



NARPO- DYFED POWYS BRANCH

Winter Newsletter – 2015



Chairman's Notes



Hallowe'en, Bonfire night and Armistice day have barely passed and already the shops and television are full of their Christmas themed goods and adverts. Surely we don't need this long approach to the festive season – especially as the weather is anything but festive at the moment! That's my 'Grumpy Old Man' moment out of the way!

When I penned my last notes back in the spring, I referred to two matters which were still pending at the time of writing – viz. the General Election and the matter of the Commutation factors review. The General Election result sprung a surprise inasmuch that most pundits and political commentators were predicting that no party would have an overall majority. Of course, David Cameron's Conservative party were returned with a mandate to continue their policies. As a result, public services, including of course the police service, are facing swingeing cuts to their already reduced budgets. Chief Constables and the Staff Associations are complaining that they are being stretched too far, but at the moment their concerns seem to be falling on deaf ears. The Home Secretary seems immune to criticism and intent on continuing change to the Police service in the way that we know it.

I am pleased to say that the branch membership continues to increase.

This is due in no small part to Clive's input at every pre-retirement course. We are now able to sign up officers who will shortly be retiring as associate members. The advantage of this process is that they then automatically become full members upon their retirement, unless they specifically opt out of membership, which in practice does not happen. There is a very high take up of associate membership and in fact at the recent pre retirement course, there was a one hundred per cent take up. Clive is to be congratulated on this achievement and we welcome all new members to the association. A recent addition is Paul Herdman, who was the Chair of the Joint Branch Board until his recent retirement. With his skills and knowledge, he will be a welcome asset to our branch and we hope that he will soon be taking an active part in the organisation.

It would also be prudent to mention the continuing success of the branch website, which has gone from strength to strength since Hugh Colley took over as webmaster some twelve months ago. At the time of going to press, around one hundred and thirty photographs have been put on the site this year alone.

All branch officials undertake their work on a voluntary basis and we thank them for their continued efforts.

It doesn't seem long since I was voicing my concern over the first Police and Crime Commissioner elections, yet in less than six months the next election will take place. It is due to coincide with the Welsh Assembly elections, so there may well be a better turn out than the 16% who voted at the inaugural election. You may recall that I voiced my concern over the whole system prior to the election and for the very first time did not exercise my right to vote. I am not going to pass judgement on the performance of Mr Salmon since his election success – you will all have your own views.

Some of your committee members attended a very useful Welsh Regional NARPO seminar in Newtown in September, receiving presentations from representatives of Age Cymru – a specialist talking about scams - Alzheimers Wales and the Citizens Advice Bureau. Much

useful information about scams can be found on the website www.thinkjessica.com I have recently become aware of another website which those with internet access may find useful. It is www.actionfraud.police.uk If you click on the Support and prevention link, you will be able to sign up to receive e mails or texts about scams in your area.

The Branch website continues to flourish – our Webmaster, Hugh Colley, to whom we are very grateful for the work he puts in to ensure that the content is current, reports that the number of ‘hits’ that the site is getting continues to increase. Many thanks to those who have sent photos to Hugh – he is working his way through them, but could always do with more.

I started by mentioning Hallowe’en, so I will finish by referring to the same subject. Gill and I recently had a short break in Washington and were there over that period. The number of people who were out in fancy dress was unbelievable with not the slightest hint of any trouble. At least not with the Americans! Earlier that day, we were on a sightseeing walk of the capital, naturally taking in the White House. I have rarely seen so many Law Enforcement officers in one place – mainly Secret Service Police, who with ‘Secret Service’ emblazoned on their uniforms and cars, were anything but! Anyway, knowing that the President was in residence, I thought that maybe the numbers of police indicated that he may be about to make an appearance. I approached and politely asked a Secret Service Officer if the number of police in attendance suggested that, only to be told firmly that the number of police was normal for the area. He then further said, with his hand hovering over his holster, “Sir, next time you speak to a cop in America, you might like to approach him from the front and not the side”! I suppose that I’m lucky to be here typing these notes, although there may be some who don’t share that view!

