

# The Staffordshire Knot

## Staffordshire Branch of Narpo [96]

c/o 6 Hearn Court, Rising Brook, Stafford, ST17 9QN

☎ 01785 540500 (with Voicemail)

<https://narpo.org/branch-pages/staffordshire-members-area/>

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Name	Sub branch
John Nicholas Hornby	Stafford and Stone
Lyndon Goddard	Tamworth
Jason Bromley	Leek and Cheadle
Warren James Edwards	Northern
David Robert Kelly	Tamworth
Craig Edward Davies	Stafford and Stone
Ian Peter Furlong	Northern
<b>We wish you all a long and healthy retirement!</b>	

## Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Staffordshire Knot, it is very interesting times as the old saying goes. The Prime Minister has thrown all the cards into the air by calling a General Election on 4 July 2024. As well as taking all the other political parties by surprise, it has stayed all ongoing legislation that was going through Parliament.

The result, on 5 July 2024, may have significant bearing on many areas including the future of policing in this country.

Nationally, NARPO incorporation is moving on. After Conference voted that NARPO becomes a company limited by guarantee, an application for incorporation was submitted and Companies House approved the application on the 16th January 2024. Within the last few weeks Branch Treasurers have been provided with guidance and a template on how to best deal with financial issues from the Branch and Sub-Branches. This is necessary so that they can comply with company law, and do not breach His Majesty's Revenue Custom and Excise regulations.

Locally, NARPO hosted a meeting with the Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Ben Adams, at his request, on 14 March 2024 at the Rising Brook Baptist Church Stafford. It was reasonably well attended by our members who asked some searching questions of him. I think he left the



[WWW.NARPO.ORG](http://WWW.NARPO.ORG)

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**XPS Pensions** administer the **Staffordshire Police Pension, XPS Pensions 03300 545505**

**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](http://www.narpo.org). [Password XPOL1919]

**The Staffordshire Knot** is available via the website [Staffordshire Branch pages](#).

meeting with a good sense as to how Staffordshire NARPO members thought of the current situation of policing in the county.

As it transpired, Ben Adams was re-elected on 4 May 2024. Following his re-election Kevin and I wrote to him to congratulate him. It is always useful to have a good working relationship with whoever is the Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime.

This year of 2024 is the 100-year anniversary of the Staffordshire Police Welfare Fund. At the Welfare Meeting in March of this year it was agreed with the Chief Constable, local Police Federation and ourselves that the Force should do something to commemorate this anniversary.

This anniversary came to our attention from correspondence that one of our members, Trevor Laws, gave to me. He was in possession of two letters which referred to a Malter's Strike in Burton-on-Trent in 1897. At the conclusion of the dispute, in which Staffordshire County Police had played an important role, the then chairman of Bass Breweries sent the then Chief Constable, Colonel Anson, a sum of £50 to be used to assist with the welfare of police officers in the future. The money remained in the bank for a few years, by which time the £50 had risen to £70. At that point the Force encouraged the Police Federation in Staffordshire, which was then in its infancy, to set up a Welfare Fund and this occurred in 1924.

The celebration, which will take place at the Police Headquarters, Weston Road, Stafford on Friday 5 July 2024, will be hosted by the Chief Constable Chris Noble [General Election permitting]. The majority of the invitees will have previously been involved with the Welfare Fund. A buffet, tea/coffee and soft drinks is being arranged, also on display will be a collection of Staffordshire Police Memorabilia which has been collected through donations over the past two years, including a display of the complete series of Ex Ch Insp Chris Sheldon's picture prints of Staffordshire Police Stations from years past.

**Mark Judson**

**[Chairman Staffordshire Branch of NARPO]**

## **Weirdest Facts**

Thomas Holland was walking to work along St John Street, Hanley, when the ground suddenly opened up in front of him and he fell to his death.

It was about 7 o'clock on the morning of Saturday, December 3, 1903, when Mr Holland, a 56-year-old tallow chandler, was walking from his home in Mount Street, Northwood, to his place of employment, Swan and Parker, in Charles Street, Hanley.

St John Street was then a very busy thoroughfare in the northern part of the town, and was used by hundreds, perhaps thousands of people walking to work or the shops every day.

