



DYFED-POWYS NARPO NEWSLETTER

Autumn / Winter 2022



FROM THE EDITOR: Hugh Colley



Welcome to the latest issue of the branch newsletter. This year has been dominated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, turmoil at No.10, the cost of living crisis and in September, the sad loss of our much loved Queen Elizabeth II.

Many of us were honoured to have been on duty during Her Majesty's many visits to the Force area. No doubt we all recollect standing for hours dressed in our best uniform, engaging with young and old waiting patiently to see Her Majesty. At the same time, senior officers were quietly praying the day passed without incident!

There's a wide range of articles in this jam packed issue together with stories and cartoons to lighten the mood. So, why not grab a coffee (or something stronger) and enjoy.

Finally, my best wishes to you and your families for Christmas, let's hope that next year is far less turbulent than the current one.

WELCOME HOME

Chief Constable, Dr Richard Lewis, marked his return to the Force last December with a Saturday nightshift back on the streets of Aberystwyth, where he first began his policing career.



Announced as Police & Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llewelyn's preferred candidate to lead the Force following the retirement of Mr. Mark Collins. Dr Lewis served as the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police since April 2019 – the temptation to return home to Wales was too great to resist.

Originally from Carmarthenshire, his career in the police service started in 2000. During his 18 years in Dyfed-Powys Police he served in every rank up to Deputy Chief Constable, working in all four counties in the Force. He has also been the head of the professional standards department and chaired the Wales Counter Corruption Working Group.

Dr. Lewis attended the 2022 DPP NARPO Annual General Meeting where he outlined to members the challenges facing the force, especially the scourge of drugs.

He explained that Dyfed-Powys faces a challenge that many other forces don't – the geography of the force area. Dyfed-Powys covers over half the land mass of Wales, where Cleveland Police's geography is a third of the size of Carmarthenshire.

NEW CHAIR OF DYFED-POWYS NARPO – Mike Benbow

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, Peter Davies stood down after five years as Chairman of DPP NARPO. His successor is Mike Benbow, the following is a resume of Mike's varied Police career:

I joined Dyfed Powys Police in September 1974, stationed at Tenby and served in Pembroke Dock as a PC and DC. Promoted to Detective Sergeant at Llanelli in 1989, before moving to Brecon as Detective Inspector in 1991.



Transferred to the then Complaints and Discipline at Police Headquarters in 1993 before moving to Ammanford as Detective Inspector in 1995.

Between 1995 and 2000 I performed Acting Chief Inspector roles in Llanelli, Acting Detective Chief Inspector in Police Headquarters and Millennium Planning Officer in Operations.

Peter Davies handing over to Mike Benbow

In 2000 I became Detective Chief Inspector Head of the then newly formed Anti-Corruption Unit. In 2001 promoted to Detective Superintendent and seconded as a Senior Investigator to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I returned to Dyfed Powys Police in 2003 as Head of Professional Standards.

In 2004 I was seconded as a Detective Chief Superintendent to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. In 2005 I retired from the Force and became a Senior Investigator with the IPCC. I later became Director for the IPCC Wales and South West Region and then becoming IPCC Director of Standards and Quality.

In 2013 I was asked to lead the IPCC Hillsborough investigation and privileged to become Director for that investigation. I finally retired from the Hillsborough Investigation in November 2020.

During my service I have been a Police Federation and Police Superintendents Association representative, representing a number of officers in misconduct enquiries. I was a fully trained firearms officer and hostage negotiator. I have been fortunate to work across the UK and abroad including representing the Force in Washington and Baltimore USA. In 2011 I worked providing Human Rights training and anti – corruption advice in Kabul, Afghanistan, the latter not very successfully.

It is a privilege and honour to be Chair of Dyfed Powys Police NARPO. During my tenure I will do my utmost to represent the best interests of our members. There is no doubt that there are going to be challenging times ahead. NARPO'S primary role is the welfare of its members. We rely on you for information so that we can do what we can when members need our support.

I would make one plea to members to know who your welfare officer is for your area and keep them informed when you think someone may need our help.

Regards Mike

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Like many others across the country, we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September.



IN MEMORIAM

The following have sadly passed away since the last newsletter:

2022

Mrs Delyth Hamblin, wife of Mr Mark Hamblin (Rtd. PS477)
Mr David Gorman (Rtd. PS580)
Mr Reg Scales (Rtd. DC498)
Mrs Margaret Iris Morris, wife of Mr James (Jim) Morris (Rtd. D/Insp)
Mr. Elfed Watkins (Rtd. PC577)
Mrs Nancy Lloyd, wife of Mr Ron Lloyd (Rtd. DC562)
Mr Peter Charles Mair (Rtd. PC568)
Mr Arthur (Nat) Lewis (Rtd. PC702)
Mr Brian John (Rtd. PC528) & his wife Mrs Brenda John
Mr Thomas William (Bill) Smith (Rtd. PS627)
Mrs Lynne Miles (Rtd. DC631)
Mr David Roger Hughes (Rtd. C/Insp)
Mrs Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) Jenkins, wife of PC John Jenkins (Rtd. PC).
Mrs Marion Coles, wife of Mr Alan Coles (Rtd. DS 548)
Mr Bernard (Bernie) Edward John (Rtd. PS 496)
Mrs Margaret Audrey Evans, widow of the late Glyn Evans (Rtd. PS 223)
Mr Fred Hughes (Rtd. C/Insp)
Mrs Gaynor Bowen, the wife of Mr Aled Bowen (Rtd. PC82)
Mrs Lynne Guy, the wife of Mr David Guy (Rtd. PC345)

