

NARPO

Of service to those who served

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021



We have a new Branch Secretary



We are pleased to inform you that following on from the August Newsletter in which we outlined the process your Committee was following, to fill the vacant post of Branch Secretary, Eric Bradley was duly elected at the Branch Committee meeting held on 21st October 2021.

We have not received any adverse comments on the process adopted and no other names were put forward. The Norfolk Branch Committee congratulates Eric and all have pledged their support as he gets to grips with his role.

Chairman's Notes

I welcome Eric as Secretary for the Branch and look forward to working with him. As the year draws to an end, we are coming to the time of Remembrance and Christmas. NARPO will be laying our usual poppy wreaths at war memorials across the County. I am grateful to all those who represent our Branch in doing this.

I shall be attending Norwich Cathedral and placing a wreath for the Police Chapel. Sadly, covid has restricted numbers that can attend and there will only be a few representing the many, again this year. The brief ceremony will take place outside the Cathedral with the wreaths, once sanitised, being placed in the Police Chapel later. The Norfolk Branch has grown in member numbers to 1020 and we hope that growth will continue.

I led a delegation of 4 to the National NARPO Conference which was held in Llandudno in September. The numbers attending were down on previous years and the only item for debate was whether NARPO should look to move to a new Headquarters. The motion was defeated so no new HQ for the time being.

You will see on page 3 Christmas lunches are being organised again so please support them. I am organising the West Norfolk lunch as usual. This year there will be tables of 4/6 and 8s and to avoid proximity we have taken up both rooms to give us space. The starter has to be pre booked and please make a note of what you select so as to prevent arguments on the day. Turn to page 3 for full details and tear off slip to book your place. The NARPO Committee has made a decision for this year only to subsidise the cost of Christmas events by £10 per head per member and partner, as we haven't been able to arrange anything for a considerable time due to Covid.

May I on behalf of your Branch committee wish you all good health and a very happy Christmas and hope for better things in 2022.

Stan Watkinson
Chairman NARPO Norfolk Branch

Eric says....

It is a pleasure to be your new Secretary. I must thank Helen, Gus and Stan for assisting me with the role. The biggest surprise to me has been officers both serving and retired who thought this was a paid role, and in some way connected to the Police Federation. Your Chairman has had similar conversations, being asked about the location of his 'office'. The 'office' is within our homes. It is a service we provide voluntarily without pay. There are no honoraria payments to committee members or post holders. NARPO exists to provide a service to those that need assistance in times of need. Whilst having a watchful eye to influence national matters which may affect your pension, either directly or as a widow or widower. Having attended my very first meeting of the committee and now as your Secretary I can assure you, it does exactly '*what it says on the tin*'.

My aims are to continue the outstanding work carried out by Helen - if you didn't make our Centenary event at Thursford you really did miss out. However, we must not be complacent. Our membership numbers in comparison with both our Regional area and National Branches requires some work. So my question to you all must be, what can we (your committee) do to attract more members?

Membership for me is not about how much revenue is received, it is about how many individuals we can assist in their time of need. I am told that each time the NARPO newsletter drops through the letter box, there are several people who decide Norfolk Narpo is not for them. The comparison I make is with those serving officers who felt the Police Federation provided nothing other than a diary every year.

Norfolk NARPO is here, when you need our help. Age is something that cannot be held back and it really is in your best interest to be a Narpo member so please do have those conversations with retired colleagues whom for whatever reason have decided not to join or have decided to leave. I am more than happy to take a phone call on 07834 814236 or 01953 600983

Eric Bradley

It has been difficult times recently for us all as we try to keep ourselves entertained through an unprecedented lockdown. Well Jane our Treasurer found something new to entertain herself which has benefitted the Branch and I take my hat off to her. Read on to see what she has been up to....

