



NARPO- DYFED POWYS BRANCH

Summer Newsletter – 2017



Chairman's Notes



It doesn't seem long since I was penning my notes for the last newsletter, but when I look back, I see that was seven months ago. Oops!!

Well, the surprise election has come and gone. There are now interesting times ahead and history will record whether the coalition (or the Confidence and Supply agreement) will have been a success or not. You may have been aware that I have never delved into the realms of politics on this page, as I don't think that NARPO should have a political preference. The one exception was when I wrote very strongly against the concept of the introduction of Police and

Crime Commissioners and stated that I would not be voting in the first election for the post. I mention this for the following reason – I have never known so many individuals within the police service to have been so opposed to one politician as they have to Theresa May. There have been some very strong comments and opinions made against her policies and manifesto – stemming in no small part from her time as Home Secretary. However, we now have what we have, so let's hope that Mrs May has taken on board some of the messages of the election campaign. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter an interesting open letter from our assistant secretary, Paul Herdman, which was published in The Guardian.

You may recall that I have mentioned more than once in previous newsletters about the attack on the Triple Lock Pension, which has protected our state pension for the last few years. It has been under attack for a while and in fact one of the manifestos of the Conservative party for the election was to abolish the triple lock. The Confidence and Supply agreement with the DUP has led to this election pledge being abolished. We shall see how long the current position lasts.

The emergency services have been under immense pressure recently dealing with the several major incidents which have occurred around the country. I take my hat off to them all – it brought it home to me the dangers all emergency services face when I read that a London fireman had been told to write his name and number on his helmet before he went into the inferno at Grenfell Tower.

I was at a meeting of the NEC of NARPO at Durham just a couple of weeks ago. The Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary was at our dinner and gave a short address. Apart from telling us the interesting fact that he formed part of the notorious Preston (Rugby Club) front row at the same time as our CEO Steve Edwards (not to be confused with the Pontypool front Row!), he also spoke of the change in policing tactics in recent times. He made particular mention of the Durham Miners gala, which took place two days after our meeting. We were told that last year, it was treated as a major policing event, but with little thought to any outside influences. This year however, that all changed. Large vehicles were strategically placed to prevent vehicles entering the town centre, armed officers were in abundance on roof tops and other places and Corbynista being in full flow, a crowd of several thousand was expected, which actually was estimated as well in excess of one hundred thousand on the day. A real challenge for a small force.

Anyway, onto to happier news! We now have a new Financial Controller in post at Wakefield – a lady by the name of Helen Morgan. I haven't met her yet, but by all accounts, she has fitted into her role very well. There has been quite a turnover of staff at Wakefield recently for various reasons – hopefully this has now settled down.

I wrote in the last issue of the recent appointment of Mr Mark Collins as the new Chief Constable. Mr Collins addressed our AGM a couple of months ago and had a very positive impact. One issue which he is already addressing is the matter of police attendance at the funerals of retired officers. There have been several funerals quite recently of retired senior officers, with no police representation at the funeral. Mr Collins intends to have a police officer attending (a senior officer wherever possible) the funeral of a retired colleague. I am aware of a couple of funerals where this has indeed been the case, so let's hope that this continues. On the topic of funerals, this is an opportune time to remind you that the branch are in possession of two funeral drapes – one kept in Welshpool and one in Carmarthen. If you are aware of any funeral where you feel that the family would like to have the use of a NARPO drape, please contact either the secretary or myself.

As in every newsletter, can I make a plea for the submission of photographs and/or articles to Hugh Colley for inclusion on the website. We are very fortunate to have Hugh on board as the Web Master, but he can only be as good as the material submitted. There must be a wealth of interesting photographs/ anecdotes etc which could be submitted. My thanks to Hugh for his work on this front, and also to Clive and Phil Addicott for their efforts in the everyday running of the Branch.