2021

Mrs Diana Evans widow of Mr Mike Evans (Rtd. PS672)
Mr Desmond (Des) Wyn Davies (Rtd. PS210)
Mrs Ena Mills, widow of the late David Bertram (Bert) Mills (Rtd. PS678)
Mr Ian Richards (Rtd. Insp)
Mr David Evans, (Rtd. PC330)
Mr William (Bill) Kirke (Rtd. C/Supt)
Mrs Mair Jones widow of the late Mr Idris Jones (Rtd. Insp)
Mr David Bertram (Bert) Mills (Rtd. PS678)
Mr David Marc Illingworth-Jones (Rtd. PC298)
Mrs Ann Lewis, widow of the late Mr. Jim Lewis (Rtd. PC256)
Mr David Thomas Phillips (Rtd. PS)
Mrs Rozanne Kirk (Rtd. WDC836)
Mrs. Elizabeth Eirian Ambrose, widow of the late John Ambrose (Rtd. PS)

KING CHARLES AT ABERYSTWYTH

In 1969, our new Monarch spent a term at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. At the time, retired Chief Superintendent Don Evans was a Detective Constable and was one of six Dyfed-Powys officers responsible for the safety of the Prince during his stay at Aberystwyth.



Don (left) recalls his duty at Aberystwyth and explains how his Police career almost came to a sudden halt!

In 1968, while serving as the C Division Drugs and Special Branch officer, I received a phone call from Detective Superintendent David Thomas, known as Dai Tec, who told me he needed to 'have a chat'. Dai Tec explained that he had been appointed by the Chief Constable John Ronald Jones to nominate a team of six as protection officers to the Prince of Wales while he studied the Welsh language at Aberystwyth University.



The team: (L to R) Ron Callaghan, Geoff Davies, Alan Nurton, Glan Griffiths, Don Evans and Dai Rees

These special duties would involve being away from my family for 14 weeks residing with a small team at a hotel in Aberystwyth. The team would be responsible 24/7 for the safety and security of the Prince of Wales throughout his stay at the university. He ended by saying that these duties would probably be the most important duties I would perform during my career.

News that the Prince of Wales was going to study at the university became a very emotive subject. Welsh extremists were so opposed to the forthcoming investiture that they took up arms and set off bombs in the hope of disrupting the event.

Dai Rees still recalls the words of C/Superintendent Jock Wilson (Metropolitan Police) at the initial briefing, "If anything happens to the Prince whilst under your care, just walk into the tide until your hat floats".

However, the Prince's stay at the university went without any major incidents and our duties, which included accompanying him on numerous occasions, were highly successful.



One incident I vividly recall, took place one Saturday morning when I sat alongside the prince (see left) driving his electric blue MGC GT registration number SGY776F from Aberystwyth to Aberporth. At Aberporth he would board a waiting helicopter of the Queen's flight to convey him to London.

During the journey, the prince asked me what my plans were for the weekend and I explained that I would be returning to Aberystwyth and after securing the car in the police garage, I would drive to Haverfordwest to see my wife and family. He replied, 'Surely not, you can take my car and put it in your garage'. While this was a very fine gesture, I declined his kind offer before dropping him off at Aberporth.

I then started the return journey to Aberystwyth, alone in his smart MGC – after a short distance my prospect of becoming a Chief Superintendent almost went out through the window. While putting the car through its paces I was driving too fast when on a long sharp bend, I nearly lost control of the car. Luckily nobody saw me whipping across the road and touching the grass verge, I slowed down while I got my breath back!!



Back Row (L to R): Glan Griffiths, Geoff Davies, Don Evans, Ron Callaghan, Irlwyn Evans, Ken Evans, Eric Thomas, David (DM) Davies, Walford Davies, Alan Nurton, Dai Rees, Terry Adams and Hayden Davies (Metropolitan Police)
Front: Tony Speed (Metropolitan Police), Vivian Fisher, Sidney Wilmet, JR Jones (Chief Constable), HRH Prince / King Charles, Squadron Leader David Checketts (Honorary Equerry), Jock Wilson (Metropolitan Police), John Owen - Evans, David Thomas. (Photo supplied by Dai Rees).



After conclusion of his studies at the university, Buckingham Palace gave permission for a commemorative tie to be made to celebrate the special duties at Aberystwyth. The tie bears the initials HRH & GAGT (Cangen Arbennig Gwyllo'r Tewysog). English translation: Special Team Securing the Prince. The tie has a special place in my wardrobe and is only worn on very special occasions. I've always felt very privileged and honoured that I was selected to be part of a team responsible for the security of King Charles III.

