

NARPO

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER



FROM THE CHAIRMANS PEN

I was not expecting to be in the Chairman's position at this time, but due to the unfortunate sudden death of Colin FOX, our Chairman, as Vice Chair I have the honour of taking on the job. I have left it to our Assistant Secretary to write a piece about Colin but I will say how pleased I was with the turnout of members at his funeral.

Colin had spoken to me several times about retiring from the post of Chairman, but it was decided he should continue to be involved until after the Centenary Celebrations. However, this was not to be.

I was disappointed that from 950 Norfolk Branch members, nobody wanted to represent us at the Centenary Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, marking the end of the First World War. I feel that it is an honour to be there. I attended as a representative of the Norfolk Branch in 2014 and found it a moving experience. NARPO, (England and Wales), is allocated 32 places, and Norfolk can nominate two members. Of course, there is no guarantee that you will be selected, but when I did it only 28 places were taken up, so there is a good chance if you put your name forward you will get a place. If we don't take up our allocation NARPO numbers will be reduced.

This year it appears there is only one Christmas Lunch being arranged, and that is at the west of the county, organised by me. As always this is a sell out and was sold out by the end of October. I am sorry that several missed out. I had to change the venue this year due to the retirement of our previous host and the new comers not wanting 'old people' they are trying to make the Crown a young person's pub, but, in my opinion they have failed miserably. I will welcome you all to Congham Anvil.

The subject of arranging Christmas Lunches and other events will be on the agenda for discussion at our next committee, so if anybody has any suggestions please let me know.

As it is the Centenary of NARPO in 2019 we shall not be doing any trips but concentrate on our event at Thursford. We have 400 places and with 950 members, we should be able to fill that easily. It will only take 200 members and a guest. When we open the bookings in the New Year. so please book early.

May I on behalf of myself and my wife and the NARPO Committee wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous 2019.

Stanley Watkinson

Vice Chairman, Norfolk Narpo Branch.

DECEMBER 2018

Helen Wickens. MBE

Secretary / Treasurer

8 Yare Close

Caister on Sea

Norfolk

NR30 5RR

01493728166

07793846524

helenwickens007 @

btinternet.com

www.narponorfolk.org

NARPO NORFOLK BRANCH AGM 2019

NOTICE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 2019 2pm

We hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Branch of NARPO will take place at Dereham Football Club, Aldiss Park, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 3PX - at 2.00pm. There is ample car parking and tea and coffee will be available from 1.30pm so please come along and hear what your Committee have been doing in your name throughout 2017, and the Treasurer will of course present the accounts.

IN MEMORIAM

Geoffrey Allinson. Colin Fox.



COLIN JOHN FOX

31/01/1943 TO 18/10/2018

NARPO NORFOLK BRANCH CHAIRMAN 2015 - 2018



Colin John Fox was born in Lincoln on 31st January 1943. He was the only child of William and Dorothy Fox.

His father was a Police Officer and because of this service, the family moved many times and the young Colin attended several schools.

Colin left school in 1958 and went to Kings Lynn Technical College studying Agriculture.

When he was 17, his father told him that his future lay in the Police Force. Colin joined the Police Cadet Corps and when he was attested as a Constable, he was posted to Sheringham Police Station. Here he was to meet his future wife, Jean Cubitt, at his lodgings.

In 1969 Colin started helping out a local farmer in Horsford on his days off. For even though he became a policeman, his interest remained in farming.

While serving as a Constable, Colin joined the Norfolk Police Federation, where he was an active member, and he later served as the Secretary of the Constable's Board. Colin was passionate about the welfare of his fellow serving officers and their Conditions of Service and he would fight for all he was worth on their behalf to ensure that all were treated fairly. And so, it followed, that he would carry that passion forward into retirement.

He joined the Norfolk Branch of NARPO after retirement but was still busy with family and farming so he did not become an active member straight away. But, it was only a matter of time, and in 2009 he joined our Norfolk Branch Committee and in 2011 he became Vice Chairman. With the demise of any welfare provision by the Norfolk Constabulary, he wanted to support his retired colleagues if they suffered hardship or poor health. When the then Branch Chairman decided to hand the baton on, it followed that Colin would be the one that picked it up, and so he became our Chairman in March 2015. He didn't join the Committee just to attend meetings. He joined to make a difference, which he achieved in so many ways. His overwhelming wish was to promote the work of the Branch and to achieve 1000 members by 2019, the year NARPO celebrates its Centenary. Today (26/11/2018), we stand at 946 members. It is sad that he won't see the branch reach that milestone or be at our celebratory garden party next year. We **will** reach his goal and we will think of Colin on the day that we do.

For his dedication to his fellow officers, the Norfolk Branch awarded Colin 'Life Membership' last year, which is the highest accolade that the Branch can bestow.

