

Royal Humane Society Annual Report 2022



Recognising bravery



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Her Majesty The Queen

PRESIDENT

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, The Hon Lady Ogilvy KG GCVO

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Mr Richard Titley (2015)

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PS Darren Laurie

PC Keith Malda

Baroness Elisa Manningham-Buller LG DCB

Maj Dominic Troulan GC QGM

Col Richard Wilkinson TD

**ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY**

Instituted 1774

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Front cover pictures from left to right:

Rayan Bouguerra – Silver Medal

Lukasz Koczocik QGM – Stanhope Gold Medal

Kyle Dovey – Silver Medal

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THE STANHOPE GOLD MEDAL

**In 2022,
903 awards
were made
to people
whose actions
saved a total
of 351 lives.**

MEDAL RECIPIENTS 2022

STANHOPE GOLD MEDAL

Lukasz Koczocik QGM
(Nominated by the Royal Humane Society,
United Kingdom)

POLICE MEDAL

SC Graeme Champion

SILVER MEDAL

Rayan Bouguerra
Kyle Dovey

BRONZE MEDAL & SECOND AWARD CLASP

PC Nicholas Lewis

BRONZE MEDAL

PS Sharandeep Bassi
PC Graeme Champion
PC Stephen Craner
David Andrew Cutts
PC Kirk Daniel
PC Keiran Farrow
Amir Hamadamin
Jack Hawkins (11)
Adam Middleton
Ben Noble
Dean Priestley
PC Christopher Puckridge
Brandon Visser
PC Luke Wattie
Finlay Whitton

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Jack Hawkins

Foreword by HRH Princess Alexandra



BUCKINGHAM PALACE,
LONDON SW1A 1AA

This has been an extraordinary year for us all, and one we shall remember for years to come. We mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who was our Patron for 70 years, and soon afterwards we witnessed the proclamation of the accession of His Majesty King Charles III. The shock of war brought great uncertainty and resulted in global food and energy price rises that will continue to affect us for some time. Whilst these difficulties present huge challenges, the impact of the pandemic continues to be felt, be it in the NHS, local business, or even education where young people are still trying to catch up. Amongst all that uncertainty the Society has had a successful year. The number of nominations received, and cases considered has returned to pre-Covid levels, and I am informed that the Society made 903 awards to brave and selfless individuals who, often at great personal risk, saved 351 lives. Every one of those cases has shown great merit, and I include those nominations for the Stanhope Gold Medal submitted by our sister societies in the Commonwealth. I thank them for their continued support of our most prestigious award, and for the work that they do to recognise bravery in their own countries.

The Society is now working hard towards its 250th Anniversary in 2024, and I am pleased to hear that detailed planning is now underway for this important anniversary. I am most grateful to you all for your commitment and support to the Society and I wish you every success in the coming year.



PHOTO: HUGO BURNAND



Message from the Chairman

Recognising the saving of human life since 1774

I don't expect any of us were ready for the roller coaster of a year that was 2022, and the significant impact it has had on all of us. The death of our Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was a profound

His Honour Judge Shaun Lyons CBE



shock. We were honoured to receive an invitation to Her Majesty's funeral, which our Deputy Chairman, Charles Spicer, was able to attend. Her Late Majesty had been our Patron since 1952.

The global turmoil caused by the war in Ukraine and the subsequent political and economic upheaval has had a direct impact on our assets and on the willingness of people and organisations to part with donations. A most generous legacy left to the Society by the late Bryan Jacques helped us enormously. However, the challenge remains. Donations were down in 2022 by 35% compared to pre-Covid levels. This is a small improvement on 2021.

Happily, in terms of our core business, the number of cases received, and awards made has risen steadily and we are now nearly back to 2019 levels. All four of our Awards Committee meetings

were face to face and it felt very good to be meeting in person once again. The Society is proud, and very humbled, to recognise the courage and self-sacrifice of all 903 of our 2022 awardees who between them saved 351 lives.

At our Annual General Court (AGC), in May, our guest speaker was His Honour Shaun Lyons. I am most grateful to Shaun for stepping in at very short notice when our booked speaker, Lt Col David Wood MBE MC, caught Covid two days before the event. Without any apparent effort Shaun produced a most excellent talk, aimed directly at the awardees. It was thought provoking and well considered.

This was our first live AGC for two years. It was great to see everyone, and especially to welcome our President, HRH Princess Alexandra who graciously presented the President's Award, ten Bronze Medals, three Silver Medals, and a posthumous



HRH Princess Alexandra arrives at Haberdashers' Hall, escorted by the Master, Christopher Hardie, the Chairman, and attended by the Beadle, Mark Knott.

The President is escorted to her seat.





Georgia Laurie receives her Silver Medal

Silver Medal to Folajimi Adewole's family. This was a much more protracted awards ceremony than usual due to the backlog of medals. We are most grateful to Her Royal Highness for so effortlessly taking on such a big commitment.

At the AGC we welcomed four new Trustees to the Committee. I know they will bring a refreshing approach and a bundle of new skills to the team. We poached Ian Dyson QPM DL, previously our police adviser, having recently retired as the Commissioner of the City of London Police; Justina Gilbert and Kate Pennell, both still actively employed by a global IT firm, and Sharmaine Malik, a Solution Delivery Director for a mental health app company completed the new line up. I should also like to welcome Commissioner Angela McLaren of the City of London Police, who becomes our new Police Adviser, and to introduce Dr



Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole's family receive his posthumous Silver Medal

Robert Gurney, who took on the voluntary role of liaison officer. Rob is well known to us, as a serving police officer he represented our Police Adviser for many years.



The view from the RYS Pavilion



Trustees brave the Solent to reach the RYS

It was wonderful to hear the harp again, and I should like to thank Holly Lowe for her exquisite playing. As a final word on the AGC, I should like to acknowledge Graham Baker for his excellent photographs.

In July it was my pleasure to arrange our away day meeting followed by lunch at the Royal Yacht Squadron, who looked after us superbly in wonderful surroundings both before and during lunch.

In November we gathered at Canada House for the Stanhope Gold Medal lunch and meeting, kindly hosted by Minister Counsellor Ms Celeste Kinsey. We were joined by Mr Samantha Pathirana, the



Chairman, John Grandy, Trustees Lynda Rose, Dr Michael McCaldin, Michael Bernard and Sharmaine Malik gather in the glorious Kanta Room, Canada House.

Sri Lanka Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Jeremy Palmer, the New Zealand Consul General, Ms Elizabeth Petrovic, Minister Counsellor at the Australian High Commission, and from our sister charity, Mr Anthony Jones, the Chairman of the Liverpool Shipwreck & Humane Society. The voting for this year's award was swift and simple. Trustees and guest voters were unanimous in their selection of Mr Lukasz Koczocik QGM, the head porter at Fishmonger's Hall, for his extreme bravery when he confronted an armed terrorist who had already fatally stabbed two others in Fishmongers' Hall. The decision was graciously approved by our President, who unfortunately could not be with us on the day. You can read more about Lukasz's inspiring act of bravery later in this report under the Stanhope Medal winner section. I should like to thank Celeste Kinsey, and her team, led by Catherine Last, for

laying on such an excellent lunch in the magnificent and recently restored Kanta Room, after which we were treated to a most interesting, guided tour of Canada House.

