

N.A.R.P.O Medway & District Branch

WINTER 2023

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You are cordially invited to attend the Winter 2023 Meeting of the Branch to be held at, The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st November 2023.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Obituaries
3. One Minutes Silence
4. Matters Arising
5. Correspondence
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurers Report
8. Any Other Business

NEWSLETTER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been a long and warm Summer and soon Winter will be upon us, and it is suggested that it could be very cold one and hence this will add considerable to household energy bills, which are already extremely high and that added to the cost-of-living situation is bad news for pensioners. It has also been muted that the Chancellor is considering down grading the Triple Lock meaning should it go ahead that pensioners will be the hardest hip.

The good news is that the CPI for September 2023 is 6.7% which should mean that Police pensions will rise by that amount, however this has still to ratified by the Government. This will mean that NARPO contributions will go up by 6.7% in January 2024, meaning an annual sum of £26.28 (previously £24.60), this amounts to £2.19 per month (previously £2.05).

The precept payable by Branches will also increase by 6.7% and is payable at the rate of 40% by members not including spouse or widow members. The membership figures held by NARPO HQ at the end of December 2023 will be the base figure used to calculate any increase for 2024.

The situations in Ukraine and the Middle East are very volatile and it is hoped that all parties will soon come to sensible decisions and avoid the bloodshed and deaths of countless innocent civilians.

Incorporation was again a topic at Conference this year and it is likely that this will be agreed at the next Conference.

The Branch ran a trip to Duxford in May, and it was a most enjoyable and fruitful day out. It was somewhat disappointing that more branch members did not attend.

The Secretary will again be delivering widows £50 in December from the Branch to all widows who live locally and for those out of area cheques will be sent by post.

DEATH OF MEMBERS

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former PC 5081 Barry Gregory who died on 9th September 2023. Sadly, Barry's wife passed away following a long illness earlier this year. Barry transferred from the Met from 1967 and transferred to Kent in 1972 serving at Goudhurst and Rainham retiring in 1996. He then went on to serve as a Civilian in Crime Support from 1996 to 2012 giving 45 years' public service, most with Kent Police. Our deepest condolences go to Barry's daughters. Barry will be greatly missed he was a real character admired by all.

We also lost two other members Former PC 3788 Peter Allen and Former PC3275 Allan Hay and our condolences go to their families for these sad losses.

OBITUARIES (* denotes Branch Member)

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| Former DC8231 David Godden | Died 3/3/23 | Last served FHQ |
| Former PC6204 Peter DAKE | Died 25/2/23 | Last served Ramsgate |
| Former PC6125 Paul WEBB | Died 6/3/23 | No details known |
| Former Insp7686 Joseph Bushnell | Died 28/2/23 | Last served Canterbury |
| Former PC11445 Geoffrey Potter | Died 4/3/23 | Last served Lydd |
| Former PS 4135 Dennis Chambers | Died 22/3/23 | Last served Ops Room |
| Former PC4252 David Thomas | Died 18/3/23 | Last served Gravesend |
| Former PS2925 Robert Curtis | Died 27/3/23 | Last served FHQ |
| Former PC4219 Robin Buxton | Died 27/3/23 | Last served Tenterden |
| Former PC2670 John Johnston | Died 1/4/23 | Last served Traffic 3 Area |
| *Former PC3788 Peter Allen | Died 3/4/23 | Last served SB Ports |
| Former PC 3244 Rosemary Hollands | Died 3/4/23 | Last served Maidstone |
| Former PC2601 Jean Campbell | Died 23/3/23 | No details known |
| Former PC5771 Ian Newman | Died 10/4/23 | Last served Canterbury |
| Former PC11118 David Roberts | Died 28/3/23 | Last served Ashford |
| Former PC8656 Allan Hare | Died 21/4/23 | Last served Ashford |
| Former PC3456 Michael Bingham | Died 30/3/23 | Last served Dog Section |
| Former Supt3918 Allen Smith | Died 29/4/23 | Last served FHQ |
| *Former PC3275 John Alan Hay | Died 10/5/23 | Last served Sittingbourne |
| Former DC7033 Neil Gorham | Died 5/5/23 | Last served FHQ |
| Former PS2459 Neville Bolton | Died 8/5/23 | Last served Tunbridge Wells |
| Former PC2981 David Tompkins | Died 3/5/23 | Last served Canterbury |
| Former PC5421 Christopher Butcher | Died 15/5/23 | Last served Folkestone |

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| Former PC3377 David Pitman | Died 12/6/23 | Last served Dover |
| Former DC7219 Kevin Misson | Died 11/6/23 | Last served Ashford |
| Former DS8280 Adian Brown | Died 11/6/23 | Last served FHQ |
| Former PC4398 Edward McManus | Died 1/6/23 | Last served Dover |
| Former PC10336 Timochi Vereivalu | Died 3/6/23 | Last served Dartford |
| Former PC6096 Donald Gale | Died 13/8/23 | Last served Canterbury |
| Former PC4780 George Lawton | Died 22/8/23 | Last served Folkestone |
| Former PC1740 Albert Hover | Died 24/5/23 | Last served Traffic |
| Former PS2936 Terrance Friday | Died 28/8/23 | Last served Driving School |
| Former DC3611 Raymond Whewell | Died 8/9/23 | Last served FHQ |
| Former Insp9181 Jerry Prodger | Died 30/8/23 | Last served SB Longport |
| *Former PC5081 Barry Gregory | Died 9/9/23 | Last served Rainham |
| Former Sgt3961 David Ashwell | Died 13/10/23 | Last served Canterbury |
| Former PC2722 Antony Coppard | Died 15/10/23 | Last served Maidstone |
| Former Insp3357 Stephen Hook | Died 7/10/23 | Last served FHQ |

