



NARPO- DYFED POWYS BRANCH

December Newsletter – 2014



Chairman's Notes



Well, it's that time of year again. The clocks have gone back and those cold November days, when you promised yourself that you would get around to doing those inside jobs which you have put off for the summer, have arrived!

Most of you who have access to the internet, will be aware that we are trying to revamp our Branch website – www.dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk/ Hugh Colley has recently taken over the role as our webmaster and is keen to receive articles, anecdotes, photos etc., to keep the website

current. There are over four hundred members of the branch who have access to the internet, so it is a very worthwhile commodity, but needs continuous new material to keep it current and interesting.

On the same theme, I would also ask you to consider submitting articles, stories, etc, for inclusion in the newsletter. As I have indicated previously, to enable the newsletter to remain fresh, we also need new contributors. Duplication with the web site is not a problem – if appropriate, the same item can appear in the newsletter as well as on the website. You can find the e mail addresses to which you can send any material elsewhere in this newsletter. Derek Bloomfield and his wife Edwina stepped in at the last minute to represent the branch at the Conference in Brighton in September. I would like to thank them for attending at short notice. You will find Derek's take on Conference in this edition. There was a motion from the NEC to provide Accidental Death cover for members at no cost. This was discussed by conference and rejected – basically on the grounds that it was not value for money. The rules of the organisation are in the process of being updated so that they are in line with current legislation and policies. Expert legal help has been enlisted, which was supposed to have made the whole process quite straight forward. The reverse has proved to be the case, with the new rules, although less open to challenge, are longer than the existing rules! Hopefully, the situation will have been resolved in time to bring the new rules to conference next year for ratification. Watch this space!

Despite the best efforts of the officials at Wakefield, no politician felt able to spare the time to come to Brighton for the conference to take part in either of two very good presentations. In the end, the replacement speakers (again brought in at short notice) were of an excellent standard and the presentations, excellently facilitated by John Stapleton, were very well received by conference. As I wrote in the last newsletter, the event was broadcast on the internet and is still available for viewing – the link can be found on the front page of the NARPO website. Conference was watched at various times of the day by over four hundred viewers (hits), which for an event such as this was apparently a very good result. If anyone from this branch logged on at any time to watch the proceedings, I would be interested to receive any feedback.

NARPO have been involved in the launch of their Manifesto, in the run up to next year's general election. It has been produced in conjunction with the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (CSPA) and the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP). Together, the three organisations represent over a quarter of a million pensioners. Full details of the manifesto are on the manifesto website – listed along with other relevant websites in this newsletter, but briefly, they set out our vision for Universal Benefits, proper planning for pensions, safe and sustainable care services, accessible housing and regular bus transport. On the website, there is the facility to sign a pledge card in support of the manifesto and I would encourage as many of you as possible with access to the internet to sign up and show your support.

Clive and I have been asked recently about the criteria for receiving assistance from the Welfare Fund. I make no apologies for repeating the information as it is an important matter. To qualify, the member must have been a contributing member to the fund whilst they were a serving officer. If they then need to make a claim on the Fund, then either download a form from our website, or contact Clive, Martin Spain or your local committee member who will be able to assist. On a similar note – again referred to previously in this publication – anyone who has been an inpatient in hospital is entitled to receive a small gift from the branch Hospital Gift Fund. This can obviously only be paid where we are aware of a member's hospitalisation – this information can be by self-notification, or by anyone who has become aware of a member who has had a stay in hospital – again, please contact any of the branch committee.

To finish on a lighter note, I heard last night that I have managed to get a ticket for the Belgium v Wales soccer international in a couple of weeks' time, so Gill and I are off for a weekend to Brussels. By the time you read this article, you will know whether my weekend was made complete by a Welsh victory!

It seems very early, but as this is technically the Christmas newsletter, can I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Phil Hopkins – Chair

Bereavements

John BENNETT (Ex PC 691), last stationed at Montgomery passed away very suddenly on Sunday morning November 23rd.

