

# National Association of Retired Police Officers Cambridge Branch (017)

Hon. Secretary: Maurice Murden

Email – Cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com

## Winter Newsletter 2006

*Happy New Year to you all from your committee!*

### Editorial:

As I sit preparing this editorial at the end of the festive period, I must take this opportunity of thanking all those members who sent Christmas cards. The number appears to increase each year, and the kind remarks contained inside many of them is very rewarding, and I feel that I have been able to provide a reasonable service to the membership throughout the year. I hope you all had an enjoyable time, despite the festive weather arriving a little late. I hope you all have an enjoyable and healthy New Year.

Following a very expensive time of the year I must advise of some financial issues affecting you in the New Year. The good news is that your pension will be increased by 2.7% with effect from April 2006. The bad news is that the NARPO membership subscription will be increased to £15 from the 1st January 2006. I am sorry you were not advised in advance, but the circular notifying us of the change was not received until after the autumn newsletter had been circulated. The widow's subscription is increased to £2 from the same date following the decision made at the AGM of April 2005.

### The Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006 members are invited to a two course 'Sunday Lunch' at Bourn Golf Club. There will be a choice of meats and the cost of the two courses will be £11 per person. The Annual General Meeting will be held immediately after this lunchtime gathering. It is the first time we have attempted to hold our AGM on a Sunday. By doing so we hope to attract members to the lunch, hoping that they will stay on for the AGM and enjoy free tea and cakes afterwards. (See further details later in this newsletter). Before leaving this subject, I wish to announce that Sam Cliff has decided that he will not be seeking re election at the Annual General Meeting. Sam has undertaken some sterling work in producing the newsletter and in the last two years the work of social secretary. In addition to all this work, he has undertaken great deal of work with the branch database and other IT procedures relating to the branch administration. We are therefore looking for a member who would be keen to take on the role of social secretary, being supported by a small social sub committee. I will be very pleased to hear from anyone who is keen to take on this role.

In 2006 it looks as though the pension issue will still be one of the major political debates, and in April the new Police Pensions Regulations come into force. These regulations do not affect those serving and retired. The ill health and injury pension reviews still continue to create a great deal of debate at National level. As far as this force is concerned no firm policy has been forthcoming at the time of preparing this newsletter. The membership will be kept informed of the progress

as and when the decisions are made. If you are in receipt of either of this type of pension and would like further information please contact me regarding national and local progress. I will endeavour to assist. During October 2005 I had the opportunity of making my first visit to the Police Rehabilitation Centre at Goring on Thames, taking Colin Everett and his wife for a two-week stay. I was very impressed with the accommodation and facilities. During 2005 several applications have been received from our members and all have been successful in obtaining a place. The Centre is open to all retired officers and if space is available at the time of application, wives may accompany their husbands. If you have suffered a recent serious illness and you think the Centre would assist your recovery, do not hesitate to contact me.

Another year is almost upon us, and an important one for me as I qualify for the annual pensioners' outing and dinner, how the years fly by. It does not seem so long since I was enjoying that great team spirit at Parkside, and the public in southern Cambridgeshire was receiving a first class service from their Police Force. However we have to accept that in today's world things change very rapidly.

Before signing off, may I once again remind you of the Annual General Meeting at Bourn Golf Club on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2006, come and enjoy a good Sunday lunch, and get up to date with the local and national issues affecting police pensioners.

Once again my best wishes to you all for 2006, and may you all enjoy good health, to enable you to make the most of your retirement.

Finally remember we are here to help you, all it requires is a telephone call, e-mail or letter.

Happy New Year to you all.

*Maurice Murden*

### Widows Subscriptions:

Towards the end of 2005 a thorough check was made of our membership, and we discovered that several of our widowed members had not paid their subscriptions. It has been decided that if no subscription is received from a widow before the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006 then their names will automatically be deleted from the membership list and they will no longer receive our quarterly newsletter and National NARPO News.

### Making Payments & Payment Queries

If you have any queries about payment please telephone Colin Ward our Treasurer on telephone No. 01223262988 or write to him at 21 Brookside, Toft, Cambridge CB3 7RJ. If you have not paid your subscription and wish to continue with your membership please enclose a cheque made out to Cambridge NARPO for £2

#### Members deaths:

George **POTTER**, 83 years (former Inspector Cambridge City) collapsed and died on Christmas day.

Enid **TURNER** widow of the late John Henry Turner died in Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

Roy **COXON** former Sergeant Camb City - died in Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

Daisy **DAVIES** widow of the late Joe Davis, Isle of Ely died on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Philip **DANIELS** aged 75 years former Sergeant Isle of Ely died on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2005 after a long illness.

Norman **PIPE** aged 78 years former Inspector Hunts died on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Norman was a member of the Peterborough Branch but will be remembered by many of our members.

Winifred **WILSON** aged 93 years (Isle of Ely) died on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2005. She was the widow of Arthur William "Bill" Wilson former Traffic Inspector at March.

Harry **CRANFIELD** – 85 years  
Would you be kind enough to include in the next edition of the Newsletter the death of Harry Cranfield. Harry served more than 30 yrs in Cambs County Mid-Anglia and Cambridgeshire Special Constabulary, retiring with rank of Sergeant. He sadly passed away on the 8.10.05 following a long illness. He was aged 85 yrs old. Harry is particularly remembered with fondest memories for his service in Soham section and, latterly, football duties at Cambridge United. He was one of life's real characters. Many of our members will have come into contact with Harry and no doubt have some interesting stories to tell.

