

Out of the Blue



ST. HELENS & DISTRICT NARPO NEWSLETTER

JR 63

JULY/AUG, 2021

MESSAGE FROM BRANCH SECRETARY:-

JOHN RUSSELL

Members, I trust all is well with you and your families. Perhaps we can start looking forward to meeting up again and having social events without the fear of contracting this horrible illness. Your committee has met up quite regularly via having Zoom meetings which is not the best of mediums. We recently managed to have an actual meeting and were able to discuss matters.

Obviously our major concern is with our members and their welfare and to give whatever assistance we can to those who are not just 100%. However this has been difficult as we have not been able to visit even to those who have been in hospital due to the restrictions. I have found though, that those in need most are the ones we have not been made aware of. Please make myself or a committee member if you know of someone who may need help.

Our Annual General Meeting for 2021 was cancelled and after advice from our H/Q, I was informed that provided the accounts were up to date, we could wait until 2022. Our Treasurer Ray has kept the books in good order and had them audited and presented to the committee. I have therefore booked the AGM for a Wednesday evening 7.30pm prompt on 9th March, 2022, at Bishop Road Police Club

I had already invited the NARPO Chief Executive Officer, Steve Edwards and his good lady to attend and I have also invited the new Chief Constable of Merseyside, Serena Kennedy and it is in her diary and subject to any contingency problems she will be attending. I then just recently learnt that Mr Edwards has left his post rather suddenly. I have now contacted him and he has said that he would be pleased to attend as a friend of the branch and not in an official capacity. I trust that most members will be able to attend and to show your support or air any grievances with your committee and to have a couple of free drinks and a Cotham's hot-pot. In a future Newsletter I shall put a slip on the back to give us a rough idea of numbers so you won't go hungry.

I have been asked by a number of our members to have a return visit of the Tyldesley based group 'YOUNG ONCE'. I have spoken with them and will do our best to find a suitable date.

The Christmas party is booked with the caterers and the group 'ROCKIN 60' to entertain. On the October/November newsletter there will be full details and booking slip.

Note to diary **FRIDAY 10th December, 2021**. NARPO CHRISTMAS PARTY - Bishop Road.

OBITUARY

Edith Roberts, Who had recently moved to live near her family in Yorkshire. Edith had previously been a member of the Branch Committee - Our condolences have been sent to the family

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and good spirits. With 'Terminus Day' imminent as I write, there appears to be a spring in people's step as another small step towards normality beckons. This terrible pandemic has impacted on people in different ways, we are all different and handle things differently so if you, or a member known to you, needs any assistance in whichever form, please contact a member of the committee. We are here to assist anyone we can and if we can't do it, we know someone who can.

We managed to have our AGM last year just 19 days before the first lockdown was imposed and, as your Treasurer, I presented the accounts to the 100 or so who attended. There will be no AGM this year but the accounts have been prepared as normal. John Hickey kindly audited them for me and they have been signed off by our Chair Anita Ashcroft. Those who attend the AGM will be aware that I prepare a sheet with the figures, which I circulate among those present, and explain verbally what they represent. I have done the same this year for 2020 and have sent a sheet with the figures and a separate one explaining them to our Secretary, John Russell. Should any member wish to see the figures please email me at r.muspratt@btinternet.com or our Secretary and you will have them sent to you. It is not possible to include them in the Newsletter because it is put on our website which can be viewed by the public and the figures are not for public consumption. Should anyone without access to email wish to have a copy please contact me or our Secretary and one will be sent by post.

It's that time of year again when I'm shopping around for the cheapest company for car insurance. Last year, my wife's car was insured for £157 with the AA. Their renewal is £176. They point out that last year included an introductory offer. And there lies the reason to shop around. Companies lure you in with introductory offers, hoping that you will blindly stay with them, as too many people do. Going through MoneySupermarket, I can insure it with Halifax for £118. GoCompare can't beat it. I only insure cars with reputable companies and I think Halifax will be getting my wife's business this year.

