

WORTHING & DISTRICT NARPO

Winter Edition 2010



Chairman:- Ernie SWEENEY and Secretary Julie SWEENEY 349 Upper Shoreham Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5NB tel:- 01273 452407 Email:- srs1@falcon650.plus.com
Editor:- Malcolm Sharp Email:- malcolmsharp56@yahoo.co.uk



CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Yule Tide fast approaches! the merry sound of jingle tills can be heard in Tesco's and Harrods and our politicians are busy thinking up new and exciting ways of cheering us all! We are living in interesting times again and 2011 will certainly bring new challenges.

At home we turn our thoughts to family and friends, particularly those in distress and need of comfort. We all have our own problems but extending a hand and smiling can make a terrific difference to someone's spirits! For them just to know that you care can warm and raise them up; so spare the time to do just that and if you can help more do it! which is after all the true spirit of Christmas. On behalf of the Branch and your Committee may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and also a peaceful and Happy New Year!

Ernie

NARPO? WHAT'S THAT?

One of our widow members was trying to trace Julie Sweeney to let her know she was moving house. She rang Sussex Police Headquarters to see if they could help. The person she spoke to said "NARPO? What's that?"

If you need to contact Julie, her phone number and address is shown at the top of this page. I don't hold out much hope that the new accord proposed by HR, (Page 3) will be effective unless they can educate all the HQ employees about staff associations. Ed.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome 4 new members to Worthing Branch. They are all ex Sussex Officers. In no particular order they are:-

**Andrew TURNER Stewart READ
David FICKWEILER &
Andy COBBY**

A very warm welcome to you all.



NATIONAL NARPO MATTERS

In NARPO this has been a rocky year. In the long term if the Government sticks to its policy of using the CPI instead of the RPI in calculating pension increases, as pensioners we will be worse off by thousands of pounds over the years. We are, so the Government tell us, 'all in this together' (sic). NARPO policy is to oppose this but we can only do this with your backing. A letter formulated by NARPO HQ is shown on page 6 and we urge you to use it when writing to your MP.

On the bright side the Law Lords have now ruled that the Home Office and ACPO were wrong in their treatment of our members who were pensioned off after being injured on duty. We have been pressing for total re-instatement of the injury on duty pension. There were only a few Police Forces in the country doing this and unfortunately Sussex seems to be the leader. All other Forces sensibly avoided having anything to do with it. The Home Office is now re-writing the Guidance rules so it will be interesting to see what they come up with this time.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH 16.12.10 RAFFLE PRIZES PLEASE

Are you coming to our buffet lunch at The Woodlands Centre in Rustington? If you are, would you be kind enough to bring a raffle prize and give it to Brian or Marilyn Martin? Donations mean less of a drain on branch funds and make it more interesting. Also, don't forget to bring your own drinks. The hall does not have a liquor licence. If you haven't booked & want to come, ring Pete on 01903 850391



HOW TRUE!

OBITUARIES

This quarter we have lost 2 of our lady members who always supported our branch activities. They will be sadly missed.

SHIRLEY WHITE, on Wednesday 10th November 2010. Shirley died in Worthing Hospital following a long illness which she endured with fortitude. Shirley was the wife of John (Chalky) White and was one of our members. They had been married for over 50 years. She leaves 3 children, Clive, Gail and Fiona and 10 grandchildren. Her son Stephen predeceased her. Letters of condolence and donations to the British Heart Foundation may be sent via the funeral director H D TRIBE West Street, Sompting BN15 0DE. (01903) 753232

Kathleen (Mary) STEVENS on the 14th November aged 90 years. She was the wife of John (Steve) Stevens and was one of our members. Her children are Shirley, Fred, Elaine and Mark. She had 5 grandchildren. Mary would have been 91 the week after she died. She had been ill for a long time and was being cared for in a nursing home. Mary was an expert seamstress & made the Beatles outfits worn by members of the Worthing Police Choir in the 1960's & referred to in the last newsletter. Letters of condolence and donations to the Alzheimer's Society may be sent via the funeral director, DILLISTONES, 191 South Farm Road, Worthing BN14 7TW.

Kathleen BARNES died on the 3rd April this year. Her husband was Harold Barnes who served for 25 years in West Sussex Police. She was a widow member of North Area NARPO but they have only just learned of her death. Her daughter notified Sussex Police HQ of her mother's death at the time but no contact was made with NARPO & no circulation was made on the internet. (Please see the item on the next page.)

