

NARPO

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER
Of service to those who served



2023 is racing by and we have had a successful summer in arranging events for you the membership, but you can read about them in the following pages. The national annual conference is on the horizon, and this year there are some seriously important decisions to be made. You will have read in NARPO News, consideration is being given to the question of NARPO becoming an Incorporated Limited Company which will protect the membership in the event of a successful legal action being brought. Since 1919 the law has changed which allows us to consider this new way forward. We support the principle, however there are a number of questions left unanswered in respect of how such a change will impact on the running and administration of Branches. The NEC has held some seminars across the country, for Branch officials and Conference Delegates, however, there are still some uncertainties.

This will be debated at Conference in Blackpool on Friday 8th September 2023 and it is the intention of NARPO HQ to stream the debates live. If you are interested in watching go to Narpo.org and register or login (password XPOL1919) and you should be able to find the instructions on how to watch.

Recruiting new Members, has been difficult this year and it is important that we capture members as they retire from the Force and with the retirement courses stopping we are finding it difficult in getting our message across. We had this in mind when we accepted the invitation to have a stall at the Force family Day held on Saturday 10th June at the Royal Norfolk Show. This gave us an opportunity to introduce NARPO and what the Norfolk Branch is all about, to current serving officers. We had a couple of games for the children (and those that are a child at heart) and I can only thank the team that put all this together.

Mark Scott, Stan's wife, Linda Watkinson, Ian Taylor, Jane Stevens and Stan & I had a hand in it too.

The weather was gorgeous and it was a great day out. Look out for the 2024 date, You will have a fun day out, to be sure.



Stan Watkinson, Chairman & Helen Wickens MBE, Secretary

August 2023

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DATE for the DIARY

I hope you will forgive me for mentioning Christmas at this time of the year but I thought you might like to know the Force Carol Service will be held on **MONDAY 11th DECEMBER 1830hrs for 1900 hrs at St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich.**



IN MEMORIAM

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

Mervyn Jones, Robert (Tug) Wilson, John Gilham, Stephen Rafferty, Stanley Frost, Hubert Reynolds, Jeffrey Turner, Jim Hardy, Frank Allen, Nicholas Mackley



Round Up of the Summer Events For 2023

Walking Treasure Hunt—June - Organiser Jane Stevens

In June we held our second walking treasure hunt. Once again, the weather was for us with hardly a cloud in the sky as we met outside the Forum in Norwich. We had a staggered start for our 17 teams of two with the first team setting off at 9.55 am and the last team just after 11 am. It was good to see so many familiar faces from the previous hunt as well as a couple of new teams. The route was round the historic part of the city – those who remember 8 Beat from their city days would be familiar with much of the area – and finished in Gentleman’s Walk with the last clue of 45 being the old Market Cross plaque. We all met from 1.30pm in a private room at the Assembly House for a good chat and catch up ‘I’ve walked down there 100’s of times but never noticed...’ was a common theme and this was followed by paper marking and a late lunch. The Assembly House put on a good spread for us hungry folk and having a private room worked very well, we could make as much noise as we wanted. The teams were all very close with the winning team, Dave and Sue Craske, only one point ahead of their nearest rival. A very enjoyable day was had by all, and we look forward to the next hunt.



Jane Stevens - Treasurer

Waveney Stardust River Cruises— August—2nd and 16th—Organiser Helen Wickens

I struggled to get support for these events. The river cruiser could take a maximum of 12 and I booked three dates for our trips. One in July out of Beccles, one in August out of Brundall and one in September again out of Beccles. Sadly there was only one member interested in the July trip and no-one interested in the September trip. The August date was fully booked quite quickly.

As a result of this I assumed, rightly or wrongly, that you did not want to travel to Beccles. I made enquiries and I was able to move our July date to the 2nd August which would be out of Brundall and this resulted in 9 bookings. There was still no interest in the September date, so I cancelled the booking in time to recover the full cost.

I have to say, I had a few sleepless nights wondering if everyone would turn up on the day, would there be enough food or too much food, in the picnic, would the weather be kind to us. Well, I had no need to worry as both trips went really, really well.

You don't have to believe me; this is an e-mail comment I received

'Today could not have been more perfect. Great to put faces to names. Gary and co. made it into a relaxing, interesting trip. The two stops were just right, aided by a warm sunny day. The lunch you provided was too moreish. Thank you all, we were royally treated.'

This was followed by the following summary of the day:-

A perfect day on the river

Heavy rain, high winds forecast, this did not deter the intrepid group setting foot on to the Waveney Stardust for a day of adventure. Captain Gary and his very merry crew didn't need to close the windows, nor man the bilges. Magically the sun appeared, warmth embraced us, the heat on the boat adding to the ambience.

We 'sailed' forth from Brundall, past Whitlingham and Thorpe, Coffee and tea flowing freely, then with a gentle turn back toward Surlingham/Bargate Broad, with anchor down, lunch provided, despite all the relaxation, the sailors were hungry.

From there on to Coldham Hall. Someone shouted pub, hands went up, the ship was deserted.

Then back to the warmth and comfort of the Stardust. A leisurely ride back to base.

The views had been stunning, sightings of the beautiful kingfisher, great crested and little grebe. Kite. Grey heron. Buzzard, Marsh Harriers and more, all added to the magical day spent on the Norfolk Broads.

Thank you to the fantastic volunteers and Helen who treated us royally, making it into a day full of the most wonderful memories. Looking forward to the next adventure.' Katherine Sankey.



The Waveney Stardust Trust Limited is a charity run entirely by volunteers. On both our outings Gary Corbett was our Captain, a fellow NARPO member and he was joined by Karen and Trevor on day one and then John and Ian Sturgess (also a NARPO member) on day two. They all looked after us very well and they could not have done anything else to make the days more special. The boat takes 12 passengers (includes wheelchair users) so this is a more intimate way of enjoying the river.



