

Heartbreak, Hope and a Call for Change



The national charity for road crash victims

www.roadpeace.org

Lucy Harrison, West Midlands and West Mercia Local Group Coordinator

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Peter Price - 39

Older brother, son, friend, partner, work colleague.

Hard working, loyal, honest, funny.

Horse racing enthusiast, Birmingham City fan.

Opinionated.



The Family Behind a Headline

Regret

Isolation

Grief

Trauma

Exhaustion

Shock

Disbelief

Lonely

A man would not have died if the car which hit him had been driven at the speed limit, an investigation has found
West Midlands Police, 21st December 2015

Peter Price death: Speeding hit-and-run driver who lied to police is jailed over Hagley Road West Crash
Birmingham Mail, 26th January 2016

Quinton hit-and-run death driver jailed
BBC, 26th January 2016

Sister's heartbreak after hit-and-run driver who killed her brother is freed after two years
Birmingham Live, 20th August 2018

Loss of foundations

Loss of control

Lack of information

Invasion of privacy

Loss of identity

Loss of routine

Loss of sleep

Change in social circle

Look At Us

“One last chance” I thought,
as I stared right at you across that cold court,
the wooden surroundings, raised platform for the judge,
“look me in the eyes” – but your eyes would not budge
from staring at the floor -
I guess you were choosing to ignore
our family.

One last chance to look at us, with some sorrow or some sadness,
16 family members sitting here, your actions turned us to madness.
One last chance to say sorry, ease the sense of black,
even though “sorry” will not ever bring my brother back.
But no, you just stare at the floor –
I guess you are choosing to ignore
that you killed him.

One last chance, I actually want to forgive,
free my heart, to continue to live,
adjust to this new world and
accept the pain that has unfurled
all because you were driving at 93 miles per hour -
yet you behave like it is you that has reason to be feeling sour.
So yes, just stare at the floor –
I guess you are choosing to ignore
what you did.

One last chance, for a damn apology, it was the least you owed,
because that was my beloved brother that you mowed
straight over, like his life was a zero –
but we must listen to your previous good character. Are you some
kind of hero?
No, you are a killer. Where was his last chance?
You could not even stop to call for the ambulance.
Carry on and stare at the floor –
I guess you are choosing to ignore
my burning eyes...
that see straight through your lies.
© Lucy Harrison

Personal Impact

Lost over 3 stone.

Could not see any point in anything.

Constant state of distress, felt silenced,
and that my brother's life counted for
nothing.

My other brother went missing from his
care home and was found sleeping
homeless after 2 weeks.



I do believe finding RoadPeace was life-saving for me...

RoadPeace – National Level

Founded in 1992 by Brigitte Chaudhry MBE – RoadPeace marks its 30th anniversary this year.

Support Services
Local groups for bereaved – East Midlands, North East, North West, North Yorkshire, London, South West, West Mercia and West Midlands. National group for injured/carers. National parents meeting.
National helpline, open Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm (0800 160 1069).
Befriender service.
Resilience building programme.
Remembrance – Arboretum service in August and local services in November.
Local guides and local legal panel.

Key Campaigns
#crashnotaccident (ending the language of denial).
Thorough collision investigation.
Appropriate prosecution, sentencing and driving bans.
More effective inquests and an increase in the number of PFD reports.
Road danger reduction, increased traffic law enforcement.
Improved victims' rights and fair compensation.

Calling for road crime to be treated as real crime.

RoadPeace – Referrals

- Contact the national helpline on helpline@roadpeace.org or 0800 160 1069.
- Depending on which region, support available may vary. In Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin there is bespoke 1:1 support.
- Anyone aged 18 or over who has been bereaved as a result of a road traffic crash, or is seriously injured or caring for someone seriously injured.
- All support is free. Membership is by donation, and is complimentary for 2 years.
- We offer peer support and a resilience building programme – but no 1:1 counselling.
- Resources, including national guides, available through the support section of the website: [Information on investigations, court and sentencing – RoadPeace](#)



RoadPeace Local Groups



- West Midlands group started in Birmingham in 2016.
- West Midlands have worked on second post-mortems/CTPM, launched WDR service in 2018, FLO training, anthology project, RoadPeace bear.
- West Mercia group started in 2021.
- Working on a handout for friends and family supporting someone bereaved through a crash, and on a roundtable event in November.

The West Midlands Group, for me, is my pain relief, in my darkest times...it is the giving of friendship, support, hope, belief and EMPOWERMENT.



I walked into my first RoadPeace meeting with my brain trying to deal with emotions, court, family - after five minutes I had not said a word...My brain slowed right down, just being in a room with people that knew what I was feeling - that was what saved me.