John Edward FLISHER on 24th October aged 74 years. He leaves a widow Brenda. John became a SOCO very early in his service and remained so up to and following his retirement when he became one of the first civilian SOCO's in Sussex. All letters of condolence may be sent to Brenda via the Funeral Director: Donations in memory of John to 'Crossroads' may also be sent to the Funeral Director. Bungard and Sons, 90 Sackville Road, Hove, BN3 3HE.

Robert (Bob) WILKINSON on the 5th November aged 87 years. Bob retired in the rank of Chief Inspector in charge of Rother Division. He was a carer for his wife, Iris, who survives him and is registered blind. He also leaves a son Alan and a daughter Joy, who is also registered blind. Letters of condolence may be sent c/o the Funeral Director - Towners, 19 Market Square, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0XB.

Stephen (Steve) DAVIES on 19th October aged 73 years. He leaves a widow Barbara to whom all letters of condolence & donations to East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Trust Fund (Pevensy Ward) may be sent c/o Heathfield Funeral Services, 1 Holmrook, Hailsham Road, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8AE. Steve was stationed at Crowborough before serving at Heathfield. He retired in 1997 and became a civilian firearms officer.

Edmund (Eddie) BRISTOW on 6th October at St Wilfreds Hospice, Chichester, following a long battle against cancer. He was 53 years of age. He leaves a widow Candida. Letters of condolence & donations to St Wilfrid's Hospice or Cancerwise may be sent c/o the funeral director Edward White & Son, 74-77 St Pancras, Chichester PO19 7LS..

Michael (Johnny) WOODHAMS on 22nd October aged 83 years. He leaves a widow Rita to whom all letters of condolence may be sent c/o Derriman & Haynes Funeral Service, 56 Ladies Mile Road, Brighton BN1 8QF. Johnny retired in 1973 as a Sergeant at Brighton. Donations to The Martlets Hospice c/o the Funeral Director.

June FERGUSON on 1st November aged 88 years. She joined the Hastings Borough Police around 1948. She was one of the first Policewomen in Hastings in the post war era. She met and married Steve FERGUSON, also a serving officer and therefore had to resign, as in those days, married women were not allowed to be Police Officers. Her sons are Paul & Julian and letters of condolence can be sent via the funeral director Arthur Towner & Sons, Norman Road, St. Leonards On Sea. She was a widow member of Hastings and Rother Branch of NARPO.

David SHERIDAN on 19th November aged 81 years after a long illness. He leaves a widow Joanne to whom all letters of condolence & donations to The Martlets Hospice may be sent via the funeral director, Co-op Funeral Services, 44 Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6B. David retired in the rank of Inspector.

DEATH OF A SERVING OFFICER

Detective Constable Peter 'Stapes' STAPLETON on 8th November 2010 aged 54 years. He was due to retire and planned to live in Spain with his wife Amanda.

Peter was travelling home from work on the A27 at Lancing when he became ill. He was able to move his car from the main road into a quieter location where his illness was reported to the emergency services. He passed away despite the determined efforts to save him.

Amanda asks that any donations in memory of Peter should be made in favour of St Barnabas Hospice, a charity that Peter regularly supported, and sent to the funeral directors, H D Tribe, 259 Goring Road, Worthing BN12 4PA

Peter had served for 31 years, the vast majority of his career in Detective roles. For the past twelve years 'Stapes' had been working within the Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) primarily with the surveillance teams.

A book of condolence has been created and is available to all via the Sussex Police intranet system.

DEATH OF A RECENTLY SERVING CIVILIAN

Colin BARNARD on the 6th November aged 54 years. He leaves a widow, Paula and two children. He was a civilian employee, the manager of the Hastings vehicle workshops. Colin had been suffering from motor neurone disease for some time and was retired by the Sussex Police Authority, due to ill health.

