

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

## *Summer 2015 - Quarterly Newsletter*

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. There are a number of important items that I wish to bring to your attention which include social events and the proposed change in the National and Branch Rules.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Social Committee - Keith Mates (Chair), Caroline Place (Secretary), Tony Place, Ray Woolston, Jo Townsend (Treasurer) and Jan Steedman for all the hard work and effort they put in to arranging events for Members whether it's excursions, get togethers or lunches. The Spring lunch and river trip were two more successful and enjoyable events. Unfortunately, the planned trip to Rye and Jempsons was cancelled by the coach company. Events and excursions for the remainder of the year are set out in more detail below. They include the 'nosh & natter nite', Buckingham Palace, Canal trip on the Wey & Arun canal, day trip to Brugge, Christmas Lunch and a fashion show by Edinburgh Woollens. I am delighted to say that the support for our events is increasing and on occasions have been a sell out. The Brugge trip is one example of a sell out but luckily Ray Woolston has managed to secure a further 10 seats.

The Social Committee are asking Members to pay for the outings at the time of booking. This is so cheques can be cleared in ample time for the Social Treasurer to have sufficient funds to settle with the coach companies. Cheques for all outings, unless otherwise stated, are to be made payable to Eastbourne NARPO. At the present time the Social Committee Bank Account does not have internet banking facilities.

A reminder to Members that at the National Conference, which is to be held on Friday 4 September 2015, the National Executive Committee will be presenting a motion to change our present National Rules. If these rules are agreed by delegates, each Branch will need to revise their own rules. The new classification of Membership will create the biggest problem at Branch level. Wives/spouses/partners will no longer be classed as members unless they pay a precept subscription to national funds which is calculated at 40% of the full subscription currently approximately £7 pa. Our Chairman has been informed by Clint Elliott, the National Chief Executive Officer, that if these rules are accepted at Conference it is unlikely that they will become effective until the 1 January 2016 which will give branches a little breathing space. We can only change our rules at the AGM in April 2016. The Committee are looking at the possibility of changing the *Half Yearly General Meeting* of 22 September 2015 to an *Extra Ordinary General Meeting* to discuss and decide on the Branch's new rules. I will keep you all informed.

For those of you who retired between 2001 and 2006 please visit [narpo.org.uk](http://narpo.org.uk) regarding the decision on the '**Commutation Factors**'. For those of you not on the internet I understand that there will be an update in the next issue of *NARPO News*.

## ***New Members***

I would like to welcome Brian and Barbara Rapson to our Branch. Brian served in Sussex. I hope we will meet them at our future social events.

## **Obituaries**

It is always sad to list the obituaries and this month is no exceptions. There have been fourteen bereavements in Sussex Branches since the last Newsletter including three of our members. Gerry Humphrey, Peter White and Graham Lindfield. Our condolences go out to all the families.

### **Eastbourne**

**Peter White** aged 67 passed away on Friday 1 May 2015. Peter joined the Dorset and Bournemouth Police on 12 August 1968 and retired from Sussex Police on 2 October 1996. His last posting was as Detective Inspector in the Force Drug Squad based at Uckfield.

**Gerry Humphrey** aged 87 years passed away on the 27 May 2015. Gerry Joined Eastbourne Borough Police on 13 August 1948 and served his entire service within the Borough as a 'beat officer' and 'station reserve' with a spell as a Traffic Motorcyclist. He retired in April 1977. He was a stalwart member of Eastbourne & District NARPO holding the post of Branch Secretary for 17 years until 2012. He leaves a widow, Ruth.

**Graham Lindfield** passed away on 26 June 2015 whilst on holiday. I have no further details at present.

### **North Branch**

**Frederick Jones** aged 91 years passed away on the 22 April 2015. He joined the West Sussex Police on 28 August 1950 retiring on 1 September 1980 having served at Steyning, Shoreham and as a Sergeant at Horsham.

**Len Bishop** aged 94 years. He served for many years in the rank of Sergeant at Crawley being an ex-West Sussex Officer.

