

# News & views



Derbyshire  
Police  
Federation

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Police Officers Representing  
Police Officers

## 'We ride for those who never came home'



# Brave officer tackled knifeman

A brave Derbyshire PC who single-handedly tackled a knifeman was among the brave officers honoured at this year's national Police Bravery Awards in London.

PC Kim Wheldon attended a Downing Street reception ahead of an awards evening at the Royal Lancaster Hotel on 18 July.

The incident for which she was nominated for the award unfolded in July last year as Kim was parked outside a petrol station in Woodville in a marked police car where she saw a man attack the customer ahead of him in the queue right in front of her.

She ended the call she was on and went to help the victim but was shocked to find he had been stabbed.

"At first as I watched from the car, I thought it was two people who knew each other having a bit of an argument to be honest. I could see it getting heated but I'd taken an important call on my radio so had to explain to the person I was speaking to that I needed to go as I saw it starting to turn into a bit more than just a few cross words. I saw the victim point over at me, as though to point out to the other male that I was there and could see what he was doing," Kim explained.

"As I went over, I thought the victim had been punched, he was holding his neck so I couldn't see any injuries. It was only when he pulled his hand away that I saw that he was bleeding heavily and he told me he'd been stabbed. I was completely shocked, you don't expect that to happen right in front of you - even doing this job. At that point, I just wanted to get the offender detained and in the police car so he couldn't hurt anyone else."

Kim arrested the attacker, handcuffed him and put him in the car so she could give first aid to the victim. The knifeman was searched by other officers who responded to calls for assistance who found he was also carrying what looked to be a viable firearm



*PC Kim Wheldon outside the famous black door of No 10 Downing Street.*

though it was later found to be a BB gun.

Kim's instinctive reactions, with no real concern for her own safety, prompted

Derbyshire Police Federation to nominate her for the annual bravery awards.

Having already received a Chief Constable's Commendation for her actions, Kim was completely shocked when she heard she had been nominated.

"We all deal with difficult things daily and I just thought 'who, me?' I didn't do anything that any other officer wouldn't have done in the same situation," she explained.

Kim is in her third year of service and is currently based at Swadlincote.

**“ I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING THAT ANY OTHER OFFICER WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IN THE SAME SITUATION. ”**

# 'A surreal experience'

Kim Wheldon says it was a surreal experience to visit 10 Downing Street and humbling to be at the evening awards evening.

Kim and partner Paul Kilbane mingled with the other bravery award nominees during the afternoon at No 10 and then rubbed shoulders with politicians and celebrities during the evening.

"It was all lovely. Everyone looked so smart in their Number 1 uniform and it was nice to chat to officers from other forces. We weren't told that the Prime Minister was coming to meet us until we were all lined up for the photo so that was a surprise," Kim says.

"It was surreal. I had never even been to the entrance of Downing Street before so it was really interesting to see. I feel really lucky to have had the opportunity to see inside No 10 and to have a memento photo outside the door.

"I didn't get to speak to the PM, but just said hello as she passed! I spoke to the Home Secretary and police minister at the awards; they were both lovely. I also got to speak to the shadow police minister who was really nice."



Kim and partner Paul Kilbane outside No 10.



Kim and Paul outside The Tower of London.



Kim ready for the evening awards ceremony.

# Fallen officers remembered at COPS service

The true value of the support offered to fallen officers' families was fully evident at the Care of Police Survivors (COPS) remembrance service at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Each year, a number of the loved ones left behind when an officer has died on duty address the service to talk about their loss but invariably about the way in which the peer support offered through the COPS charity had helped them.

This year those taking part in the service on 28 July included Angela Morgan, fiancée of Derbyshire DC Gary Freeman who died along with DC Anthony Thornley when their vehicle was in collision with a lorry on 19 August 1994.

At the time of Gary's death, COPS did not exist and Angela talked about the realities of re-building her life after losing an officer who went to work one morning and didn't come home, saying losing her fiancé had broken her heart and nearly broken her due to overwhelming grief.

With the formation of COPS in 2003, Angela had found support from the families of other fallen officers and thanked both



Angela Morgan addresses the service.

the charity and those who took part in the Police Unity Tour, with a special mention for Derbyshire DS Stu Kershaw who rode in Gary's memory.

Part of her speech took the form of an open letter to Gary in which she revealed the couple's son, who was just two when his father died, had fulfilled his ambition to join the police and would be starting with the Metropolitan Police Service this September. In her letter, she told Gary: "I

hope you will be proud of him."