RESPECTS PAID TO MONTE CASSINO WAR DEAD by Anthony Mattick

During the summer, five former colleagues namely Ieuan Matthews, Anthony Griffiths, Chris Helps, Anthony Evans and I embarked on a visit to Italy.

As well as enjoying the culinary delights, we explored the beautiful countryside including a visit to Monte Cassino, south of Rome.



Taken at the rebuilt Monte Cassino monastery – Left Anthony Mattick, Chris Helps & Anthony Evans Right: Ieuan Matthews, Chris Helps & Anthony Evans

During World War II, a battle took place at Monte Cassino a Catholic monastery situated high on a rocky hill above the town of Cassino, we also went to the Commonwealth War Graves and Polish Cemeteries (below) where we paid our respects to the fallen.



My lasting memory of visiting the monastery and cemeteries is the beauty of the rebuilt monastery and the sombre and poignant loss of life, by so many that lay in its grounds. You can't help but think of the lost generations and loss of so many young lives, at a time where it strikes a chord that lessons have still not been learned when it comes to war.

Note: The battle, described as hell on a mountain top, took place between January and May 1944 and led to the destruction of the town and its historic Benedictine monastery. The battle resulted in 55,000 Allied casualties, with German losses estimated at around 20,000 killed and wounded.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF POLICE IN WALES.



Ross Mather is a retired South Wales Police traffic officer who collects police memorabilia from obsolete police forces of Wales and England. As an advisor and police historian, he has appeared on several television programmes and is a consultant advisor to The National Museum of Wales.

Photographs of his huge collection can be viewed on the Facebook page **Virtual Museum of Police in Wales**. If you wish to find a good home for that police item or collection, please get in touch with Ross. (Email: rossmather@btinternet.com)

Ross recently received a Carmarthenshire & Cardiganshire Constabulary helmet (below), it's in pristine condition, unworn and still wrapped in the manufacturer's paper protection.



The helmet was introduced on 1st September 1964 and was in use until the formation of the Dyfed Powys Constabulary on 1st April 1968.

At the Police Authority Meeting held in October 1963, the clothing tender for 1964 shows that J Compton, Son & Webb Ltd was the helmet supplier. The cost for each helmet was £3/3s/10d. (£3:19p).

Note: In the 70s, helmets were replaced by flat caps as worn by PC Glyn James, probably as a cost cutting exercise. In the mid-80s, following pressure from the ranks, the hugely unpopular flat caps were abolished, uniform Constables and Sergeants reverted to wearing the traditional helmet as worn by PC Wayne Matthews.

RAIN ON THE WAY? by John Roderick

In 1991, ahead of a National Crime Prevention week, divisional Community Affairs Officers were tasked with arranging events for their areas – my area being Newtown / Welshpool.



One of our tasks was to obtain the services of a celebrity to open proceedings and spend some time travelling around the area.

I was fortunate to acquire the services of Sian Lloyd, who at the time was the national weather presenter for ITN. Sian is from Neath and had previously worked for the Mid Wales Development Agency in Newtown.

The photo shows the two of us with Sian looking for signs of rain - luckily it didn't rain that particular day!

HOSPITAL GIFT FUND

When a member of Dyfed-Powys NARPO is hospitalised, or undergoing extended treatment for a serious condition, the Secretary should be informed as soon as possible. If required, the Secretary will arrange for a payment (currently £25:00) to be made to the member from the Hospital Gift Fund.

While the favoured method of payment is directly into the member's account, a cheque can be issued if preferred.

If you, or you know a member that is eligible please inform the Secretary (Phone: 07807956928 or Email: dyfedpowys@narpo.org)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To continue receiving NARPO correspondence and circulations it is important that you inform NARPO of any change to your postal or email address.

You can do this by phoning Phil Addicott (Secretary): 07807956928 or by Email: dyfedpowys@narpo.org.

WHO'S WHO AT DPP NARPO

The following officers were appointed at the Annual General Meeting held at Carmarthen in June:

Chair: Mike Benbow

Phone: 07717 851183 Email: mbenbow2003@yahoo.co.uk

Vice-Chair: Peter Davies

Phone: 07766 168961 Email: p90pgd@btinternet.com

Secretary & Treasurer: Phil Addicott

Phone: 07807 956928 Email: dyfedpowys@narpo.org)

Deputy Secretary: Ian John

Phone: 07414 288886 Email: wjohn121@btinternet.com

Webmaster / Newsletter Editor: Hugh Colley

Phone: 01646 683232 Email: hughcolley144@btinternet.com

Chaplain: Lynn Rees

Phone: 07904 736364 Email: dlynnrees@btinternet.com

FORCE DEVELOPMENT LOTTERY

Since the lottery commenced in 1996, the prize money has been largely unchanged, however in line with inflation, the £100 prize has now been increased to £200.

