



COPS

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CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

SPRING 2015

Help spouses' pension campaign

THE spouse's pension campaign calling on the Government to allow widows of police officers to keep their spouse's pension if they remarry or cohabit has reached a crucial stage.

The police family is now being asked to help.

As part of the campaign, all survivors, serving and retired police officers, and their families, are being encouraged to write to Police Minister Mike Penning explaining the risks of the job and how it affects family life.

Mr Penning has stated that campaigners would need to provide "compelling and clear arguments" for the current pension scheme to be changed.

He has pointed out that this had been the case when the Government changed the rules allowing pensions for life for war widows in November last year, saying the risks faced by military personnel presented a unique set of circumstances.

In other positive news, the Home Office has ordered a review into the "feasibility and affordability" of allowing police widows and widowers to remarry without losing their pensions.

Mr Penning (pictured far right with campaigners) told MPs in a



Pension campaigners at Westminster with Police Minister Mike Penning.

Parliamentary debate in February that there was a compelling case to close the loophole that can hit the bereaved financially if they find another partner.

The police pension campaign, which has the support of Care of Police Survivors, follows on from a decision in Northern Ireland to reinstate pensions for widows and widowers whose spouses died from 1 January 1972.

Under the RUC Pension Regulations 1988, these survivors will now have their widows' pension reinstated from 1 July 2014.

A petition was started by police widow Kate Hall, whose West Midlands Police officer husband

Colin died from a heart attack at the scene of an incident in 1987. At the time of writing, it has more than 73,000 signatures.

People can write to Mr Penning with their views and stories. Please send your letters to Rt Hon Mike Penning MP, The Bury, Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1HR or attach to an email and send to mike@penning4hemel.com.

Please mark all letters as 'Private & Confidential'. If possible email a copy of your letter to Kate at CathrynHall@outlook.com. If you haven't already signed the online petition please do so at <http://chn.ge/1AtSlw4>.

See page 5 for more

COPS cash for Thin Blue Line

THE police family is once again supporting Care of Police Survivors by raising money for the charity in another social media inspired campaign.

The popular UK Cop Humour Twitter and Facebook page is selling "The Thin Blue Line" Velcro-backed patches (pictured). For every patch sold, £1 will go to COPS.

At the time of writing, thousands of pounds had already been raised for the charity.

The organiser of the campaign – a serving officer – said: "Care of



Police Survivors is the first charity we associate with police. Their work every year in supporting police survivors is invaluable.

"We all hope we'll never need the support of the charity but we wholeheartedly support those that do because we're a family and we know that if we need it that same family will be there for us."

Denis Gunn, COPS President, said: "Care Of Police Survivors is independent of the police service and is funded through charitable donations from individual forces, members of the police family and the general public. We are extremely grateful to all of those who raise funds to allow us to help rebuild shattered lives."



Vicky's thanks

"CARE of Police Survivors has done everything and more to support our family," says survivor Vicky Moore. Vicky lost her father Bryan, a Leicestershire Constabulary officer, in 2002. "COPS has allowed my mum to meet fellow widows and us kids to meet fellow kids." Read more of Vicky's story on Page 7.

COPS gesture for families of Paris officers

CARE of Police Survivors co-founder Christine Fulton was so upset by the senseless murders of three police officers during the terrorist attacks in Paris in January that she felt she had to do something to show some support to their families.

Her first thought was to send a letter, but then she thought why send one letter when she could send dozens? She sent out an appeal to UK survivors who, as always, responded magnificently.



Christine Fulton with some of the letters sent to Paris officers.

Cards and letters, which have now been sent on to Paris, came in from all parts of the UK. They all expressed sympathy and understanding to the bereaved families.

Two teddy bears were also included for the children left without a father, one of whom was only 13 months old.

Christine, who is pictured with some of the letters, said: "We are all part of the same police family with the same worries and fears, I think we all recognised that what happened just a short train ride away could so easily have happened here. Thanks to Krysia Westthorp for her assistance with the translations."

The three officers who died in January were Franck Brinsolaro, 49, Ahmed Merabet, 40, and Clarissa Jean-Philippe, 26.

The officers were awarded posthumous Légion d'honneur, the highest decoration in France.

