

# NEWS

Issue 4 – February 2016

Road  
Victims  
Trust  
Giving hope to rebuild lives

“Welcome to the 4th edition of the Road Victims Trust Newsletter. We face many challenges as we look forward to the next 20 years of operations – none the least the financial backdrop in which we currently operate. I am confident that the Trust has suitably robust risk management and financial policies in place to ensure that we will continue to improve and build upon the services that we provide. More importantly we have a highly-skilled team of Staff and Volunteers who ensure we can provide the best possible levels of support to those affected by a road death.

Please read the Newsletter with interest and get in touch with us if you want to join our growing band of Friends and Supporters.” *Mark Turner – Chief Executive*



## A warm welcome to Glen . . . .

*Welcome to a new Patron Glen Ranger MBS DipBE MIFireE, Deputy Chief Fire Officer*



Glen Ranger joined Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service as Deputy Chief Fire Officer in June 2010. His Fire and Rescue Service career began in Oxfordshire in 1989 where he served as a Firefighter, Leading Firefighter and Sub Officer. In 1996 he was promoted to Station Officer (Rider) with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, where he served for five years, becoming a Community Commander in North Essex. In October 2001, Glen moved to Warwickshire serving in Operations, Community Safety and Support Services before being appointed as the County's Assistant Chief Fire Officer. Thereafter Glen was promoted to Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Head of Emergency Planning for Warwickshire County Council.

Glen holds a Masters Degree in Business, a Diploma in Business Excellence and the Members Diploma of the Institution of Fire Engineers. He has completed the Prime Minister's Top Management Programme at the National School of Government. In addition, he is a National Incident Command Assessor, progressing candidates through the Skills for Justice Strategic Incident Command qualification. He is also the Chief Fire Officers Association Eastern Region Lead for Home Safety.

Glen was awarded the Fire Service's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 2009 following twenty years of exemplary service. His experience spanning four Fire and Rescue Authorities is being utilised in his role as Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Head of Service Delivery for Bedfordshire and Vice Chair of the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum.

Supporting the Road Victims Trust is something that Glen feels honoured to do. Having attended many Road Traffic Collisions as an operational Firefighter, he knows the value of professional support and counselling from people who care. As a proud Patron of the Trust Glen wants to develop what he feels is a natural and beneficial partnership.

## Meet Henry . . . .

The RVT is delighted to welcome and introduce our new ambassador, Henry Wellbelove.



*A few words from Henry . . .*

‘My involvement with the Road Victims Trust came as the result of the sudden death of my younger brother, Archie, in December 2012. At the time, we were both students at the University of Warwick; I was in my second year and Archie had just started. In the immediate aftermath, the Trust provided my family with unwavering and invaluable support at a time when it seemed to all involved that the inexorable sense of despair would take hold. As a result of this, I feel very much indebted to the Trust. In order to repay their kindness to my family,

James Rawstone and I decided to organise a gruelling cycle ride to raise funds, and in August 2014 we cycled 150 miles from Whitehaven to Sunderland, raising £25,000.

I have now graduated from Warwick, and am in full-time employment. Chief Executive Mark Turner and I have recently been in talks about my undertaking of an ambassadorial role with the Trust, a position which I am delighted to accept. My objective is to extend the reach of the charity through social media platforms, with a particular focus on drawing in a younger demographic. By increasing public awareness and the profile of the Trust, I aim to increase financial and practical support for this more-than-worthy cause.’

**Can you help Henry help RVT?** If you would like further information on how to help, or would like to speak to someone, please contact **Jenny Hillam** [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) Tel: 01234 843345

## Say Hello . . . to Trustees *Tim Sharpe* and *Pat Whittome*

**Tim Sharpe** is a barrister practising from Temple Garden Chambers in London. He started his career at the



Bar in 2002 and since then has been predominantly involved in Health and Safety cases, inquests and civil litigation. He represented Balfour Beatty in the prosecutions and appeal arising out of the Hatfield train derailment and since then has represented various corporate clients in relation to Health and Safety prosecutions, ranging from ports to engineering companies and transportation companies. His civil litigation work brings him into contact with cases arising out of road traffic collisions and he represents both Claimants and Defendants in these matters and often appears at inquests arising out of such collisions. In addition to appearing in court, he also advises in writing and in conferences. He went to university in Cambridge and lives in Hertfordshire.



