

NARPO Winter Newsletter



NARPO Branch 36,
Dyfed-Powys
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*A very Merry Christmas and
happy and prosperous and
healthy New Year to all our
members.*

Comments from the Chair



I had a meeting back in September with Mr Christopher Salmon, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys, at a surgery he was conducting in Welshpool. I had made him aware of my position within NARPO when making

the appointment, and unsurprisingly, he had done his research and was aware of what the organisation was about.

In the time allocated, we were able to discuss a few matters. Mr Salmon reassured me that as far as he was aware, there are no plans to outsource our pension provider. For your information, both South Wales and Gwent Police now use Capita as their pension administrator, and there have been several instances of mistakes made in pension payments. We have a very good relationship with the pensions department of Carmarthenshire County Council, and experience very few problems, so I was happy to hear that the status quo will remain. The commissioner is a big fan of PCSOs, but he does have concerns that they tend to replace presence of police officers as a visible presence on the street. He hopes to be able to recruit more PCSOs and also more police officers, but time did not allow a further discussion as to where the funding would come from. He is attempting to reverse the trend of closing police stations to the public, inasmuch as the general rule of thumb will be that if an officer is in the building, that officer will deal with any enquiry from the public.

He felt that the low turnout at the election was a reflection of how little the public knew of the new set up, and felt that poor publicity was partly to blame – he felt that the Government were largely to blame for this. He does not feel that being elected by such a small percentage of the electorate affects his ability to carry out his duties. I informed him of my opposition to the whole procedure, to which he replied that I was not alone in these views. Mr Salmon stated that he will be willing to address a meeting of NARPO, which is something which will be considered in the future.

A very interesting and informative regional welfare seminar was held in Newtown in October. For whatever reason, apart from Clive and me, none of our area reps were able to attend, so my thanks go to Derek Bloomfield, Pat Cochrane,

Peter Davies and John Williams (all from Newtown) who attended at short notice and boosted the numbers attending from our branch. We were given an update from Steve Edwards, the Deputy Chief Executive of NARPO. As I keep repeating in this magazine, the NARPO website provides answers to almost every question you may have concerning benefits and pensions, and Steve was very keen to press this message home. He and Clint Elliot are always willing to answer any pension queries from members, but invariably, the answers to the questions posed can be found by searching the website and the links provided there. Computer advice can be obtained, as can benefit advice, by simply following links from the Member Services section. We had interesting inputs from representatives of the Department of Work and Pensions, the Alzheimers Society and Age Cymru. I think that everyone who attended enjoyed the session, and hopefully benefitted from it.

To finish on a random note! Last week I drove from Welshpool to Wrexham with my son to watch the Rugby League World Cup quarter final between Australia and the USA. Our journey ground to a halt near Chirk as we joined horrendous traffic queues travelling to Chirk Castle to watch a stage of the Wales Rally GB. Fortunately, we had factored in time for a pre match drink, and although that did not materialise, we did arrive at the ground in time for kick off. This reminded me of a time in the mid 80's when the RAC Rally had stages in the Welshpool area – or to be more specific in the Llanfyllin area. There were lengthy tail backs and in fact total blockages of some roads in the area. Ex Chief Supt Alan Jones, who was then an Inspector in Welshpool, made representations to the organisers of the rally (in his inimitable way) that the stage be cancelled due to safety reasons, and this is in fact what happened. The RAC Rally was a major event, so to cancel a stage was a big step. Can you imagine this happening in this day and age of large sponsorship deals and major investments in the top rally teams?

Seasons greetings to you all – keep safe and stay warm.

Phil Hopkins

SPECIAL ANIVERSARIES

Three of the Committee celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversaries this year. First off were Clive and Pat Cowey, who were married in June, 1973, followed by Hugh Colley (the new rep for South Pembrokeshire) and Libby in September. Phil Hopkins is the new boy in this group, as he and Gill did not get married until the end of October! Not a bad record!

(Anyone with a special date coming up. Let me know and I will put it in the newsletter where possible).

Accommodation at Police Federation Headquarters



The Police Federation Headquarters is based at Leatherhead, Surrey. They have accommodation on site, as this is where they now conduct all the training for Police Federation representatives. The National Executive Committee of NARPO also hold some of their meetings there.

NARPO members can stay at these premises if there are rooms available. There is likely to be more availability at weekends, but there may well be vacancies during the week.

I have stayed there twice this year – the first time it was just Gill and me, and the second time we took our five year old grandson – there are some family rooms available. The accommodation is first class, and the food is of a very high quality – evening meals and bar snacks are served. Leatherhead railway station is a five minute walk, has a direct service to Waterloo, with regular trains running late into the evening.

