

Tony Hennigan (Chairperson) opened the meeting by stating that this was a Social Meeting and NOT the usual Members Meeting. There would be no 'agenda' to follow, as this was a talk about his most recent walk from 'Lands' End to John O'Groats'.

Roll Call – There were 66 members and friends in attendance, including a special friend called Mr Jeremy Mackrell MBE, who had been a prominent local defence solicitor, who defended all his defendants with true honesty and integrity. Many of our members will remember crossing swords with Jeremy in their fight for justice, but Jeremy, who is now well into his 80's, will remain forever a gentleman and a true 'toff' in Police eyes. Accompanied by his wife, he was given a loud and heart-warming applause by those present. Tony also welcomed those members who attended using the 'Zoom' facility, which was extremely limited, as the wi-fi microphone signal wouldn't reach the slideshow screen!

Certain members had earlier informed the Secretary that they were unable to attend the meeting. These were: Keith & Heather Foster, Paul & Dot Margerison, John Cowan, Garry Jeggo, Chris & Kay Binns, Bill Cunliffe, Peter Corkindale, Hilary Smith, Andy Barker, Angus Fraser. Monty Newton, Pauline Grundy, and Bruce & Hilary Grannan.

Tony mentioned another NARPO member called Marjorie Harris, who was absent due to the sudden death of her 50-year-old son, Andrew. Marj had been a cleaner at the police station and Tony rang her to offer his condolences on behalf of the Branch. During the conversation, she recalled how she was treated like a Queen during her 13 years' service at Keighley Police Station and how they had been the happiest years of her working life. Tony drew a parallel between how the police service treated cleaning staff like Marj and how Parliamentarians and Civil Servants had treated them and security staff in Downing Street!

Tony went on to tell the tale of how Marj had approached him one day and said, "Those tomato plants outside the property store are drooping a bit so I've been watering them". Tony pointed out how the plants were actually seized cannabis plants which couldn't fit in the property store, and how therefore she had been cultivating them! Marj responded how she had noticed that they had a funny smell about them and when asked if she felt happy when near them, she replied in the affirmative! Anyway, Tony said how he was sorry that she couldn't be with us tonight, and he extended his sympathies and sent her the good wishes of us all. We hope to see her at our next meeting.

Tony then introduced John Chambers (our Secretary) to say a few words about his recent illness. He pointed out that John withstood a stroke in 2001; only to receive another less debilitating stroke in March 2022. He was pleased to announce that John is again on the road to recovery.

John began by saying how pleased he was to be at the meeting. He also apologised for failing to communicate to members over the past three months. He explained how poorly he had been since Thursday 24 March, suffering from cellulitis in his right leg. This was followed by a slight stroke, which has made his eyesight in his left eye a little bit awkward. He keeps walking into things on his left side, which means he can't drive for the time being.

It all started when he was trimming his lawn and he was bitten on his right calf. He didn't think much about it until he was going to bed that night. He suddenly felt awful, dizzy, and disorientated. It was as though he was drunk, but he hadn't had a drink for several weeks! (Believe it or not). He collapsed on the bedroom floor. Susan called 999 and the medics attended at around 6am. They picked him up off the floor and put him in bed. They examined him and gave him some anti-biotic drugs. They also arranged for his local doctor to see him.

At 11.30am John's local doctor arrived and prescribed him some tablet form anti-biotics. He was told that he had cellulitis in his right leg. Two days later, John hadn't improved, so the doctor arranged for the Collaborative Care Team to see him. Two young nurses attended the following day, and every day for a fortnight. Blood specimens were taken from John and I.V. Anti-biotic drugs were dispensed by the collaborative team. (John mentioned I.V. F. Drugs when he meant to say I.V. Anti-biotic Drugs, which caused great uproar in the meeting. It wasn't until Laraine Davies put John right that things calmed down; Susan was being congratulated for being a 'mother' again).

Unfortunately, shortly afterwards, John suffered a stroke (caused by the number of drugs pumped into his body, so he believed). He was put under the care of the Stroke Unit Team at A.G.H. He had short memory loss and difficulty in walking; however, these impairments are slowly improving. He was unable to use his computer or even the television remote control. (It was the first time Susan has had the 'flicker' in years). John also wished to thank you (his friends) who he has known through better times. He has had so many letters, e-mails, cards, and wonderful comments and wishes to quickly recover. John felt very touched and humble.

John remembered his friend and much-loved leader of our band of NARPO followers, TONY HENNIGAN. Tony has constantly been at John's beck and call for the past three months. He has done all of John's secretarial duties and, together with Graham Berry (our treasurer), have deputised at the Regional Meeting and the Arboretum Event last month. Tony has travelled from Knaresborough to John's home at Settle on numerous occasions, for NARPO events as well as normal visits, for which John was truly grateful. Thanks Tony – you are a true friend. A great round of applause was given to Tony for all his efforts, much to his embarrassment!

