



*COMMUNICATION - WELFARE – SOCIAL*

**Dear Members**

Welcome to our December Newsletter.

**Christmas and the New Year**

This is the time when many of us tend to reflect on the past year, remember the good times and give a special thought to those relatives, friends and work colleagues who, sadly, are no longer with us.

We must always look forward to what the new year can offer and be positive in the way we can strive to help others.

As ever if you, or a member you know, is experiencing particular difficulties where you believe NARPO can help, please be sure to contact us. You can reach our Secretary at [EssexChelmsford@narpo.org](mailto:EssexChelmsford@narpo.org) or me at [chairman.narpo.chelmsford@gmail.com](mailto:chairman.narpo.chelmsford@gmail.com) (mobile 07941083696). We will forward direct to our Welfare Officer in confidence.

**Retired Officers Police Records**

Sadly, for various reasons, records of service for many retired officers have been lost. Your Branch has been leading on a scheme, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Constable, to recreate records for our members. As sometimes happens there is a break in the chain with other staff within Essex Police and progress has been slow.

We are keen to progress this matter and I have, once again been in contact, via the DCCs Staff Officer, to make the necessary contacts. I will keep you informed of progress.

**Retired Officers Tea Party**

Retiring, and recently retired officers and police staff, are invited to a Tea Party with the Chief Constable for presentation of the Certificates of Service. I'm pleased to say that NARPO is now invited to those gatherings to spread the word about membership of the Association. Those duties are being led by your Branch but also shared with Colchester and Southend Branches.

## Essex Police Pensions Board

During 2024 we were successful in gaining a (guest) seat at the Pensions Board. This will enable NARPO to keep abreast of developments and hopefully smooth the path for our members where problems occur.

## Changes To NARPO Rules

A number of administrative changes to the NARPO rules took place during the year. These appear to be minor and seek to clarify the various terms in use within those rules.

## SPAM Communications

Sadly, we all continue to receive SPAM contacts via our phones and computers. Be cautious, never disclose personal information and don't be drawn into a lengthy conversation where you may unwittingly provide information to the caller. As far as emails are concerned, I find the best policy is to simply press the 'delete' key but do not reply! Additionally, there are various ways for you to report spam contacts to the authorities: You should report spam call numbers to 7726, spam emails can be forwarded to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) Stay safe.

*Bob*

Robert Good - NARPO Chelmsford – Branch Chair

5 December 2024

As we are approaching the Winter Season it is worth reminding you that the Chelmsford Branch of NARPO has a very active welfare team who are available to assist vulnerable members of our group.

In the past we have been able to assist a number of members in matters such as general well-being welfare visits, assisting in travel for hospital visits, funerals and other events etc., where the need arises. The team has also assisted with advice on bereavement, financial issues, form filling and accessing the Local Authority and NHS welfare systems. This of course relies on the availability of our team at the time. If necessary, we should be able to sign-post which organisation may be best suited for the member concerned.

If you, or any other member that you are aware of, are struggling to cope this winter, or at any other time, then please make our welfare team aware and if possible, indicate how we may be able to help.

The initial point of contact for the team is through the following email: -

Mickgurden042@gmail.com.

Kind Regards

Mick Gurden

Chelmsford NARPO Welfare

Dear Friends

It only seems like yesterday that I was penning the August update and hope I find you enjoying the seasonal changes.

### **Branch Christmas Get Together - Saturday 14th December 2024**

At this stage I again promote our now annual get together over the festive period.

Always a great get together, to be held at the EPSA Clubroom between noon and 4pm with a free cold buffet, tea, coffee and mulled wine. The bar will be open for soft drinks and alcoholic drinks, unfortunately at your expense.

If I could now press you to indicate your attendance and that of any family or guests so I can look at planning the buffet. The Clubroom has been booked and all I need is numbers of attendees.

If transport is required please let me know and the branch will assist whenever possible.

Please email me directly at my email address as above.

### **Tower of London, Ceremony of the Keys**

Our last trip of the year to The Tower of London, Ceremony of the Keys is set for 19th November and a group of twenty are due to experience this historic event. New dates for Tower visits in 2025 are set to confirmed shortly and will be circulated soon.

As ever I will give preference to members and families but members friends are welcome subject to availability of spaces. Also second and even third visits are encouraged as it is an amazing event in a great location.

Unfortunately the proposed second visit to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular did not attract the numbers required to make it viable to our travel company.

For next year I will look at perhaps another Christmas Market trip to add some variety to the 2025 event schedule.

Whilst thinking about next year's events I welcome any ideas for trips or events both local and further afield.

I am happy to explore any viable suggestions for the benefit of you all and our branch.

In the meanwhile I wish you all well and hopefully see you at the Christmas Get Together in December.

Pat Mahoney

Social Secretary-Chelmsford NARPO

Contact at [narposocialsec@gmail.com](mailto:narposocialsec@gmail.com)

### Obituaries

- Robert Hunt who retired as a D/Constable in 1999 and served at Brentwood and Colchester. He passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 aged 80 years.
- John Andrews who retired as a Sergeant in 2000 and served at Southend, Clacton, Benfleet, Canvey, Tilbury, South Ockendon, Basildon and Emergency planning at Headquarters. He passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 aged 75 years.
- Ian Wright who retired as a Ch/Supt in 1994 and HQ, Grays, Brentwood and Southend. He passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 aged 85 years.
- Joseph Freeman who retired as a D/Constable in 1996 and served at Southend, Colchester CID, Special Branch and Harwich. He passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 aged 86 years.
- David Gilbert Jones who retired as a Sergeant in 2001 and served with the Metropolitan police then transferred to Essex where he served at Southend, Laindon, Billericay, Basildon and Federation. He passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 aged 78 years.
- Kenneth Drain who retired as a Sergeant in 1983 and served at Grays, and Brentwood. He passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 aged 92 years.
- Brian Lawrence who retired as a Sergeant in 1987 and served with Southend Borough, Laindon Traffic and Rayleigh. He passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 aged 87 years.
- Malcolm Fester who retired as a Constable in 2002 and served at Epping, Basildon, HQ (FSU). He passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 aged 75 years.
- John Mann who retired as a D/Sergeant and served with Suffolk Police before transferring to Essex and serving with Southend Borough then the Regional Crime Squad and Special Branch. He passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 aged 83 years.

May they all rest in peace

Gary Sanderson – Newsletter editor