

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS



CHICHESTER BRANCH

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

**Secretary: Les Mann,
2 Devon Cottages,
Lower Street,
Fittleworth,
West Sussex RH20 1EJ
Tele: 01798 865776 Mobile: 07527 548491
e mail: lesmann_narpo@btinternet.com**

OBITUARY

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the passing of the following members:

Graham Lloyd, aged 74 years, at St Wilfred's Hospice, Chichester on 2nd June, following a long illness. Our condolences have been sent to Linda

Brian Frederick Page aged 72 years, on 27th June. Brian had endured several operations on his legs over the years, and passed away suddenly a few days after the latest.

Henry George (George) Kennet, aged 98 years, on 5th August. As far as I can tell George was our oldest member. He leaves a widow, Ivy, to whom our condolences have been sent.

Terry 'Ned' Kelly aged 79 years, suddenly at Chichester on 25th June. (Terry was not a Narpo member).

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to Eddie Masterson, who has moved into Yapton. Eddie is Ex-Met 'FF' Division and joins us as an additional member.

FRED WELLER

Fred Weller has been awarded Life Membership of this Branch in recognition of his outstanding service to Narpo members, not just in this Branch, but across Sussex. He has for some time now provided valuable assistance to members subject to Injury Pension Reviews. Fred is a Full Member of this Branch, and a former Committee Member. He is the current treasurer of Worthing & District Branch. He was also presented with an inscribed decanter and glasses as a thank you from all Sussex Branches, for his work on behalf of all members, in his role as the first point of contact for pension reviews.

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NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL DAY, 2009.

Arrangements are in hand to hold the National Police Memorial Day Service on Sunday, 27th of September, 2009 at the St David's Hall Cardiff, commencing at 2.00pm. Further information about the day and this year's service can be obtained at nationalpolicememorialday@polfed.org Tickets can be obtained from the Deputy Co-ordinator Ann Merkel by telephone on 07843 293958.

WHEELSPIN - DIESEL OR PETROL?

A sideways look at the motoring scene by Barry Wiseman MCIJ.

A question I am often asked is, "Should I buy a petrol or diesel powered Car?" If this is your quandary, here are some advantages of diesel. Diesels are more efficient, converting 40-45% of fuel into energy, against 25-30% for petrol, giving some 30% better fuel consumption. Diesels don't require a choke and don't damage themselves during warm-up, as do petrol engines. Emissions are less during this process, too. Diesel fuel is cheaper, easier and less polluting to refine. Diesel is less volatile than petrol, so less likely to cause a car fire. Diesel engines don't wear out as fast as petrol engines, because diesel is a lubricant, whereas petrol is a solvent, which cuts through engine oil, causing friction and wear. For the same reason and because diesels run cooler, exhausts last longer. Diesels are compression ignition and don't require a separate spark ignition system, the cause of problems with petrol engines. Diesels preserve high efficiency whether the car is driven carefully or hard, unlike a petrol engine. Diesels are generally "gutsy," with good low speed torque. These are some pros for diesel

power. Next time we will look at the benefits of a petrol engine.

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

NARPO has received an update on the above from Peter Rayner of the National Pensioner's Convention. Whilst the Government has moved forward on the matter there are still outstanding problems.

1 Confusion about funding.

It is not easy to determine whether Councils which complain of underfunding, and bus companies which say they are losing money, are correct. Many Councils are using this as an excuse to raise council taxes and /or cut other services. This has led to many inaccurate press releases and the NPC is drawing the attention of Government to the worse cases. A similar situation arises with bus companies, some of which show pensioner travel as part of their profits, whilst others plead poverty. The Act states that they should be no better nor worse off. Part of the problem is that money allocated is not 'ring fenced' and is muddled with grants under other legislation. The Government is at least moving towards allocation on a county basis.

2 Usage

The bus pass was never intended to be used to cover coach travel, tour busses or busses with more than 12 miles between stops. The NPC have queried why it should not be used for park and ride (excluded by some Councils) and why it should not be used after 11.00pm. There are signs that the Devolved Governments of Wales Scotland and N.I. together with the Department of Transport are looking at cross border travel.

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3 Rail Passes

A Rail Card costs £24. The NPC is negotiating for a combined card.

