

NARPO

Of service to those who served

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER

March/April 2021



Branch Secretary

We are sorry to have to report that our Branch Secretary, Gus Williams has made the decision to resign from the post of Secretary of the Norfolk Branch. Although we are sorry to see him go, we understand and respect his decision. I am sure the membership would want us to formally record our thanks to Gus for the work he has done in the last twelve months and we wish him well in everything he does in the future. This, of course, means we are looking for his successor, but in the mean time, the Chairman Stan Watkinson remains in the Chair and Jane Stevens remains the Treasurer and is looking after the membership records and new joiners. Helen Wickens (former Secretary/Treasurer) has agreed to come out of retirement to look after the Newsletter and the Branch Web site. The Covid epidemic has prevented the holding of the Branch AGM which is normally held in March each year. As soon as the Covid restrictions are lifted, arrangements will be made to hold an AGM when we hope to be able to elect a new Secretary. In the mean time the current Committee will continue business as usual whilst complying with all the Covid restrictions.

If you have time to spare and are a Full Member of the Norfolk Branch and are interested in supporting the Branch by becoming the Secretary, please e-mail the Chairman, Stan Watkinson at stanwatkinson1@gmail.com to register your interest. To help you decide if this is for you, we have produced a summary of the role.

Secretary

The role is purely voluntary and any person wishing to apply should contact the Norfolk Branch Chairman. In addition any member of the Committee will be happy to discuss the Branch activities.

The duties of the secretary include the following;

- Arranging the Annual General Meeting, writing the agenda and taking the minutes of the meeting.

- Arranging committee meetings (4 a year, presently held on Zoom), writing the agenda by liaising with the committee and taking the minutes at the meetings.

- Working for the local Branch and on behalf of the committee.

- Dealing with the correspondence received by the Branch.

- Liaising with the Treasurer and working with the Assistant Secretary.

- Dealing with third party correspondence and correspondence from Narpo HQ.

- Coordinating support to aid the membership with the help of the committee.

- Maintain the Norfolk Narpo website.

- Write and publish the local newsletter (4 a year) and send to all members (via email or post via Narpo HQ)

The person who takes on the role will need to have proficient computer skills. You will be provided with a Laptop and Printer and online training on NARPO programmes. Also further Training is available but unfortunately at the present time and due to Covid, this is suspended. The above is not a definitive list of tasks and the incumbent can adapt and progress the role as seen fit in accordance with the Rules of Narpo (see below for the link to the Rules).

You will not be left on your own; the Committee will all be there to support you.

www.narpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MASTER-RULES-AUG2020.pdf

Assistant Secretary

To assist the Secretary we also want to fill the post of Assistant Secretary and again this is a purely voluntary role. The person would be required to work closely with the secretary and assist or take on any of the forgoing roles as discussed and agreed with the Secretary and also act as Secretary in his or her absence. Again if you are interested please register that interest by e-mailing the Chairman, Stan Watkinson at stanwatkinson1@gmail.com.

BRANCH AGM

As you are all aware we just managed to get last years AGM in before the first Covid national lock down began. Unfortunately we were not so lucky this year and it was necessary to cancel the AGM this year which means you, the Membership, have not had the opportunity to receive the Chairman's Report and indeed the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheets for the year 2020. Included in this newsletter are both and if anyone has any particular questions they would like to raise then please do not hesitate to e-mail Stan Watkinson at stanwatkinson1@gmail.com and Jane Stevens at jrnsnorfolk@outlook.com who will provide you with a response.

We intend to hold an AGM as soon as we are able and we hope to be able to elect the new Branch Secretary and Assistant Secretary at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Year

1st January to 31st December 2020

This is my first Treasurer's Report as Treasurer of the Norfolk Branch of Narpo. The Balance Sheet is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National office and can be summarized as follows:

Total balance carried forward from 2019	£46,138.43
Total Income in 2020	£19,816.41
Total expenditure in 2020	£12,178.36
2020 Income over expenditure	£7,638.05
Balance at year end	£53,776.48

The Branch Funds are healthy; this is not surprising as our overall costs this year have been well below the usual annual Narpo costs.

There has been a steady growth in our income due to the continued increase in our membership numbers and the annual increase in subscriptions which is set in our Fund Rules and relates to the annual increase in the Police Pension. The Branch retains 60% of the total and sends 40% (the precept) to the national office in Wakefield. At the 31st December 2020 we had 909 paying members and this is the figure on which the precept is based.

