



National Association of Retired Police Officers

Cambridgeshire Branch Newsletter (017)

October 2009

Issue No.12

Chief Constable's letter angers members

The Chief Constable's letter to our chairman quoted in full in Issue 11 of this newsletter has angered many of our members.

"Cambridgeshire was for many years a failing Force" is one quote from her letter that has incensed them. Having not quantified the term 'many years' a number of our members felt that her remarks reflected on them.

It is only within the last few years that Cambridgeshire Constabulary has been declared a 'failing Force' and I am sure that Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabularies would have informed us had our forces been failing prior to that.

Her comments have also drawn allegations from some about the unfairness, in their view, of the way in which recipients of injury awards are being targeted just to save money

There is, however, no doubt in my

mind that the vast majority of people in receipt of such awards are perfectly entitled to them and there is little need for change

If change is to be made then should it not be for the future when those entering the system will be fully aware of all that is ahead of them? It would take time and money to clear the system but it would be fairer to both sides.

In my view Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the forces from which it emerged were not always failing Forces and I for one am extremely proud to have served both before & after amalgamation.

I should point out that my views in this letter are not necessarily those of our branch and this is true of any letter published where views are expressed.

More about this subject from David Blake appears inside this issue. *Sam Clift*

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Special points of interest:

- Secretary's letter
- David Blake's letter
- Letters

Members Deaths



Maurice Paul **Audley** 85yrs (Cams). Died in Addenbrookes Hospital 1st Sept. 09

Dear All

I would like to thank all those people who attended Maurice's funeral, it was so kind of them and we received so many cards and messages of sympathy. It has all been a great comfort to me. It was also very comforting to see so many people at the service, Maurice would have loved to have been there as it were, in different circumstances, to see so many old friends and reminisce. I am sorry that I did not have more time to speak to everyone on that day but all are welcome to call when passing. May I thank you all on behalf of Paul, Martin, Neil, and myself for your care.

Eileen Audley

Donald Brian (Bill) **Hills** 87yrs (Isle) Died suddenly in Peterborough Hospital on 7th September 09. (See article on page 17)

Agnes Louisa **Hitch** 88yrs widow of the late Ted Hitch (Isle) Died 9th October 09

Margaret Alice **Cook** 71yrs died on 26th August 2009.

Brian William Charles **Cook** 73yrs died on 16th October 2009.

Margaret and Brian were husband and wife and it is very sad to report both deaths in this same newsletter Brian having died only eight weeks or so after his wife.

New Members



Welcome to new members: Ken Britt, John Francis, Ivan Fox, Andrew Chatfield, Richard Stonebridge, Christopher Porter, Gerald Norden.

Hospital Stays



Since our last newsletter the following are known to have had stays in hospital: Doug Mottram, Ted Stephens, Douglas Briggs, Pauline Waters and Mick Judd. To all those mentioned and anyone else who has been ill or who is not feeling so well right now we send our very best wishes & sincerely hope that you all have a speedy recovery & feel better soon.

Welfare

As members I am sure that you are all aware that welfare is a most important aspect of our organisation and our welfare management must begin here, so if you know of someone who is ill or is having a hard time it's easy enough to let us know.

Quite often a trouble shared is a trouble halved and just a few kind words or a card or letter can lift a persons spirits.

We also need some welfare reps to help us. The ones we have at present have worn holes in their soles through hard work so give Bob a 'bell' if you fancy helping. Just letting us know who is ill can work wonders for them.

Contact : **Bob Wordsworth** direct on

01353 741295 or 07889053123

Email:

bob.wordsworth@hotmail.co.uk

or simply contact

Cambridgeshire Narpo at

cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com

Let's hear from our Secretary

Barry Upchurch writes his news, views & comments



John MacCallum and I attended the annual conference held this year at Scarborough during September. John presented our Branch's motion seeking a stronger involvement from the NEC Executive in co-ordinating a common policy for all branches to work to in respect of the injury pension reviews.

The NEC asked that the motion be remitted to them to use when they undertook negotiations with David Hanson, MP & Minister of State for Crime & Policing. There was full support from the delegates and the proposal was approved. Earlier David Hanson had addressed the delegates expressing his concern at the way different police authorities had interpreted the Home Office advice and the disparity that existed between them. He suggested that meetings would be held with the relevant people and that those meetings would include the NEC Executive in an effort to resolve some of the problems that exist at this present time. He hopes to produce a report by December.

The conference overwhelmingly rejected the contract with the welfare concern 'Care First'. Branches will be asked to undertake more involvement with welfare matters. It was suggested that the regions could hold their own welfare training days. This subject is also on the agenda for discussion at the regional meeting to be held at Stamford in November. On the matter of welfare, Roy Dudley has tendered his resignation as northern welfare representative to take effect after the 2010 AGM.

Roy will be missed and we are grateful for all the hard work he undertook for NARPO members over 30 years.

