



Warwickshire Road Safety
Partnership **Remembers**

Toolkit





Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

Introduction

Sunday 20 November 2022 is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. As with the previous two years, Warwickshire is committed to marking the day and raising awareness of the lives lost and affected by collisions on our roads.

During 2021 and despite the lockdown periods when roads were quieter, 15 people lost their lives in Warwickshire as the result of a road traffic collision. Another 215 people suffered serious, often life changing injuries.

Nationally, there is evidence that we may be returning to pre COVID levels when in 2019, 34 people died on Warwickshire's roads and a further 281 people were seriously injured.

Any death or injury is too many and we are working hard as partners to do all we can to reduce these numbers and 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 20 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**



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

About this toolkit

From the success of last year, we have updated our toolkit to have a range 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 20 November.

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is also inviting the public to a memorial service to 'Remember the lives lost and injured on Warwickshire's roads.' It will be held at St Mary's Church, Warwick, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Sunday 20 November 2022. The church will open from 2.30pm to provide the opportunity for anyone who would like to, to light a candle and take some time for silent reflection. Open to all faiths, the service, led by Canon Peter Holliday, will start promptly at 3pm and last no longer than one hour. In 2020, 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=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 20 November. For details of all RoadPeace events, visit: <https://www.roadpeace.org/remembrance/remembrance-events/>

This toolkit also provides a number of updated posters 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 which was filmed last year 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. On 20 November we will also be unveiling our plan for a permanent memorial in Warwickshire, this will be posted on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag **#WDoR2022**



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

MEDIA RELEASE

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is inviting the public to a memorial service to 'Remember the lives lost and injured on Warwickshire's roads' at St Mary's Church, Warwick, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Sunday 20 November 2022 – the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (**#WDoR2022**). The service will also be live streamed on Facebook (please search **@stmaryswarwick** on Facebook).

The church will open from 2.30pm to provide the opportunity for anyone who would like to light a candle and take some time for silent reflection. Open to all faiths, the service, led by Canon Peter Holliday, will start promptly at 3pm and last no longer than one hour.

The service will include:

- Introduction of the World Day of Remembrance led by Canon Peter Holliday
- Songs and Hymns
- A reading from Philip Seccombe
- A minute silence led by Canon Peter Holliday
- Senior Family Liaison Officer Karen Powell speaking on behalf of victims
- Police force Chaplain Matthew Hopley speaking on behalf of the emergency services
- Closing remarks from Canon Peter Holliday

We welcome all those who are able to attend. However, if you are unable to attend the service in person but would like to remember someone on the **#WDOR2022** a Remembrance Service 'toolkit' is available on our [website](#) with information and readings, you can choose from to create your own service of remembrance at a time and place that suits you. The toolkit also includes text and images that could be used in a newsletter and to share on social media.

We understand how important it is never to forget the lives lost and injured on our roads and that's why Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership has also created an [online space](#) for you to leave a tribute. This can be anonymous if you wish. Please do what's right for you.

Warwickshire Remembers provides an online space to visit whenever you want from a mobile or computer to see your tribute and remember your loved one. By posting a tribute you are also helping to raise awareness of the long-term consequences of a collision.



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

Sheila Vale's life totally changed when she was left paralysed after being hit by a car while walking her dog in October 2019. This [moving video](#) of Sheila Vale from Studley was filmed last year telling her story of recovery after she suffered these life-changing injuries. We will also be sharing Sheila's story on social media using **#WDOR2022**

This is just part of the work being done in Warwickshire to remember those lives lost and injured on our roads. At the service, we also plan to unveil designs for a permanent memorial, and these will be available for you to view if you wish.

In Warwickshire in 2021, 15 (2019, 34) people lost their lives and 215 people (2019, 282) were seriously injured in road traffic collisions. Globally, road traffic crashes are a leading cause of death among young people, and the main cause of death among those aged 15–29 years. Source: Brake.