**William (Bill) Adams.** Bill retired in the rank of Inspector and was based at Hove.

**Derek Dowell** (not a NARPO Member) passed away on 19 June 2015. He was in his 70's. He was a counter clerk at Burgess Hill before transferring as a communications assistant at Gatwick where he retired in 1994.

### **Chichester Branch**

**Peter Allsopp** aged 78 years passed away on 17 April 2015. Peter joined Sussex Police in 1977 from the Royal Military Police where he served for 22 years. His time with the Sussex Police was spent exclusively at Bognor Regis, both in uniform and CID, and he retired in April 1989.

**Arthur Black** on 16 May 2015 (I have no further details).

**Maurice Woolgar** aged 89 years passed away on 12 June 2015. Maurice joined West Sussex Police after National Service and was stationed at Chichester before moving to Roffey and serving on Traffic as a Constable and then Sergeant. Upon retirement, he worked in West Sussex County Council Highways Dept.

## *Hastings*

**Robert (Bob) Harmer** aged 84 years passed away on 21 April 2015. Bob joined the Hastings Borough Force, where he served as a Constable until his retirement through injury on 28 February 1965.

**Dave Tune** aged 76 years passed away on 16 May 2015. Dave joined the West Sussex Constabulary in 1960 and was posted to Chichester. He served there until 1963 when he was posted to the Traffic Division at Worthing. He served in that role until 1976 when he was promoted to Sergeant and posted to Hastings Sub Division. In 1978 he was posted back to the Traffic Division at Hastings where he served until his retirement in March 1990.

**David (Dave) Castle** aged 77 years passed away on 8 June 2015. Dave was a member of the Hastings Borough Force and subsequently Sussex Police. He was the Ore Village beat Bobby for some years and well known in cricketing circles having played for the Police team.

Our thoughts go out to all the families.

### **Would you know how to claim your Widow/ers Sussex Police Pension?**

Whilst on the subject of bereavements, I was concerned about members who, at the time of losing a beloved one, had no idea how to sort out their Police Widow/er's Pension. I have been in touch with *Sussex Police Pensions* who inform me that it is advisable that the Widow/er or her/his representative (or person dealing with the estate) contact them **as soon as possible** to prevent the possibility of an over payment which would need to be recovered. *Sussex Police Pensions* require details of when the officer died and a contact address for the Widow/er (or person dealing with the estate). *Sussex Police Pensions* will write to the Widow/er (or person dealing with the estate) asking for the death certificate. If there is a Widow/er, *Sussex Police Pensions* will also send a *dependants pension application* and ask for his/her birth certificate and the marriage certificate (all certificates need to be originals). Once *Sussex Police Pensions* received the certificate, if there is **no** widow/er, details of final pay at death and tax details will be sent to the person dealing with the estate also detailing whether any over or under payment has been made. If there is a Widow/er, *Sussex Police Pensions* will send the previous listed information including details of any pension that is payable.

*Sussex Police Pensions* can be contacted by either telephoning **01243 642148** or emailing them at [HRCustomerServicesTeam@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:HRCustomerServicesTeam@westsussex.gov.uk).

### **Spouses Pensions for Life**

NARPO nationally has been supporting a campaign seeking to achieve Police Spouse Pensions for Life, initially started by a NARPO widow member Kate Hall.

Kate launched a petition on this topic last year and the petition attracted over **70,000** signatures. You still have the opportunity to sign that petition through a link on narpo.org.uk website. NARPO nationally now wish to enlist your support in drawing more attention to the campaign directly with the recently elected members of Parliament.

Although the Government appear to have made some concessions towards Spouses in this matter, those concessions have not yet been consolidated in law but in any case leave Police Widows and Widowers in England, Wales and Scotland at a disadvantage when compared with Widows and Widowers of Police Officers from Northern Ireland, where the legislation has been changed to allow all Police Widows and

Widowers to retain their pension entitlement following co-habitation or re-marriage.

NARPO nationally have drafted a letter on this topic with specific reference to the situation in Northern Ireland, which you may be happy to send to your local Member of Parliament to assist us in this campaign. Local Members of Parliament may also be interested in specific cases of how the current restriction on co-habitation and re-marriage affects our members who are their own constituents.-

The draft letter can be down loaded from narpo.org.uk I understand that there will be reference to this in the next NARPO News.

