

CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

"Rebuilding Shattered Lives"



ANNUAL REPORT

to 31st December 2005

www.ukcops.org

COPS is a registered charity number 1101478

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FOREWORD

COPS was originally formed in March 2003 and in the past three years so much has been achieved in gathering support, raising money and bringing survivors together.

The year 2005 has been our busiest yet and it is often difficult for the Trustees and our volunteers to keep pace with everything that comes our way, yet we always seem to be able to. Our achievements are a measure of the dedication and determination of those who raise funds for us and give their time to make things happen.

Sadly we continue to lose Officers throughout the country, some cases make the headlines and some do not, but with every loss, our list of survivors continues to grow.

In preparation for a presentation we found some remarkable statistics relating to Officers who died in the years 2000 to 2005 from accidents and incidents involving motor vehicles. There were 63 losses of which 27 were going to or from duty. The losses returning home (18) were twice (9) those who were going to duty. Those 63 Officers left behind them 87 children. That is a clear illustration of why COPS is needed.

As you read through this, our second Annual Report, you will begin to understand the enormity of our task. On behalf of the Trustees I give my grateful thanks to those many people who believe in what we are doing and work with us on behalf of the survivors.

Richard Coleman (Chair of Trustees)

**COPS TRUSTEES
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2005**

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

RICHARD COLEMAN
Retired Police Inspector
Chairman

Appointed for three years on 17th June 2004

DOUGIE BROWN
Police Constable
Treasurer

Appointed for three years on 17th June 2004

ANGELA HAM
Police Mutual Assurance Society

Appointed for three years on 30th July 2005

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 almost 200 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.

NEWS OF THE WORLD APPEAL

Following the tragic loss of Sharon Beshenivsky in Bradford last November, the News of the World carried out another fundraising appeal on behalf of COPS. This resulted in nearly 4,000 responses, the dispatch of over 5,500 COPS pins and receipt of donations of £20,000 for COPS. The Trustees will be making a donation to West Yorkshire Police for the Beshenivsky family.

There was a little confusion when the News of the World, in error, published a picture of the survivors pin with a red heart. This pin is unique to survivors only and will not be made available to the public.

There was considerable support from the public and many took time to write and express their thoughts. We have chosen the following letter from many which is typical of those thoughts.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Police Officers, past and present. They are owed a tremendous debt of gratitude, especially those who have given their lives protecting the communities they served. I cannot imagine the nightmare life would become if there were no police and thank God for those who daily face the unknown in an increasingly aggressive and violent society. These days, when there is so much red tape, bureaucracy, ineffective sentencing, political correctness gone mad and so called 'human rights', which effectively hog-tie those trying to uphold the law, I am surprised that there are still people willing to train and serve. I thank you all and God bless you all."

The Trustees are grateful to Dick and Tina Coleman for all their hard work in coordinating the dispatch of COPS pins during this campaign.

SURVIVORS WEEKEND

The third annual survivors weekend was held on 29th – 31st July at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The weather on the Thursday was dreadful, with torrential rain; there was even a mini tornado in nearby Birmingham! It did not look promising, but over the course of Friday it slowly brightened up, and once again we were blessed with a dry weekend.

Over 150 survivors were expected. Although Friday started quietly, more survivors arrived as the day wore on and the hotel filled with noise as the families recognised each other from previous years and happily caught up with their news. Survivors Sarah Moore, Allison Munn and Tracy Walker staffed the reception desk, ensuring that everybody was greeted personally and issued with a welcome pack. Minibuses arrived from Scotland and London bringing with them our honoured guests Suzie and Buzz Sawyer from America. Suzie – who was making her first visit to Britain especially to attend our weekend - is the Executive Director of COPS in the USA. Also joining us for the weekend was Dermot O'Donell with some ladies from the Garda Survivors Support Association who were in the early stages of establishing their own support group.

