

# FEDLINE

The magazine of Cambridgeshire Police Federation

SUMMER 2024

## BRAVERY NOMINEE A CREDIT TO POLICING

- Pages 4 and 5



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**Cover photo:** Cambridgeshire's Police Bravery Awards nominee Sergeant Jamie Cooper outside No 10 Downing Street. Photo courtesy of Anderson Photography.



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## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By **Liz Groom**, chair of Cambridgeshire Police Federation

**W**elcome to the summer edition of our members' magazine, giving news and views from the Cambridgeshire Police Federation branch.

There is certainly plenty to cover this time around, but I would like to start by giving a special mention to Sergeant Jamie Cooper who was our nominee for this year's national Police Bravery Awards.

The bravery awards are quite simply the highlight of the policing year. They bring together brave officers from forces across England and Wales who have shown outstanding courage while going about their duties.

Time and time again, these officers will say they were just doing their job, and that they felt humbled to have been nominated.

I would agree that they are doing their job, but it's a job like no other, a job which all too often entails running towards danger while others are running in the opposite direction.

**“THE BRAVERY AWARDS ARE QUITE SIMPLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE POLICING YEAR. THEY BRING TOGETHER BRAVE OFFICERS FROM FORCES ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES WHO HAVE SHOWN OUTSTANDING COURAGE WHILE GOING ABOUT THEIR DUTIES.”**

Jamie deserved his moment in the spotlight, and represents all that is good about policing. Day in, day out, officers put their lives on the line as they serve and protect the public, fighting crime, keeping order and protecting the vulnerable. Events like the Police Bravery Awards are needed to recognise this.

Just a week before the awards, the nation went to the polls for the General Election with, as expected, Labour securing a landslide victory. I think we were all anticipating that Yvette Cooper would be appointed as the new Home Secretary, so it was no surprise when she was among the first to be named in the new Cabinet.

Having previously served as shadow home secretary and chair of the influential Home Affairs Select Committee, Yvette should have a firm grip on the current challenges we are facing.

She has now attended 14 Police Bravery Awards events, so we are hopeful she will keep in mind all the incredible acts of courage she has heard over the years when she considers police funding and any potential police reform.

Yvette was joined at this year's Downing Street reception for the nominees and also at the bravery awards evening by the newly appointed police minister, Dame Diana Johnson DBE.

I will freely admit that until she was confirmed in this post, I knew little about Dame Diana.

But she got off to a good start in her speech at the bravery awards, telling nominees: "To you and all your colleagues, for what you do to keep the public safe, thank you. I was struck by the impressive people you are. A phrase that stuck out for me is 'forever going into the unknown'.

"Your families must be so proud of you. I am so proud of you. To those here tonight, be proud of what you do. It could not matter more."

We will wait to see what unfolds in how the new Home Secretary and policing minister approach their roles, but we have written to all our new Cambridgeshire MPs to ask them to meet with us, discuss the current issues within policing and support us. We should all be working together to ensure we provide the communities we all serve with the best possible policing service so we will keep you updated on how our MP engagement develops.

But, for me, one of the key items on the agenda for all meetings with MPs will be police officer pay. It's not just about the size of any potential pay rise, it's more about wholesale reform of the police pay award process. The Police Remuneration Review Body, which currently considers our pay award each year, is not fit for purpose and needs to be abolished. You can read more about this on Page 6, in an article about the outcome of the recent poll of Federation members on the issue of industrial rights.

It's worth noting that just two months before the General Election, Darryl Preston was re-elected as Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. At a time of such momentous political change, it's reassuring that we have the stability provided by the PCC and our Chief Constable Nick Dean.

As a Federation, we have always had effective working relationships with both the Chief and the PCC, and this is of benefit to the members we represent.

While this edition of your magazine inevitably includes some political stories, it also includes a number of stories focussing on the incredible work carried out by members as they serve the people of Cambridgeshire. For example, on Page 7, you can find out more about the Rural Crime Team, and Page 12 puts the spotlight on our Specials.

I hope you enjoy all the articles. Remember, the Federation is here to help and support you, so please get in touch if you need advice, representation or more information on any of the issues featured.



# 'TOUGHER SENTENCES FOR THOSE WHO ATTACK OFFICERS'

Cambridgeshire Police Federation chair Liz Groom has called for offenders who attack officers to be given 'the toughest possible sentence'.

Liz was speaking after official figures showed that 572 frontline officers in Cambridgeshire were assaulted in the year to 31 March 2023.

The data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that 86 of those assaults resulted in an injury.

In England and Wales, the figures showed there were a total of 40,330 attacks on officers in that year, with 11,022 resulting in an injury to an officer.

Liz said: "It's sickening to see so many attacks on officers who are doing their job to serve and protect the public.

"It should never be part of the job, and while we know that the vast majority of

people support the police, there is a minority who, for some reason, think it is acceptable to assault officers.

"The courts should be giving the toughest possible sentences to those who attack officers.

"They now have stronger sentencing powers after the maximum penalty for assaulting an officer was doubled to two years' imprisonment.

"I'd like to see those powers being used to support our members on the frontline and send out that message that it's not acceptable and won't be tolerated."

Liz added that every officer who wanted to carry Taser should be trained to do so and

said it often acted as a deterrent to would-be attackers.

"Taser is a really important part of an officer's kit that can help to protect them and members of the public," she said.

"In many cases it acts as a deterrent and just having it on their person can diffuse situations which may escalate into violence.

"As a Federation we've said it should be available to frontline officers who request it, and these shocking figures add more weight to that call.

"We should be able to give officers the equipment and the training they need to protect themselves and the public."

**“ IT'S SICKENING TO SEE SO MANY ATTACKS ON OFFICERS WHO ARE DOING THEIR JOB TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC. ”**

## CHAIR 'DELIGHTED' AFTER PCC RE-ELECTED

Cambridgeshire Police Federation chair Liz Groom has congratulated Darryl Preston on being re-elected as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A former police officer with Cambridgeshire and the Met, Darryl has been PCC since May 2021 and officially started his second term of office following the elections on Thursday 9 May.