4. Action

The NPC negotiate on many matters and feel that the Government have moved forward on the matter of concessionary travel. Senior government officials have expressed the view that no Government would wish to withdraw the facility for fear of alienating a growing section of the population. 7.8 million of us have taken up the pass. It is 11% up year on year. There is no doubt the scheme is popular.

Peter Rayner Blackpool 2009

GOD IS WATCHING

The children were lined up in the school canteen for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher had made a note posted on the apple tray 'Take only one! God is watching.' Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

BOB APPS

I am delighted to inform you that one of our members Bob APPS who now lives in Littlehampton and who was at Fittleworth for some years, has been presented with a National Police Bravery Award. On 16th September 2008 he was in Somerfield's Store, Littlehampton when he came across a man repeatedly (21 times!) stabbing a young woman from Pulborough in one of the aisles. Although Bob is aged 76 and with a heart problem, he took a very dim view of this. He thought it was a definite murder not knowing that she was by some miracle still

alive. Other shoppers were throwing things at the man to distract him. He stood up and threw the knife away. Bob was between him and the door at which point Bob came up behind him and ordered him to 'put his hands up' and then to 'stand still'. Amazingly the offender did so. On the arrival of the store security, Bob in the best traditions of NARPO members then quietly vanished knowing full well that the Police would seal the area off and he was concerned for his wife who he had left in the car park. He later rang the police and subsequently made a statement. The man pleaded guilty at Crown Court. Given Bob's age and medical condition it was clearly a very brave thing to do. As I served with Bob for many years I also know that it was entirely consistent with his personality and I am sure that you will all join with me in heartily congratulating him on a very well deserved award. Very well done Bob!

BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

A reminder that Sussex NARPO Branches' newsletters including ours can be found on the Police Federation website <http://www.sussexpolfed.org/about/narpo.htm>

HOLIDAY COTTAGES IN CUMBRIA

This is a letter received from a Narpo member in Cumbria.

Dear NARPO member,

First, may I introduce myself? I retired from Cumbria Constabulary in January 2008 after 31 ½ years service and joined Westmorland with Furness NARPO, I also started a second career as manager of seven, 5 star holiday properties in the South Lakes. It is with regards to these properties, that I am sending this letter.

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Earlier this year, I contacted the Police Federation Joint Branch Boards of all forces in England and Wales, offering discounted holidays to members. The take up has been fantastic with over 40 holidays sold, at discounted rates, to police officers. I thought it was about time that I extended this offer to retired police officers and their families. Our properties can be seen by visiting www.lune-valley.co.uk and a visit to the web site shows how superb these properties are. They are located on the Cumbria/Lancashire/North Yorkshire border and are convenient for exploring The Lake District, The Trough and Forest of Bowland and The North Yorkshire National Park. Our holidays for 2010 have just been launched and are booking well, we have properties to cater from 2 to 16 people and all are available to NARPO members at a discounted price. I also have a number of weeks, weekends and midweek breaks available in some of the cottages in November and early December and these are available at a special rate to NARPO members. For instance, Bluebell Cottage (sleeps 4) in November normally costs £360 for a full week, but is available for £297 – a saving of 17.5%. If you would like to discuss booking one of our properties, then please call me. Whilst you can book a holiday through our web site, you can only get the discount by calling or e mailing me direct and quoting NARPO – so please call and ask for me.

Adrian Mason, Manager, Vale of Lune Holiday Cottages

www.lune-valley.co.uk

015242 72669 07920 557095

adrian@underley-estate.co.uk

JOB VACANCIES

G4S Policing Solutions is a specialist recruitment business dedicated to supplying ex-officers of all ranks to Police Forces and local authorities across the UK on a temporary basis. By registering with G4S Police Recruit, at no cost to yourself, you can expect to be kept informed of relevant, wide-ranging contract opportunities providing you with continuing and well paid career challenges. Sussex Police is one of the forces in the region to embrace the concept of utilising retired officers in this manner. Some of the roles where forces have utilised G4S Policing Solutions officers include Enquiry Officers, Civilian Investigators, Major Crime Support Officers, Police Neighbourhood Support Officers, PNC In putters, Police Trainers, Statement Takers, Incident Room Staff, Holmes Indexers, and many other roles. A team of recruitment specialists will ensure you receive unparalleled support throughout your assignment. This will include advice on regulatory requirements, invoicing procedures and all back-office related issues. In fact, whenever support is required, we are contactable 24 hours a day. We are aware that drawing a full Police pension will affect tax efficiency when you undertake permanent or part time employment. To ensure you retain a high percentage of your earnings, we have a solution in place that accommodates this. If you are interested in discussing how your skills and experience may be rewarded in your area, contact Darren Bradley – Account Manager (G4S Policing Solutions) 0208 249 6365 darren.bradley@policerecruit.co.uk www.policingsolutions.co.uk

