Being part of The Gurney Fund has made one beneficiary feel closer to the police family after she lost her police officer dad when she was just two years old.

Georgie’s father Phil was a Detective Sergeant with Sussex Police. He died of cancer in 2006, aged just 47, leaving behind his partner Nicki and Georgie’s siblings Karl, Jemma and Jake.

Georgie, 16, is now forging a bright future in the sport of rowing and says The Gurney Fund has played a big role in helping her achieve her ambitions in life.

She said: “I first remember the Fund being part of my life when I went on my first PGL trip, when I was about 12. I met everyone then, and that’s when it became a prominent thing.

“It’s made me feel part of the police family; you meet all these other people that have gone through the exact same situation. “A lot of their parents died when they were younger as well. Being around other police officers like John Apter, it’s helped me realise what my dad was a part of.

“I’m still a part of it, and there are people from the police that are always there for you. Just because your dad or your mum isn’t there anymore, you’re still a part of that.”

Having other children around who understand the heartache of losing a parent has been beneficial, while being a beneficiary has opened up so many opportunities for her, such as helping to pay for her rowing equipment.

Georgie said: “The Fund has helped me feel part of the police family.”

Georgie is also on the British Rowing World Class START programme where she trains regularly with the other GB START athletes at the National Watersports Centre at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham.

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Tributes to the thousands of police officers who have died on duty were paid at the 16th annual National Police Memorial Day.

The police family gathered at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on 29 September to remember the 4,000 officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice on duty.

During the moving service, the names of those officers who died in the past year were read out.

HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron of National Police Memorial Day, attended the memorial service, led by Canon David Wilbraham.

He was joined by Home Secretary Priti Patel; Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, more than 40 Chief Constables and 1,500 police officers and family members.

Gurney Fund Trustee and PFEW Chairman John Apter said: “National Police Memorial Day is such an important and significant day in the policing calendar. I am proud to stand with my colleagues in honour of those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

“We will always remember the sacrifices made – we honour our brave officers and give our utmost respect to their loved ones who mourn their loss.”

In the commemorative brochure, HRH The Prince of Wales said: “Policing in the United Kingdom has enormous pressures to contend with, no more so than on the front line. As society changes, so must the way in which we support and protect our communities. Your job is one of the toughest there is, and all too often your efforts go unrecognised.

“I am proud to be with you today, and I particularly want you to know how very much I appreciate all that you do and the sacrifices you make. You and your families have a very special place in the heart of this Nation.”

During the service, candles were lit for officers in each of the four nations. Each nation was represented by family members of the fallen.

Andrea MacDonald, Chair of the Scottish Police Federation, read out the names of officers who died in the past year.

There was silence as petals of remembrance, representing all who have lost their lives, descended from the gallery as the Last Post was sounded.

The aim of The Gurney Fund has always been to support the educational and developmental needs for the children of police officers where a parent has died on or off duty or retired due to ill health.

The Fund provides financial support in the form of weekly allowances and grants as well as helping young people fulfil their educational and career aspirations.

The Trustees are all serving police officers, and know it isn’t just material things that make the difference. Sometimes, it’s just being able to talk to someone.

These days, children are already under so much pressure, whether that be through exams or the expectations placed on them through social media. Experiencing the loss of a parent or seeing a parent retire through ill health only adds to these pressures.

Counselling can help young people deal with issues and the impact they can have on their well-being in confidence without them feeling judged.

Counselling is available through the NHS and privately, but we don’t want the children we support being deprived of counselling because of long waiting times or prohibitive costs.

At our August Trustees’ meeting, it was unanimously agreed that from 1st September 2019 The Gurney Fund would offer financial support towards counselling for beneficiaries up to the sum of £500.

There are different types of counselling services available, all addressing a variety of issues. That’s why we will encourage families to choose the counsellor they think best meets their needs, meaning we will only require receipts for reimbursement.

As Trustees, we want to relieve the financial burden on families but also make sure that the children we support have the opportunity to get the counselling they might need.

The Gurney Fund is now not only there to provide “a helping hand when you need it most” but to also provide a listening ear.

To apply for reimbursement for counselling, please submit receipts by post or e-mail to Mrs Sherral Keywood at gurney.fund2@btconnect.com.
At their November meeting, The Gurney Fund Trustees awarded just over £85,000 in higher education grants to those at university. They also awarded £14,500 towards laptops, driving lessons, and school trips.

Looking Back On A Busy Year

Firstly, it’s a real privilege for me to be updating you all on what has been another busy year for The Gurney Fund.

For those who don’t know me, I’m Tim Packham, a serving police officer with Kent Police. I’ve been a Trustee at The Gurney Fund for almost five years and the Vice-Chair for just over a year.

Sadly, the need for assistance from the Fund continues to grow but it’s very rewarding knowing that what we do collectively helps all our beneficiaries. “A helping hand when you need it most” sums up why we do what we do.

The Trustees usually meet four times a year. In February, we completed the Annual Review of all families in receipt of assistance from the Fund. In May, we looked at our investment policy and the risk register. In August, we reviewed our annual accounts before publication, and in November we supported our older beneficiaries who continue in further or higher education.

We make decisions based on financial information. The weekly allowance and other financial aid from the Fund support beneficiaries by financing school trips, sports club activities and equipment, laptops, and music, swimming and driving lessons.

We finance holidays for some of our beneficiaries: the activity holiday for younger children and a sailing holiday for the older ones. These events could not take place without the support and guidance of many volunteers and the participation of the beneficiaries themselves, so a huge thank you to all those involved.

It’s heart-warming to have spoken with some of the children on the sailing holiday and hear their stories. They say they make friends for life and I am pleased to say the Trustees have agreed to fund these events in 2020.

On behalf of the Chair and fellow Trustees, thank you to Chris and Sherral in the office for the hard work and effort they put in behind the scenes. It makes our lives as Trustees so much easier. We have said goodbye to several of our Trustees this year, but thankfully we have welcomed some new Trustees to the Fund and will hopefully be back up to full strength in 2020.

To you and your families a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

“Sadly, the need for assistance from the fund continues to grow but it’s very rewarding knowing that what we do collectively helps all our beneficiaries”
The Gurney Fund In Action

The Gurney Fund is a registered charity for the care and education of the children of deceased or medically retired police officers from 22 subscribing forces:

Avon & Somerset, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Dyfed Powys, Essex, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley, Warwickshire and Wiltshire.

The Fund has 12 Trustees/Directors. Following a promotion, the Board of Trustees currently has an NPCC vacancy.

Board meetings take place four times a year, near Arundel, West Sussex, in February, May, August and November. In addition to ensuring an adequate level of support is provided for beneficiaries and reviewing ad hoc grant applications, Trustees’ initiatives include increasing awareness of the assistance the Fund can provide.

To quote a Trustee: “When you get in the car at the end of a meeting you feel good about what you have done; giving money to people from the police family who need it.”

For more information on the role of a Trustee please contact the Fund Manager, Miss Christine McNicol, on 01903 237256.

Further information on the Fund is available from our website: www.gurneyfund.org

Holidays 2020: Save The Dates

Sailing

17-24 July 2020

30 places available

New location: Calshot Activities Centre, New Forest, Hampshire

Our New Beneficiaries

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NPCC Trustee Vacancy

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