Regards

*Willy Hurrell*

*Retired Soham Section Regular Sergeant 1972/76*

*Letters of sympathy have been sent to relatives*

#### Hospital stays:

Since the last newsletter the following are known to have had stays in hospital: Les and Winifred Ladds, Ron Roberts, June Cox, Lilian Barnett and Colin Everett.. To all those mentioned above & anyone else who has been ill, we send our best wishes & hope that you all have a speedy recovery.

#### New Members:

The following persons have joined our branch since our last newsletter: David Sayward who worked mainly in and around Cambridge City and Adrian Barker CID and Headquarter now residing in Lancashire. Welcome to the branch we do hope that you will become active members and we hope to see you at some of our functions. Great to know that you have joined us!

#### Contacting us:

If you have an email address please contact us at: [Cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com](mailto:Cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com) we will put your name on our list to receive email circulations.

#### Adverts:

## New Venture

# Sunday Lunch

followed by the

## Annual General Meeting

at

### Bourn Golf Club

12.15pm for 1pm Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Sunday Lunch followed by the Annual General Meeting at 3pm - come for lunch - stay for the AGM - or just come to the AGM at 3pm. This is a new venture so why not come along & have your say or just stay for the free tea and cakes afterwards. Of course you may come to lunch and not stay for the AGM but we wish you would. We need new officers for the committee, a new social secretary, someone to help with the newsletter, someone to update our member's database and someone to represent our younger members - it could be you. Please come along and make it the best-attended AGM ever - show us that you care. If you want to come to lunch complete the form attached to this newsletter and return it to Sam Clift by 28<sup>h</sup> February 2006 - number of lunches available is limited so order quickly.

**Two course lunch plus coffee £11 per head - free tea and cakes after AGM.**

#### Golf:

#### Annual Children's Charity Golf Tournament:

The Annual Children's Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Bourn Golf Club on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2005. The event was organised by the Cambridge Police Golf Society, and 136 golfers enjoyed an excellent day, in superb weather conditions. The winner of the Clive Early Cup, donated by Terry Early in memory of his nephew was our Chairman David Blake, who scored 37 points in the Stableford competition for retired officers. Well done! David. It is over 40 years ago that this event began at the Gog and Magog Golf Club in Memory of Clive Early. Strange it may seem but both the branch secretary and chairman have now won the cup.

The event raised £4, 400 which has been donated to the Pediatric Day Care Unit and the Pediatric Special Day Care Unit at Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge.

### An Echo from our Past

In times of war serving Police Officers who were in the Reserve were recalled to the colours, others were conscripted into the armed Forces. This left their respective Force's with a serious loss of trained manpower. It was originally intended to research the men from the City and old Cambs County Force who lost their lives in either conflict, with an intention to have them placed on the Cambridgeshire Memorials website as an annex to the main memorials. But as is so often the case the net has widen to include all the Forces making up the present Constabulary.

In the process I have made a contact with a serving officer at HQ, who is pursuing a similar path, but for a different reason. With the support of the present ACC he wishes to see a board of commemoration installed at Police H.Q. so they may honour all the men from all five forces that today make up Cambridgeshire Constabulary on Remembrance Day each year. Until the last Remembrance Day only the men commemorated in the old Cambridge Borough Force were acknowledged. These boards are now on the stairway near the custody block at Parkside Police Station. However on the last Remembrance Day a short ceremony was held at Wisbech Police Station where two plaques are on display and it is intended this will be done every year.

In the old Cambridge County HQ I remember at least one Roll of Honour and this I recently located in the County Record Office. It covers World War 1 and it has been removed from its frame and has been damaged slightly. It is a very colourful document but fading slowly. Was there a Roll of Honour for World War 2 can anyone remember any details? There is no record in the archive or indexes from the current Force that one existed, unless you know different.

The old Cambs County lost three men in World War 1, PC's Ernest North, David Jaggard and Arthur Webb. One PC serving as a 2/Lt won a Military Cross and another as a Sgt the Military Medal. Arthur Webb's details were not correct, maybe the entry was made not knowing what happened to the officer, but it indicated he died in service, suggesting a non-combatative death when in fact he was killed in action in a different unit than the one listed on the Roll of Honour. I was indebted to Ernie Rusdale for sorting this out from his records.

In the case of the Peterborough Borough Force two men had their names carved onto a cupboard door in the Bridge Street Station, which had been mislaid. These were two PC's who were killed whilst flight crew of RAF bombers. The one officer who died in World War 1, PC Charles Head, was subject of a brass plaque recently found gathering dust in a storeroom at Bridge Street Police Station. This was re-dedicated at Police HQ on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005, when family members attended and was unveiled by the present Peterborough Commander Ch/Supt Paul Phillipson. I was invited to attend what was a moving ceremony of remembrance to the young 24-year-old PC. The plaque is now displayed in the foyer alongside the officers killed on duty.

In the Isle there were alleged to be boards at March somewhere, but our good friend Len Brooks says they never had any, but a list is held by himself and Bill Hills

which they have passed to me. This covers World War 2 and records PC George Clay (Sgt Grenadier Guards), PC George Lees (Lance Sgt Grenadier Guards) and PC John Simpson (Lt. Royal Mil Police).

In World War 1 the Isle lost Pc Ernest Peel who was a L/Cpl Kings Royal Rifle Corps, PC William John Cheney a L/Cpl Coldstream Guards and PC Albert McKanna - Maulkin. L/Cpl. in the Grenadier Guards.

In the case of the old Hunts Constabulary Dave Dodman directed me to the Rolls of Honour recorded in his excellent book on the History of Huntingdon County Police. Only PC George White, Sgt Grenadier Guards was killed in World War 1 and there were no losses in World War 2.

