

# WELSH MATTERS

News and views from the Police Federation's Welsh Affairs Sub-Committee



Photos by Anderson Photography

## BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

**IN JULY, SIX WELSH OFFICERS WERE AMONG THE 76 FROM ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES NOMINATED FOR THE NATIONAL POLICE BRAVERY AWARDS.**

**POLICE FEDERATION** Welsh lead Nicky Ryan has congratulated the winner of the Welsh regional award at the Police Bravery Awards 2022.

The six Welsh nominees joined fellow nominees at a Downing Street reception hosted by Home Secretary Priti Patel which was followed by an evening awards ceremony at a central London hotel.

South Wales PC Nathan Davies who risked his life trying to save a couple from a river bed during a raging storm won the bravery award for the Welsh region.

Nathan was knocked unconscious during the rescue attempt but crawled on his hands and knees towards the two casualties when he came round and performed CPR on one of them until other officers started to reach the scene.

Speaking after the event, Nathan said: "It feels brilliant and it's nice to be acknowledged. You feel you don't deserve it because you see officers doing everything in their service."

Nathan was presented with his award by Hannah Blythyn, deputy minister for social partnership within the Welsh Government. First Minister Mark Drakeford was due to attend the event but sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances, had to cancel at the last minute.

All four Welsh forces put forward officers for the national Police Bravery Awards.

Nicky explained: "As usual the Welsh forces were represented by a group of exceptional police officers who have shown incredible courage and dedication.

"The nominees all put their own lives at risk to protect people from their communities and I don't think it would be possible to praise them too highly."

Nicky said: "Officers like Nathan always try to play down their acts of courage but there is no doubt he risked his own life to try to ensure the safety of others and he received

this bravery award in recognition of his selflessness and dedication to duty.

"Each of the nominees from Wales displayed extraordinary levels of bravery and determination and they should all be very proud of themselves. They are all a credit to their Force."

The annual bravery awards are organised by the Police Federation and sponsored by Police Mutual.

This year's overall winner was Lincolnshire Police's PC Steven Dennis who was stabbed as he tackled a double murder suspect he had spotted while off duty and out walking his dogs.

## WELFARE VANS OUT IN FORCE



Two Welsh branches of the Police Federation took their welfare vans to Birmingham to offer support to the 4,000 officers involved in the policing operation for the Commonwealth Games.

Nicky Ryan, the Federation's Welsh lead, helped staff the North Wales Police Federation van.

See Page 3 for more details.

# OUR BRAVE OFFICERS

## MENNA TACKLED KNIFE-WIELDING MAN



*Menna and her partner Justin Jones.*

**GWENT POLICE** Sergeant Menna Watkins was nominated after an incident which unfolded when she responded to reports of a man being threatened with a knife.

Menna spoke to the alleged victim at the scene and was trying to get more information about the suspect when he charged through the crowd of onlookers and lunged towards her.

She deployed her Taser as he ran towards her and then handcuffed him and waited for back-up to arrive at the scene.

After the awards, Menna said: "For me Downing Street was the best part. It was surreal being in Number 10 and in the garden at the back with drinks and some food. It was amazing."



*The brave trio outside No 10.*

## TRIO DEALT WITH ARMED MAN

**DYFED POWYS** PCs Lucy Morris, Nikita Matthews and Paige Morgan were shortlisted after an incident in Llandrindod Wells last October.

The three officers fearlessly responded to reports that a man with mental health issues was drunk, issuing threats and "messing with petrol" and when he pointed a rifle and began to walk towards the centre of the town they took the decision to use their police vehicle to control the man.

This was done in as safe a way as possible and the suspect sustained a minor leg injury as a result.

PC Morris and her colleagues were amazed and humbled to have been nominated for an award. The modest trio insist they were just doing their job, the same as anyone else, but agree that it was fantastic to get the recognition.

PC Morris explained: "I was prouder for the girls than for me because they're so young in service. It was phenomenal to go to Downing Street with all the nominees from across England and Wales - the banter was just so funny. My Dad is a retired copper and was so proud for me. And I got to meet Larry, the Downing Street cat, which was a brilliant little perk."

## OFF-DUTY PC BROKE UP STREET BRAWL



*Clare and her husband Gareth.*

**NORTH WALES** Police nominee PC Clare Larkey-Jones was off duty when she risked her own safety by breaking up a street brawl in Caernarfon town centre.

Clare saw a man violently punching his victim, pulling him to the floor and kicking him and with no thought for her own safety put herself in the middle of a group of men to diffuse the situation and protect members of the public.

"When I was invited to attend Downing Street and the awards ceremony I said I couldn't go because I was on holiday with family in Lanzarote," said Clare.

"But then I thought things like this never happen to me and I probably won't get an opportunity like this ever again so we left our boys with my parents and other family members and flew back from Lanzarote.

"We arrived in London at 1.45am and were in Downing Street by 10am and then at the awards in the evening. We left the hotel at 5am the next morning and I was back in the pool in Lanzarote by lunchtime!"