Fallen PC "was the kind of officer the police service is built upon"

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Merseyside Police officer following his off-duty death during a night out in Liverpool.

PC Neil Doyle, 35, who worked at Eaton Road Station, West Derby, has been described as "a good cop that any officer would be proud to call a colleague" following his death on 19 December.

He was with two off duty colleagues when the incident happened.

PC Neil Doyle's wife, Sarah, said: "Neil was very well loved by all of his family, friends and colleagues and it is a great loss to us all.

"We are finding it extremely difficult to come to terms with what has happened."

Peter Singleton, Chairman of Merseyside Police Federation, described PC Doyle as "a good cop that any officer would be proud to call a colleague".

He had received a string of commendations for his work.

"Neil was dependable, hardworking and just wanted to serve the public," said Mr Singleton.

"He was the kind of officer the police service is built on. This is just devastating news. Our thoughts are with his wife, family, friends and colleagues at this time."

Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner, Jane Kennedy, said: "I am deeply shocked and saddened by this news.

"My heart goes out to the family of Neil Doyle. I am sure I speak for people across Merseyside when I send his loved ones, friends and colleagues our thoughts and most heartfelt sympathy."

Family and friends filled Our Lady



Tributes have been paid to PC Neil Doyle, who died off duty in December.

and Saint Nicholas Church in Liverpool city centre for the funeral of the newly married officer on Friday 23 January.

Members of the public also lined the streets to pay tribute to PC Doyle.

Reverend Bob Lewis, who married Neil and Sarah Doyle last July in the same church, called PC Doyle an "outstanding young man" who "embodied the heart and soul of our city".

Rev Lewis told the service that he was an excellent officer who gave "commitment and loyalty" to his work.

"He enjoyed the diversity of the job with no two days being the same, and he was good at interacting with a wide variety of people.

"As time passed, colleagues wanted to work with him on jobs

and he was looked to by his peers for advice and encouragement."

He added: "Sarah has even received sympathy cards from people he had arrested saying how well he had treated them."

A poem written by his brother Greg, read out at the service, described PC Doyle as a "scholar, a gent, a loving man".

It ended with the words: "So from my heart a sad farewell – it hurts to let you go. I'll miss your smile, and also your touch, in ways you will never know."

Mr Singleton said after the service: "Hundreds of Neil's colleagues came to pay their respects today, while others have volunteered to cover the work and shifts for their colleagues so that those closest to Neil could attend. We will never forget him."

GMP officer memorial

A LASTING memorial to the first Greater Manchester Police officer to die on duty is now in place. PC Ian Rodgers was killed in 1975 when he was moving children off a railway line in Reddish and was hit by a train. His wife Pauline was at the ceremony and planted a tree in his memory. PC Rodgers' two sons Daniel and Andrew and GMP Deputy Chief Constable Ian Hopkins attended the service.



Memorial plans to honour fallen officers

THE Government has announced £1 million to help build a new memorial to honour the United Kingdom's fallen police officers.

The new memorial will cost somewhere in the region of £5 million and is planned to be built at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

More than 4,000 UK police officers have died on duty since records began.

On 20 January, Chancellor George Osborne announced £1 million in Government support for the memorial project.

Sir Hugh Orde, outgoing President of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chairman of the newly established Police Arboretum Memorial Trust, said: "We are indebted to the Chancellor for this generous donation.

"We aim to raise £5 million to build and maintain this proper and fitting memorial to our fallen colleagues. This is particularly timely as police officers go about their duties protecting the public in challenging times."

Jan Berry, Chairman of COPS, said: "Survivors will be very involved



Dignitaries attended a reception to announce a new memorial for fallen officers.

Photo from ACPO.

in the process of what the memorial will be, who it commemorates and how it reflects their experience."

Mr Osborne, speaking at an event at Number 11 Downing Street that was attended by business leaders, Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners, said: "The police across the UK make huge sacrifices to protect us and some, tragically, pay the ultimate price.

"We must honour them, and this National Memorial Arboretum is a powerful idea.

"We are using money raised

from fines on those who have demonstrated the very worst of values in our financial services to support tributes to those who have demonstrated the very best value in our society."

Rob Wilson MP, Minister for Civil Society, has been a prominent supporter of the memorial. He said: "This new memorial will help foster in the fabric of our national life an understanding of the importance of policing.

