



NARPO ESSEX

The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex

Chelmsford Branch – December 2022 Newsletter

COMMUNICATION - WELFARE – SOCIAL

Branch Priorities

People occasionally ask, 'What does NARPO do for its members?' Your branch committee has recently addressed that question and the three words at the top of this article set out our agreed priorities.

At the centre of all we do is the welfare of our members and their immediate families.

Supporting the NARPO themes of *Life, work and leisure after the police*, the branch committee leads *Communication, Welfare and Social* programmes.

Whilst we have a full committee, we aim to:

Communication – provide regular branch updates including news & offers, an up-to-date website and newsletters by post to those without email.

Welfare – have committee members dedicated to welfare who can help with tailored responses according to need. We donate to charities relevant to the welfare of our members and have close links with the Essex Police Force Benevolent Fund.

Social - actively support events led by others and maintain a regular social programme meeting the wide range of interests of a diverse membership.

At national level other resources are available to members via the website at: www.narpo.org Our Branch website is available at <https://www.narpo.org/branches/chelmsford/>

Vacancy – Volunteer Welfare Representative – Chelmsford Branch

After several years in post, our colleague Tim Stokes will be retiring from this role at the end of March 2023, a vacancy will therefore exist for a new person to join our team. The role is rewarding, and the successful applicant will deal with about fifty referrals a year. The workload is around 6 hours a week but this does vary from time to time.

The role delivers welfare options to members, members loved ones and families. On occasions the representative will assist non-members who have nowhere else to go for support.



NARPO ESSEX

**The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex**

The main functions of the role are to deliver welfare options by:

1. Direct intervention: This includes welfare visits to ascertain appropriate responses. The work includes assisting members in completion of paperwork, directing to legal advice, negotiating with local authorities, taking the lead on bereavement advice and ensuring appropriate benefits are claimed.
2. Signposting help: The representative may also direct members towards help such as the Benevolent Fund and Flint House.

Other areas of responsibility will include:

3. Being a member of the Branch Committee, updating the Committee on welfare matters and producing a written report for the Branch AGM.
4. Manage and have responsibility for the welfare budget and negotiate with the Committee for funds which fall outside that budget.
5. Liaise with other branches nationally so that members who do not live in Essex receive help.
6. Work closely with the Essex Police Benevolent Fund, Police Care UK and other organisations to source additional funds where necessary.
7. Take the lead with national issues such as widow's/widower's pensions for life, injury on duty pension reviews etc.

Training is available via the courses organised by NARPO head office and there is an annual meeting of Regional Welfare Representatives, usually held at Leatherhead, where issues of mutual interest are discussed.

The role is open to any member, or spouse of a member of the Chelmsford Branch. An honorarium is available and reasonable out of pocket expenses will be paid.

Tim has offered to make himself available to discuss the role with potential applicants and those interested can contact him at: timstokes0890@hotmail.co.uk

Tim will also offer a hand over period to the new representative.

Once you have had a chance to discuss the role with Tim please contact Sue Heaton, the Chelmsford Branch Secretary, to formally register your interest: EssexChelmsford@narpo.org

Applications will close on 31 January 2023.

NARPO Annual Conference

As members may know the 2022 conference coincided with the tragic death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. By the time the Queen's passing became public knowledge delegates from throughout the country were already assembled in Torquay and were in attendance at the



NARPO ESSEX

The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex

pre-conference dinner. As you would expect, we took appropriate action during the dinner to show our respect and formally acknowledge her death.

Unfortunately, without consulting the delegates present, the NEC decided to cancel the conference scheduled for the following day. Whilst we all understood the significance of the situation, no account was taken of the important items listed on the conference agenda – which have effectively been abandoned or delayed for a further 12 months. Along with some other branches we have also raised the issue of travelling and accommodation costs involved which have to be paid for from local funds. To date the NEC has rejected our claim for reimbursement and I have written to them again expressing our disappointment at the decision.

Social Events

I would like to extend my thanks to our Social Secretary, Pat Mahoney, for the tremendous effort he has put in to organising our various social events since he took office at the AGM earlier this year. Well done Pat.

I do hope that members will continue supporting these events and if you have anything you would like to see on the programme, please contact Pat on: narposocialsec@gmail.com or ring him on: 07935 400002. He will be pleased to hear from you.

Widows and Widowers Pension for Life

The appeal hearing against the order of Mr Justice Fordham, dated 27 May 2022, was held 30 November 2022 at the Royal Courts of Justice. The case is about the human rights compatibility of a mechanism under which a police pension is ‘switched off’ – that is termination of a widow’s or civil partner’s pension on remarriage or another event. At the time of writing, we await the outcome.

Just Some of the Events we have Organised or Supported During the Year



CCs Garden Party



Ely Cathedral Christmas Markets



Tower of London Visits



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Retired Police Officers in Essex



UK Police Memorial Staffordshire



With Colchester Branch at 'Conference'



Essex Police Museum

Christmas and the New Year Ahead

Life has been difficult for many members over the last couple of years, first with Covid and now with increasing costs due to world events such as the dreadful war in Ukraine. Politicians continue to grapple with these events and we can only hope for a brighter future in the years to come. As ever, should you or any member you know be in need of welfare assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of the Branch may I wish to you and yours a peaceful Christmas and a more settled and prosperous new year ahead.

