# Sharon Griffiths tells how reckless driving destroyed her family’s life



Sharon Griffiths stands as a testament to unyielding love and tragic loss as she recounts the moment that forever altered her family's life. The anguish echoing in her voice captures the pain of having witnessed her partner, Gareth Davies, fatally injured in a road traffic collision on April 13, 2023, near Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil. "A massive mistake," as described by the defendant, Dale Groves, has now cast a long shadow over a family once filled with hope and routine.

On the fateful morning, Gareth, aged 43, was driving his Renault Clio, preparing to turn into a local landfill site when disaster struck. Groves, 30, behind the wheel of a white Ford Ka, was allegedly attempting to overtake not just Gareth but also a tank lorry in the midst of this manoeuvre. According to the prosecution at Newport Crown Court, Groves was travelling at an estimated speed of 46 to 50 mph, far exceeding the recommended pace for such a precarious situation. Eyewitness Jamie Cummings, the professional driver of the oil tanker, noted Groves's reckless attempts to overtake, despite the poor visibility.

As Sharon arrived at the scene, she described a surreal landscape filled with emergency vehicles—her heart in her throat, she rushed to Gareth, who, despite his injuries, uttered those haunting words, “I can’t babe, I’m sorry.” Moments later, the reality of their situation crashed down upon her as he lost consciousness, giving way to frantic attempts at resuscitation from firefighters and paramedics, who eventually arrived on the scene just minutes later. The overwhelming weight of helplessness followed as the doctor and police officer delivered the devastating news: Gareth was dead.

In the wake of this tragedy, Sharon has been vocal about the emotional toll it has taken on her and their two sons—marking milestones without Gareth and confronting daily voids filled with his absence. “Our lives are unrecognisable,” she mournfully reflected, capturing the essence of loss that hangs heavily in their home. The family was left in a state of limbo for an entire year, waiting for the prosecution to take action. This prolonged uncertainty fed into their trauma, with Sharon poignantly articulating, “His massive mistake has destroyed our family.”

Gareth Davies was more than a partner and a father; he was a community fixture known for his readiness to help others. The passing of someone who "lived for his family" has created ripples of mourning that extend beyond the immediate family, reverberating through a local community that cherished his spirit. As the trial unfolded, it left Sharon grappling with Gareth's empty place in both their lives and community events, reminding her of the countless experiences her children will no longer share with their father.

The legal proceedings involved Groves admitting to causing death by careless driving, while the more severe charge of death by dangerous driving was dismissed. This outcome has elicited mixed reactions, with many believing that the justice system needs to adequately address the consequences of such reckless behaviour with stricter penalties. In recent years, similar cases throughout the UK have sparked discussions about road safety measures and the legal definitions surrounding dangerous driving, highlighting a growing concern among the public for more accountability.

As the details unfurl like a harrowing narrative, the memory of Gareth carries the weight of lost moments and futures. Sharon’s journey through grief and struggle speaks to many who have faced similar circumstances, calling into question the fragility of life and the irreversible impact of a split-second decision on a road. She remains committed to keeping Gareth's legacy alive while advocating for greater awareness around road safety—a plea underscored by her heartache and fortitude.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-3
2. Paragraphs 4-5
3. Paragraph 6
4. Paragraphs 7-8
5. Paragraph 9
6. Paragraph 10

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056497/i-can-t-babe-i-m-sorry> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyrpz874knko> - A 43-year-old man, Gareth Davies, died after a collision between his Renault Clio and a Ford Ka on Fochriw Road in Caerphilly county. The driver of the Ford Ka, a 27-year-old man from Merthyr Tydfil, was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. The incident occurred between 5:00 and 5:30 BST on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Gwent Police are seeking witnesses or anyone with dashcam or CCTV footage to assist in the investigation.
3. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23453724.gareth-davies-died-crash-fochriw-road-near-rhymney/> - Gareth Davies, 43, from Rassau, was pronounced dead at the scene of a crash on Fochriw Road near Rhymney at around 5:50 am on April 13, 2023. The collision involved a Renault Clio and a Ford Ka. The driver of the Ford Ka, a 27-year-old man from Merthyr Tydfil, received minor injuries and was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. Gwent Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with dashcam or CCTV footage to come forward.
4. <https://www.south-wales.police.uk/news/south-wales/news/2022/gor-jul/driver-who-caused-death-by-dangerous-driving-is-jailed/> - Steven Rowe, 26, from Swansea Road, Merthyr Tydfil, was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. The incident occurred on May 13, 2021, when Rowe was driving a stolen Ford Fiesta on the A465 Heads of Valleys Road, resulting in the death of 21-year-old Robbie Lee Selway and serious injuries to three others. Rowe was also disqualified from driving for 13 years and four months.
5. <https://caerphilly.observer/news/961027/jail-for-driver-who-caused-the-death-of-three-friends-from-bargoed/> - John Spencer Graham, 21, was sentenced to ten months in prison for causing the death of three friends from Bargoed in a car crash in Merthyr Tydfil. The victims—Ryan Gibbons, 20, Rhys Jones, 18, and Joe Daniels, 18—were passengers in a white Seat Ibiza that crashed into a telegraph pole on Aberdare Road on October 11, 2021. Graham admitted to three counts of death by careless driving, with charges of death by dangerous driving dismissed by the judge.
6. <https://caerphilly.observer/news/1019610/man-43-dies-in-crash-on-fochriw-road/> - A 43-year-old man died following a crash near Fochriw. Gareth Davies, from Rassau, near Ebbw Vale, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash, which happened at around 5:50 am on Thursday, April 13, 2023. The collision involved two cars—a Renault Clio, which Mr. Davies was driving, and a Ford Ka. The driver of the Ka, a 27-year-old man from Merthyr Tydfil, received minor injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment. He was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and remains in police custody.
7. <https://caerphilly.observer/news/1019678/man-released-after-fochriw-road-crash-as-police-continue-to-investigate/> - A 27-year-old man from Merthyr Tydfil was released by Gwent Police after being arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. Gareth Davies, 43, from Rassau, near Ebbw Vale, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on Fochriw Road on April 13, 2023. The driver of the Ford Ka received minor injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment. Gwent Police are continuing their investigation and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with dashcam or CCTV footage to come forward.