Stop Press

Since I submitted my notes, two matters – one local and one International – have occurred which I would like to refer to.

A few days ago, we were made aware of the horrors which unfolded in Paris. I refer to this because in my Chairman’s notes I referred to the risk of further cuts to the police budgets. I think we can foresee the possible consequences if these reductions in police budgets are too severe. The Government Autumn Spending Review takes place shortly and I trust that recent events will have given them much food for thought and that decisions are reflected accordingly.

The up to date to information re the Commutation issue is that all the affected officers should, by today (Monday 7th December), have received a letter from the Pensions Department giving details of the amount payable. No action need be taken, unless the officer wishes to have the amount paid into a different account from that into which their pension is paid. Otherwise, the stipulated amount will be paid into their bank account on 18th December. If this is indeed the case, then I shall write to the Pensions Manager Tony Williams, on behalf of NARPO thanking him for his department’s efforts in keeping the promise made at our Branch meeting in Saundersfoot in early October that the money would be paid by Christmas.

Phil Hopkins – Chair

Article by our President Mr Simon Prince Chief Constable Dyfed Powys Police



I am often asked what the biggest challenges are that face policing at the present time. People are often surprised by my answer. I do not believe that it is finance, although this is of course an enormous issue. But our greatest challenge is the same as it has always been: the changing types of crime, enabled by new technology and social trends, and developing methods of policing to prevent and detect them. As well as playing our part in combating the growing threat from international terrorism, we are experiencing a significant increase in a number of other forms of crime.

The internet continues to expand rapidly, bring many benefits for society. And as it does, cyber-crime in all its forms grows at the same rate. Fraud, phishing, and the sexual exploitation of children, whether through the sharing of images or grooming are serious threats that we must tackle. The forensic examination of telephones is no longer limited to specialist crime, but is a tool we exploit in many investigations.

The police service is also much clearer about the scale of domestic abuse and sexual offending: reports of these crimes have risen significantly in Dyfed-Powys, and across Wales and England over the past year. It is good news that we are now uncovering more of the crimes were not always reported in the past – but we must meet this confidence on the part of victims by investigating each crime professionally and thoroughly – and this has meant that we have increased the strength of our teams dedicated to protecting vulnerable people by 40%.

It was good news to hear that the Government does not intend to reduce the resources given to policing. However, I expect Dyfed-Powys Police to receive less funding next year, although we will not have precise details until the Government announces the level of central funding and the level of Council Tax precept is decided by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

We have made good use of our resources this past year. We have introduced four new mobile police stations – one for each county – which are used primarily to provide a policing presence in areas that have not previously been served in this way. You will also see officers carrying and using mobile hand held devices. These are used to perform many of the tasks that would previously have required them to return to police stations to fill in forms, and have actually replaced their pocket books – a great shock to the system! Mobile data will save the equivalent of 200,000 hours a year of police officer time when it has been fully rolled-out. Another great innovation has been the introduction of the Mental Health Triage Team, in partnership with Hywell Dda Health Board. This team aims to ensure that people with mental health issues receive the right response and care: it is good for the patient, and reduces the number of detentions under the Mental Health Act. During the year ahead, collaboration and partnership, both with other police forces and with other organisations, will become increasingly important.

I am pleased to say that we have been recruiting continually throughout the year. Our establishment now stands at 1,171 Police Officers and 148 Community Support Officers, supported by police staff. Our neighbourhood policing teams remain at the core of our business, supported by specialist functions, delivering a service to our communities that you would recognise: friendly engagement backed up with a hard edge when it is needed.

Policing has always been a challenging business, and the year ahead will be no different. We are fortunate to have a team of courageous, dedicated and skilled professionals, who continually deliver results and protect our communities whatever the uncertainties they face. I should like to thank all the members of Dyfed-Powys Police, serving and retired, for making our communities safer places to live, work and visit.

