

National Association of Retired Police Officers Eastbourne and District Branch

Autumn 2015 - Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. Firstly I must apologise for the late notification in postponing the Half Yearly General Meeting from 22 September to **THURSDAY 8 October 2015** starting at 7.15pm. It was a breakdown in communication! We have no guest speaker but a buffet will be provided. The business part of the meeting should be fairly short giving us all a chance to enjoy a 'pint and a chat'.

Keith Bowman (Chair) and I attended the National Conference in Stockport on 4 September 2015. The full details will be set out in the next Magazine. It can also be watched on-line by going through www.narpo.org.uk The afternoon session concerning the proposed new rules ran over the allotted time by about an hour and strong feelings were expressed by many of the delegates. Although I agreed in general with the changes, there was one stumbling block that I could not agree with. This was the proposal to 'delete' all spouses and partners as Full members of the Association offering them, in-lieu, Associate Membership on payment. As I understand, NARPO was formed for the benefit of retired Police Officers and their immediate families. If this rule had been implemented it would have affected about 150+ Eastbourne Branch spouses; and in the region of 50,000 spouse nationally. (These are my guesstimates!) To pass a motion at Conference, the majority must be two thirds of those *casting* a vote. The vote was 199 for the changes and 101 against. The rule change was therefore rejected. One vote would have made all the difference!

I would like to thank the Social Committee for their hard work during the year in arranging several successful outings and events including the visit to Buckingham Palace and The Wey and Arun Canal Trip. I have set out details of forthcoming events later in this Newsletter which include the day trip to Brugge, the Edinburgh Woollens Fashion Show, Polhill Garden Centre and, of course, the Christmas Lunch. Please try and support these events.

Other items of interest included in this Newsletter are Commutation Payouts, 'Leaving Do' Invite, SPGS Golf Competition, Recall to Duty, Policy Changes at the Police Treatment Centres, 'Free Will Writing' dispute, Fee Smoke Alarm installation and the Eastbourne Borough Police Re-Union

If you do take up any offers circulated in this Newsletter please let me know your experiences so I can pass your comments onto other Members. If you wish to make comment about the contents of the Newsletter please do not hesitate in doing so....but not too unfavourably!

Please pass the contents of this Newsletter on to your respective spouses and partners.

New Members

I would like to welcome the following new Members to our Branch who are all ex-Sussex Officers

David and Linda Hunt: Philip and Kate Carter: Mike and Pam Tidey

We hope to see them at our future events.

Obituaries

Eastbourne

John Blythe aged 68 years passed away on 10 August 2015. John joined Sussex Police in 1970 and served on general duties at Horsham and Hailsham, Traffic division at Polegate and finally in Operations. He retired in 2000. Following retirement John continued working at the Call centre, leaving in 2009 having by then given thirty-nine years service to Sussex. In 2011 he became a volunteer driver for the Alzheimers Society Club at Eastbourne where his contribution and unique sense of humour was hugely appreciated by staff and club members alike.

Our condolences go to his wife Linda and her family.

Brighton

Bill Taylor on 6 September 2015. Bill joined the East Sussex Police in 1951 after service in the Army during the war and was posted to Hove and later transferred to Brighton where he rose through the ranks to Detective Inspector. In 1969 he was promoted to Detective Chief Inspector and posted to Crawley. Late in 1969 he was transferred back to Brighton. In 1977 he was promoted to Superintendent and took command of W4 Littlehampton Division. He retired in 1984 having served almost 34years.

John White (Chalky) aged 80 years passed away on 31 July 2015.

Tony Omotoso passed away at his home address in July 2015.

Hastings & Rother

Josephine Castle aged 68 years passed away on the 5 September 2015. Jo was the widow of the late Dave Castle.

Chichester

Tom Barnes aged 72 years passed away on 22 September 2015. He leaves a widow Juliet. Tom joined the Northumberland Police aged 19 and served at Ashington and Whitley Bay before moving to the Bermuda Police in 1965. On leaving Bermuda in 1970 he sailed on a twin mast sailing ship around the Caribbean, leaving it in Australia. On his return to the UK in 1971 he joined the Sussex Police and was posted to Bognor. Tom was part of the UK police contingent sent to Rhodesia to oversee the elections there in the 1970's. He retired in 1995 as a dog handler.