This year has been exceptional due to Covid-19, many of the social events which were planned for the year have all, necessarily, been cancelled. The committee meetings have been held via Zoom and the National Conference did not go ahead. Therefore, our expenditure as a Branch in 2020 was considerably reduced when compared with similar expenditure in 2019. continued..

In one area where there has been a large expenditure is IT. In March 2020 Gus Williams became our Secretary and I, Treasurer. Previously Helen Wickens had held both roles of Secretary and Treasurer and used her own computer and printer. It therefore became necessary for the Branch to purchase a laptop for both Gus and myself and we were happy to use our own printers. However, neither of our printers were compatible with the new laptops, this was due to 'old and new technology' not mixing. It then became necessary for us each to have our own printers as well as our own laptops, hence the large IT outlay. This was an exceptional year and I do not foresee such large IT expenditure in 2021.

The cost of Stationary/Postage has also increased, this is due mainly to the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer needing their own stocks of stamps as we have not been able to meet and share postage. The three positions at this time all hold a surplus of stamps which were purchased prior to the increase in postage costs which took place on the 1st of January 2021. I see this figure reducing in 2021, due to a concerted effort by both the Chairman and Secretary we will be able to contact more of our members via email.

Travel and Mileage costs have been greatly reduced – most of our committee meetings have been by way of Zoom. A money saving exercise, but it precludes our President and a Committee member from taking part in the meetings as they do not possess the technology.

Unfortunately, the Welfare Grants were reduced during 2020. We are completely reliant on our membership telling us when our assistance would be appreciated. I believe the reduction is partly because we were not able to meet socially this year and therefore were not made aware of our members circumstances.

Under Miscellaneous Expenditure a gift was made to Helen Wickens who held the post of Secretary and Treasurer for seven years and did great service for the Branch and its members. It is no exaggeration to suggest that the joint role took at least two days a week of Helen's time. During that time Helen refused any Honoraria and therefore it was considered appropriate for her to receive a gift from the members.

Total monies at the bank at the 31st December 2020 is £53,776.48

Jane Stevens
Treasurer
Norfolk NARPO Branch

NARPO – NORFOLK BRANCH BALANCE SHEET FOR 2020

	2020	2019
Balance Brought Forward from previous year	£45,197.56	£42,238.63
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS – via XPS - Pension Administrator	£18,966.84	£18,205.44
SUBSCRIPTIONS – NON NORFOLK RETIREES & NEW JOINERS	£365.08	£478.72
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021 – NOT VIA PENSION	£432.00	£365.16
SOCIAL EVENTS TICKET SALES	£0.00	£5,625.45
BANK INTEREST PAID GROSS	£52.49	£104.16
TOTAL	£19,816.41	£24,778.93
Transfer to Cheque Account	£11,750.00	
		31/12/2020 Balance HSBC
		£53,263.97

	2020	2019
BALANCE	£53,263.97	£45,197.56
SUMMARY		
Recorded income for current year	£19,816.41	£24,778.93
Recorded expenses (see over for details)	£12,178.36	£22,271.87
Income over expenditure	£7,638.05	£2,507.06

Balance brought forward 2020	Acc 61426680	£45,197.56	HSBC 61426680	£53,263.97
	Acc 61426672	£940.87	HSBC 61426672	£512.51
	Total	£46,138.43		
surplus		£7,638.05		


Balance sheet figure year end 2020 **£46,138.43** Total Held HSBC **£53,776.48**

Accounts Reviewed

Signed  date 20.01.2021
 Glen Forrester

NORFOLK BRANCH OF NARPO - BALANCE SHEET FOR 2020

	2020	2019
Balance Brought Forward	£940.87	£1,392.74
Received from Income Account	£11,750.00	£21,820.00
TOTAL	£12,690.87	£23,212.74
EXPENDITURE		
PRECEPT	£7,834.08	£5,589.39
CONFERENCE	£0.00	£1,824.40
NEWSLETTERS	£303.90	£305.52
STATIONARY/POSTAGE	£299.85	£177.54
IT & CONSUMABLES	£2,257.91	£359.98
WREATHS	£100.00	£120.00
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	£476.59	£791.40
TRAVEL & MILEAGE	£326.15	£1,890.79
SOCIAL SUBSIDIES	£75.00	£10,048.15
WELFARE GRANTS	£200.00	£340.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	£200.00	£794.70
REFUND	£104.88	£30.00
TOTAL	£12,178.36	£22,271.87
		31/12/2020 Balance at HSBC
		£512.51

Accounts Examined

 26.01.2021

Chairman's Annual Report

This past year has been a year like no other, with the Covid19 virus stopping everything. The Norfolk Branch was fortunate in that our last AGM was held the day before Head Office called an end to AGMs for the foreseeable future. Branch meetings for the past year have been held via Zoom and they have been successful. Two members of our Committee are unable to use Zoom and so have not joined us. It will be good, of course, to meet in person as soon as possible.

