



DYFED-POWYS NARPO NEWSLETTER



Autumn / Winter 2023

FROM THE EDITOR: Hugh Colley



Welcome to the latest issue of the branch newsletter.

Sadly, 2023 has been dominated by conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East. On a much happier note, last May the coronation of King Charles III took place at Westminster Abbey.

The ceremony prompted celebrations in the United Kingdom and Police officers were deployed to London from throughout England and Wales, tasked with ensuring the day passed smoothly.

Within our area, four excellent coronation celebration events were held. Phil Hopkins of Welshpool quite rightly mentioned during the North Powys afternoon tea that the events provided an excellent opportunity for members to meet up and renew friendships. After all, tackling loneliness is a prime objective of NARPO.

There's a wide range of articles in this issue, including a recollection of an incident when four of our colleagues displayed outstanding bravery when tackling an armed robber in Carmarthen. Also, there's items about visits made by two of our members - one to Machu Picchu in Peru and the other to the Ruhr Valley in Germany.

Hopefully, there's something to suit everyone including anecdotes and cartoons to lighten the mood – please let me know if you have ideas for future issues.

Finally, from time to time I receive emails querying as to why photos are no longer being posted on the DPP NARPO website. The simple explanation being that I haven't received any new material, so if you have photos suitable for inclusion please send them to me. (hughcolley144@btinternet.com)

May I wish you and your families a lovely Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mike Benbow



Dyfed Powys NARPO are in the enviable position of having the best pension support scheme in the United Kingdom. The All Wales Pension team is headed by Tony Williams based at Police Headquarters, Carmarthen. Tony and his team are regarded as experts on pension matters, as a result, their expertise is sought by several forces throughout England and Wales.

The team are there to help both serving and retired officers. They will provide advice that is in the best interest of the individual officer and their families. It is essential that should you need advice about Police pension matters you obtain advice from the Pensions team and not another source as this could result in a member and their family losing out financially. Contact details for the Pensions team can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

As none of us are getting any younger, it's worth considering whether we have the appropriate procedures in place for when we die or need permanent care. At a recent NARPO welfare seminar held at Newtown, we received a presentation about Wills and Powers of Attorney from representatives of Harvey Howell (Solicitors) who are Corporate & Gold partners of NARPO.

Sometimes you hear horror stories during these type of presentations, however I quickly realised during the presentation that having a Standard Will may not be adequate.

It is strongly advisable to review your current arrangements to ascertain whether your existing Will meets your and your family's needs. Harvey Howell provides a **free** private consultation to answer important questions about your circumstances.

Consider who you want to inherit your estate and who will manage your affairs in the intervening years. There is no obligation to use Harvey Howells but please ensure you get good legal advice and the advice covers your particular circumstances.

Contact details for Harvey Howell:
Phone 0330 175 9959 Email: NARPO@harveyhowell.co.uk

Members are reminded that the Police Mutual provides a confidential telephone helpline. Information on how to access the helpline can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

At the recent NARPO annual conference held at Blackpool, delegates voted in favour of NARPO becoming what in principle is a limited company. The change will occur in early 2024 - details of what this means can be found in the November issue of NARPO News.

Finally, if you know of an officer who is about to retire or is retired but not a member of NARPO, please encourage them to join and enjoy the benefits that are available. The current subscription is £24.60 for the whole calendar year.

IN MEMORIAM

The following have sadly passed away since the last newsletter:

Mr. Michael Pritchard (Rtd. DC)
Mrs. Janette Williams, wife of Idris Williams (Rtd. Insp)
Mr. Leslie Alan Coles (Rtd. DS548)
Mr. Robert (Bob) James Morris (Rtd. PC108)
Mr. Bernard John Jones (Rtd. PS616)
Mr. Christopher Stanley James (Rtd. Supt).
Mrs Juli Rees, wife of Mr Roger Rees (Rtd. PC)
Mr. Gwynne Morgan Hughes (Rtd. PC693)
Mr. Michael Ridgeway (Rtd. PC371)
Mr. Steven Jeffrey Rogers (Rtd. DC)
Mr. Dave Morris (Rtd. PS)
Mr. Gareth Owen (GOJ) Jones (Rtd. DC205)
Mr. Vic Morris (Rtd. PS316)
Mr. Albert (Bert) Joseph Pugh (Rtd. PS)
Miss Susan Mary Brien (Rtd. DC843)
Mr. Alun Henry Evans (Rtd. PS7)
Mr. Alfred John Thomas (Tom) Morris (Rtd. PS)
Mr Emyr Richard Daniel (Rtd. PS197)
Mrs Gwendoline Emma Stubbs, widow of the late Mr Brian Stubbs (Rtd. C/Supt)
Mr Terry Stone (Rtd. PS292)

NOTIFYING THE DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE POLICE PENSION SCHEME

Following the death of a Member of the **Dyfed-Powys** pension scheme the scheme administrator needs to be informed either by phone, email or in writing using the below details:

Phone No	Email address	Postal address
(01267) 224155	Pensions@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk	Dyfed Pension Fund St. David's Park Building 2 (Room 01/007) Job's Well Road, Carmarthen SA313HB
Alternatively, contact the designated Pensions Officer below		
Miss Megan Bessent	Megan.bessent@dyfed.powys.police.uk	Phone: 07816 081412

The following information about the Member will be required:

- Full Name
- National Insurance Number
- First line of their address
- Date of their death

The person notifying the death will also be required to provide their full name and details of the Member's next of kin, personal representative or executor. The administrator will write to all the relevant parties and enclose forms that need to be completed. Once the completed forms have been returned any death benefits that are due will be processed.