Mrs Meriel JONES, Orchard Cottage, 53 Tre Vaughan, CARMARTHEN, SA31 3QN, widow of Ex PS Ken Jones 282, last stationed at Crosshands and passed away in 2012.

Mrs. Iris EVANS Rhyd yr Afon Riverside Terrace Aberystwyth passed away suddenly but peacefully on Saturday 4th October 2014 aged 88yrs. Wife of the late Ken Evans, ex DS 127 and subsequently licensee of the Tollgate Aberystwyth who sadly passed away in 1994.

Brian LOFTUS, The Glebe, Tenby. He died on 17th September. He joined Pembs Police in 1962 (Transferred from Metropolitan Police)

Ex DCI Eric THOMAS of Carmarthen, he passed away peacefully at his home in Carmarthen in September 2014

Mrs Doreen ANTHONY, the widow of the late Insp John Anthony passed away in June aged 94 years at a care home in Betws, Ammanford.

Ex Ch. Insp. W.O.(Bill) PRICE, 87yrs from Pembroke Dock, he passed away at the South Pembrokeshire Hospital, Pembroke Dock on 29/06/14. He joined the Pembrokeshire Police on 11th November 1950

On June 24, 2014 after a short illness, Bryan JOHN of 32 St Anne's Ave, Cwmffrwd, Carmarthen.

Mrs Ella Phyllis GREGORY, aged 94 years, she was the widow of Retired Police Sergeant Gregory who died 9 years ago. He had been based in Welshpool. She had been living with her daughter in Bedfordshire.

New Members

Full Members: Mr G J Rippon, Mr C R Mann

Additional Member : Mr Paul Price (Cardigan, Home Branch Avon & Somerset)

Associate Members: Mr G M Evans, Mr H M Davies, Mr D A Jones, Mr A Wolley, Mr P Somerton Edwards, Mr P Blanchard, Ms E J Stevenson, Mr S Nix, Mr G H Jones, Mr G D Rees, Ms M E Harries, Ms S Carridge, Mr D G Thomas, Mr K M Haran, Mr L V Lew, Mr T Dyer, Mr J V Thomas, Mr R S Jones, Mr D L Harries, Mr H Rees, Mr B Bowen, Mr G D Rees, Mr E A Davies, Ms J S Wilson, Mr C W Hughes, Mr D L Evans, Ms L Elias, Ms F Lloyd Jones, Mr J M Jenkins, Mr N A Lewis, Mr E I James.

NARPO Annual Conference 5th September 2014 – Brighton

This is the first year that I have attended the NARPO Conference.

From a personal point of view, it was just like winding the clock back 14 to 20 years.

I attended 2 Federation conferences at Brighton, 1 as Chair of Dyfed Powys JBB and the other as the Constables rep for Wales on the Joint Central Committee.

Edwina and I were really pleased to meet up with

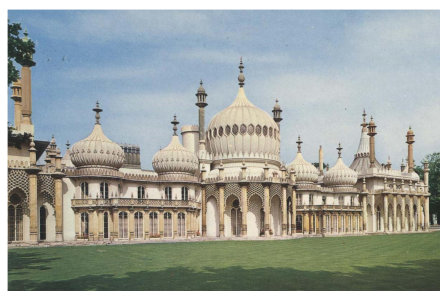
many of my former colleagues from all over the country, many of whom are actively involved in their own NARPO branches. Where have those past 12 years gone!!!

The NEC had great difficulty in finding and retaining political speakers. MP's from all parties had been sounded out and indeed some had accepted invitations to speak at Conference. At the 11th hour all pulled out. This is a very busy political time and I appreciate their many other commitments, but I have to say that, given that we are only 9 months away from a General Election, I would have thought that trying to influence an organisation representing many voters was an opportunity that should not have been missed. Sadly no political input. In contrast, the President of ACPO Sir Hugh Orde, did attend. Given that the NATO summit was being held at the Celtic Manor at the same time and that he had commitments in that arena as well, it was a pleasure to see him still able to address Conference.