I announced at the AGM in March that I will be stepping down as Chairman of the Branch at the next AGM. I have been in post in excess of a dozen years and I feel that next year will be the right time to hand over the reins. I shall say more on this subject in the next newsletter. I sometimes finish on a sporting theme, but there is not really much to reflect on at the moment. Wales are more than half way through their qualifying campaign for the World Cup in Russia next year and I have to say that it is going to be a very tough job for them to qualify. Nevertheless, I shall be in Cardiff with my son for the last two home matches 'cheering on the boys' and hoping for the best. I have got a visit to the Golf Open championship lined up (by the time you read this, the championship will probably be over) and a trip to Colwyn Bay to watch Glamorgan play cricket as well as a family holiday to Florida. Gill and I are looking forward to our grandchildren's reactions to see Micky Mouse, all his friends and all that the theme parks have to offer. Enjoy the summer and stay safe.

Phil Hopkins - Branch Chairman

You Can help Somebody As You Go Along.....



Our esteemed Treasurer, Clive Cowey, recently undertook a task which was a 'first' for him and would have been a 'first' for most other people too.

In early June, Clive received a telephone call from John Dawson, a member of Lancashire NARPO. He had been given Clive's telephone number by Phil Taylor, the Secretary of the Swansea branch of NARPO, who Mr Dawson had initially contacted. A brief précis of the conversation was that John and his fiancée Sandra were planning a holiday in the Tenby area and intended getting married at Carmarthen registry office while they were in the area. Neither of them had any ties to Carmarthen! They had contacted the registrar who had asked about witnesses. John and Sandra said that they intended 'collaring' two passers by to carry out witness duties, only

to be told that the location of the registry office would make that very difficult! Hence the reason for the phone call – it was a plea for two NARPO members to be found who could

assist. Clive provided the only possible solution – he and his wife Pat would attend and perform the duties – after all, who doesn't like a good wedding!

On Saturday, 8th July, all four met at Carmarthen registry office. It was a close call for Pat and Clive as the engineer booked to fit their Smart meter did not arrive until half past two, meaning a quick call to their daughter to come and baby sit the engineer! They arrived at the venue in time to carry out their duties and Clive even acted as wedding photographer, and also presented the couple with a love spoon from the branch in recognition of the day. This is certainly what you call cooperation between branches.

Phil Hopkins

Bereavements

Mrs Hilda Cole, the wife of Mr Stuart Cole (Rtd PS 470) 17th June 2017

Mr Don Jenkins (Rtd. Supt.) 19th June 2017

Mr David Gwynfor Rees (Rtd. Dog Handler) 8th June 2017

Mr Glyn Hawker (Rtd. PC) 28th May 2017

Mrs Helen Louise Helps (Rtd. DC321) 5th April 2017

Mr David (Dai) J Lewis (Rtd. DS786) 21st March 2017

Miss Elizabeth Jean (Bet) Jones (Honorary Member) 15th March 2017

Mr Brian Henry Stubbs (Rtd. Chief Superintendent) 13th February 2017

Mrs Adelaide Richards (Adele), widow of PS William Norman Llewellyn Richards 16th February 2017

Mrs Anita Edwards, the widow of the late John Edwards (Rtd. Chief Superintendent) 10th Feb 2017

Mr Christopher Mark Richards (Rtd. PC/DC782) 28th January 2017

Mrs Monica Jones, the wife of Mr. Tom Jones (Rtd. PC) 3rd February 2017

Mrs Elsie Millichip (Wife of the late Trevor Millichip (Rtd. Detective Inspector), 27th January 2017

Mr Brian Thomas (Rtd. Superintendent) 21st January 2017

Mr. Jim Lewis (Rtd. PC 256) 11th January 2017

New Members

Full Members: Rev Lynn Rees, Dulais Williams, Roger Eagles, Alfor Evans, Jan & Nick Ingram, Mark Webb, Simon Evans, Kevin Scourfield, Owen Durbridge, Jeffrey Craig Bevan, Judy Whale, Finbar Joseph Fitzgerald, Stephen Cole, Eifion Thomas, Allan Eldred, Helen Williams, Chris Helps.

Associate: 47 Associate members some of whom are now due for conversion to Full

Honorary Member : Ms Bet Jones (Now Deceased)

Cardiganshire Constabulary – Request from Gwyndaf Prosser

Gwyndaf has been able to ascertain that the following officers of the Cardiganshire Constabulary are still around.

