

The Staffordshire Knot

Staffordshire Branch of Narpo [96]

Stafford Police Station, Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2DQ

www.narpo-staffs.co.uk ☎ 01785 234039 (Voicemail)

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Name	Sub branch
Simon Anthony STREET	Northern
Ian James OAKLEY	Northern
Samantha PEACE	Northern
Terry CONN	Northern
Jonathan DRAKE	Stafford
Robert GILLIGAN	Stafford
Jon STEPHENSON	Northern
Stephen Graham WHITEHURST	Northern
Paul Gerard SMITH	Northern
Antony DAVIES	Northern
Lisa Ann DEANS	Stafford
Can we wish you all a long and healthy retirement!	

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Staffordshire Knot. The year is speeding by and before long we will be getting the thermals out and firing up the central heating!

Kevin and I had a meeting with the Chief Constable Chris Noble on the 2/8/2023 in his office at Weston Road Headquarters. We were well received, and we discussed, the Police Covenant, Information/Security passes for some Executive Members of Staffordshire NARPO to allow us to easily access Police Headquarters at Weston Road where we hold NARPO related meetings. Kevin enquired about whether we could advertise the merits of Joining NARPO on the Staffordshire Police internal T.V. messaging system. We also discussed an increase in the number of Police Headgear items we could access for use at NARPO funerals. The Chief Constable stated he would nominate persons to investigate the matters raised and get back to us.



WWW.NARPO.ORG

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

XPS Pensions
administer the
Staffordshire Police Pension,
XPS Pensions
01642 030692

ARE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS HELD BY NARPO?

KEEP IN TOUCH.

Please notify the Branch Secretary if contact information needs updating, e.g., email change, new address, new phone number, or changed spouse/partner.

Contact the Branch Secretary Kevin Waters if you are missing messages.

Let us know if you want magazine and/or newsletter mailing deliveries stopped.

Narpo News is available on the website www.narpo.org.
[Password XPOL1919]

The Staffordshire Knot is available on our website
www.narpo-staffs.co.uk

The Deputy Chief Constable Emma Barnett is retiring, and the Chief Constable has appointed a new Deputy Chief Constable Jon Roy who is currently an Assistant Chief Constable with the Merseyside Police. He starts his new role with Staffordshire on 1/11/2023.

On the 19/9/2023 I was invited to the opening of a new Memorial Garden, which is situated at the rear of Block 8 at the Weston Road Police Headquarters. The garden commemorates those Police Officers and Police Civilian Staff who have died in service of Staffordshire Police. Although the garden represents the two groups mentioned the Chief Constable has offered NARPO the opportunity in the future to be able to pay the Memorial Garden a visit. As a member of the Staffordshire Police Pension Board over recent months Staffordshire NARPO has been experiencing problems with the Pension Administrator XPS over the payment of Police Pensions to bereaved family members. I visited a member of XPS staff in Manchester on 20/9/2023 to try and get some resolution to the problem. It would appear, according to XPS, the problem lies with the Audit Assurance Faculty and Bank Verification requirements. XPS stated that they will investigate the matter to see if the system could be simplified. In the meantime, I will raise it with the Force and National NARPO.

Over recent months I have fielded queries, concerning the NARPO Travel Insurance, and the fact that at the age of 75 years you can still get cover from the provider, but at a much-increased cost as opposed to those of 74 years and under. I have made enquiries with National NARPO and have been informed that the issue does not fall into the category of Age Discrimination. Although Staffordshire NARPO cannot recommend an insurance company several members have found that a company called Stay Sure is a competitive provider.

Another interesting issue that has been brought to my attention is the fact that after 80 years of age the NHS does not provide injections for Shingles and that if you want to carry on having them you must pay for the privilege which I understand is quite expensive.

Staffordshire NARPO Branch sent five delegates to this year's Conference at Blackpool, although there were 6 motions that were debated that ranged from NARPO House, Standards Panels, Business Plans, allowing persons who had left the Police who were subsequently found guilty of Gross Misconduct Offences being allowed to join NARPO. The main debates and votes were around the issue of NARPO becoming Incorporated. [I.E., a Limited Company by £1 Guarantee.] with the NEC Members, becoming unpaid Directors of the same.