Some of our committee members will be standing down in 2010 having served the branch faithfully over many years and we will need to inject some new blood. Some of our lady members may consider joining the committee to give a more balanced approach to some of the issues as they arise or have an input to the social side of our branch. We have got to look to the future if the branch is to prosper and succeed in serving its members. *(see pages 4 –5)*

With this in mind I hope that we can move our AGM around the county. This year it was held at Milton in Peterborough. In 2010 it will be held in St. Ives and in 2011 I would like to hold it in the Fenland district only returning to Cambridge in 2012.

On a lighter note the weather men predicted a 'barbeque summer' instead we got rain. It was a case of put the sun cream away and bring out the umbrellas. All was not lost though, and good old mother nature blessed us with some sunny days in September putting us in a better mood to put our clocks back ready for the winter months.

Christmas is showing on the horizon so please let my wife Chris and I wish you all a very happy Christmas, best wishes and most importantly good health for the New Year 2010.

Barry Upchurch

Where do we go from here?

A fly on the wall review.



Committee members were extremely concerned at the October committee meeting when they heard that three long serving members of the branch were to stand down at the next Annual General Meeting.

It was even worse when they discovered that Colin Ward a branch treasurer of some 13 years was amongst them. Colin has served as the Cambridgeshire branch treasurer since Brenda Knights fell ill in 2008 and was unable to continue. He was the Cambridge branch treasurer for 11 years before that. His dogged, methodical and humorous approach has served the branches exceedingly well and it will be difficult to replace him. Colin was made a life member for his services to the branch and he has proved many times over that this was well deserved. Thank you Colin for all the work you have done both as a treasurer and as a social secretary.

Roy Dudley MBE and life member of our branch has also indicated that he is to stand down from our committee. Welfare was his forte and many members particularly those in the north of our force will know just how much energy he has extended to help others. Much more could be said about Roy but I think the most important thing about him is that "it need not be said" because all who know him recognise what a fantastic job he has done. We cannot thank you enough Roy and we all wish you well for the future.

John Prior a life and committee member of some 30 years standing is also standing down. Many will remember the happy trips

and social events that John has either organised or assisted with. Many members will remember his skills at prize draw times and many will wonder just how many draw tickets he actually sold.

The death in April 2009 of Brenda Knights a stalwart and much loved member of our branch was another blow to our committee as was the resignations of Maurice Murden last year and David Blake at the last AGM.

All these departures, and there may be more, will leave a very large hole in the committee. A whole generation will be missing.

I am only a fly on a wall but even I can see that the branch is on the brink of change.

The present and past committees have put our branch in a very strong position and as is seen from the motion on the ill health and injury awards put before the National Conference this year it does take a lead nationally when necessary. *(See page 10)*

We are up to date electronically and have a group of some 300 members on our email list representing about one third of our membership. Let me say that most new members now supply an email address with their application and there is no doubt that email is an excellent method of contacting them.

Communication is a very important part of any club or association's weaponry and can save a lot of money. 'Snail mail' I am sure you all know is very expensive, slow and at present quite unreliable. Electronic newsletters would save a lot of money for the branch but as yet not all our members have the facilities or inclination to receive them, but in time this may become the norm.

There are cases of people being 'duped' electronically but how many cases of stolen social service cheques in letters did you deal with as a police officer? Let's face it electronic communication is cheaper and greener and is no more open to theft than any other mail if you abide by a few rules.

'Care First' our welfare company is voted out, our parent force is unable to help us very much due to cost implications so welfare is down to us but that should be no problem we've done it all before?

Members have described our newsletter as morbid, safe, cosy, repetitive, informative, boring, enjoyable, amusing, biased and expensive to produce but many save their copies. So, what else do we want of it, perhaps 'fish and chips' wrapped in it? Whatever you think of our newsletter it is a tool that can be used to inform members and here is a chance to influence its use.

Here we are then, the old men are leaving and those that are left are not "spring chickens", sorry guys but I'm only a fly on a wall. Is this a case of 'rats leaving a sinking ship' or can we recover the situation?

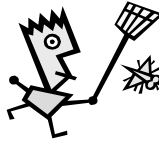
There is no doubt that these men have built a very firm foundation for our branch, one that could be easily built upon but the question is will our younger members take on the role? It really is time for them to come on board and take the reins. That 'big hole' in our committee will allow those that step forward plenty of scope for change or to organise events and attend the welfare needs of others to suit their generation.

Why not test the water, dip in a toe, come along to the next AGM. Contact us to let us know that you might be interested in serving on our committee. Change is afoot

why not be part of it, we need you. If you come along to the AGM what's the worst that could happen, you will have to eat up all your dinner like a good boy or girl, greens and all, but that's it. Yes and we do need ladies, perhaps a husband and wife team or retired female officers.

Our old forces were amalgamated 44 years ago, they should not be forgotten, but we do now have retired members from the Cambridgeshire Force and they have their own history and reminiscences and really must take on a role on our committee.