Another pet gripe of mine is the banks and when I tell you this story, I assure you it's not a joke, it's so stupid, and I thought it may be April 1st. The St Helens NARPO account is now held at the HSBC bank, having moved from Lloyds because they did not issue online accounts with charitable clubs, as they label us. I live in Wigan and went to the HSBC bank in the Grand Arcade. I had £30 to pay in, two cheques and a £10 note. As usual, I went to the rear of the bank to the sole cashier to find it boarded up. I was then approached by a member of staff enquiring as to my needs. I explained I had two cheques and cash to pay in. She said 'We don't accept cash'. She kept a straight face, I knew she wasn't joking. Incredulous, I said 'What, a bank doesn't accept cash'. 'Yes, I'm sorry'. I was immediately quite stern with her, reminding her of how the service that customers receive from banks is far from satisfactory and now non-existent. The policy of the banks in general is to steer customers to online banking, then close branches because people are using it. I had to return the £10 note to our member who has now paid online, the banks are winning.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, the trip to York has now been rescheduled for Tuesday, 21 September. There are still seats available and for any member who wants a day trip to York for £5 can contact me on 01942 212217 or 07900454715. At the time of writing, it is uncertain as to what the 'new normal' will look like on 'Terminus Day', 19th July. Obviously, decisions will be made on that date about public transport and, depending on what is decided, we may be able to fill the coach. Our Secretary will circulate an email after 19th July with an update. We have to be guided by Hatton's Travel, who are taking us. For those already going, the coach will be leaving Bishop Road Police Club at 8.30am, leaving York at about 5pm.

That's it from me this time, keep safe and well and don't forget, if you need help, please ask.

Ray Muspratt (Treasurer)



RECIPES - as you know for many issues of the Newsletter there was always included a Recipe kindly supplied by the late Margaret Dickinson. In respect of Margaret the last newsletter did not include one. However, if you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share then please send it to me for a future newsletter JR.

THE ULTIMATE TIRAMASU

Ingredients

3 tsp instant coffee granules
3 tbsp coffee liqueur
(or Camp Chicory & Coffee Essence)
250g tub mascarpone
85g condensed milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
4-6 sponge fingers
1 tbsp cocoa powder

Method

STEP 1

Mix the coffee granules with 2 tbsp boiling water in a large jug and stir to combine. Add the coffee liqueur and 75ml cold water. Pour into a shallow dish and set aside.

STEP 2

Make the cream layer by beating the mascarpone, condensed milk and vanilla extract with an electric whisk until thick and smooth.

STEP 3

Break the sponge fingers into two or three pieces and soak in the coffee mixture for a few seconds. Put a few bits of the sponge in the bottom of two wine or sundae glasses and top with the cream. Sift over the cocoa and chill for at least 1 hr before serving.



CHAPLAINS CORNER

I was recently given an extract from a book; 'Life after death – the evidence' written by Dinesh D'Souza. (ISBN 978-1-62157-282-4) The small snippet was enough to make me send off for my own copy. The book is an excellent read; the author in no way can definitely state that there is life after death, but he takes arguments against life after death from the likes of evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins and puts them under the microscope. D'Souza arguably comes up with as valid a case for life after death as Dawkins' has against it. Whilst these books are good to read and provide hours of entertainment debating their pros and cons, the fact is that nobody can provide incontrovertible proof that there is or isn't life after death.

Which brings me on to someone that I met at a motorbike rally over ten years ago. He is a really funny person, the life and soul of the party. He and his wife were regulars at the rallies and both of them lived for the moment. As Christians at these rallies we would be subjected to some good natured leg pulling but we had some interesting conversations. Our biker mate was adamant that once you die, that's it.

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions all of the motorbike rallies were cancelled, and nobody saw our Biker mate until recently when restrictions were eased. A mutual friend discovered that he had been in hospital and paid him a visit at home. It transpired that he had been diagnosed with cancer and he wasn't much longer for this world. While all of his biking buddies were there, he was the same ebullient self, but after they left, he confided in my friend that he was sad because he would be leaving his loved ones and there was so much more that he wanted to do. My friend gave him a New Testament, saying that he hoped that it would bring him some comfort. This was greeted with a little derision, but he accepted the little book.

The following week Biker mate held court again. Once again, he was the life and soul of the party but he tired quickly and everyone left him and his family. Just as my friend was leaving, Biker mate said that he had read some of the scriptures but he found them confusing. He wasn't well enough to discuss anything but asked if my friend would call again the following week. The next week, the large group of friends were asked to leave early on the pretext that biker mate was unwell. However he asked my friend to stay behind. Biker mate said that all of his life he had been an atheist and ridiculed Christians. After reading the scriptures, he had said a heartfelt prayer. What he hadn't expected was to have a conversation with the person he was praying to. Biker mate didn't intend becoming a Christian, but having an encounter with the living God changed his life. He shared that at first he thought that his medication was playing tricks on him, but now he is convinced that this was not the case, and there is life after death. His new found faith allowed him to meet his passing with dignity and with a peace that, as the bible says, passes all understanding.

