

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS



NORTH SUSSEX BRANCH

MAY 2009

OBITUARIES

I regret to inform you of the death of the following retired officers:

James Joseph Campbell aged 66 years who died on 24 March 2009. . He leaves a widow Sarah Campbell to whom all letters of condolence may be sent c/o the Funeral Director: Reynolds Funeral Service, 27-31 High Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1RR. Telephone Number 01243 864745.

Donations to St Wilfrids Hospice in memory of James may be sent via the Funeral Director, details above.

James who was a Police Constable at Midhurst joined the Sussex Police on 6 October 1983 and retired from the service on 6 March 1999 having completed 15 years and 116 days. Posts included: 1996 - Petworth - Response Team, 1991, Bognor - Uniform Patrol, 1991 – Littlehampton, 1989 – Bognor, 1983 – HQ.

Alec James Winder (known as Jim) who died on 6 April 2009 aged 86 years. He leaves a widow, Marjorie Winder, to whom all letters of condolence may be sent c/o the Funeral Director: Ellis Bros Funeral Services, The Old Fire Station, 3 Ferry Road, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7DJ. Telephone Number 01797 222394.

Donations to Rye Memorial Care Centre in memory of Jim may be sent via the Funeral Director, details above.

CopperPot Credit Union

Please find attached details of No1 CopperPot sent to me by Dennis Croft which is a Credit Union for the police family. It has regular accounts and ISA's paying good rates of interest. For more details follow the below link.

<http://www.no1copperpot.com/>

CopperPot are a member focused financial business that operates **exclusively** for the benefit of the police family. They provide a range of tailor-made savings accounts, loan products and other financial services that are only available through No1 CopperPot. They state that they do not compromise the importance of good service over the need to make profits because our business is owned by you, the members.

So what's in it for you? You can expect a healthy return, flexibility and security on all your savings. Similarly, our loans are straightforward with no hidden costs or charges.

There are a wealth of benefits to joining; life insurance at no cost to you, payroll deduction and a personal, friendly service are just examples of how we meet your financial needs in a clear and simple way.

BACKDATING OF COMMUTATION FACTORS **POLICE PENSION REGULATIONS 1987**

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE JUDICIAL REVIEW

From the Police Federation:

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Home Office have indicated that they will not be appealing the Judicial Review outcome, and that the deadline for the appeal has now passed.

I can now confirm that:

- the new commutation factors, which were backdated to 1 October 2007, will be backdated to 1 December 2006; and
- anyone who retired with an immediate pension or whose pension came into payment between 1 December 2006 and 30 September 2007 will be entitled to an additional commutation payment or to an increase in pension (on the basis that a smaller amount would need to be commuted for the lump sum already paid).

There are a number of administrative and tax issues which result from the decision and which still need to be resolved, in particular whether any additional commutation payments will be treated as taxable by HMRC, and what should happen if they are. However, I have been assured by the Home Office that any tax implications will not affect payments to retired officers.

HOME OFFICE GUIDANCE

The Home Office has now issued guidance to forces on the backdating of the new lump sum commutation factors, following the PFEW's successful Judicial Review. A link to the guidance, which is on the Home Office website, is attached below:

<http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/human-resources/new-pension-docs/PPS-commutation-factors-guidance>

DINOSAUR DAYS



I came across the following whilst surfing the web the other day from an ex Sussex Police Officer recalling his experience as newly promoted Inspector in 1985:

“... posted to Crawley where I had a very lively and very busy 18 months, running a section of around twenty Constables and three Sergeants.”

This was a time when the Police shift pattern revolved around four shifts working earlies, lates and nights. Eight hour shifts and on the rare occasions when you worked beyond your rostered duty the Sergeants were chasing you to ensure you finished as soon as possible. In fact I can only think of about three or four occasions, excluding major incidents and the miners strike when I worked beyond twelve hours.

I was stationed at Crawley between 1979 and 1981 and we regularly had a minimum level of two sergeants and at least six PCs on duty 24/7 and more often than not more than that; including an Inspector.

One wonders what it was like for those officers who could dial a single number twenty four hours a day, seven days a week and have someone (in those days we called them civilian typists) type your reports for you and if you were a CID officer you had clerks who prepared your files. I seem to remember that most of my on duty time was spent out of the Police Station, long hours were spent patrolling the streets on foot and if you were a young officer very occasionally in a car. Certainly in my first three years at Brighton I could have counted the number of days I spent in a car on one hand.

In these days of Police Support Officers, Community Liaison Officers modern communications and technology just how many POLICE OFFICERS with full police powers patrol the streets of Sussex and how did those, now retired officers cope without all that support.

If you remember and have a tale to tell then this is the place. Providing I get sufficient copy I intend to publish little stories in the newsletter on a regular basis together with the occasional little competition.

As a starter for ten: The above red police lamp - where is it now?

Where did it come from?

How long was the first building used by the police and where is it?

The first correct answer by email or post sent to Adam Christie wins a Ten Pound book token.

THE SECRETARY'S BIT

A warm welcome is extended to Tony Watts and Steve White who have recently joined our branch.

The Branch AGM was held on Monday 30 March at Three Bridges Cricket Club. Twenty-one members attended and apologies were received from fourteen members. This is not a great turnout from a membership of 237, however for your information I have attached the Minutes of the AGM to this newsletter. After the AGM there was a Branch Meeting which discussed local matters and discussions re social events, welfare, Care First and lack of service details on obituaries took place. It was suggested that each member provides a brief précis of their service history etc. to the branch secretary which could be used if needed. I would like your views on this if you could contact me by post at 18 Reynard Close, Horsham, RH12 4GX or email me at adam.christie@sky.com We could then decide on a pro-forma at the next meeting.

IN THE CHAIR



Threatened Swine Flu Pandemics, the worst financial crisis to hit this country since World War II, Interest Rate at an all time low so what is the point of saving. Investments worth a fraction of what they were just a short year ago, a political system that seems to be run for the benefit of the ruling “elite” and practices whilst not technically illegal give the impression of corruption at a high level.

The world engulfed in war, terror and global injustice. All good reasons for being down-hearted, depressed and totally fed up, or;

We could consider the following:

“Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it.” Groucho Marx

Think about it!

As always the contents and views expressed in this newsletter are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the committee, the branch or its members. In other words the buck stops here.

Ahmed Ramiz
Branch Chairman

May 2009