Darryl, who stood for the Conservatives, received a total of 61,688 votes representing 38.1 per cent of the votes while the Labour candidate secured 58,304 votes (36 per cent).

He said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been re-elected as PCC for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is an honour and a privilege to be able to continue in the role of keeping all our communities safe."

Responding to the election result, Liz said: "We congratulate Darryl on being re-elected as our PCC. We have always enjoyed a



PCC Darryl Preston.

good working relationship with him and have met at regular meetings. As a former officer, we feel he just gets it. Darryl was particularly supportive as we tried to secure the South East Allowance for our officers.

"During the run-up to the election, he did make a point of saying that we now have 400 more officers than we did in 2015, but I think that there needs to be an acknowledgement that boosting officer numbers is only part of the solution to the crisis in policing during the last few years.

"We now need to make sure that forces have the infrastructure in place for those officers - the right number of police bases, the right equipment and the right support for officers.

"The latest Pay and Morale Survey carried out by the Police Federation revealed one in five of our members plan to quit policing in the next five years due to low morale and dissatisfaction with the Government and pay.

"So, it's obviously great news that our officer numbers are up, but it's not good if as fast as we recruit new officers, we are losing many of our experienced ones. More has to be done to retain officers and ensuring they are paid fairly for the unique and often dangerous role they carry out would be a start."

Liz added: "Politicians need to sit up and take note of what police officers are saying and I think PCCs have a role to play in speaking up for them and making sure their voice is heard."

Sergeant Jamie Cooper with his partner, Kerri, outside the door of No 10 Downing Street.



# 'HUMBLED' SERGEANT REFLECTS ON 'AWESOME' AWARDS CEREMONY

**A** 'humbled' Cambridgeshire cop has reflected on this year's 'awesome' Police Bravery Awards ceremony.

Sergeant Jamie Cooper attended the event in London on 11 July, with his partner Kerri.

He was nominated for an award after saving the life of a man threatening to jump from the 20ft-high Millennium Bridge in Peterborough.

Reflecting on the ceremony, Jamie said: "The evening was incredible. It was so humbling reading through and listening to the other nominations.

"I felt really honoured to be here. I still feel a bit shocked that I was there myself. The event was awesome."

Jamie was joined by Cambridgeshire Police Federation workplace representative

and detective lead Stu Taylor, as well as Chief Constable Nick Dean and Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston.

"To attend this year's event on behalf of Cambridgeshire Police Federation was an absolute privilege and honour. Of course, it's a shame that Jamie didn't win but to be nominated and recognised for his proud actions is special enough," said Stu.

"Everyone at Cambridgeshire is extremely proud of Jamie. He is a credit to the Force and a credit to the Federation."

Cambridgeshire Police Federation is part

of Region 4, with a Lincolnshire cop clinching the win this year.

Prior to the awards ceremony, Jamie - along with fellow nominees from forces across England and Wales - were invited to an exclusive reception at Downing Street, hosted by the new Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper and recently appointed policing minister, Dame Diana Johnson DBE.

Reflecting on the reception, Jamie said: "It was all very surreal - even just walking through the gates was a real eye-opening experience.

**“ IT WAS ALL VERY SURREAL - EVEN JUST WALKING THROUGH THE GATES WAS A REAL EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE. IT WAS A REAL 'PINCH ME MOMENT' AND I FELT VERY HUMBLED TO BE THERE. ”**



Acting national chair Tiff Lynch.

"It was a real 'pinch me moment' and I felt very humbled to be there. I remember looking around and thinking I just want to know more about my colleagues who are here today and what they did to get nominated.

"Having Kerri there by my side really was very special," he continued, adding: "To see her enjoying it just as much as me was lovely."

Both Ms Cooper and Dame Diana attended the awards ceremony, which was opened by acting national chair Tiff Lynch and was in its 29th year.

Addressing the audience, Tiff said: "Tonight, we will hear extraordinary stories of bravery. Officers who will say, 'it's just part of the job', but it's not just part of the job it's going above and beyond the requirements of the job, and tonight we get the chance to recognise and thank those officers."



Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

Ms Cooper, who revealed it was the 14th Police Bravery Awards that she had attended, said: "The reason I've attended so many Police Bravery Awards is because I think it's so important to respect and recognise the work you do.

"And because the stories are always so inspirational, often so difficult, the incredibly difficult situations you have faced.

"The extreme violence that you will have had to work towards, the dangerous rescues that so many of you have undertaken."

She thanked the officers present, as well as those across the country and the partners, relatives and families of cops whose support 'makes the work they do possible'.

Later on in the evening, Dame Diana also thanked all officers in the room.

"To you and all your colleagues, for what you do to keep the public safe, thank you. I

was struck by the impressive people you are. A phrase that stuck out for me is 'forever going into the unknown'.

"Your families must be so proud of you. I am so proud of you. To those here tonight, be proud of what you do. It could not matter more."

The ceremony was hosted by TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith, with Strictly Come Dancing star Kai Widdington also in attendance.

The overall winners on the night were a pair of Met officers, PCs Alannah Mulhall and Joe Gerrard, who were stabbed multiple times while protecting members of the public in Leicester Square in the capital.

The annual event is organised by the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) and is sponsored by Police Mutual.



This year's national Police Bravery Awards nominees visit Downing Street.

# 'GOVERNMENT MUST REPAIR RELATIONSHIP WITH POLICING'

The new Government's plans for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour must be coupled with a concerted effort to repair the fractured relationship between political leaders and the police service, according to the secretary of Cambridgeshire Police Federation.

Scott Houghton was speaking after Labour's landslide victory in the General Election.

"I would like to start by congratulating Sir Keir Starmer and his successful candidates on their election success," says Scott.

