



Warwickshire Road Safety
Partnership **Remembers**

Toolkit





Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership **Remembers**

Introduction

Sunday 21 November 2021 is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. It is important that here in Warwickshire we take time to remember all those who have lost their lives or been affected by the consequences of a collision on our roads.

During 2020 and despite the lockdown periods when roads were quieter, 14 people lost their lives in Warwickshire as the result of a road traffic collision. Another 228 people suffered serious, often life changing injuries.

The year before, 34 people died on Warwickshire's roads and a further 281 people were seriously injured.

Any one death or injury is too many and we are working hard as partners to do all we can to make our roads safer.

We know that the ripple effects of losing someone in a collision are far reaching and affect not only the immediate family but friends, work colleagues and the wider community.

That's why we are asking the public to stop and think for a moment on the 21 November about the number of people who needlessly die or are seriously injured every year on our roads. We want people to stop and reflect on their own use of the roads and how we can all contribute to making them safer by being better road users.

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is committed to seeing longer term reductions in these figures, with our new strategy setting the ambitious target of a 50% reduction in road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

We can only do this if everyone plays their part, so please join us in our pledge to become better road users and do everything we can to help prevent collisions from occurring.

Philip Seccombe

**Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner and
Chair of Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership**



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About this toolkit

We have put together a series of resources to help local organisations, community groups and faith groups who wish to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on Sunday 21 November. As well as suggested readings for those who wish to mention the day in any faith setting, there is also a testimony from a Warwickshire resident who is living with the consequences of being involved in a collision.

Last year, we organised a virtual service from St Mary's Church in Warwick, which was streamed online on the World Day of Remembrance. The service is still available at: https://youtu.be/qPHhFf_swyw and may give useful inspiration for those wishing to organise their own service.

This year, the charity RoadPeace is organising a series of services to mark the World Day of Remembrance, including one for the West Midlands region which is being held at St Martin in the Bullring, Edgbaston Street, Birmingham at 2.30pm on 21 November. The event will also be streamed live on YouTube. For details of all RoadPeace events, visit: <https://www.roadpeace.org/remembrance/remembrance-events/>

This toolkit also provides a number of suggested postings and graphics suitable for sharing on social media and newsletters, web pages and intranet sites to help spread the message about the World Day of Remembrance. Please help to share these as widely as you can.

Please also follow us on social media and help share our road safety messages including the moving video of Sheila Vale from Studley who tells her story of recovery after she suffered life-changing injuries when she was left paralysed after being hit by a car while walking her dog in October 2019. She has a simple message for all drivers as a result. This will be posted on Sunday 21 November on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #WDoR2021



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MEDIA RELEASE

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership remembers all those affected by road traffic collisions

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership (WRSP) is supporting the World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims on Sunday 21 November by remembering all those who have lost their lives or been seriously injured in a collision in Warwickshire.

During 2020 despite lockdown, 14 people lost their lives in Warwickshire as the result of a road traffic collision and 228 people suffered serious, often life changing injuries. In 2019, 34 people died on Warwickshire's roads and a further 281 people were seriously injured.

As part of the World Day of Remembrance, faith and community leaders, individuals and organisations across the county are being asked to remember road traffic victims in their prayers or services on 21 November. To help them do this, Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is providing a toolkit with lots of helpful resources.

The toolkit includes poems and readings, a personal story of recovery from a road collision victim and details of support services for the families of road death victims.

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe, who is Chair of WRSP, said: "It is important that we never forget the individuals whose lives have been lost on Warwickshire's roads.

"The ripple effects of losing someone in a collision are far reaching and affect not only the immediate family but friends, work colleagues and the wider community.

"That's why we are asking the public to stop and think for a moment on the 21 November about the number of people who needlessly die or are seriously injured every year on our roads. We want people to stop and reflect on their own use of the roads and how we can all contribute to making them safer by being better road users."

In a moving video released as part of the toolkit, Sheila Vale from Studley tells her story of recovery after she suffered life-changing injuries when she was left paralysed after being hit by a car while walking her dog in October 2019. She has a simple message for all drivers as a result.