But when the unlucky Mr Holland took a step along his regular route to work, the pavement gave way beneath him and he disappeared into a yawning chasm. The chasm which swallowed the man up proved to be an old disused shaft, belonging to what were once an old hall and fields. The pit had been closed for 40 years. "It had apparently been roughly covered in with timber which, after supporting the tread of thousands of people daily for a generation, has at length suddenly given way.

The shaft was judged to be 121ft deep and filled with poisonous gas. Mr Holland's sudden death shocked the community around the Potteries, and filled newspaper columns all over the country.

But apart from the loss of the candle maker, the urgent question was what to do with the hole.

In the end, after seeking the consent of Mr Holland's family, the town council had no option but to close the pit and so, for perhaps the first and only time in Hanley's history, a funeral service was held on a busy public road.

To this day, Thomas Holland's body still rests beneath the pavement in St John Street, Hanley, while his name has passed into legend. [<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/history/body-swallowed-man-still-lying>]

## *Members Called to Higher Service Mar 2024 – Jun 2024*

<i>Your Branch records with regret the deaths of the following members:</i>				
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sub Branch</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Died</b>
Ret'd DC	Jean Ann Morgan	Northern	83 yrs	23 Mar 2024
Ret'd Supt	Stanley Richard Wood	Stafford and Stone	97 yrs	25 Mar 2024
Ret'd PC	Robert Mahoney	Northern	80 yrs	26 Mar 2024
Ret'd DC	Brian Withnall	Lichfield	90 yrs	27 Mar 2024
Ret'd Sgt	Eric McDonald	Stafford and Stone	90 yrs	25 Mar 2024
Ret'd Insp	John James Devaney	Northern	77 yrs	13 Apr 2024
Ret'd PC	Mary Rose Robertson	Northern	72 yrs	15 Apr 2024
Ret'd PC	Anthony Edwards	Northern	83 yrs	20 Apr 2024
Ret'd PC	Stephen Roger Morris	Stafford and Stone	73 yrs	22 Apr 2024
Ret'd PC	John Hurst	Leek and Cheadle	76 yrs	2 May 2024
Ret'd Sgt	Raymond Frederick Key	Stafford and Stone	80 yrs	4 May 2024
Ret'd Sgt	Anthony Farmer	Stafford and Stone	69 yrs	15 May 2024
Ret'd PC	Kenneth Arthur Thomas	Northern	77 yrs	30 May 2024
Ret'd Insp	Jeffrey Unett	Leek and Cheadle	79 yrs	7 June 2024
Ret'd Supt	Gordon John Toft	Northern	94 yrs	4 June 2024

### *Widows and Spouse Called to Higher Service*

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sub Branch</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Died</b>
Mrs	Audrey Diane Capewell	Leek and Cheadle	91 yrs	24 Apr 2024
Mrs	Margaret Butters	Stafford and Stone	92 yrs	3 May 2024
Mrs	Joy Simpson	Northern	94 yrs	5 May 2024
Mrs (Wife)	Rose Mycock	Northern	78 yrs	11 Jun 2024

### **From the archive: Research by Mark Judson**

On looking through the Staffordshire Police 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine, I came across a small section which referred to commendations awarded by the Chief Constable to a group of officers from the West Bromwich Division in 1954. [West Bromwich Division was in the Staffordshire County Police at this time]. The officers commended were, Ch Insp S. Barratt, Insp R. Hazell, Sgt E.S. Palmer, PC L.G. Heath and Ch Insp Westbury.

The commendations were issued following a murder investigation, where a 17-year-old girl named Margaret Chase was stabbed to death on her way back home from an evening church service on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1954.

The offender a 19-year-old RAF Serviceman, known to the victim, was subsequently arrested and charged with the girl's murder.

In the Anniversary Magazine the offender's surname was given as Morse, this intrigued me because the name Morse is often linked to the famous TV Detective Ch Insp Morse. I therefore decided to research the murder.

It did not take me long to ascertain that the murderer's name was not Morse, but William Richard Moore of Dial Lane, Hill Top West Bromwich. The tragedy had unfolded because of unrequited love from Moore's perspective. Moore could not accept being rebuffed and so when he saw her on her way home from church he stabbed her fatally in the back. On interview he readily admitted the murder and showed so much remorse that at the subsequent trial at Stafford Assizes in March 1954 he asked for a letter to be sent to the parents of Margaret requesting that he be buried with her.