"The relationship between the previous Government and police officers had become incredibly strained. The austerity years took their toll with a reduction in police budgets coinciding with extra demands being placed on the police service through increased crime rates but also because we were left picking up the pieces for other services and organisations that were also stretched.

"As the service that can never say no, we were basically trying to do more with less, which had an impact on the service we provided but also put officers under mental stress.

"While the Police Uplift Programme increased officer numbers by 20,000 over the three years up until the end of March 2023, we are still feeling the impact of the under-funding, and this is particularly evident with officer pay which has fallen by 20 per cent in real terms.



Branch secretary Scott Houghton.

"This, in turn, has contributed towards low officer morale as evidenced in the Federation's pay and morale survey, which also revealed our members do not feel valued or respected by the Government and that they don't feel they are fairly paid for the challenges and dangers of their role."

Scott believes the Government, in seeking to deliver on its pre-election pledges on law and order, must first look at the police pay review process replacing the current mechanism with a truly independent system and says this is just as important as any pay award given.

He says this would be a fundamental step forward in terms of re-building the relationship between policing and the

Government and ensuring that the country has a fully motivated and valued police service.

"The new Government has a golden opportunity to restore effective links with policing which would benefit politicians and police leaders but, critically, the communities we all serve," Scott explains.

"If Labour wants to deliver on its manifesto pledges, it needs to work with the Federation and other representative bodies so that we can all pull together and overcome the current crisis in the police service."

Labour while campaigning in the run-up to the election announced plans to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and said its mission was to 'take back our streets', reducing serious violence and rebuilding public confidence in policing by getting officers back on the streets.

The party said it would introduce a new Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, restoring patrols to town centres by recruiting thousands of new police officers, police and community support officers (PCSOs) and Special Constables and putting 13,000 extra neighbourhood police and PCSOs on the beat.

It pledged to introduce new penalties for offenders, get knives off the streets, set up a specialist rape unit in every police force and launch a new network of Young Futures hubs.

Funding for its manifesto pledges would come from ending private schools' tax breaks and a Police Efficiency and Collaboration Programme.

## FEDERATION TO CAMPAIGN FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OVER PAY

Cambridgeshire Police Federation secretary Scott Houghton says the new Government's commitment to sit down with striking junior doctors and negotiate over their pay is another example of why the police pay review process has to be changed.

Scott was commenting after the results of a nationwide members' poll revealed that 97.7 per cent of those who took part wanted the staff association to campaign for a fair process of collective bargaining and binding arbitration when the Government considers police officer pay.

"Police officers have seen their pay fall by 20 per cent in real terms in recent years and they felt totally disrespected by the previous Government," says Scott.

"They feel the Police Remuneration

Review Body (PRRB) which determines police officer pay is far from independent, since it is told by Government what pay award it can consider, regardless of what the evidence submitted to the panel suggests, and then, when it makes its recommendations, the Government can just choose to ignore them. There is no access to arbitration, no negotiation."

Scott asks: "How can this be fair?"

Police officers accept restrictions on their lives, such as not being able to join a union or take industrial action but, in return, successive governments have respected these limitations.

"We just no longer feel that is the case, and the overwhelming results of this poll really illustrate that," says Scott, "Before PRRB

was established 10 years ago, our pay was determined through the Police Negotiating Board which, as the name suggests, meant we had a degree of negotiation and also access to independent arbitration.

"PRRB is not fit for purpose and we need the new Government to make a commitment to treating officers fairly on pay with a new, independent pay review process with access to collective bargaining and binding arbitration."

The Police Federation poll on industrial rights ran from 3 to 21 June this year and attracted 50,103 responses.

The Federation's National Council and National Board will now start to create the campaign for the introduction of a fair and binding pay mechanism.

# RURAL CRIME TEAM: INSIGHT INTO ROLE



**S**ergeant Tom Nuttall was brought up on a farm so he understands the impact that rural crime can have on people, businesses and communities.

Now he's leading Cambridgeshire Police's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT), which is 'punching above its weight' and achieving some fantastic successes.

RCAT, which deals with agricultural, environmental, heritage, hunting and wildlife crime, recovered almost £1 million-worth of stolen property last year.

The team also seized 163 vehicles used in crime, attended more than 1,700 incidents and prosecuted 83 suspects, between April last year and March 2024.

And in October the team won Rural Initiative of the Year at the annual UK Wildlife & Rural Crime Conference after joining forces with the National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU) in the summer for Operation Walrus, which targeted criminals stealing GPS guidance systems used by farmers across the country.

Tom, a Cambridgeshire Police Federation member, said: "I was brought up on a farm and in the countryside, so policing the niche crime types that come with rural areas hits home to me on an even more personal note.

"For a small team, we definitely punch above our weight when it comes to getting positive results.

"Across the county, business burglaries with an agricultural and heritage element fell by 33 per cent while coursing, lamping, and poaching continue to be low across the county following years of high demand.

**“FOR A SMALL TEAM, WE DEFINITELY PUNCH ABOVE OUR WEIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING POSITIVE RESULTS.”**

"The low coursing, lamping and poaching figures are largely down to our introduction of regional community protection warnings and notices essentially making the East of England borderless – and which is now being duplicated across the country."

Tom, who has been a police officer since 2011, joined RCAT in 2018. His team is made up of nine PCs, one PCSO and five police support volunteers.

Almost half of the population of Cambridgeshire (47 per cent) live in rural communities compared to the national

average of 17 per cent.

"This gives Cambridgeshire Constabulary a challenge of policing a mixture of both urban and rural crime types," Tom said.

"I have been with RCAT since 2018 and have seen over the years that prioritising rural crime isn't high on the agenda, both locally and nationally," he said.

"Me and the team have been vocal in getting the support needed to police rural areas proportionately.

"We have worked with the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) to help lobby those needed to make the big changes to support our work.