Lockdown. What a very strange time the last 18 months have been but, in some very small ways, quite fruitful. Having had enough of decorating and gardening, and there are only so many times I want to walk round our village, I decided to turn my attention to the Narpo records. Up in the loft I had put all the old records, copies of accounts and letters with the intention of them staying there until I passed on the baton to another. I retrieved the box of membership records and decided to go through them, comparing the paper forms with the national database. Some of the 800+ forms were well over 40 years old (before I joined NC!) and had changed considerably over the years; during certain periods there were no dates of birth, no field for an email address (email!) and no NI. To get a bit of uniformity and making sure we were only keeping relevant information, I decided to get the records as up to date as possible. Some 150 letters and emails later (and 170 stamps, including SAE's) together with a combined effort from the committee when I was struggling, we now have all records which are fit for purpose. I would like to thank all of you involved in the process for your help and your prompt responses. The replies I have received have (mostly!) been kind, thoughtful and some quite poignant but overwhelmingly, however long an individual has been retired 'the job' sense of humour has been retained!

Your Treasurer

Certificate of Service Issues—Now resolved

A number of retired officers raised an issue about the Norfolk Constabulary and certificates of Service on retirement. There were a number of cases where the Certificate had the wrong dates on, or wrong rank and some who didn't receive one at all.

As a result of this being brought to NARPOs attention, a meeting was held with the Norfolk Police Federation to discuss the best way of achieving a fair and consistent approach for all. Samantha Hawkins, the General Secretary of the Norfolk Police Federation, agreed to take this issue to the Force Executive and a way forward has now been put in place to ensure in the future there will be a consistent approach. For those retired officers who have an issue, the Force are eager to put this right. Please see below the update from Sam :

'The Force exec have confirmed that they now have a new system in place between the Staff Office and HR, whereby the Staff Office are copied into every ENACT leaver notification. This process ensures that the Exec are notified of all officers and staff who are due to retire. All retirees who have over 10 years of service are invited, together with a guest, to meet with the Chief and to be presented with their framed retirement certificate. Those with under 10 years' service and those who do not wish to meet the Chief, receive their certificate in a Constabulary presentation folder, with a personally signed letter from the Chief posted to their home address.

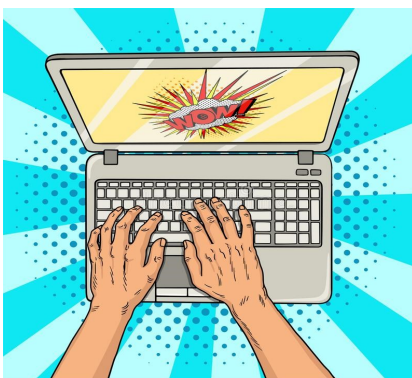
With regard to the retired officers who have previously had issues with or not received their certificates- the below message was posted onto the Norfolk Police past and present Facebook site yesterday, by me, and Chris Banks has already received numerous emails as a result.'

Norfolk Force Executive have been made aware that a small number of retired Officers did not receive certificates of service or mistakes were made on the certificates they did receive. This falls well below our usual standards and I apologise. I would like to write to you further and rectify. Please email me your details at Christopher.banks@norfolk.police.uk

INVIGILATORS Wanted

The Notre Dame High School in Norwich is again looking to recruit Invigilators for the forthcoming school exam season. NARPO members in the past have enjoyed doing this so we have advertised it again on our web site www.narponorfolk.org.

You will find the full advert and job description If you have a look on the list of News Articles.