"We must honour the men and women who protect our commu-

nities just as we do those who lay down their lives in military service."

Sara Thornton, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and Chair-designate of the National Police Chiefs' Council, is also a Trustee of the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust.

In thanking the Chancellor, she said: "This will be a memorial for the modern age.

"We will have a dramatic online and digital presence, with archive and educational materials to bring the story of UK policing to life."

Join us at Remembrance Weekend

MEMBERS of the police family are invited to attend the annual Care of Police Survivors Service of Remembrance on Sunday 26 July 2015.

More than 500 relatives of police officers killed in the line of duty and representatives from forces across the UK will gather for the event – and all are invited.

During the emotional service at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, the Roll of Honour of police officers who have died on duty over the past 12 months will be read out.

Readings will be given by family members of fallen officers, before force representatives lay wreaths to remember the thousands of officers who have died in the line of duty.

The annual weekend is always well attended by chief officers, but Care of Police Survivors would love more frontline officers to come and show their support – particularly at the



Attendees at the 2014 COPS Service of Remembrance in Staffordshire.

Sunday service.

Last year, a guard of honour was formed by serving officers for the families of those who died on duty.

A spokesman for the charity said: "Our survivors would love to see more officers from all ranks in their uniforms 'on The Beat', the police memorial avenue.

"That sort of visible display of sup-

port is priceless and will be a fitting culmination to a weekend of 'healing, love and life renewed'."

The Sunday service will be held at the conclusion of a weekend organised by COPS for the families of those officers who have died on duty.

For more information, visit www.copsnews.co.uk or email admin@ukcops.org.

COPS dates for your 2015 diary

HERE are some upcoming COPS events for 2015.

Survivor Committee Meetings:

18 April, 13 June, 22 August.

Trustee Meetings:

28 March, 27 June, 7 November.

Parent's Weekend:

Wetherby, 20-22nd March.

Children's Weekend:

Disneyland Paris, 10-12 April.

BAPCO:

Manchester, 31 March-1 April.

Gaberlunzie Concert:

Glasgow, 16 April.

Light the Lakes:

Lake District, 30 May.

Survivors' Weekend:

Staffordshire, 24-26 July.

Spouses' Weekend:

16-18 October.

Siblings Weekend:

9-11 October.

Birthday gifts

SURVIVOR Sarah Moore recently celebrated her 50th birthday and instead of presents, Sarah asked for donations to COPS and the local food bank. She was overwhelmed at the generosity of her friends and family and presented a cheque for £505 to COPS. COPS would like to say thank you to Sarah and wish her a happy birthday and congratulations on her engagement.

Mud runners

A TEAM of police officers are getting muddy and wet for Care of Police Survivors "because we would all want our families helped" if they died on duty. The officers are taking part in the 10k multi obstacle "Vision Wild Run" in March. Find more information at www.justgiving.com/WildRunForCOPS/

Blue lights

A BLUE glass tea light holder with candle is now available at the COPS online shop. It costs £6.50 including postage and packaging. See them at www.ukcops.org/cops-shop.php. Also on sale are items including cushions, lapel pins, wristbands and a host of cuddly toys.

New weekend

A NEW alternative survivors weekend is to be set up this summer for the families of fallen police officers. The weekend is planned for 5-7 June this year, at a central location, and will be open to all survivors who are unable to attend weekends such as the Children, Siblings, Partners or Parents weekends throughout the year. Email admin@ukcops.org for more information.

Website news

WANT to keep bang up to date with all COPS news? Well now you can with our new website dedicated to news and information from the charity. Visit www.copsnews.co.uk.

Family liaison officers 'stretched to breaking point' as cuts sting

FAMILY liaison officers have warned that they are being stretched to breaking point as cuts to police officer numbers begin to hit the specialist role.

There are some 3,500 family liaison officers (FLOs) in England and Wales, who are specially trained to offer immediate support to families during a period of great anxiety and grief. They simultaneously investigate and gather evidence in often high-profile cases.

FLOs also play a crucial role in supporting families and loved ones of police officers after the on-duty death of a loved one.

But those carrying out the job have said that cuts to officer numbers are leading to them working off-duty on evenings, weekends and days off.