2022 was a difficult year for our investments. Having started the year with cautious optimism about a post-Covid recovery our portfolio was battered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the consequent rise in energy costs, followed by global inflation, rising interest rates and political turmoil. Although recovering somewhat towards the end of the year there was nevertheless a capital reduction of 10.4% year on year. We believe that our broadly spread portfolio is appropriately invested on a global basis and well managed by Church House, but as we move into 2023 donations and legacies continue to play an essential role in enabling us to continue our work. We



Trustees Ian Dyson and Mark Dickson

are most grateful to all who support us in this way.

The Society decided not to present a Birdwood lecture in 2022, so soon after the lifting of Covid restrictions, as we felt that we needed to keep our powder dry for our 250th Anniversary in 2024. The RHS 250 project team lead by Rupert Uloth is busy with plans for this very important milestone in our history. We are planning a grand 'birthday' reception, possibly preceded by a service of thanksgiving, both located in a suitable London venue. A number of other



Spark of Life

projects are being considered including a book commemorating a broad selection of the extraordinary stories of daring rescues, both historical and more recent, that are the Society's true treasure. A commemorative rose is being developed at no cost to the Society. In line with our motto, it will be called 'Spark of Life' and will be unveiled at the 2024 Chelsea Flower Show. Sales of each plant sold thereafter will hopefully produce a handsome royalty for the Society.

It has also been a busy time in other less visible areas. At the beginning of

the year our London office building came under new ownership and the incoming landlord, Throgmorton Securities Ltd, asked us to move to another, better and fully equipped office on the same floor. The move and redecoration were completed satisfactorily and free of charge.

After a painstaking amount of detailed work, we have updated our Bye-laws for the first time since 1959. These have now been formally approved by the Privy Council and my thanks to Peter Dawson for his wise legal advice and attention to detail.

A primary task for the Awards Committee is to accurately, objectively and consistently adjudicate bravery cases. Rupert Novis, himself a Stanhope Gold Medal recipient, is our lead trustee on adjudications. He and the Assistant Secretary, John Wilson, spent a significant

amount of time and very worthwhile effort updating and standardising our existing awards criteria matrix, originally designed by Rupert some ten years ago. This is of great value to both experienced and new trustees, and to guest voters at the Stanhope Medal adjudication.

We are in the process of upgrading the President's Award from a parchment certificate to a boxed medal, as trustees felt that young recipients deserved a more tangible record of their achievement. A suitable medal has been designed by the Assistant Secretary, in collaboration with Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd, The medal designs were submitted to the President, and these have since been approved.

As always, I should like to record my thanks to the Master, Dr JJC Holliday CVO, and the Wardens of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries who every year let



The new President's Award, a boxed medal which replaces the previous certificate.

us use their superb hall for our quarterly Award Committee meetings. The venue is ideally situated for our needs and affords us the perfect ambience needed to debate those all-important award decisions. I would also like to thank the Master, Christopher Hardie, and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers for the use of their hall for our Annual General Court and other awards ceremonies. The hall is perfect for those grand occasions, and we are very



The Secretariat in the Society's shiny new office.

grateful to the Haberdashers for their continued generosity.

We were saddened by the news that Sir Samuel Whitbread had died just after the end of the reporting year. We offer

our sincere condolences to his family. Sir Samuel was a Life Governor and a generous supporter of the Society through the Whitbread Trust.

My final thanks must go to all those who help us with professional expertise, financial support, or by assistance in kind. I wish to thank Commissioner Angela McLaren, David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, and Ian Dyson, for their constant efforts to raise donations from police forces and PCCs across the UK.

I fully appreciate how hard this must be and how our case must compete with increasing operational and administrative demands.

All Trustees and Governors I know will join me in thanking our permanent staff, enthusiastically led by Andrew Chapman, for their hard work behind the scenes

which enable us to seamlessly achieve our goal of awarding people for their self-sacrifice and bravery.

I know the Society is well positioned to continue its charitable works, and with each passing year awareness of what we do increases. We are on top of our game and are now fully focused on delivering an inspiring and memorable 250th Anniversary.

I look forward to greeting our President and meeting governors, VIP guests, other donors, and of course all our brave awardees and their families at the Annual General Court at Haberdashers' Hall on 24th May.

John Grandy

April 2023

Aims of the Society

The Royal Humane Society makes awards for the saving of human life and for the restoration of life by resuscitation.

Nominees must have undertaken one or more of the following:

- **put their own life at risk in saving or attempting to save another person;**
- **made a significant contribution to the saving of a life, even without any risk to themselves;**
- **carried out a successful resuscitation**

THE AWARDS

Stanhope Gold Medal (annual award)

Police Medal (annual award)

Silver Medal

Bronze Medal

Testimonial on Vellum

Testimonial on Parchment

President's Award

(under 18's, annual award)

Certificate of Commendation

Resuscitation Certificate

Our aim is to recognise brave and selfless people who put others before themselves. By bringing their deeds to public notice, we believe that a single act of humanity becomes both an example and an inspiration.

THE AWARDS

All awards, other than Resuscitation Certificates, are graded according to the level of risk taken. The Awards Committee, which is made up of our Trustees with varied backgrounds including medical and legal expertise, assesses nominations four times a year: January, April, July and October, often calling on expert advice from our police adviser.

How to make a nomination

Do you know someone who has put his or her life at risk to save, or attempt to save, another person, or someone who has carried out a successful resuscitation? Do you know someone who has saved a life by timely first aid, such as stopping arterial bleeding?

Anyone can submit a nomination to us, and we would like to hear from you, whether you work for the emergency services or are a member of the public.

After we have received your nomination, the Awards Committee will decide, at its next available quarterly meeting, if an award should be made, and at what level.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website:
www.royalhumanesociety.org.uk/nominate

Download the nomination form as instructed. Having carefully completed it with as much detail as possible, email it to: nominations@royalhumanesociety.org.uk

Please make sure that you read our guidelines, available on the website, before submitting your nomination. These are important and include eligibility criteria and submission deadlines.

You can also contact us by email, letter or phone to request a nomination form and guidelines.

Email: info@royalhumanesociety.org.uk

Phone: 020 4599 4720

Address:
Royal Humane Society
40 Temple Chambers
3-7 Temple Avenue
London EC4Y 0HP

STANHOPE GOLD MEDAL 2022

The Stanhope Medal was introduced in 1873 in memory of Chandos Scudamore Scudamore Stanhope (1823-71). The first recipient was Captain Matthew Webb, for his attempted rescue of a man who had fallen into the Atlantic Ocean from the rigging of a ship. In 1875, Captain Webb achieved fame as the first person to swim the English Channel.