The quarterly draws are held in March, June, September and December with additional Christmas Cracker and Summer Spectacular draws.

A list of winners can be found in the Members section of the website with cheques posted from FHQ within a few days of the draw taking place.

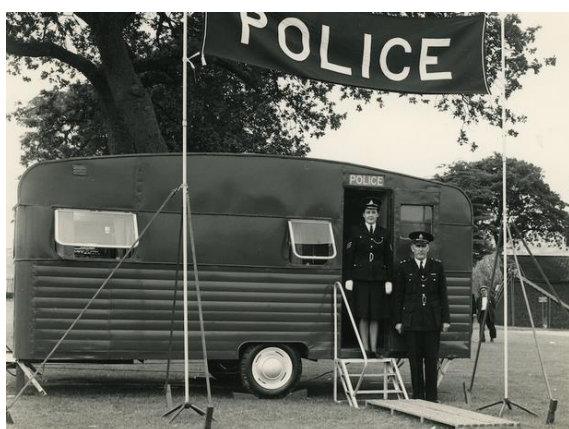
MEMORIES OF A FEMALE OFFICER by Mrs Jean Evans (Rtd WPS 5)



Mrs Jean Evans who became the Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary's first female Police Sergeant tells how policing has changed in the 60 plus years since she joined the Police.

She was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary in 1958, becoming the first female sergeant in the force. At that time policing was male dominated, and the role of the woman police sergeant was very different to that of her male colleagues.

Jean at the age of 21, joined Carmarthenshire Constabulary in 1953 as a Woman Police Constable. Now 90, Mrs Evans recalls her time in the service: "In the 1950s Policewomen were responsible for dealing with women and children.



One of my responsibilities as a female Sergeant was to supervise policewomen in other stations; I regularly visited Aberystwyth, Ammanford and Llanelli".

Left: WPS Jean Evans and Supt. Sherwood at the 1964 Eisteddfod held at Cardigan,

"I would regularly visit each of the 39 public houses in Carmarthen; under-age drinking was one problem area, and any

indecent language was dealt with firmly - often ending up in court! In such cases the officer would not be allowed to speak the actual words in court and instead had to write them down to be passed to the magistrate.

Discipline was strict in those days. Policewomen were required to keep their hair short, not wear jewellery and seldom removed their hats and if you were seen without your hat, you would be put on a charge."



One of the first cases Jean was involved in was the notorious 1953 Pendine Murders of John and Phoebe Harries at the hands of Ronald Harries which were investigated by Superintendent Capstick of Scotland Yard. Jean was given the role of looking after the families involved during the court proceedings. "Being a local girl, I knew Ronald Harries personally, and was also a school friend of his wife".

"I was in court throughout the trial and witnessed him being found guilty of murder and the Judge donning his black cap sentencing Harries to hang. Carmarthen town square was full of people throughout the trial, they gathered daily from 3.30am."

Jean is an active member of Dyfed-Powys Police NARPO and has held several charitable roles in the Carmarthen community. Her late husband was Mr. Delme Evans (Rtd. Supt).

FINANCIAL MATTERS

SEPTEMBER CPI PUBLISHED

The ONS have published the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2022 and this stands at 10.1%. The increase for Police Pensions from April 2023 has not been confirmed.

WHAT IS THE TRIPLE LOCK ON PENSIONS?

The triple lock is a government policy designed to ensure people's pensions are not impacted by gradual rises in the cost of living over time. In practice, it means that the state pension must rise by whichever of the following three things is highest:

- Average earnings
- Inflation
- 2.5%

The government usually compares the three rates in September, before implementing the correct rise the following April.

What is the history of the policy?

The measure was introduced by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government after they took office in 2010. The chancellor at the time, George Osborne, said bringing in the policy would see pensioners "have the income to live with dignity in retirement".

Since then, it has been a staple of every Conservative manifesto - including Boris Johnson's ahead of the last election in 2019. The only time it has been paused since its inception was in September 2021 due to COVID.

Because of people earning much less during the lockdowns of 2020, there was a big leap in average earnings of 8% come 2021 as people returned to work. But with the debt the government had racked up during the pandemic, it feared raising pensions at the same rate would be too expensive for the Treasury's coffers. Then work and pensions secretary Therese Coffey confirmed the triple lock would be suspended for a year but reintroduced for the financial year starting April 2023.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have confirmed that the consumer price index (CPI) showed September 2022's rate of inflation was 10.1%.

This would make it the highest of the three rates for next year's pension increase by far, therefore, to stick to the triple lock, the government would need to raise the state pension by **10.1%** come April.

However, an official spokesperson reignited speculation recently when he said Number 10 was "not making any commitments" on the pensions triple lock until the Chancellor delivers his tax and spending plan on 17th November.

From the government's side, getting rid of the triple lock would save the Treasury an estimated £11 billion.

UNITY CYCLE TOUR IN MEMORY OF FALLEN COLLEAGUE

The family of a Pembrokeshire police officer who tragically died in the line of duty joined Dyfed-Powys Police officers at the annual service of remembrance.

