



Pete Coleman

# Widow speaks out about health and safety after husband killed at work

A "VERY friendly, cheeky chappie", that is how the widow of a man killed in a workplace accident described her husband.

Bev Coleman, 55, from Dunstable, movingly recalled the moment she learned of Pete's death due to a vehicle fault while he was collecting refuse from Woodside Leisure Park in Watford, in October 2014.

Pete Coleman, 54, was working for waste management firm, F & R Cawley Limited when he was killed at work.

"We were woken by police banging hard on the front door early in the morning at 7am," Bev said, "We rushed to Watford General but they wouldn't let me see him in the end - I wanted to see him."

Pete had got down from his cab to operate the lift mechanism when the vehicle moved forward trapping him beneath.

The wheels continued to spin causing a fire, and Pete suffered severe head and pelvic injuries.

The grandfather-of-four was rescued by a member of the public who heard the tires explode and called the emergency services.

He was taken to Watford

General Hospital where he later died from his injuries.

"He was still fighting for life while he was trapped under the lorry," Bev said, "He must have been terrified."

"I think members of public were hurt helping Pete. I want to thank them for that, they're amazing."

"I know he would have done it for them too."

An inquest three years later found Pete's vehicle was not roadworthy due to a brake defect.

Bev has been campaigning for justice ever since and marked Worker's Memorial Day on April 28 to highlight safety standards at work.

She has not been able to work since the accident, saying: "My life is about fixing people and you can't fix people when you're broken."

Bev and Pete were married in 1983. At the wedding, Pete, who was born and bred in Dunstable, wore his army cadet uniform where he served as a sergeant instructor.

Bev said: "Everybody remembers him as someone who could talk an awful lot, a very friendly, cheeky chappie."

"He was very resourceful

- helping people in the community.

"He was forever bringing things home from charity shops, things they couldn't sell and passing them along to people."

"If you said you needed something he would go out of his way to find it."

Bev, who is mother to Pete's children, Paul, 27, and Lisa Coleman, 17, said after Pete's death she received no condolences from his employer.

"I am gobsmacked. They didn't send flowers, they didn't come to the funeral."

"It is really hurtful, they just shut down like he never existed."

Bev has sought legal advice from Irwin Mitchell who have said they will support her in her fight for justice.

Bev said: "I hope that by speaking out about the huge gap his death has left in all of our lives, it will remind companies about the importance of keeping workers safe and protecting them from hazards."

"I'm determined that Pete's death will not be in vain and I hope one day to see justice for the fact our children have been left without their father."

## Police operation targets modern slavery

THREE possible trafficking victims were identified in a police operation targeting modern slavery.

More than 80 vehicles were stopped at the London Gateway service station on the M1 on Saturday which involved 100 officers from the Met Police and Hertfordshire.

The six-hour operation targeted vehicles travelling between London and Hertfordshire.

Checks were carried out on travellers to check if they may be linked to trafficking or slavery.

In total, 83 vehicles were stopped and 67 people were spoken to about modern slavery and human trafficking.

Three potential victims were identified and they are now being supported by the Red Cross.

Four arrests were made during the day, including for theft, possession of a knife, drug driving, and theft of a motor vehicle.

Five uninsured vehicles were taken off the road and seized as well as others with mechanical defects.

## Bank Holiday Deals

don't miss out

4 for £6\* save £1



Mix and match 6 pack bedding plants



£9 £7 £5 2.8kg



£9 £7 £5 1kg

100% organic, safe to use around children and pets

Bank a great deal this weekend...

Loads more garden stuff you'll love at [wilko.com](http://wilko.com)

wilko

\*In store only. Offers live until 08.05.18. All products subject to availability. Please check your store in advance to avoid disappointment. Online delivery charges may apply. Westland SafeLawn Natural Lawn Feed 80m<sup>2</sup> (£1.79 per 1kg).