



COPS

CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

SPRING 2016



Join Us For The Weekend

Each year towards the end of July, COPS holds its Annual Survivors' Weekend and Service of Remembrance.

The weekend brings together families from all over the UK to gain **peer support and comfort from the only people who can truly say, "I understand"**.

This year's event begins on **Friday 29 July** and is being held at the **Drayton Manor Conference Suite at Drayton Manor in Staffordshire**.

The Annual Survivor weekend allows Survivors to meet other Survivors, share experiences and learn how others have rebuilt their lives.

This year there will be information stalls, as well as workshops and activities, such as wakeboarding for older children and Thomas the Tank Engine Land for the younger ones.

The weekend also includes a sit down three course meal on the Saturday evening, which is

attended by Survivors, police officers and other members of the wider police family.

Care of Police Survivors will also be hosting its **Annual Meeting on Saturday 30 July** from 2pm to 3pm. The weekend culminates in the **Annual Service of Remembrance at 11am on Sunday 31 July** at the National Memorial Arboretum.

For more information on the Annual Survivors' Weekend and the other weekends we are holding this year, see page three.

Gunny's Welcome Return to Surrey Police



COPS President Denis Gunn and his wife Carol were invited to watch a **new police dog Gunny** perform his passing out display.

Gunny is named in memory of Denis' son Richard, who was killed on duty with the force in March 2004.

Denis, Carol and Richard's fiancée Laura were invited to watch **Gunny and his sister Gia** perform their passing out display.

Read more about Gunny and what he means to the family in Denis' President's message to Survivors on page 4.



American Cruiser

THE Care of Police Survivors American Cruiser is available to book to attend community events and private functions.

For more information on the Cruiser and its availability, please contact Richard Perkins on 07971 745 656 or email perki.mog@btinternet.com

Join us on the Unity Tour



The UK Police Unity Tour is looking for a final few members of the Police Family to **join its London chapter** for the annual bike ride in aid of Care of Police Survivors.

This year the tour has rides starting in **Norfolk, Leicestershire, Scotland and Wales**, all concluding at the COPS Service of Remembrance at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire on 31 July.

There are some places left

on the London ride – beginning on 29 July – which organisers would like to fill.

Ch Supt Rob Atkin, who organises the Police Unity Tour, said: **"The tour provides a unique opportunity for officers and Survivors to ride side by side** in memory of their family members and colleagues.

Each cyclist rides in memory of a police officer who has died on duty – wearing a wrist band. This is then

passed on to a surviving family member at the conclusion of the COPS Service of Remembrance.

Each person taking part in the tour undertakes to raise £400 for the charity – with a £125 registration fee that covers all hotels, ride shirts and food en route.

If you fancy a challenge and are up for taking part, please visit www.ukpoliceunitytour.org/get-involved and register your interest.

Anniversary celebrations



President Denis Gunn represented COPS at a celebration to mark 180 years of policing in Leicestershire, as we were named as the beneficiary for donations raised during the event.

Leicestershire Police hosted a well-attended service at Leicester Cathedral on 11 February followed by an enjoyable social gathering at the adjoining Guildhall.

Chief Constable Simon Cole welcomed Survivors of fallen officers from the force as guests. COPS, represented by Denis and his wife Carol, is extremely grateful to be named as the beneficiary for donations.

Welcome To New Members Of The COPS Family

Care of Police Survivors is delighted to welcome two new members to our team. **Alison Sutton joins as Fundraising Coordinator**, and will be responsible for supporting COPS' network of dedicated fundraisers.

Cara Russon joins as Policy and Resources Coordinator, and will be working on designing and developing policies, procedures and supporting compliance that will help the charity.

For the past 14 years, Alison has worked for the Veolia Environmental Trust providing community groups with advice and administrative support through the fundraising process and in undertaking their projects.

Alison (pictured left) brings to COPS her knowledge of the fundraising landscape and experience in planning and delivering fundraising initiatives.

Alison said: **"As the result of the efforts of its fundraisers, COPS is able to offer help and support to families who have been devastated by tragedy.**

"I am looking forward to working with existing fundraisers, engaging new supporters and finding additional funding streams to ensure this vital work continues."

In her spare time, **Alison volunteers as a walk**

leader for Age UK

and leads a weekly walk and talk session at Chasewater in Staffordshire.

She is also a qualified aromatherapist and believes Lavender is the cure for most things!

If you have any fundraising ideas you would like to discuss, contact Alison at alison.sutton@ukcops.org

Cara (pictured right) has worked in Human Resources for many years, which provides various transferable skills and experiences. **She has also previously volunteered at Survivors' Weekend.**

Cara said: "I am so pleased to be part of the team.

"Having volunteered for a number of years at the Survivors' Weekend, I appreciate how important COPS is to all.

"I think some of the children may remember



me from the Drayton Manor trips and getting me soaked on the log flume!"

In her spare time Cara also volunteers for an organisation that supports young adults into work and previously volunteered at a school.

Last year, **Cara walked a marathon for charity** and this year's challenge will be the London to Brighton cycle ride. She says she may need some advice from the Police Unity Tour team!