Second Post-Mortems – Cruel and Unnecessary

Part 5: Road traffic collision deaths

73. The Chief Coroner wishes to thank Elaine Gordon and Lucy Harrison from RoadPeace³³ for their work on this issue in memory of Gina Johnson and Peter Price. The Chief Coroner is particularly grateful for their work flagging the inconsistency of approach across the coroner areas. He hopes this Guidance will address those concerns.
74. Road traffic collision cases resulting in a death are often highly contentious. If there appears to be a genuine prospect of a prosecution for death by careless or dangerous driving then the police may indicate to the coroner that they would like the coroner to authorise a full forensic PM examination (which may amount to a second PM examination if the coroner has already authorised a PM examination).
75. Difficulties can arise when the police are still at the early stage of a criminal investigation and neither the police nor the CPS can give a clear indication as to whether anyone will be charged.
76. Often in road traffic collision deaths, the cause of death is not the issue, rather it is the causal link between the death and the manner and standard of the driving which is the important factor. In such a case, other than toxicology tests, there should be no need for a forensic or further PM examination. This may merit further discussion between the CPS and the coroner in individual cases.
77. Many families find the prospect of a second PM examination abhorrent, especially in those cases where the cause of death from external examination of a body may appear to be obviously due to multiple injuries. In these cases consideration, where possible, should be given to a CT examination (rather than more invasive examination) because of the usefulness in documenting skeletal injuries.
78. For all those reasons, second PM examinations in road traffic collision deaths should in practice very seldom be authorised by a coroner. It is the Chief Coroner's firm view that requests for such examinations should be examined very carefully.

Chief Coroner, Guidance No. 32
Post Mortem Examinations, Including Second Post Mortem Examinations
Part 5: Road Traffic Collision Deaths

- Wrote to every coroner, pathologists and ministers – able to highlight inconsistencies.
- Met with Chief Coroner and Baroness Newlove – first new guidance on post mortems in 20 years issued.
- Birmingham City Council trialled CT post mortems – now a permanent service, bereavement roundtable established and case study produced.
- But – concern police forces still giving out incorrect information.



Anthology Project

HEARTBREAK, HOPE and a *Call for Change*

“
This project was born out of a desire to give a voice to road crash victims, who are often overlooked, by a society that has wrongly accepted road crashes as both accidental and inevitable.
”

Jane Evans and Lucy Harrison



#RoadPeaceAnthology



CFG
Law
www.cfglaw.co.uk

HEARTBREAK, HOPE and a *Call for Change*

“
RoadPeace have been the rainbow after our storm.
”

Natty Cash



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#RoadPeaceAnthology

A CALL FOR CHANGE



CFG
Law
www.cfglaw.co.uk

“
Justice is not just about how the government punishes offenders; it is also about how victims are treated, including with being kept informed and supported.
”

Amy Aeron-Thomas

#RoadPeaceAnthology



The overlooked stories of road crash victims.

<https://info.cfglaw.co.uk/roadpeace>

RoadPeace Bear

The RoadPeace Bear

My name is RoadPeace Bear, and I'd like to be your friend,
I see that you are hurting, and fear that hurt will never end.
For it really is so scary, when life suddenly goes wrong,
and your whole world seems to wobble, and even grown-ups can't be strong.



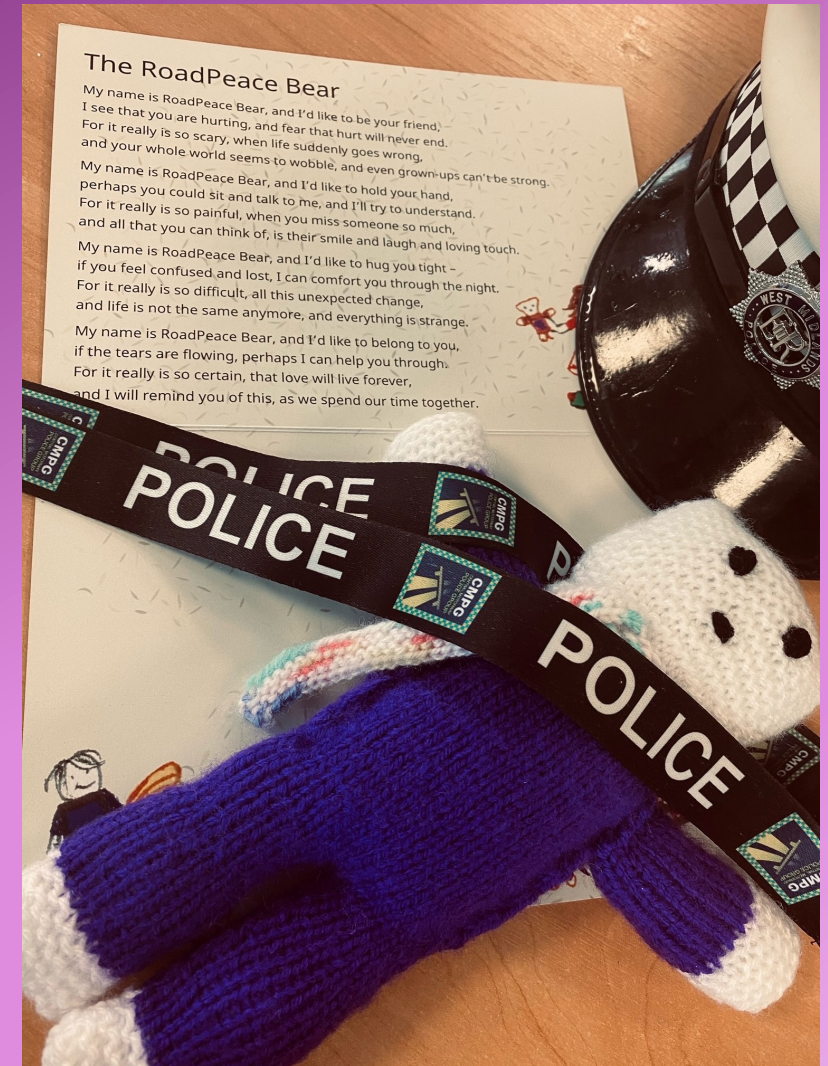
My name is RoadPeace Bear, and I'd like to hold your hand,
perhaps you could sit and talk to me, and I'll try to understand.
For it really is so painful, when you miss someone so much,
and all that you can think of, is their smile and laugh and loving touch.