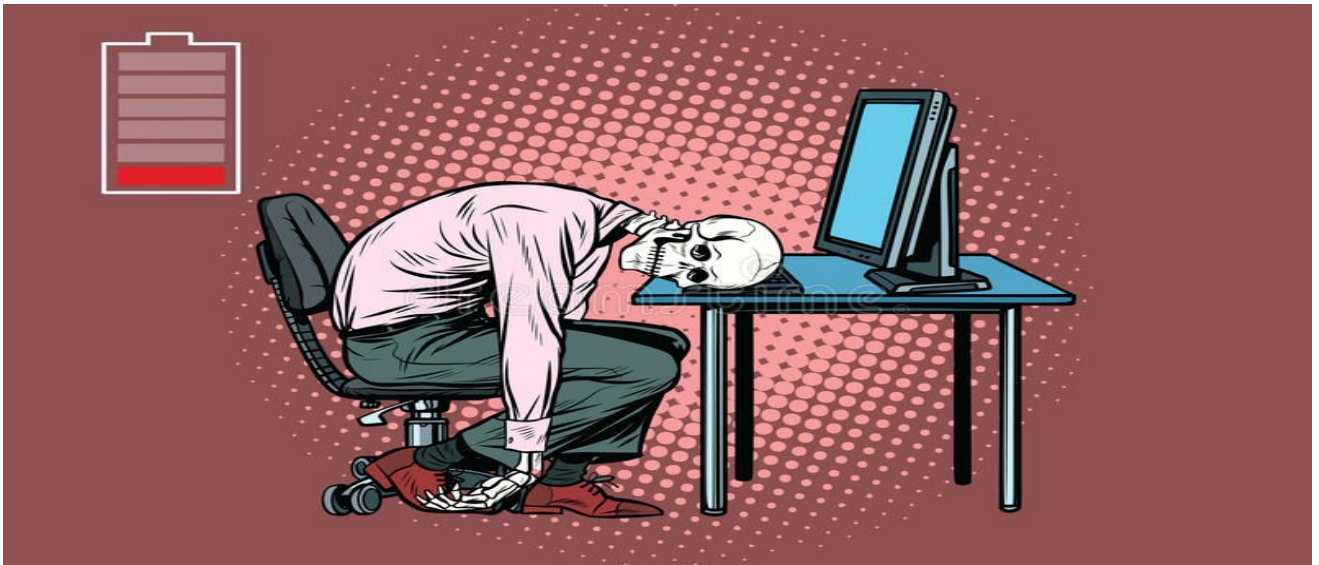
Phoenix Television New Documentary Series

The above TV company has approached NARPO HQ, seeking to speak to retired officers who have been 'first at the scene of a murder'

If you are intrigued and, indeed, interested in being involved you will

find further details on our website in the News Article list.

www.narponorfolk.org



The issues of bulk e-mailing this Newsletter to all those members who receive it that way have still not been resolved. NARPO HQ (Wakefield) is still working on the solution. I was able to send you all an e-mail but I could not attach a copy of the Newsletter which is why you had to click on the link provided, to view the Newsletter on the Branch website. (www.narponorfolk.org). If I use my personal Bt e-mail I can only send 50 out at a time.....getting bored yet ?.... Above is what I look like after the deed is completed ! Unfortunately we have had to use this method again but we remain hopeful that NARPO HQ will sort this out before 2022.

Out of just over 1000 members 724 of you received correspondence by e-mail last time, which is a huge saving on postage. Rest assured all our most senior members who are not into computers will always receive theirs by post and we are happy for that to continue. Eric will no doubt keep you updated as things progress.

You can always keep up-to-date with the latest information by going to the national website www.narpo.org OR your local Norfolk Branch website - www.narponorfolk.org



IN MEMORIUM

Roger Corbett

11/10/2021

Angela Watkins 78yrs

22/08/2021

Alec Chisholm 90yrs

31/07/2021

Eric Hamond 83yrs

30/04/2021

NORFOLK BRANCH COMMITTEE

Each year in March the AGM is held when the officials and members of the Committee are elected to serve for the year.

PRESIDENT

Mr Bert HERRINGTON

CHAIRMAN

Mr Stan WATKINSON (01533 636629)

SECRETARY

Mr Eric BRADLEY (07834 814236)

TREASURER

Mrs Jane STEVENS

Mrs. Helen Wickens MBE

Mr. Ian Taylor

Mr. Mike Cox MBE

Mr. Tom Hodge

Mr. Malcolm Chubbock

Mr. Pete Boddy

Mr. Brian Pincher

Mr. Mark Scott

[Www.narponorfolk.org](http://www.narponorfolk.org)