

POLICE

October 2015

Remembering the fallen



National Police Memorial Day honours those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice

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Editorial
October 2015

Syreeta Lund,
Editor

Thank you for what you do

This month we saw the aftermath of the death of police officer Dave Phillips who was struck by a car while on duty.

The scenes of his family, his two young girls, wife and relatives talking about the kind and caring man no longer in their lives resonated with officers and the public. How many jobs carry this kind of risk? How many of us would be willing to step into the shoes of a police officer with the risk of such a sacrifice to our families?

In this awards edition we feature the incredible bravery displayed by police officers, battling fires to rescue people, being shot and punched yet carrying on to protect the public. These officers, nominated for the Federation's Police Bravery Awards being held this month, are just the tip of the iceberg – we know there are many of you doing amazing things every day.

Inspector Andrea Quinton works in Greater Manchester Police, and put her thoughts on record in a letter talking about the human side of policing. The letter appeared on Facebook and went viral – she writes about talking someone's son down from jumping off a roof, cradling a baby who had died, dealing with rape victims, as well as bringing offenders to justice. She wanted to tell police officers that they are doing a great job and appeal to the public to support them. Read our interview with her on p6-7.

We will always be grateful for the incredible work police officers do and we will always remember when they pay the ultimate sacrifice. We pay tribute to those who have died or been killed on duty through our coverage of National Police Memorial Day (p8-9).

 Follow our #policebravery for coverage of the bravery awards

Police pension concessions announced following petition to Downing Street

A petition supported by more than 110,000 people has been presented to Downing Street, triggering concessions from the Home Secretary that will mean some widows continue to receive payments if they remarry or cohabit.

Theresa May announced the concessions in the House of Commons on the same day as the petition was presented at No 10 Downing Street. The move also came one week after the death of PC Dave Phillips.

Ms May said: "Police officers put themselves in danger doing a vital job and it is important that we ensure their families are looked after if the worst happens. As the law stands, widows, widowers and surviving civil partners of police officers who are members of the 1987 police pension scheme stand to lose their partner's pension if they remarry, form a civil partnership or cohabit. In recognition of the level of risk that police officers face in the execution of their duty, the government has pledged to reform the 1987 police pension scheme."

Kate Hall, whose husband died of a heart attack while on duty, delivered the petition alongside other police widows.

She wants all police widows treated equally and pensions paid regardless of whether their partners were on or off duty, working or retired at the time of death. This is supported by the Police Federation, and although it welcomes moves to extend pensions payments, the Home Secretary only refers to officers who have died on duty.

Kate said: "The proposal still leaves a group of widows worse off than the rest, so our fight goes on."

Uphill struggle

"Although we truly welcome the announcement by the Home Secretary, we have an uphill struggle to remind people that we have still not been granted parity with Northern Ireland."

Steve White, chair of the Police Federation, said: "We believe that all police widows should have the right to remarry without being penalised. The Home Secretary's plans go some way towards this, but we are seeking cross-party support for further changes and are pleased that MPs on all sides of the House agree that widows in England and Wales must have parity with those in Northern Ireland and Scotland."

Memorial fund set up for PC Dave Phillips

A memorial fund has been set up by Merseyside Police Federation in memory of PC Dave Phillips, who was killed this month while on duty.

The 34-year-old father-of-two was knocked down by a stolen truck on a road near Wallasey Docks; an 18-year-old man has since been charged with his murder.

Peter Singleton, chair of Merseyside Federation, said: "We are all devastated by the loss of one of our members, Constable 6554 David Phillips.

"We send our deepest condolences to Dave's wife Jen, and daughters Abigail and Sophie, as well as other family, colleagues and friends.

"Dave was unlawfully killed while on duty on Monday 5 October 2015. We have set up a memorial fund in his honour.

"The entire police family is in mourning his death, and this memorial fund enables people to donate in Dave's memory. He was simply doing his job. Feel free to donate to this very worthwhile cause."

If you wish to donate, there are currently two ways of doing so: you can visit <http://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/mpfct/dave>, or text DAVE01 £10 (or your amount) to 70070 to the Dave Phillips Memorial Fund



View from the chair

Steve White, chair of the Police Federation

Eternally grateful to those who sacrifice all

Tragically, on 5 October the service lost PC Dave Phillips – a young man with a loving family and everything to live for.

In doing his duty, Dave put himself in harm’s way and sadly paid with his life. I know I speak on behalf of all of us when I say he died a hero – his death is a stark reminder that there is no such thing as a regular, predictable or safe day for a police officer.

This month, we pay recognition to some of the most outstanding contributions to policing over the last year – with the Police Federation National Detective Forum Awards, and the 20th annual Police Bravery Awards.

We will hear of remarkable stories of investigative policing and acts of bravery. We will celebrate extraordinary officers for whom putting the needs of others first – no matter the cost – is ‘part of the job’.

But for each extraordinary incident, there are countless others that go unreported. These may not be marked with a headline, but they will leave a lasting impression on the officers involved and those whose lives they made a difference to, those whose lives they saved.

When we gather later this month to give recognition to all that is unique in policing, it is right and proper that we stop to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who are no longer with us.

For your dedication to duty and utter selflessness we are eternally grateful.

Follow me on Twitter @PFEW_Chair

Officer’s letter on policing is backed

Determined to show the ‘human side’ of policing, Andrea Quinton, mum-of-two and an inspector in Manchester, decided to pen a letter to no one in particular about what it’s like to be a police officer. She had watched with a mixture of horror and sorrow at the coverage of the tragic death of PC Dave Phillips, and his two young girls and family grieving his loss.

As she put it, she sent it to the Thin Blue Line UK Facebook account, popped out for a run and found it had around a million views and thousands of comments – such was the positivity from both officers and the public at such a heart-felt letter (excerpts of which are published opposite).

Public outpouring

“We have the best police service in the world. I wrote this letter to show the human side of police officers. I have been humbled by the public outpouring of support shown since the letter was posted. I know my colleagues across the world are reassured by the positive responses. Policing is a job I love doing, and I am proud to serve the public. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has taken the time to read the letter and share their thoughts.”

Andrea has had 24 years as a regular officer and served two years as a Special in Greater Manchester Police. The officer spoke about the impact of the deaths of officers Nicola Hughes and Fiona Bone who were killed while attending what first appeared to be routine burglary. But she said that officers across the country were heartened by the outpouring of grief from the public as they lined the streets and clapped as the funeral cortege for the officers moved along Deansgate in Manchester.

“I just wanted people to know that we do this job because we want to help people, we do it because we want to protect the public and sometimes that

“I have been humbled by the public outpouring of support shown since the letter was posted. I know my colleagues across the world are reassured by the positive responses.”

can be dangerous so please support us. I didn’t intend this to be a complaint or whinge about the job. I love my job but we do need the support of the public and we often hear about the negative aspects of policing. Of course there are the cuts and they are affecting us as well as the negative media, but we do need to hear we are doing a good job sometimes and that we are supported.”

The dedicated officer currently works in skills accreditation but also covers other areas including response. “I also just want my team and other officers to know they are valued for what they do.”

Andrea spoke to *Police* magazine about some of the most challenging moments in her career. “One is the cot death I refer to in the letter. Holding a baby for two hours as we waited for a paediatrician to come, I knew she was gone but I was still talking to her. I didn’t have children then but it was hard. I had to carry her to the ambulance they had a little white coffin.

Society let her down

“The second thing that sticks in my mind is dealing with a little girl who was around six years old and who had gone missing from her foster home. I always found her at the school her older brother attended, waiting for him. I gave her a piece of paper with my name and contact details on so if she was found they would know who to call. A few years later she was a prostitute. Society let her down.”

the human side of online by public

Picture © Billy Griffiths / PA Wire



The family of PC Dave Phillips, wife Jen and daughters Abigail and Sophie, visit the scene in Wallasey where the Merseyside officer was killed by a stolen car

An open letter to the public of the UK

Dear everyone,

Why am I choosing to write to you now? Well I am a police officer. I have served you for 26 years, two of those as a volunteer. I love my job, I enjoy going to work, and I am at my absolute happiest when I know I have helped one of you.

I have been with you when your baby has died. Nothing affected me more than carrying your baby into the white coffin in the ambulance. I wasn't even a mum myself then.

