



**Hastings &
Rother
NARPO**



Ken Walker
Chair



John Levett
Secretary



Karen Paine
Treasurer and Newsletter

Phoenix News



Issue 10

May, 2025

A Message from our Chair

Firstly I would like to apologise for my absence at the AGM. Unfortunately I was attending the funeral of a friend.

I feel that it is only right that we explain why we have asked for an Extraordinary General Meeting so soon after the AGM.

Over the past year, we have tried to accommodate our members by laying on several functions, which sadly did not receive the support required. I also noticed that the attendance at the free buffets was also falling. Added to this was the poor attendance at the AGM, and the failure to find anyone who was prepared to assist by volunteering for a place on the Committee.

I then made a decision to stand down. Unfortunately this resulted a difference of views within present Committee in that some felt that the Branch should close and others were in favour of it carrying on. For this reason, a Committee Meeting was held on the 15th of April, the main points covered are as follows:-

1. The necessity of support from the members, the need for new members to show willingness to serve on the Committee.
2. The need to find a replacement for the Secretary's Role as John has made his views very clear in that he has wanted to stand down for some time now. However, it was put forward that no one would volunteer whilst John remained in situ, and therefore a definite date should be agreed when John would stand down.
3. What options were available to the Branch?
 - The Branch closes down
 - The Branch continues and holds functions etc (as last year)
 - The Branch reverts to holding minimal functions (i.e. two buffets and dinner) a year.
 - It was then decided that an emergency general meeting be held to allow all members to have their say.

Following the Committee Meeting on the 15th, several emails discussing how we progressed were exchanged, resulting in John deciding that he would stand down at the EGM.

On this note I know that I, the Committee and the whole Branch would like to express our thanks to John and Gill for the time effort and devotion they put into resurrecting this Branch and building it up to where it now is.



NARPO Website:-
www.narpo.org

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[https://narpo.org/
branch-pages/
news-events/](https://narpo.org/branch-pages/news-events/)

Finally, I am aware that there is a lot of negativity within Sussex NARPO Branches at present, with some Branches struggling to continue. If we don't wish to become a part of this sad state of affairs, we need the support of the members. When I refer to members I mean everyone, not just full members. If you feel that you could help in any way, please talk to any of the Committee.

There will be a free buffet and a drink at the meeting on the 25th June and I would ask that you make every effort to attend and feel free to air your views on the future of the Branch.

Ken

Our Next Meeting—Message from John

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Hastings and Rother NARPO Branch is being held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 25th June 2025 at Cornwallis Suite, Horntye Park to discuss and make decisions on the future of our NARPO Branch. Please make every effort to attend as the Branch can only continue with the support of the membership, so it is important to attend if possible. There will be a free buffet and drink for all attendees. Please can I have positive responses from those attending so I can arrange the buffet.

Janet Mileham



Scratched Glass Remedy

Remove scratches on glassware by polishing with toothpaste. The mild abrasives in the paste should blend the scratches away.

Proverbs to live by:-

You can't be everyone's cup of tea otherwise you'd be a mug!

You never know what is enough until you know what is more than enough. (William Blake).



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The Chicken Squad—John Levett



Left to right; Jeremy Paine, Leslie (Charlie) Drake, Roy Hunneman, Mick Jones.

Remember back in the day when the public could phone Hastings 425000 and actually get through to the control room at Hastings Police Station, within a couple of rings, and the phone would be answered by someone who was local and knew the town? Well back in 1980 on Christmas day a local resident phoned Hastings 425000 to say that they had a disaster. The turkey they had got out ready for Christmas Dinner had gone off and they had nothing to feed the family with. As it was Christmas day no shops were open back then.

Up stepped the Chicken Squad. A Chicken that was in the freezer of one of the team was picked up taken to the night kitchen at the Police Station and defrosted in the microwave (microwaves were very new at the time). The chicken was then delivered by a patrol car to the grateful family and Christmas was saved! The Hastings Observer ran the heart warming story under the title the 'Chicken Squad'.

Just imagine the response you would get if you phoned 101 with a similar problem in this day and age but I guess that's progress for you.



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Our President

Gordon Message



A Message from Karen

I first of all wanted to agree with Ken and thank John for stepping up as Secretary in January, 2022. It would be such a shame if the Branch closed after all the effort we all put in to saving it and moving it forward. I hope that many of you will attend the EGM and look forward to seeing you on 25th. I am hoping that some training may be available in October for new officers.

I found a very old photo of me recently. I was van driver and Assistant Station Officer one day in Catford (South East London) and was sent out to an animal on the loose in the local play park. Not sure what to expect, I drove down there to find a lamb wandering around! (If anyone knows Catford—that's really not what you expect to find on an early turn). I took it back to the front office in Catford amid great hilarity and eventually found a home for it at Crystal Palace Zoo. I sat in the front passenger seat of a patrol car with the lamb on my lap to take it there —got the weirdest looks when we pulled up at traffic lights! The photo was published in the Met newsletter 'The Job'.