"We have also worked with the other police forces, enforcement agencies and organisations around the country to share best practices and information – including the newly formed National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU).

"Looking to the future, we will be investing even more in technology to prevent crime and help prosecute criminals.

"We will also continue to seek local and national support in ensuring that rural communities have their fair share of policing and investment is made in doing so."



# RETIRED OFFICER SET TO JOIN POLICE UNITY TOUR

A retired Cambridgeshire police officer will be joining the Force team taking part in this year's Police Unity Tour to honour a fallen friend and colleague.

The sponsored bike ride raises awareness of officers killed in the line of duty and valuable funds for the Care of Police Survivors (COPS) charity that supports their families.

Retired Chief Inspector Keren Pope described the event as 'really personal' to her after Cambridgeshire PC Andreas (Andy) Newbery was killed while on duty in February 2003.

"Working out of the St Neots traffic office – as it was at the time – there were only seven of us, and Andy was killed while dealing with a collision on the A1(M) near Alconbury," she said.

"He lived in the same village where he was killed and is buried in that village, so it's really personal. The Police Unity Tour really means a lot."

She added: "The fact you are riding for a fallen colleague, whether it's somebody you knew personally or from another Force it doesn't matter, it's an amazing event to be part of."

The Police Unity Tour brings together

police officers from all over the country. The cyclists start at their home force and finish at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Keren continued: "It really shows officers in the best light. It's the policing family coming together to support their own.

"In policing – but especially in roads policing – you see the utter devastation that the families go through when their loved one dies in a collision.

"And when you experience that as a friend of somebody, you realise how every day officers are putting their lives on the line.

"You go to work and come home with a black eye because somebody has decided they didn't want to be arrested and you have to explain that to your children.

"I was lucky enough that I did come home, but unfortunately there are those who don't."

This year's tour starts on Friday 26 July. The route will take the team from Cambridgeshire Police headquarters in Huntingdon to Market Harborough in Leicestershire on day one, and then to Tamworth, Staffordshire on day two before finishing at the arboretum.

Having taken part in the ride twice already, Keren wanted to complete it a third time, and her knowledge of the route would help with her training.

Keren, who was working in counter-terrorism policing in the Eastern Regions Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) when she retired last summer, said: "I'm now working full-time again and, with three children of my own, it's not been easy trying to find the time to train.

"Where I live near Huntingdon, we have the steepest hill in Cambridgeshire, and we also have some rolling hills around here.

"I have found that we have one hill on the second day which is an absolute killer, but the hill training that I do sets me up for that."

The Police Unity Tour is now in its 12th year and has raised more than £1.2 million to fund the invaluable peer support offered to families through COPS.

COPS was founded in 2003 by retired Strathclyde police officer Jim McNulty and Christine Fulton (MBE) whose husband PC Lewis Fulton was murdered on duty in Glasgow in 1994.

COPS contacts the survivors of every officer who loses their life on duty, explaining what support the charity can offer and inviting them to get in touch if they need such support.

[Find out more about COPS.](#)

**“IT REALLY SHOWS OFFICERS IN THE BEST LIGHT. IT'S THE POLICING FAMILY COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THEIR OWN.”**



# BECKY REVEALS STORY OF 'PERFECT' POLICE DOGS YEARS IN THE MAKING

Handling police dogs may appear as a straightforward career choice, but for Cambridgeshire Police Federation's Becky Jones, there is a history of emotion behind her journey into the role - that even runs down to their names.

Starting as a Special Constable, Becky joined Cambridgeshire Constabulary in 1996 and soon after met her husband, Bryn, who was working on the Force's dog unit. While exposure to police dogs in her work life was still a long way away, Becky became accustomed to their presence at home. Up until his retirement in 2014, a number of dogs handled by Bryn became part of the Jones family, with the couple's children, Emily and Maddison, growing up alongside them.

Promotions early into her police service saw Becky, now a regular sergeant, have her options of departments and units narrowed. While still enjoying large spells of her career in reactive and neighbourhood teams, she had always held a desire to be a dog handler herself.

"Deep down, I always hoped to be a handler one day. Having such close contact with them, my heart has always been with the dogs, and it remained that way even after Bryn retired," she said.

"I hoped that once he stopped, I'd be able to get the baton passed over to me."

Becky set out to realise her dream in 2019 when she succeeded in a tough selection process to step into the role of a dog unit sergeant. This promised the opportunity to work with a variety of four-legged crime-fighters, particularly on the puppy walking scheme where youngsters are trained and bedded into the unit with a view to becoming full-time working dogs.

Although rewarding to oversee the success stories of puppies who would eventually be assigned to an officer, the scheme still only provided temporary connection and thus was not enough to fulfil her ultimate wish.

"At the time, the sergeant role was a supervisory one - it was only constables who could become handlers. I wanted to prove to the unit that I was keen and willing, but it was hard doing the groundwork with puppies and bonding with them when I knew they would go on permanently to someone else," Becky, 48, added.

Functional yet fleeting, these short-term

assignments continued when Becky briefly took on DeeDee, a Dutch Herder, before she too moved on to another officer - only whetting the sergeant's appetite for a permanent working companion further.

Finally, in 2021, persistence paid off as she was granted a specialist search dog. Given the opportunity to select a puppy for a litter of spaniels, Becky said her choice was an easy one: "I was over the moon about the fact I was going to get this opportunity, so I really wasn't fussy about what dog I would have. But a male pup in the litter stood out as soon as I saw him. I named him Walton, after my dad who died eight years earlier."

As Walton settled into life as a police dog, excelling on search units at various drug warrants and operations, he also provided Becky with plenty of joy at home when moments of affection brought her closer to her late father.

After years of waiting to work alongside one police dog, along came another. A decision was made for general purpose dogs to be assigned to sergeants, and the mother-of-two was more than ready for a second police dog to come into her life a year later.