Due to Covid our Branch has not been able to arrange any events. No summer outings and no Christmas Lunches, all of which are always well attended. As soon as it is possible, we will make plans to reinstate these.

Our members have largely looked after themselves well during the pandemic, we have not seen an increase in deaths, our average per year is usually around 17 and this is still the number. The Committee has been unable to have a representative at members funerals and in some instances the NARPO Drape has been refused by Crematoria. This appears to have been rescinded now. There are also discrepancies between Crematoria as to how many mourners they will allow Kings Lynn (Mintlyn) now allows 30 but I am told Earlham only 20.

A suggestion was put to the Committee regarding holding a meeting with a buffet for families and friends who lost loved ones. Two suggestions as to venues were put forward, however only one family said they wished to attend. The Committee will, look again at this and will try and arrange local venues as we do at Christmas. Again, we need your support. We will hopefully make further progress when the pandemic is over.

The National Police Memorial in Staffordshire was due for completion in February ,this will be formally opened as soon as the virus allows. We anticipate that a member of The Royal Family and the Prime Minister will attend and a representative from each branch of Narpo will be invited, most likely the Chairman. Arrangements will be made as soon as Covid allows. It may be possible to arrange a coach trip so that our members can see the memorial later in the year.

Nationally, Narpo membership has increased from 85,000 to 93,000 in the past year, a campaign was set up by Head Office at Wakefield to get the pension providers to send out letters to non NARPO members. Unfortunately, Norfolk along with some other Branches are with XPS and they are dragging their feet and are not sending letters out as they should. I have made numerous telephone calls to Paul Mudd the head of pensions, however I get a different excuse every time, in fact he forgets what he has told me in the past and trips himself up when I tell him what he has said. NARPO's CEO Steve Edwards has been helping me with this problem but we still seem to be unable to make progress. As can be seen from the increase in membership this has been worthwhile. I will keep contacting Paul Mudd until he relents.

NARPO are still trying to get the Widows pension for life. The latest is that the Government's Solicitors are challenging the legality of the claim saying we are wasting court time. NARPO solicitors are of course challenging this, a High Court Judge will hear the challenge shortly.

NARPO is introducing a new computer system to replace the current Supersleuth, whilst training has been given remotely via TEAMS this is proving difficult to grasp by many secretaries. When many of branch secretaries retired from the Police computers had not been introduced to Police work, therefore, many are self-taught and find it hard to keep up to today's requirements.

Continued..

Our Norfolk secretary has resigned, and we need a new one perhaps somebody who has recently retired and has computer skills.

The Branch thanks Gus for the time he was with us.

Another campaign the Norfolk Branch has been doing is to get members details up to date and encourage Newsletters to be sent out by email as this saves postage which is increasingly expensive when we are dealing with just short of 1000 members.

Since this campaign has been ongoing, we have found that members have moved or changed email address and we have not been informed. Having newsletters via email does not mean you have to keep them as all back Newsletters are on our website www.narponorfolk.org and follow the link they can be read from there.

We appreciate that some members do not to use computers and they, of course, will continue to have Newsletters by post.

The Committee looks forward to next year and hopefully free of the virus and we can hold our AGM in person.

Stan Watkinson

Chairman Norfolk Branch

Live in the Norwich Area and need help with Transport ?

One of our Members volunteers for a charity called Norwich Door to Door. They provide transport for people who, through age, illness or infirmity, suffer with mobility issues and can no longer drive or get out and about. The transport is provided for any purpose, although medical appointments take priority. They offer a cheap, friendly and helpful service and they are largely volunteers.

If you would like to access this service then please contact our Chairman Stan Watkinson or Treasurer Jane Stevens who will link you up with them.

IN MEMORIUM

James David BEVERIDGE 73yrs

13/03/2021

Peter David TOOKE 86 yrs

20/03/2021

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