



NEWSLETTER

DERBYSHIRE BRANCH

01/15



OCTOBER, 2015.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS

Chairman's Chat

Drowning of Police Constable Wright.

On the 27th March, 1911, the death of the second Police Officer on duty was to cause consternation throughout the County.

Constable Arthur Wright arrested a young woman in Matlock for allegedly stealing property from a shop. In those days a Police Officer would not consider handcuffing a woman and consequently he walked her through Hall Leys Park.

The prisoner bolted across the park with the Constable in pursuit and she dived into the swollen River Derwent, which was 15 feet deep at that point. Although the Officer could not swim, he dived in after her and both of them were drowned. This selfless act and devotion to duty illustrates the caring principles of the Police Service which are still revered today. The first known memorial stone, erected by public subscription, which related to a Police Officer giving his life in the line of duty, was laid at the time in the River Gardens.

Unfortunately the memorial became dilapidated over the years and so the Mutual Welfare Fund Committee took on the responsibility of refurbishing it. On the 23rd March, 1997, the Derbyshire Constabulary paraded in the Hall Leys Park where the Chief Constable John Newing took the salute. The Right Reverend Robert Beak held a service to commemorate the Centennial celebration of the Fund and the restored Memorial to Constable Wright was re-dedicated.



Len Smith - Chairman

Updates.

The Derbyshire Branch website is being visited regularly (about 3500 hits per month) thanks in the main to member Pete Wise who is our official webmaster. Visit us at www.derbysnarpo.co.uk where you can place adverts for, and specialisation that you may have or items for sale, or anything that you feel other members may be interested in. The Archive photos are of interest. All deaths and funeral arrangements are placed on the website, when they are known. There is a section called 'contact us' so if you are on the internet, contact me so I can have your up to date email address. Also if you follow the link to the Main NARPO website, there is a lot of information and help, from Computer help, House, Car and Travel Insurance to Tax advice.

If you need to contact the **Federation Office** their new telephone number is **0300 122 8533** and Sue Ferguson will help you.

Commutation Factors

Following on from the Fire Brigade case, where those retiring between 1998 to 2006 were not given the correct commutation figures, I have reproduced them below for those affected and the dates for when they are likely to receive the payment.

Those retiring before **1st December 2001** will not be receiving any payments as the Ombudsman has decided that the factors introduced in 1998 were sufficient.

Those retiring after **1st December 2006** will not be receiving any payments as the factors were revised as from **1st December 2006** [as a result of a successful legal case by the Police Federation]

Those retiring between **1st December 2001** and **30th November 2004** will be receiving payments [if applicable] based on the new revised factors provided as of **1st December 2001**.

Those retiring between **1st December 2004** and **30th November 2006** will be receiving payments [if applicable] based on the revised figures provided as of **1st December 2004**.

"The Government recognises that some administrators will need to assess hundreds of cases and that this will take time, but expects that pensions administrators will make the majority of calculations by **December 2015** and the majority of payments by **April 2016**"

Widows Pension for Life – Petition.

An enduring injustice in the 1987 Police Pension scheme is that widow or widowers' pension under the scheme lose their pension if they remarry or cohabit. Although improvements have been made to this aspect of the police pension in subsequent schemes, the provisions were not retrospective; so most police widows are still in the position of losing their pension in these circumstances. NARPO believe this provision is demeaning and not an appropriate condition in a modern age and should be abolished.

We encourage members to sign the petition, a link to which can be found on the national website www.narpo.org – click on 'Notices'.

Farewell and Welcome.

Roy Scattergood has retired from the Branch Committee after nearly 30 years. I am sure you will join me and wish Roy and Nancy our thanks and best wishes for the future. Welcome to Don Dovaston as a new Committee Member and his wife Carole.

Flint House.

Just a reminder, that to benefit from convalescing/treatment at Flint House you must have been a member of the Mutual Welfare Fund whilst serving. You may have seen that the Police Treatment Centres are asking for a 65p per week donation from Retired Officers. However this does **not** apply to Flint House.

Injury on Duty.

There is nothing to report on this item other than, we had a meeting with the Federation and their Solicitor. As a result Frank Gregory supplied them with several files for the Solicitor to peruse, to see whether we take the Chief Constable to Court. As yet we have not had a response. As soon as we know anything, we will place it on the website.



Villa Scylla, Italy and Villa Endymion, Holland.

