

NEWS

Issue 7 – January 2017

Road
Victims
Trust
Giving hope to rebuild lives

Welcome to the first edition of the RVT Newsletter for 2017. We hope you enjoyed the news, information, stories and events we covered in the newsletters of 2016 and we look forward to bringing you more of the same in 2017.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our readers, friends and supporters a happy and peaceful New Year.

We will remember them . . .



On Sunday 20th November 2016 the Road Victims Trust held two Services to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

The first was at Jesus College, Cambridge, and was led by the Right Reverend Paul Dominiak. It featured hymns and singing by the Jesus College choir (pictured, left).

The second service, at St Pauls Church, Bedford, was led by the Venerable Paul Hughes and featured singing from the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir. In all over 300 people – consisting of families and friends of those we have supported, and representatives of the Emergency Services, Road Safety Partnerships and local dignitaries – attended the two services.

Chair of Trustees, Lyn Hesse said: “We have had two extremely moving and fitting tributes to all those who have been killed on the roads of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. We are all very grateful for the ongoing support and friendship that we receive. This enables us to continue to provide the best possible levels of care for those in need.”

Pictured right are representatives of the Bedfordshire Police Volunteer Cadets who, once again, gave such tremendous support at the Bedford Service.



Say Hello to . . .

Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford – Patron

Richard was consecrated Bishop of Bedford in 2012 within the Diocese of St Albans.



His experience of ministry has included a tough housing estate in Sheffield, town centre Rotherham and multi-cultural Leicester.

With a passion for the Church's mission in the world he has held leadership positions in social housing, New Deal for Employment, New Deal for Communities and was a member of the Carnegie Trust UK Commission on the Future of Civil Society. He has extensive experience of working with other faiths.

He was honoured to lead the first Road Victims Trust Service of Remembrance in 2013.

Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards

The Road Victims Trust is very proud and honoured to have been awarded the prestigious Prince Michael International Road Safety Award (PMIRSA) for the quality of post-crash care given to victims.

Trust Patrons, Trustees and members of staff attended the presentation at the Savoy Hotel on 13 December 2016 when Chair of Trustees Lyn Hesse and CEO Mark Turner accepted the award on behalf of the Trust from Prince Michael of Kent.

Speaking about the award Lyn Hesse said: “We are all very proud and honoured to win an award of such international standing. This is a tribute to all of the RVT Staff, Volunteers and Partners who work tirelessly to provide the service. This type of support is, quite simply, not available elsewhere. We know that what we do provides hope to rebuild the lives of so many devastated people.”

The Prince established his awards scheme in 1987 in the UK and it is now fully international, with the Awards recognizing achievement and innovation in road safety worldwide.

Each year the most outstanding examples of international road safety initiatives are given public recognition through the scheme and the winners are invited to a Gala Presentation held in London, where the Prince announces his Premier Award for that year.

In addition, the Prince annually presents a Decade of Action Award to recognise major contributions to the Global Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.





Trevor Pocock – A Winner of Winners

We are delighted to announce that RVT Counselling Volunteer Trevor Pocock (left) won two awards at the Pride in Bedfordshire awards held on Thursday 3 November at the Corn Exchange in Bedford sponsored by the Harpur Trust.

Trevor, who has been a Counselling Volunteer for RVT for the past 13 years, won the Volunteer award as well as being voted Winner of Winners across all the categories.

The awards were held to recognise excellence in public spirit across Bedfordshire and were attended by 150 people from across the Voluntary and Caring sectors.

Talking about the award Trevor declared himself: "Speechless but very proud and honoured."

Accepting the awards on behalf of Trevor were Trustees Lyn Hesse, Bob



Panton and CEO Mark Turner (right).

Well done to Trevor and all Counselling Volunteers and Coordinating staff for so many years of magnificent service.

Trevor said: "I was totally surprised but thrilled and honoured to receive this award and see it as a fitting recognition of the work of all of the volunteers in the Road Victims Trust."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our Counselling Volunteers for the fantastic job they do.

Annapurna Trek

Sharon Walsh and Jackie Holden set off on a huge challenge in November to trek to Annapurna base camp in Nepal in memory Sharon's husband Lawrence Gardner and Jackie's mum Olive Vickers, both victims of tragic road collisions. *Here is Sharon's account of their challenge and why they decided to do it.*

My husband Lawrence J. Gardner left the house two years ago on his push bike with our, then nine-month-old puppy. Forty minutes later after receiving a call from a member of the public my son and I witnessed the most awful and traumatic scene; my husband had gone over the handlebars of his bike. He died in the early hours of the next morning of un-survivable head injuries. We were able to stay with him throughout and say our goodbyes.