REMEMBERING INSPECTOR GARETH EARP



On Thursday 29th June Inspector Gareth Earp 43 years, sadly died following a road traffic collision on the A470 Llangurig to Rhayader road. Gareth had finished duty at Aberystwyth and was travelling to his home in Rhayader.

Gareth was the much loved son of NARPO members, Graham and Mair Earp of Rhayader. He is survived by his wife Tasmin and three young sons Ethan, Theo and Joel,

Inspector Earp served with Dyfed-Powys Police for 21 years and was the Roads Policing Unit Inspector. He previously worked as an Inspector in Ceredigion, but the majority of his career was with Specialist Operations.

Gareth started his career in Llandrindod Wells and quickly moved to armed response, where he spent the next eight years, also joining the Specialist Firearms Rapid Intervention team. In 2012, Gareth transferred to the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) based initially in Brecon and then in Newtown.

Gareth became a police driving instructor, road death lead investigator, pursuit tactical advisor, and team leader on the motorcycle VIP Escort Team. He escorted world leaders and members of the Royal Family across Wales, London and Scotland. In 2017 Gareth was promoted to RPU Sergeant and then to Ceredigion Inspector in 2020.

He was a popular figure in the Rhayader community and well known for his involvement with both senior and junior football throughout Powys. Gareth was a youth football coach and official, having played previously for both Rhayader Town and St Harmon, at the time of his death he was chairman of Rhayader Town Football Club.

On Thursday 20th July, the day before Gareth's funeral, King Charles and Queen Camilla visited Brecon Cathedral. Tasmin and the three boys were taken down to Brecon by Police escort and had a private 10 minute audience with the King and Queen.

On Friday 28th July before setting off on the annual Police Unity Tour to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, 15 cyclists held a moment of silence outside Aberystwyth Police station where Gareth was a highly respected officer. Each member of the team wore a black armband featuring the force crest, a thin blue line badge (see below) and Gareth's collar number – 1079.

Our sincere condolences are extended to members of Gareth's family.

THE THIN BLUE LINE



Thin Blue Line patches and badges were created as a mark of remembrance for fallen officers. They are sold in support of the charity Care of Police Survivors which supports the families of fallen officers.

HOSPITAL GIFT FUND

Reminder: 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.

If required, the Secretary will arrange for a payment to be made to the member from the Hospital Gift Fund. While the favoured method of payment is 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)

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.

WHO'S WHO AT DPP NARPO

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

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

Deputy Secretary: Ian John

Phone: 07414 288886 Email: wjohn121@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 2023

The Office of National Statistics has published the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2023 and this stands at 6.7%.

Public service pensions in payment are increased each April in line with prices, measured according to the annual increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to September of the previous year.

This is in line with the statutory requirement to increase public service pensions in payment each year by the same rate as the additional State Pension.

POLICE MUTUAL CARELINE



Life can be tough at times and we all need a little help along the way. Whether it's coping with bereavement, physical or mental health issues, legal concerns, debt and financial concerns, or family and work troubles, it can mean a lot to talk things through with someone who understands.

That's why... The new Care Line, provided by Health Assured, provides you with 24/7/365 access to a confidential telephone helpline and health and wellbeing e-portal and app.

This is exclusively available to serving and retired Police Officers, Police Staff and family members.

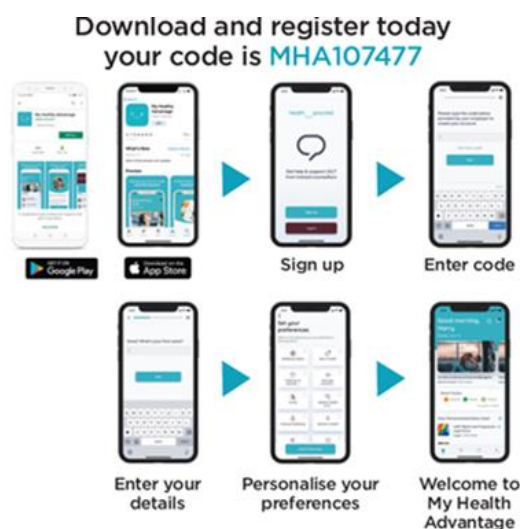
In your time of need you will be able to talk to a trained counsellor who will seek to understand your needs and provide a tailored support plan. You may be referred on to a specialist advisor who is qualified, accredited and experienced in their specific specialism and who will be able to provide you with information relating to your specific area of concern. Where appropriate, you may also be referred on for counselling.

If you would prefer not to talk to someone directly, you'll find a wealth of information relating to a range of wellbeing topics on the health and wellbeing e-portal or app, which you access below.

Health & Wellbeing e-portal:

Username: Policemutual Password: Careline

Health & Wellbeing App:



To get the app, visit the [Apple App store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#) and download the Health and Wellbeing Mobile App provided by Health Assured.

