

weeds and scrubs at the side of the bank and got a foothold keeping her head above water. The eldest child ran to get help.

PC Murphy arrived at the scene and immediately summoned rescue services. She reassured the woman that help was on its way and encouraged her to hold on. She attempted to pass her utility belt as a safety line but the woman was unable to reach it. With the river in full flow against her, the woman's grasp was weakening, her head going underwater several times. She was struggling to retain her hold and there was a real risk of her being swept away. PC Murphy therefore took the decision to jump into the river to save her. She held the woman using her right arm, held onto a protruding rock with the other hand and wedged her foot against something in the river. To exacerbate the situation the foothold of the woman then gave way. She was pulled away leaving her with neither a foothold nor the clutch of weeds and just being held by the police officer. PC Murphy remained calm and continued to reassure the woman that help was on its way and she would be rescued.

PC Murphy knowingly put herself in an extremely dangerous, life-threatening situation and displayed courage throughout the ordeal and her actions probably saved the woman's life. Due to the force and speed of the water, had either woman become detached from the river banking it is likely they would have been lost downstream. Throughout the incident she remained calm despite knowing that both her own and the woman's lives were at risk. She continually held on, despite the force of the river against her and showed great determination and resilience.

Plamen PETKOV, Civilian (deceased)

For saving a young girl from drowning

On 26 May 2012, Plamen Petkov and two friends were walking on the beach at West Wittering, Sussex when they saw a woman shouting for help because her young daughter was in an inflatable rubber ring that was drifting away from shore in a red flagged prohibited area. Without hesitation and despite "do not swim or enter the water" signs, Plamen Petkov entered the water and started to swim towards the child, who was by now some 50 metres from shore due to the strong winds and a strong undercurrent. The child was being taken out to sea very quickly. He reached the child but it is believed she was too scared to stay in the rubber ring and instead climbed onto his back. He started to make his way back to shore but due to the weight of the child on his back, and the current and strong winds, his head kept going under the water, although he did manage to keep the child's head above the water.

A female member of the public saw what was happening and swam out and managed to reach him. She took the child from him and started to swim back to the shore while one of Plamen Petkov's friends tried to help him. Once the child was safely returned to her mother, the female then went back into the water to help. At this point Plamen Petkov was rendered unconscious. He was dragged to shore where he was found to be not breathing. The female helper was a theatre nurse and she started to perform CPR immediately which she continued to

administer until the lifeguards and ambulance crew arrived. Sadly they were unable to revive him and he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Plamen Petkov did not hesitate in answering the shouts for help and it is likely that his selfless actions saved the life of a young girl. He must have known and understood the risk he was taking. Even if he did not, it must soon have become apparent to him but he did not turn back. Once he had reached the child he did not release her to save himself even when he got into difficulty.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery



Andrew BILTON, Civilian
Brian KEANE, Civilian,
Mrs Joanne KEANE, Civilian

For rescuing two drivers involved in a road traffic accident

On 23 June 2013, Brian and Joanne Keane were travelling on the West Stafford bypass in Dorset when they came upon the scene of two vehicles involved in a collision. Brian Keane ran to offer what assistance he could to the occupants of the two cars. He found that both drivers were badly injured. Having been joined by his wife, they managed to get one of the drivers out of his vehicle. Another person, Andrew Bilton then appeared and he and Brian Keane attempted to get the driver out of the second car.

Unfortunately, this proved difficult because both front doors of the car were jammed shut. By this time smoke from the other car had turned to flames but both men continued to try force the door open, but to no avail. The fire from the other car had now spread to the car both men were attending. Refusing to give up, Brian Keane managed to get the back door open, got inside the car and was able to force the driver's door open slightly. He then went outside and with the help of Andrew Bilton managed to open the door from the outside and got the driver out to safety. Shortly after, Joanne Keane administered first aid to the driver, ensuring that his airways remained open. It is almost certain that all three were instrumental in saving the lives of the two crash victims. Their quick actions ensured that the victims were kept safe until the emergency services arrived. Brian and Joanne Keane and Andrew Bilton all put their lives in danger from the moment they became involved in the rescue. The crashed vehicles, which were a few steps away, could have exploded and possibly two of them, if not all three, could have been killed.

PC Jonathan HENRY, Bedfordshire Police, deceased.

For attempting to apprehend an armed suspect

On 11 June 2007 PC Henry and a colleague were deployed to a report of a stabbing in Luton town centre. Two other police officers were the first to arrive and the suspect was quickly located. He was armed with a knife and threatened all four police officers. The police officers spread out to contain the suspect and PC Henry approached from the rear. The suspect was ordered to drop his knife but he did not respond. One officer sprayed