He spoke of the current difficult times for the Police Service, both financially and operationally. He was questioned about ACPO's position and their reluctance to come out against some of the changes currently being progressed. He maintained the only position that he could. That is, that they are not politicians, and it is their role to ensure that the changes that are being made by politicians, are embraced. He did not say that he agreed with the changes. One of those changes was the employment of Superintendents with no previous Police experience. ACPO had to support those individuals, currently being recruited, when they are in post. He did not seem too keen on these appointments. I personally feel that this is another step too far, and that this will do nothing to improve the morale of an already widely, largely unjustifiably, criticised, workforce. Operationally will they really be able to command at scenes of serious public disorder?

Another speaker drafted in at the last moment was David Wilbraham the national Police Chaplain.

He gave a thoroughly witty speech on the role of the chaplaincy and their ability to assist not only serving, but also retired officers.



One of the main presentations was “Later Life Ambitions”. This manifesto was launched in Parliament on 2nd September, by NARPO, The National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP) and The Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (CSPA). These 3 organisations represent a potential quarter of a million voters. Conference was given a presentation on this manifesto. I would urge you all to visit, laterlifeambitions.co.uk, where the manifesto sets out the issues, in an attempt to influence opinion, on amongst other things, fair pensions, sustainable care services and accessible housing, in the run up to next years General Election.

Domestically NARPO is having a root and branch report of its Rules carried out. This will be put before next years Conference. Could be controversial,

A motion on Accidental Death Insurance Cover was rejected.

A motion on the Web Application Form for Membership of NARPO was remitted to the NEC for further consideration.

Finally I would like to congratulate our Chairman, Phil Hopkins on his election, as one of two members, representing the Welsh Region on the NEC. I know Phil will do an outstanding job and wish him well.

Derek Bloomfield

Summary of Branch Meeting Held at the Marine Hotel, Aberystwyth 6th October 2014

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting which was the first of this type to be held in Aberystwyth. There were 19 present.

Updates were given on matters that arose from the last meeting (7th October 2013). These included

Police federation membership support for newly retired officers. This matter was discharged at the AGM as there was no longer a recruitment problem.

Coffee mornings were still not being held in Pembrokeshire but the Golf days in Powys were still a success.

The Secretary/Treasurer gave his comprehensive report covering both matters, this had also been circulated to all by e mail and post. Details of note included that membership of the branch now stands at 861. Over 400 members are now on the E Mail system. Mr Jeff Davies has been maintaining the site for about 2 years. He has now asked to step aside. The branch were grateful for all his support. A call had gone out for volunteers to take over. (Mr Hugh Colley would now take on this role.)

The AGM of the Force welfare fund had taken place and our Secretary had been re-elected as the Deputy Secretary/Treasurer of the fund.

The Chair thanked the Secretary for all his hard work.

The Chair was now carrying out his new role as a member of the NEC and had circulated a comprehensive report prior to the meeting, Matters referred to included :

Hawkridge House: Some three years ago, a property in North London had been bequeathed to NARPO. After renovations and improvements to the property, the initial valuation of £250k had increased to £370k. The property has recently been rented out at a monthly rental of £1,425, which will be a regular source of income.

Hours of business at NARPO House.

These have changed slightly – now 8am – 4pm Monday – Thursday and 8am – 3.30pm Friday.

CEO: Clint Elliot is 65 in August, but wishes to carry on in his current employment – formally approved by the NEC.

Injury Reviews : The CEO reported that some forces are starting to do injury reviews again. One force has sent out letters stating the reviews are based on government regulations that were due to come into effect in May. This is incorrect, as the legislation was not in place at that time (I am not sure of the current situation). One region had complained that branches

were not being updated on this subject. Steve Edwards, the Deputy CEO had replied that the NARPO website contained more information than any other on this subject and is updated as and when there is anything new to report.