In 1962, it was decided that the award should be open to all kindred Commonwealth Humane Societies, so nominations from the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Sri Lanka (from 2014) are now eligible.

LUKASZ KOCZOCIK QGM

On 29 November 2019 an armed terrorist launched an attack on guests and staff at Fishmongers' Hall, killing two people. Lukasz Koczocik QGM, the head porter, was working on a lower floor when he heard a colleague screaming that someone had been stabbed. He immediately alerted his manager and urged people to remain calm. He then ran upstairs towards the point of danger, imagining only that his first aid skills would be required. Lukasz emerged into a scene of utter chaos. It was clear that something terrible had happened and there was screaming and overturned furniture as panic ensued. He advanced further into the Entrance Hall to identify the cause and saw an attacker holding two long knives, upturned, the blades already bloodied. There was a body on the floor and another on the staircase. It was clear to Lukasz that the incident



was still ongoing and that the risk was extremely high. Although he had the option to escape, he did not flinch. He saw two other people throwing chairs at the attacker in desperation, but this action had little effect on the knifeman. He realised that he needed to act decisively and quickly, to prevent the man from harming others, even though

he was now alone face to face with the terrorist. He seized the initiative and grabbed a ceremonial boarding pike from the wall and began to thrust and parry with his assailant, who had already mortally wounded two others with fatal stabs. This fight was now gladiatorial in nature. Lukasz landed one strike on his opponent's shoulder, but the tip of his blade hit resistance and it appeared that the terrorist may have had some form of body armour (it subsequently revealed that this was an imitation suicide vest). To counter these thrusts, the terrorist moved in closer and began slashing at Lukasz's defending arm, inflicting hand and shoulder wounds, and forcing him to drop his pike. Refusing to give ground, he remained in grave danger, but he had already bought enough time to allow others with equal courage and resolve to come back armed with fire extinguishers and narwhal tusks. These

reinforcements arrived just in time and probably saved Lukasz's life. The vicious fight continued for a further two minutes and as a team they overwhelmed the perpetrator, eventually harrying him out of the building. It should be noted that after Lukasz Koczocik entered the fray, no other people in the Hall were injured except himself. He took some weeks to recover from his wounds before returning to work.

Lukasz Koczocik was awarded the Society's Silver Medal for his extremely brave act that day, and subsequently he was awarded the Stanhope Gold Medal.

In the Civilian Gallantry List (March 2023), the last to be approved by her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Lukasz Koczocik, together with others, was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal (QGM) for his bravery in confronting an armed terrorist at Fishmongers' Hall.



The QGM was instituted in 1974 as a 3rd level gallantry award, intended primarily as a civilian award, and is junior only to the George Cross and George Medal.

Police Medal 2022

Special Constable Graeme Champion – Metropolitan Police Service

On 7 July 2021 SC Graeme Champion was driving to work when he saw a man fall off the a motorway bridge and land on the slipway below with fast moving traffic coming towards him. The officer immediately stopped his vehicle on

the hard shoulder on the main M11 motorway which was busy at the time.

Graeme then climbed over the barriers and grass verge to the slip road where he could see traffic coming off the A120 to join the motorway. He then saw the man crawl from the hard shoulder onto the motorway as his legs had been badly injured in the fall.

Once in the middle of the motorway lane he sat up facing the oncoming traffic, waiting to be struck. Graeme climbed over the barrier and without hesitation ran across two lanes in front of oncoming vehicles, which were accelerating down the slip road and grabbed hold of the injured man.



At a Committee Meeting on 8 August 2000, having obtained the agreement of the Association of Chief Police Officers, it was resolved that there should be a new Royal Humane Society medal, in silver gilt, given annually 'for the case of greatest gallantry by a Police Officer of the United Kingdom during the year'.

PAST POLICE MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The Police Medal has been awarded as follows:

Note: double awards were made in 2002, 2005, 2017 and 2020

Both were in imminent danger of being struck by vehicles, but the officer was able to drag him to safety on the hard shoulder and hold him there, despite the man continually struggling to break free and return to the motorway so that he could end his life.

Paramedics arrived to treat the man's broken legs and Graeme was then able to direct and control the traffic. The motorway was closed, and an air ambulance landed which eventually took the man to hospital. After treating a driver for shock, who had narrowly missed the man, SC Graeme Champion then continued to work, where he finished his shift.

He was awarded a Bronze Medal for his bravery and selfless actions and was subsequently selected to receive the Society's Police Medal.

Names	Force	For year
PC Wayne Martin	Bedfordshire Police	2000
PC Paul Brown	Metropolitan Police Service	2001
PC Robert McNeill	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	2002
PC David Dudley	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	2002
PC David Edwards	Hampshire Constabulary	2003
PC Austin Clarkson	British Transport Police	2004
PC Anthony May	Metropolitan Police Service	2005
PC Michael Pinder	Metropolitan Police Service	2005
PC Trevor Anderson	PSNI	2006
PC Stewart McIlroy	Suffolk Constabulary	2007
PC Arron Worbey	Hertfordshire Constabulary	2008
PC Colin Swan	Metropolitan Police Service	2009
PC Rob Condry-Young	Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	2010
PC Matthew Hammill	Suffolk Constabulary	2011
PC Jo Cosser	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	2012
PC Joel Forrester	Hertfordshire Constabulary	2013
PCSO Jonathan Bintcliffe	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	2014
PC Sean Cannon	West Yorkshire Police	2015
Insp Darren Sear	Nottinghamshire Police	2016
PC Thomas Green	Avon and Somerset Constabulary	2017
PC Timothy Middleton	Avon and Somerset Constabulary	2017
PC James Slender	Metropolitan Police Service	2018
PC Allen James Parker	Metropolitan Police Service	2019
PS Darren Laurie	Metropolitan Police Service	2020
PC Keith Malda	Metropolitan Police Service	2020
PC Liam O'Connor	Suffolk Constabulary	2021
SC Graeme Champion	Metropolitan Police Service	2022

2022 Award recipients – a selection



Silver Medal

Rayan Bouguerra

On the evening of 31 January 2022 Rayan Bouguerra, an Irish student, was sightseeing along the embankment at London Bridge when he saw a young woman on the bridge on the outside of the railings. She was attempting to take her life by jumping into the River Thames. Rayan called the police and actively tried to persuade her from jumping into the water. She received a call on her phone which appeared to distress her further, and then she jumped. Rayan acted

instinctively and with great bravery and jumped into the freezing water to try to save her. He managed to resurface and locate the girl. He grabbed hold of her and then held on to a nearby pier to prevent her drowning. He was able to cling on until the Police Marine Unit boat and the RNLI came to help. Both Rayan and the girl were recovered safely and then treated for hypothermia and shock before she was taken to hospital for treatment. The incident was observed by the Marine Police Unit crew who commended Rayan for his swift intervention during a dark and very cold night.