An even older conflict was the Boer War, whose men are recorded on the Cambridgeshire Memorials website, but it may prove impossible to identify if any were police officers, except for Hunts Police who had two officers called to the colours to fight in South Africa, PC 24 Joseph Beecham and PC 20 William Humphreys. It has been suggested that two officers were lost serving in the Korean War, can anyone say if this is correct.

I wish to make a request to all members with any knowledge of men who would be eligible to be commemorated. These are men who were serving Officers at the outbreak of conflict and were called up or conscripted. If you can tell a story about the men's service this would be historically valuable.

So far the response I have had via the NARPO network has been outstanding. If you have access to the internet may I suggest a visit to the Essex Police memorial website as an example of what can be done to honour men from the Police Service who fell fighting for their Country in all corners of the world.

*Tony Beeton*

Email [tonybeeton@hotmail.com](mailto:tonybeeton@hotmail.com)

Address 7 Burleigh Rd, St Ives, PE27 3DF.

PS. I have read through the holdings of Police Memorabilia in the possession of the County Record Office. There is very little to show for over a 750 years of combined existence of all the five Forces. The bulk of the material amounting to 668 items is held in the County Museum Store at Landbeach and there is a desire to disperse it to make way for archaeological material. A proposal is to be put forward to the Police Committee in 2006 to this effect. I did lodge an interest on the behalf of retired colleagues who like me have some interest in the past history of my old Force. Let me know if you have any thoughts on what could be done with the historical material although its eventual fate depends on the present Force.

PPS. The ACC's staff officer asked me if any list exists of officers who served in the Cambridge Borough Force. The enquiry came from a request to trace an Arthur Samuel Barrington Clarke who in 1902 indicated on his sons Birth Certificate his occupation as Police Detective and he lived at 57, Sturton St, Cambridge. Does anyone have knowledge of a nominal list of officers who served in the Borough or any ideas about this officer? His son went on to serve in the Essex Force retiring as an Inspector in 1953.

## 'D' Division C.I.D Re-union



Above: Don Harlock & David Blake feature in the main photograph whilst others are seen in inserts as follows: 1. John Konik, Dick Kelly 2. Ralph Fechter, Geoff Tuffs 3. Phil Readman, Bob Wordsworth 4. Robin Harvey 5. Bev Bennett, Sue Wiley (nee Overland) 6. Roy Howes 7. Left to right - Dawn Hurrell, Cindy Fechter, Sue Wiley, Mary Harlock, Janet Bennett, Veronica Blake.

### 'D' Division CID Re-union

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005 members of the former 'D' Division C.I.D held a re-union at the 'Stilton Cheese' a pub in the village of Stilton near to Peterborough. The guest of honour, Don Harlock, was the Detective Chief Inspector in 'D' Division for several years before it's demise and enjoyed the evening with fifteen other members who arrived from all over the county. Roy Howes took the trouble to travel all the way down from Scotland to be there. Unfortunately Ben Haylett couldn't attend but sent a very nice card to Don wishing him well. The atmosphere was heavy with nostalgia, many stories were told and Charlie Naan our Detective Chief Superintendent of that era was mentioned many times. It was an excellent evening and the mood amongst those present suggested that another such function should be held in 2006 but this time 'the wives' would have a similar function on the same evening but at a different venue! They could talk about their men to their hearts content and without anyone's dinner getting cold.

#### *David Blake*

*I realise David that I am just an old Traffic Officer – but "dinner getting cold" is not a good excuse, sorry but there is nothing we can do this time to save you from 'the wives'. I have heard of death by 'chocolate' but death by 'wives' – unimaginable! Sounds like a great evening though!*

### Letters

Maurice

Please note my change of address (Scotland) Liz decided it was time to go back home, which is all very well but it transpires I've got to re-qualify for the 'Faculty of Advocates' which is the Scottish equivalent of the English Bar. I don't have to do a full Scottish law degree, but I have to sit their 'aptitude test', which looks suspiciously like a law degree to me. That having been said, after practising for 2 years at the Criminal Bar in London, it's nice to get out of the 'rat race', although I do miss the hurly burly of the courts. I've signed up for some courses at Edinburgh University, as a visiting academic, but it's very odd being an undergraduate again, particularly sitting in the middle of those keen young minds. I hope everything is well with you. We were sorry to hear about John Christopher's

wife, please send our condolence when next you see him. Regards

*James Boyle*

*Thanks for this letter James always nice to keep up with folk. If you would like to contact James please do so via Cambs Narp.*

### Autumn Photographic Competition

The winner of the Autumn Newsletter photographic competition was Colin Everett.

He correctly identified that the photo was taken outside the small office at the top of the steps near the skip pan at Chelmsford Police H. Q. He has requested that his prize of £10 be donated to the Force Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

Thank you Colin for the kind gesture.

### Colin who?:

An excerpt from an article by Michael Jeacock seen in the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005 edition of the Town Crier:

The following episodes happened in the past fortnight  
Act 1: A quiet market town, late afternoon. An elderly bloke (me) saunters along happy as Larry. Close by, a woman screams. People rush from nearby shops. Round the corner the screaming woman lies on the pavement clutching her stomach. Blood seeps down her left leg through a jagged hole in her trousers. She shouts, "I've been stabbed. It hurts. It hurts". Nearby a burly young man clutches his shoulder. He too is bleeding heavily. Bewildered, he says, "I only tried to stop him and he stabbed me". Their attacker has fled. Ambulance and Police arrive, lights flashing. This is the heart of Newmarket on a quiet October afternoon. I think – what a terrible world we live in.