On Friday evening, the families enjoyed an excellent hot and cold buffet in the hotel, which had been sponsored by Awards for All West Midlands; it was a resounding success, the families greatly appreciating being able to relax in the hotel while the children ate and watched videos in another room. During the course of the evening, we were joined by more arrivals including some members of the Blue Knights.

The weekend officially began on Saturday lunchtime at the National Memorial Arboretum where a buffet lunch was served, courtesy once again of the Police Mutual Assurance Society. A tree dedication ceremony followed in memory of PC Richard Gunn and COPS co-founder Jim McNulty. It was simple but very moving, and ended with the release of white doves, provided free of charge by Dennis Sanders of Pax Liberation.

Children aged eight and over were taken on a trip to Cadbury World accompanied by four qualified adults. A magician came to the Arboretum to entertain the younger ones, accompanied by three qualified adults who stayed with them, allowing the parents to enjoy their free time.

Two seminars were held in the afternoon, and any survivors who did not wish to attend were given the opportunity to go into Lichfield to look around the shops and visit the cathedral. The first seminar was taken by Dick Coleman and Christine Fulton, outlining why COPS was started, together with our aims and plans for the future. The second dealt with how grief affects children of different ages and was taken by Louise Pye, who is both a Detective Constable with Sussex Police and a Family Liaison Co-ordinator with a special interest in children. Louise distributed her book "Forget Me Not" at the end of the seminar, which proved very thought-provoking and helpful, as many people commented at its conclusion.

In the evening, the families travelled by coach to nearby Packington Moor Farm, where the owners could not have made us more welcome. Nothing was too much trouble for them, and the food they served was delicious. Several Chief Constables and senior officers joined us for what was an extremely enjoyable and relaxed evening.

Suzie Sawyer gave a humorous account of the early days of Concerns of Police Survivors, and presented Dick and Christine with a gift to mark the special relationship between the two organisations. Dick reciprocated by presenting Suzie with some gifts to take back to America, including a baby's bib embroidered with our logo for her new grandson!

This was followed by the presentation of the COPS Volunteer of the Year award to Thames Valley Police's Detective Constable Paul Mackie for outstanding pin sales of £1,300. The evening ended with an impromptu disco which rounded the day off perfectly.

The annual service of remembrance was held at the Arboretum on Sunday morning. The survivors were pleased to welcome representatives from 32 police forces or organisations, including the British Association of Women Police Officers, the International Police Association, the Police Roll of Honour Trust and the National Police Memorial Day Committee. Music was provided once again by West Midlands Police Band and Nottinghamshire Police Pipe Band. This year, the soloist was eleven-year-old Zara Edwards - daughter of famed police cartoonist Jedd - who performed two songs. The service was preceded by the arrival at the Arboretum of the Law Ride consisting of Blue Knights and marked police motorcycles followed by vintage police vehicles from the Metropolitan Police and our own American police cruiser.

Chairman Dick Coleman commenced the service; the first reading was then given by local MP Michael Fabricant and the second by survivor Enid Morton. COPS President Christine Fulton invited the force representatives to lay their wreaths on behalf of their own forces, and read the names of the thirteen officers who had died in the previous twelve months. The police helicopter delivered its now-traditional fly-past, and Suzie Sawyer made a powerful speech to close the service.

At the conclusion of the service, survivors were invited to come forward and take a rose - provided this year by the Police Mutual Assurance Society - to place beside their force or personal tree, where they were joined by their Chief Constables and other officers who wished to pay their respects.

Tea and coffee, kindly provided by PMAS, was served in the main building and once the families were ready, they were transported back to Packington Moor Farm for lunch and a chance to relax before they started their journeys home. West Midlands Police Band played, and the children made the most of the inflatable activities. Various stalls were present including one selling the new range of COPS clothing and one providing information about the National Memorial Day in October.

The 2005 Survivors weekend had grown yet again and is expected to continue to do so in years to come. The trustees were satisfied that the event's general format and content was as it should have been, and will now only need minor adjustments each year.

