



DYFED-POWYS NARPO NEWSLETTER



Autumn / Winter 2025



Tenby in the Snow (Credit: Gareth Evans)

Inside:
Change at The Top
Pension News
In Memoriam
National Police Memorial Day
Happy Birthday to a Hero
Joel Sky Dives for COPS
The Power of Writing
Stars of Hollywood at Fishguard
You Couldn't Make it Up!
Jaqui's on the Right Track
Pembroke Dock's Glorious Past
Millenium Eve at Brecon
Sporting Memories

And lots more!

FROM THE EDITOR: Hugh Colley

Welcome to the 2025 NARPO Newsletter.



I hope you all enjoyed the heatwave summer which will also be remembered by many as the summer of discontent. Rallies such as Anti-Immigration and Pro Palestine marches held across the UK presented huge challenges for police forces

Officers had the unenviable (impossible) task of allowing freedom of speech while maintaining law and order. The Dyfed-Powys Police Federation raised significant concerns about the impact of policing protests on already stretched resources, highlighting how such demands divert officers from core frontline duties and contribute to overall low morale.

While the majority of demonstrations took place in large towns and cities, a *Stop the Boats* march was held in Newtown (my home town) in September. In financial terms, the cost of policing that protest alone amounted to £16,000!

The government recently announced that Police & Crime Commissioners in England & Wales will be scrapped by 2028. Full details of the new arrangements for Welsh forces aren't known at present. However, the government maintain that removing P&CCs will cut the cost of unnecessary bureaucracy. Money that can be better spent on restoring neighbourhood policing – hopefully that will come to fruition.

There's a wide variety of articles in this 30 page newsletter, ranging from 'Life after the Job' to a lovely story about a NARPO member who saved a young lad from drowning in 1969. Over the years, DPP officers have been actively involved with various sports. There's a selection of sport photos from the early days of DPP right up to the present day. To lighten the mood during these dark days, there's also eight anecdotes that will hopefully raise a smile or two.

On a more serious note, Jon Davies (page 13) has experienced Prostate Cancer which is the most common cancer in men in the UK. About 1 in 8 men being diagnosed with it in their lifetime. You can get a prostate cancer test in Wales by asking your GP for a PSA blood test, especially if you are over 50, and you can also find local testing events hosted by charities like Prostate Cymru.

After much deliberation, I'm seriously considering stepping down as newsletter editor at the 2026 Annual General Meeting. My sincere thanks to members that have contributed articles, photos and cartoons over the past six years. Many thanks to Phil Hopkins for proof reading the drafts and his invaluable suggestions.

I only wish that members in parts of the force area that are under-represented would submit items for inclusion.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2026.

Hugh

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mike Benbow



They say that as you get older the years pass by much more quickly; it certainly seems that way. As we approach another year of challenges, it is worth remembering that NARPO is there to provide support for its members whenever it can.

We are delighted to learn that Dyfed-Powys has a new Chief Constable - Mr. Ifan Charles (see page 5). On behalf of all our members I would like to congratulate him on his appointment. Mr. Charles is one of our own, having spent his entire service within Dyfed-Powys. He is committed to

returning DPP to where we were i.e. one of the best performing forces in England and Wales.

DPP NARPO Secretary Phil Addicott and I met with Mr. Charles in September. It was clear from the outset that he wants to address many of the issues you have raised over the years. These include, respect and support for bereaved families of serving and retired officers together with police staff. Also, the use of the DPP drape at funerals, handwritten letters from the Chief Constable and wherever possible, a representative of the force attending funerals.

You will be pleased to know that the force museum artefacts which were stored at Milford Haven Police station until it closed are now stored at Ammanford Police station.

One of the first priorities Mr. Charles has committed to is the creation of a Heritage and Welfare group led by Chief Superintendent Joleen Mann. The group will amongst other things, look at the reintroduction of the Force Museum. DPP NARPO will be represented on this group.

The Chief Constable has kindly offered the use of facilities at Police Headquarters for NARPO members to enjoy a 'get together' which he will attend subject to commitments. We will also receive an invitation to visit the DPP Control Room to discover how things have changed since our members left the force.

Next year we will do our best to ensure DPP NARPO is less Carmarthen focused but we need your help and support to achieve this. There is funding available for NARPO events to be held throughout the force area. When these are arranged it would be fantastic to see a good turnout. I would encourage you to contact either Phil Addicott (Secretary) or myself if you have any thoughts about this. You all pay into NARPO so why not enjoy some of the benefits it offers?

The branch is looking at the feasibility of arranging a visit to the National Police Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. This will provide members with an opportunity to pay their respects to fallen colleagues. For those who have not yet been to the Arboretum it is a tranquil, special and moving place.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful, happy healthy 2026.

IN MEMORIAM

The following have sadly passed away since the last newsletter:

Mr Vernon Thomas (Rtd. PC306)
Mrs Margaret Mathias, wife of Mr Ken Mathias (Rtd. PS448)
Mr. Richard (Dick) Friend (Rtd. PS656)
Mr David John Mark Edwards (Rtd. C/Insp)
Mrs Beryl Rose Mathias, the wife of Mr. Tom Mathias (Rtd. C/Insp)
Mr Eurfyl Jones (Rtd. PC215)
Mr Roger Davies, (Rtd. PC709)
Mr Michael John Lewis (Rtd. DC574)
Mrs Marjorie Lewis, wife of the late Raymond Lewis (Rtd. DC521)
Mrs Mabyn Charlton 85 years (wife of the late David Charlton (Rtd. DS415)
Mr Bryan Ellwood Bell (Rtd. DC397)
Mr Andrew (Andy) Vaughan (Rtd. PC452)
Mrs Elizabeth Ruth Sonia Caffrey (Rtd. WPC836)
Mrs Haulwen Bowen, wife of the late Noir Bowen
Mr Jeffrey (Jeff) Wyn Davies (Rtd. Supt)
Mr Terence Kenneth 'Terry' Pugh (Rtd. DS270)
Miss Siriol Thomas (Rtd. WPC812)
Mr David Williams (Rtd. Supt)
Mr Gerard Emrys Rueben Thomas (Rtd. Supt)
Mr Glanville (Glan) Griffiths (Rtd. DS128)
Mr Huw Jones (Rtd. PC140)
Mr Jim Gough (Rtd. Insp).
Mr Henry A Jones (Rtd. Supt)
Mr Alan Pugh (Rtd. C/Supt.)
Mr Thomas Owen (TO) Davies (Rtd. Supt.)
Mr Thomas John Bryan Jenkins (Rtd. PC23)

HOSPITAL GIFT FUND AND DONATIONS

When a member of Dyfed-Powys NARPO is hospitalised, or undergoing extended treatment for a serious condition, the Secretary should be informed as soon as possible.

The Secretary will arrange for a payment of £35:00 to be made to the member from the Hospital Gift Fund by payment directly into the member's account, a cheque can be issued if preferred.

If you, or you know a member that is eligible please inform the Secretary (Phone: 07807956928 or Email: dyfedpowys@narpo.org)

A donation of £20:00 is made to charity and good causes following the death of a member of DPP NARPO.

NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE APPOINTED

In October, Mr. Ifan Charles was appointed Chief Constable following the resignation of Mr. Richard Lewis.



After joining the force in 2004, he held a variety of roles across the criminal investigation department, and much of his work has centred on victims of crime.

Speaking of the appointment, Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn said Mr Charles demonstrated "exceptional leadership, professionalism, and a clear vision for the future".

In 2022, Mr Charles undertook the role of Assistant Chief Constable, and in July 2024, he became the Deputy Chief Constable.

On being appointed Mr Charles said, "Being the Chief Constable is about service and delivering today for communities of Dyfed-Powys but also creating and building a legacy of a safer, healthier, and thriving community in the future".

DPP NARPO wishes Mr. Charles every success in his new role.

WELCOME TO THE NARPO ASSISTANT SECRETARY – EMYR WILLIAMS



Emyr joined Dyfed-Powys in October 1994 and following initial training was posted to Cardigan where he served for much of his service. He became Federation representative for Ceredigion and a member of the force welfare committee. He was later appointed secretary of the committee, a position he still holds.

After 15 years' service Emyr transferred to the Port Unit / Special Branch and was part of the national cadre of specially trained officers providing support in complex investigations.

After leaving the Port Unit, Emyr moved back into uniform, working in Learning and Development Services. Initially supporting recruits during initial training and later on he was a divisional trainer based in Pembrokeshire.

Emyr helped to introduce the Dyfed - Powys online learning platform during the latter stages of his career. In addition, Emyr was a member of the team that provides wellbeing support to colleagues involved with difficult and traumatic incidents. For the final three years of his service Emyr was Operational Lead for the team.

Emyr retired from DPP in March 2025 and lives in North Pembrokeshire with his wife Angela (a serving DPP Officer) and daughter Megan.

REMINDER: CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To continue receiving NARPO correspondence and circulations it is important that you inform NARPO of any change to your postal or email address.

You can do this by phoning Phil Addicott (Secretary): 07807956928 or by Email: dyfedpowys@narpo.org.

FORCE DEVELOPMENT LOTTERY

A list of winners can be found in the Members section of the website with cheques posted from FHQ within a few days of the draw taking place.

WHO'S WHO AT DPP NARPO

The following officers were appointed at the Annual General Meeting held at Carmarthen:

Chair: Mike Benbow

Phone: 07717 851183 Email: mbenbow2003@yahoo.co.uk

Vice-Chair: Peter Davies

Phone: 07766 168961 Email: p90pgd@btinternet.com

Secretary & Treasurer: Phil Addicott

Phone: 07807 956928 Email: dyfedpowys@narpo.org

Assistant Secretary: Emyr Williams

Phone: 07890 179989 Email: emyrwr@btinternet.com

Webmaster / Newsletter Editor: Hugh Colley

Phone: 01646 683232 Email: hughcolley144@btinternet.com

Chaplain: Lynn Rees

Phone: 07904 736364 Email: dlynnrees@btinternet.com

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) SEPTEMBER 2025

The police pension increase for **April 2026** will be based on the September 2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI), which was announced as **3.8%**. This means police pensions in payment will increase by 3.8% from April 2026 to keep pace with the rising cost of living.

The rise in the NARPO monthly subscription is likely to be in the region of 10p.

- **Basis for increase:** The increase is determined by the 12-month CPI figure for September 2025, which was 3.8%.
- **Effective date:** The pension increase will be applied from April 2026.

STATE PENSION

The final figure for next year's Triple Lock State Pension rise has been published. At 3.8%, this is lower than the relevant figure for wage growth which was 4.8%.

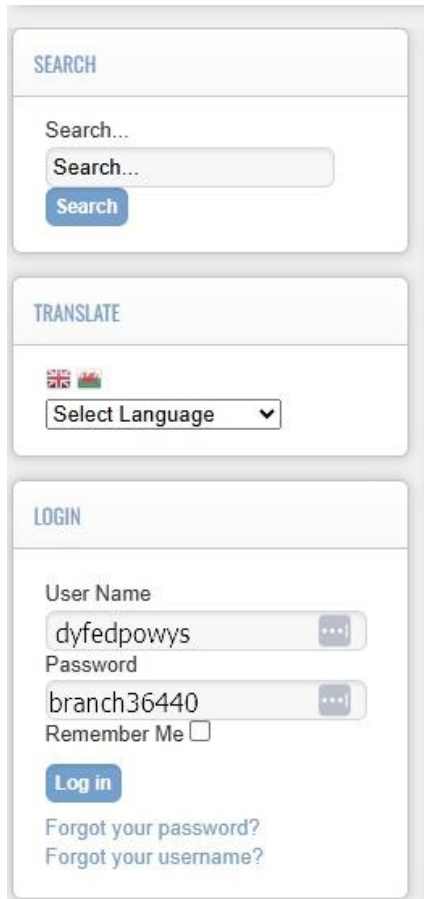
As a result, the State Pension looks set to rise by 4.8% in April 2026.

ACCESS TO PHOTO ALBUMS

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting it was decided that the Photo Albums on the DPP NARPO website should be restricted to members **ONLY** and **NOT** accessible to the general public.

To access the albums, Log In to the **Members Only** section by following the below instructions:

Go to the Dyfed-Powys NARPO Homepage: <https://www.dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk>
This box should then appear on the left of the screen:



Fill in the box as shown.
User Name: dyfedpowys
Password: branch36440
NB NO SPACES & lower case



**This is the banner at the top of the Members Section.
To access the photos, click on the album you wish to view as
shown by the arrows.**

NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL DAY (NPMD) 2025 by Phil Hopkins

This year's event was held at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 28th September. My wife Gill and I proudly represented DPP NARPO. The NPMD is held on the Sunday closest to 29th September, which is St Michael's Day. St. Michael being the patron saint of Policing.



Fortunately, the weather was fine, as outdoor activities took place prior to the service, including a display of vintage police vehicles. There was a very impressive parade to the Cathedral, led by the West Midland Police Band, followed by uniformed representatives of every force carrying their force's standards. DPP was represented by Delme Rees (Federation Chair) and Ceris Davies (Secretary of DPP Branch Board).

The well thought out service was attended by several dignitaries including the Home Secretary, Shadow Home Secretary, Policing Minister, Bishop of Coventry, Mayor of Coventry and several Chief Officers.

Prayers were said by representatives from the four Home Countries. During the service the names of the seven officers who have died on duty during the past twelve months were read out and candles were lit in memory of all officers who have died on duty.



The service concluded with petals made of tissue paper being handed to the 1,400 plus congregation by Volunteer Cadets. Towards the end of the service the peace bell was sounded and during a period of silence, petals of remembrance, representing fallen officers fell from the gallery. The Last Post was then sounded and after a short silence, Reveille.

Footnote: Tuesday 18th October 2025 marked the 35th anniversary of the tragic loss of four DPP officers in a road accident near Sennybridge

DCs Leonid Evans, Roger Meyrick and Nicholas Tabraham died after their vehicle was in a collision with a lorry while on surveillance training. DC Paul Hetherington died from injuries he sustained in the accident 11 days later

Many NARPO members still remember the dreadful tragedy and recall where they were when the sad news filtered through. It was undoubtedly the darkest day in the history of the force. Rest In Peace.