DWP Seminar : No 1 Region (North West) want to hold a DWP seminar. Following discussion, it was agreed that if regions wanted to hold their own DWP seminar, a one off contribution of £500 would be made from Wakefield within the next twelve months – not sure how strict the twelve month timescale would be.

Hillsborough Enquiry: Support is being given by local branches, with the Warrington branch offering support re transport etc. where necessary. A sum of £2,500 is being made available from the NEC to help provide that welfare support. The Yorkshire branches have made a sum available for their own welfare support and will make any application for a grant similar to Warrington, if it becomes necessary.

Roland Smith/PMAS : Although Roland Smith has been taken over by the PMAS for two or three years, until now they have retained their own identity. It is now known as Police Mutual. Roland Smith have moved to a new premises, but their staff remain the same and they continue to provide an identical service as previous to the rebranding.

The meeting was closed with grateful thanks to Mr John Owen- Evans and the members from Aberystwyth for their work in arranging the meeting.

Employment Support Allowance deductible from an Injury Pension?

Recently our Secretary has been provided with an update from Mr Edwin Harries the Force's Director of Finance. The matter still hasn't been resolved. He informs us that all the Welsh forces are taking a similar stance that ESA will be deducted from Injury awards. They are in communication with the Home Office who are attempting to change legislation. The force state that they are anxious to avoid an overpayment situation where recovery of payments may be necessitated. If there is a legislative change which favours our members they will be in a position to make refunds. This appears contrary to what other forces are doing. We will take advice from NARPO HQ and keep you updated on developments

CPI – Pension Increase

The CPI has just been released for September as 1.2% Police Pensions will rise for those eligible in April 2015 by said amount. See website for more at:
<http://www.narpo.org.uk/index.php/pensions/police-pensions.html>. The State pension increase is still unknown, the government triple lock guarantees that the figure will be the highest amount of CPI, Wages Index or 2.5%, as the wages increase is not yet published we will have to wait for that one.

Subs Increase; also to keep you updated, further to my recent message regarding the forthcoming pension increase, your NARPO subs will also be going up, that's the bad news, and the good news is it is by 2pence per month, from £1.63p to £1.65p

Widow's Pension for Life – Petition – Cautionary Advice

You may have been invited to sign a petition to end the injustice of Police widows/widowers losing their pension should they remarry.

We would still encourage members to sign the petition, a link to which can be found on website www.narpo.org – Click on 'Notices' then scroll down to Widows Pension for Life

However a note of caution – once you sign up you will then be invited to join in other petitions- not Police related – highlighting various injustices from governing bodies.

In addition you may be invited to contribute to a fund to help finance these petitions- you will be asked to nominate an amount £10 - £20 - £50 etc. One of our members chose to donate £10.00 and was greatly surprised to see a debit of £11.31 appearing on the subsequent Bank Statement. On querying this, our member discovered that the payment had been processed through an American Bank and the extra £1.31 comprised handling charges. We feel you ought to be aware of this. The organiser of the Petition has been notified and is looking at the issue.

Second Annual Dyfed Powys NARPO Golf Day

Tuesday, 16th September shone brightly for the twelve intrepid golfers who were willing to pit their wits and their golf skills against the elements. Fortunately, the elements proved to be kind, with a few hardy souls even opting to wear shorts!

There were four new faces from last year, with a couple of last year's entrants unable to make it – one had vowed never to pick up a golf club again!

We again played at Builth Wells – it seems to be a popular choice as a reasonably central venue, with a testing but not too taxing course and excellent club house facilities.

The author of this article was hoping to retain the cup which he won at last year's inaugural event, but sadly (for him at least!) it was not to be. Dylan Jones from Aberystwyth, burned up the course and showed his class by scoring 41 stableford points – beating Eric Bailey, who must have thought he was in with a good chance with his 37 points, into second place. Dylan (15 handicap) also had the lowest gross score, beating Alan Jones (6 handicap) by two strokes.

