

National Association of Retired Police Officers
No 11 Bradford Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Secretary:

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Well not a lot has changed since my last Newsletter. Here we are still in lockdown, and very shortly we will be coming up to a year since we were hit by this vicious virus that has basically changed all of our lives for the foreseeable future. The only plus has been the wonderful efforts of the many scientists around the world who have somehow come up with a number of vaccines in unbelievably short time. We hope that those of you who are eligible, have received your first dose of the vaccine, and the remainder of you are not very far away from getting yours. If you are eligible and have not yet heard about your vaccination or are having difficulties, please make contact and we can try and assist you. When the first lockdown occurred you may remember that we tried to contact all members either via email or telephone to establish they were safe and coping with their shopping and medication supplies. When the second lockdown was announced prior to Christmas, we decided to repeat the operation and once again check that all were coping, and to try and bring a bit of Christmas cheer to those mainly on their own. I think that we managed to contact practically all of our such members and my thanks must go to all of the committee members who assisted in this very pleasurable task.

Whilst discussing Welfare I must thank our past Welfare Officer David Drucquer who for the past number of years has done a wonderful job for us contacting and caring for many of our sick and needy members. David vacated the post mainly due to health problems, but I am glad to say that he is now recovering very well and is remaining on the committee.

At our last AGM meeting just before we went into lockdown, Bea Hopwood volunteered to take up the roll of Welfare Officer and she has been a tremendous asset to the committee and kept very busy, for which we thank her wholeheartedly.

Your committee meet and are in communication with one another by a virtual Zoom meeting every two weeks . This keeps us in touch with one another and we are able to discuss and resolve any issues that may arise.

One such issue was our impending **AGM meeting** which was planned for Thursday 5th March. This was initially cancelled and re booked at the Rugby Club for Thursday 29th April, but now, due to the continuing lockdown, this has also been cancelled.

It has now been decided by your committee to hold the AGM meeting via a virtual committee Zoom meeting, where the necessary business meeting of the AGM can be completed, to comply with the rules of NARPO.

This has been fixed for Wednesday 28th April.

As the committee were only elected a week before the first lockdown, it will be proposed that they be re-elected en- bloc for a further year at that virtual meeting, unless after receiving this Newsletter, you notify

me of your objection. Also if any member has anything that they would like mentioning at the AGM please let me know **either by e mail or letter**. Similarly, after the AGM, if any member would like a copy of the AGM minutes or the accounts, which have been suitably audited, please let me know and I will send you copies.

Social wise, we have decided that due to the uncertainty of when restrictions would be lifted, we would not ask our social secretaries to organise a summer trip in June. We have booked with the rugby club, to try and hold our Social evening on Thursday 23

rd September and the Christmas luncheon on Sunday 5th December. Hopefully by these dates we can all meet socially and resume enjoying one another's company. The Ladies Luncheon Club meal will be reviewed nearer the time.

Having mentioned our Social Secretaries, Peter and Hazel usually send out a welcoming e mail whenever I notify them of a new member, but very few of these e mails are acknowledged. It may well be that e mails are being sent to spam or junk folders, so please can you check that their e mail address homemail375-peterhazelnarpobradford@yahoo.co.uk is in your contact list together with my bradford@narpo.org.

NARPO NEWS Magazine

If anyone has anything that they wish to submit to NARPO News. be it Letters, news or article ideas, the editorial deadline for the next edition is the 30th March.

Scam Awareness

There are FREE scam awareness sessions being provided by Nat West bank.

The sessions will be virtual via a Zoom or Teams meeting and can be delivered to around 10-12 people at a time and are extremely informative.

This is an ever growing problem particularly for older people with £1.2 Billion being lost by people to scams last year alone.

These sessions are being offered regardless of whichever bank you are with, and each session lasts for 45 minutes to an hour, with time for a question and answer time at the end. The meeting will cover all known up to date scams that perpetrators are using to try and steal your money. If you would like to partake in a session please let me know and I will try and organise one, or however many we require.. I will be attending.

News from our Welfare officer – Bea Hopwood

POLICE CARE UK

This was formerly known as the Police Dependents Trust and as the branch welfare officer I have had recent contact from David Blundell who is the Engagement Officer for the above charity. He has contacted all NARPO branches to raise awareness of what the charity can offer to serving and former officers/staff who have suffered harm, physical or psychological, as a result of the tasks that had to be carried out in their police duties.

The charity offers the following:

1. Funding for house adaption/mobility equipment
2. Support for early leavers.

3. Respite for families.
4. Assistance grants (but not to clear loans/debt/mortgage payments)
5. Confidential care line for counselling/psychotherapy.

I am sure we can all recall incidents that have affected us or you may know colleagues/friends that are struggling. Some people are able to cope but others may still be struggling. This confidential charity may be the lifeline to help people, it's not a weakness to say you need help, in fact I would go so far as to say it's a strength to say "I need help, be it mentally or financially.

The contact details are:

policecare.org.uk Tel: 0300 021 0030

I have also a number of brochures sent to me to explain in more detail about what Police Care UK can offer. If you would like me to send you the brochures you can text me on 07730004842 or email me on beahopwood1@gmail.com (all requests will be dealt with confidentially)

LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who have not made the above please consider it as it will assist the nominated person(s) to deal with any health/financial matters should you not be capable of making the decisions and it ensures that the person of your choice can deal with these matters

removing any distress or concerns you may have. IT DOES NOT REPLACE A WILL. The Lasting Power of Attorney is a power to deal with matters whilst you are alive but for whatever reason, you are unable to make decisions, speak etc. It can be made via a solicitor but that can be expensive. You can do it yourself for around £82, if you require any assistance I am happy to guide you through the process and again I can be contacted on the above number, email or via David Wright.

Membership Changes

New members

Since our last newsletter, I am pleased to welcome all of our new members :

Sheila Glew , Sheridan Moore, Benjamin Pearson, John Baker, Barbara Noble, Andrew Smiddy and Marcia Ledgard.

On behalf of the committee and members can I welcome you all and look forward to seeing you at our future social occasions on our resumption.

Obituaries

Sadly since our

last newsletter we have lost the following colleagues and friends:

Marjorie Shaw who died 23rd July - widow of the late Sgt Barry Shaw

Terrence Wainwright who died 29th September

Ronnie Horsfield who died 26th October

Keith Riley who died 25th November

Frank Dickinson who died 13th February

John Westcott who died 1st March

All will be sadly missed, and condolences were sent to their families on your behalf.

AND FINALLY:

If you ever get attacked by a mob of clowns, go for the juggler.

Pollen is what happens when flowers cannot keep it in their plants.

If you don't pay your exorcist, do you get repossessed.

Dave Wright