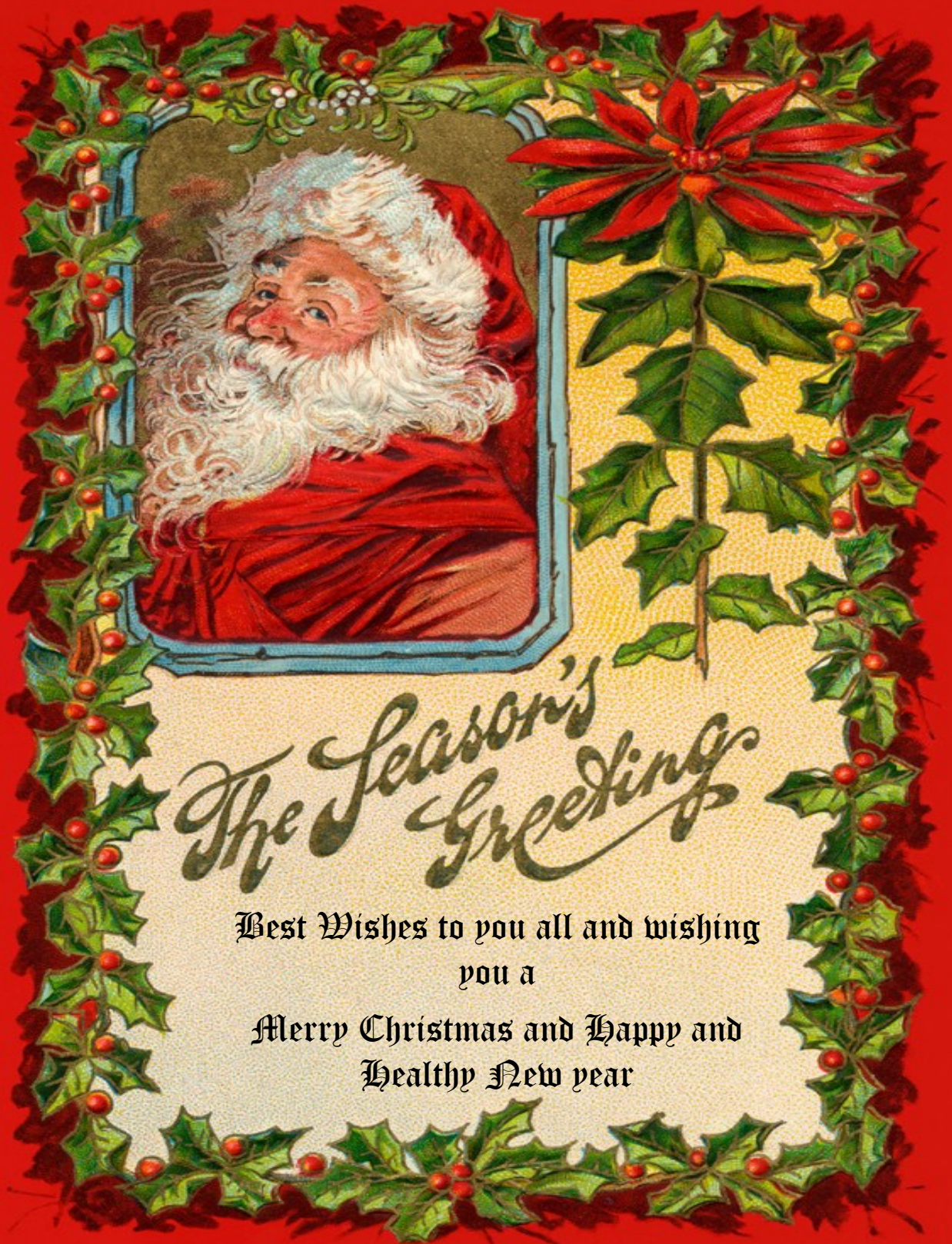




NARPO BRANCH 36 NEWSLETTER



Chairman's Notes



Well, here I am in the middle of October penning my notes for the Christmas edition of the Newsletter. It barely seems anytime since I was writing for the last Christmas newsletter, never mind for the editions since. Still, I suppose that's one thing that you have to get used to as the years creep up on you – time seems to pass you by more quickly. So, whatever you want and have to do, do it before it's too late.

