

CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

"Rebuilding Shattered Lives"



ANNUAL REPORT

to 31st December 2004

www.ukcops.org

COPS is a registered charity number 1101478

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Foreword

by Richard Coleman (Vice Chair of Trustees)

This is the first Annual Report of Care of Police Survivors (COPS) to coincide with our first year as a registered charity in England & Wales. The Report embraces not only that year but the year before together with background to the formation of the organisation.

In its short existence COPS has captured the imagination of the Police Service throughout the UK. The emergence of COPS coincides with the first ever National Police Memorial Day held at St Paul's Cathedral in October 2004 and the expected completion of the National Police Memorial in London in 2005.

These happenings follow the work of the Police Memorial Trust and the Police Roll of Honour Trust in ensuring that those Officers who died in the line of duty will always be remembered and that their survivors will be remembered also.

It saddens me to have to write this Forward as it should have been written by the late Jim McNulty. Jim's passing has left an enormous void in the lives of those who knew him and worked with him. Jim was the inspiration behind COPS and together with the determination of Christine Fulton and our dedicated volunteers and supporters COPS is developing into the organisation they both envisaged.

THIS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF JIM McNULTY

Jim McNulty 1948 - 2004

On the 1st October 2004 COPS suffered a major blow with the death of its founder and Chairman Jim McNulty. Jim had suffered from leukaemia for a number of years but refused to let it get in the way of his determination to see an organisation established which would support the surviving families of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and assist them in the rebuilding of their shattered lives. Jim had been a member of the Royal Air Force Police and then served for 28 years with Strathclyde Police, retiring in 1998.

In 1995 Danny Elkins, a police officer in Yuma, Arizona was murdered. Danny was a friend of Jim's. Through Danny's family Jim learnt of the National Police Memorial in Washington DC where Danny's name would be inscribed and he promised that when he had the chance he would visit the memorial which he did the following year. Whilst there he met the chairman of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Craig Floyd, who suggested that Jim should come back one year in May to see the memorial during Police Week.

In 1998 Jim returned to Washington for Police Week accompanied by a group of British police officers including future COPS trustees Dick Coleman and Dougie Brown. The week proved to be a humbling, emotional and eye opening event as they realised how little support is offered to the families of British police officers compared to their American colleagues. Jim also realised that there was no memorial to police officers in his home country of Scotland. He came home determined to change both these things.

On his return Jim wrote to all forces suggesting the establishing of a support organisation for survivors. The majority of forces did not reply, those that did were negative. Jim refused to give in and continued to write to police publications in an effort to gain some support. In 2002 Jim met Christine Fulton, the widow of an officer from Jim's own force, Strathclyde. Christine persuaded him that there was a need for such an organisation and together they contacted as many survivors as they could trace. The response was very positive and Care of Police Survivors was formed.

Christine also supported Jim in his campaign to have a permanent memorial built in Scotland in memory of all Scottish police officers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. This dream came true on September 7th 2004 when the memorial, in the grounds of the Scottish Police College, was unveiled by HRH the Princess Royal. Just three weeks later Jim contracted an infection and died. His family are in no doubt that it was Jim's determination to see the formation of COPS and the unveiling of the memorial which had kept him alive for so long.

Jim has left a tremendous legacy in COPS. It will be an honour and a privilege for the remaining trustees to ensure that this charity continues to grow and thrive in the way he always dreamt it would, providing support to survivor families from the only people who truly understand, other survivors.

COPS Trustees

at 31st December 2004

Christine Fulton

Police Widow
National President

Appointed for five years on 22nd September 2003

Helen Walker

Police Widow

Appointed for three years on 22nd September 2003

Robert Young

Police Constable

Appointed for three years on 22nd September 2003

Richard Coleman

Retired Police Inspector
Vice Chairman

Appointed for three years on 17th June 2004

Dougie Brown

Police Constable
Treasurer

Appointed for three years on 17th June 2004

Introduction to COPS

The families of fallen officers are never forgotten by the police service, but we must also recognise that they need continued help and support from people who have shared the same experiences. Care of Police Survivors (COPS) is a support group that has been set up to carry out just this duty.