There you are then, that is the situation but after all I am only a fly on a wall but even I can see ****@*!!***



Splat!!

Shut up!

Pass me a wipe for the wall Barry ...Please.

Annual General Meeting

Cambridgeshire Branch of Narpo

Sunday 21st March 2010

at the **Dolphin Hotel, St.Ives**

Carvery meal followed by the AGM.

Full details will be circulated in our next newsletter.

Please let us know that you are interested in becoming a member of our committee as soon as possible.



Lawrence's Corner

Lawrence Wright (Cambridgeshire's Regional Representative & Member of the National Executive Committee).

Email me at: brentville@ntlworld.com

Nationally all seems quiet within NARPO since the Conference which passed by smoothly and was not too controversial. Matters remitted are being dealt with and I will hear how they are progressing at the next NEC meeting in early November. A full report will no doubt appear in the next issue of NARPO News.

The Rules Sub-Committee meet at Wakefield on 29th and 30th October when rule 18 will be discussed and possibly amended. I will let you know how things go. Other sub-committees will also be meeting to deal with issues for which they are responsible.

At the Regional Meeting at Stamford on 7th

November the main item on the agenda will be the Conference.

Recently whilst on holiday in Malta I met with representatives of their IPA and Pensioners Association. Susan and I were taken on a tour of their Police H.Q. and Police & black Museums and it was suggested that Cambridgeshire could have an IPA/NARPO branch visit there, perhaps in 2011.

They put on a magnificent programme for their visitors including meeting the Maltese President, their Chief Officer and other local dignitaries together with a tour of the island. Anyone interested? *Lawrence*



A word from our Chairman

John MacCallum

As winter draws near I am glad that we had a little taste of what might be called an Indian summer, September and most of October has been quite dry and reasonably warm, the warm weather saving us a bit of cash not having to switch on our heating systems. This leaves us a little bit of extra money to spend on those social and luxury items that are so close to our hearts.

Most Police retirees leave their Forces and take a second job or look for other ways of boosting their income and if plans work out well those extra earnings come in very handy for special little things they always promised themselves. If I were to give advice to new members I would say to them

'do it now' meaning that they should try to do all the things they planned to do on retirement before it is too late. One never knows when illness or injury may strike. I sincerely hope that it never happens to you. To those who have 'realised their dreams' already and remain in good health I would say, 'You are very lucky, please try to understand what it is like to have a disabling injury or illness'.

The Police injury review continues to be a 'thorn' in our sides & I think it will to be so for the foreseeable future. Our role is one of welfare & we do our best to help members in need. I feel also that Cambridgeshire's Police Federation are doing a fine job thanks to Tony Laud the present secretary. They supply legal support and good advice to their members and I now know how important our Federation's contributions were and are to serving officers.

The National Association of Retired Police Officer's website <http://www.narpo.org.uk/> is very easy to use and informative on all manner of interesting subjects to retired Police officers especially relating to the injury review. Just 'click' on 'pensions' for help and advice.

'Mission impossible' that's how difficult I feel it will be to replace Roy Dudley our northern Welfare Officer. He has informed us of his retirement to take effect from our next AGM so we do badly need help in this area. If you feel that you can do a good job please contact us.

Our Social Secretaries continue to work hard but need new ideas to bring in the younger members. Good ideas will be welcomed so if you can help or get a chance to call in on one of our functions for a natter please do so.

At a recent 'POSH' home game I was amazed to see so many ex policemen there, I wondered for a moment whether it would be a good place to hold our committee meetings, we could have held them during halftime. 'Posh' and our Branch need an injection of new blood so perhaps Messrs Fry & Ferguson could help us by being guest speakers at the next AGM? Mind you I don't think they will be searching our ranks for new players.

Our next newsletter will not be out until 2010 so from my wife Liz and I let me wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous and very healthy New Year. Good Luck.

John MacCallum

Keep us in touch:

We can only print what we know about and we really would like to have a few stories from the 1980's and 90's .

Drop a line to cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com

Expressing a view

By David Blake

In referring to the Chief Constables letter published in our last issue, I note Sam's comments on page one and assure you all that I do not wish to begin a diatribe between Narpo and our Chief Constable.

However, I have been asked to reply to two issues raised 1) the injury award situation and 2) the comment that "Cambridgeshire was for many years a failing force".

The latter has provoked much anger amongst retired officers of all ranks and I have received numerous requests to respond to this comment on their behalf.

Firstly issue one: for those of you who may not have read the definition of 'intransigent' in the Oxford English dictionary, it simply reads, 'refusing to change ones views'.

i) The Chief Constable is totally aware that Narpo has always supported the requirement to review under regulations.

ii) We are also know of the requirement for best value.

iii) We totally agree with the statement that regulations are a legal requirement and as such, mandatory. However we strongly disagree with the assertion that Home Office guidance is mandatory.