Thursday 18th October 1990 was the darkest day in the history of the Force when a collision with a lorry near Sennybridge led to four serving officers losing their lives while on surveillance training.



One of the four was Detective Constable Roger Meyrick (left) of Tenby, a Pembrokeshire based drugs officer.

DC Meyrick was 37 years old at the time of his death and left behind a wife and three children. He was a keen sportsman who loved to spend time outdoors with his family.

In August, a team of Dyfed-Powys police officers cycled 180 miles to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for the service organised by the Care of Police Survivors (COPS).

The presence of Roger's wife Frances, daughter Laurie, son David, daughter-in-law Tiffany, and grandchildren William and Ella was the first time that the Dyfed-Powys team had a remembered police officer's family at the service, which made it all the more poignant.

Laurie thanked the officers after the service. She said: 'You will always be very special to us for riding in memory of my dad. We have loved every minute we have spent with you all'.

The 12 officers from Dyfed-Powys Police who took part in the ride were PC Andrew Smart, ACC Steve Cockwell, DCI Llyr Williams, DCI Jon Rees, Superintendent Huw Davies, Detective Superintendent Jayne Butler, DS Kevin Allen, PC Mark Thomas, PS Emily Davies, PS Sarah Evans, Inspector Gwynhaf Bowen and PC Jon Halliday.

Over ten years, the UK Police Unity Tour has raised over £1.1million for the COPS charity, which is dedicated to helping the families of police officers who have lost their lives on duty. Dyfed-Powys Police officers have raised in the region of £4,000 so far this year with DPP NARPO donating £250 to the fund raising team.

Further information about the charity can be found on ukcops.org and there is still time to give to the important cause via its Just Giving page.

**In addition to Roger, the officers who tragically lost their lives:
Leonid Evans, Nicholas Tabraham and Paul Hetherington.**

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP!

Phil Hopkins previously suggested the newsletter contains a section of stories from members relating to their time in the job.

The following anecdotes have been received; the winning entry has been selected by former Chief Constable, Mr Ray White, who now resides in Queensland, Australia:

Note: The identity of the winner can be found on page 16 (For impartiality purposes, the identities of the authors were removed **prior** to emailing the entries to Mr. White).

ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR HAIR CURL by Jean Evans

When I was a WPS in the 50s, I accompanied a young police woman to interview a young girl at her home. The girl was very shy and reserved so I told my colleague to take off her hat to try and reassure the child but for some reason she refused to do so.

When we left the house, I asked why she was so reluctant to remove her hat. The WPC replied that she didn't remove her hat because her hair was in curlers as she had a date later in the day.

AN EVENTFUL VISIT TO ANFIELD by Nigel Williams

In October 1977 I was an instructor based at Cwmbran PTC when a few of my colleagues hired a minibus to travel to Liverpool to watch the Football World Cup Qualifier between Wales and Scotland.

As we crawled towards Anfield, things did not look good. The Tartan Army had given the game their full attention. The winners would surely qualify for the 1978 World Cup Finals in Argentina. Tartan clad Scots were everywhere. Walking from the car park towards the stadium we were jostled by the crowd and one of our group, a Chief Inspector no less, lost his wallet and money to a pickpocket.

Although the Welsh supporters had been allocated the famous Kop, we were hugely outnumbered by Scottish fans - many of them had been on the 'lash' during the days and hours leading up to kick off.

The match started and glass bottles, some filled with urine, cascaded onto the Welsh fans - I missed most of the first half as I kept ducking to dodge the missiles. An hour into the game, Scotland scored from a controversial penalty - cue Scottish mayhem.

Even though the main exit was behind the hordes of Scottish fans, it was an opportunity to get out in one piece. It was absolute chaos with pockets of burly Scotsmen picking off any stray Welshmen making their way out of the ground.

At the end of the match (Scotland won 2 – 0) we had to drive very slowly past the stadium, masses of drunken Jocks started jumping over the minibus with at least one jubilant fan on the roof!

This was my first experience of a top football match and probably one of the reasons why I'm more of a rugby supporter!!

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER by Peter Davies (Newtown)

In March 1966, a bomb was detonated by Welsh extremists at the partially constructed Clywedog Dam near Llanidloes in mid Wales. At the time I was lodging with several other young Mid-Wales Constabulary bobbies at Park Street, Newtown which became known as the Park Street Outstation.



On this particular night a group of us were off duty playing cards when there was a loud knock on the front door. Stood at the door was the imposing figure of Sergeant Bill Paines who told us in his broad Somerset accent, 'The dam has been blown up, we need some help'.

With that there was a terrific scramble as four or five officers including me, Dai Lewis, Brian Randle, David (Spud) Davies and Phil Price, rushed around the house collecting our uniform. Within a few minutes we were hurrying to the Police Station partially dressed, pulling on our trousers, tunics, helmets etc.

When we eventually got to Llanidloes we were allocated places in Patrol and Section Vehicles to set up roadblocks, staying out all night to check vehicles.