Based on a similar American organisation, COPS was founded in March 2003 by Jim McNulty, a retired Strathclyde officer and Christine Fulton, the widow of PC Lewis Fulton, who was murdered in Glasgow while on duty in 1994. The organisation became a registered charity, number 1101478, in January 2004.

COPS exists to support the families of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It provides help in understanding the trauma during the early days of their loss and also a support for the long journey ahead to rebuild their shattered lives. To date COPS supports over 120 families.

Christine's own experiences give her a unique understanding of what families go through after the death of a loved one; she makes contact with every survivor from a line of duty death explaining what COPS is about and that they will be there when the survivor is ready for support. This is the kind of support that can only be provided by those with first hand experience of the situation.

Newsletter

COPS publish a quarterly newsletter to keep survivors informed of ongoing events, and of new developments that may be of interest to them. Seven newsletters have been issued so far in March, June, September and December of each year.

Survivors Weekend

Annually, on the last weekend of July, COPS organises a survivor weekend at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. This incorporates a memorial service, seminars and social activities. It allows the families to get together and share their experiences. For some, this may be the first chance that they have had to do so. All families are welcome as are colleagues or police officers who just wish to show their support for the work of COPS.

The first survivor weekend was held in 2003. The event was organised in four and half weeks, as this was the first time an event of this magnitude had been organised the trustees were unsure as to how the surviving families would react, but they need not have worried. Forty-six survivors had intimated that they would attend; at least sixty four were present.

Most of the survivors arrived in Lichfield on the Saturday and stayed in a local hotel paid for by COPS. In the evening they went as a group to a nearby restaurant for dinner; for almost all of them this was their first time in the company of other survivors. It had been arranged that a trustee or helper would

be at each table to keep the conversation going; it soon became clear that this would not be necessary, as the survivors shared the circumstances which had made them members of this unique group. Many new friendships were forged that evening.

The following day the survivors were transported to the Arboretum where they witnessed the first ever 'UK Law Ride'. A group of police motorcyclists and Blue Knights rode to the Arboretum especially to welcome the survivors. A memorial service was then conducted in the chapel by the Rev Brian Williams, himself a former police officer. As part of the service, the names of the officers who had died in the previous twelve months were read out. The local MP Michael Fabricant gave one of the readings, other local politicians and dignitaries were also in attendance. Only one Chief Constable accepted our invitation to join us, Mrs Della Cannings from North Yorkshire. Mrs Cannings spent a lot of time speaking to survivors and realised from them how much an organisation like COPS was needed, she immediately offered any assistance she could give and has supported the organisation ever since.

After the service, the group moved to 'The Beat' - an avenue of chestnut trees dedicated to the police service. Here, a poignant two minutes silence was broken by a blast on a police whistle and a lament played by a lone piper. Suddenly overhead there was a loud roar as the police helicopter flew by and the pilots paid their respects to the survivors and their fallen colleagues.

The weather could not have been kinder and in glorious sunshine the families made their way down 'The Beat' to find the tree dedicated to the force their officer served in. The survivors had been provided with a red rose donated by Keith Hughes, a serving officer with North Yorkshire. Many families laid the roses at their tree but many others took theirs home as a reminder of the day.

Thereafter the families were transported to the impressive buildings of the PMAS in Lichfield town centre for a buffet lunch. Jim McNulty and Christine Fulton gave a short seminar on the origins of COPS and their plans for the future. After lunch the families made the short walk across the road into Battery Park for an afternoon of relaxation. Amongst other activities there was a football tournament, face and caricature painting plus stalls selling various items with the profits going to COPS. The Blue Knights were also in attendance, their gleaming motorbikes getting plenty of attention but the highlight of the afternoon was a visit from the police helicopter. The officers patiently allowed the children to climb on board and constantly posed for photographs. When the time came for them to leave, they rose majestically into the air and then dramatically bowed to the survivors, a moment the families will remember for ever.

The feedback from the survivors who attended the day was very positive, the only criticism being that they would have preferred more time at the Arboretum. One thing which was patently clear to the trustees was that next year's event was going to be much bigger and would have to be spread over the two days.