Plaque in Memory of Eric Osborne BEM

On 6 July 2015 a plaque was unveiled on the wall of the Sussex Police Charitable Trust's bungalow at High Cliff, Christchurch, Dorset and reads "*Eric Osborne BEM. In recognition of his charitable work (Sussex Police Charitable Trust), NARPO and Sussex Police Federation*". A worthy recognition.

Hospitalized Chichester Branch Member

The secretary at Chichester Branch has sent the following message regarding Tony Osborne.

"Tony Osborne, ex Northchapel Rural Beat and Sgt at Pulborough and Midhurst has been admitted to Botolph Ward at Worthing Hospital, having suffered a stroke, causing him to fall and break his hip. Tony lives on his own and had lain for 2 or possibly 3 days before being discovered. He is currently as well as can be expected and is amenable to visitors, although his speech is somewhat impaired. He is expected to be in hospital for at

least the next two weeks (message received on 14 September). For more information please contact Les Mann Chichester Secretary at chi.narpo@btinternet.com or telephone 01903 775118.”

Commutation Payout Adjustments

This item concerns those who retired between 1st December 2001 and 30th November 2006 and commuted part of their pension entitlement. In brief, the commutation formula for these dates had not been updated. Retired members of the Fire Service were also affected. A Fire Officer took the matter to court with the backing of NARPO and the Police Federation and the case was eventually won by the claimant. It is now the responsibility of each Force to calculate the relevant under payment of each of their officers and make settlement. You do not have to make a claim. It was recommended that settlements be made by December 2015 but do not hold your breath! It is not possible to establish what each individual officer will receive.

Overtime and Recall to Duty Under The Police Regulations 2003

Briefly, this involves three retired Police Officer who were Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) Handlers for Devon & Cornwall Police. They all worked shift patterns of 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. They were duty bound to maintain contact with their respective CHISs and deal with any contact instigated by this department. All contact was authorised by the Controller or Deputy Controller. The claimants say it would potentially be a disciplinary offence if they did not respond to a contact from a CHIS. Frequently the claimants received contact from CHIS outside of their normal working hours, which they had to deal with. This would either fall between two tours of duty, or it could be on a rostered rest day or a public holiday. Senior Management imposed a monthly cap on the amount of overtime each officer could claim payment for. This varied over the period of their claims from 30 to 20 hours per month. This cap meant that they did not receive their full entitlement to payment for overtime under the 2003 Regulations. The claimants say that senior management indicated that officers would be moved from the Dedicated Source Unit (DSU) if they sought to complain about this. Upon leaving the DSUs, and the Force, the claimants sought to claim their full entitlement to payment for overtime under the 2003 Regulations. There is a six year time limit for bringing such a claim. Therefore the claimants sought to claim overtime over the preceding six year period. Following a number of court hearings the decision was made in favour of the claimants with a number of conditions.

If you are an ex-Sussex Officer and consider that you worked under such conditions and have evidence/documents to back up any claim, please let me know. I will pass your details onto the Sussex Police Federation who are collating details. If you wish to have a copy of the full decision etc please let me know.

Unfortunately, it does not include those of you of my generation, who were detectives and paid for 4 hours overtime a week and expected to triple that without an additional claim...unless, of course, it was classed as a ‘Special Occasion’ such as a Murder Enquiry.

Policy Changes at the Police Treatment Centres

NARPO Head Office have received notification from the CEO of the Police Treatment Centres (PTC) that the Trustees have decided to impose a weekly subscription from 1 January 2016 of 0.65p per week for retired Police Officers to enable members to use the facilities of the PTC.

There has been consultation with a number of Retired Officers who are at present attending both centres who are supportive of the decision. NARPO are concerned about this decision which has a major detrimental affect on all our members who will no longer be able to apply for treatment unless they donate to the PTC, despite their contributions made throughout their service in the Police. This came as a complete shock to NARPO nationally who are extremely disappointed that the Trustees have chosen to make this far reaching decision without at least consulting NARPO, an organisation that represents a large number of those so adversely affected.