Act two: Five days later the same elderly bloke walks into a bookies shop a hundred yards from where the attack took place. A deep voice says: "Well if it isn't that old so-and-so Jeacock". It's a friend of many years. We shake hands and back the same horse – a certainty – it loses and we both laugh. My old chum can well afford to laugh at life's little disasters for he is Colin Everett, retired policeman, of Little Wilbraham near Cambridge. Exactly twelve and a half years ago Colin Everett phones me, his voice little more than a whisper. His heart is finished he is dying. Would I say a few words at his funeral? Then the miracle-workers of Papworth give him a heart transplant. Twelve and a half years ago! As we part I think what a wonderful world we live in.

### Mobile Columns:

Dear Maurice

I think you might be interested in the following items. During the summer of 1965 at the height of the 'cold war' and with the possibility of an atomic attack from the Soviet Union, the Government decided on an emergency procedure. They set up 'mobile columns', these units would be used as a means of setting local seats of local government in undamaged areas of the country after atomic attack.

The column consisted of approximately 140 police officers of various ranks gathered together from a number of forces. As I recall in the Eastern Region they came from the Metropolitan Police district, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Bedfordshire. A Chief Superintendent from Bedfordshire commanded them but I have forgotten his name.

Each column comprised of a number of Ford five-ton closed trucks and each truck contained 12 constables under the command of a Sergeant. I was fortunate enough to be one of the Sergeants. Other trucks were equipped as bakery units, engineering units, catering units and so on. The column also had a number of motorcycle outriders equipped with Triumph twin motorcycles; I think these all came from the Met. It was based at RAF Debden and operated all over East Anglia. The columns were formed in 1965 and at that time there was civil disturbances along the East Coast mainly caused by scooter and motorcycle gangs; we



*Eric standing by one of the trucks*

were used to police these areas. We also became involved in exercises with the local Civil Defense Organisations. One in particular I remember was in Norwich where we were based on a city bombsite.



*Eric & some of his crew by one of the closed vehicles*

I also recall that we did an express run from the Surry Docks in the East End of London to a destination near Epping supposedly carrying a large consignment of gold that had arrived by ship from the continent. We did a twenty-two miles run in twenty-five minutes. This was an average speed of almost 60mph. Officers were dropped off along the route to man junctions and cross roads ahead of the main column. The column was able to speed through without stopping and the officers were picked up by another truck following the column at a much slower pace. You will have to excuse my typing its some years since I sat down at a typewriter also find enclosed a number of photographs taken during exercises on these columns.

Best regards

*Eric Brown Ex Psl1*

*Thank you very much for your letter and photographs Eric I wonder if you can name the officer on the right in the picture it looks very much like John Wilson from the Isle.*

### Sidney Street 'Point':

Dear Maurice

Thank you for once again producing such an excellent newsletter as the Autumn 2005 edition. Perhaps I could tell a silly little story that you might like to put in the newsletter. It relates to the time when we carried out point duty outside what was then Sainsbury's in Sidney Street. This was a busy 'T' junction in the middle of Cambridge and policemen spent many hours there directing traffic. When the Traffic Wardens first came along Senior Officers decided that they could take over from Policemen at this 'point' to do traffic duty as this would free the officers for other more pressing duties. Dick (Taters) Moore and I were given one week to train about twenty traffic wardens in the art of Traffic Direction. We had to cover the 'point' from 8am to 6pm so we trained two wardens in the morning and two in the afternoon. This worked out well as we had trained them all in five days. Traffic duty at this junction was a busy job but not particularly difficult as two of the three roads approaching the junction were one-way streets. The wardens, all except one, learned very quickly, but even after a double session of training this particular warden didn't get the hang of traffic direction. We always told the trainees to give priority to emergency vehicles and reminded them that the large busses needed a little more time than cars to stop because of their weight and size.

To get back to the police station for our meal breaks we would jump onto either a number 101 or 106 bus and get a free ride there. On this particular day Dick Moore had been in for his lunch and had returned to relieve me for mine. I saw a No.101 bus approaching us along Market Street and 'our difficult to teach warden' hold up his hand to stop it. I walk out into the road and took hold of the handrail to jump on board just as 'tricky traffic warden' realised that the bus was more difficult to stop than cars, changed his mind and waved it on. The bus took off with an acceleration that I could not believe, so much so that I dare not leave go of the handrail. At this time I was bouncing along behind the bus taking great big strides of what seemed like ten metres or more and was more or less flailing out of the back like a flag. Fortunately when the bus negotiated the Lloyds Bank corner the centrifugal force threw me into the bus. People onboard the bus and passers by in the street were aghast to see this fully uniformed Policeman performing such daring circus acrobatics on the back of a bus. Dick Moore just stood there, hands on hips roaring with laughter. We certainly had some fun in those days.

*John Peters*

*Thank you for your letter John and this amusing little episode sorry that we could not publish it all but we are a little pressed for space this time.*

### More on Cyril Hurry:

Hi Sam,

I did actually email with an update on dad a few months ago. Unfortunately, he suffered a couple of strokes which have resulted in vascular dementia so his memory for most things is not good and he is not

able to make much sense of the newsletter himself so I read him the bits that I think he will find interesting or amusing. Following his recent move to a home with better staffing levels and more activities he has brightened up a lot and apparently has begun chatting to the staff about his time in the police force. He has recently had his 83rd birthday and remains generally in good physical health. I did ask in my previous email if dad's claim that during his years with the force both as an officer and a civilian he never once submitted a sick note could be verified as true and if so is it some sort of a record. What do you think?

