

Newsletter

May 2017



Recognising outstanding detectives

Every hour of every day there are incredible people doing incredible things to help others, not least police officers and staff across the UK. But, all too often it's the negative aspects of policing that play out publicly. We can also be guilty of not blowing our own trumpet.

Yes it is all part of the job, but now more than ever, with an overall reduction in officers and a significant drop in the number of detectives, we must showcase the fantastic job you do, making clear the need to support you and encourage others to deliver the invaluable service so many speak so highly of.

Karen Stephens, **Interim National Board, Secretary, PFNDF**



Changes to the PFNDF executive team

Following our last Forum meeting, there have been some changes to the Executive Team, I have been appointed Secretary and Simon Steele has been appointed Deputy Secretary.

I know that you will all join me in congratulating Simon on his appointment and wish him all the best as he takes on this new role.

On his appointment, Simon said: "It is a real honour to be appointed to the position of PFNDF Deputy Secretary and I look forward to playing an active role in promoting the work of the PFNDF and more importantly ensuring that the excellent work of detectives across the country is both recognised and supported. Working within an environment of ever increasing workloads and exponential scrutiny, detectives are now under more pressure than ever before. It is imperative that their voice is heard and the PFNDF has a pivotal role to play in highlighting the true value that detectives bring to policing in the UK."

Simon Steele, **Deputy Secretary, PFNDF**



PFNDF National Detectives' Awards 2017

Nominations are now open for the 2017 National Detectives' Awards, which will take place on Thursday 12 October 2017 (venue to be confirmed). Nominations will close on Friday 30 June.

The seminar is due to be held on Thursday 12 October and Friday 13 October 2017 and further information regarding this will be sent out at the beginning of June.

Nomination forms were circulated to the forum week commencing 24 April, but they are also available to download from the [Hub](#) and available on the [PFEW website](#).



Simon Roberts retires

One of our valued members of the Forum, Simon Roberts, attended his last meeting with us in March, as he prepares to embark on retired life.

Simon became a detective in 1996, initially within Chester CID - aside from a couple of brief spells in uniform following promotion; he has spent his whole career as a detective.

For the last five years, Simon has been the Chair of the Cheshire Police Federation (although he still regards himself as a detective first and foremost). As a young detective, his ambition was to be the DI at Chester, and this was something he achieved later on in his career.

One of his favourite roles was as the DI on a Level 2 covert unit, targeting cross-border serious crime, which involved several high profile investigations within Cheshire. He was fortunate enough to have received several commendations for these operations. A memorable experience he had whilst targeting a team of armed robbers from Liverpool was whilst briefing the then Chief Constable of Merseyside, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe. He threatened to arrest Simon as he believed he had misled him - by all accounts, that took some ironing out at the time!

Simon said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with some fantastic people. Behind every successful operation I have ever been involved with, there has been a team of tenacious and dedicated detectives. I have had many lows but they are always outweighed by the feeling when one of the bad guys is convicted.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Detectives' Forum, it is a reminder that real detectives with the right outlook and attitude still exist, even in this modern world of policing - a far cry from omniscient police officers and restorative justice!

"As I retire and become one of the people on the outside looking in for the first time really in my adult life, I wish you well and good luck for the future."

He was presented with his retirement gift by our Chairman, Martin Plummer, pictured above at the Forum held in Chester in March.



Cyber-crime unit wins prestigious award

A team of investigators from the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) have been recognised at the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Blue Light Digital Awards for their use of advanced digital forensics, following the investigation of a teenager cyber-hacker – dubbed Operation Polarity.

19-year-old Adam Mudd from Hertfordshire had carried out 594 Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks against 181 individual IP addresses between December 2013 and March 2015. He had developed "stressor" tools to flood the computing networks with data, creating a DDoS attack which prevented them from functioning and left the systems vulnerable to compromise.



The teenager also sold the tool on the internet and ran his stressor as a business, gaining proceeds from its distribution to other cyber criminals - analysis of the tool showed that it had been used by others in more than 1.7 million DDoS attacks against victims worldwide.

Operation Polarity identified the teenager and an investigation was launched as a result of the take down of Play-Station and Sony over Christmas 2014. The investigation by ERSOU's cyber-crime unit, which was supported by the National Crime Agency, and affected other organisations, consisted of two parts.