Colin and Jean were very happy and were together for 47 years. The family grew to include Anita and Pamela. In due course there were also 4 Grandchildren; Georgina, Gregory, Daniel and Paul. Colin developed a passion for horses, especially shire horses, which he shared with Pamela and his Granddaughter Georgina.

Sadly, Jean passed away on 17th November 2010, after a long illness.

Aged 50, Colin retired from Norfolk Constabulary to take over a friend's farm in Haveringland and continued in farming until 10 years ago. He was very happy there.

In 2011, Colin met Alla. Both widowed, they discovered in a very short time, that they were better together than apart. They married in January 2013. Newly married they busied themselves with gardening, holidays and of course the ubiquitous home improvements. As Alla said, "It was to be the happiest years of my life". Colin was a caring and gentle husband to Alla, they both enjoyed laughter.

Colin was always writing letters to the EDP about Roads, Pavements and Anything of Significance. He had a stack of paper about the Norwich Northern Distribution Road and followed every planning and building step in great detail. Colin believed the £178.5 million (the estimated cost of the NDR) could have been better invested on other projects within Norfolk. He described it as "the road to nowhere"!

Two years ago, Colin was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat and an enlarged heart. This was managed by medication and he remained active.

Even though Colin slowed down a little, he kept going and kept smiling.

Colin exuded love and friendship to all who knew him, he was forever enthusiastic on all matters that he found of interest.

Unfortunately, his heart finally gave out, and he passed away on the 18th of October 2018.

He will be sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Colin, Rest In Peace.

POLICE PENSION AND NARPO SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES

The annual reporting of the CPI, published for September 2018 confirms that the annual percentage increase for police pensions 2019 will be 2.4%, (previously 3%).

As from the 1st January 2019 the minimum subscription will be £21.12 (previously £20.64), this amounts to £1.76 per month (previously £1.72). Narpo Rules state that subscriptions will increase in line with pension increase each year.



NORFOLK NARPO BRANCH CENTENARY EVENT

Just a short reminder that your Committee have arranged to hold a Centenary Celebration Event at Thursford on Saturday 27th July 2019. Full details and application forms for tickets will be on the next Norfolk Narpo Newsletter. Book early as there are only a limited number of tickets.

MONTHLY MONDAY WALKS

Just a few words about our Narpo Monthly Monday Walks for those new members who may not know about us, and a reminder to those members who may have forgotten about us. We have done 12 walks now, and we walk about 6 to 8 miles across the Norfolk landscape. The walks are designed to cater for all ages and abilities and usually are completed within 4 to 5 hours (which includes a stop for refreshments). As the name suggests we walk on Mondays, once a month, starting usually at 10.30am from various locations. The group has a 'hard-core' of regular, friendly, happy walkers, and the group is usually about a dozen in number, sometimes more, sometimes less. The walk is open to all members, partners and children, (during holiday time). Well behaved dogs are welcome to join us. Come and join us, we are a happy bunch.

Call or email for further details: Gus Williams, 07774037611, mjwilliams171@outlook.com

ACCESS TO SPECIAL OFFERS FOR NARPO MEMBERS

NARPO HQ (Wakefield) often send us details of special offers available to NARPO members. These take the form of an e-mail from a company and a link to access the information. Of course I am unable to transfer this content of this link onto this newsletter, but, you can get access to this information via:

<http://www.narpo.org.uk/index.php/member-services.html>

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, STEVE EDWARDS

Those of us who are on the e-mail list of Narpo HQ will have received this request, but for our members who may miss out I have copied the message here for your benefit.

"Dear Member,

I am writing to invite you to take part in a survey that will help us measure our members' views on the future funding of TV licences for older people.

The BBC has recently launched a consultation on how to fund the TV licence fee for over 75s. Free TV licences for this age group are currently financed by a government scheme which is due to end in 2020.

Later Life Ambitions believes it is important to hold both the BBC and the government to account for the future of the free TV licence for over 75s. There are still significant numbers of older people living on very low incomes who would genuinely struggle to pay the licence fee if required to do so.

We are eager for our submission to accurately reflect your views. As such, we have published a survey designed to understand your experience of the free TV licence, and your opinion on possible policies that the BBC should consider.

The survey consists of a brief series of questions, and can be completed in less than 10 minutes. We can assure you that your evidence will be dealt with in confidence, and your details will be anonymised.

Please find the survey online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GSWSPNH>.

Kind Regards,

Steve Edwards

CEO

NARPO"

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

I feel that I have to give out a gentle reminder to members that if you have changed your e-mail address, (or any of your personal details), can you please remember to let us know at the Narpo Norfolk Branch. Change of details please to either Helen Wickens or to me.

I spend quite a considerable amount of my time chasing up bounced e-mails, from defunct mail addresses.

Thanking you in advance.

Gus Williams,

Assistant Secretary,

Norfolk Narpo Branch

07774037611 or mjwilliams171@outlook.com