

Out of the Blue



ST. HELENS & DISTRICT NARPO NEWSLETTER

JR 62

APRIL/MAY, 2021

Message from Branch Secretary :-

Members, After what seems a very long 12 months, we are all now hoping for an easing of our lockdown restrictions and getting somewhat back to some sort of regular way of life.

Our thoughts, as your committee, are with those members who have lost relatives. We have all felt helpless because of the restrictions that the regulations have imposed on us as we have been unable to visit or help in any way other than perhaps a phone call.

A number of members of our Branch committee are also members of the Bishop Road club committee. Indeed Jim Scotson is their Hon. Secretary and is planning to get things moving as soon as possible. He will be looking for volunteers to assist, if possible, with cleaning, painting and doing odd jobs around the club and I shall keep you informed via email. Hopefully the meeting of the North West region of NARPO will use the premises as they did in August of 2019 for their meetings. Those meetings are for the Secretaries and Chairs of the North West region to meet up and discuss various issues. They seemed impressed the last time but of course since then all meetings have been put on hold.

Hopefully, receptions and Christening, birthdays etc. will book and we can keep the club going. All retired Police are eligible to become members (free of charge) and Jim tells me that the more names we have on the membership lists, the more chance we have of obtaining grants etc. for improvements. It is therefore your club please help us to keep it.

Sadly in March I reported via email the death of MARGARET DICKINSON the wife of our last Chairman Fred Dickinson. Margaret joined the committee soon after I became the Secretary and worked tirelessly for the branch towards the needs of our members. She arranged our holidays, excursions and was always found in the kitchen when parties, functions and our AGM were held. Sadly, she was forced to resign in 2019 because of ill health. I personally will miss the help, guidance and encouragement that Margaret gave to me. As a small token of respect for Margaret a recipe, which she always supplied for our quarterly newsletter, will be omitted in this edition.



Margaret Dickinson

10.17. 2021

OBITUARY

Elsie Saxon, Jim Aldridge, Graham Cunliffe, Margaret Dickinson

Our sympathies have been passed to their families and in some cases our drape has been used and representatives of the branch attended at the service or were present on the driveway at the Crematorium

CHAPLAINS CORNER

I hope that this letter finds you well. May I begin with a tribute to Margaret Dickinson. Margaret needs no introduction, she was such a well-known and respected member of our Police Family. I first met Margaret in 1979. She was a lovely lady known for her love of cooking, gardening and cats. Her family meant everything to her, and she will be missed not only by her husband Fred and their children but by her many friends. She arranged and attended many social events and was often seen beavering away in the kitchen at Bishop Road. Rest in peace Margaret.

Nobody can be unaware that Prince Philip has also passed away. What I have found disturbing is the amount of horrible things circulating about him. What does the bible say about judging others? Matthew 7. 'Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Folk who have criticised Prince Philip and the Royal family are entitled to their opinion, but to vent their animosity publicly, especially when they have little or no personal knowledge is reprehensible. I pray for the Queen and the Royal family, that they will find comfort and peace at this sad time.

I had a lovely conversation recently with one of our members. We discussed our faith and they explained that it can be used as a steering wheel to guide us through life or as a spare wheel, used only in emergencies. In James chapter 4 verse 8 it says 'Come near to God and he will come near to you.' This has had particular relevance to myself and Leslee my wife. We were recently burgled while we were asleep upstairs. The items stolen weren't of any great value but it was a horrible experience, as I'm sure many people can empathise. Looking again into the bible, Matthew 6 19 to 21 reads; "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. I admit that it did take me some time to appreciate the implications of this verse, but when I did, it brought peace: my salvation is secure. It is something more precious than any amount of gold or silver, and no-one can take it away. Again looking to the Bible, Romans 10 verses 9 and 10 say : 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. If you wish to discuss anything please don't hesitate to get in touch. My mobile number is 07761754114, email johnr3700@gmail.com. Finally can I say huge thank-yous to John Russell, and Ann, his partner in crime, and Bill Brown. They have been such a great help over the past weeks helping with all manner of problems I encountered due to the burglary. God bless you,

John Rowley. Narpo Branch Chaplain

Message from Our Treasurer.