The first part focused on Mudd's creation, use and management of the stressor tool, while the second part focused on gathering evidence around the selling of the tool and subsequent amount of money laundering which took place.

Joint working with partners was key to providing links to the payment of funds using the stressor, to computer IDs and emails. This resulted in uncovering over 300 PayPal accounts, which had been specifically created for the money laundering of the funds. In total, Mudd had benefited with approximately £385,000 worth of ill-gotten gains. It's good to see one of our own Forum member's, Martin Peters (pictured), being involved in this operation.

Murder investigation in Cleveland leads to 56-years imprisonment

Investigations into the deaths of Norma Bell and Laurence French have led to a joint imprisonment of 56 years.

Norma Bell, who was 79-years-old at the time of her death, was strangled with a telephone cord by 33-year-old Gareth Dack, before he set fire to her house to cover his tracks - he was sentenced to 33 years.

In another case, Damien Bishop, 41-years-old, and Christopher Dalziell, 39-years-old, were sentenced to 10 years and four months and 13 years respectively for the manslaughter and robbery of Laurence French. Dalziell was also found guilty of an additional charge of theft.

Damien Bishop decided to go to the home of Mr French, 50, when he learned that he had "lots of jewellery and money" in an army jacket and a coin collection.

He said he hatched a plan to distract Mr French and steal from him, thinking he was an "easy target" - but "definitely not" to hurt him.

He and another man went from his home in, central Middlesbrough to Mr French's home in Newport.

Both investigations were conducted by officers and staff from the Murder Investigation Team at Cleveland. Det Chief/Supt Peter McPhillips, Head of Crime and Justice Command, said: "These fantastic results are testament to the professionalism and determination of our investigative teams, who worked diligently and tirelessly to ensure that these men were locked up for a long time. The CPS and the courts also provided invaluable support throughout both prosecutions.

"It is important to recognise that this couldn't have been done without those who assisted during the initial stages of the investigation from securing the scenes, conducting house-to-house enquires, to capturing forensics, to the officers and staff that supported the trial process through to sentencing."

Officers and staff from Middlesbrough station should also be acknowledged for their response when Laurence French collapsed at the front counter whilst reporting the robbery. They administered first aid by performing CPR and using a defibrillator until the ambulance arrived.



DC Winster – sexual assault and rape investigation in West Yorkshire

DC Winster from Leeds District CID, was allocated a sexual assault case in 2015. As he started researching the crime and the suspect, DC Winster noted that the suspect had a similar crime reported against him in 2009 that had resulted in no further action (NFA) being taken. DC Winster not only investigated the allocated crime but reviewed the historic offences, gaining further evidential material and then approached the CPS with both cases that in effect supported each other, due to similar fact. To make the case even more difficult, the victim of the rape had since immigrated to Australia.



Below are the two cases that linked the suspect:

The victim and the suspect had known each other as neighbours to say “hello” to. The victim had fallen asleep on her sofa and awoke to find the suspect had snuck through her unlocked patio door and was rubbing her genitals over her clothing. He refused to stop when asked, and made crude sexual comments to her before leaving the property.

The suspect was located and charged three days after the offence. After the suspect had been charged, house-to-house enquiries continued to be undertaken, which identified a further three witnesses who gave key evidence at the trial. During the trial, a total of six witnesses were called and gave evidence.

During 2009, another victim made a similar allegation against the same suspect which resulted in no further action (NFA). She stated that she had fallen asleep at a New Year’s Eve party and woke to find the defendant having vaginal intercourse with her. Witnesses from the party heard her shouting for help and had earlier found they couldn’t rouse her.

The victim left the UK to start a new life in Australia after the offence had taken place. She had agreed to return to the UK and give evidence. This took a lot of communication and reassurance, working very closely with her and negotiating with the CPS to arrange flights etc.

A further two witnesses were also identified, who did not give a statement in 2009, but provided key evidence at the trial.

Fourteen witnesses (including victims and DC Winster) gave evidence in two and a half days during the trial, which took a huge amount of work to arrange and talk through with each witness. Thorough liaison between DC Winster and barristers in Australia took place in the officers’ personal time due to the time difference, therefore skype and telephone conversations would often take place at 2am, so DC Winster was dealing with a seven to nine hour difference dealing with this case.

