

# *National Association of Retired Police Officers Eastbourne and District Branch*

## *New Year 2014 - Quarterly Newsletter*

*Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2014. The festivities will be a distant memory and many New Year Resolutions, made in good faith or under the influence, will have been broken. The diet sheet and scales which have been attracting dust for the last two or three weeks are now back in operation. The longest day has passed and hopefully we can look forward to spring and a good summer.*

### **New Members**

Adrian and Vanessa Evans (Sussex)  
Peter Hunt (Associate)

### **Obituaries**

#### ***Our Branch***

Mrs Joyce Shoobridge (widow of the late Fred and former Eastbourne Borough man) passed away on 23 December. Her funeral took place on Thursday 2 January at the Family Chapel Eastbourne Crematorium.

Eric Tippett. I would like to offer my apologies to Lorna Tippett and her family for not including in either the Summer or Autumn Newsletters, the passing away of her husband, Eric Tippett, on 7 May 2013. Eric served in Horsham, Fontwell, Windmill Hill, Pulborough finishing his career in the CCTV Unit at HQ.

#### ***Other Sussex Branches***

Arthur (Stan) WHITE on the 12 November 2013. He joined West Sussex as a Cadet. He was a Traffic Officer for a while and Inspector in Ops room Lewes as well as being a member of the Sussex Police Choir for 30 years.

Michael (Mick) Dockrell on Tuesday 29th October. Mick transferred to West Sussex from the Met in 1951 and served at Worthing, Littlehampton, Hailsham and Rudgwick. He retired as Inspector in 1977

Joan Bristow on 7 December 2013, the wife of Alan, who many of you will know from his time as a uniform Sergeant at Hastings.

Mike Welch on 5 December 2013 joined the Brighton Borough Police in July 1953. He spent most of his service in uniform. On promotion to Sergeant he worked in SUSCRO later serving as Inspector, Ch Inspector and Superintendent in Ops Room until he retired in July 1985. Mike was Chairman Brighton & District Branch of NARPO from 1996 until 2001 and President from May 2007 until his death. He was also Secretary of the NARPO Sussex Co-ordinators committee from 2002 until 2012.

Gillian Shone (nee Tee) on 27th November. Gil was formerly a serving officer in the Brighton Borough Police Force. Gil was also a past Mayoress of Chichester City on two occasions.

Norman Cooper on 19 November at the age of 86. Norman joined Sussex Police in 1949 and retired in the rank of Chief Supt in 1981. He served in uniform, vice squad and CID at Brighton and was Divisional Commander at Hastings, Gatwick and Brighton.

Geoffrey Parsons. He served at Haywards Heath and Chichester before emigrating to New Zealand. He returned to the UK and lived in the Southampton area

Our thoughts go to all the families concerned.

## On a lighter side....

I received this humorous email recently – *“I’ll never forget how happy I was when I saw my missus walking down the aisle towards me..... My heart was beating fast and the excitement was unbearable. It seemed to take an age, but eventually, there she was, standing beside me. I gave her a loving smile and said, “Get that trolley over here love. They’re doing 3 cartons of Stella, for the price of 2.””*

## Eric Osborne Update

Prior to going to press, I spoke to Edna Osborne concerning Eric’s current health. As some members may be aware Eric took a fall on 7 November and was admitted to Eastbourne DGH. He was later transferred to Uckfield Hospital. He is now convalescing at Manor Gardens, Herons Ghyll, Uckfield TN22 4BY and would appreciate visits from his ex-colleagues and friends. I’m sure you would all like to join me in wishing Eric a speedy recovery and hope he’ll be well enough to return home soon.

## Pension News and Annual NARPO Subs

The Police Pension will be increasing by 2.7% in April 2014 which is in line with the September 2013 CPI - not a fortune but a little better than many organisations. This increase will effect your membership subscriptions which will also increase by 2.7% from 1 January 2014. Subscriptions are now due. The new increases are set out below.

Ex-Sussex Officers subscriptions will be deducted at source so there is nothing further for you to do.

For other Members I would ask you to pay your subs promptly. If you pay by direct debit please contact your bank/building society and amend the subscription.

Membership can also be paid by BAC (Internet Banking) directly into our account. The details are as follows:

Name of Account: **NARPO – Eastbourne & District Branch**  
Sort Code: **40-20-06**  
Account: **No 92119595**

**Please use your surname and initial as the reference.**

Cheques to be made out to:

***NARPO – Eastbourne & District Branch***  
and forwarded to  
**Mr Eric Reed, 24 Micklefield Way, Seaford, BN25 4EU**

The increase subscriptions are as follows:

**Full Members and Associate Members £19.56**  
**Additional Members £11.74**  
**Widow/er Members free membership**

## Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch at the Hydro was again a great success and enjoyed by 80 members and friends. The raffle raised £162.22 toward Branch funds. Favours were presented to all those attending. The Chairman, on behalf of the Executive Committee, presented Ruth Humphrey with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of all the hard work that went into arranging this event. I would also like to thank all the Social Committee for their input.

The Spring Lunch is booked for **Friday, 23rd May 2014** at the Hydro. Full details will be included in the next Newsletter. Please make a note of the date in your 2014 diary, ipad or whatever the latest gismo is called!

## Eastbourne Royal Hippodrome

Nineteen members and friend enjoyed an evening of music and comedy at the Eastbourne Royal Hippodrome to watch the performance of "White Christmas". It was a full house. I'm a Friend of Devonshire Park Theatre and seldom visit the Hippodrome. Following this performance I will definitely consider future productions.

## Eastbourne Borough Re-Union (non-NARPO)

Following the very successful Eastbourne Borough re-union at the Hydro Hotel it has been decided to hold another on **Saturday 11 October 2014**. Dave Smith, who organised this gathering, has asked me to publish this date as soon as possible. Full details and a reminder will be published nearer the time.

## Visit to Eastbourne Police Station DVD

Ron Spicer still has a few copies of the video he took of ex-Eastbourne Officers' visit to the now non-operational Eastbourne Borough Police Headquarters in Grove Road last year. A moment of local history? Ron's original intention was to hand the proceeds of sales to Bob Jardine's daughter, Patsy, to contribute to the Eastbourne Hospice but alas, there were insufficient takers. If anyone wishes to purchase a copy, Ron is selling them at the cost price of £3. If you are interested Ron can be contacted by email [olespice.x@gmail.com](mailto:olespice.x@gmail.com) or by phone 01323 504847

## Local Old Town Honey

Our Vice-Chairman, Kit Bentham, who holds a Certificate in Apiculture awarded by the British Bee-Keepers Association with qualifications in Food Hygiene and Food Safety Manufacturing is offering his '**Old Town**' honey for sale to NARPO members at £5 per 1lb (454g). Kit is prepared to deliver free in the Eastbourne area. Anyone interested should contact Kit on 01323 727261 or by email [kit.bentham@btinternet.com](mailto:kit.bentham@btinternet.com) (I've tried a jar and recommend it).

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place at The Fishermen's Club, Royal Parade Eastbourne BN22 7AA on **Monday 14 April 2014 at 7.15pm**. Please make an effort to attend. We still need additional Executive Committee Members without whom we cannot function as an *independent* branch of NARPO. There are 44 branches throughout England, Wales and N.I. - five of those branches are in Sussex! I, and most members that I have spoken to, do not wish to amalgamate with other branches and lose our identity as has happened in other parts of the Country. Would you be willing to travel to all corners of Sussex to attend a meeting? Unlikely. So please give it some consideration. The task is not onerous! We meet quarterly on a Monday evening at the Fishermen's Club. The meetings last no more than an hour. If you are be willing to join the Committee or wish to know more about it, please let me know.

## Newsletter Editor

I am still looking for a volunteer to take over as Editor of this Newsletter. If you are interested, or wish to know more, please give me a call without commitment (I promise!).

## National Annual Conference

The 2014 National Annual Conference will be taking place at Brighton on Friday 5 September 2014. Unfortunately, due to a family wedding, I'll not be able to attend. Keith Bowman, our Chairman, is willing to attend the Conference as a delegate representing this branch and his name will be put forward at our AGM.

Full Members (including their spouses) are entitled to attend as Observers. If you wish to attend or want to know more about the Conference please let me know.

## Nationwide Building Society 'Free' Travel Cover

One of our Hastings Branch members wishes to draw our attention to a problem which may affect those of you who have a Nationwide Building Society Account which offers, as part of the perks, 'free holiday insurance' providing a minimum of £750 is paid in per month. He thought that this would not present a problem as he had arranged for his Police pension to be paid into this account every month. As he found out to his cost, life is not that simple!

He arranged for his Sussex Police pensioner to be paid directly into his National Building Society account. However, some months, due to 'pension day' falling at the weekend, Sussex Police Pensions are paid on the last day of the previous week which results in two payments being paid in one month. This results in no payment being transferred on the following month.

The computerised system at Nationwide registers that the payment for that particular month has been missed and the holiday insurance is cancelled automatically without informing the account holder.

Following lengthy negotiations, Nationwide agreed to put a 'rider' on his account to ensure that his insurance is not cancelled in the future.

If you bank with Nationwide (or a bank that offers similar perks) it may well be worth checking before you venture to foreign climes.

## Senior Spring Golf Event 2014

The Senior Spring Golf Event will be taking place on April 7th 2014 at Tilgate Forest G C. Bargain price of £25 which includes a full English Breakfast served at 9am with "tee-offs" from 10am. Tee times to be circulated on 31st March. FULL HANDICAP 18 holes Stableford. Prizes + NTP & LD Players to be / have been Sussex Police employees and 50+ on 7th April 2014

If you wish to take part please write to **PETER HAWKES, 4 HIGHDOWN DRIVE, LITTLEHAMPTON, BN17 6HJ** enclosing your full name, email or address, telephone number and handicap. A £10 deposit (cheques payable to PR Hawkes) will be required with your application.

## The Miners Strike Documentary

I received the following email from Helen Soothill at ITV:

"I am currently working on a documentary for ITV about the Miners' Strike. The programme is due to broadcast next March for the 30th anniversary of the strike. It will contain a mixture of archive and people's personal stories, looking back at what happened. I would really love to talk to any police officers who were involved in the policing of the strike, both from the local mining areas and also those who were drafted in from further away. It really helps with my research to be able to speak to as many people as possible. If anyone is interested in chatting to me they can email me their details to [helen.soothill@itv.com](mailto:helen.soothill@itv.com) or they can ring me on 0113 222 8364"

## Motor Insurers' Bureau

The following was received from the the Motor Insurers' Bureau:

"MIB has launched a free 'askMID' mobile phone service to help millions of accident victims a year to check vehicle insurance details at the roadside.

The new 'askMID Roadside' service, which is only accessible via a smart mobile device at <http://www.askmid.com/>, can be used to check the insurance details of the other parties involved in a road traffic accident. MIB Chief Executive, Ashton West, believes the new mobile service will help these drivers and many others take some of the stress out of collecting important information at the time of the accident.

The home page of askMID.com features a short video demonstrating the service and an MIB press release about the launch of the askMID Roadside service is also available too. We will be promoting the service through our @DriveInsured Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The askMID Roadside service provides drivers with an instant check of the Motor Insurance Database (MID) from their mobile phone – the user accesses the MID through a mobile-friendly web page. This confirms whether the other vehicle involved in the accident is showing as insured on the MID and provides the other party’s insurance details so that the claim can be pursued quickly. If the results from askMID checks are inconsistent with the vehicle involved in the accident, the user is advised to contact their insurer. In either scenario, the service signposts the user as to what to do next.”

## Laptop Problems or Advice

Are you having problems or need advice about you laptop or computer? If you are, I would recommend contacting Andrew Perry. His prices are reasonable (ask for a quote before committing yourself) and his knowledge is excellent. He’s successfully helped me and several of my family and personal friends.

# AP-it

*Your Local Friendly IT Service...*

- PC Hardware Builds/ Upgrades & Repairs
- Software Installs & PC Maintenance
- Recovery of Systems & Lost Data
- Home & Business Network Builds & Upgrades
- Anti-Virus & Firewall Updates/ Checkups
- Wireless Router Installs & Security Checkups
- Website Design & Maintenance
- Training - One on One
- Removal of Viruses/ Threats
- Secure Online Backup Service

*Call now if help is needed...*



BUY WITH  
CONFIDENCE



CONTRACTOR  
ATTENDANCE  
CALL

CP107TTXX

Supported by AGE, Concern  
Eastbourne

01323 887894 - 07900 473134

support@ap-it.co.uk      www.ap-it.co.uk

## Soloist Singer

Do you have a ‘big 0’ birthday this year or perhaps an Anniversary? Sarah Earl is one of our newer members and venturing as a Soloist Singer. For those with internet facilities can visit Sarah’s website and listen to some of her repertoire at [www.sarahstjohn.co.uk](http://www.sarahstjohn.co.uk) For bookings and further enquiries contact Sarah on 07552 219800 or [sarahst.john@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahst.john@btinternet.com)

the unobtrusive and subtle tones  
of

# Sarah StJohn

Soloist Singer

Jazz - Swing - Movies & Musicals

WEDDINGS • FUNCTIONS  
LUNCHEONS • RECEPTIONS • FINE DINING  
• CORPORATE EVENTS •





## How to find this Newsletter on the Internet

This Newsletter can be found on the Sussex Police Federation website by logging on to [www.sussexpolfed.org/](http://www.sussexpolfed.org/) ; selecting the heading 'Retired Officers' and 'Eastbourne and District Branch'. Other Sussex Branches also publish their Newsletters on this website

For those who have access to the internet, do not forget to visit [narpo.org.uk/](http://narpo.org.uk/)

### And finally...

*...I'm sure that I've forgotten to include something in this Newsletter! It'll probably come screaming back to me either once I've published or about two in the morning!*

*Please do not hesitate to contact me on any NARPO matters.*

*Here's wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2014 and hope to meet more of you at our meetings and social gatherings.*

*My Kind regards,*

*Bob Diplock*

*Branch Secretary  
Tele: 01323761462*