

[Press release: Welsh Secretary congratulates Welsh recipients of New Year's Honours for 2019](#)



Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

These honours recognise and celebrate the hard-work and achievements of the incredible people who go above and beyond to put others before themselves.

From household names to those silently serving their communities such as Reynette Roberts and Leon Gardiner, I am proud to see people from all walks of Welsh life being recognised for their commitment to their cause.

I am truly grateful for their dedication to their communities and thank them all for their tireless work to improve the lives of others as well as their extraordinary ability to inspire people all over the country. Congratulations to you all.

Published 28 December 2018

[News story: UK aid heroes awarded New Year's Honours](#)

Four people named on 2019's New Year's Honours List have been recognised for their work at the Department for International Development (DFID).

Chris Berry has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

for services to developing Sierra Leone's education services and helping young people go to and stay in school. Chris worked for DFID Sierra Leone during the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak and helped children get back to school during the recovery period.

Vicky Stanger has been awarded an MBE for services to International Development, with particular recognition for her role in DFID responding within 24 hours when famine was declared in South Sudan.

Jeff Tudor has been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to International Development, with particular recognition for supporting DFID Jordan's response to the Syrian refugee crisis and DFID's Burma's support for the Rohingya crisis.

Beth Cadman has been awarded an OBE for services to International Development in a succession of challenging environments, with particular recognition for her role as Chief of Staff for the UK's response to the devastating Hurricanes Maria and Irma last year.

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, said:

UK aid's mission is to fight poverty, save lives and deliver help and hope to those most in need in some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable.

It is dedicated, hardworking colleagues like Chris, Vicky, Jeff and Beth who make our work at the Department for International Development possible.

I am hugely proud their personal efforts to delivering UK aid have been recognised in this year's New Year's Honours and would like to offer my personal congratulations.

[Press release: Civilian Gallantry List: 2019](#)

Her Majesty The Queen is pleased to approve the following awards of the George Medal, the Queen's Gallantry Medal and the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. The names of those shown below will be published in The London Gazette.

George Medal



Richard STANTON, M.B.E.

Thai cave rescue, 26 June – 11 July 2018

Richard Stanton arrived in Thailand on 26 June at the request of the Thai authorities to help attempt the rescue of 12 junior footballers and their coach, who had been lost in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex in Chiang Rai Province since 23 June. Over the next three weeks he played a critical leading role in both the planning and execution of the rescue mission. His first significant contribution, on 28 June, was his reconnaissance dive upstream with John Volanthen through three completely flooded sections of passage to what later was designated as chamber 3. Here they assisted four Thai rescue workers who had been cut off by the rising water levels, which continued to rise.

Further exploration on 29 and 30 June had to be abandoned at chamber 3 as a result of strong water currents and poor visibility of around a metre. On 1 July, Volanthen and Stanton were able to travel 800 metres beyond chamber 3 to lay out guidelines; previous efforts by Thai Navy Seals had reached only 250 metres beyond chamber 3. The terrain was uneven and there were numerous blockages and obstructions to navigate. On 2 July, having reached 1500 metres beyond chamber 3, they surfaced to find the football team marooned on a ledge above the water.

Over the following days, Stanton participated in a number of dives to take

supplies to the boys. Each trip was carried out in exceedingly difficult physical conditions, with a high degree of personal risk. The level of risk in reaching this far into the cave complex was underlined by the death on 6 July of a Thai Navy Seal, himself a professional diver, who was helping to supply oxygen to the children. Stanton then helped to lead formulation of a plan to rescue the team through diving. The Thai authorities preferred a non-diving option, but taking action was made more urgent as a result of forecast monsoon rains which might prevent any rescue effort or cause the boys to drown before a rescue could be attempted. As a result, a British-led plan was put into action between 8-10 July.

He was a leading member of thirteen divers and a group of Navy Seals who coordinated the rescue operation, bringing out the sedated boys one by one through to chamber 3 where an American medical team took over. The difficulty of the operation was heightened by the youth and physical condition of the children which required them to be sedated and immobilised, and then guided out by their diver through a route of multiple obstacles. Each journey took seven hours through the cave system and divers had to be taught to medically re-sedate the boys during the operation. The entire operation was carried out under the threat of monsoon rains and towards the end of the rescue, water levels began to rise, forcing a rapid exit by rescuers. In an operation of unprecedented complexity, all 13 of the trapped people were successfully rescued.