A stay there represents very good value for money, and I would recommend it for anyone seeking somewhere to stay for a London break. <http://www.federationhouse.co.uk> 01372352200.

International Police Association, Dyfed-Powys Branch



The local IPA Branch is active in setting up events for members:

The Police Memorial Day was held this year at St. David's Hall, Cardiff in September, attended by The Prince of Wales and Home Secretary, also a delegation from The IPA and NARPO Branches attended this very thought provoking event. The next one will be in Belfast in September 2014.

The Battlefields Tour, organized by the IPA Branch took place earlier this year, it was a great success and a report was circulated to IPA Members.

Ireland 2014. A tour of Southern Ireland is being organized for May 2014. **At present there are places available, if you are interested contact Clive Cowey on either narpo36@gmail.com or 01267 234316.** Cost is in the region of £500 per person, contact Clive for details and itinerary.

Also next year, it is hoped to organize a trip to the WW1 Battlefield of Passchendaele, probably again in September, this coincides with the 100th anniversary year of the start of WW1, a milestone event. Details to follow, or contact the Secretary.

Don't forget NARPO Members can go on these trips, contact Clive for more information.

Events 2014

Llanelli and Ammanford

Thomas Arms, Llanelli

5th March

4th June

3rd September

3rd December

Ammanford

March 2014, date to be
circulated by e-mail.

**Come along and get together
with former colleagues and
friends.**

Anyone remember driving these, both are now re-stored by enthusiasts, more photo's on the website.



DPP Motor Cycle KBX 158 G



MW Patrol Car BEP 201C

Coffee Mornings 2014

Falcon Hotel,

Carmarthen

10am to 12 noon

January 7th

February 4th

March 4th

April 1st & AGM

May 6th

June 3rd

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT

The Falcon Hotel

Carmarthen

**TUESDAY 1st April
2014**

Buffet lunch at 12 noon

(After the Coffee Morning)

Meeting to commence
at approx. 1pm



Disabled Persons Railcard

I read a letter in a recent edition of the NARPO News from a retired officer about the availability of a Disabled Person's Railcard to anyone who wears a hearing aid. As many of you will know, I wear two hearing aids, but in no way do I consider myself disabled. However, on checking on the website, I found the advice to be correct. Knowing that my wife and I would be travelling by train to Edinburgh shortly after finding this out, I applied for my DPRC. It costs £20 for twelve months, compared to £30 for a Senior Citizens railcard, with the other advantage being that two people



can travel on the one card. On this one journey, by using my DPRC, I made a substantial saving of over £50 for the two of us – and the card is still valid for twelve months. On my visits around the branch area, I am aware that several of you do wear hearing aids, so I thought that I'd share the above with you. The website is

www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk/

Note:- the wearing of two aids does not entitle you to a double discount!

Phil Hopkins

Welcome to New Members



Mr Anthony George, Carmarthen, Mr Cerith Bevan, Ammanford, Mrs Jane McHugh, Droitwich, Mr Neil Gingell, Llanelli, Mr Leonard Owen Jones, Cardigan, Mr John Dudley Jones (Associate) Pembroke, Mr Wayne Ebsworth, Whitland, Mrs Vanessa Richards, Laugharne.

Sad Goodbyes'

Mr. Noel Ellsmore, Ammanford, Mr. Dudley Ellis Jones, Carmarthen, Mr. Wyn Edwards, Builth Wells, Mr. Ricky Williams, Welshpool, Mrs. Betty Payne, Newtown. (Widow of Geoff Payne) Mr Peter Wain (Volunteer at Llanelli for many years), Mr. Eirwen Griffiths, (Left DPP circa 1977 and ran a driving School in Aberystwyth), .

Sincere condolences to all the families and friends affected by their bereavements, there loss is great, full notices and a memorial page is to be found on the Branch Website.



LIFE CERTIFICATES

At the AGM this year it was agreed to award life certificates to Brian Griffiths and Tony Eden as they stood down after long service on the Committee.

The life certificate is the highest award NARPO can make to a member and allows them life membership of the Branch to honour and thank them for the Service they have given to members.

The Certificate was presented to Tony Eden at the General Meeting in Narberth in October, it is hoped to be able to make a presentation to Brian Griffiths at the AGM in April.



