

NEWS

Issue 8 – October 2017

Road
Victims
Trust 
Giving hope to rebuild lives

Welcome to the 8th edition of the Road Victims Trust (RVT) newsletter. The year has proved to be an extremely busy one for all of the team at the RVT as we continue to provide our unique services across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. We have been over-whelmed by the level of generosity and support that has been shown by so many of our friends. Thank you very much.

In Bedfordshire the working relationships between RVT and Bedfordshire Police and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue are going from strength to strength.

In April 2017 the Trust was delighted to move into new office accommodation at Barkers Lane Community Firestation in Bedford. This has provided much needed space for the RVT fundraising arm, and we continue to work from our main offices in Kempston.



Pictured at the office opening are, (left to right), Assistant Chief Constable Beds Police Mike Colbourne, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Glen Ranger, Beds PCC Kathryn Holloway, CEO of RVT Mark Turner, Chair of Trustees RVT Lyn Hesse, Chief Fire Officer Paul Fuller, RVT Fundraiser Kay Marter and Cllr David McVicar

All in it together



Cambridgeshire's Chief Constable **Alec Wood** (pictured, left) is a Patron of RVT and fully understands the importance of its work, having experienced first-hand the trauma that losing a close relative in a collision brings. He acknowledges that even his policing experience did not prepare him for dealing with the death. At the time Alec and his family did not have access to a charitable support organisation and feels that had this support been available it would have been a great help in learning how to deal with such tragedy.

He said: *"The unique partnership arrangements between Police and RVT means that every person within Cambridgeshire adversely affected by a death can receive on-going support for as long as is necessary. I am proud to support the RVT."*

Jason Ablewhite, (above, right), Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has a strong sense of public service, having served as a District Councillor in St Ives for 16 years and spent the last five years as Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council. He also served as Mayor of St Ives in 2005. As PCC, Jason has the responsibility for commissioning victims' services.

Jason said: *"I am committed to ensuring that those affected by a road death in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough receive the very best levels of victims' service. I am delighted to provide funding and support to the RVT which gives hope to people who are at their lowest ebb."*

RVT welcomes a new Ambassador – Kate Goldsmith



We are very proud that Kate Goldsmith has joined our team of Ambassadors here at RVT. Speaking about the role Kate said:

‘The Road Victims Trust has supported me since August 2016 when the two vehicles in which my children were travelling, were involved in a crash with a lorry.

My 11-year-old daughter Aimee was killed instantly along with her friends Josh and Ethan and their mother Tracy. My 13-year-old son Jake miraculously survived but was left traumatised by the crash and deaths of Aimee and his best friend. Writing this one year on, I can see clearly now the difficult journey both Jake and I have travelled and how we have reached a ‘new normal’ family life. Frankly, I do not see how it could have been possible without the strength of support around us holding our hands every step of the way.

During the early weeks of the police investigation RVT Co-ordinator, Frances, kept in regular contact with me to help me digest the information shared by the Police FLO (Family Liaison Officer). She accompanied us to the

Police meeting held for all victim-related family members – imagine having to stay focused in such meetings whilst both grieving and worrying about your traumatised teenager waiting for you at home. Simply having Frances attend with us, acting as our advocate, making notes, listening and asking questions, was exactly what our family needed.

Another service RVT provides is the one hour a week counselling sessions in my own home. I won’t lie, I resisted at first, insisting I didn’t need (or want) to talk to anyone. I would say “what’s the point, it won’t change what’s happened?” Indeed, it didn’t change what happened, but later I came to realise that this isn’t what having counselling gives to you. In my experience counselling has allowed me to explore and discover who I really am and what I am to my family. To this day I still discover something new each session and understand better why I do, feel and act as I do. It has helped me lift the weight of other issues which were compounded by the loss of Aimee.

As a family, we have consciously made the decision for our personal tragedy to not define who we are and instead channel our love of Aimee into positive action which will lead to reducing the risks of fatal road collisions and also ensure the support we received continues for others when it’s needed.

Like many of you, I’ve read stories before like mine and felt empathy, but as life dictates we move on to the next conversation or job to do giving it no further thought. We all like to believe “this happens to other people, not me or anyone I know.” Sadly, more and more people tell me their own tragic stories, losing loved ones to distracted drivers. Every day we hear another M1, A5, A1 accident on the radio; roads we use every day and pure chance we weren’t there when it happened. Another driver passes us on the road looking at their phone and not the road. Reality is that the chances of this happening to someone else has now shifted to “this might happen to me”.

In memory of Aimee and to continue to protect Jake’s future I will strive to do anything I can to reduce that growing risk on our roads and working towards ensuring the RVT are fully supported as a charity so they may continue providing strength and support to us when we need it.’

A word from a Cambridgeshire friend –

Dr Simon Lewis –

Simon is Network Clinical Director for the East of England trauma network.

He said: “The regional NHS Trauma Network

aims to improve outcomes for those severely injured in the east, and works with partners in preventing injuries and deaths. Unfortunately, too many people still sustain life-changing injuries or are killed on our roads, and the Road Victims Trust provides a very valuable service supporting those affected by the worst incidents.”



Cheering Volunteers Award

RVT Counselling Volunteer Annemarie Boyle scooped an award at the Central Beds Cheering Volunteers Awards.