## **Social Matters and Excursions**

### **Nosh & Natter 21 July 2015**

A reminder that the 'nosh & natter nite' will be held from **7.15pm Tuesday 21 July 2015** in the ground floor dance hall at the Fishermens Club, Royal Parade, Eastbourne. There will be the customary 'free' draw for members with two cash prizes; one of **£50** and the other of **£25**. A free finger buffet will be supplied. There will be bar facilities and the usual Tombola. Mr. Terry Kinsman of the British Heart Foundation will be giving a presentation on the latest heart resuscitation procedure. Although he will ask for two 'willing' volunteers, he will not expect Members to crawl about on the floor as we did in our younger days! The presentation will start at 7.30pm and last about ¾ hour including questions. There will be plenty of time to 'chin-wag'. There is no charge for this event and guests are welcome.

### **Buckingham Palace - 4 August 2015**

The trip will start at 8am from the lay-by at the footbridge at Langney Shopping precinct with various pick up points including 8.40am at Church Street; 8.45am at Willingdon Triangle; and 9am at Hailsham. These times may vary. There is a comfort stop at the Pan Tiles in Tunbridge Wells. The tour, with self audio, begins at 1.30pm giving Members free time in London beforehand. The coach will leave London about 4pm.

The cost of this trip will be **£25.00** for NARPO Members and **£31.00** for Guests

There are **12** seats left which will be allocated on a 'first come - first served' basis.

Please send your **full names, cheques and email addresses or telephone numbers by 1st July** together with your **preferred pick-up point** to Ray Woolston at 10 Amberley Road, Eastbourne BN22 0EH.

The Coach Company are committed to pay the Buckingham Palace by 7 July.

(NB Those receiving this Newsletter by post after 1 July and wish to attend, please contact Ray Woolston on 01323 505065 **as soon as possible**)

### **Wey and Arun Canal - 8 September 2015**

The trip starts with free time in Arundel prior to a trip on a canal boat which includes a cream tea. The boat trip itself starts at 1.30pm. Departure times from Eastbourne and pickup points have not yet been fixed by the coach company although there is every likelihood that it will start at Langney Precinct at 8am. Pick-up times will be circulated as soon as they are available. We have reserved 20 seats.

The cost will be **£25** for members and **£27.50** for guests.

If you are interested in this trip, please complete the proforma below and send it with your cheque made payable to Eastbourne NARPO to Ray Woolston **as soon as possible**.

### **Brugge Day Trip on ` 18 October 2015**

The Social Committee originally booked 20 seats for this trip with **Edwards Coaches**. These were snatched up by Members and their Guests. We have now obtained a further 10 seats.

The cost is **£25** per member and **£30.50** for Guests. If you wish to join us on the excursion, please complete the proforma at the end of the Newsletter and send it to Ray Woolston together with a cheque made payable to Eastbourne NARPO **as soon as possible**.

The pick-up points are:

**6.30am** Hailsham High Street → Crackleberry Stores, Hailsham

**6.35am** Polegate Traffic lights → Willingdon Triangle → Church Street;

**6.40am** Ocklynge School, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne → Coop Store, Albert Parade → Waitrose

**6.43am** Mc Donalds, Terminus Road → Compton Street (rear of Grand Hotel)

**6.50am** Pier → Fishermens Club → Princes Road (opposite Beatty Road → Princes Road (opposite Ramsey Way) → Martello pub Langney Rise

**6.55am** Langney Shopping Precinct (laybye near footbridge) → Westham High Street → Smugglers Pub, Pevensey and onto Little Common and further!

**You will need a current passport.**

### **Christmas Lunch Friday 27 November 2015**

A reminder, and a date for your diary, that the Christmas Lunch will held on Friday 27 November 2015 at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne. An excellent venue. Caroline Place, who has taken over responsibility for arranging our lunches has negotiated a slightly more varied menu choice. There will be three choices of starter and four of each for the main and sweet courses. Full details will be circulated in the Autumn Newsletter.