Once downloaded, register with your code **MHA107477**, enter your details and personalise your preferences.



THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME: Ray White



Mr White has a long, distinguished history with the force. He was appointed Deputy Chief Constable in September 1986, and went on to take up the position as Chief Constable in June 1989. In 2000, he retired after 11 years at the helm of the best performing police force in England and Wales at the time.

Today, Mr White lives in Queensland, Australia, in this article he recounts his early days as a Cadet and Constable in the Hampshire Constabulary.

I have always considered myself a very lucky person and certainly, in the police service we often need a bit of luck, combined with dedicated, professional police work, to achieve success. On a personal level, I enjoyed a career of more than forty years and had the good fortune to work with some first-class police and support staff.

As a young officer I was also lucky enough to work under some outstanding senior officers who taught me a great deal.

I served for two years as a Cadet, doing all the jobs that no one else wanted, such as cleaning out the stray dog kennel! All good character building! I did manage to persuade a lady who brought in a stray 'Collie type' dog to retain it on my assurance that it was a male, only to find that 'he' gave birth to six pups a few weeks later! Fortunately, the Sergeant smoothed things over!

My first station as a Cadet was Aldershot in Hampshire, a military town and home to the Parachute regiment. This was right at the end of National service and could get very lively. The local officers were very good to me, and I went out on patrol with them, at all hours, doing things which I am sure Cadets were not expected to get involved in! I got a lot of experience very quickly. The highlight of my time in Aldershot was meeting a beautiful young blonde who later persuaded me to marry her!

After my appointment as a Constable, aged nineteen, I was posted to Eastleigh, a town dominated by a large factory making locomotives and a Pirelli tyre factory. It had all the character of an industrial town. My only introduction to the station by a local experienced PC was to advise me to go to the local estate agent and get a town map so that I would be able to find my way back to the station! I started normal duties on the town beat without any 'ceremony.' The assumption was that if you were wearing the uniform, you could do the job!

There was only one large shop in the town – a huge branch of the Co-op which covered a full block of the town centre. Being a railway town there was much train movement day and night. When it was foggy the rail authorities put detonators on the line to warn drivers that they were coming into the station. At night these loud bangs could be heard every few minutes. One night, thieves took advantage of the noise to blow the safe at the Co-op!!

I was on nights the following week when it was again very foggy with much detonator noise. The rear of the Co-op was in a narrow unlit yard. I had a quiet walk to check the rear of the shop. I did not use my torch so as not to give away my presence when I stumbled on something. I found that this was a pair of shoes in good condition and placed carefully to one side. I then used my torch and could see at the top of a drainpipe, a broken window. There was every chance that the offender(s) were still inside.

Remember, personal radios or mobile phones had not been invented! I hid the shoes so that the offender would be barefoot if he came out! I then sprinted half a mile to the nearest phone box. I knew that I was the only one out on foot patrol and the double manned traffic car could have been anywhere in the Division. The Sergeant had gone home to bed at midnight, at the end of his shift.

I sprinted back and kept obs. There was no sign of movement. In about 20 minutes the Sgt arrived, together with the Inspector and the key holder. In those days an Inspector was 'God' with a Sergeant sitting at his right hand! The traffic car arrived and covered the front of the building. The keyholder opened up for us and put on all the lights. I was very relieved to find a man inside and arrested him. It turned out that he had been released from prison a couple of weeks before having served a long sentence for murder!! How lucky was that! I got a commendation too!

So began a long career when I often found myself in the right place at the right time! There was an old saying 'Better to be born lucky than rich'. This was just as well because it was many years before police officers were reasonably well paid and this was due to a Welsh Judge, Lord Edmund Davies, who headed a Royal Commission on the police service leading to an ongoing pay formula which gave us a good pay rise and maintained the same comparative level against a range of other jobs.

He should have been made the Patron Saint' of policing! We were very lucky that he was appointed.



Ray White and Steve (now an International Best Selling Crime writer) caught up with Stuart Carpenter (DPP Technical Support Unit) who was visiting Australia for a conference.

THE 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

The introduction of a default 20mph speed limit in September on most residential roads across Wales is one of the most controversial laws that the Welsh Government has introduced.

WARNING: The education phase has ended and the 20mph speed limit is now being enforced.

Cartoon courtesy of Gary Jones



DYFED-POWYS KING CHARLES CORONATION CELEBRATIONS



PEMBROKESHIRE



The first event was held at the Plas Hyfryd Hotel, Narberth in May when 35 members enjoyed an afternoon tea fit for a King. During the afternoon, the audience enjoyed hearing Don Evans (standing) relating anecdotes about safeguarding the future King while he studied at Aberystwyth University in 1969.

NORTH POWYS



Maesmawr Hall Hotel near Newtown was the venue for the second celebratory event. In glorious June sunshine 27 members sat down to a superb afternoon tea. While they didn't have Don Evans to entertain them, it didn't prevent members reminiscing about being on duty during the many visits to the force by His Majesty.

Judging by the laughter at both events the celebrations were enjoyed by one and all.

CARMARTHENSHIRE



In early July, 30 members were welcomed aboard a steam train on the Gwili Railway for a scenic journey through pretty fields and over sparkling rivers. During the trip they were served a traditional cream tea (minus the cream)!