I wrote in the last newsletter about the impending elections for the new position of Police and Crime Commissioners. More can be read elsewhere in this newsletter on the subject and information on the two candidates standing for the job in Dyfed Powys can be found at <http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/candidates/area/dyfed-powys>.

I find it difficult to reconcile the fact that one of the overriding arguments put forward in favour of these appointments is that there would be a totally independent overview of policing by the newly appointed Commissioners. Yet it is extremely likely that most if not all of the successful candidates will be either an official Labour or Conservative nomination. For the first time since I have been able to vote, I am seriously undecided whether to place my X on this occasion. I must stress that this is a personal view and not necessarily that of the organisation, although I know of many who are like minded.

Together with other members of the committee, I attended a NARPO Wel-

fare Seminar at Newtown recently. Representatives from all the Welsh branches were at the event, to hear presentations from a number of speakers. Hopefully, we will now be able to carry out our duties that much better. We were told that a surprising number of older persons have not made a will. One outcome of this is that the intended beneficiary (ies) of a deceased may not receive what was intended. We were advised by the speaker to choose carefully who prepares a will and to ensure that it is updated as a nod when necessary when individual circumstances change. Two more speakers were from the organisations Dying Matters and Age Cymru (an amalgam of Help the Aged and Age Concern). The first speaker was at pains to point out that her subject is one which people are reluctant to broach with friends and loved ones, feeling that it is an uncomfortable topic to discuss, but that on occasions it is very necessary. The website www.dyingmatters.org contains a lot of useful information (for those without access to the internet 08000214466). Again, there is a lot of useful information on the website <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru/>. (Tel 08001696565).

I am sorry if much of this article seems to be on the morbid side, but as one of our major remits is the provision of welfare, I feel it is important to provide everyone with information as and when it becomes available.

Now onto brighter things! We had a very successful branch meeting at Newtown earlier this month. The continuing policy of holding one meeting

a year around the force area gives retired officers and partners the chance to meet colleagues who they may not have seen for a while. Clive has worked very hard to try and get local coffee mornings up and running – with mixed success at present it must be said. If anyone has any ideas for local 'get togethers', give Clive or me a call and we will try and help if we can.

Finally, and this is NARPO related inasmuch as it occurred during the Welfare Seminar:- I had left my mobile switched on during the presentations as I was awaiting news of the birth of my fourth grandchild – who at that stage was a few days overdue. I received a text, which I felt sure would bring the awaited news, but no, it was yet another text informing me that I could reclaim for a PPI which had been miss sold – I have never taken out a PPI. I had read only recently that in the event of receiving such a text, or ones about claiming compensation for an injury – I have received plenty of those as well – you should forward the message to 7726 (which reads SPAM on the phone keypad) before deleting the message. I have used this facility several times since I became aware of it. The message is – if enough people do this, then it may have an effect of stopping these messages being sent in the future.

Just a tip to sign off with!

By the way, my grandson Evan arrived eight days later – almost three weeks overdue!

Phil Hopkins Branch Chair



There seems to be some misconceptions in the minds of members about how the branch is administered. In recent weeks Dyfed-Powys Police HQ have received communications addressed to the 'NARPO' Office.

The Branch has close links with Dyfed-Powys Police but is not operated by them, the branch is independent and part of the National NARPO Family which is about 82, 000 members in Branches all over England and Wales.

There is no NARPO Office in this branch area, the branch is administered from my home in Carmarthen. The telephone and emails are all dealt with there, please feel free to contact me at any time, I will do my best to answer at the time or as soon as possible afterwards. My contact details are on the back page

Branch Administration

The other item is collar numbers, these are not recorded on our database, they are not a reliable identification as they are re-issued, for instance my old number has had two further 'owners' since I retired from the Service.

Please don't just give me your old number as this may not be sufficient and mistakes can then occur, as we now have 800 members, there are a lot of Jones's, Williams's, Evans's and Davies's, many of which were transferred to the computer database a few years ago but only recording the last name, Initials and address,

later records are much more up to date and comprehensive, they are updated whenever I get new information.

If you need to get in touch with me or any NARPO related organisation, regarding your details or a service offered, please quote your membership number. It is on your new membership card issued earlier this year or the wrapper of your NARPO News. If you cannot locate it contact me, and I will find it for you.