To ensure that the case was not dismissed or adjourned, DC Winster began working work at 12.30pm on the Wednesday morning of the trial to obtain counselling records from Australia for disclosure purposes prior to the case.

The suspect was found guilty of one count of rape for the incident that took place in 2009 and one count of sexual assault that took place in 2015.

This is an excellent example of investigative skill, dedication and work ethic from DC Winster that has resulted in the conviction of a sexual predator.

Operation Endeavour

DC Cowley from Cambridgeshire Police was the Officer in Charge (OIC) for Operation Endeavour, a complex and large scale investigation into an organised crime group operating in the Wisbech area.

This investigation involved securing crucial evidence from a large number of vulnerable people, many of whom were exploited migrant workers.

DC Cowley's investigative skills as the case officer subsequently led to the guilty verdicts of four people. All four received sentences, which totalled 23 and a half years for offences relating to money laundering and shame marriages.

Prosecutor Gregory Perrins wrote to the Chief Constable and said: "DC Cowley possessed an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the case and was able to deal with any query efficiently and without fuss.

The overall standard of his work in this case was exceptional. It is no understatement to say that he played a huge part in securing the large number of convictions in this case."

These convictions have led to a significant amount of trust and confidence being built within a vulnerable section of the Fenland community, many who had no trust in the police. DC Cowley was also commended by the Chief Constable for his exceptional investigative ability, tenacity and professionalism.

PFEW Annual Conference 2017

This year's annual conference is being held on **16 and 17 May** at the Birmingham International Convention Centre. The theme will be Protecting The Protectors, linking in with our current [campaign on police assaults](#). But extending beyond that, to focus on other areas of concern when it comes to police protection and welfare.

The agenda for this year's conference is varied and focuses on a variety of different issues and topics. As well as our own fringe session which is taking place on 16 May at 5.30pm, throughout the two days we will hear from colleagues and speakers. Here is a snapshot of some of the sessions:

PFEW Welfare Survey – What does it mean to you? - PFEW's officer welfare, demand and capacity survey reported significant findings on the pressure officers are under and the subsequent effect on their health and wellbeing. The session will be led by Che Donald.

Mental Health – It's time we talked - Delegates will hear from former North Yorkshire Sergeant Ed Simpson, who will share his personal journey dealing with depression. The session will be led by me, Karen Stephens.

Moving from Discipline to Performance - The aim of this session is to inform delegates about the work that has been taking place around the complaints and discipline system and the changes that are being sought. This session will be led by Phill Matthews.



Protect the Protectors - Panellists will hear first-hand experiences and discuss the next steps in this significant national campaign that unites emergency service workers to afford them the protection and justice they deserve. The session will be led by Vice Chair, Calum Macleod.

Want to ask a question but can't attend conference? You can watch the livestream via our website and use the new conference app to submit a question for any mainstage session. Here is a link to [the agenda](#).

More information will be issued in the coming days, but please keep an eye on www.polfed.org for updates. The conference hashtag will be **#polfed17** so please follow and retweet when you can.

Have you been assaulted on duty? Do you want to share your story?

Have you been assaulted on duty? Did you just pass it off as part of the job or did you report it? Estimations based on our welfare survey data suggest that there were potentially more than two million (2,113,602) unarmed physical assaults on officers over a 12 month period, and a further 302,842 assaults using a deadly weapon during the same period. This means an assault happens every four minutes.



This is not acceptable and we are campaigning for a change in legislation and tougher sentencing for those who attack police officers.

Read some of the case studies that we have so far, by visiting our [website](#). The Communications team would like to hear from any detectives who would be willing to tell their story and be part of the ongoing campaign. Names can be anonymised if you do not wish to be named. Please email the team at communications@polfed.org if you would like to share your story.

The next PFNDF meeting ...

The next meeting will be take place on Tuesday 18 July 2017. More details will be sent out in due course by Nyki Curtis.

Have you been involved or do you know of any great work that you would like to feature in the newsletter?

If so, then please email: karen.stephens@polfed.org