

NARPO

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER
Of service to those who served



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I recently attended a NARPO Regional Welfare meeting at Peterborough. We were told of a case where a Widow had to refund XPS £10,000 as she had not told them about the death of her husband. Shortly after this, a similar incident happened in Norfolk.

XPS are the pension providers for all eight NARPO Branches in the Eastern Region as they are for many other branches in other regions. When a pensioner dies and leaves a widow, the pension continues as normal for 13 weeks calculated from the date of death. This may sound a long time but soon passes if not acted upon quickly.

Having Spoken to Norfolk Constabulary they tell me that it is not their responsibility to inform XPS it is down to the family. Norfolk did say they do try and tell XPS but not to rely on it.

When a pensioner dies XPS will send a pack to the next of kin to be completed asking for bank details and a copy of the death certificate. These should be completed as soon as possible and returned to XPS. The telephone number to report a death is 01642 030692 quoting the pension reference number which is the same as the persons National Insurance number.

If you have any problems, please contact me or our secretary our details are on our web site www.narponorfolk.org

When you register a death, you may be asked to use 'Tell us Once' this covers Government documents such as Passport, Driving licence, and Retirement Pension OAP. It will not cover {Police Pension}.

NARPO has a booklet 'What to do after a Death' available free of charge from our secretary.

My next item unfortunately also covers Death.

I recently attended a funeral of a retired officer along with about 40 retirees. We were invited back to the Wake. The family had gone to great lengths and tremendous expense to lay on refreshments. They had also made a display of Photographs, Scrapbooks and Newspaper cuttings going back years. Sadly, only four retirees attended. The venue is renowned for its excellent food and is used by NARPO for its Christmas Lunch so most people were aware of what they would get.

I know some venues are very poor we have some in my area (Kings Lynn) that I think twice about going to. Obviously, I can't identify these but would love to.

Could I just ask that we respect the families of the deceased and make an effort to attend some of these events, it also gives me somebody to talk to.

Finally, we have 6 places left on the Norfolk Broads Trip with Hog Roast lunch on Saturday 23 July £10 per member and guest contact me if you would like to join us, we have teamed up with Suffolk who have sold out. If nobody comes forward, I will offer the remaining spaces to Suffolk

Stan Watkinson, Chairman

June/July 2022

Helen Wickens MBE

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IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness we announce the death of the following:

Kenneth Crowe, Anthony Edwards, Roger Welham, David Engeldow, Peter Hadlett,

Ernest Dickerson, Fred Jolly, George Whitbread, Daphne Williamson,

John (Bluey) Howard





It was with great sadness that we received the sad news that Evelyn Beamish passed away peacefully in her sleep on 14th May 2022.

This photograph was taken on 1st February 2022 when she celebrated her 100th birthday.

The Branch Chairman, Stan Watkinson (on the left)

celebrate by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and a fine bottle of whiskey, her favourite tippie.

Her late husband Chief Supt Donald Beamis passed away 6th February 2002.

R.I.P.

Widow/Widower's Pension for Life Court Case

We have tried to keep you up-to-date with the High Court case which deals with the rights of widows and widowers to keep their pension when they wish to build a new life with a new partner. At the moment, in England and Wales, if a widow/er remarries or cohabits, they forfeit their Police Pension. This does not happen in Scotland or Northern Ireland. NARPO has joined forces with the Police Federation and challenged this in the High Court.

It was heard on 5th & 6th April 2022 before High Court Judge Michael Fordham QC, in Manchester and he handed down his Judgement on 27th May 2022. Unfortunately, the case was lost, however, the Judge did grant permission to appeal his judgement.

Our legal team took time to consider the way forward and I am pleased to report an appeal has been lodged. The fight continues to get fairness for our widows and widowers.

You can read more about this case on www.narpo.org.

MOVING HOUSE? DID YOU INFORM NARPO of NEW ADDRESS?

The National Office of NARPO has introduced a new data base for keeping Member records safe and secure. Your Norfolk Branch has a section, and it is the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure it is kept up to date to comply with data protection legislation. Eric Bradley has worked hard doing just that.



Going forward we need your help. I must rely on you, the Member, to let us know if you move house, change your e-mail or telephone number.

I do understand that moving house can be traumatic and the last thing on your mind is your NARPO record but if you make a list of 'Things to do' please add 'inform NARPO of new details'.

We sometimes lose track of a Member when they move into a Care Home so can I please ask you to let your family members know to inform us.

Many thanks, Helen

The National Police Memorial.

I am sure you will all be aware that there is a new National Police Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. It was formally dedicated in July last year in the presence of HRH The Prince of Wales and is now fully open to the public.