All of us are aware that times change and in the present climate of saving money and attacking pensions emphasis is placed on where savings can be made. This is throughout the country and not based on any inefficiency on the part of Mid Anglia/Cambridgeshire, the majority of forces were

in the same situation.

Home Office Circular 46/2004 which advised all forces of the need to review was the catalyst of everything that has since evolved.

By leaving it to individual Police Authorities to administrate without positive guidance it became “a pigs ear”. They, in turn, left it to individual forces and this has created different approaches throughout the country which I understand the Home Office Minister acknowledged at the National Narpo Conference and who has agreed to look at the national picture with Narpo - we await the results.

It is interesting to note that to the best of our knowledge only 17 forces out of 43 have implemented the circular in full.

We do not consider that Narpo needs to direct criticism to what occurred in the past because administrators in those days acted on what the Police Authority, who are responsible for the implementation of the regulations through the Chief Constable, allowed, based on the assessment and advice of a qualified medical practitioner .

It is of course easy to be critical of our predecessors, who in many cases cannot answer for themselves, but we should not forget that times, circumstances and outlooks change and full cognisance should be taken of that fact.

I will now deal with the second issue.

I was serving in the Isle of Ely Constabulary prior to amalgamation on the 1st April 1965 when Mid Anglia was formed, later in 1974 to become Cambridgeshire.

I had the privilege of working with four great Chief Constables, Fred Drayton

Porter, Victor Gilbert, Ian Kane and Ben Gunn all men of their times with immensely different characters.

Their ACPO teams, fourteen in total during my service included some of the most capable officers within the police service at that time. Seven of these officers became Chief Constables, one of whom became Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, having lead the Northern Ireland enquiry whilst a DCC in Cambridgeshire. Between them they chaired a number of influential ACPO committees including Crime, Terrorism and DNA. I cannot possibly accept that any of this would have been achieved from within the ranks of a failing force.

During my service I worked with extremely capable Chief Superintendents and Superintendents who were allowed and expected to run their Divisions and Departments. I served in every Division and Department and was privileged to work with men and women officers who carried out their duties in the finest traditions of the service. They do not deserve to be criticised as ‘Policing within a failing force’ because it is not in any way a true reflection of what they represented and achieved. To the best of my knowledge and having worked closely with staff officers from the HMI’s office, through a number of inspections our force was never labelled as failing.

I finally retired in 2002 and am therefore in no position to comment on the tenure of Tom Lloyd, but I am aware that the Chief Constable was Deputy during some of that period and will of course know the condition of the Force at that time.

David Blake

Gun law down on the farm:

I reported for night duty on 9th October 1965 in Cambridge City having just transferred from the Isle and was told to report to the CID at 14.00hrs the following day. It was a move I had not asked for and did not really want, but the D.I. Fred Lilley said, "I know your love is traffic, but you stick with me and if you work hard I will see you are promoted within the next two years." You trusted your boss in those days, he was great, would tear you to shreds in one moment but defend you in the next breath.

The late 'Pip' Grainger was a cadet at Ely when I worked there and it he who phoned me one day to say that he had a tip off that a driver who worked for what was then a major animal feed stuff supplier in Cambridge was stealing bags of food stuff and selling them. The boss, of the firm was a big bluff man with a handlebar moustache who flew a yellow Tiger Moth.

Armed with the information from 'Pip' I went along to see the boss and after telling him the reason for my visit he told that I could see his driver by all means but added that he would trust that man with his life as he had worked for him for years and years.

We called the driver to the office, "You know I would never do anything like that Boss", he explained. "That's what I told the officer" said the boss. The employee had just finished work for the day so I walked with him to his car and the boss followed on. On reaching the vehicle I asked the man to open the boot and surprise, surprise, inside were four sacks of animal feed stuff, he was dismissed and arrested on the spot.

On the following Monday I had a tip off that tons of feed stuff had been diverted whilst on its way from mills in London and had been taken to a pig farm in the County .

When I informed Ivan 'Speedy' Webber of this he warned me that the man in question was a 'right one' but agreed to go out to the farm with me that night. It was mid winter, around January time, and on our arrival the reception we received was rather hostile. The farmer told us in no uncertain terms that he could prove where all the food stuff had come from, but wouldn't actually tell us. It was his farm, he wanted us to 'Foxtrot Oscar' & although there were two of us and only one of him he could take the necessary steps to make sure we did exactly that.

He disappeared leaving Speedy and I using our torches to search the barns where we found that all the feed bins were full and overflowing. We also found piles of burned paper sacks still warm and were able to sort through them for labels to tell where they had originated.

Suddenly a voice boomed out behind us, "I have asked you to leave, this is your last warning". There stood the farmer with his Alsatian dog on a length of rope and a 12 bore gun levelled at us.

Ivan said quietly, "Better play this cool mate." We walked back to our car with the farmer following. Another car went by on the road & I saw my chance. I took off like a rocket expecting a parting shot to sting my buttocks, but it never came, thanks be.