Watkin Lowe has provided most of the information

P.C. 261 Eric Hughes. He resigned from the Force prior to retirement.
P.C.205 Ken Owens. He also resigned prior to retirement.
P.C. 265 John Evans. He transferred to the MOD Police at Aberporth.
P.C.264 Dennis Davies
P.C. --- Eiryl Evans living in Cardigan was stationed at Brynhoffnant.
P.C.202 A.Williams living at Aberystwyth
D.C.263 Wyn Morris residing in North Wales
P.C.236 David Jones (Dai Corris) living in Aberystwyth
P.C.259. John Charles Davies Retired as a Chief Inspector.
P.C.222 Watkin Lowe resides in Cardiff and retired as a Chief Inspector
P.C.260 Harold Davies resides in Cardigan.
P.C.257 Emrys Evans left the force early. Brother of John Owen Evans Ass. C.C.

If anyone has any addition to the compiled list please contact Gwyndaf
gwyneira@supanet.com

Tacs Rest

We have recently become aware of a charity called Tacs Rest, listed as 'Tac's Rest Charity – Supporting Police and associated families/friends'. It has been formed by serving and retired officers and supports colleagues who have and are experiencing tough times.

It is not a Dyfed Powys charity, but offers support to officers/retired officers nationally. However, the charity maintains a fully equipped static caravan sleeping six at Brynrodyn holiday park, near Borth and offers free holidays for those in need of a break with available dates for this year (at the time of writing). If you know of a retired colleague who has had a tough time and would benefit from a break at this location, the force contact is PC 988 Neil Davies on 07539212521, at neildavies103@talktalk.net or visit the website www.tacsrest.co.uk.

As stated, this facility does not exist just for Dyfed Powys officers and retired officers, so there is no guarantee of availability.

Article and letter by the Branch Deputy Secretary.

As a brief background to the below article and letter submitted by Paul Herdman, the following information may help.

Paul was the Federation Secretary of the Dyfed Powys Branch Board for five years until his retirement eighteen months ago. At our AGM last year, he was elected to the position of Deputy Secretary.

The below letter written by Paul appeared recently in The Guardian. Paul agreed for this letter to appear in this newsletter and I asked him to write an accompanying article.



"Somebody asked me recently why did I become a Federation representative whilst working as a front line uniformed sergeant. As always I cannot answer without going into a little story.....it was way back around 1994/95 I was a custody Sgt at Newtown - I had 12 detainees in 3 cells (something not allowed anymore thank goodness) and it was brutally busy. There were no detention officers in those days and it was only a matter of time before something went wrong. It did!

Discipline and Complaints as it was then known (now Professional Standards Dept) served me with the obligatory regulation notices -officially putting me on notice that I was suspected to have breached the Code of Conduct covering Standards of Professional Behaviour and the worry set in. Up until that point I had very little to do with the Federation. Gloria Hughes and Derek Bloomfield had aroused some curiosity in that direction but I admit it was not a priority for me at that particular time.

Well the complaint focused my mind and I called my local representative. The one and only - yes Ps 336 Phil Hopkins. I must say that the way Phil represented me, gave me sound advice and generally looked after me and managed me throughout that ordeal had a positive and profound impact on me. On reflection, I do not believe I was the easiest of officers to advise and represent! The matter was sorted with good old fashioned 'words of advice' and my interest in Federation matters grew exponentially.

As Phil was coming up to retirement I decided I would put my name forward for the Federation vacancy. Another Sgt also decided to stand and we went to a vote. This is challenging in itself and I was extremely nervous. I am pleased to say that I won and was duly elected onto the board. This was the start of the journey.

Police officers need to be made out of stern 'stuff'. Well I can tell you that to survive a local Joint Branch Board meeting of the Federation requires a certain part of the police officer's human anatomy to be made of a certain type of metal!

My Federation career took off as I held various roles - Secretary of the Sergeants Board, Custody lead for the Federation locally, Secretary of the National Custody Forum and deputy secretary of the Joint Branch Board.