Simon Prince
Chief Constable

All change at the top at NARPO

As many of you will be aware, the General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of our organisation, Clint Elliot, has given notice of his intention to retire at the end of January. His current deputy, Steve Edwards, was appointed as Clint's successor back in the summer. This left a vacancy for the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

The position was advertised in many outlets and following a paper sift, four applicants were interviewed in October by a panel made up of members of the National Executive Committee of NARPO. Following this process, the panel recommended to the full NEC that Sarah Varney be appointed to the position. This recommendation was ratified and following arrangements being finalised, the appointment can now be confirmed to the membership. Sarah has a non police background -to the best of my knowledge, this is the first time such an appointment has been made. She has experience in marketing, business and personnel matters in the private sector. She has a background in event arranging, is a trained counsellor and has had work published.

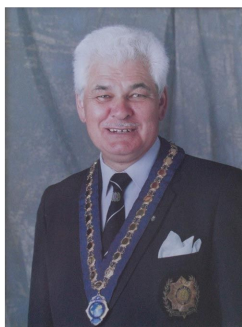
Phil Hopkins

New Members

Full Members: David Meurig Williams, Helen Coles, Andrew E Miles, Andrew Couzens, Allan Skyrme, Mark Andrew Brown, Catherine Louise Williams, Roger Wyn Davies, Jonathan Mark Davies, Paul Herdman, Thomas Elfyn Lewis, Martin Dvid Follows, Roger Brian Anthony, Clive Jones, David Dilwyn Thomas, Keith Rofe, Terry Davies, Richard Bransby Williams, Neville Apperley, Nicholas Gwyn Baskerville, Nick Davies.

Associate Members: Lynwen Evans, Jules Michael Evans, Kenneth James Small, Michael Paul Anthony, Dylan Wyn Matthews, Nick Bevan, Philip Andrew Sullivan, Stephen Greensmyth, Claire Rosemary Barnes, Simon Andrew Griffiths, Mark Anthony Marciano, Peter Adrian Crowdie, Richard David Sheridan, Alison Ress, Richard Neil Jessop, Simon Hywel Lewis, Anthony John Caswell, David Myles Chandler, Robert Edward Parsons, Thomas Wyn Williams, Robert Maynard Inkster, Robert Neil Jones, John Kevin Williams, Helen Margaret Kay, Neville Morris, Stephen Rhys Jones, Marc Richards, James Colley.

Bereavement :John Owen Evans QPM



On 25th August 2015 of Mr John Owen-Evans, Rtd Assistant Chief Constable, Dyfed-Powys Police and Branch Vice President. He was predeceased by his wife 12 years ago, and his son, a Police Officer with Avon and Somerset,, sometime earlier, he is survived by his brother, Emrys, a Rtd Police Officer, and his sister Mrs Verona Hughes, and family. Mr John Owen-Evans joined Cardiganshire Constabulary on 14th August 1949, serving in Aberystwyth and Llannon, later after amalgamation with Carmarthenshire he served as Detective Sergeant in Llanelli, Detective Inspector with the then Regional Crime Squad at Swansea. He played an instrumental part in the Policing surrounding the Investiture of

Prince of Wales and prior to that his time at Aberystwyth University, John, served as a DCI in Special Branch, in the specially created Shrewsbury Office. He was appointed as Dyfed-Powys ACC in 1983 and awarded the Queens Police Medal in 1986. He retired from the Police Service on 24th May 1987, but went on to play an important part in other organisations in Wales and in the Police Arena played a large part in the IPA and NARPO.

Bereavements

On 8th November, 2015, Elwyn EDWARDS, former Chief Inspector, aged 94 years of Mountain View, Carmel, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA14 7SD. He is survived by his daughters, Norma CARLING and Susan EDWARDS. Elwyn joined the Pembrokeshire Police in 1947. He served at stations in Pembrokeshire before moving to Llanelli in 1970. He ended his service as Chief Inspector in Ammanford and retired from the Dyfed-Powys Police on 30th June, 1975.