Silver Medal

Kyle Dovey

On 3 Apr 2022 a young woman under the care of a support worker had been caught in her room drinking alcohol with friends. Kyle Dovey, a carer, asked the friends to leave the accommodation. The intoxicated girl also left and headed for Colwyn Bay Railway Station, followed by Kyle who was concerned for her safety. He was trying to persuade her to return

to the accommodation, but she would not and then she sat down on the platform edge with her legs dangling over the edge. Kyle called the police and asked for the trains to be stopped as he felt the girl was at significant risk. She then jumped down off the platform onto the train tracks. As Kyle was speaking to the police, he heard someone shout from another platform that a train was coming. He immediately jumped down onto the tracks, grabbed hold of the girl, and whilst holding onto her he started to climb back onto the platform. He was trying to pull her onto the platform, but her legs were still dangling over the edge when the train passed. It struck her legs



and caused severe injuries, and she fell back down onto the tracks. The train managed to stop further down the line when the driver initially thought she had been killed. She was stabilised and taken to hospital where she received initial surgical treatment before being airlifted to a Serious Trauma Unit. Police officers at the scene were in no doubt that Kyle Dovey saved the girl's life whilst putting himself in very grave danger.

Bronze Medal & Second Award Clasp

PC Nicholas Lewis

On 6 Jun 2021 during the afternoon PC Nicholas Lewis was following up a report that a young girl had run away from home and had begun to search for her. He spotted her but she ran off towards the River Trent. PC Lewis followed and saw her jump into the river and go under for several seconds before resurfacing. She then began to scream saying that she couldn't swim. He could see that she was struggling to stay afloat, and she was also wearing a poncho that would absorb water and drag her under. The fast current had taken her about 15 to 20 metres out into the river and further downstream in the



fifteen seconds it took PC Lewis to reach the bank. PC Lewis immediately took off his PPE and entered the water, which was too deep for him to reach the bottom. He swam out to find her fully submerged. He pulled her head above water and grabbed hold of her by the waist to keep her up. She was extremely heavy due to the clothing absorbing water, but she was still breathing and conscious. He then dragged her back to the riverbank where a colleague helped pull her from the river as it was too steep to climb out. PC Lewis was in the water for about two minutes. No first aid was required, and she was treated at a local hospital before being reunited with her parents.

Second Award Clasp

On 21 August 2021 during the day a woman was seen jumping off the bridge and into the middle of the River Trent. PC Nicholas Lewis arrived just as it had happened, and without hesitation he took off his PPE and went into the river to save the woman. As he swam out to her, she went under the water several times and was struggling to stay afloat. He grabbed hold of her and dragged her back to the riverbank where people helped him to get her to a part of the shore where they were able to walk out and up the bank using a short, submerged platform that extended a few metres out into the river. No first aid or medical attention was required for either. PC Nicholas Lewis estimates he was in the river for about 5 to 7 minutes and was out of his depth the entire time.

Bronze Medals

PS Sharandeep Bassi
PC Daniel Kirk
PC Christopher Puckridge
PC Luke Wattie

On the afternoon of 25 June 2021, a man was randomly stabbed and lay bleeding in a south London street. CCTV



PS Sharandeep Bassi (L) and PC Daniel Kirk (R)

captured the attacker returning to his flat. PS Sharandeep Bassi led a team of officers that included PCs Christopher Puckridge and PC Luke Wattie into the building to apprehend the assailant. They knocked on the door, not knowing if he was still armed with the knife. The man refused entry and poured petrol over the floor and under the door which he then ignited. This caused a large blaze which engulfed the legs of the officers standing outside the door. An explosion followed immediately afterwards, and the officers immediately began evacuating residents as they ran down the stairs. Three further

large explosions occurred which blew out windows and sent debris flying into the streets, risking the lives of those officers still inside the block as well as those manning the cordon outside. One officer was hit by flying glass. Meanwhile PS Bassi, PC Puckridge and PC Wattie were joined by PC Daniel Kirk and all four officers re-entered the block to continue the evacuation as the building was now on fire and filling up with smoke. They successfully evacuated every room as they were concerned that further gas explosions may still occur. It was an extremely dangerous situation, and they did not know if there would be another powerful and destructive gas explosion at any minute. They continued their evacuation process into the adjacent building, which was also beginning to fill with smoke, as they feared it too would catch fire. They used an enforcer to break into many of the rooms as the fire brigade had not yet arrived. The suspect jumped out of his flat to save himself and climbed up onto a nearby roof. It later transpired that he had committed the random attack to entice officers into his flat to kill them, having pre-positioned a butane gas canister, two

large bottles of petrol and lighters for his premeditated ambush. The man was eventually persuaded to come down off the roof and was arrested by officers.

Bronze Medal

PC Stephen Craner

Early in the morning of 17 July 2021 PC Stephen Craner responded to a call at the end of his nightshift after a man had jumped from the bridge into the River Trent in Nottingham City Centre. After hitting the water, he disappeared. PC Craner was first on the scene and after searching for a few minutes, he spotted the man face down, floating in the middle



of the river. The fire brigade water rescue team was not yet available, and the officer decided he had no time to lose. Without hesitation he removed his PPE and entered the river. The cold water, strong undercurrent and debris posed a serious risk to life, but he swam out to the middle of the river and managed to grab the man. Despite the victim's waterlogged clothes and boots PC Craner dragged him back to shore where the ambulance was waiting. Medics took over and eventually stabilised him but unfortunately the man died a few days later.

Bronze Medal

PC Keiran Farrow

In the evening of 2 Jul 2022, a teenage girl who suffered with severe mental health problems was reported to be in distress and said she was heading towards the railway tracks at Allthorpe train station, Scunthorpe, but no details were given. PC Keiran Farrow was single crewed, but he volunteered to check several locations. He arrived at the station and found the girl already standing on the train tracks. He immediately called for a stop on all lines before positioning himself in a safe place



where he could speak to her. Although his communication skills were excellent it was clear that she had no intention of co-operating. PC Farrow was joined by another officer on his side of the tracks, and another on the opposite side. Within minutes a train approached, and the girl took determined action to end her life by turning and facing the oncoming train. PC Farrow reacted immediately, placing himself in danger by stepping onto the tracks, grabbing her, and dragging her to safety. The incident was captured on his body-worn video, which showed the train passing seconds later. His quick response and brave actions saved the girl's life.