**Pat Whittome** has worked in education since 1975, originally as a teacher in schools and later as a

Computing lecturer in the university and further education sectors. She was Head of Computing at Bedford College before taking the role of Technology Training Development Manager at the college, organising IT and Engineering training for local organisations. Pat retired in July 2013 and she supports the Road Victims Trust in various IT projects.

## Family rally together to support Trust with Skydive

***On Friday 1 April six members of the Henney family will take part in a Tandem Skydive to raise funds for the Trust. Here is Caroline Henney's story and why she has chosen to do this. . . .***



Jan Henney

'In January 2012 my 18-year-old daughter Jan was hit by a bus on her way to school. She died six days later in hospital never regaining consciousness.

After it happened my husband had to deal with everything. I shut myself away and would not consider counselling, as this would have been an admission that the event was actually real.

I went back to work after being coaxed by my colleagues and husband that it was for the best. I was taking sleeping pills, anti-depressants and drinking to make me feel numb. People would tell me how well I was doing but that was because I would tell myself my daughter had gone travelling or had gone away to university. I was on automatic pilot doing and saying things that people expected of me. We went on holidays and out with friends but most days I was hoping I would not wake up.

My elder daughter got married on April 2013. I felt as if I was watching it taking place from outside, I should have been supporting her and getting involved but could not drum up any enthusiasm to do so. We then had to go through the court case; again I thought if I did not go in to hear the trial there would be no confirmation of what had actually occurred.

At some point I realised that I needed help. The Police Liaison Officer had left us a Road Victims Trust folder. My daughter had seen a counsellor through Brake but I chose to email RVT and request counselling. I think my decision was based on the fact that our Police liaison Officer had known what we had been through and as the counselling was local it would be more personal. I had reservations and was very defensive at first. I was sure I would not get anything from it. Some counsellors just give nods in the right places and tick boxes.

My counsellor was very attentive and patient – she told me it was ok to go through all the myriad of emotions I was feeling. I would relate to her our terrible hospital experience and the disappointment of the court case outcome. After the sessions I would feel as if a cloud had been lifted away and eventually I stopped taking the tablets. I am full of admiration for someone who works and has a family but finds the time to do voluntary work. There are still bad days, but I know that the RVT would be there if I needed them.

My family have also been very supportive and because they have seen how the RVT has helped me we would like to raise money for RVT by doing a Skydive. Before Jan's incident I was oblivious to how many road fatalities there are in Hertfordshire but unfortunately there are far too many. The RVT can help the bereaved in so many ways.'

*Caroline Henney*

## Secretary of State for Transport Visits Trust

**Each year over 80 people will be killed on the roads of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, leaving behind a trail of devastation where lives are changed forever.**

The Road Victims Trust was delighted to welcome the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Patrick McLoughlin, to its offices on Thursday 21st January and he showed a deep and meaningful understanding as to the plight of road victims, and some of the inequalities faced by many of the families, friends and colleagues affected by the death.

During the meeting Mr McLoughlin met with Grant and Katie Wellbelove, whose 18-year-old son Archie was killed in 2012 and also talked in detail with the Trust's skilled team of Coordinators who provide the emotional and practical support to those affected by a death.

Mr McLoughlin said: "I'm grateful to the Road Victims Trust for taking the time to talk me through their important work. Kathryn Holloway and I were able to see first-hand the difference they make to families who have suffered devastating loss.

It is an example of where police forces can work with each other and other organisations to improve policing and make our communities safer.

In Government we are determined to do more. Before Christmas I published a Road Safety Plan with common-sense proposals to dissuade people from dangerous behaviour and encourage more vulnerable groups to stay safe on our roads.

We may have some of the safest roads in Europe but there is more work to do and I am committed to getting it done."



## Recent RVT Events . . . .

### We will remember them . . .



On Sunday 15 November 2015 the Road Victims Trust held a Service at St Paul's Church, Bedford, to mark the **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims**.

The service was led by Father Kevin Goss of St Paul's and included anthems sung by the Bedfordshire Police choir. More than 200 people attended the

event and heard from Declan Duggan, who had been supported by the Trust in 1998 following the death of his 19-year-old son Kevin. Declan spoke movingly about his family's experience.

Talking about the service, the Lord Lieutenant, Helen Nellis, said: "Today is about remembering the beautiful lives led by those who are no longer with us, but who remain in our hearts always. The Road Victims Trust continues to make a difference for the good of our Community."