*Maureen Young*

*Hi Maureen - thanks for keeping us updated about your father he was very well known and respected throughout the force and many of our members will like to hear about him. Sorry to hear that he is not so good but we do send him and you our very best wishes for 2006. Below is the answer I got from HQ when I asked about his sickness record.*

*Hi Sam*

*Sorry no can do re Cyril's sickness record, too much time has lapsed. I have spoken to Mick Dean who worked with him for a time at HQ and he tells me that not only did Cyril never go sick, he rarely ever went home, being an absolute workaholic! The general consensus is he had a very good if not perfect sickness record, but no records exist to verify this. Regards*

*Bob Wordsworth*

### Well I believe it!

I just happened to be talking to a friend the other day when he told me a little story that I thought was quite amusing. When he was working as a prison officer some good few years ago a prison employee who was himself a retired prison officer and who once looked after Ronnie Biggs called him over. He said, "Have you heard that Ronnie Biggs has been arrested and is about to be brought back to England". My friend had seen all the newspapers and was well aware that Ronnie had been tracked down abroad and efforts were being made to bring him back home, so he replied, "Yes of course". The employee took my friend by the arm and led him over to a cupboard in the prison. He opened the door and pulled out a mailbag. He said, "Look here, this is the unfinished mailbag that Ronnie was working on just before he escaped. I have kept it since he went over the wall and when I retired I put it in this cupboard. When Ronnie gets back I am determined that he will finish it". Due to red tape, Ronnie was not brought back on that occasion and the bag remained in the cupboard for a few more years. Unfortunately the employee died whilst working at the prison but kept the mailbag just waiting for Ronnie to return. When Ronnie did eventually get back to good old 'blighty' of course he was too ill to finish the bag. So, the moral of the story is, if you ever come across an unfinished mailbag, it could just be the one that Ronnie Biggs nearly made. D.N.A will prove it!

*Check the cupboards chaps - there could be some unfinished business in there!*

## Thanks a bunch!

It's now exactly seven years since I began producing this newsletter with lots of help from 'Uncle Maurice'. During that time I have tried to make it as interesting and communicative as possible giving as much news about our members as I could. I must say that I have had a lot of help from members who have written in with interesting stories. Maurice has been producing a newsletter for more than 18 years and has helped me enormously, so I must thank him for letting me 'muscle in' on his territory. Not everything we have written has pleased our members and some of our humour has fallen flat but in the main our little newsletter has been well received. The photographs that I have reproduced have been appalling but I did my best with the tools at my disposal and those poor photographs have been one of the trademarks of this newsletter over those last seven years. I would like to say a special thanks to Len Brooks for all the contributions that I, and many others, have found most amusing and thank everyone else who has had some input.

I believe that it is now time for change, time to inject a new vitality into the newsletter and move it forward so I have decided not to continue as a committee member. I feel that I cannot commit myself to another three years of work, it is more than I now want to do and it will give some-one else a chance to write the news.

I have thoroughly enjoyed writing a lot of 'old squit' so thank you for allowing me to entertain, inform or even aggravate you with my version of this newsletter. I am sure that it will continue with a new vigour and I look forward to the next editions and wish both Maurice and his new 'little helper', who ever it may be, every success for the future.

*Sam Clift*

## Eddie Chapman alias Zig Zag

Dear Maurice

I enclose a cutting from the Telegraph, which appeared some years ago, I would guess about 1999. It reports the death of the double agent Eddie Chapman alias "Zig Zag". When you read it particularly the paragraph that I have ringed in biro you will see that it may be of interest to our members, although it is rather unlikely that any survivors from the period heard anything about it, at least not until many years later. When the report appeared in the Telegraph I obtained a second copy for ex Superintendent Leach who was at the time in a Cambridge nursing home. His daughter Margaret told me that it caused a great deal of interest. I should like to have the cutting back please when you have read it. As it is far too long to put in the Newsletter I have tried to put the more important parts into a report of the happenings of that June night in 1944.

### **Wartime Double Agent – Eddie Chapman alias 'Zig Zag' – report**

I may be one of the only few around who remembers the return of this man to England in circumstance of great secrecy. In June 1944, my late husband then Pc Ernie Hillier and I were stationed at Linton with the then Sergeant Bert Leach. Early one morning we were awakened by the Sergeant, who had received a mysterious phone call from Chapman who had been



Eddie Chapman alias Zig Zag

parachuted onto the main road at Six Mile Bottom by the Germans and who now required picking up and conveying to the 'powers that be'. Naturally Sergeant Leach found this all a bit 'dodgy' but he and Ernie set forth, found Chapman and conveyed him to Castle Hill, where he was detained until collected by (presumably) officers from the Secret Service (MI 5). Everyone involved was sworn to silence under the Official Secrets Act and threatened with all manner of penalties if in breach of it. A film was made about Chapman's adventures showing how he worked for Germany and England in a most ingenious manner. Christopher Plummer played the lead part; I watched the film on TV a couple of years ago and thought Christopher far too suave and gentlemanly to play the double agent. Chapman was something of a 'spiv', a boastful lady-killer and a convicted safe cracker. His life in espionage is almost incredible. Although far from being an admirable character he must have been very courageous, even though prompted by the prospect of the money that he got from both sides. On his final return to England he could not keep quiet about his newfound wealth and MI 5 had to dispense with him. I should add that his landing at Six Mile Bottom was his second return to England. Sometime before, his German handlers had dropped him near Wisbech, where his call to Wisbech Police Station was met with a similar doubtful reaction to that of Sergeant Leach.

