

# In the face of danger

Police officers carry out acts of bravery everyday across the country. The Federation's Police Bravery Awards in association with the *Sun* newspaper has been set up to recognise their dedication. The following article is the second in a series of three over the next few months to pay tribute to those nominated for acts of courage. Winners will be announced at the Awards on July 14th at the Dorchester Hotel in London.

## GREATER MANCHESTER

### PC ANDREW HALLSWORTH

#### Off-duty officer stabbed as he confronts car thief

While alone and off duty, PC Andrew Hallsworth was repeatedly stabbed in the head and arms when he confronted a car thief.

The officer was waiting at home in the early hours to begin his shift when he noticed a man breaking into a car near his home. As the man made off, the officer ran down the street after him and managed to arrest him.

A violent struggle ensued as PC Hallsworth tried to drag the man back towards his home address. The officer felt two blows to the back of his head and realised he had been stabbed. The man continued to attack him repeatedly before making off. His



injuries included four puncture wounds to the head, four to the hands and arms, three severe scrape wounds to the back, concussion and a broken finger.

Despite serious injuries, the officer gave a full description of his assailant before being taken to hospital. His bravery earned him a chief constable's commendation and the John Egerton Trophy.

The offender was never traced.

## KENT

### SGT DAVID REYNOLDS

#### Sergeant grapples with knife man after he threatens youngsters

A knife-wielding man had threatened a group of local youngsters in a supermarket car park when Sgt David Reynolds tackled him.

The man had a carving knife in his hand and had just threatened security guards when Sgt Reynolds arrived at the scene. After spotting the officer's car, the offender made off towards a dimly lit industrial estate.

The officer knew he must track him down before he lost him in the dark warrens of the estate. When the man stumbled, Sgt Reynolds took his chance, grabbing his arm and spinning him around onto the ground forcing him to drop the knife. The officer,



who is married with two children, then fought to overpower the man and drag him away from the knife. Sgt Reynolds received a chief constable's commendation for his dedication and bravery.

A man was fined £40 for shoplifting from the supermarket and the other offences were discontinued or discharged.

## HAMPSHIRE

### PC CHRISTOPHER JONES - SGT (ACTING) CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

#### Officer duo had gun pointed at them as they responded to domestic

PC Christopher Jones and Sgt (acting) Christopher Thompson were faced with a gun being pointed directly at them after being called out to a violent domestic dispute.

Police were called out after a distraught woman reported her drunk boyfriend who was smashing up their flat in Andover.

When the officers arrived the woman was outside the flat and was led to safety, but a neighbour had warned them that the woman's boyfriend had a gun.

The officers were already at



the door to the flat when the man appeared with the handgun threatening the pair and pointing



the gun at them.

The man then pulled the trigger, a click was heard and then

he pulled back the weapon as if to reload it. Using CS spray, the officers, alongside colleagues who had arrived at the scene, managed to wrestle the gun from his grip. The weapon was later found to be an imitation gun.


A man pleaded guilty at Winchester Crown Court on two charges of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Both officers received a chief constable's commendation for 'demonstrating outstanding bravery'.

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

**SGT COLIN WEBBER - PC CLAIRE WEBBER**

**Husband and wife team tackle robber on mean streets of New York**

 Holidaying couple Sgt Colin Webber and PC Claire Webber were browsing the diamond district in New York when they ended up grappling with a jewel thief who had stabbed a shop assistant.

The officers heard a scream and spotted the robber armed with a bloody knife.

The man was believed to have tried to carry out a robbery at a jewellery shop and stabbed the shop assistant three times before fleeing.



Sgt Webber saw the man and quickly hurled his body weight into him to stop him, put him in a headlock and wrestled him to the ground.

During the confusion members of the public began striking both the assailant and Sgt Webber, PC Webber then stepped in and managed to intervene and hold the crowd back until police assistance arrived.


A man was later charged with attempted murder.

**GWENT**

**PC ANDREW PULLEN**

**Officer jumped into turbulent waters to save drowning boy**



 When four boys found themselves trapped in fast flowing waters, PC Andrew Pullen risked his life to save a drowning boy.

The officer was called to the River Ebbw at Rogerstone near Newport after a 999 call reported

the boys, who had been playing on a make-shift raft in the river, and had fallen into the water.

Three of the boys clambered to safety, but the fourth was swept away. Despite torrential rain, PC Pullen searched the riverbank and spotted 12-year-old Rhys Jones lying face down in the water, lying across a broken branch a few feet from the river bank in the midst of a turbulent current.

The officer plunged into the dangerous waters and waded waist-deep and scrambled towards the boy.


Unable to swim to safety due to strong currents, PC Pullen held onto Rhys and repeatedly tried to resuscitate him until help arrived. Unfortunately Rhys was later pronounced dead in hospital.