It is appreciated that these centres are expensive to run and additional funds are required. NARPO Nationally are in consultation with their counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland to determine the appropriate course of action to take in challenging this decision as robustly as possible. The policy change also allows PCSO's, Specials and certain Police Staff to donate to the PTC and be eligible for admission and treatment at the Centres. The full statement from the PTC can be viewed at www.thepolicetreatmentcentres.org/news/ NARPO will update Members in due course.

Linda Myers Solicitors

A member from another branch has been in dispute with the Solicitors, Linda Myers, concerning their offer to give NARPO members a FREE Will Writing Service. The Member later discovered that Linda Myers would, in due course, be deducting a large fee from his estate to administer the Will. He challenged the fact that although the writing of the Will was free, it was not explained to him that the later administration of it would incur a fee. Linda Myers disputed this but both parties came to an agreeable settlement.

If you accept a 'free Will service' from ANY solicitor, beware, because if you specify that the Solicitors are to act as your Executors, your estate WILL be charged a fee. You will not be charged for the preparation of the Will if you nominate family/friends as your executors(s).

Scam Warning

The following Scam warning was received from one of our members concerning Paypal. 'I don't know if any of you have a Paypal account, but I do & this morning received a fake email which could have been nasty. It told me my account was "Limited" because of suspected fraudulent activity and if I pressed the link shown it would be restored. What I did notice was that at the end of the email the spelling of Paypal ended in a capital L instead of an l. Paypal confirmed that this was an attempt at fraud.'

Do you have a Smoke Alarm?

East Sussex Fire Service have re-introduced their 'free smoke alarm service' although it is not well publicised. If you wish to take up this offer please let me know as I have been asked by the ESFS to collate names and addresses and pass them on in bulk. I have had my two 'old' ones replaced. They also advise you to have carbon-monoxide sensors installed but the Fire Service do not supply them. These are available at B&Q, Homebase and similar outlets. If you do take up this offer do not be surprised to see a Fire Engine and full crew pull up outside! Great for the grand-kids...and the female spouses!

Getting 'on-line' for the over 50

On Wednesday 14th October 2015 from 10am till 3pm, 'Health & Wellbeing for the over 50s' (Wealden Senior Citizens Partnership) are organising a FREE event about 'Getting on-line and using computers' at the Hailsham Community Civic Hall, Vicarage Lane, BN27 2AX (next door to Council offices).

If you wish to attend this meeting, know more about the organisation or would like to join free and receive updates by post or email, please send your name, telephone number/email address and full home address to Linda Graham, WSCP, 5 Rectory Field, Hartfield, TN7 4JE Tel: 01892 770487, email: lindagraham@wealden-scp.org

SPGS Senior Christmas Event

The next Sussex Police Golf Section Christmas Event will be taking place on Monday 14 December 2015 with a full English Breakfast and coffee at 9am and 10am T off - Stableford Full Handicap - Festive Prizes. This is open to all Police Employees past and present who are over 50 years of age. The cost is £32.

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 1st December 2015; withdrawal after 1st December may incur the full entry fee as tees, meals & prizes will have been confirmed.

Invite to a 'Leaving Do'

A message from Richard Delacour, Critical Incident Inspector NRT (I have no further contact details)

"I am (with assistance from my military service) retiring. There are too many lovely people to invite personally so any current or retired officers or staff who wish to share any memories of working with me are all cordially invited to join me at Corals dog stadium, Hove from 6.30pm on Saturday 28 November to make sure I'm not lying & actually do go. The Sprinters bar has been set aside for a private function but it is a race night and guests are free to also enjoy the facilities & have a flutter. There will be entertainment & a few light nibbles.

Please RSVP as your names will need to be on the guest list or you'll have to pay to get in.

Hope to see as many friends & colleagues from my recent (& not so recent) past as possible."

Eastbourne Borough Re-union (Non NARPO Event)

The Eastbourne Borough Police Re-union will be taking place on Saturday 10 October 2015 at The Hydro Hotel commencing at 12 noon. The cost is £15 each which includes a buffet. If you wish to attend this non-NARPO gathering please contact Dave Smith on dsmith84@sky.com or on 01323 763255 as soon as possible as he needs to know catering numbers.