John VOLANTHEN

Thai cave rescue, 26 June – 11 July 2018

John Volanthen arrived in Thailand on 26 June at the request of the Thai authorities to help attempt the rescue of 12 junior footballers and their coach, who had been lost in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex in Chiang Rai Province since 23 June. His first significant contribution, on 28 June, was his reconnaissance dive upstream with John Volanthen through three completely flooded sections of passage to what later was designated as chamber 3. Here they assisted four Thai rescue workers who had been cut off by the rising water levels, which continued to rise.

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Over the following days, Volanthen participated in a number of dives to take supplies to the boys. Each trip was carried out in exceedingly difficult physical conditions, with a high degree of personal risk. The level of risk in reaching this far into the cave complex was underlined by the death on 6

July of a Thai Navy Seal, himself a professional diver, who was helping to supply oxygen to the children. Volanthen then helped to lead formulation of a plan to rescue the team through diving. The Thai authorities preferred a non-diving option, but finalising a plan was made more urgent as a result of forecast monsoon rains which might prevent any rescue effort or cause the boys to drown before a rescue could be attempted. As a result, a British-led plan was put into action between 8-10 July.

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Queen's Gallantry Medal



Christopher JEWELL

Thai cave rescue, 26 June – 11 July 2018

Chris Jewell arrived in Thailand on 5 July to help in the rescue of 12 junior footballers and their coach, who had been lost in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex in Chiang Rai Province since 23 June. The children had been located on 2 July. Jewell was part of a diving team who brought supplies through the cave system to the boys, monitored their health, helped to map the route and helped to plan a method of rescue.

Two days later, after careful planning and once the Thai authorities had agreed to a diving rescue, Jewell was one of four core recovery divers in the team, who worked over the next three days to extract the sedated boys from Chamber 9, where they were stranded, back to chamber 3 where they were handed over to a military medical team. He was responsible for bringing out three of the boys. During Jewell's final rescue trip, he lost his grip on the dive line and spent four minutes adrift with one of the young boys before finding his way to safety. The rescue was completed successfully on 11 July.

Jason MALLINSON

Thai cave rescue, 26 June – 11 July 2018

Jason Mallinson arrived in Thailand on 5 July to help in the rescue of 12 junior footballers and their coach, who had been lost in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex in Chiang Rai Province since 23 June. The children had been located on 2 July. Mallinson was part of a diving team who brought supplies through the cave system to the boys, monitored their health, helped to map the route and helped to plan a method of rescue.

Two days later, after careful planning and once the Thai authorities had agreed to a diving rescue, Mallinson was one of four core recovery divers in the team, who worked over the next three days to extract the sedated boys from chamber 9, where they were stranded, back to chamber 3 where they were handed over to a military medical team. He was responsible for bringing out three boys; including the first and last boy to be rescued, plus their coach. During the last rescue, the child's allotted full face mask did not fit properly, so Mallinson had to make the critical decision to use a different type of mask of lesser security, rather than leave the boy behind. This entailed a much slower and more cautious exit, and increased the risk and complexity of the process. The rescue was completed successfully on 11 July.

Firefighter Wayne ANSELL, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighter Simon BEST, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Crew Commander Daniel COOPER, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighter Ricky DAVIS, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighter Christopher MEADOWS, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighter Radosław Przemysław PEJKA, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Simon WADDINGHAM, Firefighter, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

For rescuing elderly residents of a care home in Cheshunt, 8 April 2017

On 8 April 2017, there was a serious fire at a care home in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, which had 35 elderly residents. Of these residents, 5 were centenarians, another was blind and 29 were immobile. Initially, the fire appeared to be in its early stages but once inside the property it became clear that the fire was travelling with great ferocity through the roof void covering the whole care home and time was of the essence.