Eventually all offenders were brought to book, he of the handle bar moustache was indignant but continued to fly his Yellow Tiger Moth around, as for Speedy and I, well we simply breathed a sigh of relief.

The original thief was fined £12 on each charge but at the same court an American pastor who by instinct had pulled to the right instead of left in Regent Street causing a slight damage only accident was fined £20.

John Peters

Motion to National Conference

In full below our motion

INJURY ON DUTY

MOTION No 4

Cambridge Branch Eastern Region

That the future actions of NARPO nationally, in relation to Police Injury on Duty Pensions, should now be consolidated in a common cause driven by a single national strategy, formulated by consultation with the central NARPO Executive, in support of every branch across the country and with the sole objective of achieving a common standard of 'best practice' acceptable to everyone affected. The strategy should include an element of research to collate and compare the methods and interpretations of every force and police authority regarding IOD pension reviews, and be committed to ensuring that the significant changes proposed in HOC 46/2004 Annex C (namely age related reductions at Compulsory Retirement Age and State Retirement Age) are not applied retrospectively to anyone who was in receipt of an IOD pension prior to its creation.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: The Cambridge Branch having explored all avenues in securing an agreement acceptable by all parties, have now come up against a 'brick wall' with a Chief Constable and Chairman of the Police Authority totally intransigent. It is felt that a positive step should now be taken by the NEC Executive and approach the situation from a national perspective. We believe a wholehearted commitment by NARPO on a nationwide scale would ensure maximum support for all affected members and provide a uniform assessment of the situation across the country.

We believe a positive vote for such a policy will result in a fairer situation across the country and ensure no-one is discriminated against simply by reason of where they chose to serve, as is currently.

Peterborough

Socials

Sunday Lunch

at the

Farmers Carvery & Grill

12-30pm for 1pm

Sunday 15th November 2009

200, Broadway, Yaxley,

Peterborough, PE7 3NT

Carvery, dessert & coffee £13.50 each

Alternative menu vegetarian etc available on request

Bar, raffle, our own 1st floor area,

Christmas Social Special

12 noon Saturday 5th December

British Legion Club,

Yaxley

Forward cheques, names of those attending and alternative menu requests 5 days before event to:-

Alan Paul,

19 Queens Walk, Fletton,

Peterborough, PE2 9AN.

Tel: 01 email

alanpaul19@tiscali.co.uk

We've got mail:

Dear Sam

It was very nice to see you and Pearl on the walks again. I trust you are not suffering too much because of it. I mentioned about writing a short note about Sid Milne, although he is not a member of Narpo, he is well known by the old Cambs. County force. Sid, aged 85 yrs, continues to live in Burwell. He retired as the Soham Section Sergeant in November 1972, when I took over from him. Although he lives in Burwell I only occasionally see him around, but last week I drove the Day Centre bus, taking home the elderly people after a day at the Centre. Sid was on the bus, he was walking with a stick and needed help.

He told me that about five weeks ago he had fallen down in the street, cut his head badly and sustained some other injuries, which necessitated a two week stay in Addenbrookes Hospital. He is making a slow recovery. He continues to live independently in the village and sends his regards to all his former colleagues. I don't suppose its unique, Sam, but to have two retired Sergeants living in the same village both of whom were responsible for policing the same area, may be a bit unusual.

God bless

Willy Hurrell

Thanks for keeping us up to date with Sid I am sure that many of our members will have known him. Might be a time to ask our members to send us snippets of information like this when they meet old friends.. Just a mention or a word from friends and colleagues can give a person a lift they need to progress. Clearly Sid has had a few problems recently and a cheery word or two has no doubt brightened his days

Hi Sam

Just a line to show my support for Vic's articles. A number of members obviously don't agree with his points of view, which I'm sure Vic is counting on. Don't forget whilst we are all retired Police officers there are different generations within the organisation. The newsletter is a credit to you and the branch but I think Vic is making the point it has got a bit 'cosy'.

Whilst I appreciate you have to be P.C. Sam we are all 'under the wire now' Vic is telling it how it was and still is.

Hope you and your family are well mate.

Jim Smith

You have hit the nail 'bang' on the head Jim it really is time for our younger members to come on board. Glad to know you are still around I hope all is well with you.



Golf

Due to operational commitments the Force Golfing Society are having difficulties fielding full teams for their matches and are interested in hearing from retired members who might be able to help them make up the teams. If you would like to play in these matches please contact Maurice Murden on tel. 01223871456 or email

mauricepearl@aol.com

Email: I have noticed recently that a number of our more senior members are getting on line. If you have an email address and have not notified us please do so now or if you have not heard from us for a while please let me know at:

cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com

Meldrew

Election results:

4 for 1 against



Tiger Blythe, I have only ever called him that because that sums up the 'workaholic' who took me on some exciting trips into the crime world of second and third division villains of the Cambs district. I am grateful for those sorties and for the 'backup' words he sent in the last months NARPO. I have dined out on some of Tiger's detection exploits on my travels and young Germans, Dutch, Slovak, Irish and Scots etc may well have thought me a 'stranger to the truth' but 'strike me dead' they were all kosher.