JOEL TAKES ON SKY DIVE IN HONOUR OF HIS DAD

For most 16-year-olds, birthdays are marked with a party, presents, and time with friends. But for Joel Earp, his 16th birthday was a chance to do something extraordinary - jumping 15,000 feet from a plane in honour of his dad, Inspector Gareth Earp.



On Sunday 10th August, Joel (left) took to the skies above Swansea, ready to raise money for Care of Police Survivors (COPS), a charity that has supported him and his family over the last two years.

Joel was just 13 when his father Gareth, aged 43, died in a road traffic collision near Rhayader as he travelled home from work in June 2023. "I've always wanted to do a skydive - it was on my bucket list," explained Joel, who has raised more than £1,200 for the charity. It was amazing to be able to raise money for COPS at the same time."

Like anyone about to step out of a plane, Joel admitted he felt a few nerves. "I was a bit nervous at first, but as soon as I got on the plane, my nerves settled and I was just so excited," continued the self-proclaimed 'adrenaline junkie'.

The money raised by Joel's skydive is going directly to COPS, a charity that provides peer and emotional support to families of police officers who have died on duty. Joel and his family were first introduced to COPS shortly after receiving the devastating news about Gareth. "At first, we didn't know much about COPS, but since then, we've learned so much about the amazing work they do," explained Joel.

As well as providing emotional support, COPS has helped fund driving lessons for Joel's two brothers, Ethan and Theo. "They've organised trips to places like Drayton Manor and even sent us rock-painting and candle-making kits, which we do online with other families."

And while Joel said that grieving for his dad was 'never going to be easy', the support the family has had from COPS has helped us move forward. He added: "That's why I wanted to give something back. Raising money helps other families who go through what we've been through. Reflecting on what his dad would have said about him jumping out of a sky-high plane, Joel said: "Dad would've been just as excited as me."



Joel with his certificate

Joel's mum, Tamsin, along with 20 other family members, travelled to Swansea to watch Theo jump from a plane. "All we can do is do what we can to keep Gareth's memory alive - and that is exactly what Joel has done by doing this skydive," she said. "I'm super proud of him. Joel's always wanted to take on the challenge but doing it for his dad makes it even more special."

***Congratulations Joel from everyone at
Dyfed-Powys NARPO***

FATE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS by Hugh Colley

A few years ago, I had the privilege of meeting up with the late Tom Davies GM (Rtd. Supt). The purpose of the meeting was for Tom to provide me with his account of the manhunt and arrest in 1961 of Robert Boynton. Boynton was wanted for shooting PC Arthur Rowlands, Gwynedd Constabulary, causing horrific injuries. Tom was awarded the George Medal for his bravery when overpowering and arresting Boynton. The detailed account was published in NARPO News.



During our meeting, Tom explained that on leaving school he worked underground at the local colliery. When pit closures were announced in 1960 he applied to join the Mid-Wales Constabulary and submitted the application form. A few days later he was instructed to report to Ystradgynlais Police Station to be weighed and measured as part of the process.

On arrival at the station, he was met by Sergeant 'Dems' Williams who took Tom to the newly painted cell block. After being weighed he was told to remove his shoes and stand against a wall mounted measuring rod. In those days all forces had a minimum height requirement which was strictly adhered to. Tom was duly informed that he was just **above** the minimum height requirement.

Tom was appointed PC 69 and commenced initial training at Bridgend DPTC. A short time afterwards it was discovered that a workman had removed the measuring rod in order to paint the wall to which it was attached. When he replaced the rod it was mounted a full two inches **lower** than previously.

Had the measuring rod been placed in its proper position Tom would probably not have been accepted into the force, nor summoned to Buckingham Palace to receive the George Medal from HM Queen Elizabeth!

LIFE AFTER THE JOB (1)

NARPO member Cyril Bond retired from DPP in October after 54 years' service. He started his career in Carmarthen as a Cadet and was appointed as PC517 in May 1974.



Cyril served at Newtown and Llandrindod Wells before moving to Carmarthen in 1985 and remained there until retirement in October 2004.

Since 2004, Cyril has been a member of the DPP Support Staff being employed in Resource Management working on force duty rotas.

In 2009, following a two year course at St. Michael's College, Llandaff, Cardiff he qualified as a Licensed Lay Reader. Cyril is licensed to take non Eucharist services together with funeral services and is a team member in the Bro Cydweli Ministry Area. He regularly takes and assists with services, his local church being St Thomas's Church, Ferryside, Carmarthen.

BLUE KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & NATIONAL RALLY



The Blue Knights International Motorcycle Club is a non-profit organisation consisting of active and retired law enforcement officers who enjoy riding motorcycles. Having started in America in 1974, today the club is active in 34 countries. Approximately 600 Chapters are grouped into 11 Conferences, the UK & Ireland Conference having over 800 members throughout the UK, Ireland and the Channel Isles.

The 2025 conference and rally was held at Prestatyn in September and was attended by members and wives / partners from the UK and Ireland, plus a couple of members from the continent. The event was organised by members of the Blue Knights Wales 3 chapter whose members are chiefly drawn from the North Wales and Dyfed-Powys force areas.



During the weekend, rides were organised to places of interest around North Wales. The Gala Dinner was attended by 138 members and guests with Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman of North Wales Police the Guest of Honour. Over £3,500 was raised for our supported charities and subsequently donated to: Blood Bikes Wales, Care Of Police Survivors, The Osborne Trust and Alzheimer's Society

We were well looked after by the hotel and the local patrol officers made frequent visits to the car park where many high value motorcycles were stored.

Information about Blue Lights can be found online at:
<https://www.blueknights.org/> or The Blue Knights UK&IC:
<https://www.blueknightsukic.org/>
To learn more about the Wales Chapter go to:
<https://blueknightswales3.uk/contact/>

Ride With Pride
Max Jones (President).



HOLLYWOOD ICONS AT LOWER TOWN, FISHGUARD



In 1971, Lower Town, Fishguard (left) was used as the location for the film adaptation of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, transforming the picturesque harbour area into the fictional village of Llareggub (bugger all backwards).

It was the perfect backdrop for the film, starring two great actors of that era - Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole.

Filming brought the area to a standstill; crowds swarmed from far and wide to catch a glimpse of the stars - some locals were also used as film extras.

Graham Thomas was a young PC468 at the time and recalls the excitement. "Richard Burton was met off the train at Fishguard Harbour by a large crowd and interviewed by a BBC Wales TV reporter (right). Fishguard officers, including Dai Jones and myself, spent the next couple of weeks controlling traffic while scenes were being shot. When filming eventually came to an end, we enjoyed a few pints in The Ship Inn with Richard Burton, Peter O'Toole and the film crew. They were all very down to earth guys – Richard & Peter were flying to New York the following day to attend the Cassius Clay v Joe Frazier fight in New York".



Richard Burton with PC Graham Thomas looking on.