Having had enough time to prepare for the eventuality of being a handler, Becky already had another name lined up: Jerry - in tribute to the late Sergeant Jerry Thorogood, a constant source of support to the Special Constabulary in the early stages of Becky's policing career, and coincidentally, the best friend of Bryn.

Set on the name as a nod to her dear colleague, who died in 2007 after a battle with cancer, her second time viewing a litter did not go entirely as planned.

She continued: "It's hard when you visit multiple young dogs, knowing they are all as



deserving of a good life as each other, so on my mum's advice, I decided to let the dog choose me.

"The dog that chose me, however, was a girl. She kept plonking herself on my lap, and despite a few gentle attempts to push her back into the middle, I couldn't keep it up.

"Still adamant I wanted to honour my friend, I called her Jerri, which I think has turned out just perfect for her."

From the peripheries of the police dog world, Becky now found herself in the thick of it. Despite the familiarity, her perspective was still firmly on the outside, looking in - flipped in a few short years with the talented pair of PD Walton and PD Jerri.

The former has continued to perform excellently in the detection of currency, drugs and firearms, and the latter has taken well to life as an all-action crime-fighter, tracking down suspects of burglary and drug dealing.

Becky will retire from service in five years. This eagerly anticipated development has come late into her career, but she says she wouldn't have it any other way.

"Walton and Jerri were made for me, and I was made for them. I don't have any regrets about it all not happening at an earlier point. Hopefully, they'll be with me when I retire and I can relax with them by my side," she ended.

"It's been a long road to this point but having two working dogs named after people I love, doing a job I love, is just the perfect scenario."

**“IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD TO THIS POINT BUT HAVING TWO WORKING DOGS NAMED AFTER PEOPLE I LOVE, DOING A JOB I LOVE, IS JUST THE PERFECT SCENARIO.”**

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# AWARD FOR OFF-DUTY COP WHO SAVED MAN'S LIFE

An off-duty police officer has been presented with an award after saving the life of a man while she was on a training run for the London Marathon.

Cambridgeshire Police Federation member PC Hannah Wheatley had set off around Burghley House near Stamford when she came across a group of people standing around a man who had collapsed.

Hannah performed life-saving CPR on 76-year-old Brian Kinealy for around 20 minutes before paramedics arrived and were able to stabilise him.

Hannah said: "When I saw the group of people, it just felt out of place.

"I turned my music off, went over to them, and it became apparent that a man had collapsed and was lying on his back on the floor.

"I could tell he wasn't breathing properly and commenced CPR.

"The people were already on the phone to the ambulance, so I was hopeful they would be on their way.

"I kept going with the CPR until the ambulance got there and took over from me.

**“ THE TRAINING YOU DO EVERY YEAR INSTINCTIVELY COMES BACK AND THANKFULLY IT WORKED. I JUST GOT ON WITH WHAT WAS IN FRONT OF ME. ”**

"Which at the time I had no idea how long it was as you just lose all track of it."

Hannah has been in the police for more than 17 years, 15 as a police officer, and she said her yearly CPR training kicked in.

"You do your training every year on Annie the doll," she said.

"You hear of colleagues doing CPR and I worried whether I'd be able to do it when it came to it in real life.

"And when it happened in front of me, I had to crack on. The training you do every year instinctively comes back and thankfully it worked.

"I just got on with what was in front of me. It's such a relief that he survived."

Hannah has now been presented with a Royal Humane Society at a ceremony in which Brian attended.

And, while the pair have stayed in touch since that fateful day in January last year, it was another emotional reunion.

Hannah said: "I had met him twice prior



PC Hannah Wheatley with the man she saved, Brian Kinealy.

to the ceremony.

"The first time was last April for his birthday, which was emotional and surreal for us both, but it was lovely to learn more about Brian and his family.

"The ceremony was quite overwhelming. I hadn't really told many people about the incident, so to be in front of a lot of people, and Brian being there was quite an emotional event."

Brian said: "I cannot thank Hannah enough or speak highly enough of her courage to put herself forward to save my life

"I know it's not quite the same experience as tackling a knife-wielding criminal, but having someone's life in your hands is enormous, and it can be really traumatising for the person involved.

"She gave me the best care and apart from a couple of broken ribs – which is to be expected during CPR – I made a full recovery.

"I'd also like to thank her fellow colleagues, who showed great kindness and empathy when they collected my wife and daughter from my house and rushed them to Peterborough City Hospital to be with me.



PC Hannah Wheatley.

"Since my ordeal it has been so lovely to get to know Hannah and her family and I was thrilled to be able to watch her receive her very well-deserved award. She is a wonderful person and I am forever grateful she was there that day."

# SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR SPECIALS

As part of this year's National Volunteers Week (3 – 9 June), we caught up with three Cambridgeshire Specials, as we discover what inspires them to give their time back to the Force.



## CLAIRE'S STORY

**A retired Cambridgeshire cop, who was the first female in the country to complete 'hostage rescue' training, is now sharing her experience and knowledge of policing with others, via her work as a Special Inspector.**

Mother-of-two and grandmother-of-one Claire Beck started volunteering with the Force in 2018, having retired as a sergeant four years prior.

"I loved policing, and I was always - and still am - proud to be part of the Force," said 60-year-old Claire who, alongside volunteering as a Special, works in operational learning as a police staff member.

She added: "Of course, I could have been spending my retirement taking nice holidays but instead, I chose to give 500 hours to the Force (last year, including her time as a full-time police staff member). I'm not ready to leave policing yet."

Claire joined Cambridgeshire Constabulary in June 1983, before becoming the only woman in the Force - at the time - to complete their firearms training in 1989. She went on to become a qualified firearms instructor in 1993.

"I started on frontline policing - now response team - specifically working in roads policing and then specialised in traffic - now roads policing," recalled Claire, who successfully applied for promotion 23 years into the job.