Ironman World Championship

I received the following email from our North Branch. "Efforts are being made to help raise funds to enable PC Dan Cobby to compete in the Ironman World Championships in Hawaii. Dan is a Sussex Police officer working at Horsham. He has been taking part in triathlon for three years. He has recently competed in the United Kingdom Ironman Triathlon Championships which consists of a 2.8 miles swim, 112 miles bicycle and a full marathon. He finished 8th. He was the first non professional athlete to finish beating professional athletes. As a result of his success he has qualified for the World Ironman Triathlon Championships in Hawaii. This is a huge achievement competing with athletes from all over the World.

The costs to compete in Hawaii is estimated circa £4000. If you wish to donate please do so by contacting Dan c/o Horsham Police Station, Hurst Road, Horsham RH12 2DJ or email daniel.cobby@sussex.pnn.police.uk"

The True Crime Museum - Hastings

The True Crime Museum is situated in the Palace Avenue Arcade, White Rock, Hastings TN34 1JP and is open on specific days. I understand that there is free entry to NARPO Members on production of a NARPO Membership Card. For more information and dates/times of opening please visit info@truecrimemuseum.co.uk or contact Joel Griggs, Museum Curator on 01424 420115

Personalised Christmas Cards

A message from UK Media Solutions: 'We have been supplying our local NARPO (Wiltshire) with customised Christmas Cards for a number of years and decided to expand our offers to other branches. We can provide

fully customised Christmas Cards for your area, including the greeting message inside along with the NARPO crest and address details. We can also provide a choice of cover image which could be a local landmark in winter, a generic Christmas image or perhaps something humorous. Alternatively you can send us an image you would like to see. All cards are supplied with envelopes.

All cards are printed digitally, with silk effect outside and uncoated inside, on heavy weight card

Prices are 100 cards + envelopes for £75 + vat
 150 cards + envelopes £100 + vat
 200 cards + envelopes for £125 + vat

If you would like more information please contact Phil Martin on 01225 302213 or email phil.martin@uk-mediasolutions.com

Our mailing address is: Unit G22, Avonside Enterprise Park, Melksham, Wilts SN12 8BT - www.uk-mediasolutions.com

Social Events

The Nosh and Natter evening in July was very successful. The speaker from the British Heart Foundation was very informative and well received. Did you know, for example, that there are a number of premises in Eastbourne that have a Heart defibrillator for use by ANY member of the public trained or otherwise? The machine issues clear audio instructions. Emergency vehicles also carry defibrillators. It saves lives and is more effective than CPR. SpecSavers have a public defibrillator which has been used on several occasions in Eastbourne Town Centre.

The evening concluded with a period of general 'chit chat'. The £50 cash prize was won by Mrs Ruth Humphrey and the £25 won by Mrs Matthers. Congratulations to both winners.

The trip to Buckingham Palace and, later, the outing to the Wey and Arun Canal trips were both very enjoyable

A Fashion Show at the Fishermens Club by Edinburgh Woollens on 6th October will start at 7pm. The evening is free to all members and guests. Purchases on the evening will be discounted by 20% and a £5 voucher will be given. Free tea/coffee and biscuits will be served during the evening. Bar facilities will be available.

Brugge Day Trip on 18 October 2015 - There are a few seats left on the day coach trip (via the tunnel) to Brugge on 18 October 2015. The cost is **£25** per member and **£30.50** for Guests. If you wish to join us on the excursion, please contact Ray Woolston on 01323 505065 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 - The Hydro - Friday 27 November 2015

This Annual Christmas Lunch at the Hydro Hotel is a relaxed and enjoyable sociable event. Guests are most welcome. The Social Committee have negotiated a fuller menu this year which is as follows:

Starter

Forest Mushroom and Madeira Soup
Trio of Parisienne Melon in Malibu Liquor
Vermouth Cured Salmon, Cherry Tomato, Clive and Spring Onion Salsa