**LANCASHIRE**

**PC IAN LAWRENCE**

**Officer held tight to prowler as he was struck in the head with a metal wrench**

 Determined PC Lawrence managed to keep hold of the prowler who smashed him in the head with 18-inch metal wrench and threatened to kill him.

The officer and his colleague had been alerted to reports of a prowler on a bicycle. PC Lawrence spotted the man and gave chase along a canal towpath.

The man raised his hand to hit a woman on the towpath, he lost his balance and PC

Lawrence seized the opportunity to tackle him.

The assailant threatened to kill the officer and hit him with the wrench. The officer then struggled to prevent him reaching for a claw hammer. At the same time he threw his mobile phone to the female bystander who called the police.

A man was sentenced for burglary and threats to kill. PC Lawrence had to be treated for lacerations and concussion.



HUMBERSIDE

SGT DAVID TALBOT

**Suicidal man pulled from dangerous waters after officer comes to the rescue**



A suicidal mentally ill man threw himself off a bridge into treacherous currents and Sgt Dave Talbot risked his own life to save him from drowning.

The man, in his 20s, was threatening to launch himself off the bridge in Kingston-upon-Hull, he had climbed over a barrier and was dangling by one hand from the bridge.

As the police officer approached him, he let go of the bridge and fell onto a banking, hitting a supermarket trolley before rolling into the river. The current was strong and the man swam with it towards the main estuary.

Sgt Talbot was joined by a fire crew and he and one of the officers grabbed life jackets and headed down the riverbank to try and save the man, who was now disappearing under the water. Sgt Talbot had to grapple with a number of obstacles, including a barbed wire fence, before jumping in to try to grab the drowning man.

He swam against a strong current to reach him and despite being a strong swimmer, tired quickly, but held onto the man and reassured him, whilst treading water until they were both pulled to safety.

The man was sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

HERTFORDSHIRE

DC MARK CLAWSON

**Drugs gang caught by officer who clung to car as it plunged through shop window**

A drugs operation aimed at stemming the supply of crack-cocaine and heroin, saw DC Mark Clawson risking his life to arrest a drug dealer.

Acting on intelligence, the officer stopped a vehicle and saw a cling film package taped under the sun roof.

It was at this point the driver began to furiously reverse the car at speed with DC Clawson caught by the open door. The officer was dragged backwards as the car ploughed through a shop window, showering broken glass on to him.

DC Clawson managed to hold onto the passenger and arrest him while the other two occupants ran off, they were tracked down and detained by colleagues and members of the public.



Forty-four wraps of heroin and cocaine and several weapons, including knuckle dusters, were recovered from the vehicle when it was searched.

The officers displayed 'courage, absolute determination, presence of mind and dedication to duty when placed in a dangerous situation'.

The three offenders were sentenced to a total of ten years in jail.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SGT ANDREW ALLERTON

**Lone officer foiled ram-raiders robbery attempt**

Sgt Andrew Allerton stopped ram-raiders in their tracks as they tried to carry out a supermarket robbery by plunging through the window in a Land Rover.

The officer had been woken up by a neighbour knocking on the door as he lay in bed and was told about the ram-raid.

Sgt Allerton got dressed and quickly went to the scene where he discovered the car had been reversed into the shop window towards the cash tills.

Although the officer spotted four men at the scene, he decided if he could grab one, other officers called to the scene would have time to catch the others.

Despite one of the men stating there was a gun, the officer continued to restrain the driver as the three other men tackled him to try to free their accomplice.

Eventually the driver broke free, but, undeterred, Sgt Allerton again tried to restrain another one of the men as he was beaten by



the rest of the gang.

The officer went back several times to try to hold at least one of the offenders at the scene, despite being consistently beaten and having his foot reversed over.

The offenders eventually sped off from the scene but DNA evidence led to one of the men, Dylan Taylor, 20, from Cheltenham, to be sentenced for four years imprisonment at a Young Offenders Institute.

The remaining offenders were not traced.

LINCOLNSHIRE

PC PAUL SANDALL

**Unconscious women saved from blazing house by officer**

A woman lay unconscious on the floor of a burning house and PC Paul Sandall risked life and limb to take her to safety as thick choking smoke filled the building.

PC Sandall was called to an incident at a house in Lincoln where he and his colleague, a special constable, could get no answer from the householder. They both went to the rear of the property and could see that the house was full of thick black smoke.

PC Sandall kicked the door down and entered the kitchen, where a chip pan had caught alight and engulfed the house in smoke. The officer soon discovered a woman, laying unconscious on the floor, and after catching his breath and calling for an ambulance, he



went back into the blazing house to try to move her through the front door.

PC Sandall and his colleague had to move pictures stacked behind the door in the midst of increasingly dense smoke to move the woman's body out.

The woman was later taken to hospital and survived.