*Pictured are (left to right): Fire Cadet Connor Walker, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Glen Ranger, Lord Lieutenant Helen Nellis, and Police Cadet Siani Bugtti.*

### Celebrating 20 years in style

2015 saw the Trust celebrate its 20th anniversary.

To commemorate this milestone the Trust held a celebratory ball at the Park Inn Bedford on 28 November. The ball was a huge success with 220 guests



attending. The guests were treated to a champagne reception, three course meal and wine, music from Spectrum Disco, live music from 'May Contain Nutz' and magic from magicians Paul Rogers and Richard Bass.



The ball raised in total £12,000 which will help support residents in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire who have been affected by fatal road collisions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, auction and raffle donors, supporters and our wonderful guests for helping make it such a wonderful and successful evening.

The evening was such a success that we plan to hold another ball on 5 November 2016 at The Park Inn Bedford.

For further information, or to reserve your table or seats, please contact: Jenny Hillam [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) Tel: 01234 843345.

### The Big Give 2015 – £60,000

Thank you to all those who participated in this year's Christmas Big Give. In all we raised over £60,000 – a fantastic amount that will do so much to support people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.



We are extremely grateful to our pledgers – Edith Winifred Hall Trust and our charity champions – CANDIS who have made this possible.



### Annual Quiz

The annual Christmas quiz held on 4 December was well supported by 17 teams this year!



Quiz master Mark Turner put the teams through their paces with eight rounds of various subjects.

A fish and chip supper was enjoyed by all at half time, served by the Bedfordshire police cadets.

Our Congratulations go to 'Boyz to Mensa' (above) who were the winning team. We raised a fabulous £650 – so a huge thanks to all who attended and supported the event. We look forward to seeing you all again this year.

## Supporters' News

### RVT Supporters take on the Virgin London Marathon



Each year the Road Victims Trust is allocated one 'silver bond' place for the London Marathon and this year Simon Burgin, a traffic officer with Cambridgeshire Police, has kindly volunteered to

**fill that place and take on the challenge for the charity.**

*Simon say's . . . .*

"Why am I running for the Road Victims Trust? Over the last 15 years I have knocked on many strangers doors, at all times of day and night, at all times of the year. I have interrupted birthdays, anniversaries, and Christmas and New Year celebrations to deliver the most devastating of news and inform them that someone they love will not be coming home.

Whilst my training and experience helps those affected I eventually have to walk away to leave them to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives and find a way forward.

Any death of someone you love and care about is so very sad. For those of us that have experienced personal loss of a friend or family member can take some comfort knowing how and why, and in many cases even prepare, but in road death, that is simply not the case.

Now, however, thanks to some very special and well trained volunteers further support through the Road Victims Trust is available. Every serious life changing injury collision or road death is automatically referred to the Trust by the police. The Trust then provides a dedicated trained case worker to provide invaluable emotional and practical support at a time when someone's world is falling apart."

#### The Challenge

"Those of you who know me, and know me well, will understand what a great challenge for me personally it really is. I have never been a runner! The dedication to training and miles I must cover before 24 April is daunting. I do not have a target time; I just want to be able to say I ran all the way.

Every single £1 that I raise will carry me a metre further along the roads of London, and as I enter The Mall and see that finish line I will I am sure manage a smile knowing two things: that one I have raised a lot of money for a fantastic charity close to my heart and two being able to say I did it. " Thank you for looking and in the words of the late **Sir Terry Wogan "Give what you can!"** To support Simon visit his page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SimonBurgin>

**Darren Matussa**, our very own Forrest Gump, will soon be donning his running shoes again for RVT.

Darren will be taking part in the London Marathon after winning a ballot place.

Not content with running the London Marathon in April, Darren will also be taking part in the Barcelona Marathon on Sunday 13 March.

When I asked Darren why he keeps running and flying the flag for RVT he said: "I'm running in memory of Jake Chapman, a fun loving 14-year-old boy who tragically lost his life in a road collision six years ago.

It would be good to raise more money for this great charity that helped a great family (who put a lot of time into the local community) in their time of need.

So please help me to help this amazing charity!"