At Stafford Assizes Moore was found guilty of Margaret's murder and was sentenced to death by hanging.

### **Stafford and Stone Subbranch**

We've had a quiet spring. The subbranch reunion was well supported with over 50 members attending. All thanks to Gerry and Carol Robinson for all their hard work in organising the event. There has been little else to report. We are managing the welfare needs of several members through our welfare rep Brian Whitehouse who keeps us updated on significant issues with members.

Our next subbranch meeting is on Thursday 27 June at 7:30pm at The Constitutional Club, Lloyd Street, Stafford, ST16 3AS where we have a speaker from The Samaritans to give us an insight into their work. Come along and meet old colleagues and have a sandwich with us. There will be representatives from the Branch Executive there to speak and answer questions.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Our Autumn meeting is scheduled for Thursday **24th October 2024**

### **Phil Challinor, and the rest of the Subbranch Committee**

Ye Old Dun Cow at Colton, Rugeley, has been booked for the Stafford and Stone NARPO Sub Branch Luncheon Group, on Wednesday 7th August 2024. 12noon for 12:30pm meal which must be pre-ordered with Gerry Robinson in advance by 1<sup>st</sup> August. Tel.:07902 915500 or email [gerryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:gerryu3a@gmail.com).

### **National Police Memorial Day - Sunday 29th September 2024**

Staffordshire NARPO will again be marking this occasion with a service at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas (near Burton-Upon-Trent). This year the short, informal service led by Reverend Brian Williams will be held in the area at the head of the designated memorial garden 'The Beat'.

Entry to the arboretum is free (donations are appreciated) and car parking is **£4 if booked in advance, or £6 on the day** per vehicle.

To book in advance use the website

<https://www.thenma.org.uk/visit-us/plan-your-visit/book-tickets>

or phone 01283 245100 to get your parking discount code.

We meet up in the cafeteria/restaurant in the main Remembrance Centre from 11:00 am for the service at 12 noon. In the event of poor weather, the service will be held in the Chapel. Please let Brian Whitehouse, Stafford & Stone Sub Branch, know if you will be attending (Tel: 01785 215099), or

Email: [brianwhitehouse@narpo-staffs.co.uk](mailto:brianwhitehouse@narpo-staffs.co.uk)).

**Any Staffordshire member attending will be reimbursed for the parking fee and refreshments up to £10 in total. Please see Mike Kozam the treasurer on the day to collect your allowance from Branch funds.**

### **Cannock and Rugeley Subbranch**

Our meeting on 19 September 2024 will be at Lea Hall Social Club, Sandy Lane, Rugeley. The formalities will be brief. If you need help getting there, please call me on 07976 426228.

**Maurice Cryer, Cannock and Rugeley Subbranch Secretary**

## **BRANCH CONTACTS**

### **CHAIRMAN**

Mark Judson  
☎ 01785 660095

### **SECRETARY**

Kexin Waters  
☎ 07768 233123  
☎ 01785 540500

### **TREASURER**

Mike Kozam  
☎ 07806 732968

## **SUB BRANCH CONTACTS**

### **BURTON**

Chair Roy Dimelow  
☎ 07485 000932  
Secretary (interim)

### **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



## XPS Pension Website and Email Services

We encourage members to make use of the Pension Administrator online access to pension information.

Members of the Staffordshire police pension scheme can access their pension account by registering with XPS website for self service through [www.myownpension.org.uk](http://www.myownpension.org.uk)

The service holds your pension pay notices, P60 summary, and pension entitlements. To sign Up for Self-Service you will need to have at hand the below details:

**National Insurance Number**

**Date of birth**

**Email address**

(you may need to call and register your email address to your account by phoning first).

If your email address is held by XPS you can sign up for self service on the internet at:

<https://www.myownpension.org.uk/home/non-member/thinking-of-joining.html>

### Leek and Cheadle

The next meeting of the Leek Subbranch will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, 7:30pm at Cheadle Cricket Club, Tean Rd, Cheadle, ST10 1LX.