Evacuation was not an option, so a full scale rescue was embarked upon. When the breathing apparatus crews entered the burning building the stairs, first floor landing and corridor were free from fire and smoke, however conditions deteriorated quickly as a result of the fire in the roof void escalating. Firefighters rescued residents by carrying them down the stairs and repeatedly went back into the building to rescue more and more people. Soon the first floor corridor became heavily smoke-logged and more debris was dropping down from the roof space. It was also evident that the temperature had increased significantly. Firefighters found casualties in every room, many in bed, unable to move due to disabilities. They had to use their own bodies as shields to protect the casualties as the flaming debris fell. Every firefighter repeatedly re-entered the care home, with little regard for their own safety, knowing that had they not, the loss of life would have been catastrophic.

Queen's Commendation For Bravery



Joe ROWLANDS

For rescuing his father from drowning, 22 February 2018

On 22 February 2018, 13-year-old Joe Rowlands and his father Paul were kayaking from Lligwy beach (Treath Lligwy) to Dulas Island (Ynys Dulas), a distance of about 1.5 miles off-shore. En route, the kayak started to take in water, which resulted in the craft capsizing, leaving Joe and Paul in the water. They were unable to right and re-board the kayak. Paul instructed Joe to stay on top of the kayak while he attempted to push the craft to a rock to the east of Dulas Island named Carreg Allan. After swimming for approximately 30 minutes, Paul began to suffer the effects of the cold water immersion and decided to abandon the kayak. His plan was for them to swim to Carreg Allan, approximately half a mile away.

By then, Paul had been in the water for some time and was struggling to swim. Joe reached the rocks of Carreg Allan but Paul lost consciousness before reaching the rocks. Joe became aware that his father was in difficulty and re-entered the water to swim approximately 100 metres to rescue him. On reaching his father, Joe discovered that he was face down in the water and unresponsive. He towed him back to Carreg Allan, dragging him up on the rocks to a place of safety. He then attempted to give him chest compressions, followed by mouth to mouth resuscitation in an attempt to revive him. He continued to perform resuscitation, after which his father started to breathe and regained consciousness.

By this time, the rocks at Carreg Allan were starting to be submerged by the

rising tide. Joe realised the danger of remaining there and decided to move his father to Ynys Dulas Island, a distance of approximately 100 metres. On reaching Dulas Island, Joe proceeded to negotiate rocks on the shoreline in order to reach a stone tower where his father would be protected from the strong winds.

Joe and Paul were picked up by Moelfre Lifeboat, having been reported missing. They had spent about two and a half hours sheltering in the tower, during which Joe kept talking to his father to prevent him from drifting back into unconsciousness. They were transferred to hospital and diagnosed as suffering from severe hypothermia. Paul was in a state of atrial fibrillation (irregular and abnormally fast heartbeat). The Coastguard confirmed that had they not been found, they were not likely to have survived more than another half an hour.

[Press release: Privy Council appointments December 2018](#)

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[News story: Lockerbie anniversary](#)

On 21 December, Scottish Secretary David Mundell joined members of the Lockerbie community to lay a wreath in the memorial garden in the the town's Dryfesdale Cemetery.

The simple and low key ceremony was an opportunity for townspeople to mark quietly the 30th anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am 103. Jeff Brown, Moderator of the Presbytery of Annandale And Eskdale, conducted a service which included readings from Psalm 121, John's and Gospel and St Paul's message to the Corinthians.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Dumfriesshire, Fiona Armstrong read out a message from the Queen which read "I send my prayers and good wishes to all those who will be marking this solemn anniversary."

Speaking on the day of the commemoration, Mr Mundell said:

On this 30th anniversary of the bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, my thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the 270 men, women and children who perished on that terrible night, and everyone else whose life has been touched by the event.

Lockerbie lost its anonymity that night. We went from a quiet small town to a centre of global attention in a few seconds. That was the scale of the challenge local people have faced, aside from the horrors of the air disaster itself. It has not been easy, nor have we been able to achieve the closure we would have wanted, even after 30 years. However, throughout, the people in Lockerbie have retained their dignity and stoicism, and offered friendship and support to those who lost loved ones.

The relationship that has developed between Lockerbie Academy and Syracuse University, is one of the few positives to come from that night, along with all the other personal relationships that have been forged. Strengthening and deepening those relationships must be our priority as we look to the future. On this 30th anniversary we follow the Syracuse University motto to 'look back but act forward'.

Mr Brown echoed this when he closed the ceremony with "Forward Lockerbie. Forward in faith, in hope and in love."