

NARPO

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2021

Norfolk Branch Website: www.narponorfolk.org



Gus Williams

Secretary Norfolk Branch

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I was having difficulty in wondering what to write for this Newsletter as not much is happening now, as we continue to fight the Covid Virus. I guess many of you have had your first jab, as have I, and perhaps got the side effects, which is something we must put up with. My side effects were: wanting to go to asleep, it made me feel very tired for 24hrs, and not wanting to eat. Good luck when your turn comes and please take it up and stay safe.

This morning, as I was writing this piece, the NARPO News came through the letterbox. At a quick glance over coffee, I read about "The Widows Pension for Life" article, this is something NARPO has been campaigning about for a long time. The Secretary of State Solicitors are trying to get this matter thrown out of Court on the grounds that it discloses no reasonable grounds, and that it is an abuse of court procedure. The case will now be heard in the High Court in March. We can only hope the Judge awards in our favour and the full hearing goes ahead. If you are interested the article is on page 8 of the latest Narpo News.

A suggestion was put to our Branch Committee that as we are not allowed to attend funerals, due to Covid Regulations, that we as a Branch invite families of those who died during the Regulatory period to some kind of gathering to celebrate the lives of our friends and colleagues who we have lost. This would of course have to take place after all Regulations have been lifted. Whilst I am in favour of this, I have reservations as many of the funerals are now non-religious, in that they have a celebrant rather than a priest. Much of this is because the Funeral Directors prefer it, they can use the same celebrant several times a day. NARPO has retired officers who are Celebrants, Licensed Clergy and Lay readers so I don't feel that would be a problem but how do we mix religious with the non-religious?

We just cannot walk into any church and hold a service because we must have the authority of the Vicar.

We could hire a Community Centre?

Also, would families come?

Let me, or Gus our Secretary, know your feelings. Gus's contact details are at the head of this Newsletter. All our contact details are on the Branch website www.narponorfolk.org

Our next Committee meeting is on 15th April, unless there is any quick relaxation of the Covid rules it will be via zoom and we will consider all relevant suggestions in relation to this matter.

If you hear of a member who has died, let us know, and we will respond as necessary, sending condolences to the relative. The Chief Constable also likes to be made aware and write to the family. If you do not know if the deceased is a member or not, we will check and only respond to members families.

Finally, a big thank you for your tremendous response to my appeal to agreeing to have Newsletters sent to you by e-mail. Gus tells me we are approaching 100 new responses to this initiative. As we have said before, we are allowed four free Newsletters a year paid for by NARPO HQ. If all our members were in receipt of the Newsletter by e-mail we could produce one monthly, thus disseminating more up to date information.

Any member who did not reply, and would like the Newsletter e-mailed to them, let us know.

All back Newsletters are available on our Branch website.

Stan Watkinson
Chairman



IN MEMORIAM

Names of the Deceased and date of death



Geoffrey COWLING 1/11/2020

Robert P DAY 1/11/2020

Colin LAKE 5/1/2021

Derek KIRBY 17/1/2021

John DOUGHTY 16/1/2021

NORFOLK BRANCH AGM

It with regret that the Norfolk Branch AGM, to have been held on Thursday 11th March 2021, at Dereham Football Club, will have to be postponed, due to the Covid Regulations.

All of the current post holders within the Branch have agreed to remain in office until we can hold our AGM.

It is hoped that we will be able to hold the AGM later on in the year and notice will be given in good time to all members of the re-arranged date and venue.

NORFOLK BRANCH ASSISTANT SECRETARY POST

In the last Newsletter I made an appeal for any full member of the Norfolk Branch to step forward and offer a few hours a week to fill the vacant post of Assistant Secretary.

I have had no-one contact me, so I again take this opportunity to ask for a volunteer to help me out with a small part of my responsibilities. You will need a reasonable knowledge of Microsoft applications, but I will give full training and support to my Assistant, and the duties will not be too difficult to undertake. If you want more details : give me a call.

Gus Williams - Secretary

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

From Nigel TOMSETT of PearsonVUE

I am a retired Suffolk Constabulary officer and Suffolk NARPO member. I currently manage the Test Centres at Norwich and Lowestoft, where we provide computer-based driver theory tests as well as many other professional exams.

I currently have some vacancies to fill on a temporary contract until 31 October 2021 at both Norwich and Lowestoft sites and have attached links to the adverts on Indeed.

