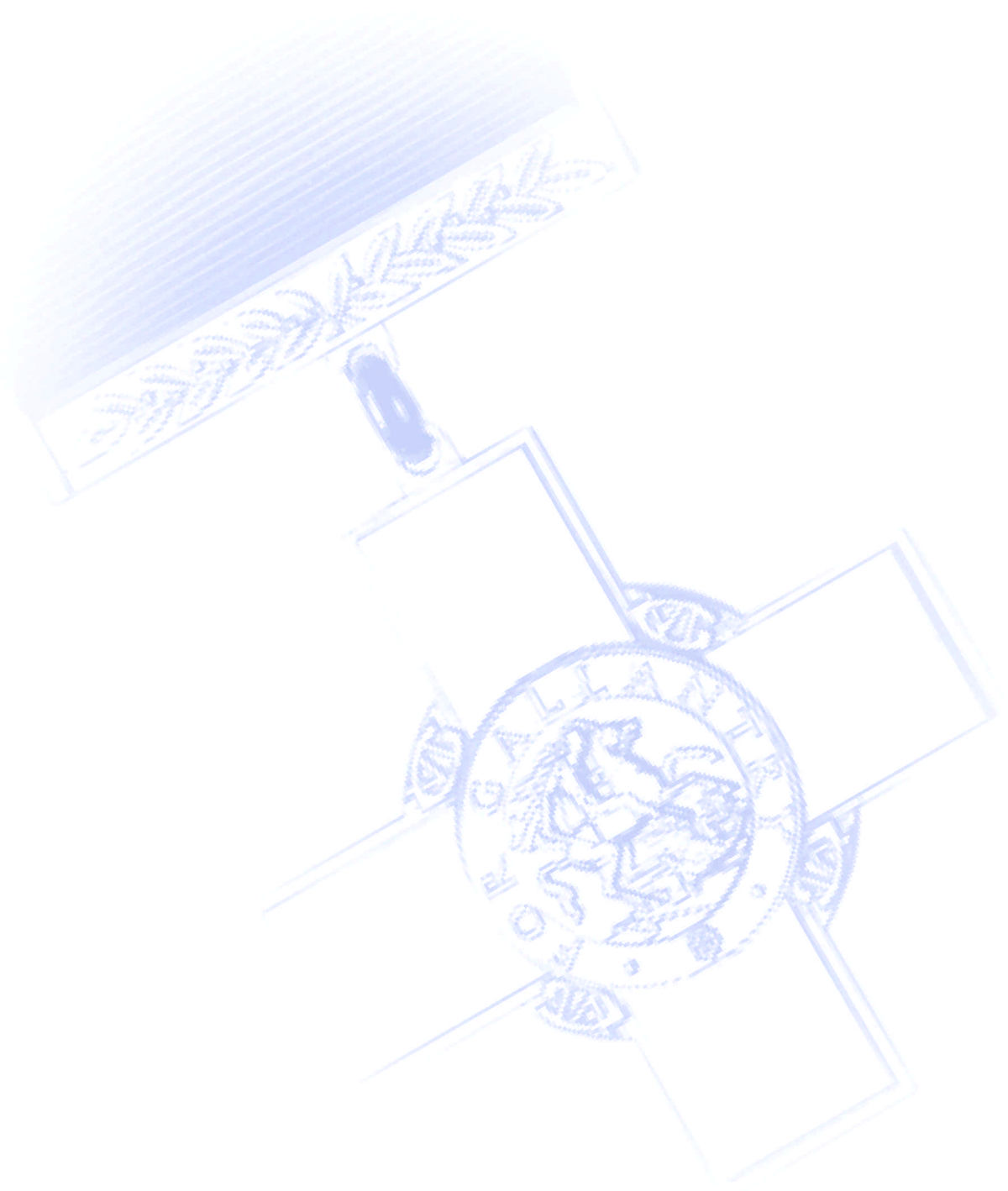




Royal Ulster Constabulary  
**GC Foundation**

Report for the period  
1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005



## Introduction

The Foundation was established under Section 70 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 for the purpose of marking the sacrifices and honouring the achievements of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

## Our Patron

HRH The Prince of Wales

## Trustees

Jim McDonald, LVO, MBE, JP, DL, (Chairman)  
Cathleen Carlisle  
Freddie Hall, OBE, QGM  
Dame Geraldine Keegan  
Bertha McDougall  
Trevor Ringland

During the year to 31st March 2005 the Trustees have held 14 meetings contributing some 170 hours in total. As individuals representing the Foundation, they have also attended or taken part in a large number of events from Remembrance Services to Welfare Concerts and Dinners.

The Advisory Group under the chairmanship of Leslie Busby, MBE, continued to meet throughout the year and provided a useful source for consultation and ideas.

