

## Secretary's Report for AGM 2021

Well what a year I have to report upon. We have never seen one like it before and I sincerely hope that it is never ever repeated again. We were fortunate to hold our AGM on the 5th March last year just a week or so before the government imposed the first lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic on the March. Since then the virus had caused the suspension of all of our usual social events, but now that the vaccination programme is kicking in perhaps it may not be too long before we can all start to enjoy one another's company before too long. We currently have 538 members comprising 451 full members, 2 Associate members, 2 Life members, 72 Widows and widower members and 11 Additional members. These additional members are members of another branch who have also asked to join Bradford Branch as well, but they only subscribe to their main branch. This is a total increase of 13 over the last year. During this last year 25 of our former colleagues and widows have passed away, sadly some as a result of having contracted the covid disease, whilst we have recruited 34 new members, mainly due to the initiative mentioned at the last AGM where our pension provider XPS sent out letters regarding joining Napo to all those getting a police pension who had not previously joined us. I think we got about just over 20 new members after it was sent out comprising those having received the letter and newly retired officers. During this year your committee has remained stable with no resignations or additions and can I take this opportunity of thanking them all for their support and very hard work that they have put in during what can only be described as a very difficult year on behalf of the you, the Branch members. Your committee have during the year been able to meet via virtual zoom meetings, and certainly during the last 6 months have been meeting on a fortnightly basis so that we could deal with any pressing matter that may have arisen. At the start of the pandemic I identified just over 100 members who did not have an e mail address and who were not contactable via the group e mail system. Your committee between us rang every single one of them to establish that they were alright, had access to food and medication supplies and had some form of support from family or neighbours. Thankfully we did not find anyone who was needing help or assistance. We repeated this exercise again just before Christmas when the second lockdown was imposed. Both exercises were well worth while and all of us enjoyed talking with members we did not know, renewing old acquaintances and were able to 'swing the lamp' and reminisce about the old days. As previously mentioned no social events have been possible in the last 12 months, however the September Social evening and the Christmas Lunch have both been booked at the Bradford and Bingley Rugby Club and providing there are no set backs in the pathway out of lockdown that require government intervention, they will go ahead. We are currently looking at upgrading the pages that we have on the main Napo website. By adding additional pages, which will all be protected by a members only password, we will be able to upload and store

copies of our Newsletter present and past, details of committee meetings, social information and booking details, photographs and much more, all of which will be kept for posterity. Not everyone is aware that some years ago, all of our history that was maintained in paper format was lost when the then Secretary passed away and his sons after clearing out his office, burnt them all. Hopefully by asking some of our senior members, they may still have photographs and copies of booklets or other Bradford memorabilia, which can be uploaded and kept for posterity. Peter and Hazel have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into liaising with the company who will upgrade our pages and also speaking with officers of other branches who have done the same in the past, and they will soon be receiving training on the running and upkeep of the programme. Can I thank them on behalf of the committee and members for their dedication and ongoing efforts. Whilst giving out thanks can I mention that at the last AGM meeting David Drucquer stood down as Welfare Officer but remained on the committee, and he was thanked at the meeting. We asked for a volunteer to replace David and Beatrice Hopwood very kindly volunteered that evening. Needless to say Bea has been extremely busy during the pandemic, but has not been able to go out visiting members. She has settled into the office very well and has been very enthusiastic and supportive of numerous members who have sought advice and assistance. Bea on behalf of your committee colleagues, we welcome you and thank you for all you have done this last year. This year we say goodbye to our Chairman Joe Broadley who has been either Vice Chairman or Chairman since he retired and joined Narpo just over 31 years ago. We are also saying goodbye to Michael Hollen who joined the committee as Treasurer in 2002 and relinquished that post, a couple of years ago but remained on the committee. To Joe and Michael on behalf of your committee and members of the branch, can I put on record the grateful thanks of us all for the effort and commitment you afforded the branch over all those years. Your wise council and knowledge has always been appreciated. I think that anything of note on the news front was covered in the recent Newsletter. There has been nothing of note forthcoming from HQ since then that has been circulated by group e mail. Please remember that this is your Branch, the members branch, and we are here to run it on your behalf. If you are not happy about anything please say so or you can contact me at any time. If there is anything you would like us to implement let us know and we will look at it. And especially you are our eyes and ears. If you hear of anyone who is ill, struggling or in need of help and assistance, please let me know and we will look at how we can help and get them any assistance they may need Finally just a reminder that as your Secretary I am available at all times and I can be contacted either by phone or e mail. If someone is requiring help or advice, I will do my best to provide that, and if I cannot, I can usually find someone who can.

David Wright.