A lengthy debate took place which although in principle Incorporation seemed a sensible move, there were many concerns expressed about the haste that this was being done without the full financial ramifications being known. Despite these concerns Conference voted by a two thirds majority to proceed with Incorporation.

Over the next few months work will now be ongoing to finalise the process. There is no doubt that this change to Incorporation will have affects in respect of our Branch and Sub-Branches.

Mark Judson [Chairman

Staffordshire Branch of NARPO]

Members Called to Higher Service Jun 2023 – Oct 2023

<i>Your Branch records with regret the deaths of the following members:</i>				
	Name	Sub Branch	Age	Died
Ret'd PC	Derek John Fallows	Stafford	79 yrs	20-Aug-2023
Ret'd PC	Gerald James Matthews	Paignton	73 yrs	9-Jul-2023
Ret'd PC	Anthony Bullough Bowers	Northern	91 yrs	5-Jul-2023
Ret'd PC	John Davy	Northern	83 yrs	Jul-2023
Ret'd PC	Graham Philip Hamblin	Burton	83 yrs	20-Jul-2023
Ret'd PC	David Thomas Walley	Leek	64 yrs	12-Jul-2023
Ret'd PC	Brian Joseph Willetts	Lichfield	77 yrs	10-Aug-2023
Ret'd Insp	Philip Edwin Vaughan	Wombourne	69 yrs	1-Sep-2023
Ret'd PC	Ian Charles Bailey	Wombourne	72 yrs	7-Sep-2023
Ret'd PC	Glenn Nash	Burton	79 yrs	31-Aug-2023
Ret'd PC	Alan Michael Hoare	Burton	82 yrs	9-Aug-2023
Ret'd PC	Charles McGaffey	Wombourne	87 yrs	9-Sep-2023
Ret'd Sgt	Robert Alexander J Scrimgeour	Leek	87 yrs	8-Sep-2023
<i>Widows and Spouses Called to Higher Service</i>				
	Name	Sub Branch	Age	Died
Husband	David Thomas Jones	Northern	86 yrs	13-Jan-2023
Wife	Judith Ann Bennett	Leek	74 yrs	24-May-2023
Widow	Margaret Gallagher	Northern	72 yrs	7-May-2023
Widow	Joan Betty Westwell	Stafford	89 yrs	23-Jul-2023
Widow	Dorothy N Wood	Northern	93 yrs	27-Aug-2023
Widow	Norma Hough	Burton	85 yrs	18-Sep-2023

From the archive: Research by Mark Judson

Stafford Prison was built and opened in 1793, from this date until to 1911 100 persons were hanged at the prison. In those days lesser crime than murder was punishable by hanging. The severity of punishments was shown by the fact that in 1843 a 16 year-old boy was sentenced to 10 years transportation for stealing, and an 11-year-old boy was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for theft of two silk handkerchiefs.

The last execution at Stafford Prison was on December 28th, 1911, and the one before that was in April 1909.

William Collier was the last person executed in public in the County Town on August 7th, 1866. I found it interesting that in 1916 the prison was given over to the Military Authorities and in fact detained prisoners from the Irish Easter Uprising, including the famous Michael Collins.

When originally built the prison had two turrets which provided further accommodation. In 1923, owing to the shortage of housing in the Stafford Area, local families were accommodated in those rooms. This arrangement was terminated after three years [The turrets no longer exist at the prison, having long since been demolished.]

The vacant prison during this time was also used by the Postal Authorities in Stafford to cover the extra work at Christmas time.

At its height of operation, the prison could accommodate 842 persons.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Emergency Powers were brought into operation and Stafford Prison was re-opened to receive detainees.

As far as I am aware after the War the prison remained open and to this day is still operating as a functioning prison. Obviously over the years modernisation has taken place and today it is a specialist prison accommodating sex offenders.