PC Dai Jones on location

According to Graham, a few days after filming ended, Richard's brother called at Fishguard Police Station and presented the Inspector with £700 for 'the boys' to have a drink.

Unfortunately, the donation was paid into the Police Benevolent Fund!!



Both are still going strong over 50 years later! Graham in his Wales rugby kit and Dai watching his grandson playing rugby.



CRIME, CANCER AND THE POWER OF WRITING

Jon Davies who lives in Neyland has begun a new chapter after 32 years with Dyfed-Powys Police. Jon joined DPP as a Cadet in September 1973 and after initial training was posted to Llanelli. He was seconded to the Regional Crime Squad from 1992 to 97. Following the secondment, Jon was promoted to uniform sergeant at Haverfordwest. In 1999 he became a Detective Sergeant tasked with leading the Pembrokeshire Proactive Unit until he retired in 2005.



Following retirement Jon has embarked on a second career as a novelist. Jon discovered a new found love for writing when he penned a short story while undergoing treatment for prostate cancer in 2020 but has now turned his attention to full length crime novels. His debut book *The Slippery Path* is currently receiving 5 star reviews on Amazon.

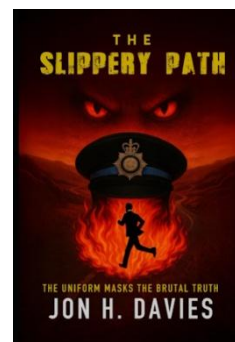
It was while holidaying in France in 2019 that he realised something wasn't quite right 'down below'. Thankfully the cancer was treatable and Jon underwent a four week course of radiotherapy at Singleton Hospital, Swansea.

It was towards the end of the treatment that he wrote a tongue in cheek story making light of the daily 120 mile round trip and the radiotherapy procedure. *The Longest Two Minutes* was published in a national cancer magazine in 2021. Following the positive feedback received, Jon decided to write a purely fictional novel using the wealth of knowledge gained as a detective.

The Slippery Path is based on a mix of the experiences and characters he encountered during his career. Set in the 1970s, the novel is an emotional roller coaster spanning the criminal underworlds of West Wales and Merseyside.

Jon loves writing and derives great pleasure from creating something that will still be there long after his days. However, his brush with cancer is never far from his mind.

Jon hopes that through his writing he can increase awareness of the importance of being checked out with at an early stage of prostate cancer. He urges all men who think they may have a problem to get themselves checked as soon as possible.



Below are some of the very basic facts and figures about prostate cancer.

In Wales

- ***More than 2,500 are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year in Wales.***
- ***Around 640 men die from prostate cancer every year in Wales.***
- ***More than 28,000 men are living with and after prostate cancer in Wales.***

PEMBROKE DOCK HERITAGE CENTRE by Nick Evans

I've always had great affection for Pembroke Dock. I was born in Solva but spent a lot of time in my youth staying with relatives in Bush Street, Pembroke Dock. I joined DPP in June 1975 and was delighted to be posted to Charlie Papa in September 1975. Fast forward 50 years, I'm still living in the Pembroke area and volunteering at the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre. I volunteer on front of house and have recently been appointed a Trustee. The Heritage Centre is housed in the magnificent historic Royal Dockyard Chapel - the only Georgian Military Chapel that survives in Wales. The Heritage Trust was formed in 2006 and was awarded UK Museum Accreditation standard in July 2023.

What many people don't realise is that Pembroke Dock has a rich maritime and military heritage having been a base for the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. As far as we are aware, it's the only town in the UK to have had all three services based at one location. The town of Pembroke Dock was only established as recently as 1814. It evolved from a small farming community called Paterchurch into a significant Royal Navy Dockyard. The dockyard has played a crucial role in British military history, initially to counteract the threat from Napoleons war machine. In February 1816, the first ships to be built in Pembroke Dock were launched and during the next 112 years of the dockyard's existence, it saw the construction of 263 Royal Navy fighting ships and 5 Royal Yachts.

In 1930, four years after the Dockyards closure, the Royal Air Force established a flying boat base within the walls of the old dockyard and the Royal Dockyard Chapel became the RAF Church, theatre and cinema. The base was called RAF Pembroke Dock or affectionately known to its crews as 'PD'. Several flying boats were introduced into service, including the iconic Short Sunderland - one of Britains most famous flying boats. During WW2 Pembroke Dock became the world's largest flying boat station peaking in 1943 with 99 aircraft present on the base or on the water. PD was the home base for many squadrons, from Britain, Denmark, Australia, Canada and the United States. It played a key role in the Battle of the Atlantic, with flying boats from the station patrolling and protecting convoys in the western approaches and anti-submarine warfare. RAF Pembroke Dock closed in 1959.



On Thursday 11th September this year, HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Ann, paid a private visit to the centre to view the Memorial Window which is a dramatic new installation at our museum. Installation was only completed the evening before HRH's visit after being on display at the RAF Museum, Hendon for many years after the closure of RAF Pembroke Dock in 1959. The magnificent stained glass window was commissioned at the end of WW2. It was paid for by the citizens of Pembroke Dock to remember the many aircrews based at RAF Pembroke Dock who flew on operations in the Battle of the Atlantic and gave the supreme sacrifice. It depicts two airmen looking out over the sea toward an air-sea rescue launch with two flying boats overhead - a Short Sunderland and a

Consolidated Catalina. It was originally unveiled in the east window of the RAF

Church in October 1945 and was the first memorial in the UK dedicated to personnel of any RAF station in that form. It has not been an easy process to get the window returned to the Chapel but after a lot of negotiation it is now back in its rightful place. We are deeply honoured to once again hold custodianship of this remarkable piece of history.

HRH spent over an hour with us and was full of praise for the volunteers and the work they do. As a Trustee I was introduced to HRH, for some reason she didn't remember the last time I met her when I drove her on a Royal Visit to St Davids in the early 90's!



Nick (middle) with HRH The Princess Royal

The window was rededicated on Sunday 26th October during an impressive service held at St Johns Church, Pembroke Dock. This was followed by a reception at the centre where the Venerable Dr (Air Vice-Marshal) Giles Legood MBE KHC, RAF Chaplain-in-Chief and Archdeacon for the RAF rededicated the window with music by members of the RAF Central Band.

Dai Perry (Rtd PS796) and Ian Jones (Rtd. PC666) also volunteer at the centre. Dai is on front of house duty and Ian works as a very accomplished coffee barista in our inviting coffee shop. If you are interested in volunteering we are always looking for Front of House duties, Coffee Shop, Collections Cataloguing and more general support roles.



The Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre is a highly recommended place to visit, exploring over 200 years of the towns' maritime, military and social history, including a replica Short Sunderland cockpit, interactive audio and visual exhibits. It also documents how the dockyard was involved in

the construction of the Millennium Falcon for the Star Wars film, *The Empire Strikes Back*!

More information and our opening times can be found at Pdht.org or the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre Facebook Page.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A HERO

In October, Vernon Jones of Llanelli celebrated his 90th birthday with a party at The Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli. The party was organised by his daughter Helen who tracked down a very special guest (see below).



