



THINK! Country Roads campaign

Janet and David's story

Janet and David Warin lost their son, Daniel, in 1995 in a single vehicle crash as he drove home late one evening.

Daniel was in the Lower Sixth Form at Lady Lumley's School, Pickering. One evening at the end of term, he and his girlfriend went to the cinema in York. He was due back home at 11.30pm and when he didn't return on time, his parents, Janet and David became worried. David drove the route that Daniel would have taken, but couldn't see Daniel or his car, though he did see some skid marks on the road. David drove to Daniel's girlfriend's house, but Daniel's car wasn't there and all was quiet, so he went home. He drove past friends' houses, but Daniel's car wasn't there either. They were very worried.

At 5.20am the police arrived. David, who was working as Deputy Head of a local school, knew the young policeman and thought it was probably his first time having to give this kind of news.

The Warins were told that Daniel's car had gone off the road and skidded into the tree in the hedge, then gone behind the tree. It was the place where David had seen the skid marks the night before, but hadn't seen the car away from the road, because it was pitch black. The cause of the collision was never fully explained, however there was a well-known crossing for animals nearby so they think the crash may have happened because he swerved to avoid an animal. It was very dark on the road that night and Daniel was a young inexperienced driver. He hadn't been drinking or driving too fast.

The Warins have worked tirelessly to promote safer roads in secondary schools and colleges all around North Yorkshire and tell young drivers about how losing Daniel has impacted their lives and the lives of Daniel's brother and friends. David Warin was awarded an MBE for this campaigning.

"Losing Daniel like this has ruined his brother's life. Neil, who was 15 when Daniel died, never opened his cards and presents on his 18th birthday as he felt so bad that he'd made it to 18 when Daniel hadn't. One of Daniel's friends gave up sixth form, because of Daniel's death.

It has had an ongoing effect on all of us. His friends still invite us to events and we love being included in all their lives. But we also feel a bit sad that we're there in place of Daniel, it reminds us what stage of his life he would have been at. Neil says if our road safety campaigning prevents one other family from losing a loved one, it will have been worth it."