A DC from a south east force said in the four years she has done the job it has become much more "stressful". She said: "The role has changed. When I first started, everything was very textbook. You always had a key family liaison officer on the case and then someone else to assist them and pick up when they weren't there.

"Now there are not enough of us to do that throughout the investigation, even though the force tries very hard to make sure you have all you need."

The officer said the demands of the job mean that she has to take calls on evenings, weekends and days off. She added: "The role has become more stressful – I am often



Family liaison officers are under increasing strain following budget cuts.

doing things outside my normal hours."

A detective constable, from Greater Manchester Police, who did not want to be named, added: "I love my role and I care for my families with a passion, but with all the cuts, it makes it harder to spend more time with them. I am constantly being nagged to go back to the 'day job'."

Denis Gunn, President of COPS, paid tribute to the family liaison officer his family was assigned following the death of his son Richard on duty. PC Gunn, of Surrey Police, was killed on duty in 2004 in a collision while responding to an emergency call.

Denis said: "We had a family liaison officer and we were really pleased – he was very, very good. Exceptional really. He helped us through the most difficult time in my life. Not only did he help make

arrangements for the funeral, he also offered things that I never imagined – he would take us to do our shopping. He was doing things for us that I would simply have been unable to do at the time.

"He was absolutely amazing. He made it very clear that anything we needed, he would do – whether he was with us or elsewhere.

"We knew that we could call him and talk about anything. I kept in touch with him for a long time afterwards."

Graham McNulty, ACPO's national policing lead for family liaison officers, said: "We don't recognise any reduction in family liaison officers generally across the country, and certainly not in terms of budget cuts.

"FLOs perform crucial roles in supporting families at the highest level in the most serious of circumstances."

Big thanks for your generous donations

CARE of Police Survivors would like to thank the people across the UK who have spent their time raising money for the charity.

Avon and Somerset Police Choir hit the right note as far as the charity is concerned, donating £600 to COPS.

Thanks also go to the chairman of Soncell International, part of Bowmer & Kirkland Ltd, who have donated £600.

Surrey Police Band recently

presented a cheque for £1,677.91 to COPS President Denis Gunn. The band had been fundraising for COPS in 2014 and we would like to thank them for all their support.

Congratulations and a great big thank you to survivor Angela Morgan, who organised the COPS Chatsworth Ball in memory of DC Gary Freeman in 2014. In total, a staggering £13,382.06 was raised for Care of Police Survivors. Thanks also to everyone who attended or

contributed to the success of the evening.

Jan Berry, Chairman of COPS, said: "The charity could not do what it does without the incredible generosity of everyone who donates their time and money to raise funds and awareness.

"All combine together to provide a level of financial security that will allow us not only to maintain but also build on the crucial support COPS provides."

Survivor becomes PC in memory of her dad

THE daughter of a police officer who was killed on duty has become a PC on the anniversary of his death.

Police officer Linsey Simpson – a member of the COPS' family – has followed in her father's footsteps, 21 years after he was killed.

Linsey said her father's death made her even more determined to become a constable.

The 23-year-old has received many messages of support on the COPS Twitter and Facebook pages after she was pictured on the parade square at Tulliallan — 26 years after her dad had done the same.

Linsey said: "I have wanted to be in the police service for as long as I can remember — there was never any other career option in my eyes. It is a badge of honour."

Linsey graduated in her 'passing out parade' at Tulliallan Police College, in Fife, on 6 February.

Her father, Constable Stuart 'Bart' Simpson, was pictured at the very same spot just three years before he was killed in 1994 by a drunk driver. He was 26 years of age.

Having been just two years old



PC Linsey Simpson (right) and her late father Constable Stuart Simpson.

at the time of his death, Linsey was too young to remember that fateful day but admitted it changed her life "forever."

"It made me want to join the police even more," she said. "I have an understanding of what it means to go through difficult times, which is so important in this career."

The image of Linsey next to her father was uploaded to the COPS Facebook and Twitter pages and

attracted hundreds of comments, many of them saying how "proud" Linsey's father would be.

Her uncle, Stephen Cannon, commented: "As Linsey's godfather and uncle, and Stuart's friend and brother-in-law, I'm totally overwhelmed by the amount of likes and lovely comments, although not surprised as Stuart was a lovely bloke.