(At this point like the long gone traveller informant I fall to the ground, lie on my back, legs outstretched and arms crossed over chest in the true Romany fashion) For some reason that guy was called 'Paint-crack'. Remember him lads?

Any how - 'Tiger - a true legendary thief taker you were but my endearing story is of your prowess as a 'Hedgerow carpenter' when I 'scored' many 'turf and surf' curries of elephant and lobster No.35's in the Andaman and Nicobar Island's version of Kisby's Hut.

It goes like this:

Tiger buys a terraced house in Little Shelford and because of slight damp proof course problems has the concrete floors asphalted. On completion it is found that the new screed fouls the underside of the doors by a fraction. Obviously the doors need reducing to allow free movement.

Enter Shelfords' beloved sergeant Georgie

Jones who warily offers the use of his smoothing plane. George asks Dave to be careful of nails and screws when using said plane.

"Roger" came the reply.

Some time later the tool was returned looking more like a Diston saw with a jagged blade edge. Georgie was not happy and 'boned' Tiger about it. It seemed that the screws holding the door were rusted and had many coats of paint over them so after much thought Tiger saw a way out of the problem.

"I couldn't get the doors off Sarge so I planed the asphalt.....Sorry"

Now that house sold for a big nice lot when Tiger moved on so it couldn't have been too bad could it?

Did you ever get 'squared up' George?

Forget the man with the golf clubs, there is only one 'Tiger' and I really enjoyed the 'round' I had with him. Nice one Dave!

Vic Phillips

Ps: re the Alan Dobson story of grass seed Bas B's seed came to Foxton and 'tis true our goal mouths bore lettuce after one week. Cheers *Vic*

I wish you would stop falling to the ground with your legs outstretched and arms crossed over. For a minute there I thought you were dead. However the Narpo nation has voted, you got 4 votes for your column and one against. That is a turn out figure of 0.5% amongst our membership. I think you are even less popular than me so at least I should congratulate you on that.

I don't believe it!

Duck handler!

A quacking story



Some time in 1978 or thereabouts, I can't remember the precise date, but that day I was in my Panda car patrolling round one of my villages. To be honest I was after a "druggie" who I could never seem to catch (another story line there!!). Anyway, I parked my car out of view and walked 100 yards down the road to keep a look-out. I didn't see the "druggie" but as I stood there amongst some trees that morning around 9am I saw a man struggling out of a garden carrying a tent over his shoulder.

I didn't bother with him for a while, I was smoking my roll-up and didn't really want to be disturbed, but as I continued to watch him I noticed he was wearing slippers. Not much in itself but in that area fellows simply did not do that sort of thing. I finished my "ciggie" and feeling a bit sorry for him popped out of the trees and said, "wotcha - can I help"? "I'm going home", he said, "no problems".

I thought this was all a bit strange so I said "Do you want some help from the fellow who lives in this house then?" Well he dropped himself in it up to his neck "I'm not sure who lives there and anyway nobody's at home", he said.

I had no option but to arrest him on suspicion of theft, handcuffed him to the big tent he was carrying and walked him to my car, a hundred yards up the road.

I let him put the tent in the boot of the panda and then took the handcuffs off him telling him I was going to search his home which I had discovered was nearby. When

I arrived at his house I went in and found that it was it was full of "gear" - tents, clocks - even an anchor!!!! To cut a long story short, he admitted that everything in the house was stolen, even a duck that was running around loose!!!! I couldn't believe it.

While he stood there having a smoke he told me roughly where he had 'pinched' the duck from - apparently from a garden just up the road. After a while I rolled him another cigarette, handcuffed him to the kitchen, caught the duck, found a length of string and put it round the duck's neck and leaving the guy handcuffed in the house went to the area that he had described from where he had stolen the duck.

I did this by car of course!

When I arrived I retrieved the duck from the back seat, still with the long piece of string round its neck and walked it like a dog along the street. It waddled off with me in tow and when it got to a certain house dived down the garden path. I followed like a dog handler.

The occupier appeared and couldn't believe his eyes. A copper in full uniform being led down his garden path by a duck that he recognized as his long lost "Johnny-boy".

The duck had been stolen from his back garden 6 months previously along with an anchor and some tools.

It obviously recognized its home.

I gave him back his bird, filled out a crime complaint, went back to my prisoner and took him to the 'nick'. He was a kleptomaniac and admitted hanging round the village for over a year in broad daylight, just helping himself to clocks, cufflinks and other

bits and pieces. He admitted going into garages next to houses, entering lofts and even getting away with a small kayak and tents by just walking off with them.