Mains

Traditional Roast Turkey, Peach, Chestnut and Thyme Stuffing, Wrapped Chipolata and
Deep Fried Onion Rings
Slow Confit Leg of Duck, Oriental Cabbage, Blueberry and Port Sauce
Steamed Fillet of Plaice with a Tomato, Basil and Black Olive Marinade
Oven Baked Goats Cheese and Red Onion Tart, Warm Beetroot and Plum Tomato Dressing

Main course's served with Seasonal Vegetables, Roast and New Potatoes

Desserts

Traditional Plum Pudding with an Amaretto Sauce
Light Pistachio Mousse, Vanilla Ice Cream and Pistachio Anglaise
Sherry and Raspberry Trifle, Christmas Tuille
Warm Mince Pies with Fresh Chantilly Cream, Vanilla Ice Cream or English Custard
A Selection of Cheese and Biscuits

Freshly Brewed Coffee and Mints

The cost will remain at £20. Time 12.30pm for 1.15pm lunch

The closing date is Wednesday 11th November 2015 but Caroline and the Social Committee would appreciate early returns.

Please complete the pro-forma below with your selection and send together with your cheque made payable to NARPO Social Account to Mrs Caroline Place, 26 Medway, Hailsham BN27 3HF. If you cannot print the form please send your details using a similar format. Alternatively, you can send your details and selection by email to tonycaroline@btinternet.com followed by a BAC (internet bank transfer) to NARPO Social Account Sort Code 52 41 00 Account No 40312755 using your surname and initial as the reference.

Lynns Travel have offered a free 'pick up and drop off' bus service for the lunch depending on the positive response from members. However, it should be pointed out that this could be a lengthy journey for some if they are the first 'pick up' and may result in an extended couch tour of Eastbourne and surround! If you would like to find out more, please complete the relevant part of the proforma. A member of the Social Committee will contact you in due course.

Polhill Garden Centre 1 December 2015

An extra outing for your diary is an excursion to Polhill Garden Centre located between Sevenoaks and Bromley on the 1 December. Polhill is described as a 'garden centre and shopping village' and includes a restaurant. Departure will be between 9 and 10am with an estimated return of 4.30pm. All these times will be confirmed at a later date. The cost of this is £7.50 per head. Guests are welcome. Please complete the proforma below or email Caroline Place (details above). Payment can be by cheque or BAC (as above).

Keep-fit...but don't over do it!

On the advice of his doctor, 50 year old Harry finally made it to the gym with a pal. After consulting with one of the trainers, Harry decided to try out the steep treadmill. "OK", said the trainer "I'm going to set it for ten minutes. If you want to go longer just press the start button again." At first Harry was doing fine but after 5 seconds he started getting tired, and after half a minute he scrambled off gasping for breath. He was exhausted. He sat down next to his pal. "Man", said Harry. "I could barely last half a minute on that treadmill." "Alright. Alright", said his buddy, "no reason to brag!"

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.

Don't forget to complete the pro-formas below for the Christmas Lunch and Polhill Garden Centre.

Enjoy the Christmas Shopping...and a Merry Christmas to you all!

My Kind regards,

Bob Diplock

Branch Secretary

Eastbourne & District NARPO

20 Purbeck Close

Eastbourne BN23 8EX

Tele: 01323 761462

email: narpo-secretary-eastbourne@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas Lunch – Friday 27 November 2015

Please clearly circle your choice – the full description of the menu is set out above

Name.....*Phone No*.....

Starter: Soup Melon Salmon
Main Course: Lamb Duck Plaice Tart
Desserts: Plumb Pudding Mousse Trifle Mince Pies Cheese/biscuits

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Please return this form (or something similar to this format) to Mrs Caroline Place, 26 Medway, Hailsham BN27 3HF as soon as possible and no later than 11 November 2015 together with a cheque made payable to Eastbourne NARPO; or by BAC as set out above. Guests are very welcome.

I would be interested in the free coach pick up from (state preferred location):
.....
.....

Polhill Garden Centre 1 December 2015

Name.....*Phone No*.....

Total number in party @ £7.50 each

Cheque enclosed in sum of**OR BAC (date of transfer)**.....

Pick up preference