To support Darren visit his page

[www.justgiving.com/DARREN-MATUSSA1/](http://www.justgiving.com/DARREN-MATUSSA1/)



On 5 March, seasoned adrenalin junkie **Amiee Phillips** – who supported us in 2015 by throwing herself out of a perfectly serviceable airplane – is taking part in a mile-long Zip Wire challenge in Wales in support of the Trust.

To show Amiee **your** support please visit her online fundraising page [www.justgiving.com/Amiee-Phillips1/](http://www.justgiving.com/Amiee-Phillips1/)

## Ken chooses RVT

**Ken Parsons of Sports Massage Bedford has chosen the Road Victims Trust as his Charity of the Year for 2016 and we cannot thank him enough for his support.**

Ken said: "I take on a charity challenge every two years. Previously I have cycled the coast-to-coast, Whitehaven to Sunderland, then cycled the widest point of Great Britain over four days from St David's to Lowestoft, and have run a marathon too. This time I have decided to run, walk or crawl my favourite route, Whitehaven to Sunderland, over four days in support of the Road Victims Trust.

I remember being told by a client who had lost two close family members in an RTA many years ago that after that knock on the door from the police with the tragic news, the police left and once the door was shut there was nobody and nothing in place to support the family. I could not comprehend the situation, but I know from that situation the idea of RVT was born. I also knew that I just had to do something to support the charity. As a Kempston boy born and bred, I am immensely proud that the RVT is based in Kempston.

The challenge will take place in August, when myself and three friends will be setting off to hopefully run an average of 34-miles-a-day. If we can't run we will walk and if we can't walk we will crawl, but we will finish. I am so grateful that I have never needed the charities services, but I am glad I am able to support them."



## Forthcoming Events

*Dates for your diary in 2016*



### Saturday 5 March – ZIP WIRE: THE 'NEAREST THING TO FLYING'!

Home to the longest Zip Line in Europe and the fastest in the world. Speeds in excess of 100mph can be reached. The event will take at the Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda, Wales.

For Further information Contact Jenny Hillam E: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) T: 01234 843345

### 12 March – QUIZ NIGHT

with a live band, fish and chip supper and raffle at the Addison Centre, Kempston. £12.50 per person.

For tickets and further information please contact Ken Parsons

E: [info@sportsmassagebedford.com](mailto:info@sportsmassagebedford.com)

### 1/2 April – TANDEM SKYDIVE

Ever wanted to jump out of a plane? Are you an adrenaline junkie, bucket list ticker, or just fancy the challenge of a lifetime? Look no further we can help. If you are over the age of 16 and think this is the challenge for you, let's make it happen.

For Further information Contact Jenny Hillam E: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) T: 01234 843345



### 12 May – LUTON & DISTRICT ELECTRICAL SOCIETY CHARITY GOLF DAY

at Dunstable Downs Golf Club on behalf of the Road Victims Trust.

Teams of four @ £250. Bacon Rolls and Coffee on arrival. 18-holes with a shot gun start at 11:30, Dinner with Prize Presentation and Raffle. (Dinner available for non-players). Open to invitation

To Secure a Place – Make a Donation – Offer Suitable Prizes, or for further Information call Paul Jones T: 07836 656356 or 01582 402455 or E: [paulj@1ainstalec.co.uk](mailto:paulj@1ainstalec.co.uk)

### 21 May – THE GREAT ESCAPE

**Are you looking for a challenge? – Then look no further, join us for the Great Escape.**

Get a team of four together, find yourself a fancy dress theme and sign up today.

You will be dropped off in a secret location with no money, phone, or credit cards and given a set of 30 tasks to perform before racing back to Bedford to beat the other teams in the quickest time, using only your wit and personality while raising money along the way for the Road Victims Trust. Oh, and there are trophies up for grabs too.

For Further information Contact Jenny Hillam E: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) T: 01234 843345



#### June

4th – Colour Rush: Milton Keynes  
5th – The Big Lunch: – Bedford Park  
18th – 20-Mile Walk: – Bedfordshire

#### July

16th/17th – River Festival: Bedford

#### September

3rd/4th – Tandem Skydive: Sibson Airfield  
17th – Afternoon Tea for RVT (All counties)

#### November

13th – Service of Remembrance: St Paul's Church, Bedford  
5th – RVT Ball: Park Inn, Bedford

#### December

Christmas Quiz – Date TBC

For information on all these events please Contact Jenny Hillam E: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) T: 01234 843345

## THANK YOUs – It's impossible to thank everyone, but here are a few . . .

Our thanks go to the Big Lottery Fund. Due to their fantastic support we are able to bring this newsletter to you on a regular basis.