Finally, I would like to thank all of you who supported the Waveney days out and for all your kind comments. I can now sleep peacefully at night.

QUEEN of the BROADS with HOG ROAST - AUGUST 19th—Organiser Stan Watkinson

Once again we have had our annual day out on the Norfolk Broads and were again joined by Suffolk members and a few from Leicestershire; we were treated to excellent weather.

96 members booked, however between us we had 10 'no shows' some contacted me some didn't so 86 enjoyed the day.

This year we had a new Captain on the ship by the name of Max.

Cawdrons of Stalham supplied the Hog roast and Vegetarian meals—4 vegetarian were ordered 8 were given. I know some who had Hog Roast said the Vegetarian looked good. In all there was plenty to go around indeed some Pork left over.

I have received more emails and telephone calls than ever before thanking me for arranging the day and can we do it next year,

We also had compliments from the staff of Broads Tours thanking us for leaving the boat clean and tidy.

Forthcoming Events

Thoughts are turning to Christmas again. Stan is on the ball having booked The Anvil at Congham as in previous years. The date for your diary is Monday 11th December 2023, 12noon for 1230hrs.. The Anvil has not increased its price from last year, so it will be £19.95 for three courses before the NARPO subsidy. The Branch has yet to make a decision on how much they will subsidise the Christmas lunches this year but it is envisaged the final cost to members and their partners will be similar to last year. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY just yet. The Committee meets in October when final decisions will be made.

There will be three other Christmas lunches across the county, details of which are being finalised and will be advertised as soon as dates and venues are booked.

Ideas for new Events

We have asked before and the Chairman is asking again, if anyone has any ideas for a members day out. Stan would welcome hearing from any one who has a suggestion. We will look at the feasibility, practicalities and of course the likely cost of any sensible idea. A trip to the moon is a bit beyond us at this time!.

Want to be in a TV programme- Read on.....

I have received the below e-mail from Dan Winkler who is an Assistant Producer for Brown Bob Productions who are the makers of a programme called Big Little Crimes; Series 2.

“Good afternoon,

I hope all is well with you my name is Dan and I’m part of Brown Bob Productions. I just wanted to get in touch with you regarding the production of our new series of “Big Little Crimes”, which we have just started filming.

Our programme features solved cases where the investigation of a relatively low-level crime is instrumental in solving or uncovering a much more serious crime. We include cases from both serving and retired officers and the first series was very well received - attracting more than 1m viewers per episode.

The reason for getting in touch is that I was wondering whether you happened to know anybody who many have any cases that would be great for us to cover. We’re keen to highlight the foundation of meticulous policework which leads to getting a result in these cases.

As mentioned, our filming is currently underway and we’re going to be filming over the next few weeks, so it would great to speak anybody who might be interested please. In terms of timescales, we would only look to film a day at the maximum so wouldn’t require a lot of time at all. My number is 07596 072808, or I can be contacted via email if needed.

Many thanks and hope to hear from you soon.”

The e-mail is self explanatory, so if you are interested in participating, you can contact Dan on 07596072808

At the End of the DAY

Many of you know that we offer the use of the NARPO Drape for funerals of our members, which is welcomed by most. In addition there has been an agreement with the current Chief Constable to provide a small uniformed presence if requested by the family and this has also been much appreciated.

Things have moved on and there is something called the Norfolk Constabulary Ceremonial Association which is part of a larger national association. It is run by members for members, is rank less and it aims to meet requests in a professional way. Here in Norfolk Olly Button is the driving force and he is joined by 35 officers, all volunteers. NARPO has been able to request their services for member's funerals and to give you an idea of what they do, Mike Hardy was happy to share the below photographs that were taken at his father's funeral on 17th July 2023



He was also happy for me to publish his comments he sent to both myself on behalf of NARPO and to the Chief Constable

'Dear Helen, Mick & Olly

I want to say a massive thank you to all three of you for the roles you have all played in recognising Dad's service and for providing such a respectful tribute to retired Police Inspector Jim Hardy.

The two Police Officers that saluted Dad passing North Walsham Police Station was very special. As a family we moved to one of the semi detached houses next to the Police Station in Sept 1967 when Dad was promoted to Sergeant and I was 6 months old (picture below as it was). It was also lovely that, as a family, we know one of the officers involved in that salute. The NARPO drape looked great on the coffin, a lovely touch thank you.

In terms of the Ceremonial Team at the Crematorium, absolutely brilliant, very smart, very respectful and very well organised by Olly.

I have had so much positive feedback from the family and those attending the service for the role that the Team played today

Olly was excellent leading the team and communicating with me on the day.

The letters that the family received from the Chief Constable meant a great deal to us all, to Ann, Dad's widow, the recognition of her loss was very much appreciated. For Dad's children, the acknowledgement of Dad's service and the recognition of the role our late Mum played in supporting the Force prior to her passing, was a very moving tribute. I believe that all of us plan to frame the letters to show Dad (and Mum) how much their role is appreciated.

A massive thank you to you all and those that have in turn supported you in achieving this incredible tribute.

Kind Regards, Mike.'



Blue Light Card

Just a reminder to everyone regarding the Blue Light Card. This is card gives you discount in so many different stores. For example, one of our members recently achieved a £500 discount off a car from a participating garage, another day to day example, Asda offer a 5% discount off all shopping when you use the Asda app so this card is certainly worth having. There are literally 1000's of organisations signed up to offer Blue Light Card members discounts, from day to day purchases to holidays. For those of you who do not have the card the application process is simple, you can simply use your NARPO membership card as proof of your service. For further details check out

www.bluelightcard.co.uk