**“ AT THE MOMENT, WE HAVE 68 SPECIALS HERE AT CAMBRIDGESHIRE, AND WE ARE NOW RECRUITING AHEAD OF A COURSE STARTING IN JANUARY. WE'RE HOPING TO GAIN A LOT OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS WE OPENED AND TO TRAIN A COURSE OF 20 NEW SPECIALS IN JANUARY. ”**

"I was late to the promotion party because I loved the roles I had so much."

She was then a firearms officer from 1993 to 1998 and I was also the first female in the country to complete national hostage rescue (rapid intervention) training.

"I admit, it was definitely a challenge at the time - being one of very few women, and in some cases the only woman to carry a firearm. I really had to prove myself," said Claire, adding: "I feel very lucky to have had the career I did and I'm very proud of my achievements."

Now, Claire supports others - both Specials and regulars - via her volunteer role and in her police staff capacity.

"Personally, I felt like the needs of a lot of Special Constables - specifically around support and development - were falling by the wayside," she said. "They really need that support, especially those on the frontline."

"In my day job, I help people with their professional development and, as a Special, I support the development of others using my experience as a cop."

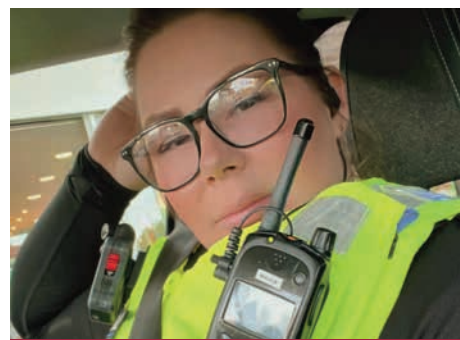
Reflecting on the national drop in Special Constable numbers, Claire said she is optimistic numbers will start to increase again.

"At the moment, we have 68 Specials here at Cambridgeshire, and we are now recruiting ahead of a course starting in January. We're hoping to gain a lot of applications for the recruitment process we opened earlier this year (3 June) and to train a course of 20 new Specials in January."

As the current recruitment drive continues, Claire's message to anyone who might be considering volunteering as a Special is 'do it'.

"It's an amazing feeling, volunteering. It's a chance to give back and support the community while, at the same time, having a day job," she ended.

Even as a teenager, Special Constable Maria Carpenter always held an aspiration to join the police force.



## MARIA'S STORY

**Even as a teenager, Maria Carpenter always aspired to join the Force. Applying to become an officer while still at school, Maria was keen to build her craft from the ground up, but her recruitment unfortunately never materialised. Closing the door on policing, at least for the time being, the now 36-year-old soon began a different career path.**

"I think the application (being unsuccessful) was down to my lack of life experience at the time," explained Maria. "I was disappointed, but I was at an age where it was easy to move on to the next thing."

As life went on, Maria realised the dream of joining the Force had not quite left her. From a distance, she remained curious about policing, always mindful of her perspective being on the outside, looking in and wanting this change one day.

Maria continued to endeavour and progress in her career, in which she currently enjoys a day job as a health and safety advisor for a construction company. Once feeling settled, she began exploring the possibility of becoming part of the police in some capacity and, in 2019, joined the Special Constabulary.

**“ I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE CONFIDENT ALL THE TIME. I MAY BE A VOLUNTEER, BUT I'M GETTING SO MUCH OUT OF IT THAT GOES BEYOND MONEY. ”**

"It was always in the back of my mind and it felt like the right time to make it happen," she continued.

"For a while, I had also been wanting to boost my confidence in dealing with people in difficult circumstances and moments of adversity. So, for multiple reasons, being a Special just made sense."

Working 40 hours a week in her day job, Maria now proudly dedicates every other weekend to her duties as a Special Constable. On top of this, she has a four-year-old son, Alfred, whose birth coincided with her early months as a voluntary officer.

"Even if my life has got very busy in the last few years, I wouldn't change any of it. My pregnancy and maternity leave with Alfred meant I only truly got going as a Special towards the latter part of 2021, but that has been more than enough time to see

what being a police officer is all about," she said.

So far, Maria has been based in Ely and has mainly worked as part of response teams. Additionally, she has been a member of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Vision Zero Team, which aims to reduce casualties in road accidents across the region.

Maria continued: "I didn't want to join and only do things I would feel comfortable with – I wanted to experience waiting for an emergency call, and then dealing with situations that would really make me think, 'wow, I'm an actual police officer and I'm making a difference.'"

Recalling a specific incident, Maria told of an incident that took place in February this year, when she received a GoodSAM call.

She explained: "I was in the car with a colleague when I received a call, alerting me to a man who was having a heart attack. It gets to the point where you don't think, you just do – the car was spun around in the opposite direction, and we reached the man. Thankfully, he survived."

"We had to stop him from dying, and it's only afterwards you realise you don't have that bystander mentality anymore – which is what I wanted to get rid of."

The mother-of-one added that, although demanding, circumstances like these mean she is consistently growing as both a police officer and as a person.

She ended: "I'm getting more and more confident all the time. I may be a volunteer, but I'm getting so much out of it that goes beyond money."

"Maybe I wasn't ready to be part of the police when I was younger, but I'm so glad that I didn't let go of the idea forever, because here I am now."



## THOMAS' STORY

**Since moving to the county in 2015, Cambridgeshire Police Federation member Thomas Howard has served his local community in many different capacities.**

Working as a Special Constable, he would often walk the same streets of Ely and Sutton in two different uniforms over the course of a single day – in the morning, on his round as a postie for Royal Mail, and then again in the evening on neighbourhood patrol as a police officer.

Initially, this did lead to some confusion, prompting residents to stop when seeing Thomas on his Special duties and think to

themselves: 'hang on, I thought he was my postman?'

"I remember getting a few odd looks at first," said Thomas. "People obviously soon realised I was volunteering in my spare time. Generally, I kept it quiet that I was a Special anyway, as I didn't want customers to act differently around me once they knew."