I ask him where the owners were whilst all this was going on and he replied, "Usually they were gardening". It was strange but not one person in the village had reported the thefts.

I called Vic Philips in to help me and we got all the stolen goods out and set about finding owners. Vic didn't bat an eyelid when I told him how it began.

Thanks for your help again Vic.

To put it into an old "cops" language, I detailed 20 burglaries and about 150 thefts over a one year period. So standing amongst trees in the day time, having a "ciggie" and just watching can bring results even though it may not be too "P.C."

Yours

Tiger Blythe

P.S. I never told anyone about that duck! I put it down as a T.I.C. - Even Tiger has his limits.

Now look what you've done Vic. I've got two of you at it now....

Can you help the Badger?

Hi Sam

Don't know if you can answer this for me, or will it have to go to the wider NARPO audience in the next magazine. A collector friend of mine has purchased a current style helmet plate with a dark blue enamel ring, he was told at the time of purchase that it was issued to members of the Honour Guard on the Queens Jubilee visit. I have never seen this plate before and have checked a few photos taken during her visit and all officers in the photos are wearing the standard chrome plate. I was told when I had some plates made for the IPA with light blue enamel that the sports club had made something similar at one time wondering if this is one of those, I am sure someone in NARPO will know. I am still looking for the Hunts QC helmet plate and hat badge along with anything else Cambs related that members would like to donate or dispose of. Best wishes.

Alan Cunnington

<http://www.thebadger.free-online.co.uk>

A spot of sea fishing



The photograph above was sent in by Marion Brown daughter of the late Harry Perrin. Perhaps some of our Peterborough boys will be able to name a few people in the picture. If you can, and can tell us a bit about the trip we would be please to publish it in the next newsletter.

Paddling....

***Yes, I did say
'Paddling' in the
sea.***

*The late Harry Perrin
(right) & Len Trevor at
Felixstowe 1962 there's
nothing like the seaside.*



Did you know my Dad:

David Victor **WATSON** collar number 320 who served during the 1970's in Mid Anglia & Cambridgeshire and died in 2005. He lived in a police house in New Road, St Ives around 1970 and later in the original police house in Papworth Everard. I am his daughter now living in America and I am desperate to locate any photographs of dad at the training school he attended. Possibly Eynesham Hall.

If you knew dad please contact me via Bob Wordsworth with any information you have and in particular if you have any photographs of him especially at training school. Contact Bob Wordsworth on Tel: 01353741295 or email him at: robertwordsworth@hotmail.com or simply contact cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com



Golden Wedding

Belated congratulations to David and Daphne Bacon who celebrated their Golden Wedding earlier this year.

David is a life member of Narpo having served for many years on the Cambridge Branch and for a short while on the new Cambridgeshire branch.

Best wishes to you both may you have many more years of happiness together. From all your friends in the Cambridge-shire branch.

Living abroad - the cash exchange.

By Roger Bates

Dear all,

As you can imagine the effect of the withdrawal of the TAPS system would have an effect on the value of the pension received by us living abroad to quite an extent, but then I chose to live here.

I have, since I sent my e-mail, been trawling the internet and visiting banks over here in Spain to try and find a solution.

At present my pension is transferred via TAPS (Transcontinental Automated Payment Service) at the RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland) with the deduction of £5 for charges to my CAM Bank in Spain www.cam.es. There are no receiving charges for "pensions" received.

The new system I have looked at deals with the CAM bank in Spain and their new branch now opened in London. It entails having my pension paid into my sterling account in the UK and a direct debit once a month for the pension sum to be made to CAM Bank UK. There are 4 dates in the month when these transactions can take place. I have opted for the 7th of the month as this is the nearest date after the pension payment is made. They in turn transfer the monies to my CAM Bank in Spain at no cost and no receiving costs at my local Branch here in Spain.

So, what's the catch? Obviously it's in the exchange rate offered when changing currency and that's applicable to both systems and the dates of transfer.

Whilst I cannot obtain the actual date RBS made the exchange on my latest pension payment, I went on the assumption it was

on the day before my monies were received in my CAM Bank.

Taking into account the £5 fee charged by RBS and their rate being 0.002% less than CAM, I would have still received some £7 more in my pay packet via CAM.

I am therefore going to give CAM bank a go, I can always opt out later.

I have the UK details available if wanted and I will update on my first transaction in January if required.

Contact details of Jim at Cam Bank.

Jim Lorimer

London Representative Office

13 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4QU

Tel: +44 (0)20 7484 1500, Direct:+44 (0)20 7484 1506, Fax: +44 (0)20 7839 2332

CAM: 40613

jlorimer@cam.es

CAM - Caja Mediterráneo

In another vein I was wondering if there was any merit in looking at those caravan/motor home users within NARPO who when travelling in the UK or Europe often find themselves at a loss for some secure accommodation for an overnight stay.

I noticed the last Narpo magazine had mention of these such caravans and several services were advertised aimed at the same, there must be a market out there amongst members.