Stafford and Stone

Just a few words to thank everyone in the Sub branch for their support over the last few months. It would be nice to see a few more of the “younger” members at the gatherings we have every 4 months, just to keep us ‘olduns’ on our toes. We try to make the get togethers interesting and as informal as possible. We have regular guest speakers and even if you think you’ll never need some of the things we get information about, you never know. Over the last couple of years it has been brought home to me that devastating things happen often, and being prepared always helps, and NARPO is always here to offer whatever help we can.

Anyway, enough doom and gloom. This is our last Knot before Christmas so I’m going to take the opportunity to publicise an event that’s dear to my heart. The Christmas Tree Festival held in St Mary’s church in Stafford. This year it runs from Wednesday 6th December and ending at 5pm on Tuesday 12th December. The length of daily opening will also be extended slightly from last year. Until



this year our own Rev John Davis was as heavily involved but he has handed over to someone younger, Katie Taylor, who has asked if we can again help with providing light touch

marshalling throughout the event. Just a couple of hours now and again during the festival will be a great help.

If you feel you can offer some time, just drop me an email at philchallinor@narpo-staffs.co.uk

We are also looking to see what we can organise next year for our members so if you have any ideas come along to our next meeting and share them. Our next meeting is on Thursday 26 October at 7:30 pm at the Constitutional Club 5 Lloyd St, Stafford ST16 3AS. The postcode is here so if you’re not sure where it is, Google maps will tell you. Hope to see you soon!

Phil Challinor, and the rest of the Sub-branch Committee

Stafford and Stone Sub-Branch 2024 Reunion Lunch: By popular demand this will again be at Brocton Hall Golf Club on **Saturday 3 February 2024**. We continue to keep the cost low with the help of a subsidy from NARPO Branch funds. The booking form is now available on page 7, and I am very much looking forward to meeting up with you. Gerry Robinson.

BRANCH CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN

Mark Judson
☎ 01785 660095

SECRETARY

Kexin Waters
☎ 07768 233123

TREASURER

Mike Kozam
☎ 07806 732968

SUB BRANCH CONTACTS

BURTON

Chair vacancy
☎
Secretary
Mick Draycott
☎ 07784 579804

CANNOCK

Joe Molloy
☎ 01785 561792
Maurice Cryer
☎ 07976 426228

LEEK

Andrea Plant
☎ 07707 996907
Mike Smith
☎ 07955 425462

LICHFIELD

Brian Williams
☎ 01543 253120
Linda Hicken
☎ 01922 452572

NORTHERN

Kevin Waters
☎ 07768 233123
Dave Malam
☎ 07971 594950

Join Carole & Gerry ROBINSON. MBE, for your next

Quarterly Luncheon Group

Wednesday 1st NOVEMBER 2023

Meet at 12 noon to eat at 12:30 pm

The Woolpack, Weston on Trent. ST18 0JH, 01889 270238.

LUNCH MENU with special lighter bites deals available.

Google:- The Woolpack, Weston, Stafford.

Go online to choose your menu choices and contact Gerry before Sunday 29th October 2023, to avoid disappointment: gerryu3a@gmail.com or tel. mobile 07902 915 500

Cannock and Rugeley Sub Branch

Our meeting in September featured a talk from Liz McCabe from Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards. She gave helpful details of how fraudsters and scammers are duping people across the county (and nationally) into revealing on the phone personal details and banking details which are then used to steal money. Interestingly, the victims of these crimes are becoming repeat victims by other fraudsters claiming to be the police or bank officials investigating the original crime. Trading Standards are assisting vulnerable victims by installing call blocking devices free of charge which are helping to reduce the repeat victimisation. A brief update on County and NEC matters came from the Branch Chairman. Following the success of our Christmas get together last year details of another on 16th December 2023 will be circulated shortly. If you do not receive email but wish to have details, please call me on 07976 426228.

Maurice Cryer, Cannock and Rugeley Sub branch Secretary.