"I'm sure Linsey will follow

proudly in her dad's footsteps and memory, as she is a lovely person and a credit to Stuart and her mum Gillian."

Meanwhile, family friend Angela Wylie Dowie Linsey, paid a touching tribute to Linsey's father, saying: "I served with your dad at the Support Unit when he died, it was devastating to learn what had happened to Bart.

"He was a great guy, full of smiles, wonderful sense of humour and he always brightened up the room. All the very best to you in your career."

Linsey told the *Daily Record*: "I have seen what my mum has gone through over the years and I will always treat people how I would want her to be treated.

"If I can prevent one drunk driver killing someone else then I am doing the right thing."

When Linsey passed out at Tulliallan, she said her "mother cried with pride".

Everyone at Care of Police Survivors would like to wish Linsey, who last year ran a 10K race to raise cash for the charity, a long and fulfilling career.

Staff associations back the spouses' pension campaign



Brian Docherty

BRIAN Docherty, Chairman of the Scottish Police Federation said: "The Federation fully supports the police widow's campaign. Our colleagues have paid the ultimate price and their dependents should be fully supported in their fight for parity on this important pensions issue."



Niven Rennie

NIVEN Rennie, President of the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents, said: "It seems inconsistent to modernise for some widows and not all.

"Police widows should be allowed to find companionship without financial penalty. It's only fair."



Nick Smart

NICK Smart, Chairman of West Yorkshire Police Federation, said: "It is only right and fair that our police widows should have the same rights and entitlements as those widows in the armed forces.

"They should not be punished for surviving a loved one."



Alex Duncan

ALEX Duncan, of the Police Federation of England and Wales' Legislation Sub-Committee, said: "These men and women paid the ultimate price to keep their communities safe. Depriving widows of pensions if they go on to have another relationship seems like a double punishment."

Website can help cyclists to join Unity Tour

THE UK COPS Police Unity Tour has launched its new website, which will encourage more cyclists than ever before to take part in the ground-breaking ride.

Every year, cyclists from the police family around the country take part in the mammoth challenge under the motto "we ride for those who died". This year they will be travelling from a number of force areas to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The new website, www.ukpoliceunitytour.org, provides a wealth of information for those taking part and other supporters of the tour who may not want to ride, but would like to help out.

Previously, the ride set off from the Police Memorial in the Mall, London, but due to its increasing popularity for the first time 12 regional "chapters" have been set up so participants can set off from closer to home.

Chapters are arranged geographically and will allow new and existing



The UK Police Unity Tour will set off from different areas this year.

tour members to link up with each other – increasing team spirit while making arrangements for the tour much easier for everyone, according to the tour organisers.

Each Chapter will host its own page on the website, posting latest

news, updates and tour routes.

Tour members will be able to contact one another, plan their route, organise travel arrangements, set up sponsorship and access the tour handbook through the website. There is also a participant list so you

can see who else is taking part.

The website also contains a news section, information about the background of the tour and a photo gallery where users can upload pictures and see images from previous tours.

And it enables riders new to the tour to download a form to apply to take part. It provides a Just Giving link, allowing users to organise their fundraising through the website.

In July 2014, the tour included representatives from police forces around the UK and raised more than £45,000 in aid of COPS.

This year, the approximately 180-mile tour will begin on 24 July to arrive in time for the Memorial Service at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire on 26 July.

The tour was set up in 2013 by Met officers Rob Atkin and Gary Byfield after being inspired by the Police Unity Tour in the US.

To have a look around the new website, go to www.ukpoliceunity-tour.org/home.html

New members on COPS committee

NEW members have joined the Survivor Committee after its chair Heather Cooper, who also resigned as a Trustee, and four members (Sue Bishop, Sue Pyke, Sue Beresford and Claire Robinson) stood down.

The Trustees released the following statement: "Trustees were saddened to learn of the resignations as they have all committed so much time supporting other survivors and the charity as a whole.

"The work of the Committee provides a vital link between Trustees and survivors. We are always keen to involve more survivors in planning and always need volunteers to assist with the many events COPS attend and organise.

