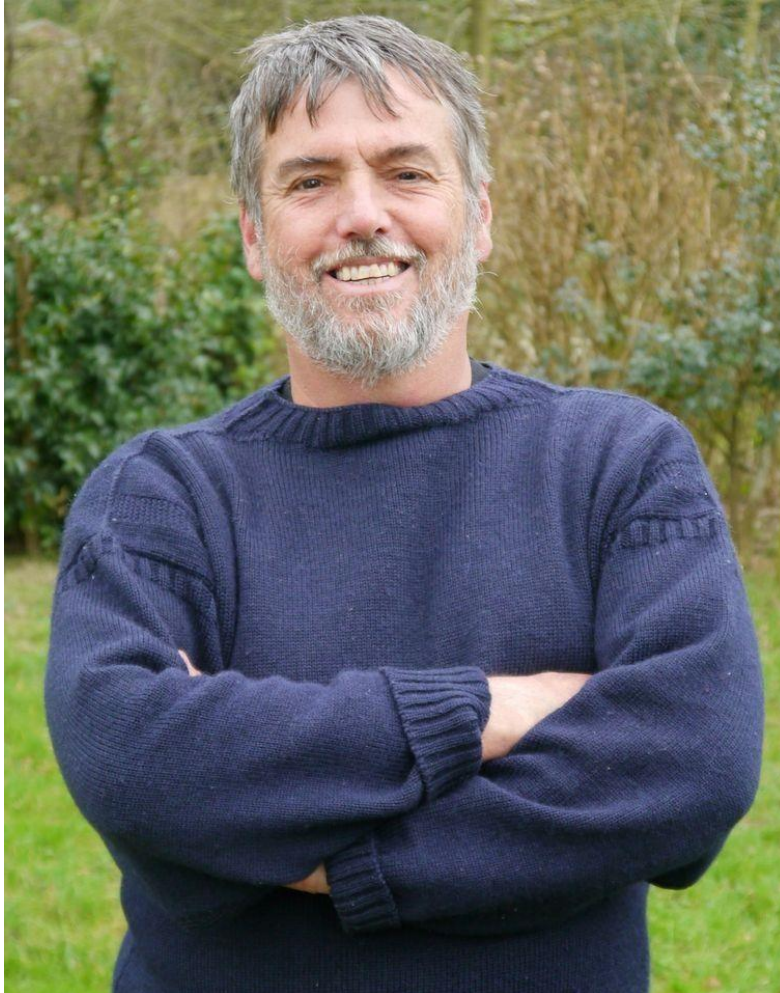


Peter Roffey

Moderate - Experienced - Effective - Caring- Green - Decisive



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“I trust him more than others to spend public money wisely”. Stuart Falla MBE, business leader and former Commerce and Employment Minister

Dear Voter,

Firstly if you are reading a paper version of this manifesto then I have called at your door as I canvass street by street. Obviously the new voting system makes it impossible to call on everyone in Guernsey but I am really doing my best to visit as many homes as possible. Sorry if you were out when I called but it is just not possible in the time available to revisit those homes where no one was in. Secondly I am asking for one of your precious votes so you will probably need to know a bit about me.

PETER ROFFEY

I am 62, from Guernsey, and support a moderate, liberal, consensual approach to politics. I really hope we can avoid the damaging, divisive tribalism we have seen within the UK party system. I do understand some of the advantages of a party system where electors vote for policy programmes rather than just for individual candidates but on balance am convinced Guernsey would soon come to regret it.

I am very experienced in local politics but have never viewed being a deputy as a full time career. I have taken long breaks from States service to pursue other things in life. My CV includes being a “Senior Broadcast Journalist” with the BBC and leading one of the island’s largest and most successful commercial businesses. I’ve also driven long distance “overland buses” across Asia, worked in Guernsey’s tomato industry and on a communal farm in Israel.

I’ve had many and varied life experiences from being trapped inside Iran during their Islamic Revolution to being badly injured in the Boxing Day tsunami. All this makes me a well-rounded individual – in more ways than one.

I do, however, confess to being a political animal and I really care about our beautiful island of Guernsey. That’s my sole motivation for wanting to help the new States tackle some of the huge challenges it faces over the next few years.

Sir de Vic Carey, former Bailiff. “I’ve watched peter in the states over many years and he has always given tremendous value to the taxpayer, both in exercising difficult committee presidencies and responding effectively to issues which really concern voters. he is young at heart and has lots to offer the island. we simply cannot afford to lose his abilities at this difficult time in guernsey’s history”.

MODERATION

What does it mean? I know “moderation in all things” sounds a bit like a clichéd homily your gran might have used but it is also not a bad credo for politics. I really worry that Guernsey politics risk being polarised and swinging between extremes. This is true in many policy areas with a good example being the growing divide over fiscal policy.