I have sat with you and revisited you when a burglar came and pretended to be one of us, and made you feel safe again.

I have fought with you when you were drunk, or just angry. Generally, in the past, you would later apologise, but sadly no longer...

But I am also a person. I am one of you. I am a wife and a mum of two young children. I do the school run. I do the shopping, the cooking and the cleaning. I hurt! I am affected by what you say. Last week it was "whore". That is the least of it. I am very affected by what I see.

This week yet another of my family has been murdered. The list is growing. But it never gets easier to lose one of our own in such a needless tragic way. Why would someone choose to run a fellow human being over rather than get a puncture in their stolen car? Why?...

The current public outrage over these incidents, over the murder of Fiona, Nicola, Dave and all my colleagues is heart warming. Nothing was harder to deal with than the public clapping at every police officer along Deansgate as we walked to Nicola's funeral. I know you know you need us, I know you care about us as police officers, and as people.

My plea to you is to remember those feelings.



Local Focus

John Apter,
chair of
Hampshire
Police
Federation

Listen to those on the ground

Our open meeting saw 350 members attend. It is so important to give them the opportunity to air their views and concerns to those who can listen and act upon them.

We raised a number of issues which may resonate with other forces. We now have 'borderless policing' where response for emergency calls and investigation teams go across the whole force area. Parts of the new structure are just not working. Our force area is far too big and we have too few officers to make it work.

I did not ask the chief constable for the structure to be scrapped, but officers need a lifeline. Part of the issue with our force restructure has been that officers feel it has been done to them rather than them being a part of the process. We asked our members for their views. We had almost 1,200 responses to a survey asking them if they had confidence in the new structure.

Of those who responded 74 per cent said they had no confidence at all that it would work and 70 per cent said they felt their views about the restructure had not been listened to.

We appealed to the chief to take on board the views of those in the job. We had many comments, and one officer summed up how many were feeling: "There always seems to be a hidden agenda so it doesn't matter what I say or how I feel, my views, it would seem, are not considered by those who make the big decisions."

We are grateful that our chief constable Andy Marsh has pledged to take on board what has been said by those on the ground on what is working and what isn't.

The importance of National Police Memorial Day

“It’s a way for the entire police family to come together – we always make everybody feel as welcome as they can. People keep coming back year-on-year because of what it means for them, but also to share their views and experiences of life and what’s happened in the past, and that comforts the families who are fresh to this event.”

“It’s an honour for Scotland to host this year’s event in Edinburgh and to mark the Clutha tragedy.”

Brian Docherty, chair of the Scottish Police Federation

“It’s very important that we remember fallen officers, we must never forget them. Today is the 12th National Police Memorial Day and we’re attending with the families of some of our fallen colleagues.”

John Tully, chair of the Met Police Federation

“This is of course a poignant event, and one that every one of us in the police family takes very seriously. It’s very important to remember the officers we’ve lost not only today, but on every day as we’re going about our duty.”

Mark Lindsay, chair of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland

“I’m from a force (North Yorkshire) where we have had a number of officers murdered on duty – it’s a tragedy for their families, friends and colleagues, so NPMD is a way to bring together all of the families that have lost their loved ones.”

“And they always come every year, which is wonderful, and something I support wholeheartedly – National Police Memorial Day is a way to bring all families of fallen officers together as we celebrate and remember their loved ones.”

Baroness Angela Harris, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, former police authority chair and PNB member

The police family officers who paid

The policing family and government officials from all over the country gathered in Edinburgh last month to commemorate police officers who have died or been killed while on duty.

The annual National Police Memorial Day service, held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on September 27, paid tribute to fallen officers from forces in Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales, with the names of officers lost in the last year read out to a congregation of 1,200.

There was a special act of remembrance for those who lost their lives in the Clutha helicopter tragedy in 2013, with the laying of a wreath by Niall McLaren, Air Observer, Air Support Unit, Police Scotland.

Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, said: “I am proud to honour those police officers who have given their lives while in service of their communities, and to recognise the bravery of the men and women in policing as they work to keep us and our families safe.”

Never be forgotten

“In Scotland, we were reminded again of the dangers faced when the Police Scotland helicopter crashed into the roof of the Clutha pub in Glasgow. Ten people died that night, including the two police officers and the pilot on board. That was a black day which will never be forgotten. It is fitting that today a wreath has been laid in memory of those who died in the tragedy.”

Home Secretary Theresa May gave a reading and prayers were led by Michelle Nelson, daughter of Strathclyde Police Constable George William Chree who was murdered in 1976, aged 27; Donald Connolly, brother of Constable Gordon Connolly, who drowned in 1983 (aged 24) while trying to rescue a member of the public from rough seas; Derek Penman, Her Majesty’s Inspector

Pictures © Peter Anderson



of Constabulary, Scotland; and Mark Lindsay, chairman of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland.

During the service, candles were lit in remembrance by Mark Nelis, whose wife, Police Scotland Constable Kirsty Nelis, died in the Clutha Helicopter crash, aged 36; Elaine Atkinson, the sister of Nottinghamshire Constable Christopher McDonald who was murdered in 1978, aged 19; Charlotte Godfrey, whose father, South Wales Constable Ian Godfrey, was killed in a police vehicle collision in 1999, aged of 30; and Alwyn Baird, widow of Royal Ulster Constabulary Constable Allen Baird, who was killed by a terrorist bomb attack in 1979, aged 28 years.

Speaking after the service, founder of National Police Memorial Day, Sergeant Joe Holness, said: “Today is about giving deserved recognition to

gathers to honour those the ultimate sacrifice

(left to right) Mark Nelis, Elaine Atkinson, Charlotte Godfrey and Alwyn Baird light candles in memory of loved ones at the National Police Memorial Day



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was among those speaking at the memorial event



the honourable men and women who gave their lives to protect us. It is about ensuring their dedication and self-sacrifice is never forgotten, and it is about supporting loved ones and colleagues with an annual day of remembrance.”

Home Secretary Theresa May, said: “When a police officer falls in the line of duty, their death is a reminder of the very real dangers they face day in, day out, as they put themselves on the line to deal with violent criminals and dangerous situations.

“The police strive to keep us and our families safe, taking risks so we can live peacefully. It is a privilege to take part in National Police Memorial Day and to pay tribute to the bravery and honour of British police officers.”

What National Police Memorial Day means for families – see p12



The Station Sergeant is...

Pondering the future

As we mourn the loss of yet another life laid down in the course of duty, I listen to the shallow utterances of our political leaders and feel depressed.

Imagine a time in the future when the budget cuts and politically inspired neutering of Peel's policing model have worked their way through the service. There won't be a Bobby on every street corner, just a CCTV camera. Local law enforcement will be the remit of council employees, wandering the streets finding offences to deal with by way of penalty tickets. Road traffic collisions and offences may well be dealt with by Highways Agency staff empowered to deal with errant motorists.

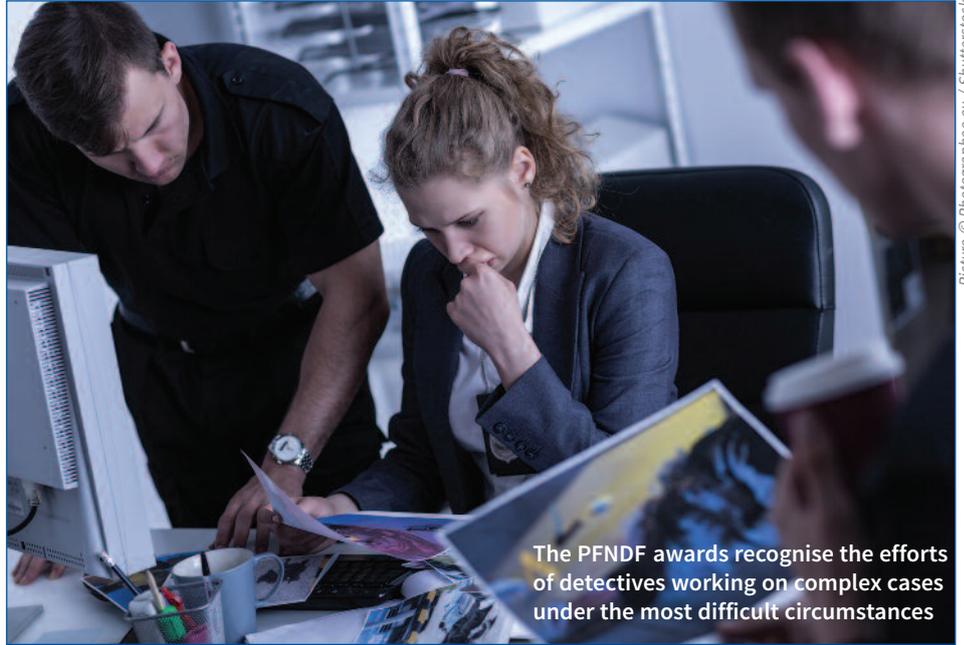
The police service might be a rump of regional forces, with major investigation teams and a paramilitary-style armed response task force to deal with the grievous stuff.