Bronze Medal

Amir Hamadamin

On 27 Mar 2022 in the early hours Amir Hamadamin, who was a taxi driver, was driving along when he thought he saw a bonfire behind a café on the side of the road. The café was attached to a house and as he got closer, he realised the property was on fire. Flames were all over the roof and smoke was billowing into the house. Amir immediately stopped outside the café and blew his taxi horn to alert the occupants. When he failed to raise anyone, he ran to the front door and knocked repeatedly but there was no answer. Amir decided to run around



to the side of the building where there were glass patio doors. Picking up a piece of fencing he smashed the door and entered, shouting for anyone inside to get out. The single occupant was a confused elderly woman who had been woken by the crashing glass. Initially she was scared as she thought Amir had broken in and so she started to push him out. He tried to explain to her that her house was on fire, but she was confused and spoke little English, and so he dragged her outside. She was dazed and disorientated and kept trying to re-enter the burning building to retrieve her dog which was still inside. Amir ran back in with her, got the dog and then made sure she got out again safely. He then ensured that she received medical attention when emergency service vehicles arrived a short time later. His brave and selfless intervention for a stranger most likely saved her and her dog's life.

Bronze Medal and President's Award

Jack Hawkins

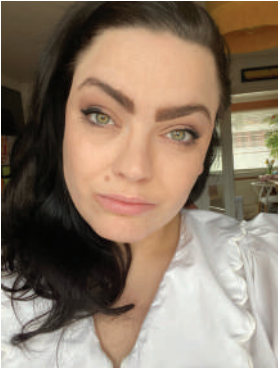
Testimonial on Vellum

Ruby Summers

On the evening of 1 May 2020, during Covid lock down, the Hawkins family was subjected to an aggravated burglary at their home in Essex. Four intruders forced their way in and held the family at knife point, stabbing the father, Ray Hawkins, rendering him unconscious. Before fleeing the intruders got hold of some lawfully held shotguns. One intruder took a shotgun and on leaving he was confronted by Ray Hawkins who had since regained consciousness. During the fight Jack Hawkins, aged 11, stepped in front of the gunman to protect his father just as the shotgun was discharged. Jack received serious and life-threatening injuries. The gunman fled the scene. Ray Hawkins was in shock and went outside to scream for help. Without knowing what had happened Ruby Summers immediately came to help and was confronted by a man she did not recognise straight away as he was covered in blood. She was told someone had been shot and despite this she entered the house without knowing if the assailant was still present or if she was at risk. She had no previous first aid training, but she knew she had to try and stem the bleeding. Jack Hawkins had



suffered a major injury to his shoulder leaving a wound measuring 15 cm x15 cm. He was bleeding heavily. Ruby placed the boy's legs in the air to ensure the blood flow to the main organs was maintained. She then held towels to his wound to stem the bleeding. She stayed with the boy for 30 minutes speaking to him and providing reassurance until HEMS and the ambulance arrived. Ruby Summers provided vital lifesaving first aid to stem the bleeding. Jack Hawkins suffered mass trauma, all the bones around his shoulder were shattered, major blood vessels were damaged, his lungs collapsed, and he was struggling to



breathe. Without her intervention the boy may have died.

Jack also received the President's Award following his brave actions for which he was originally awarded a Bronze Medal.

Bronze Medal

Adam Middleton

Before dawn on 13 Feb 2022 Adam Middleton was walking with a friend when he noticed a woman on the outside of the parapet on the King George V Bridge over the River Clyde in Glasgow. He began to speak to her to try to persuade her to return to safety. However, she jumped



into the water and so Adam immediately jumped in after her. It was completely dark and very cold, but he managed to grab her and tread water with her until the staff from the Riverboat Casino threw lifebelts into the river. Adam and the woman both spent about 20 minutes in the water before they were dragged to the side where they were able to clamber to safety. They were both taken to hospital and Adam was kept in for observation for a few hours before being discharged.

Bronze Medal

Dean Priestley

On 17 Oct 2020 a man entered A&E at

the Bradford Royal Infirmary, pulled out a gun and then brandished it in front of terrified staff. He was demanding an emergency X-ray and chased staff about the department. Many locked themselves away in offices, but others were less lucky. The man threatened to shoot the remaining staff, particularly a porter who had the gun held against his head, if he didn't get an X-ray. Security and the police were called. Dean Priestley, an NHS Security Officer, was first on the scene and although the hospital had no policies in place for such an eventuality, his intention was to protect the staff. Dean cleared the area of all patients and staff and then approached the X-ray department. He could see the doctors and nurses were still standing beside the man, and so he moved towards the gunman, and by doing so he put his own life in danger. He started talking to the gunman to calm the situation down. During this verbal de-escalation Dean managed to take the gun away from the man and passed it to a doctor who removed it from the area. Dean and another security officer then detained the gunman until the police firearms team arrived and



arrested him. Dean then retrieved the gun and surrendered it to the police. Finally, he told the staff locked away in offices that it was now safe to come out. When questioned later about his actions he said he wanted to avoid a hostage situation as people may have become caught up in crossfire. He also wanted to make sure that other patients were not inconvenienced by any temporary closure of the hospital.

2022 AWARD YEAR IN FIGURES

In 2022, 903 awards were made to people whose actions saved a total of 351 lives.

- 2 Silver Medals**
- 17 Bronze Medals**
- 53 Testimonials on Vellum**
- 1 In Memoriam Testimonial on Vellum**
- 117 Testimonials on Parchment**
- 306 Certificates of Commendation**
- 407 Resuscitation Certificates**

The awards were made as follows:

- 281 to members of the public**
- 622 to police officers**

We also gave three annual awards:

The Stanhope Gold Medal

(one recipient)

The Police Medal *(one recipient)*

The President's Award *(one recipient)*

Trustees of the Royal Humane Society during 2022

CHAIRMAN & HONORARY TREASURER

Mr John Grandy

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr Charles Spicer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Michael Bernard

Mrs Anna Blaxland

Mr Luke Chauveau

Mr Peter Dawson

Mr Mark Dickson

Mrs Diane Duke CVO DL

Mr Ian Dyson QPM DL

Mrs Justina Gilbert

Mr George Hawkins

Ms Katherine Holt

Ms Sharmaine Malik

Dr Michael McCaldin FRCGP

Mr Rupert Novis

Mrs Rowena Osborne

Ms Kate Pennell

Mrs Lynda Rose MBE

Sir Nigel Southward KCVO

Mr Sheridan Swallow

Mr Rupert Uloth

POLICE ADVISER

Angela McLaren, Commissioner,
City of London Police

SECRETARY

Lt Col Andrew Chapman

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr John Wilson

AWARDS ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Deborah Woollon-Kemp

LIAISON OFFICER

Dr Robert Gurney

HONORARY ADVISER

Dr Roger Willoughby

Committee Biographies 2022

Michael Bernard (2018) was previously a European marketing director for an international IT corporation. In 2019 he joined the board of Southern Health Foundation NHS Trust as a Non-Executive Director. He is a member of the International Advisory Board for Exeter Business School and is Deputy Chair of Governors at Downside. He published a book on creating strategy in 2021. Michael is married with three sons and lives in Wiltshire. His interests are golf and playing the guitar.

Anna Blaxland (2015) runs her own Lifestyle workshop and events business based in Hampshire. Previous employment included eight years working in the City and three years with interior designer Nina Campbell. She has been a trustee with the Royal Humane Society for 5 years and is actively involved in organising the fundraising Birdwood lectures at the RGS. She lives in Hampshire with her husband and their three university aged children. Her passions include skiing, walking in Cornwall and travelling.