Can I say that Biker mate led a life far from God. He couldn't believe that God could accept someone as bad as him. The truth is that no matter how sinful a life we have led, Jesus is ready and waiting to accept you. In Revelation 3 verse 20 we read 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if anyone hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' You may recall the painting by William Holman Hunt, The Light of the World. In this painting, Jesus is standing at a door covered with ivy, holding a lamp in his left hand and knocking on the door with his right. The door represents our lives, and you'll notice there is no handle on the outside. We have free will, and it is our decision to open the door to Jesus or to leave him outside. Just as Biker mate found out, it is never too late to open the door to Jesus. As the saying goes, there is nothing we can do to make Jesus love us more, and nothing we can do to make him love us less. If I can be of any help, or if anyone needs to discuss anything, please get in touch. My mobile number is 07761754114, e mail sprint1050st@hotmail.co.uk

If anyone would like to borrow the book by Dinesh D'Souza Life after Death the evidence, please let me know and I shall get it to you.

Can I give a plug to Manchester Art Gallery. Their collection of Holman Hunt's paintings is well worth a visit. They do go on tour, so check before travelling that they are on display. God bless you.
John Rowley - Branch Chaplain.



FOR ANY GARDENERS OUT THERE

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

It makes you think, perhaps

I have two arms but no fingers or hands. I have two legs but cannot run. I work best with my feet off the ground ~~ What am I?

I am a house, hidden from view. I am built throughout without nails or glue. I exist to hold pale gems of blue. Look up above if you need a clue ~~ What am I?

I thrive in winter, die in summer and grow with my roots upwards ~~ What am I?

What runs around a garden but doesn't move?

Answers on page 9

Some costly cases of garden dispute

Brothers Derek and George Alderson spent more than £25,000 between them fighting each other in a dispute concerning a piece of land measuring just 60ft X 30ft

Twenty-seven year old Samantha Richards spent six weeks in jail over a fence that was erected on a neighbour's property ~~ the case has raged for several years and has so far cost £100,000 in legal fees.

Malcolm and Marlene Girling cut down a hedge in breach of a Court injunction and were jailed for 28days and fined £8,000 during a boundary dispute with their neighbours.

Whilst on the subject of hedges, they are often a source of dispute

The law requires house sellers to declare any formal disputes with neighbours to potential buyers ~ not declaring any such dispute could land you in legal hot water.

One of the most common causes of dispute is the height of garden hedges ~ it's estimated that there are over 100,000 hedge disputes going on all over Britain.

Blocking of light from a neighbour has only fairly recently been given a recourse to law.

Now, under the Anti-social Behaviour Act of 2003 local authorities can issue notices requiring hedges to be cut down (lowered but not removed altogether).

Amazingly, at least two people have been murdered as a result of hedge disputes.

Giving your neighbours fair and reasonable consideration in respect of their 'Right to Light' always helps.

'Hedgeline' <http://www.hedgeline.org/> is a support group for victims of high hedge disputes ~ information largely unchanged since 2010 but worth a look.

Some very curious garden proverbs

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

The earth laughs at him who calls a place his own.

Better eat vegetables and fear no creditors than eat duck and hide from them.

Fine words butter no parsnips.

The rose only has thorns for those who would gather it.

Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh into a harvest.

That's all for now, folks. Fred

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St Helens Narpo Summer 2021 Newsletter Quiz

Name the TV programmes below



1



2



3



4



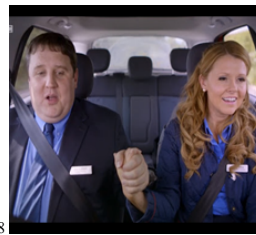
5



6



7



8



9

10. Which cartoon female had vital statistics of 19 19 19?
11. JFK airport is in which city?
12. How old do you need to be to marry without parental consent in the UK?
13. How many contestants make up an Eggheads team?
14. According to the book written by relationship counsellor John Gray "Men are from Mars... woman are from?"
15. Dubai, Abu Dhabi or Qatar which one isn't part of the United Arab Emirates?
16. Stella Artois beer originates from which country?
17. In what language was the novel the Three Musketeers written?
18. The Vegemite sandwich is the national dish of which country?
19. What was the only country to have hosted the Summer Olympics and not win a single gold medal?
20. What is Peter Parker's secret identity?
21. On TV at what number house did the Kumar's live?
22. Name given to balls of Choux pastry filled with cream covered in chocolate sauce?
23. Long player sin bin Rugby League?
24. Dylan Mills is the real name of which British pop star?
25. Blenheim Palace is the home to the Duke of?
26. Of the 27 countries in the EU 3 begin with a C, name them?
27. Wet chemical, dry powder, CO2 and Foam are 4 types of what?
28. Which famous Nursery Rhyme tells the story of the plague?
29. All competitors' Highland Games must abide by which dress code?
30. Bertie Bassett advertises what confectionary item?

Many thanks , once again to Chris for taking time to supply the Quiz. *Ann.*

BISHOP ROAD POLICE CLUB: SECRETARY'S REPORT JULY 2021

Again, the club is in a sound financial position, having received another £5000 'Top-up' grant from the Council. We are looking forward to 'Freedom Day' when Covid restrictions are lifted but will not become complacent and will maintain some of the common-sense approaches to keeping our members safe whilst visiting the club. This includes taking the basic precautions such as having hand-sanitizer available, maintaining adequate ventilation, frequent cleaning of surfaces and door handles etc and having a supply of face-masks for those who request one. We must remember, Covid is still with us and the vaccine is only 90% effective.

We have been working hard to recruit more bar staff to take the pressure off Jo, Chris and Liz, who have all gone the extra mile during this period and looked after our members well. I'm please to say that we will soon have some new faces behind the bar who are looking forward to meeting you all and serving your favourite drinks.

We also continue to update our membership register to make it 'Data Compliant'. To date 82 'Full Members', i.e. Current and retired people who have worked for the Police Family' directly, and their spouses/partners and 94 'Community Members' – these are people who have never been employed by the police, have completed forms. Both 'Full Members' and 'Community Members' are free to enjoy the club facilities and events but only 'Full Members' and 'co-opted' Community Members are allowed to sit on the Club committee and vote at the AGM.

On a brighter note, in addition to the existing entertainment we have planned already, we hope to put on a number of fun events for our members over the next year or so. These include making full use of our new large-screen TV's to enjoy events such as the Grand National, Ascot and Cheltenham race days, doing our bit for Charity on Red Nose Day and Children in need day, enjoying a good old Irish craic on St. Patricks day and many other events. We hope to open from 12-noon on Saturdays and Sundays which will give our sports fans chance to watch live premier league football and other events. We are going to install awnings over the BBQ area and invite our members 'bring their own burger' to cook on the BBQ when the weather allows.

On behalf of Bishop Road Police Club, I wish you well and look forward to seeing you at the club in the near future.

Jim Scotson Honorary Secretary, Bishop Road Police Club.

FUTURE EVENTS AT BISHOP ROAD

There are going to be some exciting events at Bishop Road as we fully reopen

Starting from 12 noon on Sunday 5th September there will be a Family Fun day with a children's fairground ride, old fashioned stalls like Hook a Duck, Lucky Dip etc

We will be selling hot dogs and burgers, sweets and drinks.

Magic Weekend Rugby League will be showing on the TV in the club.

This is the first time we have tried this event and would welcome any suggestions, help and encouragement from Narpo members. If anyone is able to assist in any way please email or call Keran Kean on keanfam@yahoo.co.uk or 07988731182 .

On Friday 8th October we are having a Blue Light/Key workers night to acknowledge the hard work by so many during the pandemic.

The excellent singer Scott Johns will be providing entertainment .

(Some of you may know him as John Scott, retired police officer)

We will also have Cothams' hot pot and a disco. All this for £5 a ticket!!!!

Available behind the bar.





On Friday 15th October we are having our first ever comedy night featuring 4 excellent stand-up comedians, M.C. Peter Edge is in charge. This will be £5 a ticket, again available behind the bar.

We are also hoping to have a country and western band on the 30th October. Details yet to be confirmed.

If you are a fan there is a country and western night every Thursday in the club with live music.

The club now has two large screen T.V's and Sky TV which will be showing football, rugby, grand prix etc throughout the year. The atmosphere for the Euro's has been fabulous, despite Covid regulations!

Please come along and enjoy the club, if you haven't been before come and give it a try!

For further details contact Keran Kean on 07988 731182



Gardeners Answers - Wheelbarrow, Robins nest, An icicle, A hedge

Quiz Answers

1. Silent Witness
2. Gogglebox
3. Not Going Out
4. Magic Roundabout
5. Killing Eve
6. Minder
7. Friday Night Diner
8. Car Share
9. Touch of Frost
10. Olive Oyl
11. New York City
12. Eighteen
13. Five
14. Venus
15. Qatar
16. Belgium
17. French
18. Australia
19. Canada
20. Spiderman
21. Forty Two
22. Profiteroles
23. 10 mins
24. Dizzie Rascal
25. Marlborough
26. Cyprus/Croatia/Czech Republic
27. Fire Extinguishers
28. Ring A-Ring O'Roses
29. Wear kilt
30. Liquorice All Sorts



Remember

When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

And finally

Six thirty is the best time on a clock. hands down.