Unfortunately, we didn't catch the offenders but looking back it must have been a amusing sight with partially clothed Police Officers racing through the streets of Newtown to do their duty.

DOUBLE TROUBLE by Bryn Jones

In the early 1970s, whilst serving as a Chief Inspector in Carmarthen I visited the scene of a road accident on a Saturday morning on the A.40 between Carmarthen and Abergwili village.

A lady driver from Newport, Pembrokeshire had failed to take a left hand bend and collided with a car travelling in the opposite direction. Before my arrival, the lady had been taken to the West Wales Hospital, Carmarthen.

The following evening, I was asked to investigate a road accident on the Carmarthen to Cynwyl Elfed road involving two vehicles one of which was driven by a serving police officer from Lampeter Sub-Division.

On arrival I discovered that a motor car travelling towards Carmarthen had failed to negotiate a left hand bend and collided with the police officer's car. Fortunately, no one was injured. On discovering that the driver who was to blame for the accident was from Newport, Pembrokeshire I remarked on the coincidence of the two accidents. "Yes, I know" said the driver, "That was my mother, I was on my way to the hospital to visit her."

The outcome was that both mother and son were summoned for careless driving, one in the Carmarthen Borough Magistrates Court and one in the Carmarthen

County Magistrates Court. A solicitor appearing for both requested that both cases be dealt with at the same court, which was agreed, and both pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN TENBY by Harry Rees

June 1972: it had been a quiet night shift in Tenby - the duty Sergeant had finished work at 2:00am and it was my turn to perform station duties. My two night shift colleagues, Constables Stuart Cole and John Parsons, were on patrol in the sub divisional vehicle call sign C07.

At the commencement of the shift the Sergeant had briefed us about a circulation received from Sussex Police regarding illegal immigrants landing on a beach on the south coast of England.



At around 4:30am I received a telephone call from a female who explained that she was staying in a hotel on The Esplanade. While taking her dog for a walk on the South Beach (left) she had witnessed around a dozen Asian men arriving on the beach by boat.

I immediately contacted Stuart and John by radio and requested them to return to the station without delay. I grabbed as many sets of handcuffs and truncheons as I could, ran out of the station and awaited their arrival. John drove into the station yard with the blue light flashing and I jumped into the rear seat. Excitedly, I told them that illegal immigrants were landing on the South Beach.

We drove to The Esplanade at no more than 30 mph with John exaggerating his hand movements as if he was a Formula 1 driver. Stuart and John did not say a word on the short journey and I felt that it was down to me to deal with the incident - I was pumped up with adrenaline. When we reached the end of The Esplanade, we had a panoramic view of the deserted South Beach. There was an outburst of uncontrollable laughter - I had been well and truly conned.

I joined in the laughter as well as using a few well-chosen expletives. It was common practice in those days for officers to visit Tenby Cottage Hospital on nights to have a cup of tea with the nurses - the mysterious female hoaxer was Sister Bellamy.

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES by Rob Price

Saturday night in the early 2000s at HQ Ops Room, a small number of staff taking calls from all over the force plus managing force radio traffic - night shifts at weekends were exceptionally busy. Staff that night: myself, Alan Rowlands (Rowly), Debby Jones, Carys Rees, Menna Evans, Alice Cooper and Avril Williams.

During the shift, a loud scream came from across the room. It was Debby followed by screams from Alice and Avril while Menna remained her usual calm self. What on earth was going on? The screams continued then I heard a shout of... **BAT**, it was total mayhem.

I then spotted a bat swoop down from the ceiling before suddenly changing direction and heading straight for the ladies who were screaming with fear. Heroically, not one of the staff left their consoles.



Rowly and I jumped to our feet and saw Avril answering a 999 call and typing details onto the STORM computer, at the same time desperately trying to avoid the winged intruder as it swooped towards her. Rowly and I grabbed a white towel from the kitchen and made several attempts to trap the bat as it flew past us.

After a few minutes, we captured our unwanted visitor and could hear it squeaking from within the fluffy pile. Rowly, tentatively put his hand inside to feel for it. We all urged caution due to fear of him catching rabies. Too late, Rowly's hand emerged clutching the tiny bat which proceeded to chew his fingers with its razor sharp teeth.



I saw blood but Rowly (left) did not release his grip while he walked with pained facial expression to a window and released the creature to fly off into the dark Carmarthen night. Cheers and applause briefly rung out before everyone resumed what they were doing - professionals at work.

Rowly was a hero to us that night and following the incident he became known as Batman! **Rest In Peace Rowly.**

MORNING PARADE AT BRIDGEND by Phil Lloyd

I joined Pembrokeshire Police in 1965 and underwent initial training at Bridgend where the legendary Sgt Geoffrey (Goff) Arnold was the drill / first aid instructor.

Marching drill was practiced every morning on the large car park outside the gates and adjacent to the main road, so everybody travelling along the road could observe and hear the words of command bellowed by Sgt Goff Arnold.