Luke Chauveau (2016) is a Partner at an international PR firm advising clients mainly in Africa and the Middle East on reputational issues. He served in the Blues & Royals for eight years. He is a Director of the Household Cavalry Museum. He is still a keen rugby player, cricketer and skier. He lives in London with his wife and their two children.

Peter Dawson (2018) is lawyer with over 40 years of experience in and around UK commercial property, providing counsel on a wide range of issues. Partner and head of Real Estate at top 100 law firm, Russell-Cooke, from 1982 to 2018 and now a consultant. He is married with one daughter. His interests are cricket, sailing and skiing.

Mark Dickson (2016) spent a brief period in the shipping department of a major trading company in Hong Kong before deciding to go into teaching. He spent 28 years at Shrewsbury School before leaving in 2006 to become Chief Executive of the Independent Schools Football Association. He enjoys golf and food and lives in Beaconsfield.

Diane Duke CVO DL (2015) is Private Secretary and Comptroller to HRH Princess Alexandra. She has previously worked for the World Health Organisation and the University of Lancaster. She has volunteered for a number of charities and served as a school governor. She has two adult daughters, and her interests include walking, swimming and choral singing. She was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire in 2012 and Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 2022.

Ian Dyson QPM DL (2022) was the Commissioner of the City of London Police from January 2016 until the end of 2021. He joined the force as Commander in 2010 leading initially on

organisational change, and later as the lead on Economic Crime, expanding the force's national fraud responsibilities. During this time, he sat on the Awards Committee as the Society's Police Adviser. On retirement he joined the Royal Humane Society as an Honorary Life Governor and a full time Trustee on the Awards Committee. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in October 2022.

Justina Gilbert (2022) is the Global Learning and Development Leader for European marketing in an international IT corporation. She has over 28 years of marketing and communications experience; half of this in senior leadership roles managing complex transformation projects. She actively shares her expertise with third sector organisations through workshops and mentoring. She is married with two sons and lives in London. Her interests are running, skiing, baking and walking her dog.

John Grandy (1987) has a background in army and civil helicopters and the aerospace industry. He was Chairman of Cowes Week from 2006-2011 and had a half share in a yacht racing consultancy from 2008-2017. He is married and lives in Dorset. His interests include sailing and golf. He became Deputy Chairman in May 2009 and was elected Chairman in 2014.

George Hawkins (2015) served for eight years in the Light Dragoons and has since leaving the forces worked in government and infrastructure. He now works for a real estate firm where he advises clients delivering large internal construction and procurement programmes. George is married with three children, lives

in Wiltshire and enjoys cricket, shooting and learning more about gardening.

Kate Holt (2018) is a photojournalist, trainer and project manager. She has worked for numerous UK mainstream media outlets in Afghanistan and throughout Africa. She focuses on human rights to bring the stories of civilians to a global audience. In 2012 she established a communications agency that facilitates communications for the NGO sector. She was born in Zimbabwe, spent her youth in Canada and now lives in Wiltshire.

Sharmaine Malik (2022) has been involved in the education and health tech sector for the past 15 years. She has held leadership roles implementing innovative programmes and senior government initiatives in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Silicon Valley and the Netherlands. In her current role, she focuses on engagement and training programmes that support the mental health and wellbeing of young people in the UK. She is an avid dancer, enjoys reading poetry and being immersed in the competitive industry of boxing.

Dr Michael McCaldin (2015) is a General Practitioner in Bristol. Chairman of the Bristol Orthopaedic Trust and a Trustee of the St Monica Trust. He is a member of the Commanderie de Bordeaux à Bristol, a printmaker and has an interest in the history of art and enjoys walking and skiing. He is married with two daughters.

Rupert Novis (2008) received the Stanhope Gold Medal in 1988. He served in the Coldstream Guards, worked in the commodity derivative trading business for 14 years and now runs a single Family Office which focuses on venture

capital investments. He has three children and lives in Hampshire. He is a keen sportsman, enjoys travel and international culture.

Rowena Osborne (2015) is Head of Recruitment with an organization providing exceptional support people to founders, entrepreneurs, private households and businesses of all sizes, across all sectors, all over the world. She also runs a company providing cooks for all occasions to private clients in the UK and abroad.

Kate Pennell (2022) is currently the head of brand and marketing for a global insurance company. She has spent her career in marketing and PR, largely within the technology sector, both working for international companies as well as agencies in the UK and overseas. She is also a trustee with the armed forces charity SSAFA and volunteers her time running a day centre for Crisis At Christmas every year. In her spare time her passions include the gym, travel and the arts.

Lynda Rose MBE (2008) was Commandant of the FANY (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps) until the end of the Centenary Year 2007 and is now a Vice President. She is a keen supporter of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Patron and fundraiser of The Dorset Festival Opera and is this year a small part of the team targeting £1million for the Splash appeal's adult therapy pool. Her other interests include her family, walking the Dorset countryside and sailing.

Sir Nigel Southward KCVO (2006) was formerly Apothecary to the Queen and other members of the Royal Household. He retired in 2003 to

spend more time sailing. He is married with three children.

Charles Spicer (2012) is the great nephew of R T Hawes (a past chairman) who was a direct descendent of Dr William Hawes, one of the founders of the Society. He chairs three public companies, the Department of Health's Invention for Innovation Funding Panel, and the Philanthropy and Grants committee of the Fishmongers' Company. He served as High Sheriff of Greater London in 2018/19. He became Deputy Chairman in February 2017

Sheridan Swallow (2018) is a Chartered Accountant who has worked mainly in commerce and industry. He is married and has two children and lives in Hampshire. A Past Master of the Haberdashers Livery Company, he is now a Governor of one of their Academy Federations, a Governor of ACS International Schools and serves on the Audit and Risk Committee of Holyport College. He is also a member of his local PCC. When it comes to weekends, his view is that all daylight hours spent indoors or in town are probably time wasted.

Rupert Uloth (2010) served as an officer in the Life Guards for six years. He worked for Country Life magazine for 22 years, becoming Deputy Editor and Travel Editor. He is now a freelance journalist and has written for the Daily Telegraph, Telegraph and Literary Review. He is currently Master of the Worshipful Company of Grocers, one of the Great Twelve livery companies. He is chairman elect of the Royal Bath and West of England Show and lives in West Sussex with his wife and their two children.

Annual General Court 2022

The 248th Annual General Court was held at Haberdashers' Hall, London EC1, on Wednesday 25th May 2022, in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO, President. Mr John Grandy, Chairman and Honorary Treasurer, was in the Chair.

Mr John Grandy and Mr Charles Spicer were re-elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively and Mrs Anna

Blaxland, Mr Luke Chauveau, Mr Peter Dawson, Mr Rupert Novis, Mrs Lynda Rose, and Mr Rupert Uloth were re-elected, and Mr Ian Dyson, Mrs Justina Gilbert, Ms Sharmaine Malik and Ms Kate Pennell were elected as Trustees of the Society.