My name is RoadPeace Bear, and I'd like to hug you tight -
if you feel confused and lost, I can comfort you through the night.
For it really is so difficult, all this unexpected change,
and life is not the same anymore, and everything is strange.

My name is RoadPeace Bear, and I'd like to belong to you,
if the tears are flowing, perhaps I can help you through.
For it really is so certain, that love will live forever,
and I will remind you of this, as we spend our time together.



- Support services only for those aged over 18.
- We can send out a bear/card to children over the age of 3.
- Working on including children in remembrance.
- Exploring partnership with Child Bereavement UK.



Events



RoadPeace Cup

Organised by RoadPeace North West Coordinator, Pauline Fielding MBE and LFC Foundation.

Grassroots under 15's football competition – with road safety talks.

Emergency services input – interactive presentations.

Guided Hikes

Organised by RoadPeace East Midlands Coordinator, Iris Yee.

Opportunity to talk with other crash victims, in outdoors environment.



Annual Andy Cox Challenge

30 miles a day for 7 days – 'from force to family' – to mark RoadPeace's 30th anniversary.

Raising funds, amplifying victims' voices, and pushing for a national conversation on road death and injury.

Court Experience – What is Justice?

Sentencing & VPS

More information than minimum and maximum sentences.

Discount for guilty plea.

VPS – chance to hear the victims' voice.

Charging Decisions

Right to review.

Victims' Code.

Communication

Clear expectations.

Writing questions down and having someone to take notes.



Empathy and Consideration

Court is an alien environment and can be very intimidating.

Grief makes it difficult to process information.

Justice is not only a custodial sentence.

Civil Compensation

It can be difficult for a family to pursue this as nothing will ever compensate for their loss.

However, this can be a vital financial lifeline – 3 year time limit.

Where a driver is untraced – contact MIB (Motor Insurers' Bureau).

Why is unexpected death so different?

VIOLENT
ISOLATING

- No time to plan or prepare.
- The bereaved are thrown into the justice system with no warning and little knowledge.
- Shock and possible PTSD.
- Grieving pushed aside or delayed due to the need to complete practicalities and seek justice.
- A death in the family is perceived as a time of reflection and love – road death is a time of chaos and uncertainty.

UNNECESSARY

SUDDEN **PUBLIC** **PREMATURE**

Road death is not a normal death.

Take Away...

Considerations

Use of language.

Use of humour.

Use of address.

Time and patience.

Help with practicalities.

Ways to Help

Challenging the use of accident.

Signpost those who need support.

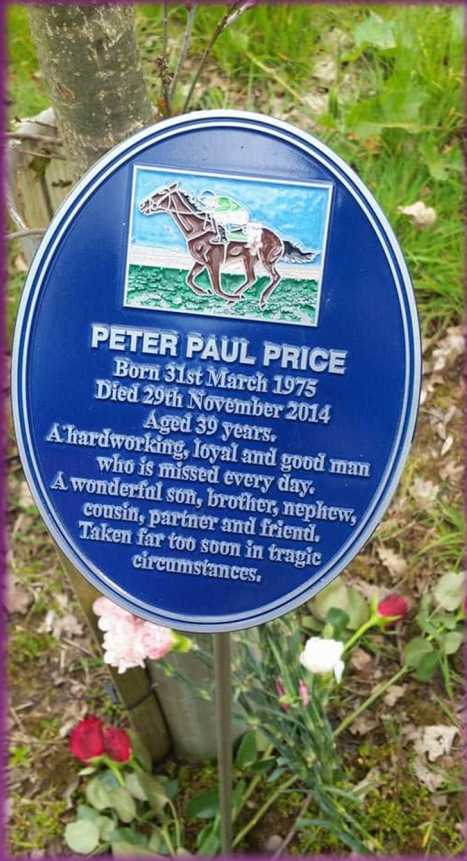
Become a member of RoadPeace.

Mark National Road Victim Month (August) and World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims (third Sunday of November).

Spread the message – road crime is real crime.

*The smallest of thoughts can make a **huge** difference...*

Thank you for listening...



Any questions...