Annemarie was highly commended by the judges who recognised her professionalism, motivation and dedication she brings to the work.

Speaking about the award, Annemarie said “ The support that Road Victims Trust offers people of all walks of life is extraordinary. I am honoured to be part of this amazing organisation.”

Annemarie is pictured centre with other award winners.

Thank you Annemarie. We are very proud of you.



Supporters News and Events

Here are just a few of the wonderful people who have carried out events and raised money for the RVT over the Spring and Summer . . . we can't name you all but you know who you are and we are incredibly grateful:



Donal's Golf Day was held in memory of Donal Drohan – our thanks to Geraldine Drohan and Martine Chisholme for the outstanding support. **Over £1,000 was raised.**

Twelve-year-old Grace Smart held a fundraising night in memory of her best friend Aimee Goldsmith who was killed on the road in August 2016. Grace (centre) **raised an astonishing £6,000.**



Paul Jones **raised £4,500** at a **Golf Day** in memory of his son, Oliver.

Amber Young **raised £500** in memory of her brother Jake.

Jonathan Harker cycled 100 miles in the **Ride London** event in memory of his father and nephew. He **raised £1,436.**

George Bailey **raised £1,360** during a 24-hour **live gaming stream** in memory of his father, Mitchell.



Holywell Church of England School, Cambridgeshire, **raised £30** from a **cake sale**. Members of the class are pictured with RVT Chair of Trustees, Lyn Hesse.

Lynn Minshull made a **tandem skydive** and **raised £330.**



Potton Lower School held a **cake sale** and **raised £106**. The girls are pictured with Fundraising Manager, Kay Marter.

Mel Hayes ran the **Tough Mudder** and **raised £200** in memory of her brother Chris.

Jason Savage and Darren Glancy climbed the **3 Peaks** and **raised £600.**

Carol Bailey held a **Dog Show** and **raised a fantastic £2,500.**

The Shacklocks and Pantons took part in the **Colour Rush** and **raised £450**. Pictured, left to right, are Denise Panton, Jason Shacklock, Carl Panton, Toby Shacklock, Emma Panton and Liam Panton.



More Fundraising News

Charlotte Williamson jumped from a plane and held a BBQ and social event, raising in excess of £1,000.

Lucy Dunmore completed the London Triathlon and raised over £3,700 in memory of Lauren Danks.



The Ocado 10 team jumped from a plane for RVT and raised £7,000.



Our thanks to Ismail Anilmis at McDonalds, Aspects, Bedford, for the brilliant Fundraising Day that raised £15,000 in July

To provide our services we need your help

As a charity the Road Victims Trust relies on the generosity of its supporters in order to be able to deliver support to people in their time of need. Help and support can take many different forms.

If you would like to become a volunteer, help out at events and with local fundraising or, perhaps, form a local community fundraising group, please contact: markt@rvtrust.co.uk



To find out what happens in your area www.facebook.com/road.victimstrust

Grant-Making Foundations and Corporates

Our thanks go to –



THE BIG LOTTERY – Awards for All for the grant of £8,118 which allows us to purchase IT equipment and office furniture for our Barkers Lane Fundraising base.



CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – a grant of £4,000 to enable us to recruit and train Cambridgeshire Counselling Volunteers.



MASONIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – a grant of £6,000 to enable us to continue to provide our services across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.



Funded by the BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S LONDON LUTON AIRPORT LTD FUND – a grant of £6,000 to enable us to continue to provide our services across Bedfordshire.



HIGHWAYS ENGLAND – a grant of £3,000 to sponsor our Road Safety Day held in July 2017.



OCADO – sponsorship of £7,000 towards our Annual Ball in November 2017.



CHILDREN IN NEED – a grant of £30,000 over three years to enable us to continue our support of children and young people.



THE SCREWFIX FOUNDATION – a grant of £3,500 to help us renovate our offices.

Forthcoming Events

The **World Day of Remembrance (WDR)** is held each year to celebrate the lives of all persons killed on roads across the world. This year, on Sunday 19 November, the RVT will be holding two services to mark WDR.

The first will take place at **Great St Marys Church, Senate Hill, Cambridge at 11.15am** and will be led

by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Stephen Conway, and in the afternoon a service will take place **at 3pm at St Pauls Church in Bedford**, led by the Reverend Father Kevin Goss. Our newly-appointed Ambassador, Kate Goldsmith, will be speaking at each service.

The services will be a fitting and moving tribute to all those who have lost their lives on the roads of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.

We would be delighted to see as many of our Friends and Supporters at either service.

For further details please e-mail Linda Kitson at:

lindak@rvtrust.co.uk



Annual Charity Ball

Tickets are still available for our Annual Ball which will be held at the Park Inn, Bedford on Saturday 11 November 2017. This event has proved immensely popular over the past two years and we would love you to join us on the night.

Saturday 11th November 2017

RVT Masquerade Ball

6.30pm—carriages at 1am

The Park Inn - Bedford

Tickets £45 per ticket

Tables of 8 to 12 available

Evening Activities:

Drinks Reception

3 Course Dinner with wine

Magicians | Music

Auction | Raffle

Fun Photo Booth

*For tickets
and further information
please contact:*

Mark Turner: markt@rvtrust.co.uk

Tel: 01234 843345

Don't forget your mask!