*Marjory Hillier*

*Thank you Marjorie for this lovely story and may I congratulate you on the way you have told it and your hand writing – excellent.*

*Quoted from the telegraph:*

*Chapman was now given a series of briefings on Abwehr operations. Before being sent back to Britain he was awarded the Iron Cross. He was then dropped onto the main road at Six Mile Bottom, Cambridgeshire in the early hours of June 27 1944. When he reported to the nearest Police Station and told his story the duty officer replied, "Don't be silly. Go to bed." Chapman's response was, "That's exactly what they told me last time. Ring up your station in Wisbech – they will remember me from then".*

### More letters:

Hello Maurice,

It is a good many years since I contacted you, so it is about time that I made the effort. Firstly, may I say how much I enjoy your quarterly newsletter, but it is sad to see the passing of so many old friends and colleagues. Although I believe that I have the dubious distinction of being the only Traffic motorcyclist to retire whilst still so engaged, I do not ride now. A couple of minor strokes in 2002 left me with impaired vision in my left eye, so I thought it wise to call it a day. Some of the happiest times - of my service were spent bowling along the A11 on Tango 531 I have my other hobbies to keep me occupied. I still shoot, but have given up game shooting, and concentrate on my rifles. As a Member of the Range Officers Association, I have access to Thetford Range, and to the military ranges on the Stanta Military Training grounds. Keeps me out of mischief twice a month! Time goes by so quickly. I have been retired for more than 27 years now, and it all seems like yesterday. My two eldest offspring are now grandparents, in their own right, and my youngest daughter, her husband and children emigrated to New Zealand in 2003. Keeps me busy on emails. Well, that is about all my news. Best wishes to you and all old friends from Pat and from me.

*Jim Robertson*

*What a lovely surprise this letter was Jim, nice to know that you are still enjoying life after your two minor strokes and thanks for writing in. Sorry to hear that you no longer ride a motorbike, you didn't mention your pipe I suspect that you use less 'baccy' now the wind doesn't blow it out. Best wishes to you and Pat from all your friends in Cambridge Narpo...Happy New Year. By the way Jim we don't have your email address - please drop a line to [cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com](mailto:cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com)*

Dear Maurice,

I was sorry to hear in the last newsletter of the death of ex-Detective Sergeant Chris 'Stopher' Brown. Apart from organising all C.I.D. social events, he was the finest 'mumper' of free meals and drinks in the job! I remember whilst he was in C.I.D. going with him and, I think, Ian Negus to the Turks Head Restaurant in Trinity Street. Stopher, as was his usual practice, 'mumped' a steak plus wine for us all. When the waiter brought the wine, Chris tasted it and demanded another one as it was off! However, for me the classic has to be the day we were on 4pm to 2 midnight. It was during the 'Rape' days and I had not been long in C.I.D. As was quite normal in those good old days, we called in at the 'Cricketers' pub behind the Station for a pint. When we arrived the pub was, as usual, full of C.I.D. officers and the occasional local. I stood talking to Ian Negus when he said "Look at 'Stopher'; he's got his eye on that chap at the end of the bar. You watch, he's going to have him". Standing at the bar was a short, dark-haired man. Sure enough, after a few minutes talking to the man Chris looked across at me nodded for me to get the car, which I did, and the man was bundled unceremoniously in the back. We drove to his flat in Maids Causeway where, upon entering, Chris started emptying the man's wardrobe, throwing

everything to the floor. All was fine until the man, whom I believe was Portuguese, said, "Mr Brown, I have not told you the truth". Now, those of you who knew 'Stopher' will sympathise with me when I say that, at this point I started to worry. However, the man went on - "I am not unemployed; I am the Head Butler at Selwyn College!" Well, I have never seen so many clothes put back on hangers, suits dusted and hung back in a wardrobe so quickly in all my life! Now the final masterstroke that made 'Stopher' stand out as the finest, was that he went on to 'mump' a superb dinner for himself and his wife at — yes, you guessed it — Selwyn College!

*Terry Edwards*

### Escape:

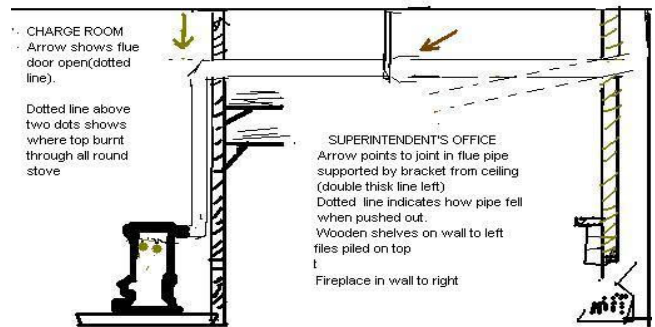
Forgive me if a few details cannot be remembered but these incidents occurred between 1<sup>st</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> May 1941 when I was a Cadet at Ely! One involves "Blowy" or 'Jack' A/Sgt G.H. Bloomfield, of fond memory. He was the Duty Sgt with one Pc in the charge room. The old Police Station where this incident occurred is now the Ely Court House. In my day, as well as housing the Police Station, it was also used for the weekly Magistrates Court & Quarter Sessions. Externally the building is much the same as it was in those days with one exception. Looking at it from the front, the square block on the end, which is the width of the veranda and juts out on to the pavement somewhat to the right of the main entrance, was the cellblock. The original cell windows of the outer two cells can still be seen in the wall above the pavement. There was no entry to the four cells from inside the Police Station the door to the cellblock opened directly onto the veranda. On opening the door one entered the cell passage, two cells on the left and two on the right all immediately opposite each other. It was the practise if there was more than one prisoner to put them in the cells furthest from the door. In this instance that was the case, one to the right the other left. To communicate with police officers prisoners had a bell push that once pressed sounded a bell inside the police station. The bell rang. Blowy took the large key (all the locks were massive Victorian types) to open the cell passage door, entered the cell passage, and went to the hatch of the cell whose occupant had demanded attention. The passage door slammed shut behind him and the key turned in the lock leaving him locked in the passage. The prisoners had gone. Eventually we learned how the deed was done. The locks were bolted through the very thick cell doors with the nuts on the inside and the prisoners had managed to remove them. However, they had further problems because the door was so thick that they could not push the bolts through it to release the lock. One of them had a belt with an 'S' hook type fastener, usually stamped out like a snake, I am sure you remember them. By swinging this belt across the cell passage they managed to hook it onto one of the locks and pull it off the door. Clearly this released one of them and he quickly released the other. Having done all this they carefully put the locks back on and closed the cell doors, reached through the hatch pressed the bell push and then hid in the open cells near to the entrance. Blowy heard the bell, entered the cellblock, went to the cell from where the bell had been rung, the