SUSSEX POLICE OBITUARIES

Regular readers will be aware of the problems we have encountered with Sussex Police Admin or Human Resources or Registry or Welfare concerning the scanty information we all receive about the passing of retired colleagues. Nobody currently serving in Sussex seems to have any interest in those of us who served for 25 years plus, up to our neck in muck and villains before retirement. Conversely we seem to get chapter and verse on a civilian who served for 9 years and is fondly remembered by all who knew them. (Sorry. Hobby horse. Civilians do a grand job. Ed)

There is now the possibility we might just have redressed the balance through the good work of Mike Welch of Brighton NARPO and Colin Moules of the Police Federation. Their efforts have prompted a constructive response from Human Resources at HQ. The following letter/email from Angela Packebusch, a Human Resources Consultant, (?) will be framed, hung on the wall and referred to if the proposed system fails. I can only say that we have had promises before and they have come to naught. We shall see what we shall see.

Ed.

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your email about the disclosure of information for use in eulogies. I have read and considered your email in regards to access to the information required and understand your interest in seeing the relevant information retained should it be required at a future time, however, as discussed with you we are now obliged to comply with data protection guidelines on the storage of, and access to personal information.

In regards to your first point, as previously discussed I will be available as a point of contact for access to information that can be used in eulogies etc. I would be happy to be the central point of contact within the Human Resource Department for sourcing the required information and responding to an official request, however, I do need to comply with our Force Policy on manual personnel files and access. I have therefore had a discussion with my colleagues in the Federation. Together we have agreed on the following process for access requests to information:-

1. Request for information should be submitted to Colin Moules, Office Manager, Federation, Sussex Police Headquarters. The request should include the name, date of birth or other identifying information so that we can ensure we access the correct records, together with information about when the information is required by.
2. Request will then be forwarded to me and I will source as much information as possible within the restrictions of Data Protection.
3. Completed request and information will then be passed directly back to the original requestor

I hope the above process will allow a suitable resolution to any problems you may have experienced in the past. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Angela Packebusch
HR Operations, Human Resources Department
Tel: 0845 60 70 999 Ext. 44126

TORQUAY CONFERENCE REPORT

9th 10th SEPTEMBER 2010

Your Chairman and Secretary, Ernie and Julie Sweeney and Assistant Social Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Brian and Maureen Charman attended Conference on your behalf at Torquay on the 9th/10th September 2010. This is a brief resume of events. A Conference Report is published in your NARPO News, with the exception of a presentation by:-

Mr Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM – HMIC.

He talked about policing both in the short and long term, the general environment and how it might affect NARPO in the future. He visualised that the Police Service would be 20% down and many officers only foresaw a career of 3 to 4 years, using the Police Service as a stepping stone to other careers.

Mr Bernard Hogan-Howe then discussed the possible abolition of the Police Authorities and introduction of elected Commissioners and whether this would lead to more political influence with the forces. Central targets will be replaced by local ones. The public will have more access to information.

He then spoke about how the general environment might affect NARPO, tax changes, decisions of when to retire and the diversity of recruits. There is less public sympathy for the public sector. Safe jobs and good pensions! He closed by addressing the purpose of NARPO. He also stressed the need for close liaison with the relevant police forces – being part of the day to day running of the force.

As a result of this Mr Bernard Hogan-Howe has written to all the Police Forces and representatives of your NARPO Coordinating Committee have met with the Chief Constable's Staff Officer. This obviously is an initial contact and I will keep you informed of any outcomes. (See his letter on page 4.)

PRESENTATIONS.

The President made a presentation of an engraved glass 'Police Officer' to Eric Osborne BEM, previous President of NARPO, on his last Conference. He was thanked for all his work for NARPO and its members.

Len Smith was also standing down and a presentation was made to him. Don Ratcliffe and Chris Upham were also retiring from their NARPO roles but they were not present at the Conference.

THE NEXT CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SOUTHPORT ON FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2011.

WW 1 BATTLEFIELDS TOUR 2011



Menin Gate, Ypres

Chichester Branch is organising a tour of the Ypres & the WW1 Battlefields between 31 October-4 November 2011. If you are interested at £360 pp, you can contact Carol Wiseman on 01243 827402 or write to her at 6 College Close, Aldwick, West Sussex PO21 5RR.

Time is of the essence as Carol needs to confirm numbers by 15th December 2010.

Tommy Cooper



Did you see that Tommy Cooper dominated the poll of the nation's favourite jokes? I expect it was the exposure we have given to his jokes over the last 18 months or so. Without us he would have come nowhere. This is one of his:-

I rang up British Telecom, I said, "I want to report a nuisance caller". He said "Not you again".