### DRAEGER

Draeger Community Causes Fund donated £250 to the Road Victims Trust. Lesley Youren, Marketing Manager Respiratory Care of Draeger Medical U.K. Limited Hemel Hempstead said "At Draeger we make products that protect, support and save lives. We are very committed to supporting our local community and were delighted to offer a donation to the Road Victims Trust in recognition of the valuable work they do supporting the families of those who have been victims of tragic collisions".

*We would like to thank Draeger and their employees for their kind support.*



Thank you to the John Apthorp Charity who have kindly provided support for six families in Hertfordshire in 2015."

### AFC KEMPSTON

Kempston Town Football Club held a 'Christmas Jumper Day' at the club on 19 December and all proceeds raised were donated to The Road Victims Trust. *Thank you to players and guests for their kind donations.*



### ASDA

Asda Peterborough and Asda Dunstable have donated £200 each to the Road Victims Trust, via their in-store green token scheme. Customers are given tokens at the till that they can then put into a box of their choice. At the end of each month the tokens are counted up and the winning charity receives a cheque for £200.

*We would like to thank ASDA for choosing RVT, and their customers for popping their little green token into the Road Victims Trust voting box.*

*(Photos: top, Jo Frost of Peterborough Asda, and bottom: Michael Watts of Dunstable Asda, with the Trust's Jenny Hillam)*



18-year-old **Ben Wright**, a former Police Cadet from Clapham, was shortlisted for a 'Young People of the Year' award and, although he did not win, he did come away with a cheque for £50 which he kindly donated to the Road Victims Trust.

Ben presented the cheque to CEO Mark Turner at the RVT 20th Anniversary Ball.

Ben said: "I nominated the Road Victims Trust to receive this money as I have worked closely with them at a number of events and can see the difference that they make to those affected by incidents on the roads." *Thank you Ben for your hard work and your lovely donation.*



Thank you to our friends at **Ocado** for donating £600 worth

of raffle prizes for our Anniversary Ball in November. The winners were extremely pleased with their very generous prizes.



**Swimathon Team** for RVT, Jason's All stars and Allsorts, took to the water on 21 November 2015 at Bedford School and raised £720 to be split between the Road Victims Trust and the Bedford Rotary Club. Thank you to Cari and Liam Panton, Toby and Freya Shacklock, Darren, Finn, Evie and Lois Shanley, and of course to their coach Jason Shacklock – *well done teams.*

## More THANK YOUs



**Neil Panton's** 50th birthday celebration on 5 December benefitted two charities dear to his family, The Garden House Hospice and the Road Victims Trust. Neil's guests donated to the charities and each charity received £660 each.

*Thank you for being so thoughtful on your birthday Neil, and thanks to your guests for their generosity!*



**Travis Perkins**

Paul Holman, Branch Manager of **Travis Perkins**, Bedford very kindly donated timber and shingle so that repairs could be carried out to the RVT garden which was looking a little sad!

Next step was to contact Tom Williams, Managing Director of **Maydencroft**, a prestigious business in Gosmore, Hertfordshire, to see if he could help. Tom sent Patryk Zielinski and James Gough who kindly completed the garden on 16 December. What a beautiful job they did.

*Big thanks to both businesses.*

**MAYDENCROFT**



We would like to thank **Conoco Phillips** for their donation from the Conoco Phillips London charity pot and for their wonderful donation of two business class flights with BA for our Grand Prize at the Ball in November.

Each year, employees are given the opportunity to nominate a local or personal charity of their choice to receive a portion of the charity funds that we have. A few charities are selected; dependent on the employee's involvement and or reasons, and a committee decides how the pot gets split.

For 2015, Leroy Goodman nominated RVT to receive the donation.

*(Photo: Leroy Goodman of Conoco Phillips and winner of the flight tickets, Louise Cusack).*

## 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. This year we need to create further awareness of the Trust in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. To do this we are calling on people to offer up a little of their time to help us at our events, supermarket collections, bag packs, holding your own events and taking part in our organised events. Whatever time or support you have to offer we will be more than grateful. If you would like to take part in any of our organised events, or, volunteer your time we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Jenny Hillam: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk)