

# *National Association of retired Police Officers*

## *Eastbourne & District Branch*

### *Autumn 2016 - Quarterly Newsletter*

Summer's almost gone and now SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder/Winter blues) is hovering in the back ground with Christmas only three months away - Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter.

A reminder that at 7.15pm on **Tuesday 20 September 2016** we will be holding another '**nosh & natter nite**' at the Fishermens Club. This gathering replaces the Half Yearly General Meeting. We have invited Kevin Gordon as our guest speaker on 'Sussex Gravestones and Grave Yards'. An unusual subject but I understand that it is both informative and amusing. His presentation on Eastbourne, Sussex and British Transport Police at our last '**nosh & natter nite**' was thoroughly enjoyed by the 30(!) members and guests who attended. There will be our usual excellent finger buffet, tombola and free members draw with £25 and £50 cash prizes. This is a free event and guests are welcome.

The **Christmas Lunch** will be on **Friday 25 November 2016** meeting at 12.30pm for a 1.15pm lunch. The price of this excellent meal is £21. The General Committee has agreed to the branch subsidising Members, Spouse and Partners by £6 each. To benefit from this subsidy, please ensure that you include your membership number on the application at the end of this Newsletter. If you are unable to print the form, please either email or post a similar format to Caroline Place (details below) as soon as possible and **no later than Wednesday 2 November 2016**. Guests are welcome.

Please support these two events.

The discussion on the **proposed amalgamation of the six Sussex NARPO branches** is still in its early stages. Keith Bowman and myself attended the initial meeting of Chairs and Secretaries to discuss the way forward. Our attendance was not a commitment to the amalgamation but to look at the logistics. It was agreed, however, that we would aim to amalgamate (subject to approval of those branches who decide to join the amalgamation) on the 1 January 2019.

This amalgamation must be voluntary. If one or more of the Sussex Branches decide not to join they would carry on independently. Such a Branch could join the amalgamated group at a later date if they so wished. Each existing branch would continue to control the Welfare and Social gatherings in their current area. One of the biggest concerns is the distribution of funds currently held by branches; and future subscriptions. We are seeking advice from other NARPO areas where amalgamations have successfully taken place.

Why are we considering taking this course of action? The national rules state that each branch must have a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer. Without these posts being filled by Full members, the NEC could close the Branch and retain the funds. At present Eastbourne & District have these posts filled. However, I have been your Secretary for about five years and will wish to stand down in the not too distant future. Is there a volunteer to take over this post?

Be rest assured, nothing can be decided on without the agreement of Members.

For those of you who have access to '**Facebook**' and enjoy reminiscing I recommend a visit to '**Sussex Police Friends**'. There is a wealth of old photos, names and stories which will bring back countless memories.

### *Obituaries*

#### **Eastbourne & district Branch**

**Bill Hailey** age 95 years, passed away on Saturday 30 July 2016. Bill joined the police after the war in 1946 (Hove Borough) and retired in 1976 after 30 years service, having risen to the rank of Superintendent in charge of East Division based at Hastings. He went on to work for East Sussex County Council as an Animal Health Inspector until full retirement at 65.

**Eric Newton** passed away on 31 August 2016. Eric was an Inspector with the City of London Police and leaves a widow, Mavis (Maeve). Maeve is an active member of our branch and was Secretary to the Eastbourne Borough Chief Constable and later to the Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

## Chichester Branch

**David Ovenden** aged 80 years passed away on 14 July 2016. Dave joined the East Sussex Constabulary in 1957 after service with the RAF and in 1959 transferred to Traffic where he spent most of his service, working at Hove, Haywards Heath, Battle and Chichester. In between he spent 10 years as an instructor at Chichester driving school. He retired in 1984 and became Deputy Chief Examiner for the Institute Of Advanced Motorists.

**Anthony Francis** aged 74 years passed away on 31 July 2016. Tony served on Traffic at Petworth, Chichester and Worthing, before serving in CID at Bognor Regis, and later the Regional Crime Squad.

**Brian Luxford** passed away on 16 July 2016. Brian joined the West Sussex force in 1955 and worked on uniform patrol at Worthing, and in the Divisional Office at Chichester and Shoreham. He was promoted to Sgt at Chichester in 1964, and moved to Bognor Regis before being promoted to Inspector in 1968. Brian retired as Ch Inspector and 2nd i/c at Bognor/Littlehampton in 1985. During his service Brian was Chairman of the Sussex Police Federation Joint Branch Board.

## Worthing & District

**Hugh Creed**, aged 83 years, passed away on Friday 15 July, 2016. Hugh joined the Hastings Borough Force in January 1954 and became a dog handler in 1967 following training at the Metropolitan Police Dog School at Keston. He was promoted to sergeant in 1969 remaining with the Sussex Police Dog Section until retirement in 1984. Hugh was an active member of Worthing Branch, he was elected to the committee in April 1988, serving for 20 years until leaving in 2008. On leaving he was awarded Life Membership for his services to Narpo.

**Janet Skeef**. (No further details). Janet may best be known as Superintendent Janet Bond in Command of Police Women in East Sussex and then at Police HQ in Lewes. Janet retired circa 1976

## Tunbridge Wells

**George Turner** (no other details). George was deputy head of Traffic Division, West Sussex, before transferring to Kent on promotion to Superintendent. He spent time as a staff member at Bramshill College as a Director of Studies with the Senior Command Course before returning to his force. He retired in the rank of Chief Superintendent.

Whilst serving as a constable in West Sussex, George won a competitive place with a Churchill Scholarship which took him on a world study tour.

## Serving Police Officer

**Alex Sim** passed away on Sunday 10 July 2016. Alex was a serving Police Sergeant on the NPT based at Hailsham.

## Non- NARPO Members

**Rodney Colbran** passed away on 2 September 2016. Rodney was not a NARPO Member but was known to many who served in Eastbourne where Rodney was an Inspector. Rodney's funeral will take place at the Eastbourne Crematorium on 26 September at 2.30pm followed by a gathering at the Priory Court Hotel at Pevensey. Those wishing to attend at the Priory Court Hotel are asked to contact Rodney's daughter, Paula, on 01323 487397 or email [paulacolbran@gmail.com](mailto:paulacolbran@gmail.com) Any flowers or donations can be sent to Butler and Sons of Hailsham.

**Les Bowerman** passed away on 25 August 2016. He was formerly the Siddlesham Rural Officer.

## *Welcome to new members*

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined our branch in the last six months:

**Sussex:** Tom and Carol Bowles; Tracey and Nick Shorthouse; Graham and Lesley Jones; Steve and Maxine Grace & Simon and Jayne Bates; **Metropolitan:** Ian and Kimberly Sturges & David and Heather Pryce

## *National Conference*

Keith Bowman, Eric Reed, Kit Bentham and myself attended as delegates at the National Conference at Torquay on 9 September. The morning session covered 'house keeping' matters and concluded with Falklands War Veteran, Simon Weston, as our Guest Speaker. During the afternoon, we had a debate titled "The Silver Economy". The three panellist

were Peter Murphy of Wise Age, Stephen Mann, CEO of Police Mutual, and Chris Curry, Director of the Pensions Policy Unit. Unfortunately, Stephen Mann had to leave before question time; Peter Murphy had stood in for a colleague at the last moment and at times, lost the plot. My personal feeling was that the debate ‘fell a little flat!’

The talk by Simon Weston was inspirational, moving and humorous. There were definitely a few controlled tears in the conference room. Simon admitted being a tearaway in his early teens, ‘nicking’ cars etc. Pressurised by his mother he joined the Welsh Guards and in 1982 was sent to the Falklands. He was aboard the Sir Galahad when it was bombed on 8 June. His story is well documented. He stressed that he is no more of a hero than his colleagues who had been killed or seriously injured that fateful day. It just so happened, that when he was flown into Brize Norton, the press and cameras were there and they happened to pick on him and his family.

On returning home he became a recluse refusing to mix with friends and family. The family eventually contacted Simon’s old Regiment for help. A senior officer visited him at home and eventually persuaded him to fly to Germany and join the Regiment to watch Wales playing an international rugby match. Being an ex-rugby player he agreed. This was the beginning of his personal recuperation. He was awarded the CBE and OBE for his continued charitable work.

He met and became friend with Carlos Cachon, the pilot of one of the aircraft that bombed the Sir Galahad. Simon holds no personal grudge against Carlos stressing that this was a ‘war zone’ and the tables could have been turned.

His treatment is on-going and will continue indefinitely.

**The Result of the Motions at Conference** (there has to be a 2/3 majority) were as follows:

Motion 1 – Rotherham Branch – Reduce the national precept per member from 40% to 30% of annual subscriptions. (At present, 40% of member’s subscription are paid to National funds). The voting was 48% For and 52% Against. The motion was not therefore carried.

Motion 2 – Barnsley and Birmingham (with amendment) – National funds pay for one delegate from each branch to attend conference. The amendment was for branches to be ‘means tested’. The amendment was lost – For 41% Against 59%. The original Motion was lost For 93 Against 175 (the electronic voting system failed and the vote was by a show of hands!).

Motion 3 – Birmingham Branch – To update the computerised membership data system ‘Supersleuth’. This motion was agreed. For 93% Against 7%.

During the morning session, and to test out and ensure we could all operate the electronic voting system, John Stapleton, our Facilitator, asked us to vote on the following:

- 1 Who voted to leave Europe? 65% Yes 35% No
- 2 Had those who voted ‘Yes’ changed their minds – 95% had not changed their minds.
- 3 Had those who voted ‘No’ changed their minds – 100% had not changed their minds.

The 2017 Conference is being held on Friday 8 September at Scarborough when the New Rules will undoubtedly be the main Motion. I hope that our branch members will agree to send delegates as it is imperative that, as a Branch, we should continue to be involved in deciding on national issues.

### *Can you help?*

I received the following from Mick Skingle who is seeking help in finding temporary accommodation in the UK whilst his daughter receives a kidney transplant.

***“My daughter Amanda has been type 1 diabetic since the age of 18. She has gone through various problems relating to this but has recently been diagnosed as having kidney failure. She is soon to go on the transplant list for both a kidney and a pancreas. Once a donor has been found she will be in Guys hospital for around 3 weeks.***

***We currently live in France and would like to be near to her during the time that she will be in hospital. We do not have a residence in the UK nor family that would be able to put us up for that duration.***

***Do you know of any accommodation owned by NARPO or its membership within reasonable travelling distance of Guys hospital? – Mick.”***

If you can help or have any suggestions on suitable accommodation, would you let me know and I will forward your details to Mick.

## Computer problems?

I was having problems with advertisements continually popping up on my laptop known as 'Malware'. I searched the internet for a solution but these came with a cost varying from £30 to almost £100. I could not be certain that they were genuine. The name of this particular malware was 'BrownFox' but I could not locate it on any programmes on my laptop. However, there was an advertisement in the NARPO News offering to help with computer problems. I contacted them and they emailed me two free downloads that eventually solved the problem. This advice is free to NARPO members. Their email address is [narpo@bc-group.co.uk](mailto:narpo@bc-group.co.uk) If you do have a computer problem, I suggest you contact them initially before wasting your pension.

### *Group Insurance Scheme - Additional Policy*

I received the following from the Sussex Police Federation Office. The cut-off date was 9 September 2016. I have circulated this via email previously but felt that it should still be brought to the attention of Members who are not on email.

*“An additional policy will be added to your Group Insurance scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October this year to provide cover for all your ‘gadgets’ (mobile phones and portable gadgets including tablets, laptops, cameras, e-readers, sat navs and camcorders.) This will come at an extra cost and details of the increases to premiums are set out below. At the same time there is to be an increase in Insurance Premium Tax, something which we do not have control over, being directed by the government. The additional cover for gadgets was offered by our brokers on a ‘All In’ basis, meaning it was either implemented for everyone in the scheme or no one. The Federation Executive therefore decided to ballot all serving officers. Retired members were not included only by reason of the fact that a) we do not have contact details for all retired officers and b) it was felt this primarily concerned serving officers for whom we are able to contact and ballot easily. The result was 87.7% vote in favour.*

*This cover will therefore be added to all existing policies with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October and additional premiums will be deducted from pensions (and salaries) on or after that date. If you wish to not be included, by opting out of the entire scheme, you should contact [admin@sussex.polfed.org](mailto:admin@sussex.polfed.org) before 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016. We conducted a scoping exercise prior to finalising this and received overwhelmingly positive feedback which suggests that commercially available cover is considerably more expensive. I would suggest that if you believe you have cover elsewhere, you could make a saving by cancelling that cover when this one comes into play.*

*All terms and conditions of this cover including policy excesses can be found on our website at <http://www.sussexpolfed.org/members/gadget1.pdf> and <http://www.sussexpolfed.org/members/gadget2.pdf>*

*All claims on this policy will be made direct to the insurer as detailed in these two documents. I hope you will agree that this is a very useful and welcome addition to our group scheme.”*

#### New Premium Table for Retired Officers.

Insurance Type	Current Amount	Premium From 1st October 2016 (inc IPT@ 10%)	With Addition of Gadget Insurance Premium	Insurance Type	Notes
Group Life: To 59	26.77	26.79	28.55	Retired Officer Only Subscriber	
Group Life: To 59 (SP)	38.00	38.02	40.66	Retired Officer and Spouse/Partner Subscriber	
Group Life: 60-64	26.67	26.69	28.45	Retired Officer Only Subscriber	
Group Life: 60-64 (SP)	37.39	37.41	40.05	Retired Officer and Spouse/Partner Subscriber	
Group Life: 65-69	17.40	17.42	19.18	Retired Officer Only Subscriber	

Group Life: 65-69 (SP)	<b>25.57</b>	<b>25.59</b>	<b>28.23</b>	Retired Officer and Spouse/Partner Subscriber	
Group Life: 70 Plus	<b>6.18</b>	<b>6.21</b>	<b>7.97</b>	Retired Officer Only/Retired Officer and Spouse/Partner	1 premium fits all

### *Torquay Accommodation*

If at some future date you intend to visit Torquay, I would recommend the Glendower B & B, Falklands Road, Torquay TQ2 5JP where we stayed for the conference. The owners, Bob, Leslie & Carla were welcoming and friendly throughout our stay. They offer a wide range of breakfast choices including a full English. It's located about 10 mins walk from the town centre.

### *Christmas Lunch*

This year's Christmas Lunch is being held on Friday 25 November 2016 at the Hydro Hotel, Ravens Croft, Mount Road, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ. This is an excellent venue. As mentioned above, Eastbourne Branch will be subsidising Members, spouses and partners by £6 each bringing the cost down from £21 to £15. Guests will pay the full amount of £21. Gathering will start at 12.30pm for 1.15pm lunch.

**The closing date is Wednesday 2 November 2016** 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.**

**To qualify for a discount please ensure you fill in your NARPO Membership number.**

#### *Starter*

Caramelised Winter Vegetable and Coriander Soup

Carpaccio of Melon and Pineapple, Mango Salsa and Parma Ham

Chilled Atlantic Prawns on Iceberg Lettuce and a Brandy Marie Rose Sauce

#### *Mains*

Traditional Roast Turkey, Apricot, Chestnut and Rosemary Stuffing, Wrapped Chipolata and Cranberry Sauce

Medallions of Slow Braised Beef with an Aubergine Fondue, Port and Baby Onion Sauce

Buttered-fried Cod Fillet, Almond and Parsley Mash, Garlic Tomato, Lemon Oil

Forest Mushroom and Potato Ragout in Puff Pastry, Madeira Cream

Main Courses served with Seasonal Vegetables, Roast and New Potatoes

#### *Sweet*

Traditional Plum Pudding with an Amaretto Sauce

White Chocolate and Malibu Parfait, Dark Chocolate Langue de Chat  
(continued)

*Sweet*(continued)

St Clements Posset, Lemon Scented Sable Biscuit

Warm Mince Pies with Chantilly Cream, Vanilla Ice Cream or Traditional English Custard

Cheese and Biscuits

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Freshly Brewed Coffee and Mints

### *Historical Records*

I recently became in possession of an Eastbourne "NARPO Minute Book" and have picked out some of the earliest entries for your amusement!

"Annual General Meeting was held at Police Headquarters (Eastbourne) by kind permission of the Chief Constable R W Walker on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1963 (Thursday) at 7.30pm. Present, President R W Walker Esq & 21 Members. Apologies from Chairman L Wilson, Messrs. Goldsmith, Newman, ???, Painter."

"The Chief Constable gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on various aspects of pensions and pensioner and to comply with his request no record is hereby made. The Chief then left the meeting."

The Secretary "informed the meeting that the Life Membership Certificate awarded to the late Chief Inspector Diplock (no relation to your current Secretary) had been presented to Miss Diplock by the Chairman, Mr Wilson, and that it was suitably framed."

"Mr Hebborn proposed that the subscription should be raised from 2/6d to 3/6d in 1964 except for the Widows subscription which would remain at 2/- owing to the increase of postage etc" (The increase was approved by the Committee).

There were no account details quoted in these minutes although the following was shown in the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee on 21 November 1963. "Cash in hand £66 9/2d from which £6 8/3d was due to be paid to head office". There were 110 Full Members, 38 Wife Members and 35 Widow Members. I wonder if anyone will be interested in my minutes in circa 2070?

### *And finally, a little humour stolen from Simon Weston:*

Part of Simons treatment included the grafting of skin tissue to the palm of his hands, face and cheeks. The skin tissue for his palms was taken from the inside of his groin. The skin transplant to his face and cheeks (I'm not sure where it came from) has to be treated regularly by taking fat from his buttocks and inserting it in his face. Although he has become good friends with Carlos mentioned above, Simon has great delight in shaking the Argentinian's hand and allowing Carlos to kiss his cheeks!

I hope you all keep well and enjoy the coming festive period – I know it's three months away but there will not be another Newsletter until the 2017!

My very kind regards to you all,

*Bob Diplock*

Branch Secretary  
Eastbourne & District NARPO  
Tele: 01323 761462

## Christmas Lunch – Friday 25 November 2015

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

Name.....Membership No or Guest.....PhoneNo.....

<b><i>Starter:</i></b>	Soup	Palma Ham	Prawns		
<b><i>Main Course:</i></b>	Turkey	Beef	Cod	Ragout	
<b><i>Desserts:</i></b>	Plum Pudding	Parfait	Posset	Mince Pies	Cheese/biscuits

Name.....Membership No or Guest.....

<b><i>Starter:</i></b>	Soup	Palma Ham	Prawns		
<b><i>Main Course:</i></b>	Turkey	Beef	Cod	Ragout	
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I enclose a cheque in the sum of .....

**OR**

I have transferred the sum of .....

**Forward to Mrs Caroline Place, 26 Medway, Hailsham BN27 3HF as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 2 November 2016**