# Activities

## Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Garden

During this year over 5,200 visitors have been to the Garden. These included retired police and the wider police family, church groups, Probus clubs, women's groups from throughout Northern Ireland, as well as Government ministers, officials and visitors from overseas, eg Dutch Ambassador, American Consul and Indian High Commissioner. The Foundation has employed a contractor to maintain the Garden, however, this work is also supplemented by a large group of volunteers who assist with the weeding approximately once per fortnight during the summer months.



The Foundation is indebted to the nineteen Guides who are employed in a voluntary capacity to escort the visitors around the Garden. During the year the Guides contributed 1,200 hours both conducting visitors and also assisting with weeding duties. Ten of the Guides have successfully completed a Visitor Guide Programme course at the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust.

## RUC GC Day

The second Annual RUC GC Day Service, organised by the RUC GC Foundation, was held on Sunday 6th June 2004 in St Mark's Parish Church, Armagh. The address, at the inter-denominational service, was given by Reverend Jim Rea, MBE, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

The following were in attendance as guests of the RUC GC Foundation:

- The Earl of Caledon, Lord Lieutenant for Co Armagh.
- Mr Barry Gardiner, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office.
- Mr Hugh Orde, Chief Constable, PSNI.
- Mr Paul Leighton, Deputy Chief Constable.
- Professor Sir Desmond Rea, Chairman of the Policing Board.



Former Chief Constable Sir John Hermon also attended along with a number of serving PSNI senior officers and former senior officers. It was a special privilege to have sixteen members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association worldwide in attendance, together with many of their partners.

The congregation also included representatives from the Widows' Association, Parents' Association, Disabled Police Officers' Association, Retired Police Officers' Association, Police Federation, Superintendents' Association and others from within the RUC GC family. The offering in aid of the RUC GC Benevolent Fund amounted to £2,513.

### Visit by Victoria Cross and George Cross Association 3rd-7th June 2004

A group representing the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association visited Northern Ireland from 3rd-7th June 2004 as guests of the Foundation.



A full programme was arranged with a tour of Co Down on the Friday, which included the Royal British Legion in Killeel, the scene of the Warrenpoint massacre where 18 British soldiers were killed in 1979 and Newry City where 9 RUC Officers were killed in a mortar attack in 1985. A tour of the City of Belfast took place on Saturday, which included lunch at the City Hall hosted by the High Sheriff. On Saturday afternoon a short service was held in the RUC GC Memorial Garden. Following the visit to the Garden the guests went to Hillsborough Castle for a dinner hosted by Mr Barry Gardiner, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office. Other invited guests also attended this function.

Representatives from various sections of the RUC GC family were also invited to meet this group at a 'welcome dinner' held on the Thursday night and the 'farewell dinner' on the Sunday night.

Sunday was RUC GC Day and the group travelled to Armagh for the Annual Service in St Mark's Parish Church.

From their arrival until departure the atmosphere of fellowship and humour was second to none.

## Remembrance Day 11th November 2004

A short informal 'Act of Remembrance' was held in the Garden at 11 am and was attended by our Guides and Staff from PSNI Headquarters. The Garden was also open on Remembrance Sunday for those who wished to visit.



One Trustee, Mr Freddie Hall, was privileged to accompany 48 members of the RUC GC Association Branches to London on Remembrance weekend. He laid a wreath in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on the Saturday morning and attended the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday evening.

The whole group took part in the main parade in Whitehall, where their presence was greeted with much acclaim. A number of RUC GC widows also attended various events over the weekend.



### **Awards Ceremony - Bursary Scheme 2003**

Certificates to mark the completion of research and study under the 2003 scheme were presented at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown on 20th September 2004. The Certificates were presented by Professor Bill Clarke, Provost of the University in the presence of guests including ACC Roy Toner, Sir Joseph Pilling, NIO; the Police Ombudsman, and representatives from community groups, as well as the officers' families and supervising officers.

### **Bursary Scheme 2004**

The theme adopted for the second year of the RUC GC Foundation Bursary Awards was 'Raising Police and Community Awareness on Race and Cultural Issues'. The competition was keen with 24 applications, which were shortlisted to 11. Awards were made to 5 officers from Constable to Inspector ranks.

A summary of the projects follows:

#### **Constable Charles Edward Coalter**

Visited New Zealand where a 'policing in partnership' scheme has been in operation since 1996 and is oriented towards policing with the community and adopts a problem solving based approach.

## **Inspector Philip Gordon Knox**

Visited Australia where Victoria Police introduced Multicultural Advisory Units in 1983. Their objective is to pro-actively promote trust and understanding between police and multicultural communities and to enhance the appreciation of policing services and issues.

## **Sergeant Ian Lockyer**

Visited Singapore as it is the crossroads of Asia and is perhaps the most racially and multiculturally diverse country in the continent. Has provided insight into the training and practices of the Singapore Police and the function of the community groups in raising awareness in race and cultural issues.

## **Inspector James M McCrudden**

Visited Seattle Police Department to study issues surrounding 'Recruitment, Training and Retention of Visible Ethnic Minorities into the Police Service'. Explored issues in relation to certain groups of people coming from conflict situations, for example, Islamic and Eastern European countries.