Where will our colleagues be, those doing their duty at great risk, and occasional loss to themselves? A camera cannot tackle and arrest a thug; it can only transmit an image to a control room. Council enforcement officers, Highways Agency staff and employees of all the private sector companies eager to snap up lucrative contracts to provide 'policing support' might be cost effective but there is a one shortcoming. Health and Safety legislation and their terms and conditions will mean that no one can actually demand they take the kind of risks faced daily by warranted cops. It is down to the likes of us, including the brave, professional officers that lay their lives on the line.

Sense of duty and a willingness to face danger don't come cheap. I hope the government spends wisely the money it is saving from the policing budget.

 Follow me on Twitter @stationsarge

Our finest detectives



The PFNDF awards recognise the efforts of detectives working on complex cases under the most difficult circumstances

Forget the TV image of the dysfunctional detective who cracks cases through luck and instinct. Today's investigators solve the most intricate investigations with dedication and attention to detail while showing considerable care and compassion towards victims.

The Police Federation of England and Wales is set to honour some of our finest detectives at its annual awards ceremony this month at Hensol Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Hosted by the Police Federation's National Detectives Forum (PFNDF), the awards recognise the achievements of investigators working on complex cases where they are often exposed to the worst of human nature.

The PFNDF received over 90 nominations from across the service highlighting a wealth of talent working in CID today. There are four categories this year – Detective Investigation of the Year, Services to Detectives, The Smarter Detective and New Trainee Detective Constable – plus the Hopkin Award for outstanding contribution. The winners will be announced on the night.

Martin Plummer, chair of the PFNDF, said he was honoured to host the awards: "These awards incorporate everything that is special about the

work that detectives are involved in on a daily basis while combating the smartest criminal minds and most deplorable criminal offences.

"The finalists have shown innovative, diligent, investigative prowess combining the most modern available technology and the newest policing tactics while still, where necessary, employing good old fashioned policing techniques. They have shown the tenacity and resilience needed in modern policing to progress complex, protracted cases supporting their colleagues and communities.

Shining light to policing

"All are a shining light to policing, their forces and the public they serve. In these unfortunate times of further financial and resource cuts these detectives and the work they undertake encourage detective retention and development."

The winners will be announced in next month's issue of Police magazine. The ceremony is part of the PFNDF's annual seminar which discusses issues facing the service's detectives.

On the opposite page are two examples of the impressive nominations put forward for the awards.

recognised at annual awards

New Trainee Detective of the Year – Nominee: **Detective Constable Andrew Reed**, South Wales Police

Detective constable Andrew Reed was a trainee detective when he began investigating Tom Bean, a prolific child sex abuser who had already escaped justice on three separate occasions.

Bean's crimes were so horrific and such was their impact, that one of his victim's, now a father, could not bathe his son or hold him if he was unclothed. Two of the victims became drug abusers who turned to crime as adults. Despite facing hostility and mistrust from the victims, DC Reed refused to give up and his tenacity, commitment and compassion meant Bean was finally brought to justice this year.

Complex investigation

DC Reed pursued the investigation alongside tackling the day-to-day demands of a busy CID office in Cardiff. Not only was he the officer in the case, he was also the exhibits officer and the disclosure officer. This complex investigation involved reviewing huge amounts of evidence dating back more than 20 years. DC Reed also gave considerable emotional support to the victims, both of whom suffered mental health problems and had been in and out of prison their entire adult lives. He gave up his own time to check on their welfare, and on one occasion rushed one of the victims who was suffering a potential breakdown, to hospital to see a mental health crisis team.

Bean was convicted on 21 January at Cardiff Crown Court of 22 counts of indecent assault and two counts of attempted rape against young boys dating back to the early 1990s. He was jailed for 16 years and placed on the sex offenders register for life.

On conviction, one of the victims thanked DC Reed personally, adding: "This wouldn't have happened without you. It's over now... I can get on with normal life; thanks again for everything."

DC Malcolm Gaskill has been a pioneer in the use of familial DNA to solve cases



Picture © Science Photo / Shutterstock

Services to Detectives – Nominee: **Detective Constable Malcolm Gaskill**, Wiltshire Police

During his 29 years of service, detective constable Malcolm Gaskill has built a reputation for commitment, compassion and depth of knowledge which has enabled him to successfully solve a number of historic serious sex offences. He has received many awards during his career, but what marks DC Gaskill out as an exceptional detective is the care and compassion he shows victims of crime.

In 2005, DC Gaskill instigated cold case reviews into a number of unsolved sexual offences. He pioneered the early adoption of familial DNA in his force leading to the detection of cases, including a serious sexual assault that took place in 1980. DC Gaskill reviewed the original investigation. He contacted the victims who had not been believed at the time, winning their trust and support. He then used what was then emerging 'familial' technology to track down the perpetrator.

In 2012, he led a cold case review into a serious sexual assault that took place in 2001. DC Gaskill's compassion and dedication enabled him to regain the victim's trust and confidence and he established new lines of enquiry through media appeals. Using familial DNA, a suspect with no previous convictions was identified and subsequently convicted of the offence.

DC Gaskill now provides advice and guidance on historical investigations to other forces both home and abroad, including the Netherlands. With DC Gaskill's help, the country secured its first prosecution using familial DNA.

DC Gaskill, who gained a Masters in interviewing techniques in his own time, now tutors police and staff in interview techniques. He provides ongoing support and guidance to his colleagues, including senior investigating officers. He always puts his colleagues first and remains as enthusiastic today as he was when he joined 29 years ago.

"The finalists have shown innovative, diligent, investigative prowess combining the most modern available technology and the newest policing tactics while still, where necessary, employing good old fashioned policing techniques."

Martin Plummer, chair of the PFNDF

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Resignation or retirement while being investigated

Before the start of the year an officer who wished to retire or resign could do so unless they had been suspended from police duties. Suspended officers had to obtain the consent of the chief constable to retire. This position impacted on relatively few officers. This has now dramatically changed.

As of 12 January, officers cannot give notice to retire or resign after a matter has been brought to the attention of the appropriate authority if the matter has been assessed as potentially gross misconduct or misconduct and the officer is on a final written warning.

The change seems to have occurred against a backdrop where the Home Office believed too many officers were resigning to avoid having to attend a misconduct hearing.

The officer cannot retire or resign until such time as they are not at risk of being required to attend a misconduct hearing or the hearing has taken place. The only exceptions are if the officer is medically unfit to continue to be subject to the proceedings, or there are other exceptional circumstances.

It will be for an officer to demonstrate on a balance of probabilities that he or she is medically unfit or that other exceptional circumstances apply. Exceptional circumstances would have to be of sufficient severity that they outweigh the public interest in a case being concluded. Such circumstances may involve a third party that would be severely affected. It is unlikely that completion of 30 years otherwise unblemished service and a desire to retire at the completion of that service would constitute exceptional circumstances. Given the length of time some investigations take this could delay retirement for many years.



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Why for families of the fallen, National Police Memorial Day is such a special event

This month we honour police officers who have died or been killed while on duty, and remember these officers at the annual National Police Memorial Day. Here, Rosemary Drew, the mother of PC James Drew, who died when his car struck a tree as he was on his way to work near Winchester, tells her story and why the day is an important reminder of the sacrifice officers and their families make.

National Police Memorial Day is an essential event for the families of officers who have died on duty, says Rose Drew



It is more than six years since James died, but the grief is still raw for his mum, Rosemary. To her, it's like she lost him yesterday.