THE WHALE AND JONAH

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that she had heard that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human, it was physically impossible. The little girl said, 'OK then, when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'Well, what if Jonah didn't go to heaven, what if he had been very naughty and went to hell instead?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'

THE POLICE DEPENDANTS TRUST

The PDT was formed as a result of an incident at about half past three in the afternoon of Friday, 12 August 1966, when three plain-clothes police officers stopped their unmarked car in West London. Two of the three officers, Sergeant Christopher Head and Constable David Wombwell, went to investigate the occupants of a Standard Vanguard, while Constable Geoffrey Fox remained at the wheel of the police car. Three small time criminals occupied the Vanguard: driver John Witney sitting alongside Harry Roberts with John Duddy in the rear. The three were intent on stealing a car for use in a robbery. Roberts was carrying a gun while two other weapons were in a bag next to Duddy. Eyewitnesses described what had happened: having spoken to Witney, David Wombwell noted Witney's and Roberts' details in his notebook. Meanwhile, Christopher Head moved to the back of the vehicle and asked Duddy about the contents of the bag. Given their

previous criminal records, discovery of the guns would have been likely to lead to long terms of imprisonment. Without warning, Roberts fired his Luger pistol and Wombwell fell dead from a shot to the head. The next shot missed its target, but a third mortally wounded Head as he tried to run for cover behind the police car. Moments later Geoffrey Fox fell victim to Roberts and Duddy, who both fired several shots as the officer attempted to reverse the police car at them. Responding to calls from the public, on-duty colleagues of the dead officers discovered the tragic scene in Braybrook Street. Never before in the history of the Metropolitan Police had so many officers' lives been lost in a single incident; nor, indeed, were losses on such a scale to be repeated until the atrocity of the Harrods bombing in Christmas 1983. Such was the spirit and determination to apprehend those responsible for the outrage that, on hearing the news, off-duty officers immediately reported back in for work. On 12th December 1966, following a six-day trial at the Old Bailey, in which overwhelming forensic and fingerprint evidence was produced, Roberts, Duddy and Witney were found guilty of the murders and sentenced to life imprisonment. Duddy died in prison. Witney was released in 1991. Roberts is still in custody. So great was the public outrage that an, initially anonymous donation of £100,000 from the late holiday camp pioneer Billy Butlin soon swelled to over £1 million.

Of course, the drama has not ended there. Regrettably, some officers still lose their lives while others sustain serious injuries, the effects of which can, and often do, bring disaster to themselves and their

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families for the rest of their lives. Nor is it just the headline-making events that continue to take their toll on the police. Hundreds of equally harrowing, but less high profile stories are held in the PDTs files. The Trust exists solely for the purpose of helping serving and former police officers and/or their families, who were either killed or seriously incapacitated due to the special hazards of policing. It's Trustees meet at least twice a year to consider the general direction of the Trust's affairs. The Trust's Management Committee meets six times a year and has the task of considering applications for financial assistance. In a large number of cases, beneficiaries receive grants on a regular basis, either because they are living on low incomes (elderly widows in the main), or because they need help with expenses of bringing up their children. Such grants are reviewed each year and their levels determined by the Trustees. Otherwise, the Management Committee has full delegation to decide the amount of 'Special Purpose' grants. In most cases, applications are for help towards the cost of providing something to improve the quality of life for officers who continue to suffer from the effects of injury on duty. An emergency sub-committee meets on an ad-hoc basis at very short notice to deal with urgent applications that cannot await the full committee meetings. The generous support both of the police and the general public has enabled the Police Dependants Trust to continue to expand its charitable work over the years. The families of many former police officers, as well as some still serving, owe much of the present quality of their lives to the Police Dependants Trust. So far, some 4670 cases have been brought to the Trust's

notice. But the task can only continue with the help of its many supporters. This year alone, grants are expected to total £1.2 million. That is a lot of money - but equally high is the debt owed by us all to the families of those who have lost their lives, or to officers whose health has been destroyed. *The object of the Trust*, as stated in the Trust deed is to assist in cases of need:

