, recruited Stephen to join the firm in 1980. Stephen worked alongside Andrew to modernise the charity and social enterprise sector, gradually developing both the Charity & Social Enterprise team and the firm to the prominence it enjoys today. His profound enthusiasm and dedication over the last 34 years merited him with a reputation as the undisputed legal expert on social enterprise, social finance and investment.

Recently credited in parliament as being the ‘father of CICs’ (conceiving the idea behind the community interest company), Stephen was not only a progressive leader, he was also held in the highest esteem and regard by clients, colleagues and friends, attested by the abundance of tributes received.

Here we share a selection of the tributes which many of those who knew Stephen have so kindly sent in.

‘If I could sum Stephen up in one word, it would be grace. He was incredibly thoughtful, helpful, unstinting in the amount of time and advice he was prepared to give. He had a deep and insightful appreciation of the loneliness of the CEO position. In all the years I knew Stephen, he gave me unfailingly good and thoughtful advice on a range of topics and always asked how I was doing. I will miss him.’

Sir Tony Hawkhead, Chief Executive, Action for Children

‘Stephen exuded humility, kindness, gentleness, generosity, respect, humanity, charm, passion and insight. What he did for the social enterprise and charity sectors was extraordinary; he was both a visionary leader and a catalyst for making big impactful changes occur. He achieved all of this with such incredible modesty and humour.’

Peter Holbrook, Chief Executive, Social Enterprise UK

‘We remember the critical role Stephen played in ensuring “sustainable development” could be considered a charitable activity. On behalf of the 1.4 million small scale farmers and workers now benefitting from Fairtrade’s work, we remain profoundly grateful for Stephen’s enduring legacy to global social justice and fairness.’

Tim Gutteridge, COO of Fairtrade Foundation

‘Stephen’s unparalleled expertise combined with his innovative thinking and sheer passion for the work of charities and social enterprises made him rightly one of the most respected figures in the voluntary sector.’

Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the NCVO

‘Very few people are both visionary and practical combined with being genuinely ethical, generous and great company – what a loss to the sector, his family and to life.’

Arthur Wood, founding partner of global investment practice Total Impact Advisors

‘I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute publicly to Stephen Lloyd, who introduced the idea of the CIC and is described as “the father of CICs”, who tragically died in a boating accident in August 2014. It is a great loss but he has left a significant legacy including the Community Interest Company.’

Brooks Newmark, the Minister for Civil Society, House of Commons debate, 2 September 2014
Tribute

a solution to whatever problem we were seeking to resolve.’ Tim Smit, founder of the Eden Project

‘There were few organisations, structures, laws and regulations which pertained to this crazy field of ours in which he did not have some role. His energy was boundless, his dedication total and his insight – razor sharp. He took on all sorts of causes, cases and clients – sometimes for no fee, often at low fees, just to be helpful to some socially-oriented enterprise trying to get onto the first rung of the difficult and slippery ladder we call success.’ Rod Schwartz, founder and CEO of ClearlySo

Messages from colleagues and friends:

‘Stephen found his home at BWB and then built it up further. The extensions and additions that he oversaw all had the mark of his personality: passion, intelligence and humanity. As a result, he was almost always a man utterly at peace with himself. And in this, he was remarkable and admirable. The shock of his death is a hard reminder of mortality but also brings out the lesson of his well lived life: that to leave this place a bit better than you found it is perhaps the greatest epitaph.’

Stephen hard at work: With the leader of the Labour Party, Ed Miliband MP, and in a meeting with clients

Stephen as a family man: A doting grandfather and a loving husband and father

Stephen leaves behind his wife, Lorna, their four sons and six grandchildren. We are currently preparing a bound condolence book, which will be given to the family. People wishing to offer their thoughts and condolences are welcome to send them (care of Martin Bunch) to BWB, 2-6 Cannon Street, London EC4M 6YH or to condolences@bwbllp.com.

The social media and twitter world has also been honouring Stephen’s contribution and achievements throughout his career. In addition, two excellent obituaries have been published to remember Stephen’s life – one in the Guardian, and another in the Independent.

A Remembering Stephen Lloyd site has been created to honour Stephen’s memory, where the family have suggested making donations to Quaker Social Action. A public memorial service commemorating Stephen’s life will be arranged in due course, and will be open to all who wish to attend.

The trustees, staff and volunteers of Quaker Social Action were saddened to hear of the death of Stephen Lloyd and send all of our good wishes to Stephen’s family, friends and colleagues at this time. We are very moved by their thoughtfulness in asking for donations to support our work in east London and elsewhere. We’d like to thank all those who donate in memory of Stephen. We will ensure that these donations are used to resource, equip and enable people living on low incomes to make tangible differences in their own, their families’ and their communities’ lives. For further information on Quaker Social Action, please visit our website at www.quakersocialaction.com.