Thanks, Clive

Waata Challenge

There was an item in the last Newsletter about the Waata challenge, a competitive event in The Brecon Beacons, operated by Brecon Police Staff, with the aim of raising money for charitable causes. DS Anthony Mattick was injured whilst preparing for the event when he was knocked off his bike on the A40 near Carmarthen. I am told he is making a steady and hopefully complete recovery.

After my circulation many of you sponsored Anthony and helped to raise money for the good causes, I am pleased to tell you that the amounts raised exceeded all expectations this year and thank you to all our members who contributed, this has meant that donations this year can be made to, The Wales Air Ambulance, £10,000, The Brecon Mountain Rescue £10,000 and £5,000 to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

A total of £95,000 has been raised since the events inception in 2009 and the 2013 event is now in the planning stage.

Thanks again to all who contributed.

Do you have a valid and up to date will?

This was a question posed at the recent All Wales NARPO Welfare Seminar held at The Elephant and Castle Hotel in Newtown by a Solicitor from Linder Myers, the NARPO Solicitors.

Are you aware that as a member of NARPO, Linder Myers will write a basic Will for you free of charge, contact them on 0844 984 6448 or email: narpo@lindermayers.co.uk, charges will apply for complex Wills and registration on the national database.

SEPTEMBER CPI RELEASED AS 2.2%

The September Consumer Prices Index has now been released by the Office of National Statistics and is **2.2%**. Police and other occupational pensions will rise in April next year in line with the CPI (2.2%).

However the Basic State Pension is set to rise by **2.5%**. This is as a result of the Government's 'triple lock' commitment made in 2010 - a guarantee to give pensioners a rise of the best of prices (2.2%), earnings (1.6%) or 2.5 per cent on the basic state pension.

And now the bad news, the NARPO subs for next year are likely to go up in line with the 2.2% increase to £18.96p per annum, that is a rise of 4p to £1.58p per month, this will take effect from 01/01/2013, (subject to confirmation by the NEC on 02/11/2012).

Taxation – Age Related Allowance

In the recent budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Government intended to abolish the current age related tax allowances. NARPO is against this reduction in this benefit to pensioners at a time when many of the services provided to the pensioner community are under threat. Pensioners are also paying towards the national deficit reduction following the change in annual pension indexation from the Retail Price Index to the lower Consumer Price Index.

If you would like to register your opposition to this latest reduction in pensioner benefits, please sign the petition by visiting the e-petitions website at: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/>

Members News

(Don't forget details of all bereavement letters are on the Branch website)

A sad goodbye and deepest condolences to the families of:

Widow members—Mrs. CL Phillips, Mrs. A. Davies, Mrs. Ann Gage,
Full Members—Mr. DC Murphy, Ex PS 620, Mr. HJ Hughes, Additional member, home branch,
Glamorgan, Mr. WE Morris, Ex PC 274, Mr. K H Jones Ex PS 282. Mr. G. Jones Ex PC 75.
Non members—Mrs. A.M. Ford Nee Davies Ex PC 841

A very sad time for us all when we lose an Ex Colleague, the families of full members have all been contacted and here I present on your behalf sincere condolences to all family members left behind.

We will miss them all, but not nearly as much as their loved ones will and also here acknowledge the service they gave to their communities as Police Officers, and wives and partners of Police Officers, their roles varied but all were holders of the ancient Office of Constable and Keepers of the Peace or supported that role in many ways.

Welcome to new members

Full Members - Mr. DA Mills Brecon, Mr. BH Jones, Carmarthen,
Mr. DJ Richards, Welshpool, Mr. AJ Harries, Carmarthen, Mr. S.
Morris, Llanelli, Mr. NM Jones, Pembroke, Mr. J Williams,
Llanelli, Mr. J Ll Morris, Pembroke Dock, Mr. Colin Clarke,
Carmarthen.

Additional Members, - Mr. Royston Harris, Kidderminster, Ex
DPP, Home Branch West Mercia and Mr. Phillip Rand,
Llandysul, Home Branch Wiltshire.



Apologies for the very early Christmas card on the front cover, The newsletter is published earlier than usual due to the PCC Elections on 15th November.

