



Russell Saczek

1951 - 2002

Russell Saczek was half Polish and half Scottish and very proud of both. His mother was a native of Glasgow and his father, Tadeusz, was a survivor of the Polish army in World War II and the Soviet Gulag thereafter.

Russell lived with his father in Market Place, East Finchley until the latter's death last year. He never really got over his father's death and never tired of recalling his adventures - which, by all accounts did not end with the Gulag. Russell used to refer to his father as a 'senile delinquent' on account of his independent habits, such as legging it out of hospital in his slippers.

Russell himself trained as a photographer and worked as one in his earlier years, although East Finchley residents will know him as a caretaker at the Sternberg Centre in East End Road. He

also had considerable literary talents. He was, for example, the co-author of a history and dictionary of Cockney rhyming slang, and *ARCHER* readers will remember the series of short stories he wrote for the paper in the mid 1990s. Often set in East Finchley, these were full of dry humour and populated by thinly disguised but kindly portraits of other East Finchleyites, particularly regulars of the *Old White Lion*. Regular quiz participants on Tuesdays at *Maddens* will also recall him as the autocratic leader of the 'Rebels without a clue', which, despite its name, was a very successful team.



Ivan Dunne, brother of Pat - who was shot during a routine call in Clapham 1993. Photo by Femke van Iperen

Police Memorial Service

By Femke van Iperen

In a touching ceremony those police officers who died as heroes in the line of duty were commemorated in a special service.

On 10 September the second annual event was hosted by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Sir John Stevens, at the Police Training School's Memorial Gardens in Hendon. The gardens, dedicated by Her Majesty the Queen in October 2001, provided a sober setting on a sunny afternoon for the 150 invited relatives who attended.

Under blue skies, both the commissioner and the Guest of Honour General Sir Michael Walker, Chief of the General Staff, addressed relatives and laid wreaths in memory of those recorded in the Book of Remembrance. This was followed by a minute's silence.

In his speech Sir John Stevens said, "Martin Luther King once said, ..." Life's most urgent and persistent question is, what are you doing for others? Throughout the long and proud history of the Metropolitan Police there have been thousands of men and women who have answered that question. They have upheld the finest traditions of the service under the most adverse circumstances... So, let us be thankful for their

lives, their memory, and their example to us all."

Roll of honour

The Book of Remembrance, which contains a Roll of Honour with citations for over 550 officers and civil staff killed in the line of duty throughout the Met's 102-year history, was shown in a new display case.

Ivan Dunne, brother of Pat Dunne (44) who was shot during a routine call in Clapham in 1993, said, "I think the memorial service is very important. We should respect the officers that are living and remember those that give their lives to the community."

Commander Peter Loughborough, head of the Directory for Training and Development at Hendon, said, "Relatives told us how pleased they were that their loved ones had been recognised by the MPS. We hope this annual event will be another way

to remember our colleagues in addition to the permanent Book of Remembrance."

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Russell Saczek on beach at St Andrews in 1998. Photo supplied by his partner Geraldine

Humour and kindness

Russell's funeral was held on 6 September, where tributes were made to his kind and gentle nature. He will be sorely missed, as was shown by the many people who attended this sad occasion, a number of whom travelled a great distance to pay their respects, from as far afield as Suffolk, Somerset, Hull and Newcastle.

Both humour and kindness were typical of Russell. A big man physically, he was the epitome of the gentle giant who, if he did occasionally say a cross word or two, was also never without a kind one for all his friends.

In one way, he wrote his own epitaph; it is said that, when he was asked to leave a party he had gatecrashed, he replied "Don't worry, I have been thrown out of better places than this". We shall miss him.

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