One morning, two male youths standing at the bus stop were laughing at us performing the drill moves. Before they realised what was happening, Goff went over to them and frog marched the duo over to the parade ground and made them march up and down with us.

Sadly, when they returned to the bus stop, they found that they had missed their bus and were late for work! The following morning, they stood at the bus stop in complete silence not saying a word, standing with their backs to the parade ground.

Goff also featured in a Western Mail article after a recruit resigned because he said that Goff kept swearing at him. He came into the class the following morning, showed us the paper and said, 'Have you ever heard me f**king swearing at anybody'.

BILL TO THE RESCUE – WELL ALMOST by Hugh Colley

In the aftermath of the blizzards, which hit Pembrokeshire in January 1982, thousands of homes in Pembrokeshire were cut off for a week leaving families without essential supplies.

On the third day, a call was received at Pembroke Dock Police Station from RAF Brawdy reporting that a Sea King helicopter would be landing in the car park opposite the station to load up with bread, milk etc. The supplies would be airlifted to villages in the Angle and Castlemartin areas.

On hearing this, the duty Inspector, the late Bill Pugh, grabbed hold of two table tennis bats from the canteen and hurriedly made his way to the landing area. As the helicopter hovered Bill used the bats to guide the pilot during touchdown, a skill he developed during National Service.



Unfortunately, as the Sea King descended the downdraft from the rotor blades created a blizzard of fresh snow that covered Bill from head to toe. To make matters worse, Bill had to cling onto metal railings for dear life to avoid being swept into the icy waters of the Milford Haven waterway.

On his return to the station, Bill resembled Scott of the Antarctic and readily agreed that the operation hadn't exactly gone to plan.

The comments of the RAF crew are not suitable for publication!

THE WINNER judged by Mr Ray White

I very much enjoyed reading the entries for your competition and as always with these things it is difficult to choose, I have selected:

First: Bill to The Rescue - Well Almost. The graphic description painted a great picture of the Pembrokeshire Abominable Snowman!

Second: Illegal Immigrants in Tenby. A great practical joke, it's amazing what goes on in the night!!

I will put together a story for the next newsletter between now and Christmas. By Christmas, the temperature here in Queensland will probably be around 30C and I expect that we will have a barbecue. Just like Christmas in Abergwili!

Cofion cynnes, Ray

Note: Mr Bill Pugh's daughter, Karen, has read the above story and fondly remembers her father relating the tale of how he 'helped' with the landing. I have donated the cash prize to Prostate Cymru which was one of Bill's favourite charities.

Hugh

LIFE AFTER 'THE JOB' ON THE GWILI RAILWAY by Jeremy John



In 2005 I received a telephone call asking if I was interested in taking up employment with the Gwili Railway near Carmarthen as they required someone to act as a business administrator.

The Gwili Railway is a steam hauled heritage railway - just one of many that are scattered around the country. My role: to administer the office and to deal with passenger enquiries plus the day to day running of the facilities.



The railway was formed in 1975 when a group of dedicated enthusiasts purchased nine miles of track bed on the old Carmarthen to Aberystwyth line. As a result of their foresight, we now operate from Abergwili Junction to a halt at Dan Y Coed, just short of Cynwyl.

Whilst the railway started from humble beginnings, the developments that have taken place are remarkable. In April 2023 we will be opening a new station at Abergwili Junction with parking spaces for 300 cars and six coaches.

So, how do we fund the enterprise? Legacies, grants, filming contracts, strawberry cream teas Murder / Mystery dining events, ticket sales, fund raising, café takings, shareholders and membership.



A group of NARPO members letting the train take the strain in 2018.

At the moment we are working towards Christmas when visitors will meet Father Christmas and adults can enjoy mince pies and sherry, the train is lit up and is a spectacular sight during late afternoon and evening.



The highlight of my time at the Gwili: filming with Michael Portillo, Andrew Marr, Trevor Fishlock, Ruth Goodman plus meeting Sienna Miller, Cillian Murphy (Peaky Blinders), Mathew Stevens (Downton Abbey) and Kiera Knightly. It's amazing that these famous stars have visited the Gwili Railway – one of the UK's most picturesque preserved lines.

Jeremy with Michael Portillo and researchers

How much longer will I stay with the Gwili?
All I can say is that I don't have time to think about the future!

FORK HANDLES OR FOUR CANDLES?



NARPO member John Williams of Newtown is a man of many talents - working with wood being his main interest.

Pictured are just a few of the items John has made since he took up his hobby.



Photo 1: In 1989, John was commissioned to make the lectern which stands inside an entrance to FHQ. The glass topped lectern contains a book of remembrance as a lasting testament to the memory of colleagues who died while serving Dyfed-Powys Police.

Photo 2: The car was made during the Covid pandemic and was a project that got John out of the house and into his workshop which he converted from his garage. The piece is a replica of a 1923 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost. It is made of local Ash and Oak with the brown wood of a recycled wardrobe door.

The model is 21" long x 7" wide, 240 pieces of wood and 46 metal pieces went into its construction.

