

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER BOWMAN

Peter Bowman will be known to many of us as a Trustee and Board member of the Henry George Foundation who passed away on Friday 17th April after contracting Covid-19 whilst being treated for cancer. This is a great loss as he contributed a huge amount to HGF. Our friend and colleague Tommas Graves offers this tribute to him:

"As leader of the Economics faculty in the School of Philosophy and Economic Science we had got used to his high intelligence and careful conduct of our meetings. As chair of the Coalition for Economic Justice he encouraged us all, and supported the All Party Political Group for Land Value Capture for which we acted as secretariat. As a committee member of the Henry George Foundation he gave wise counsel. In my website "Land is Free" there is an essay by him "China - Four Thousand Years of Taxing the Land" which he wrote after one of his trips there."

Tony Vickers pays the following tribute to him:

"Peter was one of the most gentle, tolerant, thoughtful and wise people I have ever known. As chair of the Coalition for Economic Justice (which ALTER is a member of) he never once revealed how he voted and was never critical of the views of any of the widely divergent politics of anyone who belonged to Coalition for Economic Justice – which has people from across the entire political spectrum in the United Kingdom: Communist to UKIP! I share Peter's values. It is not just our relationships with one

another that matter but perhaps above all our relationship with Nature and its relationship (as a passive but vital economic factor) with how we re-form society. Now as perhaps never before has it been so important to re-think how to fit Nature into economic policy. As Henry George said: "There is, in Nature, no reason for Poverty."

Tommas Graves recalls his contributions at the School of Economic Science:

"Peter gave the 2015 School of Economic Science Annual Economics Lecture *How Can the Economy Work for the Benefit of All?* He presents three simple propositions: The first is that Economic Life is governed by law. By this is meant natural laws, laws that are inherent in the nature of things, and particularly the laws governing the relations between people in society. The task, the duty even, of the economist is to discover and formulate these. The challenge for the legislators, policymakers, and CEOs of the institutions that are the main players in the economy is then to formulate rules and regulations so, as far as possible, they are in accord with these natural laws. The second proposition is that justice implies a fair portion of knowledge, happiness, health and freedom for everyone. This gives a simple criterion to judge the suitability of a particular policy."

He leaves a family of his wife and four adult boys. We share their grief and bless his memory."



Editor's note:

The latest news and events of the Henry George Foundation in London is usually found in this space. It is with the deepest sorrow that we instead commemorate the life and work of our friend Peter Bowman after his recent passing. Peter will be deeply missed. 