So, the nightmare continues. As I write this, the first lockdown occurred 13 months ago and never, in my wildest dreams, did I think we would still be in the grip of Covid-19. The vaccination programme has been an unqualified success and so, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

As the lockdown restrictions ease, the thoughts of your committee turn to how we can begin the socialisation process at the heart of our branch. Planned social events have been cancelled, or pushed back, such as the York trip. This was originally planned for June and then pushed back to December for a visit to York Christmas market. That too, was cancelled and the committee decided at our last Zoom committee meeting that we would now run this trip to York on Tuesday, 21st September, 2021.

We realise that this is some way off, however, we have plumped for this date to give the lifting of the Covid lockdown rules time to be established, with very little likelihood of a return. I have been in contact with Hattons, our sponsors who will be running the trip, and they say that the numbers allowed to travel on the bus will be decided by the government guidelines prevailing at the time. The current restrictions limit the number of passengers to 38, obviously if the restrictions are lifted in full, then we can fill the coach.

33 people have expressed an interest and paid deposits to travel. Could those people please contact me on 01942 212217 or via email r.muspratt@btinternet.com to tell me if they still want to go? Should anyone not wish to, their deposits will be returned. I am hopeful that all restrictions will have been lifted and we fill the coach. Should anyone who has not yet expressed an interest wish to travel with us, please contact me. Payments online or by cheque are acceptable. I received 5 cheques and these are now out of date, so those who sent me a cheque, and still want to travel, will have to reissue a cheque, or pay online.

Bishop Road Police Club will open on 21st June and the quiz and Country Nights will recommence. The Country Nights begin on Thursday, 24th June with one of the best acts we have performing there and a great night is in store. Please come along if you want to meet friends, have a drink and be entertained, you will be made most welcome.

In the pipeline for NARPO members is a social event, hopefully in the summer and then we begin organising the Christmas Party. Hopefully, the very successful ten pin bowling afternoons, run by committee member Maureen Hamer, will recommence soon and you will be informed as soon as it does.

I hope that many of you will join us at these events, it will feel that some sort of normality is returning to our lives and, because humans are social animals, it will enhance our wellbeing to be amongst friends once more.

I wish you all good health but please contact a committee member if you, or a member you know, requires any kind of assistance, we are here to assist in any way we can. Keep safe and well.

Ray Muspratt (Treasurer)

Bishop Road Police Club – St. Helens

Narpo Update April 2021

I'm pleased to announce that Bishop Road Police Club will re-open at 7pm on Monday 17th May, under the Stage 3 Covid regulations which means up to a maximum number of 6 people can sit together if socially distanced, or two families can sit together even if there are more than 6 people in the group. Guests must remain seated and use table service. They must wear a face mask if standing up, such as entering/exiting and visiting the toilet.

NHS Check-in guidelines have changed. Every visitor must check in via the app if possible and show the check-in confirmation to a member of staff before they are seated. If visitors don't have the phone app they will have to sign-in on a paper form. If they decline to sign, access must be declined. Hygiene and ventilation are important so we will keep all doors and windows open when practical.

Live music is only allowed outside so there will be no live music indoors until the next stage of easing. We will be allowed to hold the quiz night if required as long as guidelines are followed. We are hoping that sufficient members will support the club during this 'Stage 3 Period' as last time we opened we had very little support from members and lost quite a bit of money. The committee will monitor the support we get from 17th May onwards and if it's lacking we may close again until 21st June 2021.

Sorry if that introduction depressed anyone but it's not all doom and gloom. The club is in a very sound financial position due to government grants and grants from St. Helens Council. Unlike many other hospitality venues, we are able to peg our drinks prices as they are until at least September 2021.

There are some exciting things happening at the club. Our membership drive is going well and giving us a fantastic base to reach our members to find out what they want from the club and how we can improve. We are installing Sky Sports and 3 large-screen TV's in the near future so members will be able to watch all the best sporting events in good company and with fine ale. For anyone who wants to get fit and make new friends after lockdown, the Bishop Road Bowling Section are looking for new members, particularly for next season. There's a pensioners bowling group who bowl socially at the club each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. If you're interested please contact Brian Egerton 07847 933876 or Trevor Bold 07719 725329 for more information.