Looking Forward To Our Events

Annual Survivors' Weekend: Friday 29 July to Sunday 31 July. COPS aims to make the weekend as stress free and relaxing as possible to allow Survivors to benefit from this unique gathering.

Although at times it is an emotional weekend, it is not a sad time, with the atmosphere being described as akin to a family gathering.

The weekend culminates with the **Annual Service of Remembrance**, which this year will be held **on Sunday 31 July at 11am** at The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The service is attended by Survivors, representatives from all of the UK police forces, staff associations and the wider police family. All are welcome to attend this event.

Parents' Weekend: Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May at Banbury Whately Hall Hotel.

The weekend includes two nights on a B&B basis as well as a three course meal at the hotel on the Saturday evening. If you haven't booked already and want to attend please contact the COPS office as soon as possible.

Spouses Weekend: Friday 7 October to Sunday 9 October at Novotel Liverpool Centre.

The weekend includes two nights on a B&B basis as well as a three course meal at the hotel on the

Saturday evening. Invitations will be sent out to all Spouses in due course.

Alternative Weekend: Friday 30 September to Sunday 2 October in the Lake District. Hotel and more information to be confirmed.

This is open to all Survivors who either cannot,

Santa Sleepover at Alton Towers.

We are currently waiting for the dates to be released for the Santa Sleepovers at Alton Towers.

The weekend will include meeting Santa, time in CBeebies Land, as well as one session within the Splash Landings Resort at Alton Towers.

"COPS weekend provides peer support and comfort from the only people who can truly say 'I understand'"

or do not wish to, attend one of the other peer support weekends. This will be an annual event.

Siblings' Weekend: October – Date TBC at Lea Marston Hotel in Warwickshire.

The weekend includes two nights on a B&B basis as well as a three course meal at the hotel on the Saturday evening. We are also planning a day trip into Birmingham City Centre for the Saturday.

Children's Weekend: December – Date TBC.

Adult Children's Weekend: November/December. Date and venue TBC. This new weekend is intended for individuals who are over the age of 18 years.

For more information on the Annual Survivors' Weekend, the Service of Remembrance, or any of the other COPS weekends, please contact Claire Stewart at the COPS office on 01543 410790 or claire.stewart@ukcops.org



Positive News At Difficult Time Of Year

Until 12 years ago **Spring was, for me, one of the best seasons of the year** – partly because it signals the end of winter and, hopefully, the worst of the weather. But also because it brings new life to both flora and fauna and generally refreshes the countryside.

Back in 2004, however, all that changed when my elder son Richard was killed while on duty with Surrey Police.

Since then, **14 March has always been a sad and difficult day for me**, as all Survivors will understand from their own experience.

This year, however, the day was brightened with two pieces of good news.

The first news was a personal matter. I learned that **police dog Gunny, named in memory of my son** was, that very day, being licensed to work as a police dog with Surrey Police. My concerns that he might fail during his training and not make the grade were all unfounded.

The following day my wife Carol and I, along with Richard's fiancée Laura, were invited to watch Gunny and his sister Gia perform their passing out display. Both performed exceptionally well and **I am just so proud to know that "Gunny" is now working with the force again.**

May I take this opportunity publicly to thank Surrey Police for honouring my son in this way for it means so much to me.

It was also the evening of 14 March that the board of the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust (PAMT) met to finalise whether or not names should be permanently displayed on the new police memorial to be built at the National Memorial Arboretum.

I am not ashamed to say that on such an emotional day for me **the announcement that names would indeed appear on the memorial**



overwhelmed me with joy (see below).

On behalf of COPS I want to place on record our sincere thanks for that decision.

I understand, however, that a decision is still to be made regarding exactly which names should appear on the memorial. A committee, which will include some Survivors, will be established to consider this.

COPS' view is that the names of ALL officers who died on duty should be displayed

regardless of the circumstances of their deaths.

Failure to include all names will certainly cause a lot of distress to Survivors so, as I stated in my open letter to the trustees of the PAMT on www.copsnews.co.uk: "Please don't hurt the families yet again."

Denis Gunn is National President of Care of Police Survivors.

New Trustees

COPS is looking to appoint **two Survivors as Trustees** to join the Board of Trustees.

Our three-year plan looks at the needs of Survivors in an increasingly holistic way and puts Survivors at the top of our strategic thinking. We are looking for Survivors who can combine the responsibilities of a Trustee (as defined by the Charity Commission) with their own experience of being a Survivor.

Full details of the roles, the person specification and how to apply are on the COPS website (<http://ukcops.org/docs/Survivor-Trustee-Information.pdf>).

For an informal and confidential discussion about the role, please contact Richard Kotulecki on 07941 336 875 or at richard.kotulecki@ukcops.org. The closing date for applications is Monday 2 May 2016.

Memorial Plan

THE names of fallen police officers will be included on the new UK Police Memorial.

In a statement, the UK Police Memorial said: "We are pleased to confirm, by unanimous agreement, the decision that permanent names will be included on the new UK Police Memorial.

"A sub-committee to advise on the full naming policy will be convened...to listen to all the views of those with an interest in the Memorial. Survivors will be fully included in this process."



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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ukcops

Rebuilding shattered lives

COPS aims to provide Survivors with understanding and care to help them rebuild their lives.

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