A LETTER TO CHIEF CONSTABLES ABOUT NARPO

At the NARPO Conference in Torquay earlier this year, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM, MBA, MA (Oxon), CCMI presented his views on the challenges facing NARPO in the future and took a very active part in the panel debate and discussion. During that debate Mr Hogan-Howe was asked what action he might take to help NARPO deliver its aims locally and specifically if he would write to Chief Constables asking that they give consideration to a closer relationship with local branches. The HMIC agreed to do that. A copy of his letter addressed to all Chief Constables is as shown below. Well done Mr Hogan-Howe. We shall now see what happens.

To All Chief Constables
Cc: Chief Exec of NARPO

Dear Colleague

I had the pleasure of representing Sir Denis O'Connor at the NARPO AGM on Friday 10 September 2010. I was invited to take part in a discussion regarding the future of NARPO and it was clear that in some Forces there is a strong and constructive relationship between the local branch officers and the Chief Constable. It became apparent during the discussion that this relationship was strongest when the following factors existed:

There is a regular diarised meeting between the Chief Constable and the local branch Chair and Secretary at least twice a year. NARPO is provided with office space either at the Force HQ or at the Federation Office. This enables the NARPO representatives to better support the welfare needs of their members and it retains extensive corporate memory within the organisation. NARPO representatives are involved in the consultation process along with other staff associations. I gave an undertaking to the conference delegates that I would write to you and raise these issues. I would now actively encourage you to forge the relationship with your local NARPO officers as they play a key role in supporting the service.

Yours sincerely
Bernard Hogan-Howe
HM Inspector of Constabulary

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF POLICE OFFICERS' AND STAFF REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS

A message from Clint Elliott, the CEO of NARPO.

Dear Colleague,

Early in October we were specifically invited to provide evidence to the Government's Independent Review of Police Officers' and Staff Remuneration and Conditions being carried out by Tom Windsor with the assistance of Sir Edward Crew and Professor Richard Disney. The timescale for response was very limited and the range of questions extensive and included questions about the pay and conditions of support staff.

We have prepared a response based on our experience and knowledge of policing and the police pay machinery, which has concentrated on 'police pay', 'the police pay negotiation machinery' and 'police pensions issues' and have been driven by the questions the enquiry team raised in their correspondence to us.

Timescales and deadlines have prevented us seeking wide consultation. We were required to submit our evidence by 29th October 2010. For your information, our response can be seen on our website at www.narpo.org – click on 'Press Releases' then on the appropriate heading.

More information about the Review can be found at the following link to the Home Office website:-

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/review-of-police-rem-and-cond/>

The Review also has its own website at:- <http://www.review.police.uk/>

I hope this helps branches if they receive any enquiries about the review.

Yours sincerely,
Clint Elliott QPM Chief Executive Officer



For those of you without internet access, I am sure there will be an item on this in the next NARPO NEWS. Ed.

WIDOWS OF POLICE OFFICERS KILLED ON DUTY

I draw your attention to the following message from Graham Alexander, our representative on the NEC:

'Could I draw your special attention to page 21 of NARPO News where information is sought on the whereabouts of the widows of police officers killed on duty who were in receipt of a special or augmented pension and who subsequently lost the pension when they re-married. There is recompense available to these widows but there is a strict time line for applications which expires in 2011.'

If you know anyone who falls into this category then please contact your secretary, Julie Sweeney.

TOP 100 JOKE

This was one of the top 100 jokes as voted for by 36,000 voters:-

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named 'Amal.' The other goes to a family in Spain. They name him 'Juan'. Years later Juan sends his picture to his birth mother. She tells her husband that she wishes she had a picture of Amal. Her husband says, "They're identical twins. If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

HEALTH & SAFETY

Nutopia Television is developing a potential Channel 4 programme about the Emergency Services.

They plan to explore the impact of health and safety legislation on the work of the police and emergency services; to study how both working practice and attitudes to risk taking may have changed over the past few decades.

They want to find out whether, and how, the evolution of health and safety has helped or hindered the work of police, fire and ambulance crews. They are searching for a very broad range of police experiences from different decades to help their early research. If you would like to contribute please contact:

Mora McLagan Tel: mobile 07966 145 376

PAST TIMES FROM THE SENTINEL

1912 Police Sergeant Payne was awarded half a guinea (52.5 pence) by Worthing Magistrates for arresting a deserter from the 4th Dragoon Guards.