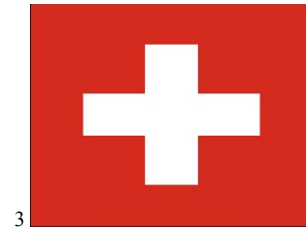
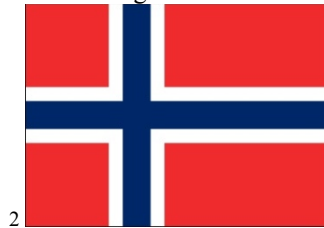
Police and NHS 'Thank You' event: The committee agreed that we should hold a 'Thank You' event at the club to honour the police and NHS staff who have worked so tirelessly during the Covid crisis. We have set the date for Saturday 18th September at the club. If any Narpo member wishes to be on the organising committee, please contact me via email at jim@bishoproad.co.uk or call the club on 01744 608564.

BBQ area at the club. Liz Broughton proposed that we purchase a large portable BBQ and demolish the existing brick ones as they are rarely used and are unsightly. This will provide an opportunity to improve the outdoor seating area. We have ordered new tables and chairs so if you would prefer to sit outside, it should be more attractive and comfortable in the near future.

Jim Scotson – Honorary Secretary of St Helens Police Club and member of St Helens NARPO Committee.

St Helens Narpo Newsletter
Spring 2021 Quiz – answers on page 8

Name the EUROPEAN countries of which these are Flags:



Name the people pictured below - they all have the initials **JD**



10. What name is given to a ballet dancer's skirt?
11. Who, announced in June 2020 would be the presenter of the revival of Family Fortunes on ITV?
12. How many pints are there in 2 gallons?
13. What fruit should be in a Black Forest Gateau?
14. What comes between Rainbows and Guides?
15. Which electronics giant manufactures the PlayStation?
16. What is the minimum age at which you can be a blood donor?
17. Which country produces the greatest variety of sausages?
18. In a lonely hearts newspaper advert what does ANI stand for?
19. What was the last battle fought by Duke of Wellington?
20. What is the highest mountain in Africa?
21. Which month gets its name from the Latin for ten?
22. Conrad Hilton was the first, Michael Wilding the second and Michael Todd the Third there where 7 in all, what?
23. Where could you purchase a foot long hearty Italian?
24. The Yard was introduced by Henry 1st as the distance between which 2 body parts?
25. The Sky TV series "Elementary" features which famous detective?
26. What is measured by a Bronnox device?
27. Which leg is below his right arm if you looked at a left handed violinist in a mirror?
28. On what part of the body would you wear Crocs?
29. From which country does the sparkling wine Cava originate?
30. What was the name of the dog in the Magic Roundabout?

FOR ANY GARDENERS OUT THERE

Guess who would write this with such terrible jokes? ~ Yes, it's him again.

Try this one, for a laugh It's quite simple really.
 Imagine a lavender bush growing in a pot with some bees hovering around it.
 How many flowers and bees are there if, when each bee lands on a flower, there's one bee left over and when two bees land on each flower, there's one flower left over? -(answer on page 8)



What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by it's diameter?
 Pumpkin Pi, of course!

One Sunday, Percy decided to walk his dog Fido to the local gardens five miles away.
 Percy, walked very slowly while Fido ran quickly towards the gardens because he'd buried a bone in amongst the ornamental cabbages on their last visit.
 Fido ran all the way at a constant speed of eight miles an hour ~ when he reached the cabbage patch, Fido retrieved his bone and ran back to Percy at the same speed of eight miles per hour.
 Fido continued to walk forwards and backwards between Percy and the gardens at the same speed until Percy reached the gardens.
 If Percy walked at a steady four miles an hour, how far did Fido run in total? (answer on page 8)

Gardeners at Chatsworth ~ By 1900, more than 55 gardeners were employed by the Duke of Devonshire to maintain the famous gardens at Chatsworth Hall.
 Rank and file gardeners wore cloth caps and earned about ten shillings per week while the foremen wore bowler hats and earned about £40.00 per year.

Worth bearing in mind ~ a Victorian comment on life
 "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a lawnmower"

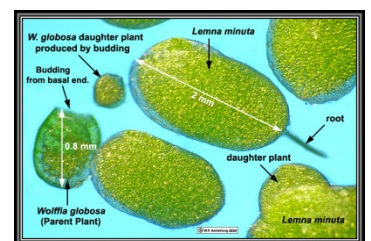
What's in a name? (related to plants)

Augustus	~	noble	Arachnoideus	~	cobwebby
Foetidus	~	stinking	Flaccidus	~	feeble
Ignavus	~	slothful	Sleratus	~	wicked
Vulgaris	~	common	Physalis	~	bladder
Delphinium	~	dolphin	Digitalis	~	finger
Fritillaria	~	dice box	Gladiolus	~	little

sword

One plant, an natural attempt at world domination, perhaps ~
 The tiny *Wolffia microscopia* flowering plant can produce daughter plants very speedily, in fact, every 30 to 36 hours.