Efion Richards, Rtd DC 171, last Stationed at Aberystwyth

From Gwent Branch, Ray served on the RCS. Retired Det Supt Kenneth Raymond Evans, more commonly known as Ray. He is survived by his wife Jacquelyn, his son Paul who is a retired Det Ch/Insp with Gwent Police and his daughter Nicola who works in Gwent Police Finance Dept.

On 30th July 2015, of Retired Inspector David Thomas, 20 Steele Avenue, Carmarthen, SA31 3DD, David is survived by his wife, Pat and Sons Anthony and Kevin, Daughter Helen. David Joined Dyfed-Powys Police in 1972, he was stationed at Brynmawr, Milford Haven, Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Carmarthen, Llanelli, Brecon, HQ Ops Room and Retired as Inspector at Ystradgynlais.

Mr TH (Tommy) Davies Rtd P.c. 334 of 9 Clos yr Hendre ,Capel Hendre, Ammanford SA18 3NN who passed away at Llanelli Hospital on the afternoon of Friday 10th July. Tommy had previously served at Llanelli, Ammanford, Llandeilo and Llandovery. He is survived by his wife Dorothy his son Brian a serving officer with the Metropolitan Police and his daughter Sharon.

NARPO Golf Day 2015

The forecast was fine with showers but fortunately the showers fell elsewhere and for the third successive year the sun shone on Builth Wells Golf Club for the annual Dyfed Powys NARPO Golf Day held recently.

Two enforced late withdrawals reduced the field to eleven keen and stalwart golfers from most parts of the Branch area. Unfortunately, one of the absentees was David Jones whose firm David M Jones and Partners had very generously sponsored the event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for his firm's sponsorship.

The course was in its usual excellent condition, despite the recent rain and with high expectations the three groups set off to burn up the course!

Two of the competitors, Adrian Evans and Phil Small, who played in the same group, returned to the club house with 36 points, six points clear of their nearest rival, Alan Jones. Close scrutiny of the score cards then took place, which revealed that Adrian had edged out Phil with a better back nine holes. Last year's winner, Dylan Jones had to relinquish his crown to Adrian, who was delighted with his victory.

Other prize winners for longest drive, nearest the pin and 'hidden holes' were Gary Evans, Phil Small and Gary Evans (again!) respectively. The winner of the booby prize was ! Everyone agreed on the same venue for next year's competition, which will be held around the same time of year. It would be nice to see some new faces at next year's event and there will be plenty of publicity nearer the time promoting the event.

Coffee Morning – Welshpool

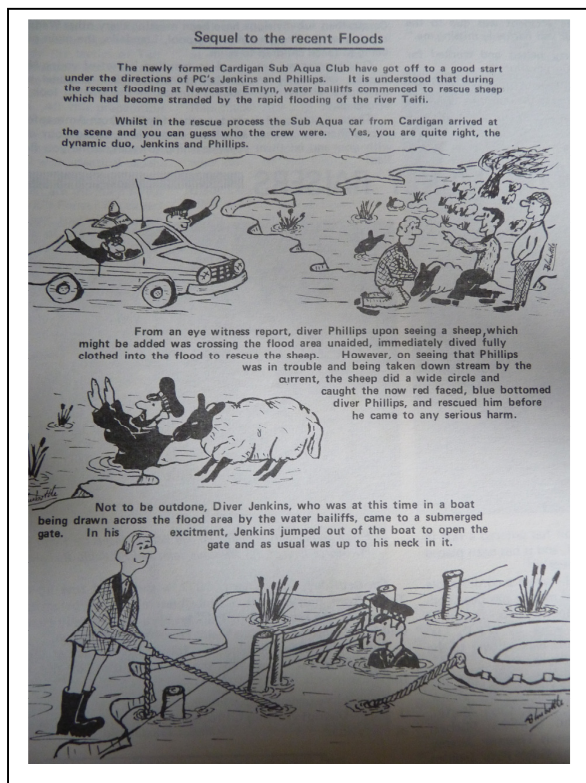
The second Welshpool coffee morning was held on Monday 7th December, at the Royal Oak Hotel, It was once again a great success with around 25 in attendance. The next one will be held in the spring time.

