

Take courage

The Police Federation's Bravery Awards, in association with *The Sun* and supported by *Police Mutual*, recognises acts of bravery carried out by police officers. Rachel Barnett highlights some of the stories behind the Awards as the official ceremony is held in London this month

Heroic officer battles blazing car

Out on patrol, PC Andrew Key responded to reports of a serious road traffic accident in Stamford. On arrival at the scene, one vehicle had crushed and pinned another to the corner of a large property. Another vehicle was upside down, on fire and a woman was trapped inside.

PC Key, who works for Lincolnshire Police, took a fire extinguisher from the police vehicle and tried to put out the flames despite the risk of the vehicle exploding, all the while trying to reassure the woman who was trapped inside, upside down by her legs. It was difficult to see and even more difficult to breathe due to a combination of smoke and fumes. PC Key got down at the side of the vehicle, kneeling in the glass and debris, to check on the condition of the woman who was very badly injured, and tried to administer first aid. He stayed with the woman until the fire crew arrived. The actions of the officer were vital to saving the woman's life and limiting the burns she received. PC Key put himself in grave danger acting courageously throughout.



Brave officer single-handedly tackles gun-wielding man in precinct

PC Paula Rutherford was out on routine patrol in a marked car by herself when she spotted a suspicious looking man who seemed extremely preoccupied with trying to hide an object down his trousers.

PC Rutherford, still in her probation in Northamptonshire Police, pulled over and got out to speak to the man. As she approached him, she realised the item was in fact a long-barrelled gun. In his left hand he was holding a pistol. As she approached him he raised both weapons at her. Given the amount of people in the vicinity, PC Rutherford assessed the high risk potential and shouted at the man to throw down his weapons as she produced her parva spray. At this point, she calmly and concisely called for assistance and provided all the required information to the control room.

Before back up arrived, PC Rutherford tackled and managed to detain the man and moved the weapons to safety. PC Rutherford, at the time with only 20 months service, showed incredible strength and bravery in the face of a real threat to her own life and that of members of the public.



Heroic off-duty officer saves drowning family

Off-duty officer, PC Nicholas Whitehouse, was on a day out at the beach with his family when he heard some shouting and spotted a group of people about 50 metres out to sea who appeared to be in difficulty.

The beach is renowned locally for its quick tides and dangerous



Image © GrandPa/Shutterstock

PC Key administered first aid to an injured motorist, despite the real risk of the vehicle exploding.

currents so PC Whitehouse left his son with his wife and started to swim out towards the group.

As PC Whitehouse got nearer he realised a man was holding his child above his head. It was clear the tide was coming in extremely quickly and had caught this group by surprise. Hampshire officer PC Whitehouse took the child back to shore and despite not being a strong swimmer, swam out again to help the man. As he approached, he realised the man was face down in water and as he rolled the man over, he saw his face had turned blue.

PC Whitehouse was then joined by an off-duty Metropolitan police officer, Sgt Robert Matthew (now an Inspector), who helped take the man back to shore.

The man had stopped breathing, so PC Whitehouse cleared his airway and with the help of Insp Matthew, tried to revive him for 20 minutes until the paramedics arrived; sadly, they pronounced the man dead.



PC Nicholas Whitehouse rescued a family from dangerous tides in Hampshire

The efforts of PC Whitehouse and Sgt Matthew helped save the lives of the rest of the family who due to the sea conditions would more than likely have drowned.

Fearless officer takes on the mob

On a night out with friends, off-duty officer PC Stephen Harding was confronted with a brutal attack by a gang of youths on a taxi and its passengers. Without thought for his safety, PC Harding rushed to the scene where approximately 20 youths were violently terrorising a taxi driver and the passengers trapped within.

Avon and Somerset officer PC Harding fearlessly approached the mob and identified himself as a police officer. Seizing the moment of calm this temporarily instilled, PC Harding instructed the taxi driver to pull away to allow for a briefing on the situation.

The youths quickly surrounded the taxi again but PC Harding's attempts to calm them were unsuccessful. In an unprovoked attack, one of the youths viciously punched PC Harding in the face, and a violent attack by the mob then ensued on the passengers and driver. PC Harding struggled successfully to detain the male who had punched him, while a violent assault, including bricks, took place against him and the rest of the taxi's passengers. Despite the mob's efforts to release the detained male, PC Harding kept firm control until reinforcements arrived.

Without this courageous intervention by PC Harding there was real potential for death and serious injury. Despite the risk to himself, PC Harding was not afraid to challenge a violent and extremely threatening mob.



PC Stephen Harding detained a violent thug in the face of a vicious mob assault on himself and a taxi full of passengers

REGION 4

Derbyshire

Sgt Sally Turner
PC Chris Hamilton

Leicestershire

PC Sarah Hogan

Lincolnshire

PC Andrew Key

Northamptonshire

PC Paula Rutherford

Nottinghamshire

Sgt Simon Cookson

Suffolk

PC Keven Fuller
PC David Green

REGION 5

Bedfordshire

PC Jennifer Liddell
PC Gary Walker

Hampshire

PC Nicholas Whitehouse

Hertfordshire

Det Insp Glen Channer
PC Glenn Cook

Kent

PC Timothy Bott

Surrey

PC David Richardson
PC Stephen Clarke

Sussex

PC Steven Hargrave

Thames Valley

PC Trippoli-Jane Witney
Sgt Christopher Geen

REGION 6

Avon and Somerset

PC Stephen Harding

Devon and Cornwall

PC Robert Condry-Young

Dorset

Sgt David Stroud

Gloucestershire

PC Jason Norman-St.
George

Wiltshire

PC Tom Kinderman

REGION 7

Dyfed Powys

PC Scott Morris
PC Sarah Smith

Gwent

PC David Walters

North Wales

PC Stephen Evans
PC Gareth Taylor

South Wales

PC Elizabeth Window

REGION 8

Metropolitan 1

PC Lewis Parkes

Metropolitan 2

PC James Berry
PC Jonathan Lowe
PC Stuart Higgs
PC Adrian Pine
PC Dion Bird

Metropolitan 3

Insp Robert Matthew