Messrs Ridley, Marreco and Co were re-appointed as the Society's Independent Examiner.

The proposed changes to the Society's Bye-laws had been sent to the governors prior to the AGC. The three Resolutions were put to the Court and passed for subsequent approval by the Privy Council.

Mr Charles Spicer thanked the guest speaker, His Honour Judge Shaun Lyons CBE, for his time and his inspiring address.



Donors 2022

The President presented awards to the following:

Silver Medal

Joaquin Garcia
Lukasz Koczocik
Georgia Laurie

Silver Medal In Memoriam

Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole

Bronze Medal

Special Constable Joseph Burrridge
Special Constable Graeme Champion
Craig Paul Collins
Daan De Vries
Dr Jonathan Herron
Andrew Hodges
Harry Hodges
Injesh Khadka
Jay Verceles
Brandon Eugene Visser

President's Award

Army Cadet Lucy Montgomery (14)

Certificate of Commendation

Bernard Kosia

We are most grateful to the following individuals, companies, charitable trusts and police forces for their generous donations and support:

ORGANISATIONS, COMPANIES & TRUSTS

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries
Carr-Ellison Trust
City of London Corporation
Cynthia Charlesworth legacy
Colchester Medical Society
Crichtons Company Restorations
The Haberdashers' Company
Longmeadow Trust
Orders & Medals Research Society
Patrons' Fund – Privy Purse Charitable Trust
Police Professional (Sponsorship of Police Medal)
Research International
JA Swire Charities
Throgmorton Securities Ltd
Colonel WH Whitbread Charitable Trust
White Oak Charitable Trust

SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Mark Allen
Graham Baker
Stephen Bunce
David Laing
George Parker
Alan Titchmarsh MBE DL
Sara Walduck

POLICE FORCES AND PCCs

Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Greater Manchester Police
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Kent Police
Metropolitan Police Service
Sussex Police

Governors of the Society

We should like to thank the following for their generous donations and continued support:

LIFE GOVERNORS

Mr Mark Allen
Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC
Mr & Mrs Michael Bernard
Dr Robert Bethel
Mrs Gordon Birdwood
Mr Terence Bramall
Mr T Bunting
Mr & Mrs Richard Burbidge OBE DL
Mr Bryan Callum
Mr & Mrs Michael Campbell
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Dr Michael McCaldin

Rear Admiral J A L Myres CB
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Mr Richard Oldfield
Mr George Parker
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Mrs Lynda Rose MBE
Mr Daniel Rosenbaum
Mr C H Sharwood-Smith MBE DL
Mr & Mrs Alan Sinclair
Mr & Mrs Andrew Steggles
Sir Hugh and Lady Sykes
Mr Alan Titchmarsh MBE DL
Mr & Mrs Richard Titley
Mr Richard Tomkinson
Maj Dominic Troulan GC QGM
Mr Rupert Uloth
Mrs Sara Walduck
Mr N P Wentworth-Stanley
Sir Samuel Whitbread KCVO JP (Sir Samuel died in January 2023)
Col Dick Wilkinson TD
Mr J B Woodd-Walker
Mr Tony Worth CVO

GOVERNORS

Sir Jeremy Bagge Bt DL
Dr Craig Barclay
Mr Grahame Barker
Mr & Mrs David Barnett
Mr Julian Beauchamp
Mr P W Bedford
Mr Michael Beesley
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Mr Peter Forbes
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Mr Norman Gareth Gooding CStJ
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Mr George Hawkins
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CVO MBE
Ms Sharmaine Malik
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Mr Charles Spicer
Mr & Mrs Martin Stanley
Mr G Staple CB QC
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Mr Neil Stevens
Mr Peter Stone
Dr Hamed Bin Mohamed Khalifa al Suwaidi
Mr Sheridan Swallow
Commodore & Mrs P J Thicknesse
Mr Peter Townsend
Dame Janet Trotter DBE
Ms Kathie Webber
Mr Richard Wilkin LVO MBE DL
Dr Roger Willoughby
Mr B A Wiseman
Mr Gavin Wishart
Mr David Wooff JP

FRIENDS

Mrs Rosie Cunningham
Mr Christopher Hayworth-Booth
Mrs Rosemary Hayworth-Booth
His Hon Shaun Lyons
Mr Andrew Smith
Mrs Della Swallow

How to become a Governor or Friend

Becoming a Governor or Friend of the Society provides an opportunity for those who are supporters of the Society to become a little more involved.

The Royal Humane Society is run by a Committee who are the Trustees of the charity. Governors are invited to the Annual General Court, where they will meet Committee Members and fellow Governors, as well as some of the Society's award recipients whose awards are being presented. Governors' names are printed in the Annual Report, of which they will be sent a copy in recognition of their interest. Governors also receive priority invitations to our fundraising events, such as the Birdwood Lecture.

Friends are invited to fund raising events (Birdwood Lecture) and receive a copy of the Society's Annual Report and news by email. Their names are also listed on the website.

Our Royal Charter, granted by Her Majesty on 3 June 1958, stipulated a subscription of one guinea a year to become a Governor or ten guineas for a Life Governor. Unfortunately, we now have to charge a little more, as follows:

Life Governor	£1,000
Joint Life Governors (for a couple)	£1,500
Governor (per annum)	£100
Joint Governor (per annum)	£150
Friend (per annum)	£25
Joint Friends (per annum per couple)	£40

If you would like to become a Governor or a Friend please visit our website at www.royalhumanesociety.org.uk

Click on the 'Support the Society' tab at the top of the page, then click on the appropriate button and complete the details as requested. You will be invited to fill in a Gift Aid Declaration and a Standing Order form if that is your preferred method of payment. If you are considering becoming a Life Governor, you may wish to pay by cheque or BACS. Completing a Gift Aid Declaration will enable us to claim a further 25 pence in tax for each pound you donate.

Financial overview

Incoming resources for the year amounted to £98,664. Last year incoming resources amounted to £53,760. Resources expended were £143,856 (2021 £138,563). The market value of our investments decreased by £131,720 during the year. The general fund, which is unrestricted, decreased by £194,482 over the year.