PARENTS WEEKEND

COPS first Parents Weekend was held on 18th - 20th February in the beautiful city of York. It was possibly the coldest weekend of the year! Nobody however seemed to mind as the hotel was as warm as it was welcoming, and the views over the river as the snow came down were spectacular.

Fifteen parents attended - some with trepidation and unsure what to expect - but by the end of the weekend, all agreed it had been worthwhile. COPS President Christine Fulton and her son Luke attended to see that everything ran smoothly, and survivor Gill Merrin - a trained bereavement counsellor - was also present.

On the Friday evening, the group went to a nearby restaurant for a meal. For many, it was the first time they had met each other, but friendships were soon formed and the conversation flowed. On returning to the hotel, the survivors were delighted to be joined by the Divisional Commander from North Yorkshire Police who had heard they were there and who had come to join them for a drink.

Saturday was a free day with the survivors making the most of the many wonderful tourist attractions in the area, before meeting for a meal in the hotel at the end of the day. This was another most enjoyable evening, and an excellent way to end the weekend.

Arranging a weekend away for a specific group of survivors was something new for COPS, and the trustees had much discussion as to how much or little to provide. The decision was taken to only arrange the group meal and to invite survivors' input as to how they would like the weekends to develop. The feedback from the parents favoured an organised outing as part of the weekend and this will be taken into account for future events. Without doubt though, this first weekend was a pleasurable and rewarding experience.

'Being with people who are in the same circumstances is better than any medicine a doctor can prescribe.'

Baz Munn

CHILDREN'S DAY OUT

A day out for the children and their Mum's was arranged at 'CONKERS', an adventure play park in the heart of the National Forest. On Sunday 3rd April six widows and eleven children enjoyed a fun filled day with COPS paying for the entrance fee and lunch.

While the children took advantage of the freedom to roam safely the Mum's were able to relax and chat over coffee. One of the important parts of the day was seeing the obvious bond developing between the children with the older ones being very protective of the younger ones. No longer did these children feel they were the only ones who had lost a police officer father, they were now part of a very special group.

The day was such a success it is hoped to make this an annual event.

TRIBUTES TO JIM MCNULTY

On October 1st 2004 COPS co-founder Jim McNulty lost his long battle with leukaemia. Since then many tributes have been paid to this outstanding and courageous man, a tree has been dedicated to him at the National Memorial Arboretum and an engraved stone has been placed within the gardens of the Scottish Police Memorial at the Scottish Police College in Tulliallan, Fife.

Perhaps the most outstanding tribute and one that Jim would have been so proud to receive was the Distinguished Service Award from Concerns of Police Survivors, our sister group in America. The award is made annually to the person who has done the most to further the cause of COPS and is presented during National Police Week. Jim's brother and sister accepted the award on behalf of his family and a smaller replica plaque was accepted by Jim's partner Christine Fulton on behalf of COPS.

The following day a memorial service was held in Judiciary Square, home to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The service had been organised by Jim's friend Ken Roden who had arranged for a flag to be flown over the Capital Building in Jim's honour. The flag was presented to Christine and Dick Coleman and is now on display within the Scottish Police College.

SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In November, Christine Fulton was delighted to be invited to make a presentation about COPS to the SIO conference at Wyboston in Bedfordshire. Christine shared the stage with Ian O'Connell, a family liaison officer from Greater Manchester Police. Together, they gave two presentations which were very well received, and which invoked a lot of feedback as well as several offers from officers willing to sell pins or distribute newsletters.

COPS POLICE CAR

Shortly before his death, COPS co-founder Jim McNulty and Trustee Dougie Brown discussed the idea of bringing a fully-liveried American cop car to the UK to promote COPS. Jim immediately thought of his good friend Chief Charlie Deane of Prince William County Police Department in Virginia and promised to contact him about it. Sadly, this did not happen as Jim died a few days later, but Dougie was determined to make it happen not only for COPS but also in Jim's memory.