There are many others, family, friends and colleagues going through the same emotions, trying to get on with their lives when their sons and daughters, husbands, wives, sisters, brothers and best friends have been taken away – died or been killed, often in the course of their job as police officers.

James was an officer in Hampshire, and only 27 years old when he died. Rosemary is incredibly proud of her son and still has his uniform hanging in the wardrobe; she keeps a button from his jacket in her handbag.

"It's really difficult, even after six and a half years. I go to his grave every week, sometimes twice a week. We were very close as a family, he was our only child together," she says, the ache of grief still palpable in her breaking voice. "He was a really loving son and a great support.

He loved his job as a police officer and was a very kind person."

Rosemary attended the National Police Memorial Day service in Edinburgh last month and spoke about why it is important for police officers to be remembered.

'It's something I need'

"It really changes you when you lose someone. We don't celebrate things like Christmas like we used to. You don't know how hard it is until it happens to you, but it helps to go to events like National Police Memorial Day, with others who have experienced the same thing. The day is quite special really and if people can cope, I know it is difficult, but it's good we remember them. For me, it's something I need."

She paid tribute to the support from both John Apter at Hampshire Police Federation, and Andy Marsh, chief constable of the force, who attended the event and have supported her.

Bravo

to all nominees

Police Mutual is proud to sponsor the Police Bravery Awards
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Police Bravery Awards

Here are the amazing stories of the officers nominated for the Police Federation's 20th Police Bravery Awards, sponsored by Police Mutual. Nominees will be recognised for their work both at a reception in Downing Street and an awards ceremony being held at the Dorchester Hotel this month.

Steve White, chair of the Police Federation, said: "It is an honour to host the 20th Police Bravery Awards, which this year gives recognition to 64 nominees from 38 forces. I never fail to be

astounded by the heroism of the officers nominated for a Police Bravery Award and this year is no exception."

Stephen Mann, CEO, Police Mutual, said: "Police Mutual is extremely proud to sponsor the Police Bravery Awards, recognising the courage of police officers who face extremely challenging situations every day to keep the public safe. Our ongoing, long-term commitment to support these awards reflects the incredible respect we have for the work of the police service."

Avon and Somerset: Officer saves stab victim among volatile crowd

PC Price and his commander were patrolling at St Paul's carnival, an annual community event in the centre of Bristol, when they were told a man had been violently attacked.



The officer headed straight through the dense crowd to find the victim who was bleeding heavily from multiple stab wounds. PC Price shouted for any spare clothing to stem the blood but nothing came forward from the mostly intoxicated onlookers. Time was critical and PC Price didn't hesitate in stripping to the waist, removing his body armour and PPE belt – his only protection. Kneeling with his back to the volatile crowd surrounding him and the victim, PC Price used his t-shirt to stem the blood loss from the man's multiple puncture wounds.

This was a fast-moving, fluid situation in which PC Price remained focused and dedicated, putting himself in a vulnerable position to ensure the victim received immediate medical care.

Bedfordshire: Off-duty officer foils shop robber 'intending to kill'

As off-duty officer PC Tracey Litchfield walked past a jeweller's in Bedford town centre in January this year, she heard a commotion inside – a man being attacked with an iron bar.

Forsaking her own safety and welfare, and even though she had not long returned to work following a major back operation, PC Litchfield went inside to confront the man holding the weapon.

She put herself in between the men to protect the victim and swiftly disarmed the attacker who had smashed the till and emptied its contents.

PC Litchfield managed to restrain him to prevent his escape until a member of the public came to help as the man became more violent. Police units arrived and the man was arrested and later charged. During interview the attacker stated that he'd had a 'bad few months' and no money and that his intention that day was to either rob or kill someone. But PC Litchfield's instantaneous and instinctive bravery while off duty assisted in detaining this violent and determined offender.

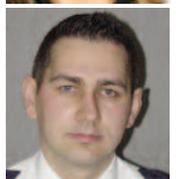
Cambridgeshire: Officers fend off man on violent rampage

In November last year, PCs Janine Hagger and Peter Moulton were called to deal with a young man in a garden with a knife in his hand. When they arrived the man – armed with a Stanley knife – ran into another garden. They reasoned with him to stop, using 'PAVA' spray and their batons, but he attacked both officers. PC Moulton received a cut to his neck and was bitten on his arm, PC Hagger was punched in the face and stomach and received a cut to her fingers which needed stitches.

The man threatened the officers with a garden fork; he then smashed the window of a shed and armed himself with a

handsaw and garden shears, running at the officers with the weapons, before entering another house and holding the saw to the throat of the man who lived there.

The man evaded firearms officers and ran into the street. He was only overcome when more officers arrived and an air ambulance had to be deployed to sedate him. PC Hagger and PC Moulton courageously persisted to apprehend a violent man who was out of control.



Cheshire: Trio of officers save shoppers from supermarket knifeman

PCs Christopher Fry, Damien John and Andy Lavender were called to deal with a man 'going mad' in a supermarket – hurling glass bottles at people and wielding a large kitchen knife. A number of customers were still inside the store and in danger when the three officers arrived and took control of the situation in March last year.

Fearing for the safety of those still inside and putting themselves at great risk, all three officers immediately approached the offender, who held an aggressive stance while holding the large knife. They used 'Captor' spray, but this had little effect, so they used their batons to strike his arms and legs to try to overcome him.



Again this had little effect and the offender lunged forward and slashed PC Lavender on the hand with the knife.



Despite being injured, PC Lavender grabbed a large crate from the aisle and used this to disarm the offender by knocking it into his legs causing him to drop the knife. All three officers quickly seized the opportunity to take hold of the offender, restrain and arrest him.



All three officers demonstrated professionalism and bravery when tackling this violent offender.

Cleveland: Police pair pull together to save woman intent on drowning

When a woman seemed intent on drowning herself, it was PCs Haris Imaan and Stewart Shepherd who were the first to respond. It was a wet November evening in 2014, when the woman was spotted out of her depth about 15 metres from the water's edge, struggling to keep afloat. As they tried to monitor the situation the officers also had to contend with numerous friends of the woman who were trying to enter the water to help her, but were actually causing more problems.



The officers took control of the crowd and kept the woman in sight before executing their plan. PC Shepherd removed his body armour and waded through the heavy swell with a lifebuoy, while PC Imaan held a rescue rope to maintain a safety line to the shore.

PC Shepherd began swimming towards the woman even though in full uniform. As he approached the woman she began to splash around in a bid to get further away; determined to save her, PC Shepherd persevered and with the rope at full stretch and PC Imaan now waist deep in the sea, he grabbed hold of her and PC Imaan pulled them to safety.

The officers exhibited incredible teamwork and professionalism to prevent a tragic outcome.

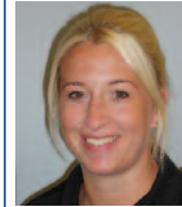
Cumbria: Couple rescued from car overhanging cliff face

On a cold January day last year, a vehicle skidded on ice and came to rest overhanging a sheer drop over a cliff, with the occupants still inside.

A passer-by stopped to help, offering support and reassurance to the couple while alerting the emergency services. When PCs Andrew Mason, Helen Robinson, Phillip Lewis and Ryan McCarthy arrived they could see that the front wheels were over the cliff edge, and the rear wheels were resting on sheet ice.



Due to the very real risk of the car losing balance and going over the top, the officers, as well as the passer-by, bravely sat in the back of the car and in the boot to use their weight to steady the vehicle and stop it from tipping over before the Fire Service could arrive.



Once stable, the officers then helped the couple out of the vehicle, encouraging them to climb back over the car seats, out of the rear doors and to safety, remaining calm throughout. The incident would have had a very different ending had the officers not been so brave and quick thinking.



Derbyshire: Officer protects colleague despite double-fractured eye socket

Anyone would be forgiven for retreating after having their face literally smashed in, but it didn't deter PC Mohammed Shakil from arresting his attacker in order to protect his colleague from similar injuries.

Having responded to a disturbance at a guesthouse in February last year, PC Shakil and his colleague found the main perpetrator hiding under a bed. After he was pulled out, he became extremely aggressive, squaring up to the officers and throwing punches.

