



COPS

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CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

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Standing together

Report and pictures from the
2015 COPS Survivors' Weekend

Tears and laughter as COPS

THERE was emotion and humour as police officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice were remembered by their family and friends at the Care of Police Survivors (COPS) Annual Service of Remembrance.

Surviving family members and serving police officers gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 26 July to pay their respects to officers who have died on duty. The service in Staffordshire – not dampened by constant rain – was attended by more than 700 people.

Events took place all weekend for surviving family members. They were attending the biggest ever COPS weekend. The charity now has more than 300 Survivors, the event heard.

During the 70 minute service on Sunday, Survivors – a father, a sister, a son and a wife – recalled their loss and how the charity had helped them in their time of need.

Harri Jones, son of PC Stanley Jones, of Surrey Police, was nine years old when his father died on duty. "Care of Police Survivors became mum's lifeline, offering her endless support and encouragement on days when she felt she could not go on," he told the service.

He described how COPS – and coming to a Survivors Weekend – had helped him make "friends – or



should I say family – for life." And he recalled how he recently went on his first "lad's holiday" with a fellow Survivor. "I hope my old man wasn't looking down on us too well," he joked.

Harri concluded: "We in turn now offer support and encouragement to the younger children who have found themselves part of the COPS family. COPS was there when we needed them most and you were there to help us rebuild our shattered lives."

The Roll of Honour for the five police officers who died on duty during the last 12 months was read out by

COPS President Denis Gunn.

Those remembered this year were PC Neil Doyle, of Merseyside Police; PC David Arthur, of the Met; PC Jonathan Relph, of the Met; PC Kevin Stoodley, of Avon and Somerset Constabulary; and PC Russ Wylie, of Humberside Police.

Also mentioned was Daniel Woodall – a former Greater Manchester Police officer who was killed as a member of the Edmonton Police Service in Canada.

In the presence of their families, Timothy Mitchell, a Californian police

officer, and Gregg Benner, a New Mexican police officer, were also remembered before a minute's silence.

Sir Keith Povey, Patron of the Charity, said: "The primary objective of COPS is to help surviving families rebuild their shattered lives after the tragic loss of an officer in an on-duty death.

"The charity provides help and support wherever possible to help those Survivors cope with that tragedy but also to ensure that they remain a member of the police family.

"Whilst I know Survivors value the



remembers fallen officers



bonds that are formed, I also know that you need to remain a member of the police family. And that is why it is so important to see so many of the force representatives here."

Chief Officers from all UK forces, the Home Office and staff associations were among those taking time to pay their respects and lay wreaths.

"Your presence is valued immensely by Survivors," said Sir Keith.

The West Midlands Police band and a lone piper provided accompanying music. There was laughter and applause when a speaker poked fun

at Chief Constables getting soaked laying their wreaths.

Before the service, the Blue Knights motorcyclists arrived in procession to pay their respects.

They were also joined by more than 100 UK Police Unity Tour cyclists who had ridden up in convoy from London – and were joined from others across the country. The cyclists raised an amazing £75,000 for the charity.

Addressing the service was Don Speakman, whose son PC Jonathan Speakman, of Cheshire Police, died



on holiday in Australia after rescuing a child swept out to sea. He described his son as a practical joker and his best friend.

Don said: "It's 10 years since Jonathan died. It was important for me to get the right balance of laughter and tears, and I think I did that. And I managed to get through it.

"I didn't get involved in COPS for two years after Jonathan's death, because being a typical ex-policeman I thought I could deal with it. This organisation is tremendous.

"Everybody comes to a weekend

like this knowing that all the people around you are in the same boat, in one way or another, and therefore you don't have to explain anything to anybody. You don't have to be apologetic or anything like that, you just be yourself and you know there are people there to support you."

Also speaking at the event were Dr Gillian Archer, sister of PC Andrew Archer, of Lincolnshire Police; Jo Hill, wife of PC Nicholas Hill, of the Met; and Andy Pickersgill, friend and colleague of PC Ged Walker, of Nottinghamshire Police.



Changing times for COPS ahead

COPS held its Annual General Meeting on the Saturday of Survivors' Weekend, with Chair Jan Berry reporting to delegates about the work that has been carried out since the last AGM.

In October, the Trustees agreed to a series of changes, including: reviewing the charity's legal structure; agreeing who a Survivor is; and using a committee structure to provide greater support, direction and informed oversight with clear terms of reference.

Trustees also agreed to review the skills and experience of the board of Trustees; adopt role profiles for the President, Chair of Trustees, and the Chair of the Survivors' Committee; and encourage the Survivors' Committee to develop role profiles for its members.