### **Edinburg Woollens Fashion Show 6 October 2015**

The Social Committee have arrangements in hand for Edinburgh Woollens to hold a fashion show for our Members and Guests in the ballroom at the Fishermens Club on the evening of Tuesday 6 October 2015. Entry will be free. A buffet will be provided. Not everyone's 'cup of tea' but I will put my hands up and admit that I've bought items in the local Edinburgh Woollens!

(NB. I will include full details and confirmation of this event in the next Newsletter which will hopefully be circulated on the 1 October. Unfortunately, this may be too late for our members who receive the Newsletter by post. If this relates to you please let me or Ray Woolston know and we will endeavour to telephone you as soon as the details are known.)

### **Photo Competition Closing Date 16 August 2015**

A reminder that our photo competition closes on 16 August 2015 so please ensure that your entries have been sent to **NARPO Eastbourne & District Photographic Competition 21 Glessing Road East Sussex BN24 5FD** by this date. There are three prizes of **£30, £20, and £10**. The photographs will be displayed at the Half Yearly General Meeting on Tuesday 22 September 2015 when the winners will be presented with their prizes. *Good luck.*

## **Audiences for TV Recordings**

Would you like to watch a recording of an ITV programme free? If so, you can book up to 6 free tickets for the same show by going to [www.sroaudiences.com](http://www.sroaudiences.com) and selecting the programme you would like to watch. Many are recorded in London. The company, SRO Audiences (SRO stands for 'Standing Room Only') are responsible for issuing tickets on behalf of ITV. Tickets for popular programmes are snatched up fast.

Last Sunday, 28 June, Sue and myself watched the rehearsal and recording of "It's a Funny Old Week" which went out on the next day. The rehearsal and recording were hilarious. I would liken both to a visit to a Comedy Club without the continuous use of offensive language. Much of the material was cut before it reached our screens. The rehearsal lasted about 1½ hours and the recording almost 2 hour. The cost for the day amounted to a £25 rail fare plus a pub lunch. Combining it with a day out in London it was excellent value. The down side was the hour wait to get into the theatre. There is no cover outside from inclement weather. Try it.

## **Fred Olsen Cruise Lines partnership with NARPO**

This company are now offering NARPO members discounts on all cruises **over and above** other discounts on offer (there are a few exceptions). You can find out more about Cruises on offer by signing up to Fred Olsen Cruise Lines at <http://www.fredolsencruises.com/> There is currently a 'free cruise' prize for one lucky winner signing up to this website.

## **Channel 4 show 'First Dates'**

A message from Paul Braund at Channel 4 - "We are currently looking for single people to apply and we are particularly looking for retired individuals who may be interested in being set up on a date. Our last series was more successful than ever before at finding successful matches. The show is open to people of all ages. You are never too old to find that ideal companion. We are keen to find matches for those in every stage of their life. We would be so grateful if there was an opportunity to circulate this information amongst your members.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me quoting NARPO on 02074277705 or email [paul.braund@twentytwenty.tv](mailto:paul.braund@twentytwenty.tv) You can apply for the series using the link [www.firstdatescasting.co.uk](http://www.firstdatescasting.co.uk)"

## **The Great Train Robbery of 1963**

The following message was received from a Jim Morris who is writing a second book on the Great Train Robbery.

"I wonder if you can help me. I'm currently writing my (second) book on the 1963 Great Train Robbery. In talking to one of the robbers a few years back, after they left the gangs headquarters at Leatherslade Farm and stopping off at a bent solicitors clerk in Berkshire, a few of them went to Pevensy to book into a bed and breakfast. They were in a Ford car - these cars you could open with a paperclip and not damage the paperclip. However they stayed somewhere where either a police officer was 'in digs' or was related to the landlady. They had a bit of a sleepless night as you can imagine. Any of you chaps have any memory of this?"