"COPS has by any standard been a wonderful support to so many families who have tragically lost someone close to them whilst on police duty. And it is our duty to ensure it remains this way. The Trustees are determined to respond to survivors needs and will in future publish minutes from their meetings."

COPS bids fond farewell to two Trustees

CARE of Police Survivors has bidden a fond farewell to two Trustees who have stepped down from the organisation.

Sir Hugh Orde, outgoing President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has left COPS, where he served as Trustee.

Sue Brace has left after years of hard work with the charity – four of which she served as President.

Sue served as President of the charity between 2010 and 2014, a role which she described as incredibly demanding but also "the most rewarding job I have ever undertaken".

Jan Berry, Chairman of COPS, said Sue was "irreplaceable".

Jan said: "Sue is an impossible person to replace, not least because she displays such empathy and has provided help and support to so many people at all hours of the day. That experience has always been valuable to all of the Trustees and that will be missed."

Jan said of Sir Hugh: "Thanks for the care, wise counsel and the



Sue Brace (left) and Sir Hugh Orde have stepped down as COPS' Trustees.



support he has provided survivors. He had first hand experience of losing officers, particularly when he was chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

"Sir Hugh cares deeply about the service and supporting survivors – his work for the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust is key to that as well."

Sir Hugh also served as Honorary President and joint patron of the Police Roll of Honour Trust.

The organisation is now on the hunt for new Trustees to join Jan, President Denis Gunn and eight others on the team.

Jan added: "We do need to recruit new Trustees. If people believe they have the time, experience and desire to carry out the role, then please do get in touch."

If you are interested in following in Sir Hugh and Sue's footsteps and becoming a COPS Trustee, you can email admin@ukcops.org.



Flying high for COPS

From being part of one of the first Survivors' Weekends to organising a fundraising skydive, Vicky Moore talks to COPS about why the charity is so close to her heart.

How did you first get involved with Care of Police Survivors?

My family was one of the first to attend the COPS annual Survivors' Weekend in 2003. Back then, there were not many of us at all and the meeting was more to establish the aims of the charity.

Since then, I have witnessed the enormous growth of the COPS family. It wasn't until the weekend had to be moved from Lichfield to Hinckley did I realise just how big we had become and that more awareness for fundraising needed to happen.

Your dad, PC Bryan Moore, was killed on duty in 2002. Please can you tell us a little more about him?

My dad was a police officer for the Leicestershire and Rutland Constabulary. He was also a wildlife officer, which was the favourite part of his job.

He was a very happy-go-lucky kind of guy and was always up for making people laugh or playing practical jokes. He was very dedicated to his work and never ceased to give 100% to every job.

He was my very own hero and best friend and was loved by all he met.

What does COPS mean to you?

COPS to me is a safe haven. I've met so many fantastic people who I value as friends for life. I never thought I could openly talk about my dad and the accident to anyone but here at COPS everyone understands. The extent of each of our losses is not valued as any more significant than another's.

We have all lost a loved one, we have all fought a similar fight and with that we all understand each other. It is a place where we are not embarrassed to cry. A place where survivors learn to survive.

How have COPS helped and supported you and your family?

COPS has done everything and more to support our family. We were never prepared for what happened to us and as a result we were lost in our own grief. But COPS has allowed my mum to meet fellow widows and us kids to meet fellow kids.

The support given truly helps to 'rebuild shattered lives' and if COPS was not available I am certain my family would not be in the position each of us are today. We are very lucky to have travelled a horrendous journey with such love and support to guide us.

You talked at the Survivors' Weekend in July 2014. What was your message and how daunting did you find it?

I'm never usually one to be nervous when speaking in front of a crowd. I've done performances on stage since I was two, yet this seemed far more daunting than any of that!

I had to reopen scars that were healed and I was not just telling my friends,

I was speaking to police officers from all over the country. My message was to emphasise the need for COPS to be known among the policing world.

I know there are so many serving officers that do not know COPS, and I hope their families will never need to attend these weekends but just in case it is nice to know COPS is there and COPS will support.

You organised the Kids of COPS skydive in October. Please tell us a little more about that.

The skydive was an idea that brewed at the Survivors' Weekend in 2013. I was unable to attend any of the activities as I was too old or too young. It seemed a waste that there were some of us there not doing anything.

I thought there must be a way we could help COPS to continue its work.