COPS has also said that it needs to identify new Survivor Trustees, in line with Charity Commission guidelines that state that up to one third of Trustees should be prospective beneficiaries of the charity. The other Trustees should bring complimentary skills and experience from within policing and beyond.

Responding to a request from the Survivors' Committee, the Trustees also agreed to increase the budget for support weekends to "up to £200 per head".

Trustees also supported appropriate counselling for adult and children Survivors. COPS is also in discussions with other emergency service charities to allow children access to bereavement counselling.

Jan reported that during the year, several Trustees had stood down or not sought reappointment. She thanked them for the years of dedicated service they have provided COPS and the support they continue to provide.

She also thanked former Office Manager Abbie Clark, who resigned in December, and Finance Administrator Sarah Williams for helping out while new appointments were made.

Memorial for police constable killed on duty 100 years ago

OFFICERS and the family of a detective constable killed in the line of duty 100 years ago have attended a service in his honour.

A commemorative plaque was discovered packed away at a Hampstead Police station as it was being cleared following its closure in June 2013.

It was in memory of DC Alfred Young, who was killed on duty on the 14 July 1915. Alfred had been shot in the chest as he attempted to arrest retired army captain Richard Gorges at his home in Mount Vernon, a narrow lane in Hampstead.

Gorges was wanted by police in connection with "indulgence in illegal sexual practices".

Alfred was shot at around 10pm and died a short time later. Having been widowed in 1911, he died leaving a fiancée and a six-year-old daughter.

On Tuesday 14 July, exactly 100



DC Alfred Young died 100 years ago.

years later, Alfred's grandson Anthony Fuller and his wife Linda attended Hampstead Cemetery to honour his grandfather, who was gunned down aged just 37.

Also paying their respects were North Area Commander Christine Jones and Senior Leadership Team

members from Camden; Borough Commander Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Tucker, Detective Chief Inspector Dionne Mitchell and Chief Inspector Steve Wright.

Historians from the Police History Society scoured old records and were able to trace the surviving relatives and piece together details of Alfred's last moments.

Alfred's grandson Anthony Fuller said: "I'm somewhat overwhelmed by the turnout. People told me not to get too over emotional and I didn't think that I would but you can't help reflect what might have been for everyone.

"His death hasn't been in vain and some good legacies have been left behind but this has been an overwhelming day so far."

Borough Commander Richard Tucker said: "[The service] reminds us of the long history the Met has of keeping London safe and how dangerous our job is at times."

Former GMP officer dies in Canada

A FORMER Greater Manchester Police officer has been shot dead in Canada while trying to arrest man accused of a hate crime.

Constable Daniel Woodall, 35, a married father-of-two, was serving with the Canadian force.

He and a second officer had gone to execute a warrant at a house in Edmonton, Alberta, in June.

Constable Woodall, who was remembered at the COPS Service of Remembrance, died after being shot multiple times, and Sgt Jason Harley, who was with him, was injured.

Daniel had been based at Wythenshawe police station. He switched



GMP wreaths in honour of fallen officers at the National Memorial Arboretum.

from GMP to Canada nine years ago.

At a press conference, Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht said: "This is

a tragedy of unspeakable proportions. It is a police chief's, it is a police officer's worst nightmare."

Wedding pins

LOVE was in the air and so was some fantastic fundraising at a recent wedding. Susan and Stevie decided to make a kind donation to Care of Police Survivors rather than give traditional "wedding favours" to their guests. All the guests also received small COPS pin badges.



Unity Tour's 'fantastic' funds

A MAGNIFICENT £75,000 was raised by this year's Police Unity Tour for Care of Police Survivors.

The cyclists rode 170 miles over three days – from London to Staffordshire – to raise money for the charity, which supports the families of officers who have lost their lives on duty.

The Tour was also unanimously awarded the charity's volunteer of the year award.

More than 100 cyclists and support crew – including police officers, police staff and families of fallen officers – left the National Police Memorial at the Mall in London on 24 July and arrived at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 26 July in time for the COPS Service of Remembrance.

Ch Supt Robert Atkin, of the Metropolitan Police, who organised the ride, said its aim is to raise awareness of officers who have died in the line of duty, to raise money for COPS and "to bring officers together to remember the fallen heroes".

Every cyclist rides in memory of a fallen officer and they are given a bracelet with a late officer's name, force and last date of duty engraved



Ch Supt Robert Atkin (centre) presents the Unity Tour cheque to COPS. (Below) the Unity Tour cyclists at the National Memorial Arboretum.

on it. This is handed over to one of the officer's surviving family members when the Unity Tour arrives at the National Memorial Arboretum.