*The Welsh contingent at the bravery awards.*

Photos by Anderson Photography

# WELFARE VANS PROVE A HIT AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES



Nicky (third from left) with the welfare vans and other Federation reps working during the Games.

**THE FEDERATION'S** Welsh lead was part of a team of Federation officials who spent almost two weeks in Birmingham offering support to the thousands of officers involved in Operation Unity, the police operation for the Commonwealth Games.

Nicky Ryan worked alongside North Wales Police Federation's Jayne Humphreys who was in the city with the branch's welfare van along with other Fed reps from across England and Wales.

Dyfed Powys also had its welfare van available to officers with chair and secretary, Gareth Jones and Roger Webb, on hand to offer advice and support, as well as a supply of refreshments.

The Dyfed Powys branch took delivery of its van, which was 50 per cent funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, at the Games which served as its first deployment.

Other welfare vans were provided by West Midlands, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Humberside branches.

"It was a fantastic experience working in Birmingham since just before the Games opened on 28 July," says Nicky, "The welfare vans were well received by officers who were pleased to be able to get hot and cold drinks while policing the event.

"We are aware that we were not able to reach all officers, or as many as we would like, as we experienced some tricky days trying to get through security as some officers were in specially accredited areas.

"But we worked hard at trying to send stuff in to them to make sure they were looked after, with reps putting food and drink in rucksacks and going in on foot. It

was a learning curve for us all for next time there is a mutual aid operation of this scale and this is something we need to consider."

Nicky said the atmosphere at the Games had been incredible.

"West Midlands officers, staff and volunteers have been so welcoming and we have loved being here and working alongside everyone involved to make the Games work," she explained.

"It's been so interesting and inspiring getting to meet officers from different forces and sharing stories and experiences. Events like this make you realise the variety and diversity of people that we have in policing, in terms of ages, backgrounds,



Jayne Humphreys (left) and Nicky Ryan (right) with Nina Nannar.



Jayne Humphreys (left) and Nicky Ryan (right) with Victor Linden of Grenada who won gold in the decathlon.

experiences, cultures and nationalities and you realise we are all doing the same job but in often different ways.

"I have enjoyed working at the Commonwealth Games and am grateful to everyone who has engaged with us at the van and who has helped make this such a rewarding and enjoyable event."

While the welfare vans proved a hit, there was also a degree of success in dealing with some issues with the accommodation provided to officers from across England and Wales who were in Birmingham to provide mutual aid.

"Luckily, due to the working relationships established between the Federation and the Operation Unity team most of the initial problems officers had around food and accommodation at the start of this deployment were quickly ironed out," says Nicky.

The Commonwealth Games, which ended on 8 August, has been the first major policing operation since Special Constables were given access to Federation membership and Nicky said she and other reps had made the most of being able to get out to meet the policing volunteers.

"We took advantage of the opportunity to remind them they can subscribe to the Police Federation to get all the same benefits as their regular colleagues. We are very pleased to welcome them into the Federation and look forward to working with them at events like this in the future and to providing them support and advice when needed."

Around 4,000 officers were involved in Operation Unity.



# REMEMBERING FALLEN OFFICERS

**COUNSEL GENERAL and Minister for the Constitution for Wales Mick Antoniw is to attend National Police Memorial Day (NPMD) which is being held in Belfast at the end of September.**

Mr Antoniw, who has been the Member of the Senedd for Pontypridd since 2011, will represent the Welsh Government at the memorial day service on Sunday 25 September.

“We are delighted that Mr Antoniw will be attending the memorial day service. While in Belfast, he will also meet the families of Welsh fallen officers to hear first-hand about the devastating impact of their loss,”

says Nicky Ryan, Welsh lead for the Police Federation of England and Wales.

During the NPMD weekend, the chief constables of the four Welsh forces will light up their headquarters buildings in blue, in honour of fallen officers, and the Welsh Government will also light the Cathays Park Building 1 in the centre of Cardiff in blue as a sign of recognition and appreciation of the service and sacrifice of police officers.

On 27 September, Nicky will meet with Members of the Senedd in the atrium of the Senedd for an event, sponsored by John Griffiths (MS for Newport East), to highlight the significance of NPMD ahead of the

service being hosted in Cardiff in 2023.

NPMD was founded by Joe Holness following the brutal killing of his Kent Police colleague Jon Odell in December 2000.

An official annual national day, NPMD provides a dignified and sensitive service of remembrance to honour the courage and ultimate sacrifice of police officers throughout the United Kingdom. HRH The Prince of Wales became patron of the NPMD charity in 2006.

The service, which rotates around each of the four countries of the UK, is held on the nearest Sunday to 29 September which is St Michael's Day with St Michael being the patron saint of police officers.

## ENGAGE WITH THE FEDERATION

**YOU CAN find out more about the Police Federation and its work representing police officers by contacting:**

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