Phil Hopkins

With the recent inclement weather, a member reminisces, and the below is a story from Geraint Phillips, together with a Cartoon that appeared in the First edition of the Forces Newsbeat Magazine

Whilst stationed at Cardigan and attached to the Traffic Department and following report of and on instruction from control room, I attended a call re stranded sheep in the river Teifi at Adpar, Newcastle Emlyn. Upon arrival I saw that the 'tidal flooded river' had taken over a large section of the field, thus cutting off 7 sheep. PS Des Davies and PC Hefin Davies also attended in the rural car. I drove into the field, parking inside the gateway and at a safe distance from the flood. I recalled having my waterproof motorcycle trousers in my bag so I totally stripped off and got into my waterproofs. I then waded out into the water and due to depth, swam across to where the sheep were. Putting my life saving skills into practice I successfully brought 6 sheep to safety but upon returning for the 7th it was found to be dead.

By now the flood water had risen and the flow was too strong to swim back, thus I perched myself in a tree. Turkeys actually do this in the wild! I was unaware but simultaneously, as we were directed to the incident, so were the water bailiffs and PC Jenkins 23 in another vehicle by now had arrived. The bailiffs had with them an inflatable which I was rather pleased to see.



Upon arrival back at Cardigan Police Station, the circumstances had been stretched and exaggerated. I recall receiving a call on land line from 'Operations Room' requesting to speak with 'Diver Phillips'. By now, feeling rather tired as a result of the morning's events and furthermore people still ribbing me I snapped and told the officer where to go - rather abruptly, before replacing the receiver!! The 'phone immediately rang and I answered. A rather angry voice bellowed, "Do you know who you are talking to"? I replied, "Not a clue". "This is Inspector Hughes at the Ops Room".

I uttered words synonymous to, oblate spheroids! "I have met Inspector Alex Hughes, I have his old number, 388".

Rather angrily, the voice came back, "I'm not Alex Hughes, I'm Inspector Fred Hughes". (This was later confirmed in a call back to one of the female radio operators).

I thought for a second or two before replying, "I thought for a second or two before replying, "As well as extracting the Michael, you are also abstracting electricity by making such calls".

I again replaced the receiver and heard no more about it.

A Chief Constable's Commendation was received the following day, followed by the 'distorted version' in the form of a cartoon in the first ever force newspaper 'Off Beat'. The talented cartoonist was PC.Glyn Jones of Aberystwyth, later to be my 'Best Man'.

SECOND AWARD FOR TOM (TO) DAVIES GM

Many will be aware that a ceremony was held recently in London when recipients of the George Cross and George Medal gathered to mark the 75th anniversary of the honours being created by King George VI. During the ceremony they received commemorative medals from the Duke of Kent.

Unfortunately, DPP NARPO member Tom (TO) Davies GM was not included in the group photograph that appeared in the national press. Following some astute detective work, it transpired that the organisers were unable to track down Tom to invite him to the prestigious ceremony. During his Police career with Mid-Wales Constabulary, Dyfed-Powys and No 8 Regional Crime Squad he lived at fourteen different addresses and as a result the organisers were unable to locate him.



Fortunately, this has now been rectified and Tom is pictured proudly holding the boxed set of two medals: a new one bearing an image of the Queen, the other of her father King George VI. All have been individually engraved for each of the GC and GM holders. In Tom's right hand is the George Medal he was awarded in 1962 for his part in arresting Robert Boynton who shot and blinded PC Arthur Rowlands near Machynlleth.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Carmarthen coffee Morning dates for Tuesdays in 2016

January, 5th, Feb 2nd, March 1st, April 12th with AGM Meeting and Lunch for approx. 30,
May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August, 2nd, Sept 6th, October 4th, Nov 1st, December 6th with
Christmas Lunch.



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

The Executive and Committee

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Mr Simon Prince, Chief Constable Dyfed Powys Police

Vice Presidents

Mr Ian Arundale

Ms Jacqui Roberts

Executive

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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.



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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 all the forms are now on the site.

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.

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