Overall, though, Thomas can only look back positively on the double exposure to the same community he enjoyed for five years.

"It was very fulfilling to make so many good relationships and be that figure of trust, and that's part of the reason I wanted to become a Special in the first place," he added.

As 2020 rolled around, Thomas, 31, was ready for a new challenge in his day job and instead doubled up his police duties, becoming an investigation management operator for Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**“ I CAN PROUDLY SAY THE CASUALTY RATE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS HAS DECREASED ACROSS CAMBRIDGESHIRE SINCE WE STARTED. IT FEELS AMAZING TO BE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. ”**

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, however, the start of Thomas' new job was delayed before it could even get off the ground.

Nevertheless, he saw it as an opportunity to take his commitment to the Special Constabulary up a notch, completing an incredible 350 hours of duty over the first lockdown.

"Thankfully, I had savings to get by on, so I had the chance to devote all my time to being a Special – of course, I was going to take it. It wasn't an easy time, by any means, but it did present this one-off chance," he said.

Thomas' efforts over lockdown included responding to domestic incidents, which had increased in demand in light of most of the public remaining at home.

At the start of 2021, he was then able to eventually begin his formal employment in the police, which he has remained in ever since.

His enjoyment of both his day job and voluntary role within the same force over recent years raises an obvious question: Would he ever consider merging his two responsibilities into the singular title of a regular police officer?

Thomas continued: "I'm too happy with how things are now to become a regular. I love being a Special as it's given me the platform to do so many exciting things, and while I work hard, I rarely ever feel overworked."

"Plus, the Federation has always been so supportive, even before Specials became

official members. I know they will back us up just like they do regulars, so I've never felt the need to change [to become a regular]."

Thomas, who has since stepped up into the role of Special Sergeant, has been involved in police projects such as the Vision Zero Team, which he founded two years ago with the aim to reduce casualties in road accidents across the region. The team, made up of other Specials, go out to organisations, businesses and schools and deliver awareness sessions following national themes set out by Road Safety GB.

The mission of the initiative is one close to his heart, he explained.

He added: "Vision Zero is an absolutely fantastic team to be part of. My uncle passed away in a road accident back in 2001 after his car was hit by a drug driver, so education on safe driving is really important to me."

"I can proudly say the casualty rate in road accidents has decreased across Cambridgeshire since we started. It feels amazing to be making a difference."

Another police campaign Thomas is set to take the lead on involves high visibility foot patrols as a prevention measure for serious violence and anti-social behaviour, after being approached by a Force lead.

His growing impact in a more rural area comes after three years with the Metropolitan Police, where his career as a Special Constable started. In a baptism of fire, Thomas' first post was on a gangs unit in Paddington Green, leaving the rookie officer wondering what he had let himself in for.

"The Met is a very different world, to say the least. It's unforgiving for regular officers, let alone a volunteer who was learning on the job," he revealed.

In London, Thomas also helped to police one of the world's busiest night-time economies on posts in Soho and Covent Garden, only adding to the testing nature of his first taste of life as a voluntary cop.

While acknowledging the differences between his current and previous regions of duty, the ex-postie maintained that a deep sense of fulfilment he has always been felt throughout his time as a Special.

Reflecting on his service so far, he concluded: "I wouldn't change where I am now for anything else – I love it up in Cambridgeshire. It might not be as fast-paced as the Met, but it has its own unique challenges, and I feel respected and valued for my experience."

"I would always tell anyone who is considering it (becoming a Special Constable) to just do it. It opens your eyes up to the world around you and you'll realise how important the police are to society in a way you would never have before."

**If you know someone who is interested in hearing more about becoming a Special Constable, please advise them to visit the Force's Special Constables page.**



# Life after amputation

**Between 2016 to 2021, an average of 84 cyclists were seriously injured per week in reported road traffic accidents.**

Road traffic accidents can happen anywhere and can involve you even if you are only a pedestrian. Severe injuries caused by road traffic accidents can include spine injuries, severe fractures, and event amputation.

If an injury on the roads has been caused by someone else's negligence, the injured person, or even the family, may be entitled to compensation. The person affected could be a driver, passenger, cyclist or pedestrian and the nature of the injury can be minor, serious, or fatal.

A Metropolitan police officer, Paul Day, was involved in a road traffic collision in 2016 whilst riding his motorbike to work.

Paul was cycling to work one morning and stopped at a red light. Moments later, he was hit from behind at 60mph and thrown six metres across the road, and fell, with his bike landing on top of him. This resulted in an open fracture which led to 13 surgeries over five years. 12 unsuccessful operations in an effort to save his leg and a successful 13th; the amputation of his leg.

Tracey Benson, head of serious injury South, worked on Paul's claim, ensuring he received interim payments to support his recovery and rehabilitation whilst the claim was ongoing. Over the course of Paul's claim, he received interim payments amounting to more than £300,000.

The driver was identified at the scene, prosecuted, and their insurers admitted liability. By admitting liability, the case was settled before going to court and a multi-million-pound settlement was negotiated by Tracey based on Paul's injuries, loss of earnings and pension, future cost of prosthetics, accommodation needs and care.

Since his amputation, Paul has returned to some of his hobbies such as flying, mountain biking and rock climbing. Paul later said, 'Hindsight is wonderful thing' and if he had known the amputation, and life after, would work out the way it did, he would have opted for that in the first place.

The road traffic accident claims process can be complex. If you or a loved one has been involved in a road traffic accident, it is always best to contact our expert team so we can discuss your case in more detail and carefully assess the best way in which we can help you.