The enormity of his death is far reaching and has left an enormous void. Dealing with his loss has been, and still is, a struggle, but in the early days, we were lucky enough to be passed details of the Roads Victims Trust by the police liaison officer. Their counselling was wonderful, not only in dealing with the nightmare emotionally but also with support and guidance around the time of the inquest too. For me their contact was invaluable.

I wanted to show my gratitude and be able to help the Trust in any way I could. So I decided, along with my friend Jackie, that we would set ourselves a challenge and raise funds by trekking to Annapurna in the memory of Lawrence and Jackie's mother, Olive Vickers, who died nine years ago in a hit-and-run. No one knows better the immensely important work the Trust does than Jackie.

It was a hard but fantastic climb. It took just over eight days to reach Annapurna Base Camp. The trail was mostly steps, and we struggled a little with the altitude, but we had fantastic weather and beautiful mountain landscapes. Then three days descending 4,130 metres!

Both Olive and Lawrence shared a birthday on 29 November, and we were lucky to reach Base Camp on that day. Jackie hung her prayer flags in Olive's memory, and I scattered some of Lawrence's ashes.

This trip was an incredible experience, both physically and emotionally, and with the support of our friends, family, and colleagues we are incredibly happy to have been able to help raise funds for the Trust.

There is still time to show your support for these wonderful ladies here is their fundraising link: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sharon-Walsh3

Ocado Driver of the Year



Designed to highlight and reward safe driving, the Driver of the Year event took place on Wednesday 26th October. Ocado selected their top-performing drivers to take part in the event who, to qualify, had to score highly in a road safety quiz, have had no accidents in the last year and be exemplary employees.

The drivers took part in a series of road safety-related scenarios, such as a stopping distance simulator, a wheel-changing challenge and the Batak Pro reaction test. The three top-scoring drivers of the day were presented with awards. Safe and responsible driving is very important to Ocado and they are very proud of their drivers, and continue to work hard with them to deliver a safe driving ethos. We were so proud to support the Ocado Safe Driver of the Year Awards and felt honoured to be able to present an award to the team based at Dartford who were named Safest Site. Our Events Manager Jenny Hillam attended the event and presented the award on our behalf.

We would like to congratulate all the winners and commend them on their safe driving record. Our thanks also go to Ocado for their continued support.

'Big Give' Christmas Challenge . . . you did it!

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Big Give Christmas challenge this year, we really do have amazing friends and supporters. You helped us reach our target of £40,000 plus an extra £3,600. The amount raised will help us to support the residents of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire whose lives that have been affected by the trauma of road death.

On behalf of the Road Victims Trust and the people we support THANK YOU – for making a difference!

We are extremely grateful to our charity champions **Candis** who have made this possible.

What's been happening

SEPTEMBER

Two boys, two girls, four bikes, a big yellow bus and 500 miles = Team RVT and Lake Geneva Extra Mile Challenge 2016.

Between 22nd and 26th September, Leroy Goodman, David Vizard, Lexi Titterinton and Elaine Cox (*right*) took part in a spectacular 500-mile cycle through the Vosges region of France, over the Rhine into Germany, and on to their final stop in Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Each cyclist covered around 45 miles a day, typically in four or five stages.

This really was a tough challenge and we are so grateful to the team for taking it on in aid of the Road Victims Trust. All four cyclists enjoyed it and intend to take it on again in 2017. We can't thank them enough for the time they gave up to support us and their pledge to support us in the future. *David wrote a blog of the team's journey, to read it in full [click here](#).*



Afternoon Tea

This year we launched our first Afternoon tea for RVT and we are delighted to say it was a huge success with many of our friends and supporters holding events in their homes, gardens and offices to help raise funds and awareness for the Trust. The event was such a success that we plan to make it an annual event and we have chosen September again for 2017.

This year's event raised £3,000 which was amazing as we didn't know what to expect.



Thank you to everyone who held an event for us and to all the guests, family and friends who supported them.

If you would like to get involved and hold an Afternoon Tea next year please get in touch with Mark Turner markt@rvtrust.co.uk for an information pack.



OCTOBER

747in7

On 22nd October local businessman Nick Kier of Lane and Holmes in Bedford ran his first marathon out of seven in aid of the Road Victims Trust (RVT).



Nick was running under the banner of his St George's Day Charity Fund and with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Bedford Park. Joining Nick on his run were a team of around 60 RVT supporters. The run was started by Kempston Mayor Councillor Carl Meader.

The runners were cheered on by supporters who came down to Addison Park, Kempston, to wave them off at the start line. The runners were more than happy to see all the friendly faces there to spur them on.