The first survivor weekend proved that there was undoubtedly a need for COPS and the support it provides. The second weekend was held on the 31st July and 1st August 2004 with many survivors arriving on the 30th and a few staying over till the 2nd. This year we were joined by a large party from the Police Service of

Northern Ireland who had come not only to offer their support to survivors but to dedicate a tree in memory of the Ulster Special Constabulary.

The weekend officially started at lunch time on the Saturday when the families were transported to the Arboretum where they enjoyed a buffet lunch courtesy of the PMAS. This was followed by a joint tree dedication ceremony for three officers plus one for the International Police Association.

In the afternoon the children were entertained by a magician while the parents attended two short seminars, the first aimed at those who were attending the event for the first time, explaining why COPS was started and what it does. This seminar was conducted by Dick Coleman and Christine Fulton with assistance from our special guest Joe Wagner, a survivor from the USA. The second seminar, again conducted by Dick and Christine laid out COPS plans for the future including our aim to write a line of duty death manual.

After the seminars an award was made to Tina Coleman to show appreciation for her exceptionally hard work on the News of the World campaign. This was followed, for those who wished to attend, by the tree dedication for the Ulster Special Constabulary.

In the evening, the survivors were taken to Curborough Farm for a meal. All in attendance agreed that this was the perfect setting - plenty of space with comfortable seating inside, a patio, and then spacious grounds where there were tables for those who wished to sit outside and a bouncy castle to keep the children entertained. We were joined at the meal by a number of Chief Constables and senior police officers who all appeared to enjoy themselves and went out of their way to mingle with the survivors. As part of the evening, the first COPS Volunteer Award was made to the Scotland One Chapter of the Blue Knights in recognition of their outstanding fund-raising on behalf of COPS, currently standing at over £12,000. It is intended to present this award annually.

Sunday dawned cool and misty but this soon burnt off and the day became almost unbearably hot. The survivors were once again transported to the arboretum where this time they were met by a large number of Chief Constables and senior police officers. The 'Law Ride' was joined by a procession of vintage police cars which delighted everyone.

The memorial service this year was held in marquees on 'The Beat' as we had outgrown the tiny chapel. The number of survivors attending had grown to well over one hundred and this number was swelled by the large attendance of police officers, Blue Knights, invited guests and even some members of the public who were visiting the Arboretum and came to see what was happening. The service followed a different format with a brass band, pipers, and songs from talented singer Vanessa Wheeler, a serving officer with West Midlands Police, plus readings by survivors. The service ended once again with a fly past by the police helicopter.

Eighteen Chief Constables or their representatives attended the service and laid wreaths on behalf of their force and paid their respects to the survivors. After the service the Chiefs joined the families at their respective trees while they laid

their own flowers or the roses, which this year were provided by John Dennis of Cleveland Gas in memory of his brother-in-law Lewis Fulton. The Metropolitan Police held a short ceremony to dedicate their own tree.

Tea and coffee was served in the main building - again courtesy of PMAS - and when the families were ready they were taken to Catton Hall for the 'Party in the Park'.

This was time for the families to relax and chat in the glorious sunshine. West Midlands Police Brass Band entertained the adults while the children made the most of a variety of inflatable activities, a visit from the police helicopter, the Blue Knights and vintage cars. PMAS ran a tombola stall with all the profits going to COPS.

The 2004 survivor weekend was far busier than the first event and was very much a learning experience for the trustees, but one thing is certain: the weekend is here to stay and will continue to be the place where survivors gather to share their memories with friends old and new.

Family Liaison Conference

Care of Police Survivors was delighted to be asked to address the National Conference for Police Family Liaison Officers at the Hilton Hotel in Coventry on 17th June 2004. Helen Walker, Christine Fulton and Jim McNulty made the presentation with fellow trustee Bob Young in the audience.

Helen opened the presentation telling the conference of her experiences following the death on duty of her husband Mac and of the tremendous support she received from her family liaison team. She spoke not only of the night Mac died but also of the nightmare months that followed; of when she was mugged the first time she went out on her own and of being diagnosed with cancer and the subsequent chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Throughout it all, her FLOs were there to support her in every way they could and although they are not in regular contact now, Helen knows they are always at the end of the phone if she needs their advice.

