



**T**he successful efforts to secure medals for officers during the Queen's Golden Jubilee obscured the fact that many officers who would have been eligible for the award were no longer here to receive it. Having paid the ultimate price, they are largely forgotten.

During the 50 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, more than 1,000 police officers have lost their lives in the line of duty, a third of these in Northern Ireland.

A police charity is making plans to honour the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the community.

The Police Roll of Honour Trust (a registered charity) has the following objectives:

- to foster good citizenship through the construction and maintenance of a roll of honour in remembrance of every police officer killed in the line of duty

- to advance the education of the public and the police in the history of officers killed in the line of duty,

and officer safety, by the maintenance of an archive of information, available to the public.

The trust is working with other charities and organisations towards:

- a national police officers' roll of honour

- a national police memorial

- a national police memorial day

- a national police survivors' support network for bereaved families and friends of deceased officers.

The charity was established to create the national police officers' roll of honour as a record of public service and sacrifice. The roll pays tribute to more than 3,500 UK police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty since the earliest days of professional law enforcement.

The trust is recording all available details of each officer's death, their service history, personal background and any awards or memorials, including photographs. It will ensure that any future losses of officers are also recorded.

The roll includes officers killed by accident or wartime action as well as by criminal acts. It commemorates their sacrifice for public service and provides a focal point for family and friends to reflect on the loss of their loved ones and to know that their loss is not forgotten.

The names of many heroes and hero-

# Lest we forget

**In the last 50 years, more than 1,000 police officers have lost their lives in the line of duty. Anthony Rae reports on the work of the Police Roll of Honour Trust, an organisation that means to ensure the contribution of these officers is never forgotten**



**MEMORIAL DUTY:** Sir John Stevens, Commissioner of the Met (left), and General Michael Walker at a Hendon College remembrance ceremony for police officers killed in the line of duty

ines will be inscribed on the roll of honour, but it will be mostly the names of ordinary men and women – fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues.

What makes the officers extraordinary is not how they died but how they lived – doing an often dangerous and thankless job, forgotten until they were needed.

Sadly, it is inevitable that the roll will never be complete. It will however serve as an ongoing memorial to those who lose their lives in the service of the public and those left behind may now be assured their loss will never be forgotten.

After many years of research, there is now an authoritative archive of the subject for study or analysis purposes. Increased knowledge and understanding of how fatalities occur will help promote officer safety.

The trust is committed to the publication of a book and website of remembrance, displaying citations for each day of the year for those who died on that day, showing each officer's name, age, rank and force, as well as the date, place and brief circumstances of death. It is equally committed to the inscription of all names on a national memorial.

To this end the trust is working closely with Michael Winner, chairman of the Police Memorial Trust, which

plans a London memorial, and the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The charity aims to have a national police day of remembrance when the public can be made aware of the sacrifice sometimes paid by their officers in protecting their communities; serving officers will be able to pay their respects at local and national memorials; and surviving relatives, friends and colleagues can come together with other survivors who can truly understand their loss.

A survivors' support network is being set up to help those bereaved through the trauma of an officer's death. This will be an independent source of help and understanding.

The trust would not exist without the ongoing support of all UK police forces, especially Lancashire Constabulary, and that of all the police staff associations, from local federations through to ACPO in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Funding has come from all the police organisations and insurance brokers Roland Smith Ltd are providing corporate sponsorship – but more is needed. The charity relies on voluntary contributions to continue its work and hundreds of ordinary people have made donations. People are being asked to donate to help preserve our police heritage and honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in public service. If every officer in the UK

**'WHAT MAKES THE OFFICERS EXTRAORDINARY IS NOT HOW THEY DIED BUT HOW THEY LIVED – DOING AN OFTEN DANGEROUS AND THANKLESS JOB'**

**FALLEN HEROINE:** A memorial stone in memory of PC Nina Mackay, a Met officer who was murdered while on duty in October 1997



Anthony Rae

gives just a little, even £1, it will ensure the trust's work can continue. People interested in contributing can also join the Trust Friends and receive regular newsletters and other benefits.

It is not the trust's intention to solicit donations from relatives of deceased officers. However, it is pleased to hear from relatives or descendants of officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, whether they would like to receive or to give support or would like further information about how their loved ones will be remembered.

Anyone who can assist with local research, or in any other way, or would like further information is also asked to contact the trust.

Anthony Rae is a sergeant in Lancashire Constabulary and chairman of the Police Roll of Honour Trust

*Next week, Police Review will look at police heroines – female police officers killed in the UK*



Photostock Service

**PROUD MEMORIES:** Families of officers who lost their lives while on duty at the Hendon College remembrance ceremony

## CONTACTING THE TRUST

To make a donation or join the friends of the Police Roll of Honour Trust, write to: PROHT, FREEPOST ANG30381, PO Box 1027, Narborough, Kings Lynn PE32 1ZY telephone: 0870 7442577 email: donate@proht.org.uk website: www.policememorial.org.uk

For other inquiries contact: Police Roll of Honour Trust PO Box 77, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB email: enquiries@proht.org.uk

