

CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

"Rebuilding Shattered Lives"



ANNUAL REPORT

to 31st December 2006

www.ukcops.org

COPS is a registered charity number 1101478

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Foreword

In my Foreword to the Annual Report for 2005 I commented that it had been our busiest year so far. It does not surprise me that 2006 has been even busier! Our Survivors Weekend in 2006 was attended by more and more survivors and an ever increasing number of representatives from Police Forces and Organisations throughout the UK and beyond.

Sadly our Survivors increase as Officers continue to die on duty but we are also welcoming more Survivors from past deaths who have now become aware of COPS.

Since COPS developed, many Survivors have become close friends and they in turn have welcomed new Survivors. These friendships have created a network of families who are supporting one another through their grief and at the same time a truly remarkable family of another dimension has evolved – the family of COPS.

The attendance at our Survivors Weekend is a measure of just how COPS has grown and how it continues to grow in such a short span of time. Throughout this Annual Report you will again read of a diversity of activity for and on behalf of Survivors. It would be remiss of me not to give grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed to another amazing year of achievement.

On a personal note, this will be my last Foreword as Chair of Trustees as I have decided, for personal reasons, to stand down as a Trustee from 1st January 2007. I was pleased to support Jim McNulty and Christine Fulton from the outset and privileged to serve as a Trustee and as Chair of the Trustees following the loss of Jim.

Perhaps my most treasured memory is seeing the way that COPS has now been embraced by Police Officers and Organisations throughout the country and knowing that Jim's dream has been fulfilled and that I have been able to play a part in realising his dream.

A remarkable organisation has grown from the dream and the belief of a remarkable man, but I cannot close without paying tribute to another remarkable person – Christine Fulton. Christine works tirelessly for COPS and her dedication has been a very significant contribution to keeping the dream alive.

Richard Coleman
Chair of trustees

COPS Trustees

As at 31st December 2006

CHRISTINE FULTON
Police Widow
National President

Appointed for five years on 22nd September 2003

HELEN WALKER
Police Widow

Reappointed for three years on 22nd September 2006

RICHARD COLEMAN
Retired Police Inspector
Chairman

Reappointed for two years on 17th June 2006

DOUGIE BROWN
Police Constable

Appointed for two years on 17th June 2004

ANGELA HAM
Police Mutual

Appointed for two years on 30th July 2005

COPS Volunteers

GILL BIRD
Treasurer

SUE BRACE
Fundraising co-ordinator.

DENIS GUNN
Survivor Representative

STUART McALLISTER
Newsletter Editor

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.

Spouses Weekend

Hoar Cross Hall Spa Resort near Lichfield in Staffordshire must have wondered what had hit them on 24th January, when 18 COPS members descended on them for a 2-day break provided by the charity.

Coming from all corners of England, Scotland and Wales, for some it was the first time they had met each other. With facials and other treatments though, they seemed to bump into each other everywhere, and before long were engaged in talking about their loved ones' deaths, how they had coped and were coping, and generally putting the world to rights. The group met in the bar prior to dinner, then enjoyed a very nice meal with champagne then coffee and time for a drink before bed.

Following a cooked breakfast, the morning evolved into treatments and exercise classes. During lunch, the local press even had a photo and interview session and by late afternoon (after more treatments, classes and even archery!), people began to make their way home.

Some of the group had been on their own for only a few months, others for 30 years, but there was far more laughter than tears; surely by people sharing their personal experiences, it has helped to answer some of the questions they may have had about losing their loved ones. There have certainly been many new friendships made and old ones renewed.

Driving Lessons from the JIM MCNULTY Memorial Fund

Following the death of COPS co-founder Jim McNulty in 2004, a considerable sum of money was donated to the charity in his memory. This money was kept separate from the general funds while the trustees debated how best to use it.

One of Jim's great passions was driving; he had been an instructor in the police driving school and was a nationally recognised expert witness for car crime. Whenever he spoke about the type of things which children miss out on when they lose a parent he always mentioned driving lessons "It is a father's job to teach his children to drive."

It was therefore decided that the most suitable and fitting use for the money was to provide a block of ten driving lessons for each surviving child on reaching the age of seventeen. The scheme commenced on 1st June and the first recipient Michelle Walker daughter of PC Mac Walker (West Midlands Police) and trustee Helen Walker passed her test at the first attempt on 30th October. We hope that this is a good omen and that many more will pass their tests in 2007 and the years to come.

Survivors Weekend

The fourth annual Survivors Weekend was held on the 21st – 23rd July, a week earlier than usual as one of the regular venues was already booked. The weather was cool and damp but the rain mercifully stayed away for the outdoor events.

Almost 200 survivors were attending and although some were only coming on the Sunday the vast majority arrived on the Friday to make the most of the weekend with old and new friends. The atmosphere was very much that of a family occasion as people caught up with each other's news and the children raced from room to room finding their friends.