PC Shakil suffered a broken cheekbone and eye socket, temporarily losing his sight in one eye. Nevertheless, despite being in agony and with blood dripping down his face, he



managed to handcuff the offender who was continuing to throw punches at his colleague.

PC Shakil needed four hours of surgery to have three titanium plates fitted around his left eye to help mend the double fracture. Four months after the attack he was still unable to return to full-time duties but luckily regained full eyesight.

The man admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm and was jailed for two years. He had been on bail at the time of the incident for assaulting another police officer two days earlier.

PC Shakil's brave and steadfast perseverance stopped this violent offender from going on to cause more serious harm.

Devon & Cornwall: Officers rescue family from trapped car

During extreme weather in February last year, PCs Kim James and Helen Newton responded to a call of a female motorist and her four children who were trapped in a car in rising flood water.

Upon arrival they discovered the vehicle partly submerged in fast running water coming from the fields. The car was in the centre of the road, with water up to the bonnet.

Due to the heavy rain and howling winds, the officers were unable to communicate with the occupants. Fearing that the car was moments from being swept away, the two officers waded through rising flood water to rescue the young family. Both

officers are small in stature and the flood water was above their waists by the time they reached the stranded vehicle.

The car was filling with water and the occupants were understandably very scared, screaming in fear. PC James carried the smallest child to safety, while PC Newton helped the other passengers to leave the vehicle and follow her through the flood waters. The family were taken home by the soaked officers, grateful for their act of heroism.

The selfless actions of PCs James and Newton undoubtedly brought this dangerous situation to a safe conclusion.

Dorset: Lone officer overcomes threatening and abusive men

In March last year, a member of the public reported drunk men in her street, trying car door handles, causing damage, and being abusive.

PC Mark Moreland-Francis responded to the call and found three men in the area fitting the descriptions given. One of the men, known to be violent, was immediately confrontational and aggressive, approaching him with a beer bottle in his hand and swearing at him. PC Moreland-Francis arrested the man, who then encouraged one of his friends to attack the officer. PC Moreland-Francis pressed his emergency button and continued to try to restrain and disarm the man. A violent struggle ensued and it was not until afterwards that PC Moreland-Francis realised that he had cut his tongue and chipped two teeth from being punched in the face.



PC Moreland-Francis managed to draw his 'PAVA' spray and used all other available personal safety tactics to gain control of the man until back-up arrived.

Durham: Officer disarms woman wielding machete

Late one November evening last year, Sgt Christopher Davis responded to a request for assistance from a PCSO who had reported a woman brandishing a machete in the middle of a road.

She was waving it in the air above her head and shouting taunts to the police. A car came towards the woman who stood in front of it to stop it. She shouted towards the car, raising the blade up in the air again in a threatening manner.

The woman was clearly agitated and looked intent on using the weapon. Fearing for everyone's safety, he took out his incapacitant spray and shouted at the woman to distract her. She walked towards the officer with the 10-inch machete in her hand. When she came close enough Sgt Davis discharged his spray directly into her eyes, and took this opportunity to take hold of her hand holding the machete and put his other arm around her body to pull her to the kerbside and arrest and disarm her, ensuring no one was hurt.

Sgt Davis persevered to protect members of the public from a dangerous woman intent on causing harm.

Dyfed Powys: Vulnerable man saved from ending his own life

Responding to a 999 call at 3am in April last year, PC Scott Patrick found himself beside the River Teifi in Cardigan; a woman had called the police to get help for her disabled dad who had mental health issues and wanted to end his life on the anniversary of his wife's death.

The man had taken prescription drugs and been drinking and was in an agitated state. Without hesitation, PC Patrick removed his protective clothing and waded into the river.

He waded through several feet of mud towards the man. In deteriorating conditions PC Patrick realised he had to grab the man to bring him back to safety. As he got closer, the man threw himself backwards into the full flow of the river and tried pushing the officer away but PC Patrick managed to grab his clothing, now chest deep in water, and get him to the river bank and awaiting paramedics.



In this fast-moving situation PC Patrick quickly took control with no thought for his own safety.

Essex: Police pair detain dangerous man making threats to kill

On the day Lee Rigby was murdered in May 2013, PCs Dafydd Hughes and Gus Morrison were called to an Islamic Centre to deal with a man armed with two kitchen knives making threats to behead a man inside the building.

There was also a report that the centre was on fire from a petrol bomb. Smoke was coming out of the building and a man was standing in the car park shouting and holding two knives. The man inside had escaped onto a flat part of the roof.

The officers knew they had to deal with the

armed man quickly, and drawing their batons they moved towards him. He turned his aggression on them and they were forced to use their batons to subdue and handcuff him.



While PC Hughes stayed with the man, PC Morrison entered the building as smoke was billowed out of the door. He managed to find a military smoke grenade which was causing all the smoke, and thankfully the building was actually not on fire. PC Morrison then went upstairs to help rescue the man on the roof.

Gloucestershire: Officer saves woman from drowning in freezing canal

On a cold winter's day at Christmas time in 2013, PC Ian Saunders responded to a report of a woman floating in a canal. A witness said that the woman had been in the water for at least 10 minutes so there were concerns that she wouldn't survive in the freezing water for much longer.

The woman was quickly identified as a missing person with mental health issues who had tried to take her life before. She was still alive although in immediate danger of drowning. She was unable to move due to the extreme cold and could barely speak, slipping in and out of consciousness.

PC Saunders reacted very quickly and with no consideration for himself he entered the water and swam out some ten metres to where she was. The woman had already slipped under the water but PC Saunders was able to get her to safety. Other officers helped them get out of the water and performed CPR on her which she responded to.

The woman and her immediate family have expressed their deep gratitude to PC Saunders whose heroic actions undoubtedly saved her life.

Greater Manchester: Officers save family from night-time knife intruder

In November 2013, PC Graeme Black and Sgt Paul Hamer responded



to a call from a family reporting that an armed intruder was in their home.

A drug-induced woman sneaked into the house earlier in the evening and hid in the garage. When the couple and their children had gone to bed, the woman went upstairs armed with a kitchen knife.

She went into the main bedroom brandishing the knife and demanding money and possessions. After an initial confrontation, she ran out of the bedroom and was at large in the main part of the house.

When the officers arrived, the woman retreated towards one of the bedrooms where the children were sleeping, still carrying the knife.

The officers ran upstairs, forced entry and immediately challenged the woman, disarming her.

Gwent: Courageous pair saves family from house fire

One night in January 2014, PCs Owen Davies and Rhiannon Hurst responded to a report of a house fire in Newport. On arrival the roof was well ablaze and it was a chaotic scene.

The officers entered the smoke-filled house to search for the occupants, and found a number of adults. In clearing the house, rescuing seven family members, they were told there was a disabled child trapped in the attic room.

Both officers re-entered the house and found the access door to the attic, but couldn't open it. PC Hurst left to get more help while PC Davies tried in vain to force open the door. The noise of the fire became deafening, the heat unbearable and the smoke suffocating.

Eventually he was forced to retreat as burning wood fell from the ceiling. The fire service arrived and entered the house in full breathing apparatus to rescue the child, who had managed to climb onto the roof.



Hampshire: Officer saves woman intent on drowning

In April 2014, PC Nathan Lucy was responding to a call about a woman making threats to commit suicide; at the same time he heard over the police radio that a woman had jumped into the sea at a nearby ferry terminal.

PC Lucy arrived at the scene and took off his body armour and utility belt. He could see the woman struggling to keep afloat and being swept further out by the fast-moving current. The female was approximately 40 metres away. She ignored shouts from PC Lucy to swim towards him, so he took off his



boots and jumped in. He used all his strength to swim towards the woman while pleading for her to swim back.

PC Lucy managed to reach and grab hold, and after a long struggle – including the woman trying to hold him underwater – he resurfaced to find a life ring, grabbed it and kept hold of the woman, as a member of the public pulled the life ring to a pontoon in the harbour. PC Lucy was not prepared to give up on the woman who was determined to end her own life and risk his at the same time.

Hertfordshire: Armed kidnappers caught after high speed car chase

In November 2013, PC Christopher Kouwenberg and his colleague were on patrol in an unmarked vehicle. Checking the number plate of a car they found the MOT had expired, so signalled to the driver to stop.

