

The Whitbread Shield

The Whitbread Shield was presented to the Force in 1966 by Mr J R Whitbread. It was to be awarded annually for an act of:

“meritorious police work not within other spheres of the service such as gallantry or dedicated First Aid work.”

In spite of the fact that it appears to have been intended as an annual award, the evidence suggests that the Shield has been awarded just 15 times in its 45 year history

The donor, Mr Whitbread, was already known to Force for his 1961 book *The Railway Policeman* and was, for some time, on the staff of *The Railway Gazette*.

The first award took place in 1967 and continued on an irregular basis until the last occasion in 2006. They are:

Year	Recipient(s)	Details
1966	PC Frederick G TRIPP King's Cross Goods	In Sep 1964, Pc Tripp was approached by a criminal gang and offered a bribe of £1000* to give them information on the movements of tobacco traffic. Pc Tripp reported the matter to his supervisors and was instructed to feed the gang information which led to them being arrested in the act of stealing a lorry containing tobacco products valued at £12,000 <i>*In 1965, a PC with 9-16 years service earned £19 8s 9d p.w. or £1040 p.a.</i>
1967	Det Cons Roy HULIN Newport	In Dec 1966, Dc Hulin received a report that 3 men had been seen carrying cartons across the track near Newport Goods Depot. He attended the scene and found three men sitting in a car. When he spoke to them, the driver started the car. DC Hulin reached into car and grabbed the keys, stating he intended to search the boot where he discovered 3 cases of whisky. He ordered the driver back into the car and, before they could attempt to escape, drove them to Newport Borough Police HQ where the 3 were arrested and charged with larceny. A member of railway staff was subsequently also charged.
1967	WPS Roberta STANIFORTH Birmingham New Street	In Feb 1967, along with other officers, Sgt Staniforth attended Stechford Station following a fatal train crash. Sgt Staniforth established and ran a temporary mortuary where the 9 bodies (incl. 4 women) were brought to be searched for purposes of identification, securing evidence and safeguarding valuables. Her calmness and efficiency in carrying out this gruesome task earned her the commendation of senior officers from the local police and fire brigade.
1970	Prob PC Alan FRANKLIN Southampton Docks	In Aug 1969, PPC Franklin was on night duty at No 10 Gate, when he saw a vehicle approaching the gate and stepped into the roadway, signalling the car to stop. It drove on, forcing him to step out of its path. As it drew level, he reached into the open driver's window attempting to grab the keys from the ignition. Someone grabbed the officer's arm, pinning it inside. The car accelerated, and Pc Franklin was pulled off his feet and dragged about 60 yards before falling into the road. He suffered a broken arm, facial injuries and extensive grazing and bruising. Two of the three men were traced and convicted of malicious wounding and theft.

1971	Det Cons John STEVENS Victoria	<p>In Jan 1970 56 yr-old DC Stevens was carrying out observations in connection with series of on-train arson attacks. He was travelling in the 1st Class section, which consisted of three compartments with no access to the rest of the train.</p> <p>He became aware that the adjacent compartment was on fire. He investigated and a 17 yr-old youth tried to push past. The whole section rapidly filled with smoke and fumes and they both had to stick their heads out of windows to breathe. Dc Stevens managed to pull the chord and the train stopped partway into Gillingham Station</p> <p>A fierce fire was burning on the platform side and Dc Stevens was obliged remove his prisoner onto the adjacent track - risking electrocution.</p>
1973	PC Terrence ORCHARD London Transport	<p>In Sep 1972, Pc Orchard was on duty alone at Victoria Underground Station when some 200 rowdy youths charged onto the northbound Victoria Line platform, jostling and barging waiting passengers out of the way.</p> <p>Pc Orchard noticed that an elderly woman had been pushed to the ground. He immediately went to her aid, being kicked and punched as he went. Some of the youths grabbed him and he was twice obliged to use his stick; first, to rescue the lady and then when he was bodily dragged onto the train by the mob. Further officers arrived and dispersed the mob.</p> <p>Pc Orchard received a letter of appreciation from station staff and a passenger rang the force to say that his actions had certainly prevented serious injuries.</p>
1974	PC David DRURY Southampton Docks	<p>In May 1974, Pc Drury was on late turn on No 1 Gate dealing with heavy traffic, when a car attempted to overtake the queue of vehicles waiting to leave the docks.</p> <p>Pc Drury approached the vehicle to speak to the driver and, as the driver attempted to move off, leant into the car to grab the ignition keys but was dragged along for some distance. The driver swerved that car several times in an attempt to dislodge the officer who managed to switch off the engine and remove the keys.</p> <p>When the car stopped, the occupants ran off but Pc Drury caught and arrested the driver who was subsequently convicted of Handling cartons of 'Cape' apples found in the boot and two counts of Assault Police and Dangerous Driving. He was fined a total of £200 and had his car confiscated.*</p> <p><i>*This is believed to be the first time a court used its powers of confiscation under S. 23 Criminal Justice Act 1972</i></p>
1975	PC Donald GORDON and Police Dog "Jim" Glasgow	<p>In July 1974, Pc Gordon and 'Jim' caught a man stealing cable at Grand Terminus Junction in Glasgow and PC Gordon was slashed above the eye with a knife. 'Jim' went for the man and was extensively slashed around the face and body.</p> <p>The man made off with Pc Gordon and 'Jim' in pursuit. They caught up with him as he tried to get through a gate. The man once again attacked the officer and the dog and escaped.</p> <p>In spite of his injuries, Pc Gordon managed to summon assistance and both he and his dog required extensive stitching to their wounds.</p> <p>The offender was later traced and sentenced to 7 years.</p>