If you have any knowledge of these lodgings (50 years ago!) and want to admit to it (?) please contact Jim Morris at [jim.morris@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jim.morris@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Sussex Police Charitable Trust**

### **(Open to serving and retired Sussex Police only)**

An extract from the Sussex Police Charitable Trust Newsletter – “Last year 557 members sought the help of the SPC. Over half of these were provided with help in the form of advice, guidance and signposting\* alone, with remainder also receiving help in the form of a grant or interest free loan. Over £52,000 was awarded to members in the form of grants. A further 12 members were made interest free loan totalling over £12,000. 38 members and their families were provided with a recuperative break in our bungalow in Dorset.

If you or a colleague, need assistance with recuperation, illness, disability, convalescence, financial hardship or a myriad of other things, please remember the Trust. We are here to help. It is what we do and the only thing we do.

Contact us on ext 540703 or via our web-site at [www.sussexpolicecharitabletrust.org](http://www.sussexpolicecharitabletrust.org) For those yet to be with us, membership is just £2.50 a month, deducted directly from pay.

By joining, you will be helping your colleagues, however, you may well end up helping yourself.”

\* *signposting* – Don’t worry if you had no idea what this meant as I had to ask! In layman’s language it means that members were put in contact with the relevant organisations for help with a particular problem.

### **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/) and selecting the heading ‘Retired Officers’ and ‘Eastbourne and District Branch’. Other Sussex Branches also publish their Newsletters on this website.

Do not forget to visit our Facebook Page ‘NARPO Eastbourne’.

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

### **And now a little corny humour....**

A man left work one Friday afternoon and instead of going home went for a drink with the boys staying out all night which led to a whole weekend blowing his wages on booze and gambling. When he finally got home on Sunday night, he was confronted by his very angry wife. After two hours, she stopped nagging and said: “How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?” He gave his response very little thought and replied: “That would be fine with me.”

Monday went by and he didn't see his wife. Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results. Thursday, the swelling went down just enough for him to see a little of her out of the corner of his left eye.

### **And one even cornier than that one....**

I stopped at a friend's house the other day and found him stalking around with a fly-swatter. When I asked if he was getting any flies, he answered: “Yeah, three males and two females.” Curious, I asked how he could tell the difference. He said: “Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone.”

***And finally...***

Please do not hesitate to contact me on any NARPO matters. If I cannot help, I'm sure I will know someone who can – it's called "signposting" (?). I hope to meet more of you at our meetings and social gatherings.

Enjoy the Summer,

My Kind regards,

***Bob Diplock***

Branch Secretary

Eastbourne & District NARPO

20 Purbeck Close

Eastbourne BN23 8EX

Téle: 01323 761462

email: [narpo-secretary-eastbourne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:narpo-secretary-eastbourne@hotmail.co.uk)

## Brugge Trip on 18 October 2015

Please complete this form and return it to Ray Woolston 10 Amberley Road, Eastbourne BN22 0EH  
as soon as possible unless you have already notified Ray and paid. If you cannot print this page  
please send your details using a similar format

Full Name .....  
Date of birth...../...../.....Passport No .....  
Address.....  
Telephone No.....email address.....  
NARPO Member? Yes or No

Full Name .....  
Date of birth...../...../.....Passport No .....  
Address.....  
Telephone No.....email address.....  
NARPO Member? Yes or No

Full Name .....  
Date of birth...../...../.....Passport No .....  
Address.....  
Telephone No.....email address.....  
NARPO Member? Yes or No

Full Name .....  
Date of birth...../...../.....Passport No .....  
Address.....  
Telephone No.....email address.....  
NARPO Member? Yes or No  
...continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Cheques(s) enclosed in the sum of £.....made payable to Eastbourne NARPO

**Preferred pick-up point** .....

## Wey and Arun Canal Boat Trip

Please return this proforma (or similar) to Ray Woolston 10 Amberley Road, Eastbourne BN22 0EH

I am interested in this trip:

Name.....Contact phone number.....  
Email.....  
NARPO Member Yes or No  
Others in your party?

Name..... NARPO Member Yes or No

Name..... NARPO Member Yes or No

Name.....NARPO Member Yes or No

...continue on separate sheet if necessary.

Cheques(s) enclosed in the sum of £.....made payable to Eastbourne NARPO

**Preferred pick-up point** .....