LIAISON MEETING WITH FORCE

The Chief Constable Tim Smith attended the Meeting on 9th August 2023, and gave an update on how he sees the Force progressing and has issued on Kent Police website his policing pledge and asked that any person is requested to give feedback on this pledge. He also stated that the move from Northfleet back to Maidstone has a cost implication and this will be published when full details are known. FHQ needs a complete rewire prior to the move. The site at Northfleet will be used by National Police Organisations and this will benefit the Force financially.

He also stated to the question is there a covenant on FHQ and stated he was almost certain that there was not. He was aware that the front of the building could not be altered in anyway and this is probably the reason potential buyers did not come forward. The plan still appears to be to sell of the rest of FHQ.

The new Force Control Room will be at Coldharbour on the Traffic Division Site which has also had a new building erected.

A question on shoplifting was asked and the Chief Constable stated he took shoplifting seriously and that recently 70 arrests for this offence have been made in the last 2 months. He also stated that the CPS are supportive of prosecutions.

The question on widows' pension was raised and it was stated that these seem to take differing times to be paid and, in some cases, this has caused widows a degree of hardship. As you are aware pension will now be dealt with by XPS and no longer KCC and this it is hoped will improve the system.

The question was put in respect of letters and payslips not being sent to those pensioners not on email and Chris Collins would discuss issue with head of payroll and pensions.

Chris Collins stated that the old Comrades Lunch was attended by 45 pensioners and that it had been well received. He stated that Branches should encourage pensioners to attend in order that the event remains viable. A date for next years Lunch is yet to be set. The raffle raised £310 and would be donated to a local charity once designated.

The Force Open Day was a success, and the Chief Constable stated the event would continue depending on the sports field not being sold.

The question of large amounts of time spent at hospitals dealing with mental health issues was discussed and the Chief Constable stated there were between 700 to 800 incidents a month and the average over the last three years was dwell time for officers of 11 hours. This must be reduced to one hour or less. The Chief Constable also stated that officers would always attend were there was a risk to life and that the NHS are supportive of the new measures that are involved.

The Chief Constable also stated that in future other Chief Officers would attend these Meetings as it was important to obtain views of retired officers on Policing in Kent as they are also Kent residents.

PENSIONS REMEDY UPDATE

All Police Pensioners who retired prior to 1st April 2015 will remain in the 1987 scheme and will need to do nothing at all, pensions will remain as they are, and no action is required.

Those who retired between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2022 will have choices to make as they will have been in the 1987 scheme and the new scheme. This will depend what member chooses to do as they will have options, which they will have to make. There is information on the NARPO National website, and it is recommended that prior to making any decision you check the options fully.

The McCloud Remedy for members of the public service pension schemes deals with those that were affected by the age discrimination, which arose when the schemes were reformed in 2015. The purpose of the remedy is to ensure that members are, as far as possible, in the same tax position they would have been if the discrimination had not occurred.

All eligible members are to be offered a choice, at retirement or death (for beneficiaries), to receive benefits for any remedial service during the remedy period (from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2022), based on either 'legacy scheme or 'new scheme' rules (deferred choice underpin (DCU)).

KENT BRANCHES BREAVEMENT BOOK

This booklet has still not appeared for members, and it was hoped it would be finalised prior to this meeting. Members on email will be able to download a copy when available and amendments will be made as and when required. Those members not on email will be able to obtain a copy from the Secretary.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

All members are reminded to notify the Secretary of any change of address. Failing to notify changes will result in your name and details being removed from the N.E.C mailing list and you will no longer receive the NARPO magazine. Once a magazine is returned not known at this address your details are removed.

You should also notify payroll and pensions and the Benevolent Fund at FHQ.

BENEVOLENT FUND

All members are to be aware that the Benevolent Fund is there to assist in many ways. If you wish to know any further details, please contact Bruce Goldfarb on the telephone number at the top of this page or the e-mail address. Bruce Goldfarb and Terry Lynch are the welfare representatives for the Branch and should be able to assist.

All conversations in relation to Welfare issues are strictly confidential.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTIONS

The below were elected at the Spring 2023 meeting. .

Chairman: Mr T. Lynch

Vice Chairman: Mr Stephen BULL Secretary Treasurer: Mr B. Goldfarb

Committee Members

Mr C. Mayes Mr Robert Morris Mr Peter Simmons Mr M. Baggott
Mr F. Gallagher

No 5 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

The next Meeting is still to be scheduled but is expected to be sometime in March 2024.

TREASURER's REPORT

There are no matters pending and all monies owed have been paid and accounted for.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

If any member wants any other matters placed on the agenda, please notify the Secretary in writing as soon as possible. The Secretary would ask that if any other member has any stories or anecdotes of interest to the membership then they contact him directly with these memories.

SPRING MEETING 2024

The Summer Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne.

Bruce Goldfarb
Branch Secretary