Former colleagues were invited along to the reunion to wish the nonagenarian a Happy Birthday and are pictured with Vernon. From left to right: Ann Inkster John Rees Sharon Lewis Mike Price Nesta Davies Eirian Williams Robert Lewis Dylan Thomas Robert Campbell Alun (Mabon) Davies John Bowen Vernon Howell Williams Howell Lewis Gwyndaf Prosser Dulais Williams Berwyn Williams Gavin Rhydderch

In 1969, Vernon was PC26 stationed at Aberaeron when he saved seven year old Kenneth James, who now lives in Pembrokeshire, from drowning. The pair reunited at the party for the first time in more than 50 years. Vernon joined the Welsh Guards at the age of 17 and became a police officer at 21. He was posted to Llanelli followed by Aberaeron and Aberystwyth then back to Llanelli.

Helen described Vernon as 'a wonderful father and a local hero'. At the time of the incident, Vernon lived close to the River Aeron and jumped fully clothed into a deep weir. After pulling Kenneth out of the river he applied resuscitation for 15 minutes before the young lad was taken to hospital



Vernon with Helen



Kenneth gave an emotional speech at the party, recounting the day he was rescued and thanking Vernon's family for the chance to meet his hero again.

He said: "I would like to say a massive thank you to Helen for giving me this opportunity after 56 years to meet up with Vernon once again, and to say thank you to the man who saved my life."

Vernon with Kenneth whose life he saved in 1969.

NB Vernon served in three forces: Carmarthenshire, Carmarthenshire & Cardiganshire and Dyfed-Powys. He is a former secretary of DPP NARPO and his late son Nigel (DC636) stationed at Tenby, followed in his footsteps.

PAT COCHRANE (99 NOT OUT) by Phil Hopkins

NARPO member Pat celebrated his ninety ninth birthday in October with family and friends in Newtown. Among the gathering were Peter Davies and Mike Denyard plus their wives.

Pat started his service with the Mid Wales Constabulary, and prior to amalgamation in 1968, he was Scenes of Crime Officer based at Newtown. He continued in this role on amalgamation, initially covering the whole of D Division (the old Mid Wales area). Later on, a SOCO was appointed to cover the south of the Division. Pat retired in October 1982, and his successor was Peter. Peter had also joined the Mid Wales Constabulary and prior to being appointed to take over from Pat, was on traffic at Newtown. Peter retired in August 1994, having been the Scenes of Crime Officer for almost twelve years.

Peter was succeeded as SOCO by Mike Denyard who joined Dyfed-Powys Police shortly after amalgamation. Mike retired in November 2000 after eight years in post. Between the three of them, they held the role of Scenes of Crime Officer for the Newtown area for over thirty two years.



Pictured are Pat Cochrane, with Peter Davies (left) and Mike Denyard.
Right: Pat together with member Doug Jones of Brecon at the 2025 Mid Wales Constabulary reunion, held at the beginning of October.

Compared to Pat, Doug is a youthful ninety six year old!

Our good wishes go to both Pat and Doug, two of our oldest members.

MILLENNIUM EVE AT BRECON by Les Clark

On Millennium Eve I was a recently promoted Inspector based at Brecon. During the final months of 1999 there was huge concern worldwide that the millennium bug Y2K was going to cause major problems. I expected life as we knew it to come to an abrupt end!

DPP made lots of preparations for the dawn of the 21st century. This included me attending a two day seminar on crowd dynamics at the Crime Prevention College, Easingwold, Yorkshire.

The seminar was definitely aimed for officers policing the inner cities - not for someone expecting a hundred people on the Bulwark at Brecon.



The night shift:

Back (L to R): Richard Hughes, Mick Hanley, Julie Driscoll, Simon Lewis, Sarah Morgan, Scott Patrick, Lucy Bassett, Jeff Cahlane, Mary-Ann Joyce (nee Marrie) Mark Richards, Damian Gillespie, Phil Price, Paul Westlake. Front: Mark Doran, William (Bill) Cowan, Les Clark, the late Mark Edwards and the late Malcom James.

Midnight came and nothing happened, the revellers at the Wellington Hotel crowd made some high spirited noise outside 'The Welly' and then went back indoors to celebrate the new millennium.

It turned out to be a very peaceful night; we were all back in the station for tea and biscuits at 1:00am!

LIFE AFTER THE JOB (2)

Jacqui Lovatt resides in Welshpool and retired from DPP in 2024 after 32 years' service, retiring as a C/Inspector based at Newtown. Following retirement, many retirees embark on a Caribbean cruise and enjoy sipping cocktails by the pool, but **not** Jacqui..



Instead, Jacqui traded in her uniform for hiking boots and swapped dealing with critical incidents for altitude, blisters and breathtaking views followed by moving along a completely different track!

This is Jacqui's excellent journal of her 'life after the job'.

Chasing Altitude: The Everest Base Camp Trial

My retirement party involved a backpack, hiking boots and a brutal climb to Everest Base Camp. No porters, no plush lodges, no creature comforts. Just me, my kit, and the unforgiving majesty of the Himalayas.

With every step through icy forests and across creaking glacial rubble, the air thinned but my resolve thickened. Nights were freezing and the frost on the ceiling of my teahouse room glistened like glitter... until I realised it wasn't decoration, it was nature, biting back.

But the payoff? Sunrise over the snow-drenched peaks of the world's highest mountain range. In that moment, the years behind a badge faded into the clouds.



Sunrise on the Everest trail

Mont Blanc Circuit: Cow Sheds, Clifftops & Cabernet

Adventure No. 2 was a touch more refined but only just. The Mont Blanc Circuit swept me through the heart of Europe's most stunning alpine terrain: France, Italy, and Switzerland, each offering equal parts of awe and agony.

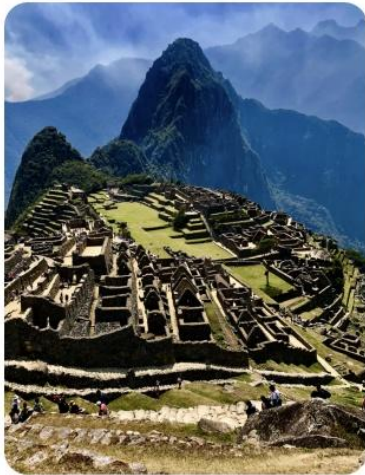


Wine, wildflowers and wild heights

This 170km loop wasn't easy, but it was generous. After long days scrambling ridgelines and descending into postcard-perfect valleys, I occasionally traded a cow shed for a cabin... and a tin mug for a glass of Cabernet.

Every turn revealed something new: glaciers spilling over mountain flanks, edelweiss blooming defiantly between rocks, and vistas that stole the breath long before the altitude did.

Next Stop: May 2026 The Inca Trail Beckons



Not one to stay grounded for long, I'm now preparing to tackle the remote Tommaku Inca Trail in Peru. A far less trodden path through the Andes, culminating in the jaw-dropping spectacle of Machu Picchu.

I expect exhaustion, exhilaration, and another hit of that addictive high equal parts altitude and achievement.