I would be most grateful if you would be able to forward details of these vacancies to your members - traditionally, many of our staff have been recruited from the ranks of retired police officers, who often possess the required skills, and find the parttime hours attractive.

Please note the minimum hours for the Lowestoft vacancy is 6 hours per week not 12 as advertised, while the minimum at Norwich is 11 hours weekly, although it is anticipated that more hours will be available once the easing of lockdown enables theory tests to recommence.

Following are the links to the adverts:

<https://uk.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=667c55f98e4223c4>

<https://uk.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=79715792c14b8ac6>

Many thanks and kind regards,

Nigel

Nigel TOMPSETT

Test Centre Manager

Lowestoft Test Centre, Pearson VUE

Ground Floor, Waveney Chambers, Waveney Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk. NR32 1BN

Norwich Test Centre, Pearson VUE

First Floor, 11 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1BD

E: nigel.tompsett@pearson.com

T: 01502 511765 - **Lowestoft**

T: 01603 667438 - **Norwich**

ACCESS TO SPECIAL OFFERS TO 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 an e-mail link to access the information.

I am unable to transfer the 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>

FREE 'SCAM AWARENESS' SESSIONS

AN OFFER FROM NATWEST BANK

"As a bank NatWest is reaching out to groups and organisations and offering them the chance to take part in a completely free session to learn more about Scams and how to stay safe from them in this ever changing world.

Firstly please allow me to introduce ourselves, we are Chris and Marc and we are 2 of the banks community bankers. As community bankers it is our privilege to help you and provide you with vital information that you will hopefully use to protect yourself from approaches from various scammers and help keep your money and personal information safe. Although we work for NatWest these sessions are designed for everyone no matter who you bank with.

The session itself will last for approximately 45 minutes to an hour with time for a Q&A session at the end. If you feel that you would benefit from one of the sessions or just want some more information on the content prior to deciding please get in touch with myself or Marc who would be happy to help."

Regards

Chris Brickhill CCBI

Community Banker

Customer Engagement & Distribution

Retail Banking

Christopher.brickhill@natwest.com or WHITESIDEEHLEN, MARC (Community Banker, Retail Banking)
marc.whitesideehlen@natwest.com

+44 (0) 7748111198 | natwestgroup.com

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If you are interested in taking up the above offer, (which has been made through NARPO HQ), then contact Chris Brickhill. I would imagine that these sessions will be via Teams or Zoom or some similar platform, so you will need access to a computer and be connected to the internet.

ALL NEC AND BRANCH SECRETARIES FOR INFORMATION

Morning All,

As an update on South Yorkshire Police's decision to open the Miners' Strike archive, I had a virtual meeting with SYP Chief Constable Steve Watson and the ACC Tim Forber last Friday afternoon.

I raised our concerns with certain aspects of the decision to open the archive, including the fact that many of those involved would now be elderly and particularly vulnerable and that NARPO had a responsibility to protect our Members.

Mr Watson said that he could well understand why NARPO members would have concerns about the proposal and added that for the past three years SYP have been digitising the archive with a view to it being released at some point.

I shared with him some recent legal advice which NARPO had obtained from our DPO, which concluded that a thorough Data Protection Impact Assessment needs to be undertaken by the force before any publication of the archive in order to gauge the possible effect on our members

I told him that our position at the moment would be that whilst we object in principle to the releasing of the records because of the possible detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of our members, if SYP concluded that they will release the records, we would seek to protect the interests of our members and ensure that they complied with the relevant Legislation before any records were released.

I will now be further consulting with Bernard Seymour our DPO and writing further to SYP outlining our concerns.

Regards and stay safe.

Steve Edwards NARPO CEO.

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Note: I received the above e-mail from Steve Edwards, NARPO CEO, on 4th February 2021.

I know that I do not want any image of me while on duty during the Miners Strike, broadcast, circulated or made available by any means by the South Yorkshire Police. I have given no-one permission to publish my image.

If any member out there feels the same, please contact me and I will forward numbers to Steve.

Gus Williams—Secretary.