A Halloween Story

It was the late 1970's on a dark and stormy October night late in the month. Codsall was operating as a Rural Patrol Unit in those days, and on this night were two officers on duty, PC Farmer and PC Jones. They had started shift at 10pm, on mobile patrol in W17, a dark blue Ford Escort van. The weather was inclement to say the least, squally showers and a howling wind, just the sort of weather to clear the streets early and give us night shift workers a quiet night.

It was fast approaching midnight and W17 was driving along Wergs Hall Road towards the border with Wolverhampton and the West Mids. This road is semi-rural with tall trees both sides and poor lighting from the sparse streetlamps. They approached the junction with the A41 Wergs Road and stopped at the Give Way. At this point the A41 has a short stretch of dual carriageway. On the central reservation they saw a sight which made a chill run down their backs. There, in the centre, was a coffin!

The wind was screeching through the treetops and the moon was glinting off the brass handles of the coffin. They sat for a moment unable to believe their eyes until one of them said "Where has that come from?" to which the other replied "There's a cemetery just up the road!"

They remained in the vehicle for several minutes debating who should get out and examine the coffin. The conversation went something like “I’m driving so you’d better go.”, to which the reply was drowned by the pips of the Force radio, “***** *** I’m not going”. Eventually they agreed they’d both go. They alighted from W17 and slowly approached the coffin. By this time, they could see that the lid was slightly askew. “What if someone’s in it?” was asked “Let’s hope it’s empty.” was the reply. They approached the coffin and with an apprehensive hand pushed back the lid. OMG, it’s empty!

Now what to do? The coffin appeared new and thankfully unused. They couldn’t leave it there, so into the back of W17 and back to Codsall Nick and booked it into found property.

I would have loved to have seen Sergeant Talbot’s face when he came in next morning to find a coffin in Found Property! The coffin was claimed later. It transpired that a group of lads from Telford had been on a Stag Night in Wolverhampton and had carried the Stag around the town in it. At the end of the night, they had put it on the roof of the car to drive back to Telford, not realising it had fallen off as they left Wolverhampton. An innocent ending to a rather spooky occurrence.

Roger Jones, Wombourne Sub branch.

Promotional Video

Narpo Staffordshire has launched a new promotional video to invite new members to join as they approach retirement, and those who opted to delay joining.

We thank our Secretary Kevin Waters and Kieran Waters who created this for us. It can be viewed on our website, on our Facebook page and private group, and on YouTube with the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puB3hWMXDoo&ab_channel=StaffordshireNARPO

Staffordshire Police will be including it on its TV bulletin boards in police stations around the county.



NARPO STAFFORD SUB BRANCH Annual Lunch.

Organisers. Carole & Gerry Robinson, MBE.

La Tour Apartment, 42 Drakeford Court, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford. ST17 4BS

Tel. Mobile 07902 915 500

E Mail: gerryu3a@gmail.com

An Invitation is extended to all members to join us at

Brocton Hall Golf Club. Stafford. ST17 0TH

There is disabled parking and access points for those members with walking difficulties.

PLEASE contact Gerry for details.

Saturday 3rd February 2024

12:00pm reception for 1:00pm Meal

2 courses for £20 and 3 courses for £25

(Special price. Each guest will also receive their first drink FREE)

PLEASE see the menu choices form below and post it to Gerry & Carole Robinson or send e mail as appropriate (Before 20th January 2024 please.) Max number 80 persons. PLEASE BOOK EARLY.

PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE CONTRIBUTION.

MENU CHOICES.

Starters

1. Creamy garlic Button Mushrooms on toasted brioche (v)
2. Fan of Melon and seasonal fruits with refreshing mint and pomegranate syrup. (v)
3. Homemade chicken liver parfait with melba toast, red onion chutney and dressed leaves.

Mains

4. Roast Topside of Beef and pan gravy.
 5. Supreme of Chicken on a fondant potato with chasseur sauce.
 6. Sea Bass fillets on a bed of herbed crushed new potatoes with white watercress sauce.(v)
 7. Goats Cheese and mediterranean vegetable wellington with creamy tomato and basil sauce.(v)
- (All served with seasonal vegetables.)