Left: The journey continues, Machu Picchu on the horizon

A New Track: Railways, Relationships, and Recharging

None of this would be possible without my incredibly understanding husband Greg, also a recent police retiree, and my current second chapter, working as a Senior Conductor with West Midlands Rail. It's a role that gives me structure, camaraderie, and just enough routine to appreciate the chaos of my off-duty adventures.

For anyone not quite ready to retire or surrender to a slower pace, I highly recommend it. Trains, it turns out, still offer a great platform for people watching and storytelling, action and unpredictability. I never expected to fall in love with the trains. But after 4 months of training rules, route learning, emergency protocols and countless hours shadowing seasoned conductors, I was finally let loose on my own.



My first solo trip as a fully-fledged Senior Conductor didn't exactly go to plan.

A landslide hit.

Yes, you read that right. Along my route, tonnes of earth shifted onto the tracks forcing an emergency halt. No casualties, thankfully, but plenty of chaos.

Passengers needed reassurance and re-routing had to be arranged. It was a wild welcome to the railway, but in many ways, it felt familiar. That day I realised something important. I hadn't left crisis management behind; I'd just swapped the setting. The adrenaline still kicks in, the decisions still matter, and the people are just as varied and fascinating as ever.

Whether its calming nervous travellers, helping families navigate unexpected delays, or sharing a laugh with regular commuters, the job offers a front-row seat to the human condition. Every carriage is a stage, every journey a story. And beyond the challenges, there's a beautiful rhythm to the railway. It brings me structure, strict timetables, the protocols, the daily interactions and just enough routine to truly savour the chaos of my off-duty adventures.

So, if you're not quite ready to retire, or if the idea of slowing down makes your skin itch, I highly recommend it. The trains are a calling. And as it turns out, the tracks can lead to just as many adventures as the trails.

LIFE AFTER THE JOB (3)

Shane Davies of Llanelli joined DPP in 1992 and performed various roles prior to retiring in 2022.

Since retirement he has used his previous experience as an apprentice electrician to retrain as a Domestic Energy Assessor, Air Tightness Tester and Retrofit Inspector.



Shane is currently a director of Green Green Graph of Home Ltd based at Burry Port. The company delivers long term sustainable green energy solutions across south Wales.

Green energy, also called clean or renewable energy, is electricity generated from natural sources. It is an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels like coal and oil.

Shane has compiled a comprehensive article explaining the positives and negatives of installing solar panels and heat pumps.

To read the article go to or click on: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/dzkhc/rtrte/#p=1>

If you need further advice, contact Shane by email : gggraphoh@gmail.com

FAREWELL TO NARBERTH POLICE STATION

Earlier this year, DPP announced its intention to sell Narberth Police Station and move to a new base with Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services in nearby Spring Gardens.



As many larger than life characters have been based at Papa November over the years, it's ironic that the new owners are W & MJ Rossiter & Sons, Funeral Directors!

VIC MORRIS PS 316 REMEMBERED



Vic Morris PS 316 was a Sergeant based at Carmarthen for many years and following retirement was a DPP driving instructor. Vic's daughter Nicola is the licensee of the Dog & Piano public house in Carmarthen.

The premises has recently been divided in two with a luxurious bar area named *Bar 316* as a tribute to her father who died in 2023.

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP!

The anonymised entries were judged by Mr. Len Mullins MVO of Haverfordwest, who is the former Press & Public Relations Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council,

EXCUSE ME SIR, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?: Bill Rowbottom

Many moons ago as the morning desk duty officer at Newtown, I was somewhat



surprised to see a very high ranking officer come to the station so early in the day. More surprisingly, he was dressed in full uniform including hat, gloves and swagger stick. I told him it was unusual to see him dressed in full uniform and how smart he looked.

I think he was rather pleased to receive the compliment and replied that he was on his way to attend a very important meeting later that morning.

After he had finished reading the latest batch of A200's and telex messages, he got up to leave the station.

Before he left, I thought it was only right and proper of me to tell him, even though he had

walked half a mile into work, that he was still wearing his slippers!

A BRILLIANT RESPONSE TO CROSS EXAMINATION: Gavin Davies

When I was a young probationer stationed at Brynmawr, the night shift consisted of two constables - the sergeant finished his shift at 1:00am. As Brynmawr was manned 24/7, one constable remained at the station whilst the other patrolled the streets. I was on patrol this particular night while Bengy Davies was the station officer.

During the shift, a call was received stating a youth was causing a disturbance in the town. I went to the scene and saw the youth ranting and raving. At the same time, he was wielding an iron bar and warning me with "Come any closer and I'll wrap this iron bar over your f***ing head". Fortunately, a Gwent officer came to my aid. After a struggle we overpowered the youth, arrested him and took him to Brynmawr Police Station.

A few weeks later, the youth appeared in court and was represented by Mr. Amador Fonseca, a prisoner of war veteran who walked with the aid of a cane walking stick. I gave my evidence and was then cross examined by Mr. Fonseca who without warning smashed the stick onto the desk. He then bellowed, "I put it to you officer that my client did **not** use such threatening words".

Being taken aback and shaken by his method of questioning, I immediately replied, "If you were threatened with an iron bar being wrapped around your f***ing head, you would certainly remember it". The solicitor looked at me, turned his head at the bench, smiled, and said, "No further questions" and sat down.

We met on a few occasions after this heated confrontation, but he never hit the desk again with his cane.

I discovered some time later that this was his standard form of defence whenever a young constable was giving evidence.

ANOTHER FINE MESS YOU GOT ME INTO TO!: Hugh Colley

The 1969–70 South Africa rugby union tour was the most controversial sporting event held in Britain and Ireland. Several anti-apartheid protests were staged during the tour with several matches disrupted by protestors. In January, Llanelli hosted a match at Stradey against the Springboks. At the time my good mate, Phil (Hoppy) Hopkins and I were probationers stationed at Llandrindod Wells. We were among a huge contingent of officers from throughout the force area deployed to Llanelli to ensure the match passed without incident.



Following a briefing at The Glen Ballroom, Hoppy and I took up our allocated post - the VIPs, officials and players car park. Shortly after kick-off, with the Stradey choir in fine voice, Hoppy suggested we enter the ground to watch the match and take it in turns to check the car park. It seemed like a good idea at the time, so we entered the ground via an unmanned entrance. After just a few minutes watching the battle from the terracing a call came over the Pocketphone radio stating the Inspector would confer with us shortly. No problem, we could just retrace our steps – wrong!



By now there was no way out of the ground as all entrances had been shut and **LOCKED**. With the clock ticking, we somehow managed to scramble over a high perimeter wall, much to the amusement of a group of spectators. Although we were both young and fit, it was no mean feat as we were in full uniform, including helmets, Doc Marten boots and winter weight raincoats!

Shortly after 'touch-down' the Inspector came into view. We informed him everything was in order with no sign of protestors. He responded, 'Right, get yourselves into the ground and escort the players off the field at half time and full time'

We made our way back into the ground, this time via the main entrance and watched the match from the side of the player's tunnel. What I remember most was the size of the South African forwards – they looked as if they were hewn out of teak!

For the record, the day passed peacefully with the Scarlets narrowly losing 10 -9.

