

# NARPO

*Of service to those who served*

## NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



## Branch Secretary

This Newsletter is to update you on where we are with resolving the vacant post of Branch Secretary. The front page of the last newsletter was essentially an advert asking for a member to come forward to join the Committee and indeed take on the role of Secretary. Initially, we had two members register an interest but unfortunately one had to withdraw because of a change in their work circumstances which meant at this time they couldn't give their all to the post. The other member followed up their expression of interest with a formal application stating they would like to be considered for the post of Secretary and would be prepared to do so immediately if that was our wish. This member is Eric Bradley.

Eric served in the Navy before he joined Sussex Police and then transferred to the RUC before returning to Sussex Police where, in 2001, he was promoted to Sergeant. He transferred to the Norfolk Constabulary, as a Sergeant, in 2003 and retired in 2017. He is a former Chairman of the Norfolk Police Federation Branch Board and has experience in supporting and representing Members.

The Committee unanimously support Eric as the next Secretary and have considered the process that should be adopted to formalise this.

It has been the policy of the Norfolk Branch to elect 'Officers of the Branch' at the AGM which is normally held in March of each year and of course, Covid has disrupted normality. The national NARPO Rules do allow for this to be done in a Committee meeting and so a decision has been made to formally elect Eric at the Committee meeting due to be held on Thursday 21st October 2021 and in the meantime he will become the Acting Secretary and start picking up the reins.

Of course, all officers of the Branch, including the Secretary, will be up for re-election at the AGM which we hope will be held in March 2022.

We have taken this action to ensure the work and administration of the Branch will continue effectively. The chairman has picked up much of the additional admin and some Committee members have taken on some of the responsibilities, but this could not continue indefinitely, so it is essential the Secretary's post is properly filled.

We hope you, the membership, will understand and support the decisions that have been taken, and support Eric as he takes up this important role.

The Norfolk Branch Committee

**NB:** If someone wishes to comment on the action your Committee has taken then please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman, Stan Watkinson, by e-mail [stanwatkinson1@gmail.com](mailto:stanwatkinson1@gmail.com) or telephone 01553 636629 asap.

### CHAIRMAN's NOTES

Hopefully , as we are nearing the end of Covid restrictions, we can now get back to normal.

Firstly, I would like to welcome two new members to the Committee Mark Scott from the Yarmouth area and Eric Bradley from Wymondham. Eric is willing to become our new Secretary as you will already have read.

Also, as a result of the NARPO campaign to recruit new members, at the time of writing we have 45 and I welcome them all. I hope they will join us in our activities. This campaign has been long in coming into fruition as Norfolk was in phase two and with XPS our pension providers, it was a long hard struggle to get them to co-operate.

I have arranged the Christmas lunch at Congham for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 1230 for 1pm. The reason I have selected a Monday is that the Anvil Congham doesn't open to the public on Mondays and they have offered us the whole place both restaurants and bar to ourselves. We will rearrange the set-up tables which will be 4/6/8s and spaced; we should be able to accommodate up to 80. I will send out a menu with the next newsletter, however, we have reduced the number of starters . (this will help as some of you who can never remember what you ordered). The Carvery will be a choice of Turkey or Beef followed by your choice of puddings followed by tea/ coffee mince pie. The committee will agree a price at our next meeting in October.

NARPO has been making changes to its computer system and have now introduced Microsoft 365 and Sengrid for emails. What they forgot was, most NARPO officials are of an age that they were not using computers when they retired and are self-taught. This has thrown many, including me, into chaos. I can see many branches loosing secretaries as they can't operate the system. NARPO staff are mainly young and think nothing of it. If we ask, they will say you do this and this oh yes and we are lost. The other thing is they are running the old and new systems together so it's double the work as I have to enter everything twice. They will eventually close the old system when we have got the hang of the new. Might be a long time coming.

The new email system will allow us to send out bulk emails allowing us to announce anything urgent or notify deaths etc. in a timely fashion. This is why we keep asking for you to allow us to use your email addresses as those who haven't responded will miss out on timely information. All new members will automatically be put on the email list for receiving newsletters.

Don't worry, those of you who have no access to computers will still receive the quarterly Newsletter by post .

Stan Watkinson

Chairman.

### IN MEMORIUM

Edmund (Ted) WORBY 78yrs

12/04/2021

Barry John SMITH 71yrs

05/06/2021

Raymond George SPINKS 83yrs

17/06/2021

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