Other speakers during the service were George Parker, son of PC Andy Parker (30) of North Wales Police who died in a motorbike crash on his way home from a night shift on 23 September 2005; Greg Lashmar, son of PC Brian Lashmar (39) of the Met, who also died in a crash on his way back from night duty, on 24 January 1989, and Donna Cox, sister of PC Jo-Ann Jennings who was 23 when she was killed in a patrol car responding to a disturbance on 12 November 1989.

Denis Gunn, past president of COPS, read out the names of the officers added to the roll of honour since the last COPS service in July 2018:

**Special Agent Nole Remagen** (42) of the United States Secret Service, who died on 17 July 2018, two days after suffering a stroke while on presidential protection duty in Scotland;

**PC Joseph Cooke** (39) of the Met who injured his shoulder while making an arrest. While having surgery on the injury, five months later, he suffered a brain injury which proved fatal on 25 December 2018; **PC Daniel Clayton-Drabble** (24) of Thames Valley Police, who was killed in an accident as he drove home from work on 26 December 2018;

**PC Kevin Flint** (52) of Thames Valley Police who died on 15 January 2019 when his motorbike was in collision with a car as he drove home from work; and

**PS Colin Michael Fox** of the Metropolitan Police who died on 1 May 2019.

Before the service, those gathered at the arboretum, including Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa and Derbyshire Police Federation chair Tony Wetton, welcomed first the Blue Knights Motorcyclists and then the cyclists from forces across England and Wales who, despite wet and, at times, windy weather, had completed the Police Unity Tour, a sponsored bike ride of around 180 miles over two days.

This year's PUT included six riders from Derbyshire.

## Our riders' stories...

### Riding in unity for those fallen

By **Malc Shakespeare**, retired officer and now a police staff member

During the last weekend of July, we took part in the Police Unity Tour (PUT) 2019 cycling around 180 miles in aid of Care of Police Survivors (COPS).

We were honoured to join Chapter IX, a group of 31 riders representing all forces from the East Midlands region.

There were six riders this year from Derbyshire, and I was joined by

Chief Constable Pete Goodman, Chief Superintendent Dave Cox, DS Stu Kershaw, PC Graham Fish and police staff members Tim Smith. This was the first PUT ride for Dave and Tim.

Ian Godfrey, manager of the Derbyshire Benevolent Trust which sponsored the event along with Derbyshire Police Federation, made up the Derbyshire representatives, providing essential support in 'the crew'.

This is my third tour now, and it never gets easier, emotionally. I rode again in

memory of Derbyshire PC Bruce Stevenson, and for his widow, Wendy.

Friday was an early start from Leicestershire Police Headquarters where we were provided with a hearty breakfast at 6.30am. There was then a moving memorial service and a wreath was laid to remember Leicestershire officers.

During the ride on Friday, we stopped at several memorials including that to PC Ged Walker of Nottinghamshire where officers from the Force's dog section joined us.

For the first time on our tours, we rode into Ripley HQ, where students from Red and Green class, together with trainee PCSOs and

Photographs courtesy of COPS

# Riding for fallen officers



*The Derbyshire team leads the PUT into headquarters.*

**T**he Derbyshire Police Unity Tour riders, along with the other cyclists taking part in the event, all wore a wristband dedicated to a fallen officer which, where possible, was presented to their family members at the end of the ride.

Derbyshire's PUT team all rode in memory of a Derbyshire officer.

David Cox for Steven Sharman who died while dealing with a road accident on 18 March 1990. He was 36.

Graham Fish for DC Anthony Thornley and Stu Kershaw for DC Gary Freeman. Anthony (31) and Gary (36) were killed on 19 August 1994 when their car was in collision with a lorry while they were on CID duties.

Peter Goodman for PC John Fitton who was 53 when he died after being hit by a vehicle as he cycled home from work on 20 May 1997.

Tim Smith for PC Timothy Kent (36) who was killed when he was hit by a lorry after his car broke down as he drove to work on 20 September 2001.

Malc Shakespeare for PC Bruce Stevenson. Bruce died on duty at Cotton Lane Police Station on 7 January 2013. He was 47.



*Wendy Stevenson addresses the memorial service at Ripley, as (left to right) ACC Paul Gibson, the Chief Constable and Malc Shakespeare look on.*

DSIs, formed a guard of honour, applauding the peloton in to a beautiful service led by our Force Chaplain Ami Lindo. Wendy joined us there and spoke about how important COPS was to her and her family.

It was a ride of weather contrasts yet again, as we moved from bright sunshine on the Friday to torrential rain that came on Saturday as we set off from The Holiday Inn at Pride Park, and made our way to Carsington taking in the sites of our awesome scenery, and hills - there was some muttering at Hulland Ward, where it's quite steep. It was only a few days later that I finally dried out from that day!