All these additional roles brought some challenging times with my senior management in Powys as I was still front line and to be fair their concerns were genuine and appropriate. Eventually Mr Peter Dickinson the full-time secretary decided to retire from the police and a full time vacancy arose. It appeared a natural progression for me to apply for this post and potentially put myself through another election. I applied but got the role unopposed. This was in January 2010 therefore I had done 25 years on the front line working 24 hour shifts before I took the role. This grounding held me in good stead for what was to come"

I was a police officer for 30 years. Tory cuts have left the service in crisis Paul Herdman (Letter appeared in Guardian Newspaper 6th June 2017))

Since becoming a policeman 30 years ago, the number of officers covering my beat has more than halved, while the area covered has expanded. I'm not scaremongering when I say the police service is in crisis.

I spent the last few years of my career as a Police Federation representative, before retiring 18 months ago. The federation has been raising concerns about the impact of cuts on policing

for seven years and we've been repeatedly ignored by Theresa May. Nearly two years ago, Jeremy Corbyn also raised the national security risks involved in police cuts, all of which fell on deaf ears.

"If you don't like me, I don't care", was in essence May's response to police criticism of her funding cuts. In the wake of the Manchester terrorist attack, the federation bravely spoke up about the security impact of losing more than 20,000 staff in the past seven years. A fortnight ago news broke that we are set to lose a further 4,000 officers.

This recklessness cannot be sustained. Cuts not only have consequences, they have potentially serious consequences. Why would anyone, let alone the government of the day, gamble with the safety of men, women and children of this country?

Years ago, as home secretary May forced the thin end of the wedge on us by cutting "back office staff" for "efficiency" – in short, getting rid of excellent civilian support staff that help us do our jobs. After that frontline numbers went down, demands increased and stress went up.

As police officers, we run toward danger while others run from it. It's in the job description. The same is true of ambulance and fire crews, who I've watched get injured by aggressive patients and still rush to help, or have bricks lobbed at them as they put out fires. It hurts – but not as much as being abandoned by our own government. If serving officers had a penny for every made-up lecture on policing, crime, and defence from armchair experts, we might have the £40,000 a year that Amber Rudd appears to believe we do.

On Saturday, there was another terrorist attack. This time in London. My thoughts and prayers are, of course, with those murdered and injured in the recent attacks, and their loved ones.

The first responders to these tragedies deserve nothing but respect. How we respond requires more thought. In Manchester, we had Operation Temperer, involving troops being deployed on home soil. It's a sign of weakness, not strength, that Theresa May was reliant on a costly scheme that is only necessary because she has stripped policing to the bone.

That's why I'm suspicious of fine words on security. Those who shout loudest are often those with the least idea what they're talking about, and the least regard for the real men and women who they like to be photographed with for press opportunities. Real people like Manchester Gorton's Damian O'Reilly – Britain's community policeman of the year in 2010, who was forced out of his dream role by the onslaught of cuts and changes under May. Real people like the officers on our patrols that I watched slowly leave and not be replaced.

We need more than a skeleton, struggling police service. Keeping Britain safe is about much more than arrest numbers. It's having the local links, and hard-won public trust which helps us work with communities to spot problems like potential extremism or gang crime early on. This is exactly what neighbourhood policing was designed to do before it was hampered by cuts.

It is being a helping hand to vulnerable people, and deterring potential offenders before the blunt instrument of our (overstretched) prison system has to be used. It's listening and responding to what every community wants out of their police. A modern, effective service requires resources and care. Security policy requires more than tough talk backed up by no real action – which is what we see from the Conservatives.

Labour, at least, pledges action rather than talk – 10,000 new police officers, alongside new firefighters, prison officers and NHS staff on decent pay, and a commitment to maintain defence spending.

If we are to keep our streets safe and maintain the ability to intercept and respond to serious incidents, the service needs care and investment, not more cuts.

Paul Herdman

Dyfed Powys NARPO Deputy Secretary

Serving Officers Receive Awards

Whilst not directly NARPO related, I thought that you may be interested to read of the calibre of officer which we have in Dyfed Powys.