SUMMARY OF INCOME	This Year 2022		Last Year 2021	
	£	%	£	%
Investment income	24,374	25	22,480	42
Donations	44,290	45	25,629	48
Legacies received	30,000	30	5,651	10
Total	98,664	100	53,760	100

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE	This Year 2021		Last Year 2020	
	£	%	£	%
Awards & presentation costs	1,945	1	3,407	2
Rent & rates	18,740	13	15,293	11
Salaries	93,575	65	98,203	71
Management & administration	25,463	18	18,440	14
Investment management	4,133	3	3,220	2
Total	143,856	100	138,563	100

Net (Outgoing) Resources	(45,192)	84,803
Realised and unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	(149,290)	82,223
(Decrease) in funds	(194,482)	2,580

Independent Examiners

Ridley, Marreco & Co.
Pool House
Pool Street
Woodford Halse
Northants NN11 3TS

Bankers

Drummonds at
Royal Bank of Scotland plc
49 Charing Cross
London SW1 2DX

Solicitors

Russell Cooke
7 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4B

Investment Managers

Church House Investment Management
York House
6 Coldharbour
Sherborne
Dorset DT9 4JW

From the Archives

MARY WHEATLAND – BOGNOR REGIS'S FAMOUS LIFE SAVER

'A diminutive figure dressed in a voluminous blue serge dress and sporting a sailor hat with the name "Mary Wheatland" emblazoned upon it, was a familiar sight on the beachfront of the Sussex resort of Bognor at the turn of the century. However, this incredible lady, who was known simply as "Our Mary" by admiring locals, was not there to enjoy Bognor's famed sea air. She had a very important occupation as



Mary Wheatland c1905

a "bathing-woman" - hiring out bathing costumes and towels, giving swimming lessons, and taking the money for the ponderous bathing-machines which would then be dragged into the sea by horses.

Indeed, Mary was probably the most remarkable bathing-woman this country has ever seen, for in her long career spanning over sixty years she saved at least thirty people from drowning, and in recognition of her bravery was awarded the Society's Testimonial on Vellum on 1877.

Case 20760: 'Mary Wheatland, aged 45, Bathing Woman for 31 years at Bognor. Saved W.P. Manly, Clerk, 20, of Victor Road, Holloway. At 11 a.m. on the 2nd October 1879, from the sea at Bognor, depth 10 feet; heavy sea and a high wind. Whilst bathing, Mr Manley swam out some distance from shore and became exhausted, drifted towards the groin over which the sea was dashing violently. Several fishermen were looking on but would not risk their lives in such

a heavy sea. Mary Wheatley rushed into the water with her clothes on, swam out and supported the gentleman above water, neither of them could make the shore without further assistance. The woman retained her hold of Mr Manly until a visitor came to their assistance. Walter Manley later presented Mary with £20.

Some 25 years later in 1902, she received the Society's Bronze Medal for her outstanding life saving efforts. The Society's Minutes Book records,

Letter from Mr Johnson, Bognor read: 'and the Bronze Medal granted as an exceptional case to Mary Wheatcroft' she having saved 16 lives and having previously received a Vellum Testimonial.

Also in 1902, Mary also received the 'Golden Penny Medal from the Golden Penny, a weekly newspaper of 'adventure and general interest'. Her citation read,

Mary Wheatland, bathing attendant aged 72 years. For saving life from drowning



Bathing machines on the beach at Bognor (c1890)

(16 persons over a period of 54 years) at Bognor.

Born on 16 August 1835, Mary began her remarkable career at the age of fourteen and made her first rescue only two years later. She regarded the saving of life as merely part of her job, even though it meant risking her own life.

On one occasion a drowning man gripped her so hard that he pushed her right under the water, but somehow, she managed to struggle free and bring him to the shore. No one ever drowned in her part of the beach, and even though she was encumbered by long skirts and petticoats, Mary's skill and courage never deserted her. In fact, she strongly disapproved of

the modern bathing dress. "In my day", she said, "the ladies wore respectable costumes. I always wore a blue serge dress down to my feet, but today I don't know what things are coming to!"

Mary's costume never seemed to cause her any difficulties and she was often seen diving off the end of Bognor pier or delighting bathers by standing on her head in the water and waving her boots in the air! At the age of 71 she very regretfully had to abandon this youthful diversion.

By the time she had retired it was estimated that she had saved a total of 30 lives. She was still a popular face on the beach even after her retirement, until her death at the age of 89 in 1924. Mary was

laid to rest in South Bersted Churchyard and was honoured with a very impressive funeral ceremony from her home to the church.

In October last year, the Society was pleased to have attended the unveiling of a blue plaque in honour of Mary. The plaque is located on Bognor Regis Pier, overlooking the location on the beach where she carried out her bathing machine business.



Acknowledgements: Sylvia Endacott – Bognor Regis Local History Society

Ways of donating to the Society

The Society relies on donations from our friends and supporters if we are to continue our work. Your support is vital, and we ask that you encourage others to help by making a donation to the Society.

ONLINE

Donate online with PayPal or another card. Please go to the Society's website at www.royalhumanesociety.org.uk - and click on the 'Donate' button.

BANK STANDING ORDER

If you would like to commit to regular payments, a Standing Order form can be downloaded from the Society's website - www.royalhumanesociety.org.uk - and click on the 'Donate' tab on the top of the opening page. This should be completed and returned to the Society.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, the Gift Aid scheme is a tax efficient way to make a donation. We are able to claim back the tax you have already paid on the

sum of your donation. In order to donate with Gift Aid please complete a Gift Aid Declaration form which can be found on the Society's website under the 'Donate' tab. This should be completed and returned to the Society.

BECOME A GOVERNOR

As a governor of the Society, you will be invited to the Annual General Court, which is attended by the charity's trustees, fellow governors as well as some of the Society's medal recipients. You will also be invited to the Birdwood Lecture and each governor's name is printed in the annual report in recognition of their generosity and interest in the Society. There are life and annual governor memberships with associated fees. See the 'Support the Society' tab on the Society's website.

BECOME A FRIEND

As a Friend of the Society, you will receive a copy of the Annual Report and receive news and updates by email. You will be invited to the Birdwood

Lecture and your name will be listed on the website (unless you ask us not to). Membership details and fees can be found on the Society's website under 'Support the Society' tab.

CHARITY AID FOUNDATION

As a registered charity we can accept CAF vouchers providing they are a donation and not a payment for goods or services.

LEGACIES

All gifts and bequests to the Society by will are exempt from inheritance tax and gifts of assets (shares or chattels) are not liable to capital gains tax. If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy, please contact the Secretary.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Supporters of the Society frequently ask family and friends for donations to charity in place of flowers at a funeral. Any donations received may be collected by the funeral director or family member and passed to the Secretary.

CHEQUE

Cheques should be made payable to "Royal Humane Society" and sent to the Secretary.



Laura Jayne Burniston receives her Testimonial on Vellum from the Mayor of Redcar, Councillor Stuart Smith. With her is Dave Thomas, the man she rescued.



Harvey Compton with his two Resus Certificates



Findhorn Rowing Club rescue – Ruth Boardman, Annie Cheese, Jackie King, Alison McKay, Maria Olsthoorn, and Claire Weller with Dame Katherine Grainger DBE, former Olympic rower (far left) and the Lord Lieutenant Major General The Hon Seymour Monro CBE, LVO.



Special Constable Graeme Champion on duty beside Her Majesty The Queen's Coffin – Westminster Hall (wearing his RHS Bronze Medal on his right breast)

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

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