COPS puts on a survivors' weekend at Drayton Manor and shortly after 3pm on the Saturday we met the other chapters riding the tour, and rode into the park to meet the families. Some 460 riders were escorted in by motorcycle outriders... a few tears were shed.

I met Wendy again, and received my finisher's medal from her. It was great to catch up with her family too.

Our second night was spent at Lichfield, with a celebratory dinner for the team and one or two well deserved beers.

The ride ends on the Sunday (again the weather gods frowned upon us) at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas,

with a service of remembrance where survivors tell their stories and tributes are made.

Wreaths are laid together with red roses at our Force tree, where we stood and reflected, not on just our journey, but for those lost.

Thank you to everybody who supported us on our journey, especially those who gave us such a warm welcome as we came into headquarters – you made us all very proud.

If you would like to donate to support our ride and COPS, you can do this through [JustGiving](#)

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# COPS: supporting police families

"This was my second year riding on the Unity Tour, but the first in the East Midlands," writes PC Graham Fish who was part of the Derbyshire PUT team.

"The riding was challenging because of the wet weather and I couldn't believe it was wetter than 2018. However, seeing

the families at the end of Day 2 put everything into perspective, being handed the ride medal by a survivor still brought a tear to my eyes. I rode for a former Derbyshire officer but I also ride knowing that COPS is there for my family and others like it."



Chief Constable Peter Goodman arrives at the arboretum.

## An important event

The memorial service once again reminded Stu Kershaw how important the event was.

Stu said that while the Police Unity Tour ride itself wasn't challenging the unpleasant weather on Saturday afternoon gave way to conditions that were 'just horrible'.

He lists a number of highlights over the weekend.

"The six Derbyshire riders leading the group in to our HQ with the driveway lined with supporters. The service at our HQ memorial garden, where Wendy Stevenson's speech was fantastic and very moving, followed by the honour of laying a wreath for DC Gary Freeman," he writes.

"Meeting up with Angela, Gary's widow, at Drayton Manor Park and receiving my medal from her, presenting Angela with the wristband in memory of Gary."

## Emotional ride

Retired officer Tim Smith experienced a rollercoaster of emotions over the three days of the Police Unity Tour.

"I went from having great fun and being happy to sadness and tears... and everything in between," says Tim, who was inspired to take part having heard Malc Shakespeare talk so passionately about the event but also by the survivors and their stories.

"I was hooked," he adds.

Despite the challenges of completing the tour, Tim says he will definitely take

part again.

"The ride was more emotionally demanding than physically demanding in my honest opinion, not losing sight that it is a ride (not a race) and about raising money for charity (COPS) and supporting and helping the survivors and their families," he says.

"Yes, it was cold and I needed a space blanket to warm me up at the end of the ride at the arboretum but none of that matters. We rode for those who died."

Tim has been a member of police staff for 10 years.



The PUT cyclists at Ripley HQ.

### PAY RISE

Police officers have been awarded a 2.5 per cent pay increase.

The Home Office announced the news on 22 July, in a move welcomed by the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) which said it was a 'small step in the right direction'.

It is the first time in three years that the Home Office has accepted in full the recommendations of the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB), the independent review body advising the Government on police pay.

However, the chair of the PFEW, John Apter, says the Government must do more to make up for years of real-term pay cuts endured by Federation members.

### PENSIONS UPDATE

On 15 July, the Government issued a written statement in respect of the ruling on the judges' and firefighters' pensions making it clear the Government would apply an industrial remedy to the discrimination found by the Employment Appeal Tribunal. This means the remedy will apply to every worker in the public sector pension schemes, including police officers.

"What we do not know is exactly what the remedy will be and what it means for our members, so while many will have further questions about this, we are not in a position to answer those until such time as we have heard what the resolution may be and we expect those discussions to be protracted," a Police Federation statement said.

Read the statement issued by the [Treasury](#)

### RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed the recruitment of 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales will begin within weeks of him taking up his new post.

In his first speech as PM, he said: "My job is to make your streets safer — and we are going to begin with another 20,000 police on the streets and we start recruiting forthwith."

He wants the recruitment drive complete within three years.

Tony Wetton, chair of Derbyshire Police Federation, said: "We have seen police officer numbers fall every year since 2010 with a total reduction of more than 22,000 in that time. It is no surprise to me, nor anyone else in policing, that with a reduction in police officer numbers we have seen a surge in crime, particularly violent crime.

"Our communities have been suffering and so have police officers themselves as they have tried to do more with less. Let's hope that this recruitment drive gets underway as quickly as the Prime Minister says and that there is an investment in the resources needed to ensure these new recruits are properly selected, trained and supported."

The College of Policing has already warned of 'logistical challenges' in taking on the new recruits, in part due to concerns about a lack of instructors for training.