Instead he drove onto the motorway at a speed in excess of 100mph, then drove at high speed through a red light and turned into a road in Edgware where the two occupants got out and ran off. The officers chased the men; PC Kouwenberg went after the passenger, who had a revolver in one hand a pistol in the other. He shouted at him to stop but the offender raised his

arms and fired five shots at the officer. PC Kouwenberg dodged the bullets and also saved a 92-year-old from the line of fire.

They eventually stopped the chase protect innocent members of the public, but when the officers returned to the vehicles they found a man with his hands tied, sat in the back of the offenders' car. He told the officers that the two men had put a gun in his mouth and told him they were going to kill him.

The guns and a block of cocaine with a street value of £20,000 were found in the area and the kidnappers were later traced and convicted.

Humberside: Off-duty officer tackles wanted man

In February 2014, off-duty PC Karl Freeman entered a petrol station shop and noticed a man with his collar turned up and his hat pulled down; he recognised him as a violent wanted man.

PC Freeman stopped the man and identified himself; the man denied he was wanted, but as the officer rang police and waited for backup the man became agitated. Despite carrying no radio or protective equipment, PC Freeman decided to arrest him.

In desperation to get away, and suffering from drug withdrawal, the man grabbed a bottle of wine, smashed it against the shop

counter, and lunged towards the officer. As shoppers ran from the store in fear and staff members froze behind the counter, PC Freeman instinctively fought the man off, managing to keep the broken bottle in the air. The officer then rushed toward the man, grabbing his arms and forcing him to the floor. After a struggle he managed to restrain the man until uniformed assistance arrived on the scene a short time later.

PC Freeman acted with tremendous courage to apprehend a violent criminal, putting the safety of the public before his own.

Kent: Off-duty officer apprehends violent shoplifter

In April last year, PC Sarah Lewis-Perkins was off duty shopping with her son when she saw staff at B&Q struggling with a violent shoplifter.

Having left her son with a friend she bravely intervened but as she identified herself as a police officer the man turned his aggression towards her.

He picked up a metal bar to use as a weapon before running away. PC Lewis-Perkins pursued him and managed to catch up with him. However he picked up a bottle from the ground, and broke it to use it as a weapon, before attacking the officer with a large piece of wood.

Without protective equipment or a radio she skilfully avoided the blows from the man, got him on the floor, and was eventually helped by shop staff.

The man feigned unconsciousness and became unresponsive. PC Lewis-Perkins recognised it as a potential medical emergency and administered first aid while calling an ambulance.

The man was later sentenced for theft and affray and at the end of the trial the judge commended PC Lewis-Perkins for her tenacity, courageous and professional actions.

Lancashire: Officers try valiantly to save victim of domestic abuse

In March 2014, DC Karen Kenworthy and DS Damian McAlister were supporting a domestic abuse victim at her home when her partner, on licence for murdering his previous partner, burst in and started attacking the woman with a hammer.

DS McAlister tried to stop the attack but was hit over the head several times and knocked unconscious. The man dragged his partner to the floor and began strangling her. DC Kenworthy fought with the man using her baton to try to free the woman. The attacker eventually let go of her but went to the kitchen to get a knife.

DS McAlister regained consciousness and got the woman outside. Inside, DC Kenworthy tried to prevent the man from leaving the house, but was threatened with the knife and pushed to the floor.

Still armed with the knife, the offender caught up with the victim on a nearby street and despite DS McAlister's best efforts, she was fatally stabbed.

Uniformed police arrived and arrested the man, who was sentenced to a whole life term for murder and 12 years for assaulting police. Despite their heartache, the woman's family praised "the officers who tried desperately to save her life".

Leicestershire: Victims saved and knifeman arrested by lone officer

While on patrol alone in a marked car in January last year, PC Jon Whale was approached by a man banging on his window, shouting that someone had been stabbed and murdered.

PC Whale made his way to the area where people had already gathered in a large group and radioed for assistance. He made his way through the crowd. There was a large amount of blood on the pavement and a man standing over two victims – a young man cradling a woman in his arms – and a further injured man standing close by.

PC Whale was presented with three casualties with life threatening wounds and an aggressive suspect. He single-handedly detained the suspect and arrested him for attempted murder. He was later convicted and sentenced to 23 years imprisonment.

PC Whale's first consideration was for others; had he not intervened when he did, it could have turned into a multiple murder but all three victims survived.



Merseyside: Quick-thinking officer tackles armed robber

In July 2013, PC Paul Kirwin was driving through a shopping precinct car park with a colleague on a routine patrol when he spotted a man acting suspiciously in an alleyway.

He got out of the car to follow the man through the alley while his colleague drove around the corner. At the end of the alley the man stood at the rear of one of the shops. PC Kirwin saw that the man was leaning through a door and pointing a gun at staff members inside – he could see the fear on their faces.

The man realised someone was behind him and as he

turned around, PC Kirwin immediately jumped on him, taking hold of his arm to wrestle the firearm out of his hand. A struggle

ensued but PC Kirwin ensured that the gun could not be pointed at himself or the terrified shop assistants. He managed to restrain him and forced him to drop the gun. The man was handcuffed and later admitted to attempted armed robbery and possession of a firearm with intent. This story could have ended very differently if it wasn't for PC Kirwin's quick thinking and outstanding bravery.



Metropolitan I: Officers overcome gunman intending to kill



In October 2014, PCs Mark Bird and Robert Wilson arrived at the scene of a road traffic collision to find the driver in a drunken state, attempting to leave the scene.



He then pulled a gun – a live firing .32 calibre revolver – from his pocket and pointed it directly at the head of PC Wilson, threatening

to kill him. PC Bird recognised the danger his colleague was in and in an instant, grabbed the barrel of the gun.

The gun fired, hitting PC Bird's hand but despite the pain and shock, he didn't release his grip on the weapon and managed to knock the man to the ground. He was joined by PC Wilson who threw himself on top of the assailant who was still holding the gun. PC Wilson managed to radio the control room and ensure bystanders got to safety. Together, they disarmed and detained the man.

It was discovered afterwards that the man had a history of violent behaviour and was in possession of many rounds of ammunition. He had been en route to confront his estranged wife who had taken an injunction out on him, preventing him from the vicinity. The courageous actions of PCs Bird and Wilson almost certainly prevented a violent and potentially fatal attack.

Metropolitan II: Police duo chase down dangerous gunman

In December 2013, PCs Matthew Basden and Unal Ibrahim responded to a report of a burglary at a hostel in Camberwell. While speaking to the informant, the suspect walked past so the officers followed him but he made off at pace. PC Basden pursued the suspect on foot, with PC Ibrahim following in a vehicle.

The pursuit went some distance, until the man turned around and pointed a gun at the officers – PC Basden still on foot and PC Ibrahim in the car – and fired shots towards the vehicle. PC Basden quickly dived into a front garden taking cover under a bush. The man looked for him but couldn't see him beneath the foliage. PC Ibrahim gave commentary over his radio while reversing the car and keeping sight of the suspect. The suspect ran off and PC Basden continued the pursuit on foot, until the offender turned down an alley and into a garden where the officers arrested him.

The man was known to police for firearm offences and subsequently charged and convicted, receiving a custodial sentence of 11 years. PCs Basden and Ibrahim both showed fearless determination in their pursuit of a very dangerous criminal.



Metropolitan III: Off-duty officer pursues culprits of vicious attack

While off duty at Christmas time in 2013, PC Winston Mugarura saw a man being chased by a group of approximately 10 men in Charing Cross Road. He caught up with the group who were attacking the man on the ground, kicking and stamping on him.

PC Mugarura ran into the group – without any personal safety equipment – to break it up, showing his warrant card and asking the men to stop but they ignored him. The group continued to beat the man, also striking PC Mugarura, and were described by a witness as 'a pack of hungry wolves'.

The attack continued until two members of the public stepped in to help, and PC Mugarura managed to take the man to safety as the group ran off. PC Mugarura then heard a scream, and found two women who had been assaulted by the group. One of the women sustained very serious injuries with one witness actually believing she was dead as a result of the attack.