SOUTH POWYS



The final event was a sumptuous afternoon tea held at Peterstone Court Hotel, Llanhamlach, Brecon in September. The gathering was held around a large table which enabled everyone to have a catch up on what's been happening in their lives since the pandemic. Two and a half hours quickly passed with plenty of laughter. The party broke up with everyone promising to get together again in December.

BRAVERY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER

It was 10:30 am on a lovely sunny Wednesday morning, 30th March 1988 and the centre of Carmarthen town was crowded with shoppers. Little did anyone think that one of our colleagues would come very close to losing his life.



Just after 10:30am the staff at Top Shop, a woman's clothing shop in Red Street (left), were serving customers when a man entered the shop armed with a sawn off shotgun and demanded money. He was handed the contents of the till and left.

A member of the shocked staff phoned the police who were on the scene in minutes. The officer-in-charge, the late Detective Supt. Jim Meldrum directed that a member of the shop staff be driven around the town in a police car to see if she could pick out the armed robber amongst the shoppers. Detective Inspector Richie Parry, Detective Sergeant Dai Thomas and WPC Rose Lloyd accompanied the shop assistant.

Half an hour later they confronted the man just yards away from the shop which he had robbed. The man produced a sawn-off shotgun and Richie grappled with him. The gun went off so close to Richie's face that he saw the wadding from a cartridge pass in front of his eyes before he collapsed having sustained a deep gash on the head and a perforated eardrum caused by the shotgun blast.

The man ran off and DC Gary Evans gave chase to the man. Several times during the chase he turned around and threatened Gary with the shotgun. Eventually, Gary was able to tackle him and disarm him. After a violent struggle, the man was finally subdued by Gary and the other officers. A loaded 12 bore shotgun and a quantity of cash were recovered.

The man was subsequently jailed for eight years at Carmarthen Crown Court after pleading guilty to armed robbery and wounding with intent to resist arrest.



In August 1989 the officers received a letter informing them that they were to be awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

In January 1990, the brave four attended a presentation ceremony at Police Headquarters where they received their awards from the Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, David Mansell Lewis. (Gary had since been promoted to Sergeant).

Photo: Dai Thomas (later DI), Rose Lloyd, Richie Parry and Gary Evans (later Supt).

The last word goes to Gary, "Looking back at it now some 45 years on I can remember it as if it was yesterday, I think we were lucky to have got away with what some would say was a foolish course of action but we came away unscathed with the exception of the late departed Richie. Would we do it again.....probably!"

Many thanks to Gary for his assistance in compiling this article.

THE DAMBUSTERS TOUR by Alan Edwards

Alan Edwards of Trimsaran served with Gwent Police and is a member of Dyfed-Powys NARPO. In May this year Alan visited the Ruhr Valley, Germany, the scene of the famous World War 2 Dambusters raid on German dams in May 1943 by 617 Squadron RAF Bomber Command. Alan shares memories of his visit.

It all started when a friend suggested I should visit the Dambusters dams. I mentioned my travel plans to my mother who told me that Marlene's uncle took part in the raid. (Marlene is a family friend).

Ten minutes later I was sat at Marlene's home as she kindly showed me a load of information relating to her uncle, namely Pilot Officer (P/O) Frederick Charles Hawkins. Marlene told me that he was a member of 617 Squadron and took part in the raid on the dams. Sadly, he lost his life 18 months later during a daylight attack on the Kembs Barrage and was buried at Durnbach War Cemetery in Bavaria.



On my way to Harwich I visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. On the day of my visit there was a presentation about the Lancaster Bomber – the plane that took part in the bombing raids.

Left: Alan in front of a Lancaster bomber with a 'bouncing bomb'.

An overnight ferry to the Hook of Holland and soon I was at Arnhem which is probably best known for a famous airborne Second World War battle.

A few days later, I was at the Möhne Dam (below left) followed by a visit to the Eder Dam – these are two of the three dams targeted during the famous raid. I was amazed at how peaceful it was – a complete contrast to 80 years ago (below right).



On leaving the Ruhr Valley I visited the beautiful Durnbach War Cemetery where P/O Hawkins was laid to rest, it was an enormous honour to lay flowers on behalf of Marlene and her family.

During the long journey home I saw a road sign for Kembs where P/O Hawkins had lost his life. I visited the barrage which today is a hydro-dam generating electricity and this completed my Dambusters journey. I feel very fortunate to have been able to make this trip, it was sad, humbling yet hugely fulfilling.

HIKING THE INCA TRAIL by Rob Price

For my 60th birthday in 2021, I received a special present from my daughters - hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru. Sadly, Covid prevented that from happening, fast forward to October 2023 and the trip was back on.

After meeting my youngest daughter Bryony and her partner Daniel at Lima, we flew to Cusco for three days of essential high altitude acclimatisation where even mild exertion took your breath away.

Two days later we climbed the 16,522 feet Rainbow Mountain. The training had paid off and I was confident that altitude sickness wouldn't be a problem on the hike.

The first day of the main hike arrived with a 4:30am start for our group of 13. After a three-hour drive, we arrived at Olanaytambo and met our porters who would carry our excess equipment up the mountains. Breakfast was served, then on to Piscacucho where we entered the 26 mile long Inca Trail for our first seven mile stretch. The scenery along the route was outstanding with excellent weather conditions.