Bob

Robert Good
NARPO Chelmsford – Branch Chair

Dear Members,

Our Branch website is at www.narpo.org/branches/chelmsford

You will find lots of information about the Branch including the latest newsletters and updates as well as details of forthcoming events.

You can also link to the main NARPO site which has a wide range of useful information at www.narpo.org

Select areas of the main website will now require a log in. The password is XPOL1919



NARPO ESSEX

The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex

You will see our social secretary's update below, but I would like to encourage you all to attend our Christmas Get Together on Saturday 10th December at the ESPA Clubhouse at Headquarters between 12 noon and 3pm.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet up with old friends/colleagues and have a good old catch up whilst being entertained by our talented member Paul Clancy.

I am hoping to see a good turnout which will encourage our new social secretary, who has been working extremely hard to organise events for you. Several members have already indicated attendance at this gathering so please register your interest

to narposocialsec@gmail.com

I look forward to meeting you there.

Social Secretary Update

Dear Friends

As Christmas rapidly approaches it is a good time to review events so far and look forward to planning for 2023.

Our two branch visits to The Tower of London, Ceremony of the Keys in August and October went well and four new dates are set for next year. Such a historic venue for this oldest of British military ceremonies is a great evening out.

Not forgetting the The Keys, the Yeoman Warders Bar, to rest and refresh between events.

I will mention again the new dates below and invite you to indicate your preference.

Rest assured I will circulate nearer each date and explore the hire of transport if there is sufficient support for those who don't fancy public transport.

On 18th November our first coach trip to the delights of Ely Christmas Market in Cambridgeshire was held. The weather was kind with only a light breeze to remind us it is winter but 29 brave souls embraced the challenge.

Being my first time in Ely I was impressed with the historic site and the impressive size of the cathedral. Most of the inside of the cathedral was set out with numerous stalls and two outside markets in a similar manner.

Plenty of gifts, food and drinks being available and the city market and shops providing additional exploring. We made our weary way home and apart from a short delay on the M11 were back in Chelmsford by 7pm for well-earned rest.



NARPO ESSEX

The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex



Looking forward to our last social event of the year, the Christmas Get Together on Saturday 10th December rapidly approaches. Being held at the ESPA Clubhouse at Headquarters between 12 noon and 3pm.

The branch is supplying tea, coffee and Christmas fayre and even some mulled wine.

The bar will be open for something more stronger unfortunately at your expense.

Our resident magician Paul Clancy has kindly offered to give some close up magic displays to confuse and bewilder !

If you fancy the catchup please just drop me a email so I can ensure sufficient Christmas fayre is available.

To the Future



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The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex

As to 2023 and beyond I have received many suggestions for future events and am actively looking at developing them.

The Tower of London, Ceremony of the Keys has been booked for these dates. All Tuesdays and further updates will be circulated in the new year.

28th February, 30th May, 29th August and 28th November.

I am happy to take your preferred dates and as ever fairly flexible in changing your dates but each group is limited 20 attendees.

As to other events I am waiting for available dates to be published for The Magic Circle shows and visits to their London theatre and museum. Good for early New Years coach trip.

Likewise many members have expressed an interest in visiting the UK National Police Memorial at the National Arboretum, Staffordshire and I am waiting for relevant dates.

More locally a trip on a Maldon based river barge, a summer BBQ/Hog Roast at EPSA and a visit to IWM Duxford are all being explored.

I would also like to think we could look at more informal catchups such as breakfast or lunchtime meetings, pub walks or the like. Hopefully developing some form of pick up system for members who may be not so able or mobile.

Finally I will make mention of my attendance at the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony at the Cenotaph, London on 13th November.

Representing our branch and joining 35 other NARPO members from around the country we joined the ceremony in Whitehall and after the service, marched (and I use that term loosely) past the Cenotaph onto Horseguards Parade.

It was a truly humbling experience both at a personal level and as a NARPO member. Highly recommended when the opportunity presents itself again.





NARPO ESSEX

The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex



I thank you all for supporting me in the role and for attending our events arranged. As my experience and knowledge expands I still invite ideas and feedback so I can make our social side of the branch more enjoyable and inclusive.

Regards

Pat Mahoney
NARPO Chelmsford-Social Secretary

Widows Pension for Life - Appeal Update

HM Courts and Tribunals Service have confirmed the hearing will be live-streamed. To watch the live stream please [click here](#). For more information, please see the [attached](#).

Christmas Music Events - Chelmsford, December 2022

Caprice Christmas Nowell

Chelmsford Cathedral, Chelmsford, CM1 1EH
Sat 3rd December 2022

A traditional start to the Christmas period with Christmas classics, audience participation and novelty fun pieces



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The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/chelmsford/chelmsford-cathedral/caprice-christmas-nowell/e-oxpoz>

Essex Police Choir and Band

So why not join our band and choir at 7.30pm on Saturday 17 December at Christchurch in New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW for a great evening of singing and music?