I feel COPS has helped me and I've come to the end of my journey of grief, but this would allow me to give back to help those starting their journey or still in their journey.

In the end, 10 of us took part in the October dive. Online we raised £7,090.92, and in cash and cheque donations we are awaiting the final count-up.

What is next in the pipeline for your fundraising?

The group are really excited to have another challenge set and we like the idea of keeping it a group event. So some of us have signed up to the Unity Tour. We are in talks about a Tough Mudder or Iron Man event and even possibly dragging the parents to Wales for the largest zipwire in Europe.

Please tell the COPS family something they do not know about you.

I am considering later in life training to be part of the mounted police. Although I do not think I can be as brave as any of our fallen loved ones; it is something that has been in my mind for a few years.

We need your support for a busy 2015 ahead

WELL here we are, another year, bringing with it fresh challenges for COPS, but also more events to look forward to during 2015.

The Parents' Weekend in Wetherby, Yorkshire, has been announced for late March and the task of organising the Survivors' Weekend in July is now well underway.

The Spouses' Weekend and the Siblings' Weekend will both take place in October. But this year, for the first time, an 'alternative weekend' in June will also be held for adult children survivors and other survivors who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend their own specific weekend. The location for that weekend has not yet been determined but will be announced as soon as possible.

Financing such events runs to thousands of pounds so we are very fortunate to receive so many donations from various sources, one of those being the UK Police Unity Tour. Numerous police officers and



other volunteers are signing up for this year's tour and there may be as many as 200 riders in total, cycling from various points across the UK. Probable starting points include London, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Wiltshire, Scotland and South Wales. The riders will all meet in Tamworth before cycling to the Arboretum together on Sunday 26 July, in time for the COPS Annual Service of Remembrance. We really do appreciate their efforts and their generosity.

Such wonderful donations have enabled the charity to organise a weekend in Disneyland Paris for the young children this coming April. Although COPS has been represented at events outside the UK previously, this is the first time we have organised an overseas trip and I hope all those travelling there have a 'bon voyage'.

We have already received invitations to various Police Open Days and other events this year. If you are

able to help with the COPS sales stalls when we're in your area, please do let us know. Your help is crucial to our success.

As COPS grows in size and profile it becomes more necessary to ensure the charity is structured sufficiently well to deal with the increased demands we face. With this in mind we plan to take on a temporary Head of Operations (for want of a better term) who will review our structure and processes to ensure the charity is robust enough to meet all future challenges.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you have seen an article about the tragic events that took place on the streets of Paris earlier this year. I personally wanted to thank all of you who sent cards and letters of condolence for the families of the French police officers killed during the terrorist attacks. Thank you all very much.

Denis Gunn is President of Care of Police Survivors.

COPS creates Head of Operations role

CARE of Police Survivors is looking for a Head of Operations to lead the charity following a shake-up of the way the organisation is governed.

A statement from the charity said: "COPS was established to provide support to survivors and our survivors must remain at the very heart of everything we do.

"As we have grown in members and funds it is essential that proper executive leadership is provided.

"It is therefore intended to create a role of Head of Operations for a fixed period of 12 months who

will be responsible to the Trustees for ensuring that the charity is well administered and meets its governance responsibilities."

The cost of employing a Head of Operations will not rely on charity funds as it will be financed by the 40 forces who have pledged money to COPS for the next three years, the charity said.

The statement added: "There is still much to discuss but please rest assured the Trustees have the interests of survivors at the forefront of their mind. Trustees have a legal

responsibility and duty to ensure COPS is run efficiently and for the purposes set out in our trust deed.

"Recruiting an individual to independently review our operations will set the charity in good stead for the future to deliver the support service that COPS was set up for.

"Crucial to success will be building a close relationship with survivors to understand and respond to their needs.

"Survivors will be involved in the selection of the successful candidate."



Hot to shop

IT'S NEVER too early to get your Care of Police Survivors Christmas cards, which are available from the online shop. Proceeds go towards COPS, supporting the families and relatives of police officers who have died on duty. The online shop also sells toys, wristbands, lapel pins and other gifts at www.ukcops.org/cops-shop.php.

Care of Police Survivors

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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.

Registered Charity no: 1101478
Scottish Charity no: SC038541

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