Left: Rob on the right with Bryony and Daniel

Day two meant another early start to ascend Dead Woman's Pass – the highest point of the route. The steps to the top of the pass were relentless and our elation on reaching the top was off the scale. We had done it but now the only way was down with over 750 steps to the valley below.

Day three was more pleasant with many Inca sites to visit on the route. After yet another amazing meal we thanked our chef personally and also our brilliant porters.

Day four arrived and we were up and out of camp very quickly. Soon after daybreak the entrance into the Machu Picchu National Park opened and we headed to the Sun Gate where we would catch our first sight of Machu Picchu (right).



Finally, we were looking down on Machu Picchu as the clouds and mist slowly cleared. What a sight to behold! A lump formed in my throat! I hugged Bryony, savouring this special time together before we made our way down into Machu Picchu.

After two hours, it was time to leave before a train journey back to Cusco where we bade farewell to our guides and group members.

It was an amazing and unforgettable experience.

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP!

The following anecdotes from down the years have been received:

RADIO SILENCE EXPLAINED: Nigel Matthews

As the morning Sergeant at a station that I won't divulge, one morning shift a certain PC was allocated the town beat. After an uneventful first half of the shift, the PC returned to the station for their refreshment break.

Breakfast consumed and refreshed, the PC went back onto their beat and carried on foot patrol. A job came into the station and several attempts were made to allocate the job to the officer by radio, however, the calls were unanswered.

A search party was sent out in an effort to locate the officer. Initial thoughts being that the radio battery had gone flat or there was some other valid explanation why they were not contactable.

The officer was eventually located safe and well and the cause of the radio silence soon became apparent. In the officer's radio holster was the remote control from the TV in the station canteen while the radio was safely located on top of the TV in the canteen!!.

WALES V ITALY AT CARMARTHEN: Dorian Penfold

Late one Saturday evening during the late 1970's, I was on duty in Carmarthen with several other colleagues including two colleagues of Italian descent: PCs Alan Tinnuche and Derek Massocchi.

A call was received from the landlord of a local public houses stating a local youth was causing trouble and requested the Police to assist in his removal. Alan and Derek were deployed to the pub. While escorting the youth from the premises, he became violent and Derek was kicked in the groin.

The youth was overpowered and conveyed by the officers to the Police Station having been arrested for assaulting a Police officer. The following morning he was charged with the offence and bailed to the local Magistrates court.

When the case came before the magistrates, the youth pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined accordingly.

The case was reported in the Carmarthen Times mentioning that during the scuffle that PC Massocchi had been kicked in the genitals.

A short time afterwards Alan was enjoying a quiet drink while off duty in another public house in Carmarthen when he was heckled by a local youth. The conversation went as follows:

Youth: "I see it took three of you Italians to arrest one Welshman".

PC Tinnuche: "No it didn't, there was just two of us".

Youth: "Oh no it wasn't, it was definitely three of you, I read it in the paper, there was Tinnuche, Massocchi and Genitals"

IT'S A FAIR COP FOR JOHN THOMAS: Dorian Penfold

Another incident that occurred on a Saturday evening in the late 70's this time involving a Policewoman - I believe it was Llinos Thomas. While on foot patrol in Carmarthen she came across a man stood facing a fence who was obviously urinating.

The man, who was known to her, was reported for urinating in a public place and a few weeks later the case was heard by the magistrates. The case was reported as follows in the local press *"The man was confronted by the officer who saw that he was urinating against the fence, when he turned around she recognised him. It was John Thomas."*

DOG HANDLER TO THE RESCUE AT TENBY: Harry Rees

I never had any ambition to be a Police dog handler but in August 1972 I found myself taking on the role at the Three Mariners Public House, Tenby. The town was packed with holidaymakers, mainly from the Welsh valleys as it was the miner's fortnight. The licensee was John Bolton who was a strict landlord.

Licensing hours in those days were 11am to 3pm with the pub closing for the afternoon until it re-opened in the early evening.

At around 3.30pm on this particular day, John approached me whilst I was on duty and told me that half a dozen men were refusing to leave his pub. They wanted to carry on drinking until opening time at 5.30pm - John was totally opposed to this.



The group were not confrontational but they would not leave the premises and could not be cajoled into leaving despite my request and instructions. A couple of the group became slightly aggressive and because of their stubbornness, the situation could easily have got out of hand.

John owned an Alsatian dog and to quell the situation he brought the dog into the bar. He put a long leash around its neck and handed the leash over to me. He shouted a word of command, the dog started barking and snarling.

Within seconds the bar was cleared – it was a huge relief to see the group running towards Tudor Square That's the way we policed our communities in those days - it was accepted and appreciated by law abiding citizens.

MANHUNT IN MID-WALES by Phil Hopkins

I recently read an article in the Western Mail about the search for and arrest of Richard Gambrell, who was wanted for the murder of a farmer in Llandewi Brefi in January 1983. Many colleagues will have their own memories of the search for Gambrell (who was subsequently arrested in the New Forest some three weeks later).