Dates for your diaries

Annual General Meeting,

This would normally be held in the evening at Police HQ on the 8th April 2013, but as an experiment, I am thinking of a daytime meeting possibly to coincide with the Carmarthen Coffee Morning on Tuesday 9th April, as I know a lot of members do not like driving in the dark, and the two events would be very close together. The idea was canvassed at the Newtown meeting in October, it met with approval, I will circulate details nearer the date but if there are any views about this change I would be pleased to hear them.

Carmarthen Coffee Mornings

at O&F, Carmarthen on first Tuesday in each month:

6th November, 2012

5th February 2013

4th December, 2012

5th March 2013

8th January 2013

9th April 2013 (AGM?)

Dyfed-Powys Police and crime commissioner candidates

Elections will be held in November to choose police and crime commissioners who will replace police authorities currently in charge of 41 forces in England and Wales. PCCs, as they will be known, will be responsible for setting priorities for their police force, overseeing its budget and hiring the chief constable. Nominations for candidates have now closed. The candidates for Dyfed-Powys are:



Christine Gwyther (Lab)



Christopher Salmon (Con)

Christine Gwyther was born in Pembroke Dock. She worked as a Pembrokeshire County Council development officer before going into politics. She was an AM for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire from 1999-2007 and was the assembly minister for agriculture from 1999 to 2000.

She is signed up to Labour's national pledges - including backing "a strong and swift response to anti-social behaviour. Victims should get a response within 24 hours."

Ms Gwyther and her party have promised to "keep police on the beat with neighbourhood policing, not hand it over to private companies or leave it only to Community Support Officers."

Her priorities are developing an integrated strategy for rural crime, listening to the voice of young people and working on a "respect agenda", victim support and working alongside local organisations.

CHRISTOPHER SALMON is from a farming family in Presteigne, Radnorshire. He joined the Army in 2003 and completed tours of Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Iraq. Mr Salmon served for four years and since then he has worked in business.

Mr Salmon has also completed a Masters in Russian and Security Studies at University College London. He has worked for an advisory company specialising in difficult markets.

He said if elected his priority would be to cut crime and make people feel safe, as well as fighting for 100% coverage from the Dyfed-Powys Police helicopter.

He wants the police to be robust and focussed on tackling the kind of crime that "makes people's lives miserable" - anti-social behaviour, violence and intimidation.

He says he would also make the best use of other services in the community to help make people's homes and families safer, for example drug rehabilitation services and domestic and sexual violence charities.

Polling Day is the 15th November, and for your information I have reproduced candidate details above from the BBC website, another link is below.

Turn out may be low and the choice is limited, not even an Independent Candidate for Dyfed-Powys, and some establishment voices are already calling for a boycott of this election.

Is this an exercise in democracy or an attempt to bring politics into the Police Service? Whichever it is, we are stuck with it, at least for the length of this Parliament.

Details of your local police and crime commissioner candidates are now available online.

Visit www.choosemypcc.org.uk to find out who is standing in your area for election on November 15th.

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Please get in touch with me or any of the Executive and Committee members if there is anything you need, contact details are on the website in the last AGM minutes.

If you hear of any member in Hospital or undergoing treatment and you think we can help, get in touch, we cannot function to help members without your help, this is a large area making communication difficult. Please promote NARPO whenever you get the opportunity, be an ACTIVE member, the more members we have the more we can do.



Join us at meetings and other events and make your views known, this is your Branch, let us know what you think and what you want from it. The recent coffee mornings in Narberth and Brecon have not been well attended, due to cost they have been put on hold, let me have your ideas for events and I will do what I can. Carmarthen continues to be a success, hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Kind Regards,

Clive Cowey

Clive Cowey, Branch Secretary/Treasurer



DYFED-POWYS-NARPO.ORG.UK

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: member.

Password: 123456.

have a look at it, let me know of any error or inaccuracies, while you are there use the link to take you to the NARPO Nation-

al website and surrounding branch sites, where there is a wealth of up to date information for you.

If you have any photos to upload or anything of interest to members please send them to me for inclusion.

NB. Don't forget the national NARPO website:

www.narpo.org.uk,

there is a great deal of information of interest to all members and answers to many FAQ's (Frequently

Asked Questions) especially in the area of Pensions and other allied matters of interest to members.

NARPO News also has many excellent articles and to access services there you will need your membership number, I do try not to duplicate it in this newsletter.