

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED - 10 PM THURSDAY JULY 10**

**NO CONTACT TO BE MADE BEFORE 10pm**

### **Fearless Rotherham teenager tackles knife maniac**

A 16 year-old Rotherham teenager has won the prestigious Jill Dando Award at the annual Police Bravery Awards held in partnership with *The Sun* newspaper. The Award given to members of the public who display extreme bravery, was given to Alex Burgin and three other members of the public who risked their lives in an attempt to save a woman being savagely attacked by her former lover.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006, a female was ferociously attacked with a knife by her estranged partner in a street in Wath, Rotherham. During the attack she received multiple stab wounds and was kicked and stamped around the head. Alex Burgin was travelling in the car with his mother when he saw the attack taking place. He asked his mother to stop the car and without fear for his own safety, raced across the road towards the assailant who was stamping on the woman's head. Alex challenged the man and eventually managed to restrain him with the help of three other members of the public; all of whom played an integral role in the prevention of further tragic events taking place. Whilst continuing to restrain the man as they waited for the police and ambulance to arrive, Alex administered first aid to the woman who was by now unconscious.

Aged just 16 at the time of the attack, Alex conducted himself without fear for his own safety, in challenging a strong and armed man. He prevented further loss of life and injury to others and ensured the man was convicted of his crimes.

Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, Paul McKeever says:

"Alex showed astonishing courage stepping into an extremely volatile and unpredictable situation. His actions undoubtedly prevented the further loss of life and injury to others. And yet whilst his actions show tremendous strength they demonstrate a real compassion for others as he sought to administer first aid and comfort to the woman who had been attacked. Alex's actions are an example to us all and this award is extremely well deserved."

Editor of *The Sun* newspaper, Rebekah Wade says:

"It is a great honour for The Sun to support The Jill Dando Award and we are delighted this year the recognition for civilian bravery goes to such a brave young man. Alex acted with incredible courage by intervening in a brutal attack and his compassion should be an inspiration to us all."

Organised by the Police Federation of England and Wales, in partnership with *The Sun* Newspaper, the glittering awards ceremony followed a reception at number 10 Downing Street where all bravery nominees and the Dando winner met the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

**Notes to Editor:**

Jill Dando was a BBC journalist who was shot dead on the doorstep of her London home in April 1999.

The Jill Dando Award is given to members of the public who display extreme acts of bravery.

The other members of the public who helped during the attack are Darren Clarke, Tyrone Woodhead and Malcolm Fitzpatrick.

The woman in the attack tragically died of her injuries and the assailant, Stier was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

For further information contact Rachel Barnet or Una Carney Police at the Police Federation on 01372 352071  
or Lorna Carmichael at *The Sun*, on 07836 340423.