

## **Peter's brave battle with brain tumour**

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By Beth McLaughlin

A TRUST fund has been set up in memory of a "strong, active and fun-loving" man who died last year.

Peter Culverhouse was only 31 when he lost his battle against a brain tumour after seven years of horrific treatment.

A fund was set up for Mr Culverhouse, a former pupil of the Howard of Effingham School, by his schoolfriends.

Paul Donovan, Nick Crossley, Tom Humphreys and Mark Shepherd set up the Peter Culverhouse Memorial Trust Fund to support The Princess Alice Hospice and brain tumour research at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton.

"Peter was extremely popular" said his mother, Yvonne Culverhouse. "This was very evident at his funeral from the host of friends and family who attended.

"He will be remembered as a strong, active and fun-loving person with so much to give and who enjoyed life to the full, always underplaying the seriousness of his condition. "Life was very cruel and not fair to Peter, yet he never complained and never gave up hope.

"Alongside the horrific treatment Peter went through, he also lost his independence, his partner, his sight, and his dignity.

"Yet somehow he managed to keep his good sense of humour right to the very end."

Peter had to have continual anti-epileptic drugs to control seizures, two unsuccessful sessions of months of chemotherapy, a full craniotomy of the right frontal lobe and six weeks of intensive radiotherapy. But doctors could do no more.

Peter continued to suffer daily seizures and gradually

became paralysed. Eventually, when home-nursing became impossible, Peter went to the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher, where he died five weeks later on October 10 2003, totally paralysed.

Mrs Culverhouse, of Woodlands Road, Bookham, praised hospice staff as "wonderful". "All his friends who visited him during his last weeks were also very impressed with the care and kindness of the Princess Alice's staff," she said.

Little research is being done into the type of brain tumour from which Peter suffered. The only treatment available is to try to shrink it. Eventually, the treatment becomes intolerable to the patient.

Primary brain tumours are becoming more common, especially in young people. So research is vital to find a cure and discover better methods to reduce the horrific suffering.

Peter was well-known to many in the north of the district. He worked at Logica, in Leatherhead, as well as playing football for the Colts and badminton with the Young Moles at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

During his first few years with Logica he worked in the Netherlands and Brunel, until his blossoming career was cruelly cut short by the devastating diagnosis.

"Logica gave Peter tremendous support throughout his illness and has set up an annual award in his memory," Mrs Culverhouse said.

The Peter Culverhouse Recognition Award operates on a monthly basis, with a prize for the successful nominee as put forward by staff.

It is given in recognition of staff achievement at the IT firm and was started this year.

As part of the fund, a golf day has been arranged for June 9, Peter's birthday, at Clandon Regis Golf Club, with more events in the pipeline.

Anyone who would like to donate, or contribute under the Give As You Earn Scheme, should contact G Clark, Trust Officer (Ref: The Peter Culverhouse Memorial Trust T/70193576/G), Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA.

***For further information, contact Paul Donovan at pauldonovanuk@hotmail .com or Yvonne Culverhouse on 01372 458768.***