Charlie agreed without hesitation to donate one of his Ford Crown Victoria fleet, which became available to us in March 2005. Through contacts in the US, Dougie was able to have the car shipped to England at absolutely no cost to COPS; this was in no small measure due to the generosity and enthusiastic support of David Lillie of M&S Shipping of Harold Wood, Essex, to whom we extend our gratitude.

After undergoing the UK registration and test processes - again at no expense to COPS - the car is now fully road-going and looks forward to a busy year promoting and fundraising at various events throughout the UK. Lincolnshire Police are supporting its upkeep, and the enthusiasm of individuals and forces has been very encouraging. Prepare to have your head turned!

NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL DAY

The National Police Memorial Day was held on October 2nd in Cardiff. COPS is proud to be represented on the committee by Christine Fulton and will continue to promote the day where ever possible. The 2006 service will be held on October 1st in Belfast.

TAGGART CONVENTION

On 19th October the fan club of the popular TV series Taggart held their first convention in Glasgow. The cast of the show had been asked to nominate a charity to benefit from the evening and following a chance meeting between Christine Fulton and actor John Michie COPS was chosen.

The night was a huge success and COPS was delighted to accept a cheque for £800.

NEWSLETTER

The quarterly newsletter is now established and is edited by PC Stuart McAllister, a serving officer with Strathclyde Police. Under his care, it has developed into a professional and informative publication. The extended edition in September included the report and photographs from the Survivor Weekend.

COPS – THE FUTURE

COPS continues to grow at an extraordinary rate, proving without doubt the need for such an organisation. The last three years have been a steep learning curve for the Trustees and will no doubt continue to be so. COPS aim is to provide support to survivors in any way they can, and will welcome any comments or suggestions.

Many plans are already in place for 2006 with one of the most exciting being the two day break arranged for the wives at Hoar Cross Hall health spa in January. The survivor's weekend in Lichfield will follow a similar format to 2005 with the addition of an extra outing and entertainment for the children and more facilities at Packington Moor Farm on the Sunday afternoon. A day out for the children has been arranged on Sunday May 28th at the Snow Dome in Staffordshire.

COPS has been invited to make a presentation to the Officer Safety Conference in London in January and in February a number of trustees will be in Dublin to support the Garda Survivors Support Association at their launch. It is hoped that the COPS car will be taken to many police events around the country to help raise awareness of our organisation.

The campaign against the new Police Pension Scheme, due to come into force in April 2006, continues unabated. Many widows and widowers have written to their MP's and the Home Secretary who has agreed to give careful consideration to a review of survivor benefits. A meeting has been arranged at the Houses of Parliament in March and pressure will be maintained to correct this discrimination.

COPS will be represented at many police conferences throughout the UK thanks to trustee Angela Ham and her employers at Police Mutual Assurance Society. The Trustees would like to thank the PMAS for their continued support.

COPS is currently working on a project to erect a new memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. The aim is to create a memorial where the names of ALL the police officers who have died in the line of duty are on view.

We are in discussions with the Police Mutual Assurance Society (PMAS), who are the custodians of "The Beat" at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, and with the Police Roll of Honour Trust, to examine the feasibility of enhancing "The Beat" with such a new memorial which would be unique in the UK.

2006 will be a busy year for COPS as we continue to grow and develop, sadly there will always be survivors but now they have somewhere to turn to for help and understanding.

ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the period from 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005

	£	£
Sales		15,359
Donations		<u>7,206</u>
Total Income		22,565
Direct Costs	(19,945)	
Administration Expenses	<u>(5,483)</u>	
Total Expenditure		(25,428)
Deficit for the period		<u>(2,863)</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2005

	£
Current assets	
Cash at bank	25,658
Current Liabilities	
Reserved funds	<u>(3,858)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>21,800</u>
Capital & Reserves	
Brought forward profit / loss appropriation	28,521
Current period deficit	(2,863)
Reserved capital	<u>(3,858)</u>
	<u>21,800</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.nationalpolicememorialday.org

Blue Knights United Kingdom & Ireland Conference
www.bkukic.co.uk/

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