1995	PC Scott GREGORY & PC Nigel MAGGS Cardiff	<p>On 10th November 1994, PCs Gregory and Maggs were on duty at Cardiff Central Station when they received a request from South Wales Police to look out for a man wanted for stabbing a security guard in a shop in the city centre.</p> <p>They searched the station and spotted the suspect, sitting on a platform bench. Seeing the officers, he jumped onto the tracks and started to run. The officers gave chase; the suspect climbed a wall and dropped 25 ft down to street level. The officers saw he had injured himself and was hobbling away from the station.</p> <p>They ran back to the concourse, out of the station and into the street where they were able to arrest the suspect. When PC Maggs searched the man he found and seized the knife that had been used in the assault.</p> <p>The security guard subsequently died of his wounds and the prisoner was sentenced to Life for his murder.</p>
1996	PC Stephen TUCKER PC Richard WALKER PC Michael EVANS & PC Andrew RALPH London Underground	<p>On 9th February 1995, the officers were directed to South Quay DLR station in response to a 'Category 1" (confirmed) bomb threat.</p> <p>On arrival they took it upon themselves to clear the area around a suspect vehicle which Met officers were attempting to trace. The four officers had managed to clear an area some 200 metres from the vehicle when it exploded killing 2 people and causing £100m damage.</p> <p>There is no doubt that the officers' quick thinking and initiative saved hundreds of lives.</p>
1997	Prob PC Jill SPENCER Birmingham New Street	<p>In January 1996, Imtiaz Begum was attacked with an 8" kitchen knife by her estranged husband, Mahmood Khalid on the concourse of New Street Station</p> <p>First on the scene was 21 yr-old PC Jill Spencer, a probationer with only 12 months service. She drew her truncheon and disarmed Mahmood who was promptly arrested by other officers. She then attempted to render First Aid to Imtiaz but was unable to save her.</p> <p>Mahmood was later given 5 life sentences for the murders of his wife and 4 of his 6 children.</p>
1998	PC Richard LENNY PC Paul HARDY York	<p>One Saturday afternoon in January 1998, PCs Lenny and Hardy were at York station when North Yorkshire Police circulated the description of a man wanted for several robberies. They searched the station, identified the man and informed NYP who then told them he was armed.</p> <p>They kept him under observation and, wanting to avoid any armed confrontation on a busy station, decided to approach him casually and engage him in conversation.</p> <p>PC Lenny walked up to him and started chatting until PC Hardy was positioned, stick drawn, behind the suspect. PC Lenny then told the man that he intended to search him and discovered a handgun - later found to have been de-activated - tucked into his waistband and several thousand pounds in his rucksack. He was arrested and handed to NYP officers, He was later sentenced to 14 years.</p>

2002	PC Craig BUCHANAN Kirkaldy	<p>On 3rd June 2000, PC Buchanan was off duty, visiting relatives in Greenock when he and his brother-in-law went to the local Indian takeaway to get food. Once there, he noticed the staff lined up against the back wall being threatened by two men wearing facemasks and brandishing handguns.</p> <p>While his brother-in-law called the local police, PC Buchanan jumped out of the car and tackled the robber nearest the door. He was swung round by the second man who attempted to hit him but missed.</p> <p>The robbers ran off, pursued by the brothers-in-law. One man pulled his mask off allowing PC Buchanan a clear view of his face. The robbers made good their escape, so they returned to the shop to secure evidence, including part of one of the guns (which turned out to be replicas.)</p> <p>The two men were traced, PC Buchanan picked out the 'unmasked' man at an ID Parade and both received custodial sentences.</p>
2003	Insp Michael "Dan" TANNER QGM Finsbury Park	<p>In December 2001 Insp Tanner was entering Finsbury Park Police Station, when Ronald Mckoy approached him. He drew a 7" knife and said he intended to kill him. A struggle ensued and Insp. Tanner was stabbed in the chest and right arm. Using his baton, he continued to fight back while terrified members of the public fled.</p> <p>When Insp. Tanner took refuge in a bus, Mckoy grabbed a 14 yr-old girl, holding the knife to her throat. Seeing this, Insp Tanner left safety and shouted at Mckoy who released the girl and came after him. Bleeding heavily and gasping for breath, Insp Tanner managed to keep Mckoy's attention but stayed just out of his reach. Met officers arrived and managed to subdue Mckoy with shields. Two of them were also stabbed.</p> <p>Mckoy had escaped from a secure unit and had a history of violence towards police. He was sentenced to Life Imprisonment.</p> <p>Insp Tanner spent 3 days in hospital and 9 months off work. He was commended by the trial judge and was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal in the 2005 New Year's Honours.</p>
2006	Pc Philip HEALEY Manchester	<p>In April 2005, PC Healey attended Clifton Station near Salford. There he found a man who had doused himself with petrol standing by the platform edge, visibly distressed. On seeing the officer, the man ran to his car, locked himself in and produced a box of matches. Pc Healey talked to the man for over an hour and a half, eventually persuading him out of the car.</p>

Note

When this project was started, the Shield had not been awarded for 5 years and its whereabouts were unknown. As a result of the research, it was discovered languishing in a cupboard at Northwest Area Headquarters in Manchester.

The Shield has now been polished up, photographed and is to be returned to FHQ.

Whether it will be re-instated to its former glory as the "highest honour BTP can award" or be left once more to collect dust in a cupboard, it is impossible to tell, but we can rest assured that thanks to the work of the BTP HG, the bravery, dedication and initiative of its past recipients will not go forgotten.