

PRESS OFFICE

Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall
Penrith
CA10 2AU

T 01768 217009
F 01768 217018
www.cumbria.police.uk



CUMBRIA
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PRESS RELEASE

Issued at 6.30pm on Thursday 3 June

Police investigating the shooting in Whitehaven have now formally identified nine of the 13 people who so tragically died in the shootings in West Cumbria yesterday (June 2, 2010).

Police can now confirm the following people have been formally identified:

Garry John Purdham, 31, of The Millfield, Beckermeth, Gosforth. He was found dead in a field on the roadside next to the Red Admiral Pub on the A595.

Darren Paul Rewcastle, 43, of Bank End Cottages, Bigrigg. He is a local taxi driver who was shot dead on Duke Street.

A statement from Darren's parents, said: "Darren was so tragically taken from us in the Cumbria shootings. He was a beloved brother, brother-in-law, Dad and Uncle. He was the laugh and soul of a party and a Speedway and football fanatic who will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Rest In Peace Darren. All our love Mam, Dad, and all the family. x"

Michael James Pike, 64, of Wasdale Park, Seascale. He was a pedal cyclist who was shot dead on Drigg Road in Seascale.

Mother of two, Susan Hughes, 57, of Park View, Castle Croft, Egremont, died on Hagget End, Orgill, in Egremont. A statement from her family reads: "Susan was a proud and determined mother of two daughters. She is completely irreplaceable to her family and friends."

Jane Elizabeth Robinson, 66, of Drigg Road, Seascale, whose body was found on Drigg Road a few hundred yards from her home.

Jamie Michael Dennis Clark, 23, of St Pierre Avenue, Carlisle, formerly of Northall in Buckinghamshire, whose body was found in his car on the A5083.

A tribute from his parents, Richard and Jane Clark, reads: "Our darling son, Jamie, has been taken from us. Our lives will never be the same again. He was the most wonderful gentle, loving, considerate man. Much loved by us his parents, his brother and his fiance and all his friends."

Jamie's fiance, Lianne Jarman, 21, of Carlisle, said: "He was not just my fiancee, but my closest friend. He is my life, my world, my everything. Taken too soon, he gave so many people love and joy. He touched so many lives, but he did not realise how cherished he was. We are all truly devastated."

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The family added: "At this moment we would ask you to give us space and respect our wishes to be alone with our desperate grief."

David Bird (twin brother of Derrick Bird), 52, was found dead at his house on High Trees Farm, Lamplugh.

A statement from his three daughters 28-year-old Rachel, 26-year-old Tracey and 19-year-old Katie, said: "We are utterly devastated about the death of our dad. He was the nicest man you could ever meet. He was a loving husband and doting Dad and Granda. We would like to take this opportunity to say there was absolutely no family feud. Our Dad's only downfall was to try and help his brother. Dad was a loving and cheerful character and was well known throughout the village. He will not only be missed by us, but by the whole community. Love you forever. Sleep well. xxx

"We would also like to send our condolences to all the other families and people involved in this tragic incident. Our thoughts are with them also."

Earlier today police also confirmed the identity of Kevin Joseph Commons, 60, of Frizington Road, Frizington who was found dead on his driveway.

Suspected offender Derrick Bird, fifty-two, of Rowrah near Frizington, found dead in woods near Boot. Initial indications suggest he took his own life.

A dedicated team of family liaison officers are continuing to formally identify those who died and support immediate family members. Any witnesses or anyone with information which could assist police in their investigation into the incident is asked to call Cumbria Police on 0845 33 00 247.

Notes To Editors

Operational note from Cumbria Police Press Office

The families of Darren Rewcastle, Susan Hughes, David Bird and Jamie Clark have issued the attached photos of them and are urging all media to use this family photo instead of any others they may have acquired from other sources.

A tribute and photo from the families of Michael Pike and Garry Purdham will be issued through Police Press Office tomorrow morning.

Cumbria Constabulary Press Office will close at 6:30pm tonight and re-open at 7am tomorrow.

We are not expecting to release any further information tonight and will not be arranging any interviews this evening. The latest information, copies of statements etc are all on our police website (www.cumbria.police.uk)

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We will provide you all with an update in the morning on the proposed media activities for the day but will not be undertaking any interviews first thing tomorrow.

Statements and updates on the ongoing investigation and details of those who were killed will continue to be released by the press office via email and updated on our website once formal identification has taken place.

We would urge the media to respect the privacy of grieving families during this very difficult time.

Queries about firearms licensing should be directed to ACPO Press Office on 020 7084 8946.

Queries regarding the PM and Home Secretary visits tomorrow should be directed to the relevant government departmental press offices.

Cumbria NHS media arrangements

Following today's multi-agency decision to stand down from a major incident and move into the recovery phase of the response to yesterday's tragic events, the NHS in Cumbria will resume normal arrangements for all media enquiries and the issuing of news releases and press statements.

From 8:00am tomorrow (Friday 4 June) media should use the following guidance:

For condition checks on patients hospitalised as a result of yesterday's incident, contact North Cumbria University Hospitals Trust press office on: 01228 814344.

For psychological wellbeing and information on support services available to the community, contact Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's press office on: 01228-603890.

For all ambulance-related issues, contact the North West Ambulance Service press office on 0161-279-4800.

For all General Practice, primary care and any other areas not described above, contact NHS Cumbria's press office on 01768-245367/435. NHS Cumbria will also be providing support to Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's press office on psychological wellbeing issues.

All Cumbria NHS Trusts will also, from 8:00am tomorrow (Friday 4 June) revert to their normal emergency-only, out-of-hours media enquiry arrangements.

4 June 2010

End