1918 Towards the end of the 1st World War, Worthing men being treated for wounds at hospitals in Brighton said the town's policemen should be called up to fight. One wrote: "Don't let it be said that Sunny Worthing has got a slacker anywhere."

1928 Special constables recruited in Durrington during the General Strike held a dinner at the Lamb Inn. The Rev EWD Penfold, Vicar of the parish, was the contingent's Sergeant in charge.

1971 A new drama called The Blue Lamp, featuring a young actor called Warren Mitchell (Alf Garnett) had its world premier at the Connaught Theatre. It was later turned into a long running TV series called Dixon of Dock Green.

(I usually accept what The Sentinel says in these snippets from the weekly newspaper. However, the Dixon of Dock Green series grew from the character PC George Dixon who was shot and killed in the film, The Blue Lamp which was made in 1950 with Jack Warner in the leading role. Dixon of Dock Green shown on the BBC ran from 1955 to 1976 again with Jack Warner in the lead, so the claim above is erroneous. Ed)

1975 A man was fined £15 by Worthing magistrates for driving his car erratically as he travelled along West Parade. The Police constable who stopped the driver said a girl in the passenger seat was giving the driver a 'cuddle' at the time!

I am running short of these old news items. I used to have The Sentinel delived to my home but not for the past 6 weeks. If anyone gets a copy of The Sentinel and finds an interesting snippet concerning the police or courts, would they be good enough to send it to my email address at the top of page 1? Thank you. Ed.

OLD LEWES POLICE STATION CLOSURE

Have you ever worked at
Lewes Police Station?

It will become redundant in the New Year as the move is made to a shiny new police station. We would like to bid the old building goodbye. On Sunday 23rd January 2011 at 2pm there will be a cream tea and a sherry or two, for anyone who has worked at Lewes Police Station in years gone by. Please distribute this message to your membership with my contact e mail. It would be really useful to have replies from people so that I know how many to cater for.

Carolyn.Ross@sussex.pnn.police.uk

REDUCING PENSIONS BY REPLACING RPI WITH CPI

NARPO Headquarters are urging us to write to our MPs in support of the early day motion in the Commons relating to the switch from RPI to CPI, a move which will cost us tens of thousands of pounds in benefits over the coming years. Copy out this letter entering your MP's name at the top. If you are on the internet you can download a copy at http://www.narpo.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=74 They are not going to read each one obviously, but the sheer volume of mail could make an impression if we all write. Do your best to send one in. Don't forget to put your return address in.

As a reminder, your MP is:-

Nick GIBB Littlehampton & Bognor

Peter Bottomley West Worthing

Tim Loughton East Worthing and Shoreham

Nick Herbert Arundel and South Downs

MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

December 2010

Dear

INDEX-LINKING OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

You will, no doubt, be aware that the Government proposes to change the index-linking arrangements for pensions and benefits. The Government intends to replace the Retail Prices Index with the Consumer Prices Index. This will leave millions of pensioners much worse off financially and will force some of them, particularly women, into poverty. The Government makes much of its "triple lock" guarantee for the basic state pension but this will not apply to the Second State Pension, nor will it apply to occupational pensions. Nor will it improve the lot of state pensioners in the short to medium term because prices are forecast to outstrip earnings for some time to come. The CPI is usually about 1% less than the RPI. The OBR forecasts that by 2017 the CPI will result in pension increases of 8.5% less than the RPI would have produced. The Emergency Budget Red Book said that by 2015 pensioners would be collectively worse off to the tune of £6billion. Lord Hutton has said that public sector pensioners would be between 15% and 25% worse off over a life time. These are losses too large for pensioners to bear. The financial penalty will stretch far beyond the term of this Parliament, during which time the Government hopes to resolve the current financial deficit. The Government has not consulted with the UK Statistics Authority over the change and the Authority does not agree that the CPI, as it currently stands, represents a proper measure of inflation. The Government, itself, is committed to including housing costs within the CPI index but does not expect to be able to do so before 2012. The purpose of Section 150 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 is to protect the value of pensions against the ravages of inflation, which pensioners do not cause. A Minister who lays an increase order on the basis of a measure which does not reflect the "general level of prices" specified in the Act would be acting outside his legal responsibilities. Therefore, a number of Members of Parliament have laid EDM 1032 in the following terms:

That this House notes the Government's proposal to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the price indexation of benefits, tax credits and public service pensions; further notes that the CPI is consistently lower than the RPI; expresses concern over the impact that this will have on the incomes of pensioners and other vulnerable groups; recognises the concerns held by the Royal Statistical Society and the UK Statistics Authority that CPI excludes many housing costs which are borne by the majority of pensioner households; and calls on the Government to take these concerns into account and postpone the change from RPI to CPI until the appropriateness of CPI as a measure of price increases borne by pensioner households can be fully evaluated.

This is a matter of grave concern to pensioners. There is no good reason why we should suffer a lifetime of financial detriment to solve a short-term deficit, which is not of our making.

I, therefore, ask you to support EDM 1032 and to make suitable representations to Ministers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

BRANCH AWARDS

At our Annual Dinner as Chairman I had the great privilege and pleasure of honouring three of our members, Malcolm & Vicky Sharp and Fred Weller, as guests of the Branch. Fred & Malcolm retired from the committee at the AGM in April and Vicky has given up running the raffles at our various functions.

Malcolm has been made a Life Member of NARPO for services to our Branch. He has served on the Committee for 15 years and has greatly contributed to the work of the committee. He is the editor of the Branch newsletter in which role he has done a first class job.

He has also assisted Vicky with the operation of the various raffles which has raised thousands of pounds for the benefit of the branch. These additional funds enable us to subsidise events organised by the committee. We presented Vicky with an orchid which she tells us is still alive.

Fred Weller was recently made a Life Member of NARPO by Chichester Branch where he is a full member. As an Additional Member of our Branch he has also given sterling long service on the Branch Committee and as our Treasurer. He has been the key member for supporting all Sussex NARPO members suffering from ill treatment by the Sussex Police under the Injury on Duty fiasco which has now been firmly stopped by the Courts. The Branch, and NARPO nationally, owe him a great debt of gratitude. It was a particular pleasure to present him with a gift on behalf of the Branch.

Ernie Sweeney

Chairman

FUTURE OF THIS BRANCH POTENTIAL CLOSURE ?

As yet no one has come forward to stand as Chair or Secretary of the branch which will become vacant at the AGM in 2011. The roles are very important as the Offices are the liaison link between the members and decisions made on their behalf at a local, regional and national level. Our Branch cannot run without a Secretary. Unless we find members prepared to help run the Branch it will be shut down after the AGM in April. All funds will be transferred to NARPO and all members will be re-distributed by HQ NARPO to other Branches as per NARPO rules. We need younger members on the Committee with the necessary computer skills, as NARPO, like the Police Service is now computer based. We now have 402 members. We only need two new members to take on these roles.



THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER MEMBERS TOUR.

On Monday 11th October 50 members travelled to London for a tour of Westminster. Following our security check we were met by Peter Bottomley MP for Worthing West through whom the Members Tour had been arranged.

We divided into three groups and were taken by our guides who were all NARPO members having served the latter years of their Police service at the Palace. Each group received a wealth of information and I think all agreed it was a fascinating place to visit.

Following the tour we were taken for a very good lunch at the Rembrandt Hotel in Knightsbridge. The afternoon was free time with the group choosing to either visit the shops, the nearby museums or a stroll in the park on what was a lovely afternoon.

I think everyone enjoyed the day and I would like to thank all those who sent me emails and letters of thanks.

I am planning a different trip for the spring, details of which will be in the next News Letter. If you have any constructive suggestions please let me know, preferably on my email at: plines@toucansurf.com

Pete Lines Social Secretary

LETTER TO THE PRESS 1

SIR— A police force has decided that their officers will use buses and other means of public transport. That is not new.

Fifty years ago, in a large county police force where cars were very thinly spread, we regularly used buses to get to crime scenes, attend road accidents and even to bring in prisoners when we executed arrest warrants.

Many was the time I boarded a bus with a handcuffed suspect. The only concession to the prisoner's dignity was to hang one's cape over the handcuffs between the officer and the prisoner.

In order to reach an out-of-the-way spot, we used to stop any private car and ask the driver for a lift to, say, the scene of an accident. We were never refused.

On one occasion, before I obtained my duty car, I brought in two prisoners caught stealing scrap metal in the middle of the night, each handcuffed to my bicycle frame.