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She says: "You never get into a vehicle thinking: 'I want to go and run someone over' but it only takes a split second or a few seconds where you take your eyes off the road. As drivers, we've all done it. We've all seen something in the field, or at the side of the road, or a beautiful rainbow that's just taken our eyes off the road and we've lost concentration. There's even times when you will have got home on a regular journey and thought: 'I don't remember driving that bit.'

"Concentrate. Focus on the road. The person who hit me took his eyes off the road for eight seconds – which isn't that long – and he changed my life forever. I'm sure it has had an impact on his life too. Could you live with that?"

Get involved

Join us in our campaign to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by helping us to raise awareness of the lives that have been lost.

You can view the toolkit here or visit www.warksroadsafety.org for more information.

A video of Sheila talking about her experience as the survivor of a serious road collision is available [here](#) and will be posted on social media.

We need your help to share Sheila's message and other road safety messages by following us and sharing our posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #WDoR2021 and by talking to people about being better road users.

About our Strategy

Any death or serious injury on our roads is one too many and Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is determined to make a lasting difference by significantly reducing these figures. Its new draft Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Strategy sets an ambitious target of a 50% reduction in road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

To achieve this, the Partnership aims to adopt a 'safe systems' approach that looks at all aspects of road safety. People's behaviour needs to change too and that's why we are asking the public to pledge to follow traffic laws and to do everything they can to help prevent collisions from happening.



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Suggested readings

Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep;

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there. I did not die.

Attributed to Mary Frye

Remember

Remember me when I am gone away,

Gone far away into the silent land;

When you can no more hold me by the hand,

Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.

Remember me when no more day by day

You tell me of our future that you planned:

Only remember me; you understand

It will be late to counsel then or pray.

Yet if you should forget me for a while

And afterwards remember, do not grieve:

For if the darkness and corruption leave

A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,

Better by far you should forget and smile

Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti



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Suggested readings

To Lose a Child

*Grief is the loneliest of human experiences
Losing a child is the hardest thing in life to bear
There is no antidote, no cure, no end,
No one has any answers.
It is a long hard battle,
But there are no enemies.
It is a long and winding path,
But there are no signs to guide you.
It is an overbearing weight,
But no one can see the burden that you carry
in your heart.
It is unimaginable anguish,
but no one else perceives the half of it.
It is the saddest of all deaths,
But the world is overflowing with enough sadness of
its own.
It is the end of your world, but you have to go on
living.*

Marilyn Shawe

For Those Who Die Young

*Doomed to know not Winter, only Spring -
A being Trod the flowery April Blighty for a while;
Took his fill of music, joy of thought and seeing,
Came and stayed and went, nor ever ceased to smile.
Came and stayed and went, and now, when all is
finished,
You alone have crossed the melancholy stream.
Yours the pang, but his, the undiminished
Undecaying gladness, undeparted dream.*

R.L. Stevenson

The Trees

*The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.
Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.
Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.*

Philip Larkin



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A collision victim's perspective

It's important on the World Day of Remembrance that we pay tribute to all those who are living with the consequences of being seriously injured in a collision on our roads. For them, life can never be the same again and the changes are also a daily reality for their families and friends.

One such person is Sheila Vale who was badly injured in a collision near Studley in October 2019. Hit by a car while walking her dog by the roadside, she later received the devastating news that she had been left paralysed. She is keen to impress on all drivers about the need to remain attentive to the road at all times.

A video of Sheila talking about her experience as the survivor of a serious road collision is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWk40vf5cF4>

She says:

"Life has changed immensely. The collision happened on the 25 October 2019 but it wasn't until the 2 April the following year that I found out that I was actually paralysed from the bust down.

"I had to learn how to count, I had to learn to feed myself again because with my right arm pretty much everything got broken. The only part of me that wasn't broken was my left shoulder, my left elbow and my left hand. Everything else was broken, or dislocated, or dislocated and broken. So, the day of the collision, I had a lot taken from me.