And finally, John wished to thank Susan, his wife, and the love of his life. As many of you know, Susan has had a few health problems recently, but she has been a rock as far as he is concerned. Without her patience and guidance over the past three months (and beyond) she has been my angel. John cannot tell you how fantastic she has been. She has been his carer, his driver, and his eyes, particularly during the first six weeks of his illness. Susan was also given a loud and heart-warming round of applause.

John ended his speech and was given a warm round of applause.

Tony started his remarks by thanking John for his kind words before then going on to present a talk on:

'Tony's End-to-End Walk – from Land's End to John O'Groats – 2022'.

"On 1st April, 20 years ago, when aged 50, together with my Red (Irish) Setter, Bess, I set off and walked from Land's End to John o' Groats (Dunscanby Head). As the Foot and Mouth disease was at its height, all my walking had to be carried out on roads.

On 1st April 10 years ago, together with Bess, I walked in the opposite direction from John O'Groats to Land's End and raised £5,000 for Children in Need.

I intended setting off on 1st April 2022 (for the final time!) at 70 years of age, to walk from Land's End to John o' Groats but a certain virus put paid to that! However, once I had received my second vaccination, together with Rua, I left Land's End enroute to John o' Groats on Tuesday 27 April. Current restrictions dictate that B&B's, guest houses and hostels etc are closed until 17 May, so Rua and I would be camping until at least then. I have also discovered that most campsites do not allow anyone to pitch on their sites unless they have their own toilet facilities - and as it is not my intention to carry a w/c with me, so I will take things as I find them - or not!

I am asking you to support me by donating to the wonderful Sue Ryder Manorlands registered charity. It costs £4.1 million pounds per year to keep Manorlands up and running and they are funded to a great extent by sponsored events - which have been virtually non-existent for the past 12 months; and by the proceeds from their charity shops - which have been mostly closed for the past 12 months. So, I really would urge you to support me, and those being cared for, or to be cared for in the future, by the dedicated and committed staff and volunteers at Manorlands.

My previous End to End walks have taken a couple of months and they have been entirely self-financed, and I have been totally self-sufficient. I have strictly declined private lifts and the use of public transport, and I have always carried my own heavy rucksack (and possibly Rua this time!). **(Tony's grit and determination, as a proud Yorkshireman, saw him through).**

Also, I have donated blood/plasma/platelets on a very regular basis over the past 50 years and I have received an award for having donated my 750th unit (now into the 800's) The NHS Blood and Transplant Service are currently facing their own challenges in providing hospital patients and others with the blood, plasma, and platelets they need. I am therefore asking those who cannot afford to support me financially - and some of you who can do both(!) - to consider donating blood. You really can make a difference, and both save and improve other persons lives.

Footnote: Tony sent me this message following the meeting, which reads as follows:

Dear John,

I just wanted to thank you for your kind words at our meeting yesterday evening and I just hope you realise that the sentiments you so eloquently expressed are entirely reciprocated. I really do value your friendship and it was so good to see you up and running and, on your feet, again! Well done you!

*I was so overwhelmed at our meeting yesterday evening when our 66 guests donated a total of **£706** including gift aid, which brings **my grand total for Sue Ryder Manorlands to a little over £20k** including gift aid. It's a little more than my initial £3k target! Extremely generous contributions included £200 placed in an envelope and deposited in our collection ice-bucket by a person unknown. It was also great to see our esteemed ex-defence solicitor Jeremy Mackrell after all these years. Jeremy had sponsored me on my walk and we exchanged a few tales and enjoyed laughter about villains of mutual acquaintance, from different sides of the fence of justice! Mutual respect was illustrated in abundance! His wife told me that Jeremy had thoroughly enjoyed the evening and she mentioned in his absence how he had maintained a great respect for the police service. How refreshing!*

Manorlands personnel are absolutely delighted with the funding for their Sue Ryder Manorlands

Hospice <https://www.sueryder.org/how-we-can-help/sue-ryder-manorlands-hospice> and other essential services.

Please pass on my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to each and every one of our wonderful members and friends who donated and/or sent me good wishes and enthused me along the way. Their kindness, friendship and generosity will never be forgotten. And, by the way, lest anyone feels inclined to make a further, or even an initial donation, then please ask them to do so via this link before I close it down. Thanks to all, in anticipation.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/anthony-hennigan>

Any other business –

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.40 p.m.

After Tony's speech, a raffle was held, where all monies raised were sent to Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice.

Then followed by a most enjoyable pie and pea supper – and the tip which is normally extended to Cougars staff, was donated by them to the Manorlands collection. What wonderful people they are too!

That's about it for now – and I am delighted to have reached the end! It seems that that virus is on the rise again and I would ask each and every one of you to take care and stay safe. And please do let us know if we can assist you in any way, shape, or form.