PEMBROKESHIRE'S FIRST AIR SUPPORT UNIT: Harry Rees

In September 1967, I was posted to Pembroke Dock after completion of initial training at Bridgend.,

I won't name the station Inspector, but those who served in Pembrokeshire Police will know who I am referring to. He had previously served in the RAF but I don't think he had any interest in air navigation after leaving military service. However, one might say he was a man well ahead of his time.

On the second Thursday in October, the annual three day Michaelmas Fair opened in Main Street, Pembroke. The opening of the ancient fair is a great tradition with the opening ceremony taking place in the presence of the Mayor, Town Crier and local civic dignitaries.

On the Thursday evening all vehicles were prevented from travelling along Main Street while the fair was open. The Inspector took charge of the operation and apart from two female Special Constables, I was the only Constable on duty in Main Street.

After the closure of the street, a local businessman asked me whether he was allowed to move his car from Main Street. If not, he wouldn't have access to it during

the fair. I gave him permission to move his car, which resulted in him driving it just a short distance along the closed street.

The Inspector witnessed this and quickly approached me accompanied by one of the Special Constables. He was obviously very angry and told me in no uncertain terms "If you do that again, I will knock you over that f***ing wall".

Who am I to judge the Inspector's intentions except to say the wall I was standing next to was about two and a half metres high. Therefore, I would have to have become airborne.

Perhaps the Inspector's innovative thinking was not fully understood until several years later. Dyfed Powys Police caught up with his vision in April 1990 with the introduction of the Air Support Unit!

WM FROM WM6 ARE YOU RECEIVING?: Edwina Bloomfield (nee Williams)

Back in the 60s, I was working a day shift along with Jacqui Davies (now Jones) in the Mid-Wales Police HQ Information (Control) Room at Newtown (shown). We were



employed as telephonists, radio operators and administration clerks working alongside other civilian staff and Cadets with a Sergeant in overall charge.

In those days Newtown Police Station was situated in the same street as HQ but about 50 yards away. One morning everything was peaceful as Jacqui and me went about our daily duties. All of a sudden the peace was shattered when we heard "WM from WM6" being repeated a few times. However, the call

was NOT coming through the radio console. (WM6 was the Land Rover based at Newtown and WM was the Mid-Wales call sign).

We looked at each other and quickly realised someone was attempting to book on using the Tannoy loudspeaker instead of the VHF radio! The 'announcement' was made on full volume and could probably be heard in the town centre. Jacqui and I ran to the Traffic Inspector's office, opened the window and called down the street "Go ahead WM6" by which time the red faced Inspector, who was a proper gentleman, realised what he had done. He quickly switched off the Tannoy and booked on – this time using the radio! Although we were in fits of laughter - one of us somehow managed to answer him on the radio.

Those were the days; we had lots of fun as well as taking our jobs very seriously.

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING KEY (PART 1): Phil Hopkins

Back in the early seventies, the annual Welshpool Police Ball was the place to be seen and tickets were like gold dust. PC Dai Richards and I were the only two officers on duty on the night of the ball. There was no Sergeant supervision and the Inspector on call had been promoted recently after years on CID and was learning the ropes as he went along.

On patrol, around 11:00pm we spotted a lorry, the driver was known to us and suspected of being a drink driver. We stopped the lorry, the driver was barely able to stand, let alone be in charge of a vehicle. He wasn't coming quietly, but we managed to get him in the police car and drove him to the police station.

Whilst this arrest was taking place, we received a report of an RTA about five miles away. No other officers were available to attend, so we had to carry on with our incident until we were freed up. Back at the Station, the Inspector was nowhere to be

found – he didn't have a radio and was not at home. We eventually tracked him down at the Town Hall, socialising at the ball!

This was his first breathalyser procedure which had to be explained to him – fortunately, he was a quick learner! The phone calls reporting the RTA kept coming. Finally, I was in a position to attend the RTA, leaving Dai to deal with the drink / drive prisoner. But where were the car keys? A search of the Station failed to find them, and D11 was the only vehicle available for me to use.

In desperation, I took the keys of the prisoner's lorry to see if they would work. To my amazement, they fitted the ignition of the BMC1100. Some 30 minutes or so after the initial report, I was on my way to the accident. So, where were the keys to the police car eventually found?

Dai Richards can answer that - they turned up in his trousers pocket!

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING KEY (PART 2): Emyr Williams

In 1995 I was a probationer stationed in Cardigan – my Tutor Constable was the legendary Alwyn Trevor. It was court day in Cardigan; the magistrates dealt with several prisoners including some that had been brought to the court from Aberystwyth by Phil Small and Dai 'Doc' Thomas. Due to the numbers involved, Alwyn and I helped out by providing escort to HMP Swansea.



I booked out a set of handcuffs and was reminded by Alwyn to make sure I picked a set with a key as some keys were missing. I carefully selected a pouch with a key attached.

One of the prisoners made me feel very uneasy as I'd had dealings with him previously and by the look on his face he remembered me! After being sentenced to serve time at Swansea Prison, Alwyn told me to 'cuff him' so I did.

On the way to Swansea Alwyn and I sat in the back of the van, tasked with keeping an eye on our 'guests'. On arrival at Swansea, Phil and Dai dealt with their prisoners without any problem. To get our prisoner booked in, Alwyn dealt with the paperwork and told me to remove the handcuffs to allow the transfer to be completed.

I took hold of the key and told the prisoner I was about to take the handcuffs off. Key into the left lock, turn clockwise, nothing, anticlockwise, nothing. OK let's try again - again nothing. I could feel a slight feeling of panic starting to rise in my stomach.

The prisoner got more and more agitated and was threatening to sue us all and have our pensions! Eventually, after several attempts the penny dropped - we had a Chubb handcuff key but the cuffs in the pouch were **not** Chubb handcuffs! Alwyn looked at me and put his head in his hands. This was the cue for everyone (except the prisoner) to burst out laughing!

The prisoner was told by an officer to go with the staff to the workshop for the handcuffs to be cut off. At this point, he went ballistic until being told that the only other option was for the cuffs to be burnt off with an oxy acetylene torch - you can guess which option he chose!

The return journey took ages and for the whole trip Phil and Dai didn't stop laughing! Alwyn just kept looking at me as if to say, "What next"!

Three weeks later I received an envelope via internal mail, when I opened it the contents fell onto the desk. It was the remnants of the handcuffs together with a note, 'Thanks for the best laugh in a long time Emyr Cuffs, a little memento for you!' News travels fast, from that day onwards whenever I visited Aberystwyth I was greeted with 'Emyr Cuffs, how's it going?'

I've had many nicknames over the years but Emyr Cuffs is one of my favourites!

A MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM THE 'GOOD OLD DAYS': Jeff Davies

I was PC 440 in Dyfed Powys Police before transferring to South Wales Police. During the early 1980's, I was single crewed on an afternoon shift patrolling the Swansea area in Tango Whiskey 24. A message came over the radio from the control room of a stolen vehicle sighting which was heading east from Swansea towards the M4.