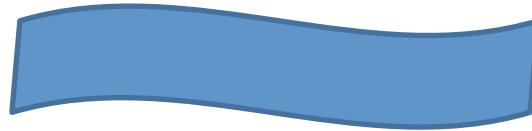
In fact one *Wolffia microscopia* could be responsible for producing one nonillion plants (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) in just four months



What's a tulip worth?



There are literally thousands of tulip varieties available today but between 1634 and 1637 there was such a demand in Holland for tulips that a single bulb of the Admiral van Enkhuisjen variety could sell for 5,400 guilders ~ the equivalent of fifteen years' wages for a bricklayer from Amsterdam or the price of a 'Townhouse' in the best quarter of Amsterdam. Their value collapsed in 1637 ~ not enough people could afford them.



Prince Phillip's Visit to Sutton



Following the sad report of the death of Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, one of our members was prompted to send me a copy of the above photograph. The picture was taken when the Prince visited Sutton High School, St Helens to open the newly refurbished Sports Centre.

Do you recognise anyone?

Quiz Answers

1. Portugal 2. Norway 3. Switzerland 4. Russia 5. Germany 6. Spain 7. Jamie Dornan
8. John Daley 9. Jane Danson 10. Tutu 11. Gino DI Campo 12. 16 13. Cherries 14. Brownies
15. Sony 16. 17 17. Germany 18. Age Not Important 19. Waterloo 20. Kilimanjaro
21. December 22. Husbands of Liz Taylor 23. Subway 24. Nose and the tip of middle finger
25. Sherlock Holmes 26. Shoe size 27. Right 28. Feet 29. Spain 30. Dougal

Gardeners answers

Four bees, three flowers.

As Fido was moving twice as fast as Percy who walked five miles ~ Fido must have run ten miles in the same time period



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter, especially Chris for the quiz which I know goes down very well with members. If you have anything to contribute towards these quarterly Newsletters then please contact the Secretary on the email address below.

During these past times it has become difficult to appreciate what we had in holidays, get together's, trips out etc. I just hope we have turned the corner. I look forward to catching up with everyone soon. We are more than fortunate to have the use of Bishop Road. Other branches are not so lucky in that they have to hire premises for their functions. Don't forget the York trip – for further details contact our Treasurer Ray Muspratt on 01942 212217

As a reminder **Saturday, 15th May, at 12noon** a work party to assist with a clean-up in and around the Police Club, has been arranged. All members and friends are very welcome. The more the merrier and the less for others to do. Come along, even if you are only going to 'brew up' It will be good to see you. Don't forget a mask though.

Ann Houghton Assistant Secretary. sthelensnarpo@gmail.com

If you are in the process, or have, moved home, changed your phone numbers or email address please let me know. I will inform our Headquarters at Wakefield.

Our Web Administrator has asked me to remind all to check the St Helens NARPO website ie

sthelensnarpo/news

And also check the National NARPO website for information

John Russell. Branch Secretary. sthelensnarpo@gmail.com 07774618654, / 01695 312280

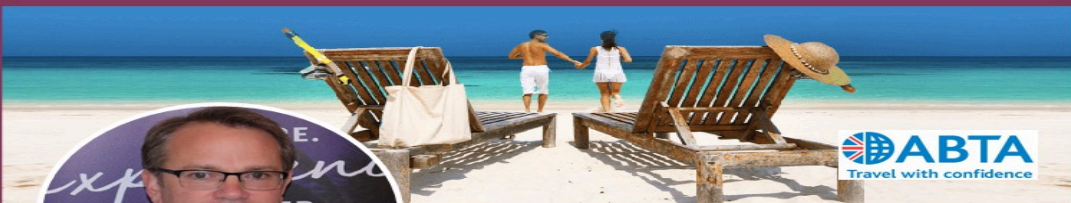
Remember: *Wine improves with age, the older I get the more I like it
Is an archaeologist someone whose career ends in ruins
Stress does not exist in the presence of a pie*

And finally *There are mysteries of life to ponder, but here's a thought that compounds
How does just 2 pounds of chocolate, make you gain a full 5 pounds*

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