

= National Police Memorial =

The National Police Memorial is a memorial in central London , commemorating about 4000 police officers killed in the course of their duties in the United Kingdom . It was designed by Lord Foster of Thames Bank and Per Arnoldi and unveiled in 2005 . The Project Architect for Foster was Peter Ridley .

= = Historical background = =

In 1984 , following the shooting of Yvonne Fletcher , film director Michael Winner founded the Police Memorial Trust . Initially the Trust concentrated on erecting smaller monuments at the points where officers had died on duty . From the mid @-@ 1990s the Trust also lobbied and raised funds for a single , larger scale memorial to commemorate all police officers who had died in the course of their duties . Winner stated that " Memorials to soldiers , sailors and airmen are commonplace , but the police fight a war with no beginning and no end " .

Winner donated £ 500 @,@ 000 of his own money to the campaign for a national memorial and the remainder of the total cost of £ 2 @.@ 3 million was met by a public collection . After a ten @-@ year campaign , Westminster City Council granted planning permission in October 2002 .

= = Design and construction = =

The Memorial was built to a design by Lord Foster of Thames Bank and Danish designer Per Arnoldi , on the corner of The Mall and Horse Guards Road , directly outside the Old Admiralty Building . The site was occupied at the time by an air shaft on the Bakerloo line of the London Underground .

On 22 July 2004 a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony took place on the site , performed by Prime Minister Tony Blair , Michael Winner , and officers from the Metropolitan Police and Greater Manchester Police , representing the two forces with the highest number of officers killed in the line of duty .

The Memorial was formally unveiled on 26 April 2005 by Queen Elizabeth and Tony Blair . Michael Howard and Charles Kennedy , the leaders of the UK 's other leading political parties at the time , were also present . A guard of honour was provided by 56 officers wearing the uniforms of each of the UK 's police forces . The Queen stated that " It is surely appropriate that this should be positioned in The Mall - an area of London so often associated with our national way of life . When people pass by the memorial , I hope they will pause and reflect on the proud traditions that it represents . The courage and personal sacrifice recorded here will , I am certain , serve as an inspiration to us all . "

Despite concerns over the potential cost , construction of the Memorial eventually came in at £ 400 @,@ 000 under budget , in part because a number of the contractors concerned carried out their work free of charge .

The Memorial was a winner of the Royal Institute of British Architects award for 2006 . Michael Winner publicly voiced some surprise at the structure being included in the " Arts and Leisure " classification .

= = Architectural elements = =

The Memorial consists of two distinct architectural elements , linked by a terrace of Purbeck stone . A black rectangular creeper @-@ covered enclosure surrounds the air shaft , forming a single block . The northern face of the enclosure is kept free of creepers , and is inscribed with the police badge of office and the text " The National Police Memorial : Honouring Those Who Serve " . This face also includes a vitrine in which the Roll of Honour is displayed .

Immediately north of the block , a glass column is sited in a reflecting pool . The column is internally illuminated by fibre optic cables with a faint blue light , symbolising the blue lamp which traditionally

hangs outside police stations in the United Kingdom . The column is intended to screen the vitrine from passing traffic on The Mall . The column is 7.4m high , consisting of 622 stacked sheets of glass (a total surface area of 954m²) , weighing 28 @. @ 6 tonnes .

= = Roll of Honour = =

The Memorial contains an inscribed roll of honour behind a glass panel , containing the names of approximately 1600 officers killed whilst on duty , in the course of effecting an arrest or whilst carrying out hazardous duties . The earliest entry is that of an unknown constable killed in 1680 . The book is compiled from the approximately 4000 names recorded by the Police Roll of Honour Trust , listing all officers who have died in the line of duty .

= = Criticism = =

The Memorial attracted criticism from some families of officers killed in the line of duty , regarding the high cost , and that the roll of honour lists only those officers killed during arrests or as a result of criminal acts , rather than all officers killed in the line of duty ; also that , with the book being behind glass , friends and relatives of the deceased are not able to view the relevant page . Before construction , objections were also raised to the Memorial 's construction by the London Historical Parks Group and the local residents ' association . Concern was also raised by some Irish republicans that the Memorial includes the names of those RUC officers killed in The Troubles .