

# 'When I was allowed to tell my two sisters they went bananas'

by Nigel Baudains

nbaudains@guernseypress.com

THE two Bailiwick recipients of New Year's Honours were among those at The Bailiff's New Year's Reception in The Royal Court's grand hall yesterday.

Adie Le Page, 65, was made an MBE for his services to rugby on the island while Patricia Holland, 70, was made a BEM for her charity work in both Guernsey and Romania.

Mrs Holland, who knew of the award from early November, said she had been humbled by the public announcement of it.

'I am amazed at people's reaction and at the number of people who took the trouble to either phone me or email me with the kindest words of encouragement,' she said.

She will receive the award at Government House on a date to be set.

'It will be a very special occasion and the nice thing about it is that I will be able to take family and friends.

'It is a maximum of three guests at Buckingham Palace and, as my husband and I have three children, it would have left a difficult decision to make.'

Mr Le Page, who will collect his award from Buckingham Palace, said not being able to tell people about it straightaway was the hardest thing for him.

'I told my children that I had a secret for them but that I could not



Bailiwick recipients of New Year's Honours Ady Le Page and Patricia Holland at The Bailiff's New Year's reception in The Royal Court's grand hall yesterday. (Picture by Steve Sarre, 23505948)

say what it was,' he said.

'When I was allowed to tell my sisters, Janette and Carol, they went bananas and I'm still really

taking it in.'

He said his children, Kyle, 27, Ellie, 23, and Jess, 19, were adept with social media and they were

still passing comments to him that were being made.

The Lt-Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, proposed the loyal

toast to The Queen. He said the best that people could say about 2019 was that we would need a sense of humour but if people stuck together with traditional values he thought we would be fine.

He said he had written to the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, Richard Heaton, congratulating him on his knighthood in the latest Honours list.

Sir Richard had strong family links with the island and was a huge supporter of the Crown Dependencies.

He was a powerful friend in a very important place, he said.

Mrs Holland was a remarkable lady who helped establish the fact that Guernsey was a place where charity did not always stay at home.

At one point in Mr Le Page's career he scored 50 tries in a season. This was a remarkable feat in itself and along with building clubhouses and pitches, and fundraising, nobody had played a bigger part in the development of rugby in Guernsey.

The Bailiff, Sir Richard Collas, said the New Year's Day Reception dated from a time when the day was not a bank holiday in England.

It was attended by States members, jurats and senior civil servants. Jersey did not hold such an event and it was a nice opportunity to recognise those who were honoured.

## St Peter Port Constables New Year's Day reception

SOME 40 people attended the St Peter Port Constables New Year's Day reception at its Lefebvre Street office yesterday.

Parish constable Dennis Le Moignan said the function was open to all St Peter Port parishioners and gave them a chance to meet and mingle with others.

In his address he told guests that 2019 was likely to be a funny year, not just for the parish, but for the world in general.

'We are inclined to feel safe in Guernsey where we are surrounded by water but then we see armed police in Town for our late-night shopping.'

Island-wide voting was also on the horizon, he said.

Mr Le Moignan said he was standing on a box to do his address so he could see people at the back. The Lt-Governor Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, who gave

the Loyal Toast to The Queen, said he was doing the same because he was short. 'But for a former submarine officer that had many advantages.'

Sir Ian said his 29-year-old son had recently watched The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society film for the first time. He had really enjoyed it but, after some consideration, said he thought its depiction of Guernsey as a quaint, Victorian rural town was a bit misleading.

'Guernsey has not been like that since the late 1700s,' said Sir Ian.

'St Peter Port brings together historical quaintness with entrepreneurial spirit. If we mix modernity with history and look forward as well as back, I think Guernsey will come out smiling. My wife and I love Guernsey and it is a fantastic asset to the Bailiwick.'

## OBE for Guernsey-educated surgeon

A GUERNSEY-EDUCATED professor who became the first UK surgeon to complete a double hand transplant has been awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours.

Consultant plastic surgeon Professor Simon Kay led a team of eight surgeons who spent 12 hours in the operating theatre in 2016, changing the life of 57-year-old Chris King, who had lost both hands in an accident sustained at work.

Prof. Kay came to Guernsey at the age of one and left at 18 to go to medical school after studying at Elizabeth College.

Now based at Leeds General Infirmary, he has since carried out four further transplants and has been recognised for his services to complex reconstructive hand surgery.

In the national media, Prof. Kay said the honour was a testament to the team's 'highly skilled and professional work'.

'The type of surgery we undertake is very complex,



Consultant plastic surgeon Professor Simon Kay and Chris King.

and collaboration is vital,' he said.

'For me to work is a matter of great pride.'

Mr King lost both his hands, except the thumbs, in an accident involving a metal pressing machine at work.

In 2017, Mr King, from Doncaster, wrote a letter thank-

ing Prof Kay for restoring his ability to applaud the Leeds Rhinos rugby team.

Chief executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Julian Hartley, said the surgeon, who also works with children and young people with hand trauma and complex abnormalities, had

'transformed hundred of lives'.

After undertaking his first surgery in 2016, Prof King encouraged more people to sign up to the donors register.

'Because hand transplantation is such an unusual thing, people have been slow to donate,' he said.

'We've certainly had many opportunities to ask for donations that haven't been given.

'I think that's entirely understandable.

'The people who work for NHS Blood and Transplant have the very difficult job of asking for donations at the time of the death of a loved one.

'It's extraordinarily difficult to ask and extraordinarily difficult to make that decision.

'I think now that hand transplantation is a reality and people can see the good it does.

'I hope they'll consider making that donation as readily as they do a liver and kidney and heart and lungs.'

**BONTOUR**

**ALISON MOYET LIVE**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019, JERSEY**

Spend an entertaining night in Jersey enjoying music royalty and relax at the 4★ Pomme d'Or Hotel.  
1 night B&B + seated ticket + return foot ferry. 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February. Flights available at an extra cost.

**01534 496686 | bontour.co.uk/GP**

Reader Offer



The Guernsey Press

ABTA  
Travel with confidence