Here are a couple from the archives:

At the time I was stationed in Llandrindod Wells. One morning I was patrolling the country road between Llanwrtyd Wells and Abergwesyn. The mist was just rising and as I drove around a bend, in the distance I could see through the mist, a figure walking towards me carrying a rifle. For a second, I could feel the hairs on the back of my neck bristle, with the immediate thought of what to do next. I was in a marked police vehicle, so my identity couldn't be disguised.

These feelings lasted only a second, however, as I then saw another figure appear out of the mist, also carrying a rifle, and then another and another and many more. I had come across army personnel out on manoeuvres!

The second story was related to me by another officer from Llandrindod who was a firearms officer. He was with a team of firearm officers, accompanied by a dog handler with dog were tasked with searching unoccupied properties in the area between Tregaron and Llanwrtyd Wells. This is where it was thought that Gambrell might be hiding.

The team came to one property on their list and went through their guide lines for searching the property. The dog was sent in first to give an indication of whether there may be anyone inside - the tension was palpable. It was a dull late January afternoon and getting dark. The officers were ready to spring into action if the dog indicated the presence of anyone.

However, all they saw in the dusk was the outline of the well trained police dog, squatting on the window sill of one of the bedrooms. The tension broke as they could see the dog 'doing his business'!

THE BOSS HELPS OUT AT ALPHA LIMA by Alun Rees

During a busy afternoon shift at Llanelli Police Station in the 1970s I was a young PC working in the control room. Normally support staff would be present but for some reason that day I was alone and dealing with a queue of people at the front desk.

The switchboard had been placed on 'night service' so if there was an incoming call a bell would sound throughout the building prompting someone to answer the call. I was busy recording driving document details when the bell rang. I chose to ignore the call and continued to deal with the public, confident that someone would assist.

With the bell still ringing, Chief Superintendent Graham Murphy marched into the control room - he did not look happy! The late Mr Murphy was a native of Bristol, he had moved to Pembrokeshire and joined Pembrokeshire Constabulary. Along the way he had acquired what I can only describe as a mid-Atlantic accent.

He strode over to me and asked, "How do I answer that?" "Dial 8, Sir", I replied. Picking up a nearby phone, he announced assertively, "Llanelli Police Station". When you're in a room where a telephone conversation is taking place, you can get the gist of what the caller at the other end is saying as you can hear what the person in the room is saying in response.

The caller must have asked who was speaking because Mr Murphy's next words were "Chief Superintendent". He sounded annoyed. America was winning the accent battle and Chief Brody from Jaws came into my mind. It's fair to say that if you phoned Llanelli Police Station in those days you wouldn't expect your call would be answered by the divisional commander!

I suspect the caller didn't think it likely either and must have bluntly imparted this fact to Mr Murphy who responded by growling into the mouthpiece, "You've got a damn cheek!"

A brief conversation followed during which the Chief Supt made some notes. Replacing the receiver he looked at me, notes in his raised hand, and said "I'll deal with this." And off he went. I heard nothing more about the matter but was grateful to *The Boss* for answering that call and helping to lighten my load by taking the call.

A ROYAL GIFT FROM THE MOUNTIES by Hugh Colley

In the early 1980s I was a uniform Sergeant based at Pembroke Dock, Shortly after 8:00am on the last morning shift before a long weekend off I attended a road accident involving two cars at Hundleton, just outside Pembroke.

On arrival at the scene one of the drivers informed me that he was a Metropolitan Police Superintendent, (I will refer to him as JM). JM was a Personal Protection Officer visiting the area ahead of a visit to Pembrokeshire by HRH Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Unfortunately, JM had misjudged a sharp left hand bend and collided with a car being driven in the opposite direction. Both drivers were shaken but uninjured. Sketch plan made of the scene, statements taken from both drivers and accident book submitted.

A few months later JM was summoned to appear at Pembroke Magistrates Court where he pleaded Not Guilty to driving without due care and attention. Having heard the evidence the magistrates retired to consider the verdict and during the recess JM and myself had a convivial chat.

JM told me that he had recently returned from a royal visit to Canada where he had made the big mistake of letting it slip to his Canadian counterparts that he had been involved in a traffic accident and was due to attend court on his return to the UK.

At a reception on the final day of the visit JM had been presented with a 'gift' by his Canadian 'friends'. He handed me the 'gift' for me to keep as a souvenir. The souvenir was a ballpoint pen and embossed on the barrel was the slogan:

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Welcomes Careful Drivers!

THE ROAD TO NOWHERE! by Anon

On a sunny afternoon in the 80s, a couple spent hours driving around New Quay searching for the hotel they had booked over the phone. In desperation they phoned the Police only to discover that their hotel was in Newquay (Cornwall) over 250 miles away!

Around the same time the driver of a minibus flagged down a patrol car on the outskirts of Tenby seeking directions to the racecourse. When told there wasn't a racecourse anywhere near Tenby, he was adamant that for the last hour he'd been following the Horse Racing signs.

It was explained that the **H R** signs stood for **Holiday Route NOT Horse Racing!**

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

The winning entries as selected by Mike Benbow; our current Chairman are:

First: Radio Silence Explained by Nigel Matthews

Second: Dog Handler to the Rescue by Harry Rees

Both Nigel and Harry will receive a cash prize for their entries.