Desserts

8. Lemon cheesecake topped with raspberries and coulis.
9. Warm chocolate brownie, chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream.
10. Sticky Toffee pudding, butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream.

Coffee & Mints to follow.

Please keep the above copy marked to remember your menu choice/s.

----- cut here -----

BOOKING FORM. Brocton Hall Golf Club, Sat. 3rd February 2024.

By post Cheques made payable to 'Stafford NARPO Sub Branch' please or

by Bank Transfer - Account Name: Stafford NARPO. Sort code: 08 92 99 Account No: 65 36 12 63

Use payment ref.: [Your name] + SS82024.

BACS Payers need only email their menu choices direct to gerryu3a@gmail.com.

Menu Choices * Please use numbers only.

Name. 1. (Capitals please.)

First name..... Surname.....

Tel. No..... e mail address.....

Menu Choice. Starter.*No..... Mains.*No..... Deserts.*No.....

Name. 2. (Capitals please.)

First name..... Surname.....

Tel. No..... e mail address.....

Menu Choice. Starter.*No..... Mains.*No..... Deserts.*No.....

If possible seat me/us with.....Send the booking forms in together if you can.

Please send this to G & C Robinson, 42. Drakeford Court, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford. ST17 4BS.

Data Protection: In submitting this form I consent to NARPO holding the personal details supplied and recording them in written or electronic forms for the purpose of arranging the event. I consent to being contacted by telephone or email given, if necessary, to discuss the booking and the relevant information to be shared with the venue management/caterers. I am aware that privacy & data protection policies are available on the Staffordshire NARPO website and in writing on request.

SUB BRANCH CONTACTS

STAFFORD

Chair vacancy

☎ 01785

Phil Challinor

☎ 07908 617946

TAMWORTH

Glyn Thomas

☎ 01827 67545

Robert Vaughan

☎ 01543 257624

WOMBOURNE

Roger Jones

☎ 01902 847299

John Cooper

☎ 07779 050244

Weirdest Facts

Boxers often knock out their opponents, and occasionally even hit the referee. In 1959 Henry Wallitsch sort of knocked himself out, while fighting Bartolo Soni at the Island Garden Arena in New York, USA. Wallitsch missed a punch, toppled out of the ring, and hit the floor hard. He was declared knocked out.

Helmets/Caps/Hats

Could you lend a souvenir helmet/cap/hat for use at a former officers' funeral?

Items returned intact after the service. Send description of your item to Kevin Waters.

Your newsletter is edited by our website manager Joe Molloy,

☎ 01785 561792 or email: joemolloy@narpo-staffs.co.uk

Northern

The meeting for Northern Sub Branch was held on Thursday 12th October. Notes were not available for this newsletter.

The Annual Dinner and Cabaret, is to be held in March 2024. The details and booking form to be circulated on the website when available. Anyone interested who does not use the website can request details and a booking form from Keith Houlston (Tel 01782 616118). Next meeting 18th April 2024.

Dave Malam (Secretary, Northern Sub Branch)

Burton-on-Trent and Uttoxeter

Our next sub branch meeting takes place at Marstons Sports and Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton commencing at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 14 February 2024, that's the **AGM** where as usual a buffet will be provided. Raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Further meetings for 2024 are being arranged. Dates will be circulated.

Plans for our ever-popular Christmas Lunch on 13th DECEMBER 2023 are going ahead, The booking form is on **page 10**. Please reply by 18th November.

Mick Draycott (Burton & Uttoxeter Sub branch Secretary)

Leek and Cheadle

The next meeting of the Leek Sub branch will be on Tuesday 7th November, 7:30pm at Leek Hockey Club, Macclesfield Road, Leek ST13 8LD. We look forward to your company and contribution on that evening. A light supper will be served, and the bar will be open for refreshments.

Mike Smith (Leek and Cheadle Sub branch Secretary).

National Police Memorial Day was commemorated on 27th September 2023 at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. There was an excellent turnout from our members.