At the time I was driving a Vauxhall Senator, a very fast and responsive car and replied that I would keep an eye out for it. The Vauxhall Senator was an ideal motorway car with a 3.0i, engine giving a top speed of 150 mph.

I made my way towards the M4, east bound and made such good progress that before I knew it I was approaching Bridgend. This was way out of my allocated patrol area and I had not updated control of my present location.

Time had flown by so I abandoned the search for the stolen vehicle, I turned around and made my way back quickly along the M4, west bound towards Swansea. It was now 9.30pm; my location was now approaching Port Talbot, travelling along a fast section of the M4.

The radio crackled into life; "TW24, location please". Reply; "Swansea City Centre". Control Room "Can you make your way to the M4, we have a Bridgend Traffic car following a vehicle travelling along the M4 West Bound towards Port Talbot and they can't catch up with it". Reply, "Will do". Glancing at my rear-view mirror, I could see the headlights of a vehicle travelling quite some way behind me.

I immediately slowed down and pulled onto the hard shoulder, switching on the blue lights as I did so. The Bridgend Traffic car came to a halt behind me and I spoke to the double crew, explaining the reason for my location. Some laughter took place; I guess they were so disappointed! Bridgend car to Control, "Please cancel TW24, we have stopped the vehicle" Control to TW24, "Please cancel, resume normal patrol: Reply, "Will do!!".

Many thanks to Mr. Mullins for undertaking the difficult task of judging the entries As I'm rather embarrassed about 'yours truly' coming first, I will donate the prize money to COPS and The Salvation Army. Well done to Emyr 'Cuffs' on 2nd place.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM by Phil Hopkins

Following last years' visit, Gill and I paid a second visit to the Arboretum in September. We wandered through the magnificent grounds, visiting memorials to many associations which we missed on our previous visit.

When we got to *The Beat*, we found that nothing was laid out in alphabetical order. Fortunately, we eventually found the DPP memorial plaque, but it was virtually at the end of the route we had taken.



In the middle of *The Beat* is a Police blue lamp, which is a memorial to the youngest (and first) police woman to die on duty – Mandy Rayner, Hertfordshire Constabulary. Mandy was only 18 years old when she was run down by a drunk driver in 1982.

DYFED-POWYS – OUR MAGNIFICENT SPORTING PAST

Football: Match played at Aberystwyth shortly after amalgamation in May 1968 v Cardiff City Police (won 2-1). A feisty affair following a 'robust' challenge by a certain DPP player who a few months later was safeguarding our future king!



Back (L to R): Lawson Morgan Hugh Colley Colin Williams Terry Parkhouse Don Evans Phil Gale. Front: Pete (90) Davies Gwynne Hughes Chris Brennan Peter Davies and Brian Oakley

Rugby: A Division Rugby XV taken in the early 80's before a inter-divisional match.



*Back (L to R): Roger Butler, Ken Evans, Howell Williams, Bob Jones, Dilwyn Augustus, Paul Heatherington, Peter McGarragle, Del Phillips, Terry Stokes, Ieuan Davies, Mike Donovan, Gwilym Evans, John Davies, Geoff Roberts.
Front: David Hewitt, Julian Rule, Norman Welch, Malcom Thompson, Mike Davies, Alan Lewis, Paul Jewell*

Cricket: Taken at Trostre, Llanelli in 1983 when DPP played Gwent in the PAA Trophy competition.



Back (L to R): Mike Foster, Dave Morris, Terry Stone, Middle row: Eirwen (Curly) Edwards, Dylan Jones, Marcus Soar, Alun Harries, Ellis Davies, John Davies (Umpire). Front: Richard Evans, Gareth Slaymaker, Gwyndaf Evans, Stuart Green

Bowls: D Division bowlers, probably taken in the early 1980s – venue unknown



Back (L to R): Dal James Geoff Payne Phil Rees Bill Price Middle: Mike James Joe Price Mike Richards Bert Mills Jeff Hopkins Wyn Edwards Bill Pryce Alan Breeze Front: Gerard Thomas Emrys Morgan Mike Humphreys Ron Thorogood Cliff Lloyd N/K.

Sadly, several of those pictured are no longer with us.

Boxing: March 1968, a young Barrie Davies of Pembroke ABC took on Vernon Lewis of Milford Haven ABC in a light heavy weight bout. Barrie was floored in the first round by a cracking right hook which saw blood gushing from his nose. Barrie rose from the canvas and went hard after his opponent. According to a local newspaper report 'a bloody battle ensued, it was like nature in the raw'.



After three rounds the referee stepped in to save Lewis from further punishment and award the fight to Barrie. Both boxers received rapturous applause and a standing ovation from the spectators.

Almost immediately after the end of the bout, Barrie left the Albion Hall, Pembroke Dock to report for a night shift at the nearby station. According to Barrie, by the early hours he was virtually asleep on his feet.

Barrie hung up his gloves a couple of years later, his boxing record being: 14 bouts, 10 wins and 4 defeats.

Barrie hung up his gloves a couple of years later, his boxing record being: 14 bouts, 10 wins and 4 defeats.

Lifesaving Championships: Each year serving Police Officers take part in the National Lifesaving Championships. Team photo (below left) taken in 2002 at Bognor Regis of the DPP team that competed for the Police Baton.



L to R: Terry Davies, Kevin Jones, Tim Winchester (now a police officer in Auckland, New Zealand) Scott Patrick and Andrew (Snowy) Thomas

A teenage girl pulled unconscious from Aberystwyth harbour owes her life to Kevin Jones. Kevin, who lives in Haverfordwest, was life-saving champion of Wales and the DPP life-saving instructor.

In 1989, Kevin was a traffic officer stationed at Aberystwyth and waded 30-40 yards from the shore in freezing cold water before reaching the 17 year old girl. She had been in the water for some time with no sign of life. Kevin was joined by two firemen and put his life-saving expertise to good use, administering mouth to mouth resuscitation before he saw signs of life. The girl was taken to Bronglais Hospital and made a full recovery.

The photo on the right shows Kevin being presented with a National Resuscitation Award.

Golf: The inaugural Dyfed-Powys NARPO Golf Day was held at Builth Wells Golf Club in 2013. Apart from the Covid years, the competition has been played at the same venue every year since. The 2025 event was held on Thursday 11th September with 11 players competing for the David M Jones & Partners Cup.



From Left to Right: Ian Francis, Stuart Eckley, Ian John, Mike Benbow, Gareth Wheatman, Adrian Evans, Shane Davies, Dylan Jones, Terry Davies, James Davies and Steve Cole

The competition was played on an immaculate course during a day of sunshine and showers. A closely fought battle was won by Adrian Evans with 36 Stableford points, beating Gareth 'Stan' Wheatman on the back nine. Third place went to James Davies with 31 points. Longest drive on the 18th hole was Dylan Jones and Nearest the Pin at just 2' from the hole on the 15th was Ian John.



The presentations were made by Mike Benbow, Chair of Dyfed-Powys NARPO. Many thanks again to Builth Wells Golf Club and to David M Jones & Partners for their continued sponsorship of the competition.

Left: Adrian receiving the trophy from Mike Benbow