"It makes everyone (in my family) think about walking by the side of the road, about driving and about keeping our roads a safe place for everyone, for all users.

"You never get into a vehicle thinking: 'I want to go and run someone over' but it only takes a split second or a few seconds where you take your eyes off the road. As drivers, we've all done it. We've all seen something in the field or at the side of the road or a beautiful rainbow that's just taken our eyes off the road and we've lost concentration. There's even times when you will have got home on a regular journey and thought: 'I don't remember driving that bit.'

"Concentrate. Focus on the road. The person who hit me took his eyes off the road for eight seconds – which isn't that long – and he changed my life forever. I'm sure it has had an impact on his life too. Could you live with that?"

Sheila Vale



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The Warwickshire Independent Road Victims Advocate – Gary Harker

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Secombe funds the road safety charity Brake to provide the Warwickshire Independent Road Victim Advocate (IRVA) Service. The objectives of the service are to:

- reach more road victims locally, providing families with caseworker care and support
- enable road victims to feel more able to cope and overcome practical challenges due to the locality of the caseworker
- Provide a person-centered approach to care
- To provide interventions of support to foster resilience
- To enable better pathways of care with other local care providers as part of the care plan, for example local community support groups, GP's, children's services, and trauma support services.

Gary is reaching out to and assisting many families and individuals traumatised by death and catastrophic injury on Warwickshire roads. Gary says:

"Since becoming Brake's first Independent Road Victim Advocate (IRVA) in early 2020 I have witnessed a world turned upside down by a pandemic, and, through my work with families, heard so many distressing stories of the impact of losing a loved one or the devastating effects of serious injury caused by road traffic collisions.

"People have allowed me into their world at the worst time in their life and this has been a privilege. I have supported many families suffering so many different aspects of the impact of traumatic bereavement and injury, ranging from the unfamiliarity of the coronial and criminal justice system, to accessing mental health care, to providing parents with access to support and information to help bereaved children.

"The families come to Brake at a time when they feel that they have little or no support elsewhere and do not know how to access help, and it has been an honour to support them through difficult times and in some cases achieve what they thought was beyond their reach.

"Looking to the future, I sincerely believe the IRVA role is paramount to provide care to families who have suffered a death or catastrophic injury through road collisions. I am looking forward to being part of this journey and to continue to support victims in need across Warwickshire in this role."



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Here is some feedback about Gary:

"Gary and I have been working closely for the past year and I would say his work and support to the families is invaluable. He is a great support to the Serious Collision Investigation Unit Team and the Family Liaison Officers. He has dealt with not only fatal collisions but serious and life changing incidents which are frequently more demanding and time consuming. He has been able to provide help and support to families who are going through the grieving process and offering them further support and guidance through liaising with local and national support agencies."

Two families said this about Gary:

'I wish you had been around 3 years ago when the collision happened'

'I wish you had been involved sooner, then I would have had a much greater understanding of everything'

Finally, The Brake Promise to you:

- We understand every road crash is different, every road victim is an individual, and your circumstance is uniquely painful and challenging.
- Our aim is to help you cope, be informed and assisted, and adjust to your new reality.
- We promise to listen, work to meet your needs and help keep you safe and supported.
- We are an independent and confidential service. We do not replace the roles of emergency, police or health services.
- If you feel you need assistance from the Warwickshire IRVA Service:
- You, or a police officer on your behalf, can contact Brake on 0808 8000 401 (or email helpline@brake.org.uk)



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Social media assets

 Warwickshire Road Safety
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Join us on the World Day of Remembrance
for Road Traffic Victims on Sunday
21 November **#WDoR2021**

By taking a moment to remember
those people who needlessly die
every year on our roads

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**We will never forget the individuals whose
lives have been lost on our roads**

Please take a moment to remember
them this Sunday 21 November - the
World Day of Remembrance for Road
Traffic Victims **#WDoR2021**



Warwickshire Road Safety
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Poster

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