prisoners nipped out and locking him in, in the process. All Blowy could do was ring the bell for the Pc to come and let him out and of course this all took some little time. The prisoners in their stocking feet were well away by then. Very soon after that the outside doorway was bricked up and access to the cells made via the Sergeants Office. The cell locks were changed and orders given that prisoners were to be visited at such intervals of time that they could not repeat such a feat. These changes pleased us all as it meant that we did not have to go outside in any inclement weather condition.

**A smoke screen fit for a Destroyer.**

A serious attempt to burn down Ely Police Station occurred! Accidentally of course! A coke burning boiler down in the boiler room at the back of the building fed hot water through cast iron pipes all around the Police station, Magistrates Courtroom, Quarter Sessions Courtroom and other smaller rooms. Heavy columned radiators appeared now and again, the one in the charge room was far too small for its intended purpose, and a more inefficient system cannot be imagined. It may seem incomprehensible today but it was usual for maybe only two or rarely three officers to be on night duty. One of whom worked from 1am to 9am, For some reason this shift was called the 'Polly' shift, I believe connected to the fact that in those days, from 6am to 9am that officer's duty was to clean the place up, stoke the boiler, clean out the ash, rule up Telephone & Occurrence Books etc. On Monday and Friday mornings he was expected to scrub the charge room floor, he had to scrub the plain boards white. No fancy detergents in those days, hot water drawn from the boiler, a handful of soda, a block of Sunlight soap flaked with a penknife and elbow grease was all that was available. George Hutchings was "Polly" on this particular day and when Pc Herbert Goodenough the Divisional Clerk and I arrived at the Station we entered the Charge Room together and saw that the tortoise stove was red hot. George had got tired of being cold and had lit the stove even though he had been told that the chimney pipe, which went through the wall and across the top of the Superintendents Office into the chimneybreast on the other side of the room, was blocked. George had taken it upon himself to clear the alleged blockage. He stood on the Charge room table and jammed rags and a piece of wood into the flue and rammed it in with a length of steel water pipe. He had pushed the pipe in and jubilantly announced that he had 'felt the blockage clear' and now as a result of his efforts the fire was working well. He apologised to Herbert and told him that whatever had been blocking the chimney pipe must have fallen into the fireplace in the Superintendents office and might have made a mess. Herbert unlocked and opened the Superintendents Office door - a smoke screen worthy of any destroyer rolled out into the charge room. Herbert managed to grab a cloth soak it in water from a nearby washbasin and placed it over his face in an effort to enter the room. He made it to the window and opened it wide. George frantically raked out the fire and opened all the doors to allow the smoke to subside. Talk about Keystone cops – you can imagine!

You can see what had happened in the sketch below. George's 'flue brush' had caught the edge of the pipe in the joint just beyond the supporting bracket, centre ceiling, pushed it far enough along to allow it to fall down and fill the room with smoke.



On the wall opposite the fireplace were wooden shelves, which ran almost the length of the Office. These shelves were filled with files and papers that had been stored. Those immediately under the flue pipe and for a quite distance each side were all curled up, very charred and the wording in many was unreadable. They were very hot and we considered ourselves lucky that they had not burst into flames. Worse was to come when we had to clean the walls. They were all streaming with a light, oily, tarry film that took some 'shifting' I remember. Sunlight soap, soda and elbow grease again! Then there was the job of trying to salvage the files that included reports, warrants, summonses ready for service and enquiries from other Forces and the public and goodness knows what else. How were we going to tell the Superintendent, Freddie Wells, he usually appeared about 9.45am and time was pressing on? Herbert thought for a moment then made that all important phone call, "I don't think I would come in this morning if I were you Sir"...it is possible that the rest of the conversation is not repeatable... fortunately I have forgotten.

*Len Brooks*

**Signing off:**

To all of you that have read my little articles over the past few years let me thank you for taking the trouble to listen to my tales. From the feedback I have received some have enjoyed my tales whilst others will breath a sigh of relief when I say that the two tales above are the last I can recall. Someone suggested that one was a figment of my vivid imagination! Some thought that the occurrences were so close together that no police work could ever have been done. They all happened at odd moments between 1st May 1939 and 12th July 1971 and are all true. Many thanks to those who have told me they enjoyed my memories and to those who did not - please remember I did not force you to read them!