PC Darren Kirkwood, of Humber-side Police, was awarded the Tour's highest fundraiser award for the second year running. He said: "Being a police officer it's just my way of giving something back to our fallen heroes. COPS charity is a charity that you hope you never have to use, but it's there if we do need it.

"The police service itself is a big family, but from the first year that we did the Unity Tour we've just met so many people and it's the same

people that come back year after year, and it's just the camaraderie of it really. It's just fantastic.

"To raise £75,000 is just amazing – it's a challenge for next year that we've got to raise more."



Met honours fallen officers in America

OFFICERS from the Met joined American law enforcement in remembering fallen officers and honouring their memory in Washington DC.

For the 12th year running, a team of 20 officers from the Met and other UK forces (including Cumbria, Manchester and West Midlands) volunteered to form a Guard of Honour, supporting Survivor families and American colleagues with ceremonial duties and police escorts as part of US National Police Memorial Week.

Among those Survivor families were a number from UK COPS.

Pictured below is Sgt Adam Leak comforting PC Kirsty Eastwood-Smith, as the team honoured her brother Scott, a Met officer who died in the course of his duties in 2011.



Volunteer officers, who paid their own way to the US, escorted Survivors' families from the airport to their hotels in the city, with the assistance of local officers.

Inspector Jaiye Warwick-Saunders heads the UK contingent and has attended the event for the past 12 years.

He said: "There is a great deal we can learn from our American counterparts when looking after the families, friends and colleagues of fallen officers. We never know when our loved ones might need the services of UK COPS, the only organisation that will take care of them in the long-term."

Two guilty of killing Merseyside PC

TWO men have been found guilty of the manslaughter of Merseyside PC Neil Doyle.

Andrew Taylor, 29, and Timmy Donovan, 30, of Huyton, were convicted of the manslaughter of PC Doyle at Liverpool Crown Court.

The attack took place in December last year.

Taylor and Donovan will be sentenced on 11 September.

Peter Singleton, Chairman of Merseyside Police Federation, said: "We hope the court's decision will now provide at least some closure for Neil's wife, family, friends and colleagues.

"As a Federation we will continue to provide support for Neil's family and colleagues and help them as best we can as they continue to come to terms with their sad loss."

Det Supt Mike Shaw, from Merseyside Police, said: "Andrew Taylor and Timmy Donovan have been con-



PC Neil Doyle died last December.

victed of Neil Doyle's manslaughter and the serious assaults on Robert Marshall and Michael Steventon.

"We welcome the verdict but ultimately nothing can bring Neil back and his family are still struggling to

come to terms with his loss and will never get over his tragic death.

"Neil and his friends, who were all off duty, were enjoying a Christmas night out with colleagues on the night of the attack and the three defendants were also enjoying a night out.

"Sadly, what should have been a good night out for both groups in the run-up to Christmas turned into a nightmare and resulted in the death of Neil Doyle and serious injuries to his colleagues.

"Taylor and Donovan have also ruined their own lives."

Taylor will also be sentenced over attacks on PCs Marshall and Steventon. Donovan will also be sentenced over his attack on PC Marshall, in which he was punched, stamped and kicked.

They have been remanded in custody.

A third man, Christopher Spendlove, was cleared of manslaughter.

Street named after fallen police officer

A ROAD has been named after Humberside Police motorcyclist PC Russ Wylie, who died in a road accident in April.

Colleagues at Humberside Police asked for the entrance way at the headquarters of the traffic department to be named after their much-respected fellow officer. Staff and visitors to the site will now see a Russ Wylie Way sign, pictured, at the entrance.



Inspector Mark Hughes said: "Melton is our base. Everyone who drives in and out of the base will see the sign Russ Wylie Way. "It has been done as a permanent memorial to Russ. He was greatly respected within the force and gave many years of service."

COPS events

- 24-26 August:** IAWP conference (Cardiff)
- 2 September:** Scottish Police Memorial Service (Tulliallan)
- 3-4 September:** NARPO conference
- 6 September:** COPS & Blue Knights picnic (Tulliallan)
- 6 September:** Suffolk Police Family Day
- 13 September:** Emergency Services Show (Hullavington Airfield, Wiltshire)
- 19 September:** North Wales Police open Day
- 23-24 September:** Emergency Services Show (Birmingham NEC)
- 27 September:** National Police Memorial Day (Edinburgh)
- 3 October:** Policing through the Ages (Portsmouth)
- 16-18 October:** Siblings (Leamington Spa) and Spouses (Bath) weekends
- 25 October:** Black-tie Ball (Derbyshire)
- 31 October:** Coffee Morning (Newburgh, Fife)

Met cadets donate £1,600 to COPS as charity of the year



(Above) Met Volunteer Cadets. (Below from top) MoD Police's cheque donation. COPS at the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents' conference and the Police Federation of England and Wales conference.