PC Mugarura left the women in the care of witnesses and ran after the group of men, determined to bring them to justice. Despite the potential dangers, the off duty officer single-handedly tracked some of the men down and managed to detain the main suspect and arrest him.

PC Mugarura instinctively ran to danger to help others and his selflessness prevented more harm from being caused.

Norfolk: Duo risk their lives to rescue electrocuted man

In April 2014, PC Mark Brooks and Sgt Derek Rutter attended a local farm following a report of an industrial accident. When they arrived they found that a drilling rig worker had been electrocuted after the lorry gantry he was working on came into contact with an overhead power line.

The 33,000 volt shock caused him to be knocked unconscious under the gantry. Paramedics, firefighters and the air ambulance were in attendance but could not approach the unconscious man until the power had been switched off for safety reasons.

There were a lot of frantic people around but there was no indication of when the power

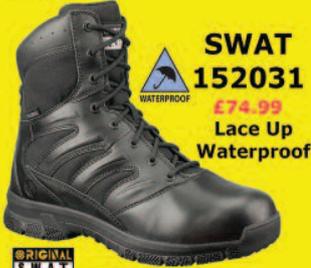
would be turned off. The officers were frustrated, and although they understood why the other emergency service workers were reluctant to intervene, they had an overriding sense to help and get the man medical assistance as they didn't know how long he would survive otherwise. Well aware of the danger involved, PC

Brooks and Sgt Rutter dragged the man to safety when the power cables were still live, at risk to their own lives.

The injured man was airlifted to hospital and thanks to the heroic actions of the two police officers, was in the hands of doctors much sooner than he might have been and survived the ordeal.



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North Yorkshire: Lone officer captures dangerous knifeman

On a Friday evening in July 2014, PC Richard Baranovsky was on duty in a marked patrol car in Harrogate when two young men approached him and said a man was chasing people with a knife.

PC Baranovsky drove to the scene and saw the man described, walking quickly along the road. The officer called after the large-built man, and he began to run so the officer gave chase, not knowing whether the suspect still had the knife.

In attempting to flee, the suspect was knocked off balance giving PC Baranovsky the opportunity to restrain him. While doing so he recovered an eight-inch carving knife from the waistband of the detainee's trousers. After the arrest it became apparent that he was responsible for stabbing a male teenager in the leg. He pleaded guilty to wounding and possession of a bladed article and detained at a mental health facility.



Northamptonshire: Violent man with knife overpowered

In March last year, PCs Alex Prentice and Debbie Wishart responded to a call from a woman reporting her violent ex-partner was trying to enter her home.

Approaching the address the officers made their presence known to the man, who then ran towards them with a large knife, using in a stabbing motion.

The officers knew they had to bring the man under control; they used their 'PAVA' spray but it had no affect due to intoxication and current state of mind.

While PC Prentice prepared for the attack, PC Wishart threw stones at him to distract him. They overpowered him and used their body weight and police training to bring him under control and disarm him, bringing this considerably dangerous and violent episode to a quick conclusion.



Northumbria: Off-duty officer rescues two women from car crash

As off-duty PC Rob Ford drove on the A66 to the Lake District in April 2014, a serious collision involving two cars occurred ahead, with both sustaining substantial damage.



As PC Ford began to give first aid and comfort to a woman trapped in one car, the other car caught fire. A woman in that vehicle had suffered massive injuries and was trapped inside because her legs were broken. He attempted to pull her from the car which was filling with black acrid smoke and becoming extremely hot, but she remained trapped.

He went for assistance and with the help of someone else, PC Ford returned to the woman, who was extremely distressed. They finally managed to pull the woman free, just before the car burst into flames. PC Ford returned to the woman in the other car and helped her to a safe location.

Nottinghamshire: Officer makes heroic river rescue

On a night shift in August last year, T/Insp James Oliver responded to a report that a woman had jumped into the River Trent. He found a body floating face down and quickly moving downstream. Stripping off his kit and boots and giving a bystander his torch, he ran downstream to get ahead of the body and found a metal ladder leading down. He jumped in, grabbed hold of the body and swam against the current and back to the ladder.

Holding on to the rungs with one hand, he turned the body over to face him using his legs to steady her and keep her face above water. Unable to wake her up or to give mouth to mouth with one hand, he started

chest compressions, repeatedly swapping tired arms to hold onto the ladder.

Help arrived, and despite being completely exhausted from keeping her afloat for 20 minutes, T/Insp Oliver lifted the woman onto his shoulder and carried her to the top of the ladder.

While he collapsed with exhaustion the ambulance crew tended to the woman. They eventually managed to get some signs of life and she was transported to hospital where she slowly recovered. Without the quick thinking and selfless actions of T/Insp Oliver, the woman would not have survived.



South Wales: Fearless officer provides vital first aid

In May 2013, PC Craig Shakespeare, patrolling alone, was the first on the scene of a road traffic collision. He discovered a woman in the driver's seat and although there was lots of smoke in the car, he climbed into the vehicle to offer first aid.

PC Shakespeare opened her airway, then climbed in the back of the car – which could have caught fire at any moment – to support the head and neck injuries she had sustained.

Fire officers arrived and got the woman out of the car with PC Shakespeare remaining inside the vehicle to support her

throughout the process. She was rushed to hospital but tragically died nine days later as a result of her injuries.

Paramedics said that were it not for the officer's actions it is likely that the woman would have had no chance of survival and died at the scene. Despite the tragic outcome, PC Shakespeare selflessly put his own life at risk to try to save the driver.



South Yorkshire: Hundreds saved by off-duty officer in Nepal

In October last year, Sgt Paul Sherridan was on holiday in Nepal when bad weather hit during a trek in the Himalayas. High winds, blizzards and avalanches meant local guides were becoming lost and their lack of equipment placed them and their tour groups in grave danger.

Sgt Sherridan pushed through the crowd of dazed and bewildered trekkers in pitch black darkness, hoping to find someone in charge. There were lots of guides around but astonishingly they had no comprehension of winter mountaineering skills.



People were severely distressed, so Sgt Sherridan took the initiative and made his way to lead the group, showing outstanding courage. Despite thinking he was going to die, he reassured the guide, got the group moving and in two hours had guided them to safety.

Although 40 people died in the tragic circumstances, the path Sgt Sherridan carved out also helped save hundreds of other trekkers who were lost in the storm. His courageous actions were recognised internationally in the media.

Suffolk: Suicidal man saved from train track death

PCs Rob Farrow and Emma Stacey responded to a report from a woman who said her boyfriend was on the train tracks, drunk and saying he was going to throw himself under the next train.

The officers liaised with the police control room and the train operator had confirmed they'd put a stop on the tracks so they deemed it safe to walk onto the tracks to talk to the man.

The officers could tell the man was drunk; PC Farrow tried to encourage him off the tracks but he repeatedly said he was going to kill himself. At this point the officers heard a train approaching fast, and knew they needed to take decisive action. PC Stacey distracted the man, and PC Farrow tackled dragged him off the tracks onto a grass verge. They both held him down as the train went past at speed, with just moments to spare.

The officers acted instinctively, putting their own lives at risk for another.



Surrey: Officers drive into oncoming car to stop drunk driver

In the early hours one day in January last year, reports came in that a vehicle was speeding in the wrong direction of a dual carriageway. PCs Simon Down and Edward Stock were first on the scene and implemented a rolling road block to control and protect innocent road users.

The officers saw the car coming towards them at speed in the outside lane. There was a real risk that if the car passed the police vehicle other road users would be killed. In a brave split-second decision, PC Down manoeuvred the patrol car to bring the oncoming car to a halt – the combined speed of the cars at impact was more than 80mph.

Immediately after the collision, PC Stock got the intoxicated woman driver out of her car. Unsurprisingly, PC Down was dazed following the collision but managed to get out of the vehicle and used his torch to stop approaching traffic until they were joined by colleagues who closed the road.



Sussex: New recruit saves woman from cliff edge

In August 2014, PC Ben Woods was in his second week on patrol with his tutor constable when they were sent to a report of a distressed woman sitting on the edge of a cliff.

When they arrived there were strong winds blowing, and the woman, who had cut her arms, was sat on the edge of the crumbling and unstable cliff top.