CLOSURE OF POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES

A message from Patrick Cairns –CEO PTC’s

“Following the closure of both our Centres in March 2020 during the first national lockdown, the PTC team worked hard behind the scenes in order to reopen safely to our Police Family Patients on 7th September. Everyone at the PTCs were keen to get back to supporting the Police Family as soon as possible and we were pleased that we have been able to stay open since September up to this point. We re-opened both Centres with confidence on Monday 4 January 2021 and had hoped to remain open. However, the most recent announcements of further national lockdowns in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, has meant that it is no longer safe to do so and despite the extensive COVID-19 safety measures in place at both centres, the Trustees and Senior Management Team at the Centres have taken the immensely difficult decision to close to residential treatment at both centres from Friday 8th January until further notice. At the core of this decision is the need to keep our Employees and Patients safe, but we are also so conscious as a leading Police Charity, that we need to respect both the letter and spirit of the law, and the intent behind the legislation which is to reduce the transference of the virus from person to person. All Patients booked on our Wellbeing Programme in the next few weeks will shortly hear from one of our Nursing Team about what support we can provide and they will be offered access to the Thrive App. This is the only NHS approved Mental Health App available in the UK and can be used to manage stress, improve wellbeing and to build resilience to tackle common issues effectively. All Patients booked onto our Residential Physiotherapy Programme will be contacted by our Physio Teams and, where appropriate, will be offered treatment remotely via our new Remote Physiotherapy Service. Our new Remote Physiotherapy Outpatient Service will continue and will be available to new Patients, offering secure, online treatment from your clinician without the need to attend the Centres on a residential basis. We are also very pleased to say that we have been able to continue to work on our new Clinical Services Wing during the period of the lockdown and this will continue safely despite this new national lockdown. The work has surged ahead and is now currently on track for completion in spring 2021. This will allow us to treat even more patients at the PTC and to improve and expand our class leading Wellbeing Treatment Programmes when we are once again able to reopen safely. We would like to thank everyone for their understanding. We are extremely disappointed that we have had to close both Centres as the PTC only exists to serve our Police Patients and we have always taken huge pride in doing so. We are very much aware that all of our Police Officers have worked tirelessly throughout the whole of the pandemic, often at great risk to their own physical and mental health. We would like to reassure everyone that we will re-open our doors at the very earliest safe moment and look forward to getting back to delivering our class leading treatment plans to the best Police Service in the world. Please keep your eye on our website for further updates.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Patrick Cairns CEO PTC “

Brexit Deal - State Pensions and EHIC

Just in case anyone out there is considering a holiday in Europe any time soon I thought you might like some update on health care arrangements we will have with EU countries.

The Brexit deal which went through ahead of the 31 December 2020 deadline included access for individuals to reciprocal healthcare cover and an updated state pension.

This is covered under ‘Heading Four—Social Security Coordination and Visas for Short-term Visits’ of the deal.

Broadly speaking the deal provides for a protocol which means that the UK and EU Member States will be able to take into account relevant contributions paid into each other’s social security systems, or relevant periods of work or residence, by individuals for determining entitlement to a state pension and to a range of benefits. The Government state the Protocol also provides for the uprating of the UK State Pension paid to pensioners who retire to the EU.

The Protocol also means that where the UK or an EU Member State is responsible for the healthcare of an individual, they will be entitled to reciprocal healthcare cover. In addition, the Protocol will ensure necessary healthcare provisions similar to that provided by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) scheme continue. This means individuals who are temporarily staying in another country, for example a UK national who is in an EU Member State for a holiday, will have their necessary healthcare needs met for the period of their stay.

Stay Safe : Stay at home! : Save the NHS : Save Lives

Mass Testing for Coronavirus - Volunteers needed

Request from James Paget Hospital.

Please see the below message from the RE:ACT team looking for volunteers particularly at James Paget University Hospital.

“James Paget University Hospital, Norfolk are in urgent need of volunteers for an initial period of 2 weeks (15/02/21-01/03/21).

RE:ACT Disaster Response are looking for veterans and blue light services to support this task.

If you have availability for some of the dates, please sign up via: <https://www.re-act.org.uk> and you will then receive notifications about tasks requiring support in your local area”

Task start Monday 15/2/21 initial engagement 2 weeks

James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Lowestoft Road,
Gorleston,
Great Yarmouth,
Norfolk,
NR31 6LA

Tasks to include non-clinical support to wards, housekeeping, cleaning, admin, runners.

All volunteers will be provided with induction, training, vaccinations, PPE and LFT's.

The aim is to relieve the burden on the clinical staff.”