Philip Seccombe, Chair of WRSP and Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire said: "The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, on 20 November provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the magnitude and impact that road traffic collisions have on society. It is still a sad fact that far too many people are killed or suffer life-changing injuries on our roads each year.

"The service allows people from all backgrounds, faiths and beliefs who have been affected by a tragedy on our roads to come together and have a moment for reflection. It also allows the wider community of Warwickshire to show solidarity and support for those who have been bereaved.

"The event also acts as a reminder to us that all deaths and injuries on our roads can be prevented and that we all have a responsibility to use the highway network safely. Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership has set a target of halving all road casualties in the county by 2030 and, ultimately, we want to get to a position where no-one suffers the loss of a loved-one on our roads. That will need everyone to play their part and become safer road users and as a Partnership we are working hard to achieve this."

The service will also be attended by representatives from key partners. Warwickshire's civic leaders have been invited.

Please follow us online [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) to find out about the work we are doing to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads by 50% by 2030. You can also visit our website www.warksroadsafety.org The hashtag **#WDoR2022** is being used worldwide to support the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and if you search this on social media you will see a wide variety of posts including ours.



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

Suggested readings

Death is nothing at all.

*I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.
Call me by my old familiar name,
speak to me in the easy way you always used.
Put no difference in your tone,
wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect,
without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was;
there is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you,
for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.
All is well.*

Henry Scott Holland

But Not Forgotten

*I think no matter where you stray,
That I shall go with you a way.
Though you may wander sweeter lands,
You will not forget my hands,
Nor yet the way I held my head
Nor the tremulous things I said.
You will still see me, small and white
And smiling, in the secret night,
And feel my arms about you when
The day comes fluttering back again.
I think, no matter where you be,
You'll hold me in your memory
And keep my image there without me,
By telling later loves about me.*

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,*



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

Suggested readings

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

Remembering

Go ahead and mention my child.

The one that died, you know.

Don't worry about hurting me further.

The depth of my pain doesn't show.

Don't worry about making me cry.

I'm already crying inside.

Help me to heal by releasing

The tears that I try to hide.

I'm hurt when you just keep silent,

Pretending he didn't exist.

I'd rather you mention my child,

Knowing that he has been missed.

You asked me how I was doing.

I say "pretty good" or "fine".

But healing is something ongoing.

I feel it will take a lifetime.

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



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

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 [here](#).

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



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

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)



**Warwickshire Road Safety
Partnership Remembers**

Submitting an Online Tribute to Remember the Lives Lost or Injured on Warwickshire's Roads

We understand how important it is never to forget the lives lost and injured on our roads and that's why Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership has also created an online space for you to leave a tribute.

Our online space can be accessed through the Partnership website or by the following [link](#). During these difficult times, many of us turn to nature for a sense of peace and tranquillity. To reflect this, we have used the colour green and the symbol of a tree for this memorial. When adding your tribute online, you can select a leaf design that appeals to you the most such as a heart shaped leaf or an acorn to symbolise a young life lost.

We are offering the opportunity to leave a tribute as one way you can remember a loved one, but here are some other ways you may prefer. Please do what is right for you.

- Naming a star in memory of the person who has died
- Creating memory blankets or memory bears for children and adults
- Memory boxes
- Photo albums or photo frames
- Creating a song as a legacy to the person who has died
- Christmas decorations engraved with the name of the person who has died

There is further information and support on the sudden website including an online guide for bereaved people.



Warwickshire Road Safety
Partnership **Remembers**

Social media assets

Warwickshire Road Safety
Partnership **Remembers**

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
2.30pm Sunday 20 November
St Marys Church, Warwick

Remembering lives lost and injured
on Warwickshire's roads
#WDoR2022

Warwickshire Road Safety
Partnership **Remembers**

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

Please take a moment on the World Day of
Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on
Sunday 20 November to remember those people
who needlessly die every year on our roads.



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership **Remembers**

Poster

 **Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers**

During 2021 despite lockdown, 15 people lost their lives in Warwickshire as the result of a road traffic collision and 215 people suffered serious, often life changing injuries.

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#WDoR2022