We hold Spring and Autumn Meetings 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 Subbranch Secretary**

## Pension Remedy

Eligible members of the police pension scheme have more choices about the benefits they receive for service between **1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022**. This is known as the Remedy Period and these choices are referred to as 'remedy' – you may have also heard them linked to the 'McCloud' review. Briefly, pension choices taken in the qualifying period allow pensioners to seek a correction if they were adversely affected by the choices given at the time of taking their police pension. All pensions taken in this time may be eligible.

Please visit the National Police Chief's Council {NPCC} national website at [www.pensioninfo.co.uk](http://www.pensioninfo.co.uk) where you will be able to find a link to the useful information, FAQ's, member remedy documentation and a video to help you understand your choices.

We are aware that members are struggling to find information relating to the McCloud Remedy and we wanted to help members find that information.

They have set up a dedicated website for all things Remedy, accessed at <https://pensioninfo.co.uk/latest-news/>. There are a number of Member Remedy flyers and an extensive FAQ section where you should be able to find the answers to many of your questions.

## SUB BRANCH CONTACTS

### STAFFORD

Chair vacancy

☎ 0

Phil Challinor

☎ 07908 617946

### TAMWORTH

Glyn Thomas

☎ 01827 67545

Robert Vaughan

☎ 01543 257624

### WOMBOURNE

Roger Jones

☎ 01902 847299

John Cooper

☎ 07779 050244

Staffordshire Branch is a branch of National Association of Retired Police Officers, a company limited by guarantee incorporated and registered in England and Wales with company registration number 15415367. A list of the directors of National Association of Retired Police Officers can be inspected at our registered office: NARPO House, 38 Bond Street, Wakefield WF1 2QP. NARPO is a business name of National Association of Retired Police Officers.

### Helmets/Caps/Hats

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

Loaned 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](mailto:joemolloy@narpo-staffs.co.uk)

NPCC have published guidance for members on the following areas, these are being added to regularly so please ensure you keep an eye on the updates on the homepage for any new guidance/documents.

- Added Compensation Payments
- Beneficiaries
- Compensation
- Compensation Claim Form
- Contingent Decisions
- Contingent Decisions Claim Form
- Contribution Adjustments
- Divorce
- Ill-Health Retirements
- Remedy Timetable
- Update on Immediate Choice Remediable Service Statements

Staffordshire Police has a dedicated Pensions Remedy inbox for anyone who may need further assistance and guidance. They can be contacted at [pensionsremedy@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:pensionsremedy@staffordshire.police.uk)

### **Tamworth Subbranch**

On Sunday 19th May 2024 the Subbranch held its Annual Luncheon at the Drayton Park Golf Club, Tamworth. Forty - eight members and guests attended and enjoyed a 3-course meal and fine weather!

Tamworth Subbranch Afternoon Tea will be held at Drayton Park Golf Club, Centenary Drive, Drayton Park, Tamworth on Sunday 25th August 2024. Costing only £12.00 per person, numbers are limited.

Our meetings continue to be held at the Coton & Hopwas Social Club, School Lane, Hopwas, Tamworth

Our next formal meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm. This is followed by a buffet, provided by members and a raffle will also be held.

Our last event of the year will be held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm. This is the ever popular Skittles Night and will be followed by a buffet provided by the club and funded by the Sub-Branch. There will also be a raffle. There will be no Agenda or Minutes, so this is a great opportunity to socialise with your former colleagues.

Details of each event will be emailed to members in due course.

**Bob Vaughan, Secretary Tamworth Subbranch**

### **Preparing the Survivors of Police Pensioner Deaths**

Some years ago, we published guidance to help our survivors follow the things that need to be done after we die. That guidance is regularly updated and available to download from our website Advice pages;

[https://narpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/What-to-do-after-a-death-NARPO-Version1\\_6.pdf](https://narpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/What-to-do-after-a-death-NARPO-Version1_6.pdf)

Many families and friends have found this helpful in their time of bereavement as a copy has been placed with family papers or with wills and other important papers. We are now learning of situation where the earlier, outdated, copies are remaining. If this is the case with you, it may be a good time to ensure you have the latest version available.

Anyone who does not have internet access can obtain a printed version by request to your Branch or Subbranch Secretary.

A noticeable trend has been survivors overlooking the closure of social media and email accounts. Ensure your survivors have access to a list of all your on-line accounts so they can close accounts or notify the subscribed businesses and organisations accordingly.