Nick ran a further six half marathons in six consecutive days for another six charities – what a man.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nick on the success of the event and to thank him for making the Road Victims Trust one of his charities of choice. Our thanks go to Nick and all the runners and walkers who took part in the event on our behalf. To date the event has raised around £6,000 for the Trust – and 60k in total.

NOVEMBER

21st Anniversary Ball

This year the Trust celebrated its 21st Anniversary and we decided to celebrate in style with a ball on 5th November at the Park Inn, Bedford.

Two hundred and eighty guests joined us to help us celebrate with a champagne reception, three course dinner, wine and dancing. To make the night even more exciting we had magicians to entertain the guests, photo booth which brought out the fun side of everyone, face painting for the inner child in us all and a fabulous sweet cart which was enjoyed by all.

The Trust is so grateful to everyone who came to help us celebrate and support us. Our appreciation goes to everyone who donated the amazing auction and raffle prizes. We cannot believe how kind and generous you have all been – thank you so much!

A special mention and appreciation goes to the four young police cadets who came to help out greeting guests and with the auction. Thank you to the lovely Celia from Tesco's who gave up her Saturday evening to help us sell raffle tickets, and a splendid job she did too.

The ball raised a magnificent £15,000 for the Trust and this is due to the generosity of our wonderful guests, who bought raffle tickets, took part in the Tombola and bid like crazy on the auction lots.

We would like to thank our headline sponsors for their continued support of the Trust and for helping to make the ball a huge success:

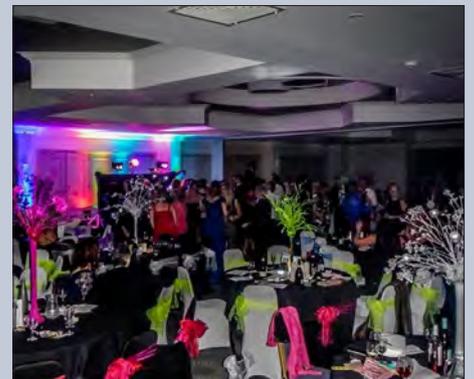
- ORS PLC
- Bedfordia
- Ocado
- Conoco Phillips

**SAVE THE DATE:
11th November 2017**

You are able to get in touch now to reserve your table for 2017

**Contact Mark Turner:
markt@rvtrust.co.uk**

See you all next year for another wonderful night of fun.



THANK-YOU'S

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.



Marathon Man – Chief Inspector James Sutherland

CI James Sutherland of Cambridgeshire Constabulary flew out to America on holiday and while there took part in not one but two marathons over a 10-day period on our behalf, the St George Marathon on 1 October, then just eight days later ran the 'Run Crazy Horse' marathon on 9 October.

Thank you James for sharing your holiday with the Trust, taking on such a mammoth challenge and for your continued support.

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Something Mostly Different
A Charity Evening in aid of Road Victims Trust

Including ;

- * Concert featuring a range of mostly different music from the world of musicals
- * A Two course Hot Buffet
- * A Live band to dance the night away

Tickets £ 18.00 www.stcuthbertshall.co.uk
7.30 15 October 2016
St Cuthberts Hall, Newman Street, Bedford

Road Victims Trust
Giving hope to rebuild lives

Something Mostly Different

Well done to Lucy and Roy Taylor who organised a wonderful musical extravaganza for us on 15 October. Thank you to the organisers, performers and guests for making it a very successful evening on our behalf. Everyone was extremely generous and the event raised over £800. This will help to make a difference to people in the local communities that we support. *Thank you!*



Dance Starz Cheerleaders

Sam Jackson and the girls from Dance Starz Cheerleaders have been out and about fundraising for us and Sam came to present us with the fruits of their labour.

Thank you to all at Dance Starz Cheerleading and to Sam for her continued support.

Afternoon Tea

Our thanks go to the Wellbelove Family, the Huckle family, Sharon Williams, Jenny Hillam and Magda Zanatay for holding various Afternoons Tea's throughout Bedfordshire.

Well done ladies, you did us proud.

Afternoon Tea for RVT 2017

Join us across 3 counties for Afternoon Tea
Get together with family, friends and colleagues to help the Road Victims Trust raise awareness and funds to provide support for people who have been affected by fatal road collisions.

Eagle Bowman – Bedford

Our friends from 'EAGLE BOWMAN OF BEDFORD' held an event to raise funds for RVT on the 20th November, and the 'Bray-tastic day of Shooting' raised £907 which we are told will be doubled in match funding by Barclays Bank to take it to a whopping £1814.00.

