

Stephen Wharton, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.*For rescuing a child from the River Eden on 26 February 2019.*

On Tuesday 26 February 2019, Cumbria Fire and Rescue from Appleby were called to a water rescue incident in the River Eden. A 13 year old boy was swimming in the river and got into difficulty. He went under the water and did not resurface. Once it was realised he was in difficulty, a number of people in the vicinity tried to help; however, after several minutes of trying in vain to rescue the young boy, the emergency services were called.

It was estimated that the child had been underwater for approximately 20 minutes prior to the crew arriving. Due to the close proximity to the fire station and the urgency of the call, the crew responded on foot to the river as they knew this would provide a quicker response.

Under extremely challenging circumstances, the decision was made to commit two crew members into the River to carry out a rescue. With the crew briefed, Crew Manager Wharton and another firefighter entered the water, supported by the rest of the crew from the river bank.

The two crew members who entered the river finally located the casualty under the water. Crew Manager Wharton's personal flotation device (PFD) and kit was preventing him from going under water. In order to rescue the boy, Crew Manager Wharton quickly decided he would need to remove his PFD, helmet and all the air from his dry suit to enable him to dive under the water, risking his own life in extreme circumstances. He then successfully dived down to a depth of 2 to 3 metres, located the child and brought him to the surface.

With assistance from the rest of the crew, the casualty was brought to the river bank where he was resuscitated and flown to hospital where he made practically a full recovery. The quick thinking, courage and professionalism of Crew Manager Wharton saved the boy's life and reduced the risk of injury to members of the public.

Maurice Wrightson (posthumous).*For saving the lives of others when the brakes on the coach he was driving failed on 16 April 2013.*

On 16 April 2013, Maurice Wrightson was driving a coach bringing 51 British passengers home to the UK from France. The coach was on a very steep mountainous road in the French Alps. Approaching a hairpin bend, he realised the brakes were no longer responding.

Mr Wrightson had to make an immediate decision. To avoid the risk of the coach failing to take the bend and tipping into the ravine alongside the road, Mr Wrightson chose instead to crash the coach into the rocks on the other side of the bend. When it hit the boulders, the coach burst into flames. Some passengers received serious injuries and Mr Wrightson lost his life. However, his actions prevented the coach from falling into the ravine, which would have presented an even more serious risk to the lives of his passengers.

Robert (Glenn) Carr, National Crime Agency.*For assisting in a firearms arrest on 18 August 2018.*

On Saturday 18 August 2018, Glenn Carr was deployed as an armed surveillance motorcyclist attached to a mobile armed support team (MAST).

The MAST team were briefed that the two main subjects of the operation were intending to obtain a firearm or firearms. The officers were aware that the subjects had a history of violence and access to firearms.

The MAST team deployed in support of an unarmed surveillance team, which followed the subjects to an industrial unit. Whilst at this location, an unarmed surveillance officer heard two loud bangs coming from the vicinity of the unit where the subjects were seen to enter. A tactical decision was then made to arrest both, as it was assessed that both were likely to be in the possession of firearms.

As the MAST team moved to effect the arrests, they activated public warning equipment and immediately both subjects started to run away from officers. One of the subjects ran towards Officer Carr, and appeared to be getting away from the pursuing armed operations officers chasing on foot. Officer Carr took the decision to mount the kerb to close off the subject's escape route. Due to the speed of the unfolding incident, Officer Carr did not have the opportunity to access his weapon or TASER. He made the decision to slow down the subject by putting out his right leg in order to strike the subject's upper thigh. This caused the subject to stumble and fall to the ground, where the armed officers pursuing on foot were able to detain him. The subject was subsequently found to have a gun.

Officer Carr's actions came at a personal cost to him, as the tripping action caused him to fall from his motorcycle and he sustained a broken leg. He was aware of the potential danger to NCA colleagues and potentially members of the public. He helped to avoid a situation whereby the subject was able to draw a gun, which could have resulted in potentially fatal violence.

His judgement and actions likely prevented more serious injuries. Had a firearm been used it could have resulted in possibly one or more of the suspects or officers being shot dead.

Following the safe arrest of the subjects, the NCA discovered a firearms factory in the industrial unit which they exited. From this factory, 15 viable firearms were seized. A further 122 firearms that were in the process of being manufactured were also recovered.