The woman refused to engage with the two officers and paramedics who were also present, and was very agitated. Suddenly, as she waved her arms, she slipped and began to fall over the edge of the cliff, grabbing desperately for something to hold on to. PC Woods dived forward onto his stomach and managed to grab hold of her arm.

The others ran to help – one grabbed the woman's other arm and another grabbed hold of PC Woods' belt; slowly, both PC Woods and the woman were dragged back over from the edge.

It was an extremely brave and selfless act from such a new, young recruit.



Thames Valley: People saved from burning building despite language barrier

In December 2013, PC Nick Parker was on patrol when he responded to reports of a fire at a shop. He immediately began evacuating residents from the flats above, getting them to safety.

While evacuating the flats, PC Parker discovered four foreign nationals who were asleep and oblivious to the fire downstairs. He tried his best to communicate with the group but they failed to understand the urgency of the situation; instead they began calmly packing their suitcases with their belongings.

Despite their lack of awareness of the increasingly dangerous

situation, PC Parker forced the four people out of the flat and into a safe area. He then selflessly went back inside to ensure everyone had been evacuated, despite the smoke which had now filled the building.

Unknown to PC Parker there were gas cylinders on the premises creating added danger, but due to his calm and brave actions, everyone was evacuated safely.



West Mercia: Siege prevented due to police teamwork

In March 2013, West Mercia Police received reports of concern for the welfare of a man in a local town. PCs Bob Powell and Phil Parke were first on the scene; PC Powell spotted the man, who then produced a handgun and put it to his own head.

PC Parke was soon joined by PC Mark Briscoe at which point the man began to point the gun at the officers. Despite the obvious risk, the officers maintained visual and verbal contact with the man. Sergeant Antony Cleobury arrived and slowly approached the man, who then began to point the gun at him and said he also had two hand grenades. The officers continued to warn the public and engage with the man to surrender.

The gunman forced Sgt Cleobury backwards, until they reached a patrol car; he demanded the keys and threatened to shoot officers if he didn't get them but the sergeant refused to hand them over.

PC Briscoe tried to get close to the man but had to withdraw when the gun was turned on him. As residents gathered the officers tried to direct them to safety while containing the threat.

PC Sian Price arrived on the scene and drove past the gunman to block the road to oncoming traffic. Sgt Cleobury and the gunman approached PC Price's vehicle; when the officer stumbled the gunman, quickly raised the gun and again threatened to shoot, before holding the gun at PC Price's head. Both officers managed to take cover behind the car.

When armed officers and a dog handler arrived at the scene but the man ran off, taking refuge in a nearby house. He was eventually arrested, and the gun was subsequently identified as a blank firing replica. This was a very dangerous situation which was brought to a safe conclusion due to a valiant team effort.



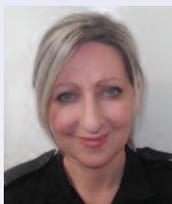
West Midlands: Police partners wrestle knife wielding man at mosque

In June 2013, PC Adam Koch and PC Jean Stevens were called to a mosque in Birmingham after reports that three worshippers had been stabbed. As the officers entered the mosque they immediately identified the offender; PC Koch tried to speak to him and deployed his Taser to disarm him, but the man shrugged it off and attacked the officer with a commando-style knife.

Despite suffering stab and slash wounds to his stomach and back, PC Koch managed to wrestle the man to the ground and disarm him, with PC Jean Stevens assisting throughout.

Once PC Stevens had cuffed and restrained the man she tended to her police partner, placing her hand on the wound on his stomach, to stem the bleeding. Colleagues arrived with ambulance staff who rushed PC Koch to hospital. He suffered serious injuries but his actions undoubtedly prevented other worshippers being hurt or killed.

A 32-year-old man was arrested and is being held indefinitely in a secure mental health facility.



West Yorkshire: Unarmed officers shot at in calculated attack

PCs Suzanne Hudson and Richard Whiteley responded to an apparent routine call in Leeds in the early hours of a December morning in 2013. PC Hudson went to the top of the stairs that led to a flat that they had been called to and knocked on the door.



Without warning, a man inside the flat fired a sawn-off shotgun through the door at point blank range. PC Hudson was shot in the face, neck and hand. Multiple pieces of lead penetrated her skin, and she was struggling to breathe.

PC Whiteley dragged his colleague from the line of fire onto the roadside, and administered life-saving first aid.

PC Hudson was fading in and out of consciousness; the gunman appeared about 10 feet away from the officers, and pointed the shotgun at PC Whiteley, Both officers believed they were going to die.

After a brief confrontation the man rode away on his bike, laughing to himself. Following a manhunt, the man was traced and subsequently convicted of attempted murder.

Wiltshire: Officer stops violent rampage

Having received a report from a man that his son had violently assaulted him, the young offender was spotted outside a village shop by two PCSOs. When they tried to engage with him he produced a large knife and ran into the shop. He leapt over the counter and threatened a member of staff with the knife in an attempt to steal money from the till.

The PCSOs bravely tried to communicate with and calm the man but were subject to extreme threats. As the man chased a member of staff through the shop, one of the PCSOs tried to approach him with a wire shopping basket as protection. However both PCSOs were forced outside, where they guarded the door to stop him escaping.

PC Iain McKerlie arrived at the scene and saw the PCSOs in the doorway and the man brandishing the knife at them. Armed with Taser, the officer advanced towards the man and told him to put the knife down. The



man also threatened PC McKerlie with the knife so he was left no choice but to discharge his Taser, incapacitating him and bringing what was a dangerous and volatile incident to a safe conclusion.

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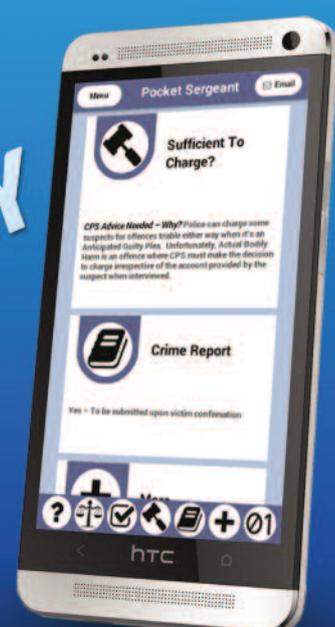
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View from the Sidelines

Clive Chamberlain,
former chair of Dorset
Police Federation

Compulsory degrees are a step too far

The Winsor report raised a multitude of questions about increasing professionalism in the police service, and following this many, such as the College of Policing, are debating whether in future we should only be accept university-educated officers.

It is difficult to argue that good educational qualifications or a university degree would not be advantageous to any individual, but to make this an employment condition for the police seems a step too far.

It is intellectual snobbery of the highest order to make a degree compulsory and fails to take into account that one of the most important aspects of police work is the ability to be emotionally intelligent. In my experience some of the most academically qualified aren't always the most practically capable and often lack the interpersonal skills necessary to build and maintain effective relationships with our communities.

Theoretical skills acquired at university do not equip would-be cops to deal with practical challenges, and often what looks good on paper simply doesn't work in the

real world. The ability to think on one's feet and make split-second decisions is of paramount importance. Deliberating in slow time is a luxury not often afforded to officers on the street.

One question that I would pose is if any member of the public seeking assistance is going to worry whether the officers attending have a university degree or not? I very much doubt it.

On a different note, the Home Secretary's claims to have cut crime at the same time as slashing police numbers are, as we know, simply wrong. For the first time cyber-crime has been included in the statistics adding millions of extra crimes. It really is time for government to acknowledge that cuts do have consequences with a rise in crime being a major one. We are not 'crying wolf'.

Is any member of the public seeking assistance going to worry whether the officers have a university degree or not?

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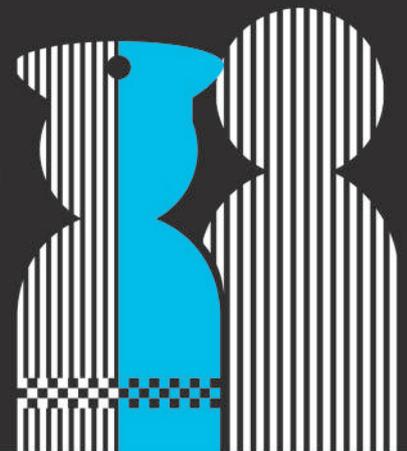
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