<https://www.essex.police.uk/news/essex/news/news/2022/november/christmas-concert/>

Warner Late Deals

We have received a bumper set of last-minute offers – there are 42 different choices!

Please see [here](#).

They cover the period 28th November to 16th December so anybody wanting a break before Christmas could get a very good deal

Kind regards

Mandy

Mandy Zoffo-Iley

Meadway Leisure/Time Out 2 Enjoy

Metfriendly Update

Please see latest offers [here](#)

Care Quality Commission - Tell Us About Your Care

Disabled people, those living with a long-term health condition and their families now have the opportunity to help shape the future of services in England by sharing their experiences of the NHS and the care system with the regulator for the NHS in England – The Care Quality



NARPO ESSEX

The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex

Commission (CQC). We've received outstanding responses to previous requests for feedback to the CQC and would like to take the opportunity to give those unable to respond at the time the chance to share their experiences of the NHS and care services.

The CQC are asking that you share with them, in confidence, your experiences through their [Tell Us About Your Care](#) programme. It allows you to provide the CQC first-hand with your experiences – during hospital stays, GP and dental visits, accessing care services, etc. You can also do so anonymously. The simple to complete [questionnaire](#) will ask you for details of the establishment and to describe your experiences as a user of their services. The Tell Us About Your Care page can be located [via this link](#). Once you have completed the questionnaire, we ask that you share this email with your family and friends so that they too can offer their own experience.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, please call us Monday – Friday on 0330 995 0400 and choose Option 1 (afternoons are quietest) and we can complete the survey for you and send your response to the CQC on your behalf.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a key provider of evidence to help shape the [future of your care](#).

Kind regards

Disability Rights UK
0330 995 0400
enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org

Disability Rights UK
Plexal
14 East Bay Lane
Here East, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park
Stratford, London E20 3BS
United Kingdom
0330 995 0400
www.disabilityrightsuk.org

That's all for now

Kind Regards
Sue Heaton



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Retired Police Officers in Essex

Secretary Narpo
Chelmsford Branch

Christmas Vouchers

For many years, the Branch has sent Christmas gift cards to our widow members. This means a widow, widower, civil partner, or partner of a deceased former or serving police officer.

Over the last two or three years, our healthy funds have allowed us to gradually increase the value and we've done the same again for 2022. Love2Shop gift cards worth £30 were sent in early December to our 70 widow members and should arrive in good time for Christmas. We include a custom printed NARPO Chelmsford 'branded' Christmas card with our contact details.

This is the first year we've used Love2Shop having gone with Marks & Spencer before. Love2Shop can still be used at Marks & Spencer but they can also be redeemed at many other stores including Boots and Argos.

This is a very long-standing tradition of the Branch, and we hope it reminds our widow members that we are here to support them.

Andy Drane
NARPO Chelmsford - Treasurer
Communication - Welfare - Social

Obituaries

- Dennis Johnson who retired as a Sergeant in 1988 and served at Rochford, Laindon, Southend and Rayleigh. He passed away on 13th July 2022 aged 88 years.
- James Dwyer who retired as an Inspector in 1990 and served at Brentwood, Chelmsford, Rayleigh and Hutton. He passed away on 17th July 2022 aged 86 years.
- George Cartledge who retired as a Supt in 1987 he had transferred from South Yorkshire Police and then served at HQ CID. On retirement he re-joined as a support staff member at HQ HR department. He passed away on 28th July 2022 aged 89 years.
- Martin Read who retired as a D/Inspector in 2014 and served at Harlow and Epping. On retirement he eventually re-joined Norfolk police as a support staff member. He passed away on 26th September 2022 aged 64 years.



NARPO ESSEX

**The National Association of
Retired Police Officers in Essex**

- Thomas Sanderson who retired as a Sergeant in 1994 and served at Grays and Brentwood. He passed away on 5th October 2022 aged 78 years.
- Michael Abraham who retired as a Supt in 1994 and served at Clacton, Harwich, Rayleigh, Grays, Southend, Rochford, Ockendon, Harlow Dog Section and Tilbury. He passed away on 9th October 2022 aged 79 years.
- Steven Rodwell who retired as a Constable in 1995 and served at Basildon and Southend. He passed away on 15th October 2022
- John Kennet who retired as an Inspector in 1989 and served at Chelmsford, Gt Baddow, Colchester, Saffron Walden and Harlow. He passed away on 3rd November 2022 aged 85 years.
- Andy Robson who retired as a Sergeant in 2016 and served with the British Transport Police and then transferred to Essex where he served at Southend. He passed away on 6th November 2022 aged 65 years.
- Anthony (Tony) Davies who retired as a Supt in 1997 and served at Earls Colne, FSU, Harlow Traffic, Southend and Rayleigh. He passed away on 10th November 2022 aged 75 years.

May they all rest in peace

Gary Sanderson - Newsletter Editor