I can't recommend a visit to Villa Scylla enough. It is free to NARPO members; you just have to get there. Look at the main NARPO website and the section on Villa Scylla and Villa Endymion cottage, Bloemendaal near Amsterdam. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you decide to take up this offer.

Derby NARPO Social Evening.

This year's Social at Mickleover Golf Club, is to be held at 7pm., 6th November, 2015. A hot meal is being provided free by the Branch and will be served at 7.45pm. The Club can only accommodate 65 so it would be appreciated if members can let the Secretary know if they are attending, at least two weeks prior to the Social at the latest. Sean can be contacted on **01773 609043** or via email at sean-eileen@thedelves.freeserve.co.uk or via the website.

It is important that you let us know as we have to confirm the exact numbers by the **26th October**. As you know we hold two Social evenings. The second one at Buxton Conservative Club, which by the time you read this will have taken place on the 15th August, 2015, Although I was unable to make it 49 members were and by all accounts, a very good evening was had by all and the buffet was as good as ever.

Coach Trips.

During 2015, NARPO organised trips to Upper Peak Forest Canal boat trip and meal at Whaley Bridge, Powis Castle, Welshpool and a day trip to Whitby. The trips have become very popular so when the list comes out in the Annual Report, get your name down. You will not regret it. The following trips have been booked for 2016 courtesy of Michael and Ruth Watson.

Wednesday 13th April 2016: ± Marsh Farm, Abbots Bromley - 3 - course ± 2 choice dinner (plus tea & coffee) 12.30 pm for 1 pm £ 9.00pp. Normal coach fare applies.

Wednesday 11th May 2016: - Llangollen Wharf, Nth Wales..Various canal trips and meals available in and around the site. Normal coach fare applies.

Wednesday 8th June 2016. Nostell Priory and Park, Nr.Harrogate. A National Trust Property. Awaiting confirmation of 2016 prices. Normal coach fare applies.

Wednesday, 6th July, 2016.To be arranged, details later.

Full details of all trips, along with a booking form will be published on the NARPO website, and in the Annual Report. **Bookings will not be accepted until after 1st January 2016, together with the correct fees.** So make a note of the dates in your diary.

Sports Club ± Fly fishing Section

Would you like to take up fly fishing in retirement? Those hazy lazy sunny days or fresh winter days spent along two miles of the River Derwent between Baslow and Calver. If you would like to have a go, members are more than happy to give an introduction/tuition day. They will even loan you the tackle. Please contact Steve Shannon (Fly Fishing Club Sec). If you don't have his details please contact Sean Murphy (sec).

There is only one stipulation you must be a member of the Sports Club.

Derbyshire Benevolent Trust (DBT)

The main focus of DBT is 'wellbeing' in both physical and financial terms and as such, the services offered are expected to contribute to peace of mind through awareness seminars: financial advice surgeries and complementary therapies, such as yoga, physiotherapy and mindfulness. .It is run by ex Police officers for serving officers, retired and their families. The Trust was set up in 2014 and is managed by Ian Godfrey and trustee members

From October they are offering 'pop-up' offices, the first being at Spondon Cricket Club, Derby on 14 October. It is open to retired members, so if you want to find out more, pop along. Or visit their website www.derbyshirebenevolenttrust.com to find out more

New Members

The following have become members since the Annual Report:

Ian Robert Penman
Mark Lomas
Mrs. Jean Miller
Jonathan Wakefield
Robert John Church
Paul Joseph Henderson
Anthony David Howarth
Mrs. Edith Mary Gyte
Angela Clark
Audrey Arwen Bevan (Met Pol)
Mrs. Catherine Linden Halliday
Mrs. Fiona Blackmore
Mrs. Margaret Lucy Bishton
Richard Sharpe
David Michael Moore
Jonathan Hudson
Mrs. Pauline Fairall
Mrs. Doris Unwin
Gillian Gurnett

Lee Charles Smith
Robert Keith Gadsby
Mrs. Penny Sowter
Neil Stuart Allam
Karen Reid
Allen Barlow
Lee Swindells Benstead
Martyn John Walker
Andrew Mark Gahagan
Robert Francis Smith
Julia Lawrence
Neil Crofts
Belinda Elliott
Glyn Jones
Mrs. Margaret Barker
Mrs. Annah Siddall
Alun David Charles Price

In Memoriam

To the families, relatives and friends of our retired and serving colleagues who have passed away since the Annual Report, we extend our sympathies and support. May all who have departed rest in peace.

Sgt. Gordon Blackmore.
Dc Godfrey (Geoff) Halliday
Sgt. Samuel George Williams
C/Insp. John Burlin
Pc William 'Bill' Bishton
Pc Martin John Creed
Pc John Alfred Watson
Dc William 'Bill' Bond
Mrs. Esme Glover widow of Pc Eric Glover
Insp Alan Siddall
Dc A. Roy Unwin
Mrs. Joan Slate wife of Sgt Tony Slate
Mrs. Barbara Jones widow of Sgt. Granville Jones

Sgt. Alan Sowter
Pc Peter James
Mrs. Dorothy Sanderson widow of
Insp. Thomas Sanderson
Sgt. Victor Smith
Pc Cliff Barker.
Mrs. Jean Jennes widow of Sgt. George Jennes.
C/Insp. Arthur 'Archie' Hallsworth Vaines.
Pc Albert 'Danny' Kaye
Supt. Ian Parker

NARPO CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday, 9th December, 2015 1230pm for 1pm.

The Christmas lunch will be held at Horsley Lodge. The cost will be £20 for members, £21 for non-members, widow members free of charge. If you wish to attend please complete the slip below with your menu, any seating choice and remittance to: Roy Potts [NO LATER THAN MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER](#). If you dont have his details please contact Sean Murphy (secretary).

MENU

Vegetable Soup
Prawn Cocktail with Marie Rose sauce
Goats Cheese Tart

Derbyshire Turkey with Seasonal Trimmings
Braised Beef
Salmon in Dill sauce

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Rum Sauce
Vanilla Cheesecake with Apricot and Ginger Sauce
Fruit Salad
Cheese and Biscuits £1.50 extra

Tea or Coffee
Small Mince Pies

I / we will be attending the Branch Lunch and enclose a cheque payable to:

Derbyshire NARPO for £..... My contact Tel. No.....

Name 1: Name 2:

Menu choice:

Starter Starter

Main Main

Sweet Sweet

If possible I / We would like to sit with:

(every effort will be made to accommodate your request).



Roy and Nancy Scattergood being presented with a photograph on canvas from Len Smith for his services to the NARPO Committee.

Members Tony and Margaret Roddis, Trevor and Joan Kitchener, Eileen Murphy and Julia Fearn enjoying the sunshine in Whitby along with 43 others on a day trip organised by Michael and Ruth Watson..



Divisional Commander Debbie Matthews 'C' Div. with Len Smith at the NARPO May Lunch.

Northern Lights (by George Barstow).

Finding a new, stress-free, job after taking an early retirement from the police was no easy chore. Every prospective employer wanted a certificate: a piece of paper to prove your competence levels and skill set. Trying to inform them that the police don't give certificates for any courses attended or subjects passed did not sit well with these pernicky interviewers. A debilitating rheumatoid spinal condition and arthritic feet and knees did also not help the job-seeking process. The options available to me were to either go back into full time education—which I could not afford—or to settle for a less than satisfying vocation. Plan 'B' it was then.

I was initially lucky to find a job as a detail draughtsman for a small engineering design outfit at South Normanton, but that only lasted for less than two years as the recession put paid to the acquisition of new contracts for the company. For the next few years I took a job as a security officer at a well-known bicycle manufacturer in Nottingham, but I left that position when personal circumstances took me away from the area to settle in Norfolk. I acquired a position as an aviation security supervisor at the local airport and remained there until 2006, overseeing a team of up to 43 security screeners.

My personal life had experienced a few ups and downs and, despite two failed marriages, I remained an optimist. One evening in late 2001 at the airport, after the aerodrome had closed for the night, I was accompanied by a young Swedish aircraft technician who was awaiting the delivery of spares for an aircraft that was on loan to a local airline from his Swedish company in Linköping. As we whiled away the time over copious cups of decent espresso, I mentioned to him that, for a few years during my schooldays back in the 1960s, I had written to a young Swedish girl as a penfriend. I also told him that I had often thought about Ingegerd ('Inge') and wondered what had become of that young girl and that I had always harboured a desire to try to contact her, at some stage, and discover how her life had panned out. He listened intently before saying, *"Why don't you just write to her?"* I laughed and replied, *"If only it was that easy. For a start I don't know where she lives or what her married name might be now. For all I know she might be living in Peru with six children and 18 grandkids! I don't even know if she will remember me or wish to restart a correspondence."* He remained deadpan as he offered, *"Well, let's start with where you used to write. Do you remember the address?"* I quickly came back, *"I even remember how to spell it."* I wrote down the old address and handed it to him. It was about five weeks later that I next saw this young Swede. He called across to me and handed me a slip of computer paper from his wallet. Printed on it was the modern version of the old address complete with the names of two people who had the same surname as my old penfriend. I started shaking.

I was still in somewhat of a tremor as I wrote a letter a few days later to my old penfriend. I asked her if she remembered me and if she minded at all receiving a letter from me after so very long (a hiatus of 35 years!). I included a brief résumé of my life so far and told her not to worry if she did not wish to reciprocate. I next wrote another letter to the man named on the address. I asked him if he knew Inge (I presumed he might since the address is a farm and would probably remain in the family) and if he did, would he please be so kind as to pass on the enclosed letter to her.

Four weeks later, on my return from a holiday in Sydney, visiting my brother, I noticed a letter amongst my mountain of post that had a vaguely familiar handwriting. Inge had received my letter from her brother, Bertil, who had taken over the running of the farm from their father. She was dumbfounded to be contacted by me and was only too excited to reply. We remained penfriends for a year, getting to know each other intimately and steadfastly refusing to use any modern means of communication. I first heard her voice, directly to my face, when I travelled to her local airport, *Sturup*, in December 2002. Far from being the first meeting of strangers, it was just like meeting an old friend. The similarities, in our lives, were simply astounding. I had been in two unsuccessful marriages and had not had any children. She had been in two long-term relationships that were also child-free.

Moreover, we both enjoyed similar hobbies and pastimes. It was very fortunate, for our communication, that Inge speaks excellent English honed from a lifetime career in export sales for a large Swedish industrial ventilation company.

Over the next few years, Inge would visit me around six times a year as our relationship developed. I visited her probably twice a year during this time and got to know her family and friends very well. Eventually it became a choice of either Inge coming to live in England permanently, or me moving to Sweden. Although Inge could speak excellent English, she was somewhat tied to her ageing parents. Consequently, since I didn't have the same familial ties in England—both parents recently deceased and my closest brother living in Australia—I bit the bullet, sold up, and moved to Sweden!

Culture shock doesn't even start to describe it. Although I was welcomed with open arms (and warm hearts) by everybody; I am still struggling to learn conversational Swedish, which is hampered by the fact that the local dialect, *Skånska* (from the county of Skåne in the far south), sounds like a buzzsaw! The paucity of decent food in the local shops was also a cause for concern: smoked fish; pickled herrings; the over-liberal use of dill (Swedeweed); and oversweet dense black bread are the staples. *Sillburgare* (herring hamburger) is *beyond* vile! Not all Swedish food is disgusting; a lot of it is very tasty, but man cannot live by *lutfisk* or *surströmming* alone. The sale of wines and spirits is state-controlled (*Systembolaget*) and they are as expensive as the choice is limited. As for Swedish television? Forget it. To get over all these minor problems, I visit Malmö, Copenhagen (or Helsingør in Denmark) three or four times a year and come back laden with all manner of goodies from all over the world. Denmark is more liberal with its licensing laws and all manner of cheap alcoholic beverages may be bought. I bake my own tasty bread; make my own Derbyshire oatcakes, pikelets, crumpets and muffins; cure my own bacon; make my own sausages (pork and tomato a speciality); and fill the freezer with home-made pies, pasties, stews and mushy peas. I read British newspapers on my iMac and watch UK television on BBC iPlayer. Life is sweet.

I invite friends and neighbours for afternoon tea (they find it a refreshing change from their coffee and *fika*) or cook them French, Italian, American, Indian or Chinese meals, which they love. I have kitted out an extensive workshop and office complex in my large garage area from which I have resurrected an old hobby of making wooden signs for houses and businesses. As I'm soon to become an official old-age pensioner (65 next February) I intend to keep the muscles and brain in tip-top condition by the therapy that my hobbies give me. I also paint and draw with scraperboard, watercolours and acrylics.

Moving to live permanently in Sweden was, initially, a very daunting prospect; but since nearly all Swedes speak good English, and I can do the things that I want to do, as well as enjoying driving on nearly empty roads (don't ask me about Swedish driving standards: that's another story); the result is that I have become more happy and settled than I have been in many years.

George Barstow (2015).

From the Secretary – If you were wondering, George and Inge are still together. If any other member would like to write an article for a Newsletter or Annual Report, please get in touch.

Thank you George.