## **Constable Henry Duncan Wilson**

Visited Australia where legislation is similar to the UK and reflects the United Nations Convention on Human Rights. Studied how these units have addressed cultural diversity issues and how these initiatives could be successfully transferred into viable policing procedures and policies in Northern Ireland.

## **Bursary Scheme 2005**

The 2005 Bursary Scheme was launched with the presentation to the Deputy Chief Constable of the first completed report of the 2004 Scheme. The theme chosen for 2005, in conjunction with Senior Management of PSNI, is 'A fresh approach to building safer communities with particular emphasis on the behaviour of young people in Northern Ireland'.

## **Annual Police Concert**

The RUC GC Foundation hosted a reception at the 28th Annual Police Concert held at the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Friday 11th March 2005. Those taking part were the Police Male Voice Choir, the PSNI Ladies' Choir and the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of the PSNI.

Invited guests included Mr Paul Leighton, Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Crispian Strachan, Chief Constable of Northumbria, and Ms Gillian Ardis from the Northern Ireland Office.



## Honours and Awards

Two retired members received Sovereign's awards during the year:

1. Ex-Superintendent William Thomas Brown, MBE, for services to the Community and Police Welfare.
2. Ex-Sergeant Desmond McCaughan, MBE, for services to Police Charities.

In addition, one widow and her daughter attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July and a group of 10 members from the wider RUC GC family attended the Secretary of State's Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle on 29th June 2004.



Ex-Superintendent William Thomas Brown, MBE.



Ex-Sergeant Desmond McCaughan, MBE

## Book Launch

'The Thin Green Line - The History of the RUC' written by Richard Doherty, was launched at the Foundation's Office on 8th December 2004. A number of retired officers, widows and members of the RUC Historical Society attended this event.

## Christmas Reception

Our annual function was held at Newforge on the evening of 1st December. This occasion brings together all those elements of the police family, which under legislation we are obliged to work with. We also bring along all those who have helped, in a special way, with a particular emphasis on our volunteer Guides without whom we could not facilitate so many visits to the Garden.

## Scottish Police Memorial

Mr Freddie Hall, Trustee, was privileged to represent the Foundation at the unveiling and dedication of the Scottish Police Memorial at Tulliallen Police College on Tuesday 7th September 2004. Relationships between the RUC GC and Scottish Forces were always very good and this was a special opportunity to recognise and pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of colleagues across Scotland.

## Proposed New Police Museum

A Museum Research Group was established in March 2004 and has been meeting regularly. Consultants have been employed to conduct a feasibility study with a view to going out to tender later in 2005. The target date for completion is late 2007.

## Oral History Project

Research work has been ongoing and a project outline agreed. It is hoped to capture the experiences of the extended police family in Northern Ireland over the past 50 to 60 years, thus complementing the RUC GC Garden as regards the total story of policing. The early appointment of a Project Manager and researchers will be critical to success. It is hoped to complete around the same time as the new police museum.

## Media

Media interest in the work of the Foundation has been considerable throughout the year. This included a two-page broadsheet Press article in July on both the Foundation and the RUC GC Garden, as well as coverage of the VC and GC Association visit. The work of the Foundation continues to be promoted through literature and our website which averages over 200 hits per day, including 130 of international origin.

Articles and photographs are a monthly feature in various police magazines, both in the UK and abroad.

## Other Events

Members of the Foundation were privileged to attend and support a wide range of social and religious events organised throughout the year in different parts of the Province. These included:

1. RUC GC Association, Armagh Branch, Festival of Music on Saturday 29th May 2004.
2. Service of Thanksgiving in Christ Church, Killeel on Sunday 30th May 2004.
3. Dedication of Stained Glass Window in St Mark's Church, Portadown on Sunday 30th May 2004.
4. Summer Barbecue at Baronscourt Estate, Newtown Stewart organised by the RUC GC Association, Omagh Branch on Friday 28th May 2004.
5. Dedication of RUC GC Association Branch Standard and Unveiling of Plaque in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen on Sunday 26th September 2004.
6. National Police Memorial Day Service in St Paul's Cathedral, London on Sunday 3rd October 2004.
7. Disabled Police Officers' Association Annual Dinner on Friday 10th December 2004.
8. Armagh Branch, RUC GC Association Carol Service on Sunday 12th December 2004.
9. Annual Services of Thanksgiving in Ballymena and in Ballymoney in May 2004.
10. RUC GC Widows' Association Christmas Party on Saturday 18th December 2004.
11. Unveiling of plaque in honour of the RUC GC in the Old Presbyterian Church of Larne and Kilwaughter on Sunday 13th March 2005.

## Acknowledgement

The Trustees would express their gratitude to all who have assisted or supported the Foundation in any way during the past year.

A special word of appreciation to our Staff in the Foundation Office, namely Frances Orr, Karen Hamilton (to November 04) and Mervyn Best (since November 04) for their commitment and flexibility in a wide range of circumstances.

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