Renewal of Narpo-staffs Website and Email Services

Our Branch website and email service has been supported and hosted locally for over 15 years. The current version of the website has just reached 5 years old, designed and modelled on the national Narpo website.

Our HQ in Wakefield has invited Staffordshire Branch to join in the new website being launched this month. This happily coincides with the announcement of closure of our own Internet Service Provider (ISP). Email services for your local officials using the narpo-staffs.co.uk addresses will consequently also be transferred to a new hosting service. Please bear with us if the changeover disrupts access, it will be fixed as soon as possible. These changes do not affect the social media presence, hosted on Facebook, which continues to grow, now with 729 registered users.

Any member who has an interest in web content management and would be interested in assisting and contributing, or learning about adding, content to our website should contact Joe Molloy by email joemolloy@narpo-staffs.co.uk.

Dementia Respite Breaks

Dementia is a cruel condition, not only for the sufferer, but also for the effect it has on the partner who is caring for the sufferer. The Police Mutual Foundation charity funds a number of Retiree Respite Breaks for members of the police family, including NARPO members affected by the condition. The breaks are typically for five days and operated by providers who specialise in catering for dementia cases, and includes the extra support required to ensure that they are *genuine* respite breaks for the carer. **You do not need to have, or have had at any time, a policy with Police Mutual.** Staffordshire NARPO will also assist with travelling costs. A number of our members have been on these breaks recently and found them to be truly beneficial.



If you would like to nominate for a Respite Break, or to find out more, please contact your sub-branch Welfare Officer/Secretary,

or the Branch Treasurer, Mike Kozam by email mikekozam@narpo-staffs.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can use the form below. All information supplied will be treated in accordance with Strictest confidentiality.

Police Mutual Foundation Respite Break Scheme

I would like to nominate for a Police Mutual Foundation Respite Break

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ Post code: _____

Name of dementia patient: _____ DOB: _____

Name of carer: _____

Data Protection: In submitting this form I consent to NARPO holding the personal details supplied and recording them in written or electronic forms for the purpose of arranging respite. I consent to being contacted by telephone or email given, if necessary, to discuss the nomination and the relevant information to be shared with Narpo officers and the Police Mutual Foundation. I am aware that privacy & data protection policies are available on the Staffordshire NARPO website and in writing on request.

Return to: Mike Kozam 52 Windsor Road, Stafford ST17 4PB Tel: 01785 257578

Burton & Uttoxeter Narpo Christmas Lunch

The Pavilion, Branston Golf and Country Club, DE14 3DP

Wednesday 13th December 2023

12:30 p.m. Arrival for 1:00 p.m. Lunch

Starters

MENU

A. Winter Vegetable Soup

B. Chicken Liver Pate

C. Smoked Salmon Rillette

Main Course

A. Traditional Roast Turkey

B. Wild Mushroom, Spinach & Blue Cheese Tart, port Sauce (With seasonal Veg)

C. Herb Crusted Hake (beurre blanc sauce, Chive Mash)

Dessert

A. Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

B. Passion Fruit Cheesecake

C. Branston Cheese Board with grapes, chutney, Celery and biscuits

Cost per person £30. Wine, Tea and coffee and Dinner Mints inc

Please make your selection and send your completed order slip and Cheque payable to "NARPO" **NO later than 18th November 2023**

To Phil Johnson, 151 Efflinch lane, Barton-under-Needwood, DE13 8EY Tel; 01283 713384

YOU ARE INVITED TO BRING ONE WRAPPED RAFFLE PRIZE AND A £1 COIN

.....Return Below Section.....

NAME A

STARTER.....MAIN.....DESSERT..... (Indicate by above list letter)

Name B

STARTER.....MAIN.....DESSERT.....

I would like to sit with.....

Please advise any dietary needs when booking. A telephone contact number may be useful

.....

In submitting this form I consent to NARPO holding the personal details supplied and recording them in written or electronic forms for the purpose of arranging this event. I consent to being contacted by the telephone or email given if necessary to discuss the booking and for relevant information to be shared with the venue caterers. I am aware that privacy and data protection policies are available on the website and in writing on request.