VOLUNTEER cadets from the Met have donated £1,600 to COPS after choosing it as their charity of the year.

COPS President Denis Gunn was presented with a cheque when he attended the the Met's Volunteer Cadets End-Of-Competition and Parade at the force's Specialist Training Centre in Gravesend, Kent.

The volunteer cadets from the participating 32 London boroughs overwhelmingly voted COPS to be their charity for this year and each borough donated £50.

Approximately 400 cadets marched out on to the parade square before being inspected by Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Stephen Greenhalgh and the various Borough Commanders.

Denis gave an acceptance speech and a short talk about the work done by COPS, before the presentations were made to the

captains of the winning boroughs in a range of categories

Denis would like to thank Insp Helen Harper, who ran the day, and PC Paula Cooper (Youth Strategy and Engagement), for her help throughout the day.

Students of the Ministry of Defence Police donated £1,135 to COPS by raising money by setting themselves various challenges. Thanks to PC James Brothwell for organising the fundraising events.

Other generous donors have also been fundraising or donating to COPS over the summer.

The Scottish Police Federation made a £500 donation towards the cost of the children's entertainment at the Survivors Weekend.

The Old Farm Park School of Dog Training in Nottingham ran a dog show to raise money for COPS and Help for Heroes, raising £500 for COPS.

And British Car Auctions Limited have donated £1,000 to the charity.



Meeting Mo

COPS Survivors who went to the the Alternative Weekend in Birmingham in June found themselves sharing their hotel with international athletics stars, including the Great Britain team, before they took part in the Diamond League meeting in the city. Here, Survivor Angela Morgan meets Britain's double Olympic champion Mo Farah.



Survivors at heart

Richard Kotulecki joined COPS earlier this year as Head of Operations. He talks about why Survivors are COPS' most important priority and his former career as a sportsman.

What is your role at Care of Police Survivors?

I've been tasked by the Trustees to review pretty much everything that the charity does: to make sure that we are providing the best possible service for Survivors, that the charity has the right structure and policies in place and that the charity is compliant and governed soundly.

The role is on a part-time basis initially for a year and by the end of this year, I will have outlined a three-year plan, a strategic plan if you like, on the way forward.

And then around the end of May next year – at the conclusion of my initial year – I will be presenting a report to Trustees saying "following on from that three-year plan, these are the key issues, I think these are the key changes, and my key recommendations".

What was it that appealed to you about the job?

As a society we take it for granted that people live safely, soundly and happily and that nothing really bad is going to happen to the vast majority of us.

And the reason that's the case is because there's a relatively small number of people, men and women, who make it their job to make sure that we are safe and secure and that our society is protected.

And I think that rather like there's an armed forces covenant in return for the security that the armed forces provide us, I think it is absolutely reasonable that there should be a similar covenant for the police and other emergency services.

In return for the risks they take, putting themselves into harm's way on our behalf, as a society we should look after these men and women and their families.

Joining COPS was an opportunity to work with an organisation that was trying to meet society's part of that covenant. In return for the sacrifices they are prepared to make, if tragedy strikes a police officer, then at least society looks after their family and the ones that they leave behind.



How is your relationship with Survivors working?

When I interviewed for the role, one of the things that I presented to both the Trustees and the Survivors I met throughout the interview process was that Survivors were the most important aspect of the charity.

The charity was set up to meet Survivors' needs so therefore what those needs are and how survivors feel about these are absolutely essential to the way in which COPS works.

And so one of the commitments I made at that interview was that in my first three months in the job I would launch a very wide ranging, and very open, Survivor consultation which would invite absolutely everybody on the Survivors database to put forward their views about what the charity has done well, about what the charity hasn't done well, about what their past, present and future needs are and may be.

That consultation is with Survivors now and I am looking forward to hearing from them.

In putting together this consultation, I have met many wonderful people who have all patiently answered my questions and helped make my first couple of months really enjoyable.

I know that there are still many others whom I haven't yet met, and I really look forward to doing so in the near future.

So what had you done before you came to COPS?

I've been working as an independent consultant for more than 10 years. I work regularly with charities, with local authorities and others, in a very similar capacity.