Article and Photographs to follow in the next newsletter

NARPO—Golf Day , Builth Wells

The inaugural Dyfed Powys NARPO Golf Day took place on 10th September, with a creditable turn out of ten keen (and not so keen!) golfers. Tactics were discussed over coffee and a bacon bap before tee off. Colleagues who had not met for a considerable time renewed acquaintances and it was not long before strains of “Do you remember the time.....?” were heard!



The weather held fair, and the course was in excellent condition. No one exactly burned the course up, but it was a very close run thing, as just two points separated the first five players. The winner of the overall competition was Phil Hopkins (just reward he says for organising the event!); with Phil Small the runner up and Eric Bailey taking third spot on the back nine holes. Alan Jones had the lowest gross score, with the other prizes going to Colin Finch (hidden holes) and David Jones for nearest the pin. Generous sponsorship from Roland Smith meant that every competitor was the recipient of a small gift, and our thanks go to them.

The day finished with a meal and the prize giving – everyone agreeing that the day had been a great success and should be repeated next year. As there is now a trophy in existence for the winner, that has to be the case. There are many more keen golfers among our members and I hope to see a few of you turning up for next year’s event.

Christmas Dinner 2013,

This was a new idea for the Branch and was held at The Falcon Hotel after the Coffee Morning on 3rd December, it was a convivial event, much enjoyed by the 30 members who attended, and afterwards a raffle



was held in aid of a local charity, The West Wales Prostate Cancer Support Group, for which £82 was raised and presented to Mr Ron Davies, a NARPO Member and Group Founder, (Photo Right) who thanked those present for their generosity. We hope to make this an annual event and look forward to next year.



Who is your local representative on the Branch Committee

Carmarthenshire: Mr. Harry. Rees, 01269 591776, Mr Peter Davies (V.Chair), 01267 230674, Mr Julian Rule, 01267 290007, Mr Dai Davies. 01267 232927, Mr Nigel Williams, 01267 232598, Mr. Vernon Jones, 01554 738367, Mr. Gwyndaf Prosser, 01554 75392, Mr. Howell Williams, 01554 771301, Mr. G.T.Davies, 01550 777727.

Ceredigion: John Owen-Evans, Q.P.M., 01970 617126, (Vice President) Brian Willey 01970 625669, Dylan Jones, 01970625462, Wynne Evans, 01239 613890. Martin Lewis, 01545 570234

Pembrokeshire: Hugh Colley, 01646 683232, Dai Rees, 01646 687158. Rev Martin Spain, Welfare Officer , 01437 741430.

Powys: Phil Hopkins (Chair), 01938 554302, Gloria, Hughes, 01686 650536 , Mike Kelly, 01597 822030, Graham Earp, 01874 624264.

Secretary/Treasurer: Clive Cowey, details above.

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And Finally

I have been asked recently, What does NARPO do, what is it for. I thought I knew but that question started me thinking and researching. I found the answer in Rule 2 of the Organisation's rules, I have summarised it below, If you want to see this rule and all the others, go to the National Website, Narpo.org, click Rules from the Left hand menu and have a look at them. There is plenty of other interesting 'stuff' you will find on the site, its well worth a visit. Also on page 5 is a list of your committee if you need to contact an your local representative, I hope to return to this in the next newsletter with an update and pen picture of each of the Committee members.

Best Wishes and I hope you all enjoy yourselves over the Festive season.

Kind Regards,

Clive Cowey

Clive Cowey, Branch Secretary/Treasurer



DYFED-POWYS-NARPO.ORG.UK



What Does NARPO do?—What is it for?

- (a) The objective for which the Association was established is to safeguard the rights of member and promote measures for their welfare with particular regard to pensions.
- (b) To enable the Association to achieve its objective it will:

- (i) Protect, promote and represent the interests of its members and provide a channel whereby they can express their opinion.
- (ii) Assist in the solution of problems of members.
- (iii) Promote the efficiency and status of the Association.
- (iv) Provide opportunities for contact between the National Executive Committee and Branches, and between members of all Branches with each other and the National Executive Committee, and the co-ordination of the work of the N.E.C and Branches for the mutual benefit of the members.
- (v) Establish liaison with other bodies on matters of common interest where this is consistent with the objects of the Association.
- (vi) Make representations to Police representative bodies and Authorities, Government and Ministerial Departments.
- (vii) Make charitable and benevolent donations.
- (viii) Promote or assist in securing legislation in the interests of pensions, welfare and care of members.
- (ix) Negotiate with, and become affiliated to or associated with, societies or other pensioner bodies, where this is consistent with the objects of the Association.
- (x) to (xiv) deal with property and assets.