NARPO has been a generous supporter of the new Memorial project and as a thankyou, the Memorial Trustees invited a representative from each Branch to a formal presentation of a commemorative leaf to NARPO Central Office in recognition of their support. So on Friday 20th May 2022 Mike Cox MBE, represented the Norfolk Branch at this event and below is a summary of his day :



'I arrived at 1000 just as the gates opened and was quickly ushered to a car park. Went into the main reception and then the reasonably priced restaurant. Quickly washed down a coffee and then took advantage of the nice weather to spend one and a half hours walking round part of the site. So much to see. Met with two stonemasons from Diss who come from a family established over 150 years ago. They have already installed 35 large memorials on the site. Back to the centre where I met up with two West Yorkshire reps we travelled to the presentation. It started to rain and we had to dress up in plastic ponchos. Not to worry, the rain stopped, and Sir Paul Scott-Lee gave a 10 to 15 minute speech followed by Richard Critchley who made a very brief presentation, after which he was awarded a gold leaf. Numerous photos taken and back to the buffet. Nice and varied to cater for all sorts. Two more speakers during the feast, one of whom announced that phase 2 was being looked at with a target of £750,000. At the end a lady, not necessarily from our number, decided to walk away from the building not realising there were three identical colour steps two feet down and she fell dramatically on her nose. Enter Norfolk and West Yorkshire, but not before a member of staff summoned medical help and the lady was taken in a wheelchair, badly shaken. I needed to see more and went back to see the Police memorial. Very impressive. I am sending a picture but enough to say that the holes in the construction are inlaid with gold paint and when the sun shines through a very pretty pattern appears on patio on the other side . I saw a man taking photos. I spoke to him and it turns out that he was given a Royal Humane Society Award for attempting to save three Young Police colleagues from drowning in Blackpool in 1983. They had attempted to save another man from drowning in vicious seas. He spent some time trying but all but he perished. Those officers , one of whom couldn't swim. Are named on a plaque on another part of the site named as On the Beat. That man, Pat Abram ,took me round that very section for an hour almost. I decided to leave at 1600 but could only see half of what I wanted. Got to go again. Overwhelmed by the whole day. Much better than I could imagine. I will return.

Best wishes. Mike'

The Norfolk Committee has considered organising a coach trip to the Arboretum, however, there are difficulties such as the distance and 'driver's hours', the cost of coach hire with current fuel prices, and other practical obstacles. So, at the moment, we have put this idea on ice, however, if there was sufficient demand we would look at it again. If you are interested please drop the Chairman or the Secretary an e-mail expressing your interest, and we will see what can be done in the future.

SSAFA is looking for Volunteers

We have been contacted by the Norfolk Branch of SSAFA seeking Volunteers to be Case Workers. I have given you a brief flavour of what this entails, and if you are interested, please contact Peter Holtan, SAFFA Recruitment Manager on 07485257548 or email Peter.Holtan@norfolk.saffa.org.uk.

Caseworkers visit clients to work out what type of help they need. Next, they find the right sources of support and arrange for clients to access it. This might be funds for special equipment for someone with a disability, adaptations to a property so an older client can remain at home or funds for a rental deposit. Caseworkers also sign-post clients onto specialist local services for advice on benefits, housing, mental health, debt, finding work etc.

Volunteer Caseworkers are the lifeblood of SSAFA, supporting a growing number of people in need of financial, practical and emotional support.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Key role responsibilities

- Contacting clients and arranging to meet them at a mutually convenient time
- Meeting clients and completing a form to assess their circumstances
- Sign-posting clients onto local services providing specialist advice
- Applying on the client's behalf to military and non-military sources of charitable funding
- Arranging for the purchase of goods and services
- Keeping in touch with the client so they know how their case is progressing
- Keeping in touch with your branch so they know your availability
- Keeping up to date with training and SSAFA news so that you are best able to support clients
- Being a positive ambassador for SSAFA remembering that anyone you meet could be a potential client, volunteer or fundraiser

Volunteering within the standards and values of SSAFA including observing our policies such as the Volunteering policy and data protection policy (these will be covered in your training and local induction)

Minimum time commitment

Flexible

Skills you need

- Approachable
- Caring
- IT literate



WAVENEY STARDUST RIVER CRUISES

Private Cruises for Groups of up to twelve with at least one person who requires accessible facilities



The skipper and crew are all volunteers and one of our Members is part of the team but they are always looking for new volunteers to join them.

Waveney Stardust is a registered charity established to provide safe, subsidised river cruises for the disabled and/or elderly, including their family and friends, people who would not otherwise be able to access the pleasures of the Broadland Waterways.

The cost of hiring Waveney Stardust cruises is heavily subsidised through generous donations and fund-raising events etc.

Ideal for a family treat, special occasion or just a get-together of old friends

Check out their website, www.waveneystardust.co.uk, for all the information and videos. Don't forget if you have time on your hands, think about becoming one of their volunteers.



QUEEN OF THE BROADS BOAT TRIP WITH HOG ROAST OUT OF WROXHAM

SATURDAY 23RD JULY
2022

11.00am- 3.00pm

This year we have shared this event with our Suffolk colleagues which has resulted in nearly a sell out. There are just 6 places left . The full cost

for non Members is £17.80 and NARPO Members and partner it is just £10.00 per head

If you want to snap up one of these places please contact Stan Watkinson on 01553 636629 or e-mail stanwatkinson1@gmail.com. Don't delay, time is running out!