I will come in, often into organisations or into projects that are facing challenging circumstances, are looking to develop new ideas or services, or are in need of a fresh pair

of eyes to help set a new direction, a new strategy. And I will help that organisation through that process, offer what expertise I can and guide them through developing and implementing new thinking, or developing existing ideas, and setting a course for the future.

In my last major assignment before COPS, I worked with a national charity supporting seriously ill young adults and helped the charity develop a new strategy to ensure that the excellent service it provided was sustainable long into the future.

What would you say the next year holds for COPS?

I hope that it will be a year of very open, very constructive conversation from all parts of the charity, and I hope that conversation leads to COPS agreeing and setting out a long-term plan that looks at meeting Survivors' needs in as many shapes and forms as those needs arise.

There are obviously some things that the charity does really, really well – Survivors' Weekend being an excellent example of that.

But I'm hoping that as part of this conversation we can identify fully the needs that Survivors have and we can start the process of working out how we can go about meeting those.

Tell us something about yourself that the COPS family won't know.

Well there's a reason people don't know things about me, that's because I prefer to keep them that way! Just kidding.

What can I tell you... I am a mechanical engineering graduate which, after graduation, quite clearly led me to a career in sports and playing volleyball. I'm a former national league volleyball player and have the scars to prove it.

Also, I was born in Poland and came to England when I was six. People at school used to tease me about the fact that I spoke English with a Polish accent, but now apparently I speak Polish with a very heavy English accent!

Lucky 13 for COPS remembrance day

IS THE number 13 unlucky? Seemingly not for COPS, for the 13th Annual Survivors Weekend in late July recorded the highest attendance so far and, according to many Survivors, the weekend was "the best yet".

Some awful weather and difficult travelling conditions delayed some Survivors on Friday afternoon, myself included, but once we were all together even the weather couldn't dampen the mood as, once more, old friendships were renewed and new friendships were made.

The children's activities again proved very popular, as did the adults' relaxation and craft classes. The cyclists of the Police Unity Tour, who had cycled through that terrible weather on Friday, joined us for a buffet lunch at the hotel on Saturday where they were warmly greeted by the Survivors of the fallen officers in whose memory they rode.

Saturday evening followed its usual format with dinner, an auction and



a raffle before the disco. To all those who contributed prizes for both the auction and the raffle, COPS extends its most sincere thanks.

Sunday was the formal part of the weekend with our annual Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum. Again, varying degrees of rain could not detract from our determination to remember not only the fallen officers read from this year's Roll of Honour, but also our own family members and all fallen police officers. We were delighted

that every UK police force was represented at the service and we were honoured to welcome many dignitaries and special guests. We thank you all most sincerely for your attendance and continued support.

There were many, many people who made the day special, including the Blue Knights, who have supported COPS from the very beginning and whose continued support is very much appreciated. Where would we be without you guys? All five readings (one each from a father,

a sister, a son, a wife and a colleague) were exceptional, the last of which introduced some new terminology to the service.

Diane Whyllie was, as always, brilliant and her choice of songs again brought out the emotions in many of us. The band of the West Midlands Police, conducted by the ever-joyful Barney, was superb too. And I want to thank everybody who attended, not least our Survivors.

Immediately before the service, the COPS Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to the Police Unity Tour for its magnificent fundraising and commitment to the charity.

I'm sure none of us underestimates the effort of the ride and the necessary training earlier in the year. Well done to each and every one of you who "ride for those who died".

Denis Gunn is President of Care of Police Survivors.

Welcome on board to new girl Claire

COPS would like to extend a warm welcome to Claire Stewart, who joined the charity on 6 July as Events and Communications Administrator.

Claire brings to COPS plenty of experience of organising events and delivering services, in particular raising awareness of mental health issues in Birmingham.

She has worked within the NHS and the private sector, and also volunteers at a primary school near her home.

Having had a (hectic) fortnight to settle in, Claire commented: "As soon as I saw the advertisement for the

Events and Communications Administrator I knew I wanted the job.

"Care of Police Survivors does such excellent work and I'm both honoured and thrilled to now be part of the team.

"I very much look forward to adding my experience and skills in continuing all the good work done to date. I am very excited to now be in such an excellent position to really help make a difference to the lives and futures of our Survivors and their families."

Claire is multi-lingual, with both French and German in her languages armoury.



Garda friends

COPS were honoured to attend An Garda Síochána Memorial service in Dublin to support our friends from the Garda Survivors Support Association. Pictured are GSSA President Michael Griffin with Christine Fulton (COPS Co-Founder), Joe Holness (National Police Memorial Day), Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan and Denis Gunn (COPS).

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Rebuilding shattered lives

COPS aims to provide Survivors with the level of understanding and care that is required to help them rebuild their lives.

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