CALLING ALL BIKERS!

While Fean Thomas of Hay-on-Wye was not a Police motorcyclist, he is a keen biker and regularly rode his motorbike to work during his service. Fean is looking at creating a motor cycle group for bikers – details below.



I am looking at setting up a motorcycle group for retired DPP police officers, staff and partners. The intention is to arrange group 'ride outs' around our beautiful countryside.

I'm thinking that maybe once a month starting in the new year, the 'ride out' could be on a weekday or at the weekend. We can mix it up around the force area for starts and finishes and I'm sure there will be a chance for coffee and catch-ups at a leisurely pace.

If you are interested, feel free to message me on 07990792937 with details / area and we can set up a social media group for ride out arrangements.

CONGRATULATIONS

Three stalwarts of Dyfed-Powys NARPO celebrated their golden weddings this year: Clive & Pat Cowey, Hugh & Libby Colley and Phil & Gill Hopkins

Members Terry And Ann Parkhouse of Llandrindod Wells mark their diamond (sixty years) anniversary on 14th December.

Mrs Vreni Simpson of Holmfirth, Yorkshire, widow of Jack Simpson (Rtd. PC) on her 104th birthday in January 2024.

We send all of them our congratulations.

If you, or a member that you know is celebrating a special birthday or wedding anniversary in the near future, please let Hugh Colley or Phil Addicott know.

CONGRATULATIONS PAT – 97 NOT OUT!

In November a party was held to celebrate Pat Cochrane's 97th birthday with former colleagues in attendance.

Patrick George Cochrane was born on 2nd October 1926 at Welshpool. He left school at 14 years of age and went to work as a Clerk in a Solicitors Office for two years before joining British Railways. He worked as an engine cleaner and fireman at Birmingham and Shrewsbury before returning to Welshpool in 1948 doing similar work.



Seated: L to R; Chris Brennan, Alan Jones, Pat Cochrane, Peter Davies, Mike Denyard. Standing: Brian Mumby and Bob Evans.

After a short time learning the hotel trade in Ipswich, he returned home and in March 1950 joined the Mid Wales Constabulary. After initial training at Bridgend he was posted to Llanidloes where he met his late wife Iris and married in 1952.

Over the years he was stationed at Llanidloes and Trefeglwys before moving to Newtown in June 1966 where he practiced photography and became a Scenes of Crime Officer. He remained in this position until his retirement from Dyfed-Powys Police as DC 761 in October 1982.

When asked if he had any humorous memories that stuck in his mind, Patrick chuckled and related the following. In July 1950, fresh out of training school, I was stationed at Llanidloes, Sergeant Dixon asked me, "Have you got a bike" When I replied "No" he told me "You had better go and get one then hadn't you".

I then went to Welshpool where I bought a bike which cost me three weeks wages and rode it 28 miles back to Llanidloes. This was a great start to my career! Other than that I enjoyed my 32 years' service where I worked with some talented colleagues and being involved with some big operations such as Operation Julie (a major drugs operation).

FOND FAREWELL TO MILFORD HAVEN POLICE STATION



At the end of September a celebration was held to commemorate the closure of Milford Haven Police Station.

During the afternoon, many NARPO members, officers, support staff and volunteers (pictured below) enjoyed reminiscing about their time at Charlie Mike.

In August it was announced that the Police Station situated in Charles Street would be sold with staff relocating to offices at Cedar Court, Milford Haven. The building (above) first opened for business in November 1962 as part of the Pembrokeshire Police building programme.



Initially, the first floor of the building provided living accommodation, it was first occupied by Inspector John Savage and his family. His daughter Pam Round (nee Savage) attended the reunion and joked that quite often she couldn't get to sleep because of the noise from downstairs! The flat was later occupied by Inspector John (Jack) Edwards and family. Bill Williams and his family also lived in the flat.



The last word goes to NARPO member Peter Evans (left) who was a Beat Officer at Charlie Mike for the majority of his service, "It was a busy station but a pleasure to work there as it was a very friendly 'nick'.

As well as being work colleagues, we were all good friends. I loved working there and always looked forward to going to work."

BROTHERS 'IN LAW' by Berwyn Williams

Brothers Dulais and Berwyn Williams joined the Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary on the same day in 1962. Berwyn has provided a glimpse of their careers:

We grew up in Penygroes, near Ammanford; one day we were approached by PC Ivor Herbert who was the village 'bobby'. PC Herbert enquired if we were interested in joining the police. At the time we both worked in the mines, I was a miner and Dulais was an engineer, both of us were qualified first-aid attendants.

We were both accepted, and we joined the Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary on 29th January 1962. We **may** be the only brothers who joined the police on the same day.



Dulais firstly served at Carmarthen, where he became a member of the divisional first aid team. He then served at Cardigan, Ferryside, and Ammanford, where he delivered first aid training. He was a tutor constable and a member of the Murder Security Team. He then became a station officer at Carmarthen Police Station and a community officer before his retirement in May 1994.

After retiring from the Police, Dulais was employed as a salesman and later was a Registrar responsible for the registration of births, deaths and marriages within the Ammanford, Carmarthen and Swansea area.

Brothers, Berwyn (PC 261) and Dulais (PC 273) proudly showing off their Long Service & Good Conduct Medals after being awarded the medals in 1984.