Dependants of police officers *or former police officers* who die or have died as a result of an injury received in the execution of duty, and police officers or former police officers who are or have been incapacitated as a result of an injury received in the execution of duty, *or dependants of such officers*". For the purposes of an application, injury on duty means an incapacitation, injury or illness, arising from the hazards or special nature of police work. Grants available from the PDT include Residential Care Grants (in sheltered accommodation or residential home), Funeral Grants and Emergency Death Grants. ** If you are in receipt of an Injury on duty Pension, and *not* registered with the PDT, you should consider doing so. (even if you do not wish to apply for a grant at present). Similarly, if you think you may fit the criteria for a grant, but do not wish to apply at present, it may be worth considering registration. Contact the Secretary for further information and a registration form.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX

As I write, the Retail price Index, used by the government to determine among other things our pensions rise, is still in the negative at -1.4%. The appropriate date of 1st September is fast approaching, so it's not looking good for a rise on police

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pensions this year. If there is a bright side however, they won't be deducting anything, and the state pension will rise by 2.5% in April 2010 regardless!

GRANDMA

One day a little girl was watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?' Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.' The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mum, what did you do to make ALL of grandma's hairs white??'

SUSSEX BRANCHES CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Combined Sussex Branch coordinating committee met at Sussex Police HQ on Monday 13 July 2009 and was attended by Les Mann and Barry Wiseman. Among a number of issues discussed was the ongoing saga of the review of Police Pensions, the changing relationship with the Sussex Police and the forthcoming NARPO Conference which is due to be held in Scarborough in September.

INJURY PENSION REVIEWS

Following Fred Weller's retirement from the role, Ahmed Ramiz of North Sussex Branch has taken on the lead, assisted by Colin Moules, in respect of Injury on Duty Pension reviews in Sussex. Another reminder that any member subject to review should do nothing until receiving advice.

ONLY GREAT MINDS CAN READ THIS
fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too, Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the lttteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig!

FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

An update from Carol regarding our future social events:

Autumn Social

Don't forget our Autumn Social on Saturday 26th September, at West Meads Hall, Bognor. Some very good entertainment and a fish and chip supper to follow - If you haven't done so already, get your tickets from Carol ASAP. Tickets are £9 each. 60+ tickets have been sold so far, but there is room for more and non-members are welcome if you want to bring friends.

A REMINDER FOR THOSE GOING, THERE IS NO LICENSED BAR – BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS!!

42nd Street

Carol has tickets for the musical, 42nd Street, at The Kings Theatre, Southsea on Thursday 5th November, cost approx £20 to include coach travel picking up at West Meads, Bognor and Avenue De Chatre, Chichester. You will need to contact Carol immediately for this one!

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Norwegian Fjords Cruise

The cruise to the Norwegian Fjords has had a very good response with over 60 members expressing interest, so I am delighted to say that this will go ahead. The cruise departs on 2nd May 2010 for 6 nights, cabins start from £499. ***It is not too late if you wish to go***, but contact Carol now!

If interested in any of the above, contact Carol on 01243-827402 or at 6 College Close, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. PO21 5RR

FUTURE EVENTS

These are just for your information, don't do anything yet!

Arrangements are now under way for a holiday in late summer 2010, a very nice, reasonably priced hotel in a seaside town about 160 miles to the west of Chichester! Further details to follow in a future newsletter.

This is just an idea at the moment. A Summer Ball (obviously not this year though). Just like the old days when Police Balls were so popular, can we resurrect those days??

The New Year Lunch will again be at the Royal Norfolk Hotel, Bognor, probably on Sunday 17th January 2010 – but this is not confirmed, wait until next newsletter before planning your day!

Editor's note: You wouldn't believe the amount of time and effort Carol, (not forgetting her Australian assistant) is putting in to organise our social events! All voluntary and unpaid! Our thanks for everything she does, please continue to

support her events, we certainly can't afford to lose her!!



Spot the committee member!

AND FINALLY- SOME THOUGHTS

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Everyone has his day and some days last longer than others.

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality that guarantees all the others.

The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is.

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

Winston Churchill