There are those who advocate no tax increases, ever, and ultra-small government. With an aging population, a more complex world, and exciting but expensive new medical treatments becoming available all the time, this is an impossible stance unless we want to cause structural damage to our public services with the most vulnerable groups suffering the most.

Equally daft is the idea that we can match the level of services provided by governments in countries which enjoy much greater economies of scale and whose economies and tax systems are very different to ours. It would require a huge hike in taxes which would destroy our competitiveness and ruin our economy. A middle path is essential.

I have always sought that sensible middle path, not just in relation to the size of government but in all areas of policy. In the Guernsey context I might be seen as unusually liberal and socially progressive but I am basically a political centralist, wanting to use the power of government to help those who need it wherever possible, and to provide good core public services, whilst always being well aware of the pressing need to remain competitive by maintaining financial discipline.

Stuart Falla MBE, leading businessman and former Commerce and Employment Minister. **“Peter has a pragmatic approach to politics. He may seem more interested in the social welfare side of politics but he has always accepted that you ignore the economy at your peril. He has often said to me that you can only spend the money which it brings in and I trust him more than others to spend it wisely”.**

CARING

I make no apology for taking a particular interest in those sections of our community who are more vulnerable than others. These include the elderly, those on low incomes, people who are ill, islanders with disabilities, and children.

In the last term I was shocked at the harsh way the States treated pensioners and did my very best to fight against those policies. Alas not always successfully. Examples included my efforts to retain the traditional, extra,

agerelated income tax allowance and to make the charging system for waste disposal fairer on pensioner households. If re-elected I pledge to give 100% effort to helping pensioners on low incomes. In particular I am determined that the constant increases in TRP [rates] should halt unless and until a way is found to prevent this escalating property tax disproportionately hammering households which are asset rich but cash poor. Guernsey's senior citizens made the island what it is today and deserve proper consideration.

I led an initiative aimed at helping those impacted by "in-work poverty". These are hardworking islanders who, despite contributing fully to the workforce, find it impossible to afford the things in life which most of us take for granted in this expensive island. It was like pushing a stone uphill but I will keep at it.

I successfully fought what was [initially] a one man battle against the shocking situation where seriously ill Guernsey people were being denied the same medicines which were freely available to patients with identical conditions in the UK, Jersey and the Isle of Man. I was also a member of the ESS committee which battled long and hard to bring anti-discrimination proposals to the States in the face of strong opposition.

I have proven my commitment to vulnerable groups through action not words.

GREEN

I'm aware that some people seem to regard caring about our environment as a matter worthy of derision and abuse. I don't begin to understand this. Robust debate over environmental issues and the best way to tackle them are valid but surely we should all care about the planet which supports us as a species? I make no apology for believing the advice of the vast majority of scientists that human activity is helping to drive climate change. Guernsey must do its bit in a global effort to turn this around. Our small size is no excuse for inaction.

Some good things are already happening. I am pleased that more people are cycling, catching the bus or opting for electric vehicles. I want to see this continue as well as better insulated homes and more renewable energy generated on-island. The States have to take a greater lead in encouraging and facilitating "green behaviour". This is no 11th hour conversion for me. I was a member of the "Ecology Party" [which later became the Green Party] 40 years ago when Jonathon Porritt was its leader.

EDUCATION

We have to bring the long running uncertainty over education to a conclusion which most people can support. The constant state of flux is damaging. I will not pre-empt the outcome of the current review. I am genuinely open-minded; I just want the best for all Guernsey youngsters. My only two red lines are that I could not support returning to selection and I want to see equality of opportunity for all of the island's children.

DECISIVE

One of the curses of modern politics is too many deputies being scared to make decisions for fear of upsetting anybody. I do like to listen and research before acting but then I believe in acting decisively. A deputy's job is to use his/her judgement and act in what they see as the best interests of Guernsey. Not to spin like a weather vane trying to avoid any controversy. I have shown my ability to take decisive action throughout my time in politics. For example:-

As Health Minister I pushed through a ban on smoking in enclosed public places well before the UK or Jersey. I still bear the scars but would we even consider reversing it now?

As Agriculture minister I took immediate and vigorous measures to protect Guernsey from the real and pressing threat from the devastating Foot and Mouth outbreaks in the UK and Europe in the year 2000.

I took a leading role in the campaign to decriminalise homosexuality back in the 80s in the face of considerable – and sometimes very unpleasant – opposition.

I strongly supported the buying of Aurigny, at short notice. This was undoubtedly the right decision and remains so today. In fact it has a key role to play in Guernsey's recovery from the Covid-19 crisis.

FINALLY

Realising that under the new voting system you will be snowed under with manifestos I have kept mine much shorter than I would have really liked. Please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all about my stance on other issues. I can be reached by phone on 238435, although I am out canvassing much of the time.

Alternatively feel free to email me on rufusroffey@yahoo.co.uk

Warm Regards

Peter Roffey