Photo 3: John read an article in a wood turning magazine about the candle holder which reminded him of the brilliant *Two Ronnies* sketch, so he decided to have a go at making it.



In his younger days, John played football in the Mid Wales League for Llanidloes Town as well as Police teams. A keen golfer, John is a regular competitor in the annual NARPO Golf Day played at Builth Wells. He is also a keen gardener, but as mentioned previously his main interest is wood turning.

John joined Mid Wales Constabulary in November 1963, during his career he was stationed at Brecon, Ystradgynlais, Llanidloes, Llangurig, Newtown before being promoted to Sergeant at Welshpool. He is married to Myra, has two children and five grandchildren.

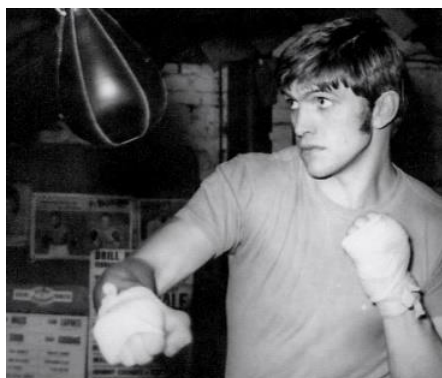
BOXER.....POLICE OFFICER..... BATTLER

Del Phillips of Llanelli was seconded to the Regional Crime Squad until 1998 when he was diagnosed with a Pituitary Tumour which led to retirement on grounds of ill health. In his younger days Del was a formidable boxer and his wife, Caryl, has provided the following article about Del, and his love of the noble art.

Having been given a pair of boxing gloves as a child, Del developed a keen interest in boxing which led to a lifelong commitment to the sport. In 1967 after just seven amateur bouts Del competed in the Welsh Amateur Heavyweight Championships.

He reached the final where he came up against the vastly experienced Dennis Avoth and a closely fought bout saw Avoth gain a narrow victory. Following a further eight amateur contests, in which he was unbeaten, he turned professional which meant forfeiting a second attempt to win the title.

However, in 1969 after winning his first eight professional fights, Del was presented with a trophy as 'Best Young Welsh Boxer of the Year' and was ranked eighth best heavyweight boxer in Britain by Boxing News magazine.



After 24 professional fights, injuries sustained led to his retirement from the sport. During his career he had been a sparring partner for the British champions of that era including Joe Bugner, Jack Bodell, Neville Mead, Dan McAlinden and Henry Cooper.

In 1974, after hanging up his gloves, he joined Dyfed -Powys Police and remained in the service until 2000 when ill health forced his retirement.

In 1993 he returned to Trostre Boxing Club, helping as Secretary and undertaking various other roles - he has been fully committed to the club for almost 30 years.

In 2008, he qualified as a full WABA Coach, he has served as Secretary of The Western Division, Chaired WABA Disciplinary Panels and been a long term member of the WABA General Council.

In 2013 he persuaded the Chairman of the WABA to stage the Welsh Amateur Boxing Championships in Llanelli, which is one of his most pleasing achievements as the event was an extremely successful one. He was responsible for organising the event at the Selwyn Samuel Centre.

At the 2022 Welsh Amateur Boxing Association AGM, Del was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his commitment to the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association and Trostre ABC. As a very modest man he would never say so himself...but it is an honour so well deserved.

His hardest fights have been outside the ring battling ill health and he's still winning!

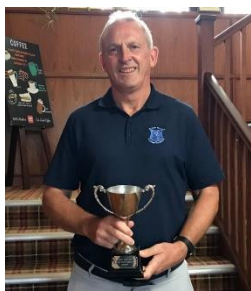
2022 NARPO GOLF DAY by Ian John

Thirteen golfers took part at the annual golf day at Builth Wells in mid-September - the weather behaved itself with only a sprinkle of rain before tee off.



L to R Gary Evans, Steve Cole, Simon Butler, Shane Davies, Alan Jones, Ian John, Gareth Jones, Adrian Evans, James Davies, Gareth Wheatman, Ian Frances, Huw Rees & David Jones

The day was again generously sponsored by DM Jones and Partners Ltd. David Jones who served with distinction as an officer in Powys has been a great supporter of the golf section over the years.



Excellent scoring on the immaculate Builth Wells course saw Huw Rees (left), with a great score of 42 points, narrowly beating Gary Evans with a better back nine.

Everyone enjoyed the day and returned home with a prize, it was great to see some recently retired members take part for the first time and there's plenty of room for more players next year.

The 2023 Golf Day has been arranged for **Monday 18th September** at Builth Wells. A warm welcome awaits those who haven't entered before so put the date in your diary and email Ian John to book your place (Email: wjohn121@btinternet.com).

THE LAST WORD

Many thanks to members that have contributed articles, photographs and cartoons. If you have items for inclusion in the next issue please send them to me, preferably by email: hughcolley144@btinternet.com.

(Ideally, articles should be no more than **400** words, equivalent to one page of A4 and photos preferably in JPEG format).

Finally, feedback and suggestions for future issues would be greatly appreciated.