Our thanks go to Police Mutual, who sponsored the prizes.

Everyone agreed at the prize giving that Builth Wells should again be the venue for next year's Golf Day. This has already been booked for Tuesday, 15th September, 2015. Make a note of the date in your diary, all you golfers.

Phil Hopkins



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Force Emergency Workers Carol Service



This will be held in the Force SCC (The Newest Building on the site) Room 2 at 12.30 on 18th December 2014.

All are invited, please go direct to the SCC reception, and to gain access NARPO members will need to bring some Photo Identification with them due to the current heightened security situation, this should be proof of membership of NARPO (Your Membership card) and an ID with a Photograph such as a driving licence or Passport.

Please let Clive know if you are attending, he will pass numbers on to Peter Westlake, so that seating arrangements etc. can be made

Next Branch AGM is due to be held in Carmarthen on the First Monday in April 2015. Easter falls early in 2015 so the AGM will probably be on the 14th April 2015. The Secretary will circulate when details are confirmed

WW1 Memorial Police HQ Carmarthen



On Friday the 28th November 2014 a plaque was unveiled at Police HQ, Carmarthen, by the High Sheriffs of Dyfed and Powys. It remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War 1914-18, and had served in the Police forces that now comprise Dyfed Powys Police.

Mr Kevin Smith, who is responsible for the force museum, and had researched the back grounds to those named, will be circulating some pictures and a

resume via our secretary. Below are some details contained on the memorial.

Breconshire : William Davies, Arthur Griffiths, Edwards Hatcher, Charles Ellis Martin, Thomas Pitman

Carmarthenshire : Thomas Lewis Bennett, Rees Connick, Edgar Emlyn Evans, John William Farrell

Montgomeryshire : George Breese, Charles Hamer

Cardiganshire : Thomas Davies

Radnorshire : Harold Hickman Bromfield

Pembrokeshire : Walter Edwards, Arthur Edwards, Henry Thomas Coffey



‘WE WILL REMEMBER THEM’

The Royal British Legion have a website dedicated to remembering those who died in WW1. The quote from the website : *“The Royal British Legion is working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to keep alive the memory of those who fell in the First World War, for future generations. We would like every single man and woman from across the Commonwealth who fell to be individually commemorated by those alive today. This is your chance to take part in a truly historic and incredibly significant act of Remembrance”*

To date 93,936 Tributes have been made.

<http://www.everymanremembered.org/>

Free Member Services

Just a reminder of free services available to all members of NARPO :-

Benefits advice

Computer advice

General tax enquiries

Details of how to access these services are shown on the Member Services section of the NARPO website – www.narpo.org.uk . You may be required to provide your NARPO Membership Number.

Something not involving NARPO but which may be useful to know for some of you is that the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service will carry out a free home safety check and if appropriate also fit free of charge a smoke alarm. **Contact details - 08001691234**

Reminder of new Member benefit

As this newsletter is going to press, we have just become aware of a new member benefit negotiated on behalf of members by our office at Wakefield, so we thought that if anyone is thinking of purchasing a new Hotpoint or Indesit appliance, they may be interested in this offer. Full details are on the NARPO website at www.narpo.org.uk/index.php/member-services.html but basically discounts of up to 30% with free delivery are available

AND FINALLY



DYFED-POWYS-NARPO.ORG.UK

Website and e mail addresses

Clive Cowey	Branch Secretary	narpo36@gmail.com
Phil Hopkins	Branch Chair	philiphop@yahoo.com
Phil Addicott	Newsletter editor	paddicott@btinternet.com
Hugh Colley	Webmaster	hughcolley144@btinternet.com

Later life Ambitions	pre-election manifesto	www.laterlifeambitions.co.uk
NARPO website with links to many other sites		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 all the forms are now on the site.

The member area access has changed, to sign on the new 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.

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WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR