

# *National Association of Retired Police Officers Eastbourne and District Branch New Year 2016 - Quarterly Newsletter*

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and you haven't yet broken your New Years Resolutions! As this is the first Newsletter of the year you will have received it by post. Please pass it on to your spouse/partner. The 2016 Newsletters will be published on 1 April, 1 July and 1 October.

As many of you are aware, the proposed new rules were rejected by the 2015 Conference by one vote. The main problem being the change in membership clarifications. This part of the 'new' rules is being re-written. The National Executive Committee propose to present the amended new rules as a Motion at the 2016 Conference.

I am standing down as the Editor of the Newsletter. One of our members, Peter Mills, who I'm sure many of you know, has offered to take over as Editor. This Newsletter is a joint effort. Good luck, Peter. If you wish to submit an article please do so through me.

Our Treasurer, Eric Reed, has moved to France and will be standing down at the Annual General Meeting. **The Branch cannot function without a Treasurer.** If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible with a view of liaising with Eric for a 'smooth' change over. I promise that it is not an arduous task.

The **AGM** will be held at **7.15pm Tuesday 19 April 2016** at the Fishermens Club, Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AA. A finger buffet will be provided together with a raffle. I have invited Ian Potter, our National President, as our guest speaker. Ian has accepted. Please support this meeting and discover what is happening nationally.

The Social Committee arranged a number of very successful outings and functions during 2015. They have planned one each month for 2016. This Committee is full of enthusiasm and put great effort in arranging these social events. Please make an effort to support them. Remember, friends and guests are very welcome.

Please ensure that you notify me of any change in your circumstances as I am responsible for updating the local and national records for this branch. If you are aware of any retired Police Officers who are not members of NARPO, please encourage them to join.

Please do not hesitate to contact me concerning any NARPO related matters. If I do not have an answer I am sure I can 'sign-post' you to someone who can! ('sign-post?' – I picked this expression up from the next generation!).

Good Luck and Good Health to you all for 2016.

*Bob Diplock* - Branch Secretary  
Email: narpo-sectary-eastbourne@hotmail.co.uk  
Telephone: 01323 761462

## *Obituaries:*

### *Eastbourne & District*

Harry Gape aged 92 years passed away on 30 October 2015. Many of you will remember Harry from his time as Divisional Commander at Eastbourne

### *Brighton & District*

Michael Shone aged 69 years passed away on 12 November 2015

Michael Ransome passed away on 3 November 2015

Pamela Pettit aged 90 passed away on 16 December 2015. Pamela was the widow of Reg Pettit who joined the Brighton Force in 1946 and retired in 1977.

### *Hastings & District*

Patricia Jopson passed away on 15 November 2015.

John (Jack) REECE QPM aged 86 passed away in November 2015.

### *Chichester & District*

Albert (Bert) Mitchell aged 90 passed away on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

Keith Bickmore aged 83 passed away on 18 December 2015.

Our condolences go to all their families.

## *New Members*

We welcome the following new members and hope to meet them at future social gatherings.

Stephen Westwood and Janet Santucci (Metropolitan)

Barry and Daphne Massey (Sussex)

## *Do you know Charles Johnstone?*

Charles is now resident at Hurstwood View Nursing Home at Linum Lane, Five Ash Down, TN22 3FH. Tel: 01825731700. His daughter, Hillary, has contacted our Branch Secretary expressing Charles' wish to see ex-colleagues and friends at Hurstwood View. Charles's wife is also a resident.

## *Forthcoming Events:*

**HOLIDAY ON ICE** (this has been included in the Newsletter in case there are any late cancellations) at the Brighton Centre on Sunday **10 January** for the 1pm show. This will be a mid morning departure and early evening return. Tickets are £36 per adult and £25 per child. Adult tickets have been discounted for NARPO and guests.

**CRIME MUSEUM UNCOVERED** at the Museum of London. This is booked for Saturday **20 February**. Our branch will have a 'slot time' for the tour which will leave spare time to visit the remainder of the museum and time in Greenwich. The inclusive cost is £27.50. However, there may be a reduction in the entry price for full NARPO Members on production of membership cards.

**WARHORSE - Thursday 10 March.** This is the final week of the show. Lynns Travel have seats reserved at the theatre. They have given us a considerable number to offer to our members and guests. The cost is £60 (no discount) and departure will commence at 9am from Langley Precinct, Eastbourne.

If you are interested in any of these outings please contact the Social Secretary, Caroline Place **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** on **01323 846000** or email **tonycaroline@btinternet.com** The Crime Museum and Warhorse outings are selling extremely fast and are on a 'first come – first served'.

Payment can be made by internet transfer (BACS) to NARPO Social Account **Sort Code 52 41 00 Account No 40312755** using your **surname and initial as the reference**. If you wish to pay by cheques please let Caroline know.

### *Future events and Outings planned for 2016*

**April - Shepherd Neame Brewery.** A mid week trip to the brewery in Faversham.

**May - Pashley Manor Tulip Festival.** This will be a shorter mid week trip. Lovely gardens that will have an array of tulips. There's also a very good restaurant/cafe where meals or snacks can be purchased.

**20 May - Narpo Spring Lunch at The Hydro.**

**June - Windsor River Trip.** A guided river trip with light lunch on board with free time to visit the town of Windsor or Windsor Castle.

**July - Penshurst Place** - a mid week trip with date to be agreed.

'Nosh and Natter' evening when a speaker will be arranged for part of the evening. This will include the usual buffet and tombola.

**August - Corfe Castle and Swanage.** Another mid week trip with the opportunity to do either or both. This will be a long day due to distance.

**September - Tenterden and Biddenden** (or similar). Time in Tenterden followed by an afternoon vineyard tour.

**October - Portsmouth.** A day trip when the coach will drop off at various points on requests.

**November - Lakeside.** Christmas shopping.

**December - Roundstone and Worthing.** A gentle day trip with Christmas in mind.

**Autumn** (date to be arranged) - **Peter James**, the author has agreed to come one evening and give a talk.

**Further details on all these events will follow.**

### *Somewhere to dine?*

The Smugglers Inn – High Street, Pevensey, East Sussex, BN24 5LF Telephone: 01323 762112

Looking for somewhere different for an evening meal? The Smugglers Inn offers 10% discount on food to NARPO Members on production of your membership card. The food is first class. There is a 'specials board' in addition to their 'a la carte menu'. The licensee, Sue, has links with the Police. Her late father-in-law, Charles Smith, joined the Eastbourne Borough Police as a Cadet in 1952 transferring to the Metropolitan Police in 1954. He retired in 1985 in the rank of Chief Superintendent having served in numerous London

Divisions. Sue's daughter joined Sussex Police in November 2015.

On most Saturday evenings, there is live entertainment in the bar from 9pm until 11'ish. This could be an 'old' boy band or an 'older' girls' group. Most of the music is from the 1960/80's. Occasionally there is a noisier rock band! If you are interested or wish to know more about the Smugglers visit their website. <http://smugglerspevensey.co.uk/> You will need to book.

### *PGS Senior Spring Event*

The next Sussex Police Golf Section Spring Event will be taking place on Monday 11 April 2016 with a full English Breakfast and coffee at 9am and 10am T off - Stableford Full Handicap – with Prizes. This is open to all Police Employees past and present who are over 50 years of age. The cost is £38.

If you wish to take part please send your details (including full name, phone number, email address and handicap) and a deposit of £10 made payable to P R Hawkes at 4 Highdown Drive, Littlehampton BN17 6HJ The deposit is non refundable after the 3 April 2016; withdrawal after this date may incur the full entry fee as tees, meals & prizes will have been confirmed.

### *NARPO - 'Serving those who have served' - A Century of Service*

The Secretary received the following email via NARPO head office from Angela Buckley who writes about Victorian crime and is the author of popular police biography, *The Real Sherlock Holmes: The Hidden Story of Jerome Caminada*

“I am delighted to have been commissioned to research the history of NARPO, in preparation for the centenary in 2019. I would like to engage the help of all members to make this project a true celebration of NARPO's achievements over the last century

Please do get in touch if you have any information about the history of NARPO and/or of your region and branch, including:

- Specific achievements of NARPO in improving the welfare of retired police officers
- Responses to national events and changes in policing
- Campaigns and lobbying
- Social events and celebrations
- Personal experiences and stories of individual NARPO members

It would also be wonderful to have copies of any documents relating to NARPO history, memorabilia, artefacts and photos. I am really looking forward to working with you all and to sharing NARPO's fascinating history with you. Thank you! [angela@angelabuckleywriter.com](mailto:angela@angelabuckleywriter.com)”

### *Age UK's campaign to tackle loneliness*

This is an article published by Age UK.

“More than a million older people say they go for over a month without speaking to a friend, neighbour or family member. Contrary to what many people think, loneliness is not a normal part of ageing. It not only makes life miserable, it can have a serious impact on your physical and mental health too. And unless we act, our rapidly ageing population means we'll see ever greater numbers of lonely older people and, because loneliness undermines resilience, this means more pressure on our already stretched NHS and social care services.

Age UK needs your help. Please support the campaign to draw attention to this big issue for older people, to mobilise people to help prevent and alleviate it, and to encourage the Government to take action.

No one should have no one. Please sign Age UK's petition at [www.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness) or by writing to Age UK's campaigns team to register your support: Freepost RTEH-ALYL-JJZU, Age UK Campaigns Team, Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9NA

## *Commutation Update*

Relevant only to those who retired between 1 December 2001 and 30 November 2006.

This email was received from Graham Bradley, North Sussex Branch Secretary (and current when going to press).

“Having received a number of queries regarding the commutation uplift with comments such “it’s December now and I have not received my letter yet” I thought it would be appropriate to provide an update before we move into 2016. Of course it is still only the 19<sup>th</sup> December with 9 working days left until the end of December so it is still possible that a letter from the Sussex Police pension administrator (Capita) could still hit your doormats but looking less likely as each day goes by.

When I last wrote to you on the 17<sup>th</sup> November the Sussex Police position on the police pension commutation uplift was:-

“The Government expects that pensions administrators will make the majority of calculations by December 2015 and the majority of payments by April 2016. Work is on track with WSCC/Capita to identify the amounts owed to retired Officers by December 2015, however Capita are unable to make any contact with individuals until further guidance has been provided from the Home Office regarding the necessary forms which need to be completed by those affected.”

The necessary forms alluded to was the discharge letter template which pension administrators were waiting to receive from the Home Office. It subsequently transpired that on the 16th November the Home Office sent

out a memo to all the police pension administrators stating that there was now no longer a requirement for the discharge letters and that police pension administrators should proceed with making payments according to the

GAD guidance. They reiterated that their guidance on the timescales remained but that this should not preclude payments being made earlier.

Colin Moules (Sussex Federation Office and NARPO Member) enquired of Sussex Police at the end of November as to whether, in the light of this, payments could be made earlier. The response was "WSCC (Capita) were aiming to contact all affected individuals by the end of December with payments made by April 2016". They went on to say that they "would be discussing with the Sussex Police Financial Accountant and WSCC early in the New Year to decide exactly when payments would be made but the latest would be April 2016".

A crucial component when making the commutation uplift payment calculations is knowing the exact payment date in order to work out the interest payments to be added to the lump sum. Given that Sussex Police were not planning to have payment date discussions until early in the new year this left me wondering how Capita would be able to complete the calculations and contact affected individuals by the end of December.

Following discussions with Ahmed Ramiz, our branch Chairman (and our Regional NEC Representative), I drafted a letter for Ahmed which was sent to the Chief Constable of Sussex Police on Monday 14th December setting out the facts as we in the local Sussex NARPO branches understood them to be and raising our concerns that the first deadline regarding the calculations was likely going to be missed. We also invited him to make enquiries into this and possibly expedite matters so as to reach a speedy and timely conclusion on this matter. We await his response.

To put the Sussex position into some perspective:-

From figures gleaned through social media, of the 47 UK Forces and law enforcement agencies 13 Forces have paid out already. 25 Forces have provided specific dates when payments will be made from the end of December through to early March 2016. 8 Forces appear to have provided no details of payments and as for Sussex, it is 'aimed' to contact all affected individuals by the end of December with payments made at some point in April 2016. I will continue to monitor the situation and any subsequent discussions or negotiations with Sussex Police and post more information as and when I get it.

Regards

Graham Bradley Branch Secretary North Sussex Branch NARPO”

## *Marriage Allowance Taxation*

Did you know that if you or your spouse/partner are not making the maximum use of your personal taxation allowance you can move part of it to your spouse/partner? Most people have a personal allowance of £10,600. The maximum amount that you can transfer is £1,060 which would give you about £212 per annum less in Income Tax. You can back date to 6th April 2015 and get a rebate for this year. If you were born before 6 April 1935 you need to apply for Married Couples Allowance. To make the transfer go to [www.gov.uk/personal tax allowance](http://www.gov.uk/personal-tax-allowance) and follow the links or contact your Tax Office.

## *Computer Scams*

### *Scam No 1*

This message was received from a member of another branch. Don't be tempted to seek help from any 'cold caller' especially if you are desperate for help and guidance with the new Windows 10

“This may be of interest to other Internet users, although some may be aware already. I received a call from the following number, 00185 9824 1806. It was a bad line and the caller had a heavy accent. He said he was calling from “Windows” and my computer had been hacked and a virus had infected it. He would instruct me how to cure the problem if I could go to my PC. I complained it was a terrible line and challenged him. He said

that he could provide the licence number if I logged on to my PC. I told him the line was so bad I would not be

able to understand instructions so he rang off. I had five more calls in the next few minutes and each time I told him the line was too bad. Being suspicious, I contacted my son, who is more computer savvy than I am. He searched on the telephone number and found many entries confirming it as a scam and that at some point in the conversation the caller would ask for payment to clear the problem.”

### *Scam No 2*

You receive a contact from the Inland Revenue saying you have a rebate due and requesting bank details etc. so that the rebate can be placed in your account. The Inland Revenue will never contact you or do business in this way. Delete the email without opening any links.

### *Scam No 3*

You find a USB stick in the street; usually near a bank or similar building. You think 'that's a lucky find' and use it on your computer. Hackers have dropped the stick and it's programmed to deliver your confidential details to their computer! Clever!!

**Remember** – Cyber criminals almost always need your help in some-way to commit their crime – you clicking on a link which allows them access, or them tricking you in to giving away some secret information such as a password is common. Be wary of anyone offering you something which you have not explicitly gone out and sought.

## *Asbestos ex-Royal Navy Personnel*

If you served in the Armed Forces you may have been exposed to harmful substances e.g. asbestos etc. The following message was received from a NARPO Member of another branch.

“The Crown Proceedings Act 1947 provides immunity to the Crown from civil and criminal liability. The Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Act 1978 repealed this draconian legislation except for service personnel who were subjected to negligence prior to October 1986.

If for example, you were a serving Royal Navy engineer working alongside a civilian engineer on a warship in HM Dockyard Portsmouth in 1960 and both were exposed to asbestos and have now been or fear being diagnosed with the fatal lung disease mesothelioma, the civilian dockyard engineer would be entitled to compensation of about £160,000circa whereas the RN engineer might receive a small fraction of the current pay out, that is if he/she survives one year. The various veteran associations and charities are trying to get the MOD to accept liability and pay lump sum compensation to victims and next of kin equal to that of their civilian counterparts. On Saturday 24 October 2015 the Independent newspaper printed an article on the subject calling for the Government to address this situation where a minority group of Armed Service personnel are being disadvantaged. It is highly likely that there are number of our membership, like myself, who are in this minority disadvantaged group and they should not accept they are not entitled to full compensation because they wore the uniform of the HM Armed Services.

May I ask all your readers, especially those who served in HM Forces before 1987 to consider if they were exposed to the wilful neglect of the MOD and if they think that are suffering or likely to suffer in the future they are asked to contact the Veterans Association UK, Royal British Legion and their Member of Parliament and join the challenge to this injustice. More information can be obtained by visiting [veteransassociationuk.co.uk/](http://veteransassociationuk.co.uk/) or [britishlegion.org.uk/](http://britishlegion.org.uk/)”

## *Do you recognise these Sussex Fleet vehicles?*

The following message was received from Andy Lawrence (andylawrence7878@yahoo.co.uk) “I own two ex Sussex police cars and wondering if any of your members remember these cars in service or have any interesting photos of these cars or any other cars from their service days they could share with me as I'm putting together a collection of Sussex police cars. I live in Sussex and have used one of these cars for a few PR events for Sussex Police. One is a Rover 3500 registration number B418LYJ Fleet number 37. The other has the registration number C133RAP (no other details).”

## *Where to find us*

For those who have access to the internet please log onto our Facebook page for up to date information. If you wish to read Newsletters from other Sussex Branches these can be found by visiting Sussex Police Federation Website and following the links to Retired Police Officers.

What do you get if you cross a fly with a detective?  
A police insector.

Smile...it's just a joke!

Peter Mills  
Editor

*National Association of Retired Police Officers  
Eastbourne & District Branch*

*Minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting  
Fishermens Club Eastbourne  
7.15pm Thursday 8 October 2015*

**1** The Chair, Keith Bowman, opened the meeting by welcoming the 29 members who were attended.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Brian Hinsbey, Doreen Overs, Gus Holman, Mick Pollitt, Nick Dimmer, Mike Tester, Jon Goddard, Mike Dean, Alan & Sally Coole, Ray & Lin Woolston, Eric Newton, Rev Bob & Barbara Butler, Peter Head, Drew Stewart, Ruth Humphrey, Jjan & Richard Burcham and Tom & Margaret Hughes.

**3 Tribute to past Members**

A minutes silence was observed in tribute for those members who had passed away since the last Half Yearly Meeting in 2014. These included Sam Collins, Tony Townsend, Brian Glass, John (Jack) Cummings, Mrs Pam Bushell, Peter White, Gerry Humphrey, Graham Lindfield, John Blythe and Jim Taylor.

**4 New Members**

The Chair welcomed the following new members (none were present). Alan & Sara Crichton (Sussex), Brain & Erica Watkinson (Sussex), Danny & Diana O'Neill (Sussex), Paul Sellings & Linda Kerry (Sussex), Greg & Jane Allcorn (Sussex), Steve Crocker (Thames Valley), Eric & Christine Doherty (Sussex), Michael & Helen Skingle (Sussex), Debbie Upton & Tim Guyton (Sussex) and Roger & Marilyn Clarkson (Lancashire).

**5 Minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting held on 22 September 2014**

These had been previously circulated. Edna Osborne proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of that meeting. The proposal was seconded by Jack Stabler and unanimously agreed by those present.

**6 Matters arising**

There were no minutes arising others then those included in the Agenda.

**7 Chair**

(a) Keith Bowman informed the meeting that he had recently visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Birmingham which includes a Sussex Police Memorial. The Arboretum is set in 200 acres. Entry is free and worth a visit.

(b) The Photographic Competition had been cancelled through lack of entries.

(c) The Chair informed the meeting that the next General Committee meeting would be discussing whether to continue with the Half Yearly Meeting with a recommendation that it be replace it with a Social Event such as a guest speaker.

**8 Secretary**

Bob Diplock stated that he would welcome any feed back on the Quarterly Newsletter and any interesting

contributions. He was thanked for including obituary updates from other branches in Sussex.

## **9 Treasurer**

Eric Reed reported that the accounts were healthy with £11,855 in the Reserve Account and £518 in the Current Account. There were no questions from the members.

## **10 Welfare**

Mrs Liz Gardner informed the meeting of the names of her Welfare team and the areas that they covered. Brain Hinsbey (Deputy), Mick Dean (Assistant – Bexhill area), Tom Hughes (Assistant – Hailsham Area), Mrs Edna Osborne (Assistant – North Area) and Nick Dimmer (Assistant – Seaford).

Mrs Gardner thanked Keith Rigg (Seaford area) for his help and assistance in the past.

## **11 Social Matters**

In the absence of the Social Chairman, Keith Mates, Mrs Caroline Place presented a report of the successful events that had been arranged for 2015. These included Chatham Docks, the Spring Lunch, Richmond Boat Trip, the 'nosh & natter' evening, Buckingham Palace, Wey & Arun Canal and the Edinburgh Fashion Show. Mrs Place reminded members that there were two further events for 2015 which were the Christmas Lunch at the Hydro on 27 November and the coach trip to Polhill Garden Centre on 1 December.

Mrs Place stressed that the Social Committee are always open to suggestions for future events.

Keith Bowman thank Caroline and the Social Committee for their hard work and commitment in arranging these events.

(A copy of the Social Committee is attached to these minutes).

## **12 NARPO & NEC Matters**

### **(a) NARPO Conference 2015**

The Chair gave a brief update of the National Conference at which he and the Secretary attended as delegates. Sue Diplock and Kay Bowman attended as observers. (A full report would be included in the next NARPO News).

### **(b) NEC**

The Chair informed the members that Ian Potter had been re-elected for a second term as the National President. Ian is one of the two No 5 Region representatives on the NEC. Ahmed Ramiz (Sussex North Branch Chair) is our other representative. Keith Bowman is First Reserve.

## **13 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **14 Date of the next Annual General Meeting**

The next Annual General meeting will be held at is 7.15pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Fishermens Club, Eastbourne

The meeting closed at 7.50pm followed by refreshments and a prize draw.

## *Report by the Social Committee*

**15th April Chatham Dockyards** - We had a super day at the dockyards and the weather was the very best that we could order. The day was very interesting and well worth the effort.

**22nd May - The Spring Lunch** was at the Hydro Hotel and again the food was excellent. To me it was a little disappointing that numbers were down but could have been better if more of our members had been more supportive.

**14th June - Richmond boat trip and Hampton Court** although we had nearly all our allocated seats filled, our members were very disappointed with the boat trip itself. I had words with Lynns Travel and was told that if they run this trip again they would (A) make certain about the actual boat trip and (B) they would advertise the trip differently.

**21st July - Nosh and Natter** evening was held at the Fishermen's Club and was supported but feel that more members need to come along and have a good old chin wag and reminisce.

**4th August - Buckingham Palace.** Again we had ordered the best weather with plenty of sunshine. The coach trip and driver were very good and the actual tour of the Palace was eye opening and very informative; once we worked out how to work the hand held remotes.

**8th September - Wey & Arun Canal at Loxwood.** First we stopped at Aundel and spent free time to look around the town and had plenty of time for lunch. We then travelled to Loxwood and joined the narrow boat and after everyone was on board, we were offered tea or coffee. After that we were all served with a cream tea and again tea and coffee was served. During this trip we had a commentary from a boat volunteer, on the making and reconstruction of the canal. Another very fine day.

**6th October – Edinburgh Woollen Mill Fashion Show.** This was a one off special evening. A demonstration given by Edinburgh Woollen's with a 20% discount for purchase made that evening plus a £5 gift voucher for use in store.

**8th October - The half yearly AGM**

**18th October - BRUGES and a Chocolate Factory.** The trip is now booked and paid for by 20 members and I hope all those who have booked have told me their pick up points. I am sure that you will have a splendid day.

**27th November - Christmas Lunch** at the Hydro Hotel with our grand raffle.

Lynns Travel, subject to enough members taking up the offer, agreed to provide a free coach to collect and return members to the Hydro for the Christmas Lunch. We will obviously have to issue him with numbers and a list of pickup points to him, well in advance of the Christmas Lunch.

**1st December - Polhill Garden Centre.** This is a garden centre and shopping village and has a very nice café within, so no excuse for not going. The trip starts off with pick-ups from 9am and although we will return between 4pm & 4.30pm, it is described as a full but an easy day. Plenty of Christmas goodies perhaps!!!

We as a Social Committee try to please most people but it is a hard task resting on just a few. We would welcome members suggestion for any outings or trips. If you have any ideas please let any of the committee members. We will do our best to try and arrange them.

On behalf of all the social committee I hope you all have a safe journey home and please do come along on the events and support us.

Thank you

Ray Woolston

Chairman, Social Committee