As attendance was so much higher this year a marquee was erected on the grass opposite the hotel for the children where they had dinner and were entertained by Dizzy Lizzy and her staff. One of the highlights enjoyed by all the children was making their own teddy bears from special kits which were then dressed in little white t-shirts embroidered with the COPS logo. Dizzy Lizzy and the teddies were paid for by sponsorship from Awards for All (West Midlands). In the hotel the adults were treated to an excellent hot and cold buffet and chatted till the early hours of the morning. The hotel manager was delighted to inform us that they had recorded the highest ever takings at the bar! During the course of the evening a presentation of a paperweight and certificate was made to a representative from the News of the World in recognition for the tremendous support we had received from them and their readers.

After a leisurely start on the Saturday morning the older children were split into two groups with one going to Drayton Manor theme park and the other to Go Kidz Go, a large soft play and entertainment centre. The adults and younger children travelled to the Arboretum by coach. In a change of format the tree dedications were held first. Allison Munn and her father in law Baz were first and paid tribute not only to Allison's husband Andy but also to COPS co-founder Jim McNulty. Sarah Moore, Tracy Walker and Sandra Burton followed, making moving speeches about their own husbands, of their lives together and their lives apart. At the end of the service white doves were released, provided free of charge by Dennis Sanders of Pax Liberations.

A buffet lunch was provided by Police Mutual and this was followed by seminars taken by Roger Hunt from Compassionate Friends and David Hines from the North of England Victims Association. The regular magician Chris Peskett entertained the children and anybody who didn't wish to attend the seminars had the opportunity to go into Lichfield to do some shopping.

In the evening, the families travelled by coach to Packington Moor Farm where once again they were treated like royalty by the owner and her staff. We were delighted that many Chief Constables were able to join us for dinner and took time to chat to the families. After dinner, Chairman Dick Coleman took the opportunity to thank the many people who had worked so hard to make the weekend a success. This was followed by the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award to COPS newsletter editor and photographer Stu McAllister. It came as a complete surprise to Stu who was standing up ready to take a photograph of the winner when he realised it was himself!

The following morning the annual Service of Remembrance was held at the National Memorial Arboretum. Fifty three representatives from forces and police organisations attended the service, a huge increase on previous years. The Law Ride organised by Sgt Geoff Martin of the Blue Knights was bigger than ever with over one hundred motorbikes taking part as well as some vintage police cars and the COPS cruiser. Music was provided once again by Nottingham Police Pipe Band and by West Midlands Police Band; the soloist was Miss Elspeth Brown, daughter of trustee Dougie Brown.

Chairman Dick Coleman commenced the service; the first reading was given by survivor Denis Gunn and the second by another survivor Jonathon Moore. COPS President Christine Fulton invited the force representatives to lay their wreaths and then read the names of the seventeen officers who had died in the previous twelve months. The police helicopter flew over making its traditional bow to the survivors and the service was closed by local MP Michael Fabricant.

At the conclusion of the service the families collected a rose, provided once again by Police Mutual, and made their way to their own tree where after a few moments of quiet reflection they were joined by officers from their force.

Tea and coffee, which was also provided by Police Mutual, was served in the main building then coaches escorted by the Blue Knights transported the families back to Packington Moor Farm for lunch and a chance to relax while a bouncy castle and a rodeo bull kept the children entertained.

Police Review magazine gave extensive coverage to the weekend and described it as being like an ordinary family summer party and indeed it was, there were of course some sad and sombre moments but there was so much laughter. For the first time the entire weekend was filmed and a DVD is now available to purchase.

Police Bravery Awards

On Thursday 13th July the Federation of England and Wales in conjunction with the Sun newspaper held their annual Police Bravery Awards at the Dorchester Hotel in London. The ceremony is held to honour those police officers who had shown the most outstanding acts of bravery as well as paying tribute to those officers who had lost their lives in the previous twelve months. Christine Fulton and her son Luke were invited to represent COPS at this most prestigious event which was held in the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

During the course of the evening Christine was able to meet with some of the families who had lost an officer recently. As many of the families were coming to Lichfield it was especially nice to be able to put faces to the names and also for them to meet each other before the weekend. During the course of the evening a film was shown of the officers who had died accompanied by tributes from their families. Although this was very emotional all of the families agreed it had been an honour for them to be able to be able to pay their own tribute. Earlier in the day the families had gone to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, survivor Kate Parker made certain she made the most of the opportunity by speaking to them both about our widow's pension campaign.

Home Secretary John Reid attended in the evening and made without doubt the funniest speech of the night before spending a considerable amount of time speaking to as many police officers and their families as he could. Also present was Cherie Blair along with stars of The Bill, Eastenders and Heartbeat.

Many congratulations to PC Sarah Hobson, formerly of West Midlands Police and now serving with Devon & Cornwall Constabulary who was the overall winner

Pension Campaign

The campaign to include the pensions of widows/widowers who have lost their spouse in the line of duty in the new police pension scheme has continued throughout 2006. In March the then Minister for Police Hazel Blears MP met with trustee Helen Walker, Sarah Moore and Sue Bishop along with their MP's. Mrs Blears was sympathetic to our concerns and confirmed that the Home Secretary is currently reviewing the proposals and it was hoped that we would have an answer shortly.