John Dorricott
Barton on Sea, Hampshire

I asked around when I read this letter in the national press. Ian Eady remembers travelling to the North of England to collect a gypsy prisoner. He had to wear full uniform and cross London to Victoria. It took about six hours handcuffed all the time. I remember when stationed at Shoreham in the mid 1960's, being offered overtime after early turn on a Monday following a sitting at Steyning Court when some offender had been sentenced to 6 months. I had to take him to Wormwood Scrubs on public transport and fell asleep on the train. He woke me up as we approached Victoria! Villains were more honourable in those days. If you have any memories like this, let me know. Ed.

LETTER TO THE PRESS 2

Sir - While enjoying a pint of ale in my local, I was amazed to see one of the regulars casually hand his spectacles to the barmaid, who added them to a rack of glasses which went into the glass-washing machine and were put through a wash cycle. Is this the strangest thing seen in a pub?

Tom Chilton Worthing, West Sussex

INCREASE IN PENSIONS 2011 & ALSO IN NARPO SUBS.

The annual report of the Consumer Price Index, published in October confirms that the annual percentage increase for police pensions, 2011 will be 3.1%. If it had been RPI it would have been 4.9%!

As from the 1st January 2011 the minimum NARPO subscriptions will be as follows:-

FULL MEMBERS	£17.52.
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	£17.52.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS	£10.51.

Widows do not pay a subscription but a donation towards Branch Funds is always welcome. The subscriptions will be collected in the normal way on the 1st February 2011 from your pension payable on that date. For those of you who pay direct, Sue Lines, our Treasurer, will be in touch nearer the date.

NARPO MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE

UKForex offers our members extremely competitive foreign exchange rates when sending money overseas. This could include, pension transfers, sending money back home or even transferring funds to pay for a property or boat. As a service they offer the following benefits to all our members.

- Online access 24/7
- Access to a dedicated Dealer by phone 24-hours a day, 5 days a week
- Complete pricing transparency
- No transaction fees for amounts over 3,000GBP
- No receiving bank fees in most countries
- Risk management tools through Limit Orders and Forward Exchange Contracts
- Exchange rate alerts via email
- Access to our highly regarded daily and weekly 'Market Commentary'

Plus all NARPO members get their first two money transfers free regardless of the amount that they are transferring overseas. To take advantage of this service or to get more information, please feel free to contact Jonathan Sermon, through the following website, email or telephone.

<https://secure.ozforex.com.au/fx/register.asp>

to register with UKForex.

Jonathan Sermon | Alliance Manager

Direct: +61 2 8667 9106

Intl. +61 2 8667 8090

Email: jonathansermon@ozforex.com.au

POLICE RESILIENCE

The National Association of Retired Police Officers is concerned at recent news of the potential cut backs in police and police staff numbers in Greater Manchester Police. NARPO believes that this should act as a warning to every community in England and Wales.

Chief Constables across the country will be left with little alternative under the Governments plans for fiscal restraint other than to follow Greater Manchester Police in slashing police officer and police staff numbers. This is in our experience bound to affect front line services to the detriment of public safety.

Eric Evans the President of NARPO said 'We agree entirely with our colleagues in the Police Federation that the Police Service cannot avoid its share of cuts to public spending. We believe there is potential for saving in some back office and management roles for example. However the Greater Manchester Police proposals illustrate that the scale of cutbacks required is bound to affect the service forces provide to the Community. Neither the Private Sector nor the Big Society is likely to fill the void left by these cuts, which amounts to a criminals charter for the future.'

NARPO HQ PRESS RELEASE

CAREERS ADVICE

'**Learning Opportunities**' is hosted by the University of Brighton. They may be able to offer some assistance, particularly to newly retired Police Officers who are looking for new challenges, career advice or returning to study. They currently have some funding available until the end of this year and that will enable them to offer face-to-face careers and employment advice *free of charge*. When the money runs out they will have to charge. Team members are qualified and experienced career consultants with additional expertise in education, personal ability profiling and mentoring. More information is available at:

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk

The 'Learning Opportunities' website will continue until the new year, when the name will change to 'Work and Learning Opportunities'. The team is available to run half or full day workshops or individual sessions. These can be tailored to each group or client.

If you want to know more then contact:
Moira Monk, Project Coordinator
Learning Opportunities in the South East
Ashdown House
Sussex Innovation Centre
Science Park Square
Falmer,
Brighton BN1 9SB
Telephone:- 01273 873102