*Len Brooks*

*Thank you Len there is no question that many people have enjoyed your tales and you know as well as I that you cannot please all the people all the time. I really do thank you for all the help you have given and wish you all the very best for the future.*

# The Annual General Meeting and Sunday Lunch at Bourn Golf Club

12.15pm for 1pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Please complete this form and return it by **28<sup>th</sup> February** if you would like to attend the Sunday Lunch and Annual General meeting at Bourn Golf Club on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**Fill in your name and address:**

**Name:**.....

**Address:**.....

.....  
It is a roast lunch with a choice of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Salmon and Vegetarian at £11 per head and includes a sweet and coffee in that price. **A choice of six sweets and coffee will be offered on the day.**

**Tick the boxes below for everyone in your party if you require a meal or**

**Tick the box if you wish to attend the AGM but not the lunch.**

*Example:*

<i>Name:</i> Joan Smith				
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Pork</b>	<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>
	X			

1

<i>Name:</i>				
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Pork</b>	<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>

2

<i>Name:</i>				
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Pork</b>	<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>

3

<i>Name:</i>				
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Pork</b>	<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>

4

<i>Name:</i>				
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Pork</b>	<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>

**I will require tea and cakes for**  **persons after the AGM**

I enclose a cheque for £..... as total payment for Sunday Lunch/es at Bourn Golf Club on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006

.....Signature

**Return to: Sam Clift, 28 Redgate Road, Girton, Cambs CB3 0PP**

# National Association of Retired Police Officers Cambridge Branch (017)

Hon. Secretary: Maurice Murden

Email – Cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com

## Winter Newsletter 2006 - Extra

# SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN FROM YOUR SECRETARY

## PROPOSED AMALGAMATION CAMBRIDGE & PETERBOROUGH BRANCHES.

Prior to our branch committee meeting on the 16th January 2006, I received a communication from Lawrence Wright our regional representative on the National Executive Committee of NARPO, and the secretary of the Peterborough Branch, that serious consideration should be given to the amalgamation of the two branches.

He informed me that he was now a member of the Futures Sub-committee of the NEC and they were looking at various aspects of the future of NARPO. They included recruiting which is currently a national and local problem, welfare, and the reduction of the smaller branches around the country. It has been suggested that if branches corresponded to force areas, this may assist the present recruiting difficulty. I have to agree with this, as three times each year I attend pre retirement courses at Force Headquarters, and I am always asked the question, which branch should I join. A full explanation is given, in an effort to convince a retiring officer to join, but I am afraid the success rate is very low.

At the present time there are eleven branches in our region, the largest is Nottingham with 1919 members and the smallest Lowestoft with 133 members. The Cambridge branch is seventh with 445 members and Peterborough has 289. If the two branches amalgamated the total membership would equal 734, and would rank number six in the region.

The matter was brought to the attention of your committee at their meeting on the 16th January, and after much debate it was decided that the chairman, secretary and treasurer of each branch meet to discuss the full implications of the merger, and report back to their committees. Then a proposal could be placed before the Cambridge branch annual general meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

This meeting took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, and the general opinion was that a merger was the way forward. The items discussed included,

membership, financial situation, social activities, rules, structure of the committee and welfare, also the newsletter.

The results of that meeting were placed before a special committee meeting of the Cambridge branch held on the 15th February. A very lengthy debate took place, with several members concerned about the financial situation, especially with the Cambridge branch having the largest financial resources. Also the subject of social activities and welfare matters created a great deal of debate.

If the motion was carried at the annual general meeting a possible schedule of events leading to the merger would be for an extra ordinary annual general meeting to be held in September 2006. A new committee would be formed and the new branch would become operative with effect from the 1st January 2007 when the subscriptions are deducted from pension.

The first proposal put forward was that the committee recommend to the annual general meeting that the Cambridge branch amalgamate with the Peterborough branch.

Following the first proposal a further proposal was submitted which was as follows:

The Cambridge branch committee have considered the proposal from the Peterborough branch to amalgamate and have decided to defer the decision until a decision has been made about the amalgamation of the local forces by the Government.

The proposal, the recommendation to amalgamate was lost, 5 for 7 against, and the proposal to defer was carried 7 for 5 against.

At the branch annual general meeting on the 19th March, 2006, the situation will be fully explained to the members present, and the recommendation from the committee placed before the meeting.

The chairman and I appreciate the importance of this issue and realise that many of you unable to attend the annual general meeting may wish to express your own views. I will be pleased to hear from anyone before the 19th March

On a personal note, having regard to the recruiting problems and the future of the welfare of police pensioners, I am of the opinion that larger branches are necessary to provide a service the membership expect.

# Sunday Lunch

followed by the

## Annual General Meeting

at

### Bourn Golf Club

**12.15pm for 1pm Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

If you want to come to lunch contact Sam Clift on  
Tel: 01223575009 or email  
[Cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com](mailto:Cambsnarpo@ntlworld.com)  
by 28<sup>h</sup> February 2006

May I take this opportunity of reminding you that there are still some vacancies for the Sunday lunch and AGM at Bourn Golf Club

If you are available please try and make the effort to come along and express your views. The meeting will commence at 3 pm. If you can make it please contact Sam Clift, 28, Redgate Road, Girton,

Cambridge, CB3 OPP, telephone 01223 564808, as soon as possible.

If you would like further details before making your views known, do not hesitate to contact me.

Your committee consider this is a very important issue that you should all be made aware of and given the opportunity to express your views, therefore it was decided to circulate this special bulletin. I look forward to hearing your comments.

*Maurice Murden*  
Secretary

#### SOCIAL EVENT

Your committee have given a great deal of consideration to the annual dinner dance which has taken place for a number of years in November at the Milton Community Centre. It has been decided that this year the venue and format will change, and I wish to give you advance notice that the Dinner Dance will be held at Bourn Golf Club on Saturday 18th November, 2006, the meal will consist of a three course dinner and the music for dancing will be provided by ' Rich and Famous'. The cost will be £20 per head. Full details will appear in the next newsletter. Make a note in your diary.

*Maurice Murden*  
Secretary

---

If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting please let me know your views before the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Please contact me by phone, email or letter at the addresses shown on the newsletter heading:

Dear Maurice

My views are as follows.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Signature.....