In November COPS President Christine Fulton and Tracy Walker met with the current Minister for Police Tony McNulty, he listened carefully to what they had to say, expressed sympathy and once again assured us that we would have an answer shortly!

The campaign has received a lot of media coverage and has the support of the general public. Many federations are now taking up the cause and it is hoped that the matter will be raised at the national conference of the Federation for England and Wales in 2007.

National Police Memorial Day

The National Police Memorial Day was held on October 1st in Belfast. COPS is proud to be represented on the committee by Christine Fulton and will continue to promote the day where ever possible. The 2007 service will be held on September 30th in Edinburgh.

Children's Day Out

On Sunday May 28th a group of 17 children age between 4 and 16 years, along with 10 parents visited the Snowdome in Tamworth for the day to renew some old friendships and make some new ones.

The older children began by tobogganing while the younger ones followed on inner tubes, to much hilarity. After lunch came ice skating and, for the younger ones, snowballing and making snowmen. With a trip to the park to finish off the day it was a magical experience.

This is what COPS is all about, getting families, including the children, together and reminding them they are not alone.

Sonic Communications Sponsors COPS

Sonic Communications Limited have agreed to provide support to COPS over an initial period of two years. This sponsorship will include the provision of some financial support towards the COPS Annual Survivor's Weekend. The Managing Director David Bryan has also agreed to pay £1.00 for every lapel pin sold since Sonic's involvement with COPS, up to a maximum of £500.

In addition, Mick Foster QPM who works for Sonic as a part-time consultant, and is a retired Assistant Chief Constable to the National Crime Squad (West Midlands Police), has agreed to give support to the COPS trustees.

COPS are delighted to work with Sonic, and look forward to a long relationship. For more information on Sonic Communications, visit their website at www.sonic-comms.com.

Sir Keith Povey appointed as COPS Patron

Care of Police Survivors is delighted to announce that Sir Keith Povey QPM BA, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary for England and Wales, has been appointed the first Patron of COPS. We are extremely honoured that Sir Keith has agreed to work with COPS at this level, and look forward to a long association with him.

Sir Keith said; 'I was delighted to be asked to be the first ever Patron of COPS and it is both an honour and a pleasure to be associated with such a worthwhile cause. I do believe that the progress made in the short time since the formation of COPS in March 2003 is quite remarkable and a real tribute to the founding members and the trustees.

Their support to families of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty is acknowledged throughout the service. I recently viewed the Lichfield DVD of the 2006 Survivor Weekend and was very pleased to see the service so well represented at what I thought was a really dignified, warm and moving occasion.

So, I look forward immensely to my association with COPS and I hope to meet many members at this year's Survivor Weekend.'

COPS—The Future

2006 was a busy year as we rose to the challenge of meeting survivor's needs and taking their suggestions on board. 2007 will continue in the same vein.

An excellent suggestion came from one of the wives who asked if we could organise a seminar for basic DIY. After a bit of searching a lady who specialises in teaching DIY to ladies has been found and a seminar organised for February. The same weekend we have also arranged for a session on basic car safety. This will take place at the Holiday Inn in Lichfield, a group meal has been arranged for the Saturday night and free weekend passes have been donated by Esporta Health Club to ensure the ladies attending have a chance to chat and relax.

Also planned is a weekend away for the parents at Stratford upon Avon which will include a group meal and a site seeing tour. A day out for the children has been organised during the Easter holiday at Splash Landings, a water theme park next to Alton Towers. The children's day out is being paid for by the parents of Stu Elliot a Blue Knight who died in 2006 at the age of 38 from an undisclosed heart condition. Stu's parents are both retired officers themselves and knowing that Stu was a supporter of COPS they thought this would be a nice thing to do in his memory. The trustees are grateful to the Elliot's and moved by their generosity at such an emotional time.

A group of survivors will be accompanying COPS President Christine Fulton to Washington DC in May for National Police Week. In 2006 only Derek and Rita Sykes were able to represent COPS so it is nice to see a good turn out for 2007.

Plans are well under way for the 2007 Survivors Weekend in July which is expected to be very well attended; the hotel has already been booked in its entirety.

As always COPS will continue to grow and adapt, more survivors are becoming involved in the day to day running of the charity which will help us towards our goal of being a support group for survivors which is run by survivors.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the period from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006

	£	£
Sales		25,178
Donations & Interest		30,791
Total Income		55,969
Direct Costs	(21,591)	
Administration Expenses	(20,627)	
Total Expenditure		(42,218)
Surplus for the period		13,751

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2006

	31 Dec 2006	31 Dec 2005
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank	39,409	25,658
Current Liabilities		
Reserved funds	(3,013)	(3,858)
Total assets less current liabilities	36,396	21,800
Capital & Reserves		
Brought forward profit / loss appropriation	25,658	28,521
Current period surplus / (deficit)	13,751	(2,863)
	39,409	25,658
Less reserved capital	(3,013)	(3,858)
Total Capital & Reserves	36,396	21,800

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