PC Marc Woods from Llandrindod Wells was the Welsh Regional winner of the Brave Police Officer of the Year award held recently in London and sponsored by the Police Mutual. Marc was called to an incident last July by a passer by who heard shouting from the River Wye. He made his way to the area and found a ten year old boy clinging to a rock in the middle of the swollen river. Marc swam out to the boy, secured him with a line and swam to the opposite bank. In the meantime, the boy's father, who was also in the river downstream was rescued by Fire Service personnel who had just arrived. It transpired that the boy had fallen into the water and his father had gone in to attempt to rescue him but got into difficulties himself. Marc Bleasdale, the Chair of Dyfed Powys Police Federation, said that without doubt PC Wood's prompt action saved the life of the boy.



DC Gemma Rees, based in Newtown has recently been the recipient of a national award - she travelled to Harrogate to receive a Special Commendation Award for excellence from the Anti Counterfeiting Group. The award was in recognition for Gemma's outstanding contribution to the fight against Intellectual Property Crime in Powys and for her commitment above and beyond her duties as a police officer. Gemma also attended County Hall in Llandrindod Wells to receive the congratulations of the full Council.

Well done to these two officers. It is gratifying and satisfying to know that we have officers of this calibre in our policing our area.

Mrs Jean Evans of Carmarthen visited FHQ in March 2017, when she presented a beautiful embroidered force crest to the Chief Constable, Mr Mark Collins.



The framed crest was originally presented to the late Mr Donald (Gonzales) Griffiths (Rtd.C/Supt) upon his retirement, following his passing, the beautiful item has been held in the safe keeping of Jean. Jean has also donated a number of items for the force museum which is currently in the process of being re-vamped.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NARPO Golf Day 2017

The fifth Dyfed Powys NARPO Golf Day is taking place at Builth Wells Golf Club on Tuesday 26th September.

The format is similar to previous years – coffee and a bacon bap from 10.00am, followed by eighteen holes of golf, played under a Stableford format.

The day will finish with a two course meal and prizegiving.

All golfers, of whatever standard are welcome to participate. Please contact Phil Hopkins at philiphop@yahoo.com or 07801865386 if you wish to enter. **Those who have already entered need not reply.** We are indebted to one of our members, Mr David Jones from Hay on Wye for his continued sponsorship of the event.

Carmarthen coffee Mornings

Dates for 2017 are on the first Tuesdays in the month.

The Executive and Committee as at 27th March 2017.

President

Mr Mark Collins, Chief Constable, Dyfed-Powys Police

Vice Presidents

Mr Ian Arundale,	Contact via Branch Secretary
Ms Jackie Roberts,	Contact via Branch Secretary
Mr Simon Prince,	Contact via Branch Secretary

Executive

Chair, Mr Philip Hopkins, 01938 554302, philiphop@yahoo.com (Also NEC Member for South Wales, which includes Branches covering the Dyfed-Powys, South Wales and Gwent Police areas)

Vice Chair, Mr Peter Davies, 01267 230674, p90pgd@btinternet.com

(Main Point of Contact) Secretary Mr Phil Addicott, Marcella, Salop Road, Welshpool. Powys. SY21 7ET. Tel: Home 01938 556048, Mobile 07807 956928. E Mail narpodppsec@gmail.com. Website: dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk

Treasurer, Mr Clive Cowey,	01267 234316	narpo36@gmail.com ,
Assistant Secretary, Mr Paul Herdman,	01686 628787	kelpaul@hotmail.co.uk
Welfare Officer and Chaplain, Rev Martin Spain,	01437 741430	marspain@gmail.com
Webmaster: Mr Hugh Colley,	01646 683232	hughcolley144@btinternet.com

Committee (*New members in Bold italics*)

CARMARTHENSHIRE:

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Wynne Evans,	01239 613890	No email

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NARPO website	www.narpo.org

The Branch Website is available to you all, the pages are there covering news Obituaries and Photographs. If you have anyone who is interested in joining NARPO the online application is available at www.narpo.org or via a link on our website

The member area access details are:

Username: dyfedpowys

Password: branch36440

NARPO News also has many excellent articles and to access services there you will need your membership number, it is on the wrapper of your magazine and your new membership card, any problems get in touch with our Secretary and he will get it for you.

Minutes of the last AGM are on the website, if you can't view this please contact me and I will send you a copy.

If you are on E mail and havent been recieving notices from me please let me know

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