We would like to thank all the bowmen who took part in the event and for making it such a success, we would also like to say a special thank you to Nick Henderson, Ted Tricker and David Holmes for organising the event on our behalf.

Well done everyone!



September Skydive UK Parachuting Sibson

Carly Bailey

Joe Humpston and Kai Osborne

Becky Edwards

September Skydivers Leap of Faith

After several attempts at taking to the skies, Carly Bailey, Becky Edwards, Jo Humpston and Kai Osborne finally were able to complete a 12,000ft leap out of a perfectly good aircraft for RVT during September.

Thanks guys, we think you're A-MAZ-ING!!

If you would like to take to the skies for us this year get in touch.

Contact Mark Turner:
markt@rvtrust.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

Dates for your diary in 2017

MAY

17th – 10th Anniversary Luton & District Electrical Society Golf Day at Chessfield Downs, Herts.

For further information and to enter a team, contact Paul Jones: paulj@1ainstalec.co.uk or 07836 656356



JUNE

3rd – Color Obstacle Rush

Willen Lake, Milton Keynes

Join the RVT Team for a 5k run with a difference.

For event information [click here](#).

To join the RVT team contact Mark Turner: markt@rvtrust.co.uk



10th/11th – London Nightrider 2017



If you're looking for a cycling challenge then this event is for you! We have charity places up for grabs. There are 100km and 60km routes, taking in over 50 of London's famous landmarks including Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Tower Bridge,

Canary Wharf, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Royal Opera House and the London Eye. The start point and finish point is Lee Valley VeloPark.

For further details contact : markt@rvtrust.co.uk Tel: 01234 843345

Event information: <https://www.nightrider.org.uk/>

24th – Tandem Skydive

with UK Parachuting at Sibson Airfield.

For all the thrill seekers and Adrenalin Junkies out there.

For further details and booking form contact:

markt@rvtrust.co.uk



SEPTEMBER

9th (onwards) – Afternoon Tea for RVT

A chance to get together with friends, family and colleagues to have a cuppa, a chat and some cake.



If you would like to host an Afternoon Tea get in touch for an information pack. markt@rvtrust.co.uk



21st to 25th – Extra Mile Challenge 2017

For full details on the event [click here](#).

For details on how to join Team RVT contact: enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk or tel: 01234 843345

NOVEMBER

11th – RVT Masquerade Ball at

The Park Hotel in Bedford.

Get in touch if you wish to reserve a table.



Last year we were sold out by August!

Contact: markt@rvtrust.co.uk for further details.

19th – Service of Remembrance Day for Road Victims

Further events dates will be released throughout the year. To make sure you don't miss out on any 'like us' on Facebook where we update them on a regular basis:

<https://www.facebook.com/road.victimstrust>



Help us support the 'Put it Away' campaign.

Our police partners in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire will be highlighting the dangers of using mobile phones behind the wheel. The government announced that the penalties for being caught using a phone behind the wheel will double in 2017.

You don't need your mobile phone while driving [#putitaway](#)

Here are a few thoughts for you:

- Stuck in traffic? Using your phone is still illegal.
- Just checking a text from the kids? There's no excuse to use your phone behind the wheel.
- Enough time for a quick one? In the average time it takes to read a text on the motorway, you'll have travelled the length of a professional football pitch without looking at the road.
- Think you're a good driver? 95% of people rate their own driving as good or very good – this isn't an excuse not to concentrate. Staying focused is the only chance you've got against other dangerous drivers. You don't need your mobile phone while you're driving.
- Thinking about answering that phone call?
- There's no excuse to use your phone behind the wheel.
- **Soon it will cost you a £200 fine and six points on your licence – it's not worth it!**

PUT IT AWAY

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 Mark Turner – he would love to hear from you: markt@rvtrust.co.uk

RVT Invites you to join our Club 1000 and help us to support local people affected by road death

To be able to give the full support needed it costs on average £1,000 per person. On average the trust can support up to 250 people a year over the counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire which means we need to raise at least £250,000 a year. You can make a significant difference to a person or family by joining our CLUB 1000. The Club is open to both companies (small and large) and individuals who pledge to raise £1,000 within a one year period, to help with the cost of supporting a person or family for a year.

Once you have joined CLUB 1000 you will receive a membership certificate and a fundraising pack, plus invitations to join the many events we hold over the year. We will also promote your success on our website, social media platforms and newsletters. You will also receive our quarterly newsletter letting you know what's happening at the trust.

What do you do now?

Complete the online membership form: <http://www.rvtrust.org.uk/club-1000-membership-form>



To find out what happens in your area

www.facebook.com/road.victimstrust