Christine then spoke movingly of her experiences after the murder of her husband Lewis and how at that time there were no family liaison officers. Her speech became all the more poignant when she revealed that it was ten years to the day since Lewis's death. She went on to explain how she had met Jim McNulty, and how he had persuaded her to come with him to Washington DC for Police Memorial Week and to observe an organisation called Concerns of Police Survivors. Christine spoke about meeting police widows for the first time and through speaking with them realised that all of the emotions she had gone through in the previous nine years had been normal, a normal reaction to grief, just nobody had ever told her that before. She told the conference about forming COPS and her determination that in future a police survivor would always be able to speak to the only person who truly understood how they felt, another survivor.

Jim McNulty then took over and spoke of how as a police officer he had always believed that if anything had ever happened to him the Police Force would look after his family and of his realisation that this was not the case. He told of visiting Washington DC and observing their organisations and of his efforts to start a similar organisation in Britain. He explained to the conference how COPS hoped to work in partnership with the police and especially the FLO teams. He told them about the survivor weekend held annually at Lichfield and that they would all be very welcome to attend.

Christine Fulton then closed the presentation and thanked the conference for inviting them and for their attention. The response to the presentation was encouraging with many delegates approaching the four trustees afterwards to purchase pins and ask questions. In the days that followed many FLOs telephoned with further questions, requests for newsletters and details of survivor families who would like to be contacted by COPS.

National Police Week (Washington DC)

Since 1998, Jim McNulty and Dick Coleman have been involved in taking groups of British Police Officers to National Police Week in Washington DC. In 2003, this annual visit was organised by Care of Police Survivors with UK survivors becoming involved in the group.

National Police Week in Washington DC centres on the 15th May, which is National Police Day in USA and proclaimed as such by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

The week is based around the magnificent National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, erected in the centre of Washington DC in 1991. Inscribed on the walls of the Memorial are the names of over 14,000 Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty in USA since the earliest days of professional law enforcement.

Thousands of Police Officers from across the USA attend National Police Week and increasingly there is becoming more of an international attendance.

There are two principal services during the week. On May 13th, a Candlelight Vigil is held at the National Memorial when Officers whose names are to be newly added to the Wall of Remembrance are honoured. These include not only Officers who have died in the previous year but Officers who have been identified through ongoing research.

On May 15th, a service takes place on the West Lawn of the US Capitol where the Officers who have died in the previous year are remembered. This service is invariably attended by the President of the United States who takes time out to meet surviving families.

There are many events during National Police Week which are an amazing mix of remembrance, sadness and celebration of the lives of those officers who have been lost.

COPS is honoured to be allowed to have serving British Officers in uniform take part in the official services of remembrance.

Jim McNulty once wrote; *"This will be one of the most powerful weeks of your life. You will never forget it."*

National Police Memorial Day

Another of Jim McNulty's dreams was for a National Police Memorial Day when the families of fallen officers would come together with serving police officers and their families to remember those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, he did not live long enough to see that dream come true as he died two days before the first service took place.

Held in the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral in London on October 3rd 2004, the service was attended by many survivors, police personnel, the Duchess of Gloucester and members of the government. COPS were represented by trustees Helen Walker, Bob Young and President Christine Fulton. Christine was honoured to be asked to take part in the service by reading a line from a prayer and then lighting a candle in remembrance of all police officers who have died in the line of duty in Scotland.

Prior to the service, COPS had organised a buffet lunch at a nearby restaurant for many survivors, allowing them a chance to meet up with the friends they had made at the survivor weekend in Lichfield.

The service will be held annually in a different part of the country. In 2005 it will take place on October 2nd in St Peter's Hall, Cardiff and Christine Fulton will be part of the national organising committee.

Scottish Police Memorial Trust

The Scottish Police Memorial Trust was formed in January 2003 by COPS co-founders Jim McNulty and Christine Fulton along with serving Strathclyde Police Officer Stuart McAllister. Stuart is the editor of the COPS newsletter.

Their aim was to build a fitting memorial for all Scottish Police Officers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. A suitable site was identified within the grounds of the Scottish Police College and permission was sought from the Director of the college David Garbutt. Mr Garbutt responded positively, becoming a trustee and giving much valuable input into the design and planning. Representatives from the Scottish Police organisations also became members of the Trust and enthusiastically set about raising over £100,000 which was needed to build the memorial and landscape the surrounding areas.

The memorial was unveiled by HRH the Princess Royal on September 7th 2004, just eighteen months after the trust was first formed - a remarkable achievement. Comprising of three blue granite stones, the memorial is situated in a peaceful garden that affords privacy for visiting families. Engraved on the

stones are the names of the officers, ranging from 1770 to 2003. It is illuminated at night and a specially commissioned flag is flown at the entrance. This is ceremonially raised and lowered every day by college staff. The memorial serves not only as a tangible reminder to families that their officer's sacrifice is recognised but also alerts recruits to the dangers of policing and the examples of courage set by those who preceded them.

A memorial to Jim McNulty, made of the same blue granite as the main memorial, will be placed in the gardens in 2005.

COPS - the future

COPS continues to grow steadily, and the trustees are determined to maintain the level of support that they offer to families and where possible increase it.

Planning for the 2005 Survivor Weekend is already well underway with many changes being made as we grow and adapt to survivors needs. A weekend in York has been organised in February for the parents of officers who have died in the line of duty. This will give them the opportunity to talk with other parents whilst enjoying a break from their normal routine. Seventeen parents have accepted our invitation and it is hoped that this will grow into an annual event. A day out is also being organised during the Easter holiday for the children.

Work is underway on a Line of Duty Death manual which we would hope to issue to all forces in Britain. It will not be intended to be the definitive manual as each death will have different circumstances but will contain good and bad practises as highlighted to us by survivors. Only by bringing this to the attention of police forces can we help to make life a little easier for future surviving families.

COPS is examining the implications to survivors in the proposed new Police Pension Scheme where it appears that existing survivors will be significantly disadvantaged in comparison to future survivors. COPS will make whatever representation is felt appropriate in this matter to support those existing survivors.

It is hoped to produce a range of clothing this year featuring the COPS ribbon logo. As well as helping to raise much-needed funds for the charity it will increase public awareness of our organisation.

Although two years has passed quickly, COPS is still very much in its infancy and at the moment operated entirely by volunteers from their own homes. Our long-term aim is to have our own dedicated Office staffed by a paid coordinator which will ease the burden on the Trustees and other volunteers. This cannot be achieved though until we can establish a guaranteed source of funding, which we are seeking at the moment.

Accounts

At the moment COPS as a registered charity is solely funded by voluntary donations and fundraising. Our principal source of income is the sale of our COPS ribbon lapel pin. Since July 2003 over 14,000 pins have been sold and we have Officers throughout the country selling pins on our behalf. Many were sold to the public during a very successful appeal through the News of the World in 2004. COPS is grateful to all those who have made donations and taken part in various fundraising events.

COPS are currently changing our financial year from 1st July - 30th June to 1st January to 31st December. These summary accounts during this interim period therefore are for the seven-month period 1st July 2004 - 31st December 2004.

Care of Police Survivors Income & Expenditure Account

Period: 01/07/04 - 31/12/2004

Sales	£	£
Total		11,049
Other Income		
Total		9,121
Reserved Funds		
Total		<u>1,426</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>21,596</u>
Direct Costs		
		13,346
Admin Expenditure		
Total		<u>7,899</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>21,245</u>
Surplus		<u>351</u>

Balance Sheet	£	£
Current Assets		
Bank	23,328	
Current Liabilities		
Reserved funds		<u>1,426</u>
Total assets less liabilities		<u><u>21,902</u></u>
Capital and Reserves		
Accumulated surplus		23,328
Reserved capital		<u>(1,426)</u>
		<u><u>21,902</u></u>

How to contact COPS

write to: **Care of Police Survivors**
 PO Box 26101
 Kilmarnock
 KA3 2YQ

telephone: **0870 744 2586**
fax: **0870 744 2587**

e-mail: **admin@ukcops.org**

website: **www.ukcops.org**

References

Scottish Police Memorial Trust
www.spmt.org.uk

The Police Roll of Honour Trust
www.policememorial.org.uk

National Police Memorial Day
www.livegroup.co.uk/policememorial

Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS)
United States of America
www.nationalcops.org

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund
United States of America
www.nleomf.com