



This Certificate
was presented by
The High Sheriff of Berkshire
to

Paul Venning

in recognition of an Order of the Crown Court made under section 28 of the Criminal Law Act 1926 by His Honour Mr. Justice French whereby an award was granted from public funds to the person above named who showed great courage or performed other meritorious service leading to the apprehension and conviction of a criminal.

Dated this 6th day of February

One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Nine

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to the High Sheriff.

High Sheriff.

CITATION

At about 8.30am on Thursday 11 February 1988 Mr Paul Robert VENNING was about to leave his home in Bolwell Close, Twyford when he saw a man and woman in the front garden of the house opposite. At first he believed them to be pushing each other, but then the woman approached him and he could see that she was covered in blood. The woman, Miss HOBBS, asked Mr VENNING to telephone her mother which he did but Mr VENNING also telephoned for Police assistance. As he did so he heard a scream from the street outside, and when he went to his front door he saw a man armed with a knife stabbing Miss HOBBS about the head. Mr VENNING pulled the man away from Miss HOBBS telling her to run for it. The man made several attempts to stab Mr VENNING during this time, but eventually Mr VENNING was able to overpower the man and disarm him. During the incident Mr VENNING received a cut to his thumb, but he held onto the man in a restrained position until the Police arrived.

At Reading Crown Court Mr Justice French made the following remarks:-

"In this case Mr Paul VENNING behaved with great gallantry, he interposed himself, himself unarmed, to physically prevent a man with a knife making a frenzied attack on a young woman. He swung the attacker to the ground and kicked the knife away and then restrained him until the Police arrived.

This is gallantry of a high order, I therefore make an award, a token in such cases, of £250.00, to be publicly presented in due course. The High Sheriff will arrange it."



Mr Paul Venning (centre), receives his £250 award from the High Sheriff of Berkshire, Mr David Gardiner. With them is stabbing victim Miss Siobhan Hobbs, whose life Mr Venning saved.

Terrified — but Paul saves woman from drug-crazed knifeman

AN attractive young woman told this week of the moments when she tried to fight off a drugs-crazed knifeman.

The 25-year-old Twyford woman admitted that she expected to die in a frenzy of stab wounds as she battled against her vicious attacker.

But as Siobhan Hobbs began to lose consciousness, have-a-go hero, Paul Venning, waded in to rescue the helpless victim.

And this week 25-year-old Mr Venning received a judge's reward for his courage.

The drama happened last February outside Miss Hobbs' home in Bolwell Close, Twyford, when her boyfriend went amok and tried to kill her.

Armed with a knife, the attacker stabbed Miss Hobbs in the neck as she fought to escape. She said: "I just thought that I was going to die.

"I thought that no one would come to my rescue and that it was the end for me."

She said: "He just wanted to kill me. I started to get dizzy and thought it was the end."

But as he walked out of his house across the road, land buyer Mr Venning, saw the life and death struggle and ran across to help.

And as he described the ordeal of saving the young victim from her attacker, Mr Venning admitted that he had been terrified.

He said: "I was conscious that I might

become the victim. He lunged at me a couple of times but once I got the knife away from him it was all over."

Mr Venning, who now lives in Gipsy Lane, Wokingham, met up again with Miss Hobbs at Reading Police Station on Monday when Berkshire's High Sheriff, Mr David Gardiner, presented a Crown Court award to the hero of the attack.

After hearing of Mr Venning's bravery and how he held on to the knifeman until the police arrived, Mr Justice French ordered that the 25-year-old hero be given a £250 reward.

Mr Justice French told the court: "In this case Mr Paul Venning behaved with great gallantry."

At the presentation of the award, the High Sheriff paid tribute to Mr Venning. He said: "This is an act of very great courage. You went to Mr Hobbs' aid at great personal risk."

The High Sheriff said that the knifeman had gone berserk because of the influence of drugs being administered to him.

Mr Gardiner said: "This man was out of his mind and in a crazed state. Miss Hobbs owes her life to you and that is no exaggeration. You are an example to us all."

After the formal presentation, Miss Hobbs, who still bears the physical scars of her ordeal, quietly gave Mr Venning another gift from her family to say thanks for saving her life.