I was wondering therefore, perhaps within the membership, if there were some who could offer such emergency accommodation for this NARPO travelling fraternity, (at a price), by having perhaps a database on the NARPO web site or branch web sites detailing members locations/telephone numbers etc?

Roger Bates

Isle of Ely members gather to remember 'Bill' Hills following his funeral.



Donald Brian Hills known to us all as 'Bill' joined the Isle of Ely Constabulary in October 1941 having served as a 'Chindit' during his World War II experiences. Bill was larger than life, a real character known & loved by many in the police force & the other organisations to which he belonged. He was the local president of the Burma Star Association and as such met Prince Charles on a number of occasions. He was devoted to his wife Olive who pre-deceased him by only a few months. She often said that the second thing that Bill did on his return from the war 'was to take off his

pack'. It always brought a smile to his face and he was very proud of that. What was the first thing he did I wonder? Above, in the picture, left to right John Wilson, Wilf Hurrell, Angela Wilson, Dawn Hurrell, Freda Read, Barbara Jarrod, Len Brooks and his wife in the chair, Diane Nelson, Cindy and Ralph Fechter, David Blake and Roy Baxter. Below is the URL of Bill's blog, well worth a peep.

<http://isle.cambsnarpo.org.uk/#home>

He leaves an extended family and will be missed.

Out and About

Whilst out and about a few days ago I met up with ex DC Val Taylor in Histon. She looked well, was quite cheery but had a little difficulty in walking due to back and leg problems.

Bill White

Ex police workshop manager at Cambridge has been in hospital recently and is not too well. His wife Barbara died in September this year. Many Southern Division members will remember him and wish him well.

Sunday lunch at the Meridian Golf Club - Toft

4th October 2009



On Sunday 4th October 2009 seventy three members and friends most of whom were at the more senior end of our membership race enjoyed a three course meal at the Meridian Golf Club at Toft.

I mention age because I sometimes think that our younger members don't actually eat anything or maybe they are afraid to eat out in public. Do they know which knife and fork to use, I ask myself?

The meal apparently was very good so I bet by now you younger members are getting quite hungry but its all too late the oldies got there first and ate the lot.

You young uns' really don't know what trouble you cause, I'll get it in the neck now for calling those that went to the Sunday lunch 'oldies'. I must redeem the situation by saying how young and beautiful they all looked even though they are 'oldies'.

It really would be nice to see a few people at our functions without grey hair and owning their own teeth. If you own a redheaded wife or a husband with hair please bring them along to a function, red and white go well together and the hair won't reflect quite so much light. Oh God, I'm going to get it in the neck for this.

A 'cough' before being 'grassed up'



Fourteen Campol Walkers were out again on Sunday 20th September 09 this time being lead by that intrepid duo Wilf and Dawn Hurrell. Fortunately for them the weather was absolutely glorious as they walked around Icklingham, Lackford and Cavenham in West Suffolk. It may have been fate that numbers were low due to holidays & other commitments by members as things were to go a little haywire.

In the main the walk went well with good time keeping until they reached Lackford Lakes where unfortunately Wilf experienced a 'hiatus'. This small 'blimp' resulted in an unplanned sight seeing tour on the wrong side of the lakes Wilf having lost his way. Thinking that no-one would notice he carried on in the assumption that he would eventually retrieve the situation but alas that was not to be and they all had to retrace their footsteps to locate the correct path. The walk eventually finished up at The Plough Pub, Icklingham.

Questioned about his error Wilf said, "The point of all this is that I would like to get my 'GP' in first, before being 'grassed up' by certain members. Bob Waters advised me that this would be the best approach before some members get their pencils sharpened or dust off their Olympia or Remington typewriters to write a letter highlighting their extra experiences. On the social side, if members of Narpo and their friends are looking for a good hostelry, I can recommend The Plough, The Street, Icklingham Tel: 01638 711770. Icklingham is situated on the A1101 road from Barton Mills towards Bury St Edmunds and the pub is almost the last building on the right on leaving the village, towards Bury St Edmunds. They have a most extensive menu, opening lunchtime and evenings, 7 days a week.

However, I would recommend that you book if you are going at Sunday lunch-time".

1952

MAY YOU FIND ALL THE HAPPINESS



YOU SEEK THIS CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas

Good Health &
Happiness for
the New year

2010

From

Your Chairman

and

Committee

The card above dated 1952 showing dad (Harry Perrin) and his police dog called (Bess or Pat - probably Pat) was taken on a pile of rubble at Westwood Airfield in Peterborough where the cops moved from Milton Street before and while Bridge Street was being built.

Although it looks as though dad and dog are doing their mountain rescue impersonation in fact they had just climbed a few feet up a pile of rubble. Inside the card there was a line drawing of a watchman of 1608 or something like that and it was signed from Margaret, Harry and Marion (*me when I was 18months old*).

Marion Brown nee Perrin



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