Whether you were a cyclist like Paul, driver, passenger, pedestrian, or simply a bystander, our experienced and passionate teams are here to provide the legal support you need. We have handled thousands of road traffic accident claims, so no matter the nature of your accident, we have the expertise and experience to help you. For more information, visit [slatergordon.co.uk/personal-injury-claim/road-traffic-accidents](http://slatergordon.co.uk/personal-injury-claim/road-traffic-accidents)

*"This was a complex high value case, and it is essential to obtain expert evidence from the best, and most suitable medico-legal experts to be able to fight for the appropriate compensation for future prosthetics, care, and accommodation. These are the heads of damages usually most vehemently disputed, and I believe our evidence resulted in the excellent result achieved."*

**Tracey Benson**

Head of Serious Injury - South



# COP LIVING WITH MS COMPLETES 50KM CHALLENGE

A police officer who took on a running challenge with his fiancée after he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) says he is proud of their achievement.

Sergeant Owen Jones and PC Zoe Pell said people's support kept them going through their month-long fundraising and awareness campaign.

The Cambridgeshire Police Federation members were taking part in May 50K for the MS Society, with Owen aiming to run 50km during the month and Zoe 100km.

Their final total was 179.3km and they have raised more than £1,400.

Owen said: "I am really proud of what we managed to achieve and it was really quite tough going at times.

"The spring weather managed to throw everything at us, from torrential rain to mid-20C heat, yet we hit our goal completed and a bit more as well."

Owen, who was diagnosed with MS 18 months ago, said he hoped it would help change attitudes towards the disease.

"I feel it's really important to show that, with the right support, goals can be reached," he said.

"Despite having an illness many people assume would consign me to a wheelchair, I have completed a distance most people would be proud of.

"We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us, asked us about our challenge, and really hope it has made people feel more comfortable talking

about disability, visible or not.

"I would have struggled to keep going at times if it wasn't for the support we received and the generosity of people to believe and support the cause.

"It has been a great conversation starter with most people that know us and has enlightened a lot of people about the struggles some people face, and that what is under the surface might not be what you initially see."

Owen added: "Hopefully this money will go towards helping someone retain their independence and continue to help people understand the condition.

"We hope we have inspired at least one person to live their best life."

You can still [sponsor Owen and Zoe](#).

# FED MEMBER ORGANISING FIRST OF ITS KIND SPORTING EVENT

**A** Police Federation member from Cambridgeshire has set up an organisation to allow officers to play adaptive or disability sports.

PC Gary Callier, who lives in Huntingdon, has spoken about the transformative power of adaptive sports as he encouraged officers to take part in a taster event he's organising.

Gary, who plays for the Northampton Saints Wheelchair Rugby team, has told how he experienced a new lease of life after taking part in the Invictus Games in Germany last year.

However, on returning to the UK he wanted to continue adaptive sports in a policing capacity but found there was no disability sports programme in the service.

So he set up Police UK Disability Sport (PUKDS) in November to give police officers the chance to play adaptive and disability sports.

Now he's organising a multi-sport event later this summer and is inviting Federation members to try out what PUKDS has to offer.

The free event will be held at David Ross Sports Village at the University of Nottingham on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August (10am to 6pm).

Supported by [Metfriendly](#), [Lightweight Mobility and Seating](#), and [Recipero](#), it is the first event of its kind in the policing community with coaching sessions in badminton, sitting volleyball, table tennis, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby.

Gary said: "We're using the weekend to showcase all of the sports we have to offer. It's an open door for everyone. It's fully inclusive and everyone is welcome.

"Whether you're serving, retired, staff or officer, it doesn't matter, we would love for you to come along and try it out."

Gary was a former lance corporal with the Royal Engineers in the Army until he was medically discharged in 2015.

He had a degenerative spinal condition, as well as hip problems, sciatica, PTSD, anxiety and fibromyalgia.

Gary underwent spinal surgery in 2018, almost five years to the day since his condition was discovered.

"I was wheeled in for the procedure and walked out later that day," he said. "They cauterised the nerve endings in the base of my spine.

"What I've got isn't corrective, you can't fix it, there's no reconstructive element to it.

"It's pain management so stripping the nerve endings allowed me to not feel any



pain associated with my lower back.

"It was like a switch had been flipped and I was back on the track sprinting. I wanted to get back to who I was pre-condition."

Gary joined the police in 2019 and currently works for the British Transport Police out of King's Cross Station in London.

He was selected for the Invictus Games, which inspire recovery through sport, esports, and adventurous challenge, which took place in 2022 in the Hague.

However, competing in multiple sprint events over three days left Gary barely able to walk forcing him to pull out of the 100m and 200m races to focus on the 400m.

"My back and both legs went on the final bend of the 400m," he recalled.

"I finished the race but crawled over the line.

"That was my lightbulb moment. I could no longer compete or train at that level."

Instead, Gary turned to adaptive sports and recalled the influence on him of Joe Dillnutt, an athletics coach and now PUKDS ambassador.

"I don't really remember going to the first event," Gary said. "I was standing there with my back against the wall and Joe got me to engage.

"I wouldn't speak to anyone and he got me involved.

"If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be doing

any of this."

Gary said that he had to overcome feelings of being 'a fraud' when he started to play wheelchair sports and train towards last year's Invictus Games in Dusseldorf.

"I had to break down my own barriers," he explained. "I thought I'm not a wheelchair user anymore, so why am I playing wheelchair sports?"

"But you don't have to be severely disabled to play wheelchair sports, and going to Dusseldorf was about promoting adaptive sports and the inclusivity of it."

Gary competed in wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball, as well as athletics and returning with three gold medals, three silver and a bronze.

Gary launched PUKDS in November to give police officers the chance to play adaptive sports and aid their recovery.

It is funded through grants, and Gary launched a petition before the dissolution of Parliament for the General Election calling for the Government to allocate 10 per cent of the proceeds of crime seizures each year to help police charities and not-for-profit organisations, such as PUKDS.

"More than £339 million was seized last year and just 10 per cent of that for charities, which currently get nothing, would be a game-changer," he said. "It would be established under the Police Covenant."

[Register for the event.](#)