Following initial training at Bridgend, I was posted to Llanelli where I joined the Divisional First Aid team and then became a member of the Force First Aid team.



We became a very successful squad, winning several trophies across the country.

I was later moved to Trimsaran, a small village station with two officers. In 1967, I was selected to be part of the Unit Beat Policing Experiment team at Llanelli. In 1969, I attended a CID course at Liverpool and later moved to Pontyates Police Station where I

worked as a single officer until 1984. I then became a court officer at Llanelli Magistrate Court. I was then appointed Coroners Officer and Enquiry Officer for Llanelli Division until I retired from Dyfed-Powys Police in October 1992. I was then employed as an office clerk for the Dyfed Victim Support at Llanelli.

Above photo: First Aid training in 1982 Left to Right: Dan Jones, Clive Cowey, Peter Evans, Alistair Lindsay, Berwyn Williams and Ted Pugh.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

In January 1982, most of Wales was in the grip of one of the worst blizzards of the 20th Century. The photo shows a team of Carmarthen officers clearing the snow from the access route into Friars Park.



Left to Right: Ellis Evans, John Jones, Gary Evans, Roger Rees, Winston John, Len Davies, Hywel Davies, the late Fred Hughes.

For many years the annual Police Ball was the social event of the year in many towns with the formal occasion well supported by members of the public. The below photo supplied by Bill Rowbottom of Newtown, was taken at the Llandrindod Wells ball held at the Metropole Hotel in 1964.



Left to Right: N/K, Wilf Gorman, Bill Price, Barbara Rowbottom, Mrs Jenny Hopkins, Jeff Hopkins, N/K, N/K, Mrs Ron Parry, Mrs Geoff Edwards, Ron Parry, N/K, Mrs Tony Williams, Mrs Don Jenkins, Tony Williams, N/K, Don Jenkins.

WELL DONE DYLAN - A MAN OF STEEL: Phil Hopkins



Twenty six year old Dylan Hughes is the grandson of Gloria Hughes (left) who lives near Newtown. Gloria was a sergeant stationed at Newtown throughout her career and spent several years as the National Police Woman Sergeant's representative on the Joint Central Committee.



Dylan was born with cerebral palsy and his parents were told that he would never be able to walk or talk. They were determined to prove the doctors wrong and by the age of nine, Dylan (below) was playing junior rugby union with Cleckheaton Rugby Club, near Leeds.

He played with the various age groups up to Under 19 level. At this stage, he realised that due to his disability he would not be able to adapt to adult rugby. Leeds Rhinos had just formed a Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) team and Dylan joined them.

The first game of PDRL in the northern hemisphere was played in 2018 between the Leeds Rhinos and Warrington Wolves with Dylan in the Leeds side. The Leeds Rhinos came out on top.

Due to Covid restrictions, the 2021 Rugby League World Cup was put back twelve months to November 2022 when Dylan was thrilled to be chosen for the inaugural Welsh PDRL squad. Four teams participated: England (eventual winners), Wales, Australia and New Zealand.

Wales met Australia in the play-off for third and fourth place and were victorious by 32 points to 18, thus finishing the tournament in third place. 2022 proved to be a good year for Dylan with the Leeds Rhinos

PDRL team winning the Grand Final. Dylan was also named the Wales PDRL World Cup 2022 'Man of Steel'.

Gloria and Dylan's parents are justifiably very proud of Dylan's achievements, from the time he proved the medics wrong and started playing rugby, right up to his success last year with his club team and his country.

I'm sure members of DPP NARPO would like to congratulate Dylan on his marvellous achievements which are down to his courage and determination.

We wish him well for the future.



Dylan receiving his Welsh cap.

2023 NARPO GOLF DAY: Gareth Wheatman

Builth Wells Golf Club is currently celebrating its centenary year and one of the highlights of the year was welcoming DPP NARPO for the annual golf day. Despite the torrential rain that stopped just as play commenced, the course was in excellent condition.



From left to right: Shane Davies, James Davies, Ian Francis, Gareth Wheatman, John Davies and Steve Cole.

Shane Davies was the first to demonstrate his golfing ability, sending a laser guided iron 150 yards from the 5th tee to just over 6' from the hole to win the nearest the hole competition. He followed that with a howitzer of a drive on the last hole to win the longest drive competition.

The cards were marked in the warm sunshine over drinks on the patio. Gareth Wheatman used his local knowledge to good effect and finished second. However, Ian Francis, who was in a run of fine form, took home the prestigious trophy.

Thanks to those who supported the event, Builth Wells Golf Club for their hospitality, and Lauren and her mum for the delicious food. The day was again generously sponsored by DM Jones and Partners Ltd.(Accountant & Taxation Services) of Hay-on-Wye. David Jones served as an officer in Powys and is a member of NARPO and has been a great supporter of the golf section over the years.

Builth Wells Golf Club is also the host venue for the D Division Golf Society. The society is open to all golfers of all standards who have served within Powys. We hold ten competitions during the year at Builth Wells GC, together with an annual two night trip to Coleford.

If you would like more information or adding your name to our email list, please contact us at ddivgolfociety@protonmail.com. The emphasis is on having fun and catching up with old friends and colleagues.