



NARPO Newsletter (Merseyside Branch)

<https://narpo.org/branches/merseyside/>

Spring 2025



From The Chair

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter and here's hoping we will soon have some warmer and more pleasant weather. It seems so long ago now, but the Merseyside Police mince pie reception and Carol Concert provided a fitting start to the festive season. We were welcomed by the Mounted Department and the Mini-Police, entertained by talented singers; the Police Band was magnificent as always, and the last-minute choir replacement from Hatton Hill Primary School was a delight.

As I was away in January I missed the Liner event, however I believe it was very much enjoyed by those in attendance. Thanks to Eddie for organising this luncheon. If this is to remain a Biannual event, we will need to increase the numbers and maybe the focus. With that in mind we wish to decide on the best time of year to hold it in future and consider the type of function. Any suggestions are welcome as it is your event, and we need to listen to our members. I appreciate not everyone wants the same type of social gathering, but please let us know your thoughts and preferences as it will help us for future planning. On that note, we did not gain sufficient support the last time we arranged a Professional Evening at Police HQ. If this is something of interest for the future, please furnish all suggestions via email to secretary@narpo-merseyside.org.uk Committee member Mike Gardner conducted guided tours of the Metropolitan Cathedral and Crypt in January and February. According to feedback they were most informative and interesting; my thanks to Mike for so kindly offering his services for the benefit of our members. We hope to arrange more tours later in the year.

Brian Starkey has now finished populating the new website. A further email instruction will be sent out and I remind you of the link for accessing it – please take a look: <https://www.narpo.org/branches/merseyside> We have taken the decision to use the Photo Gallery for NARPO trips and events. I therefore ask that if anyone does not wish for their photo to appear on the website, or indeed in our Newsletter, that they make it known at the time of taking, or via our secretary. I ask for anyone taking photos at functions, trips or events, to please check and respect anyone's personal preferences in this regard.

The Annual General Meeting is almost upon us, and I do hope that as many members as possible will join us at the Liner Hotel for a lunchtime buffet, followed by the meeting where a Merseyside Police Senior Officer will be present. This is a social opportunity as well as a business one! I am delighted to report that Phil Green has volunteered to stand as Deputy Secretary and is currently working on familiarising himself with the role, with the support of Eddie and Stan. It is important that we work as a team to facilitate those times when extra help is needed and to ensure cover is available for holidays and other unforeseen circumstances, as well as for future succession planning. Ann Aspinwall has volunteered to assist Brian Starkey with the Website and any other IT related issues. This is another important role, so my thanks to Ann for offering to take on this task, I'm sure Brian will appreciate the additional support.

Please let me remind you of the scam email forwarding address as recently I have received quite a few to my personal email address. It is report@phishing.gov.uk I usually block the email address from which it came too.

As the Springtime approaches, we can look forward to some more interesting tours of our city, including the Williamson Tunnels conducted by Malcolm Parry and the Hope Street and Commerce tours conducted by Brian Curran. Other events and trips are advertised in this newsletter, so I look forward to meeting some of our members on those occasions. I especially look forward to seeing your outfits for the ABBA trip!

As always, my sincere appreciation goes to our committee members who all make contributions in many ways to ensure NARPO Merseyside is there for our members. Everyone has something different to offer and their help and support throughout the year is very much appreciated. If you feel able to join our team, please contact Eddie or any of our committee members who can outline what is involved.

Christine Parkinson MSc

Chairperson

Eddie-Torial

I am pleased to be able to announce that the NARPO Merseyside Bench at the National Memorial Arboretum has been completely renovated and a contract signed for its upkeep for the next 5 years. See for yourself!



BEFORE



AFTER

The inaugural NARPO Merseyside Bi-Annual Lunch was held at the Liner Hotel during January 2025. Perhaps the attendance was a little below that envisaged. With this in mind we may move the date to sometime in Spring 2027 for the next such event.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Linda Murphy, Myra Jones (widow), Joan Tapner (widow), Susan Hill, Steven Gilligan, Debra Rayment, Anita Sterry, Barrie Murphy, James Seasman

Merseyside Police Federation Charity Ball

Once again I was privileged to represent NARPO Merseyside at this function along with Deputy Secretary Phil Green. As a result, an amazing £29,000 was donated to the Oliver King Foundation who are absolutely delighted. This will certainly assist them to continue with their amazing work.



Recruitment Drive

Recently Pre-retirement Courses which NARPO access via a short face to face presentation have either been poorly attended or in some cases cancelled through lack of numbers. This has resulted in a slow-down of new members wishing to join. I have done a piece in the last three editions of Mersey Talk with some, but not enormous, success.

All the advertisements and posters seem to have minimal effect. Tradesmen will tell you that the best recommendation for business is by word of mouth. To this end we need you, our loyal members, to encourage membership to what has been described as "the greatest club in the world."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting 2025 will take place at the Liner Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool on Wednesday 23rd April starting with a Buffet Lunch at 1.00pm. The meeting will follow at 2.00pm. Members are reminded that places for yourself and your spouse must be booked for catering purposes.

07505 477162 or Merseyside@narpo.org.

National Memorial Arboretum



A day excursion has been organised on Thursday 3rd July 2025. Pick-up points in accordance with logistics. Members plus spouse/partner/guest £15.00 per head. Places limited to 49.

07505 477162 or Merseyside@narpo.org

CITY TOURS

Cathedral to Cathedral Tour conducted by Brian Curran
9th April 2025 – Places still available
28th May 2025 – Places still available
11th June 2025- Places still available

Architecture of Commerce Tour conducted by Brian Curran
4th June 2025 – 3 places remaining

Williamson Tunnels Tours 26th March 2025
£4.00 each NARPO Merseyside member + 1
Conducted by Malcolm Parry
10.30am – Availability
11.30am – Limited Availability
12.30pm - Limited Availability

Bookings via 07505 477162 or Merseyside@narpo.org

Merseyside NARPO

NARPO Spring Lunch - 3 COURSE CARVERY



WEST LANCASHIRE GOLF CLUB
Hall Road West, Blundellsands L23 8SZ
(Merseyrail Hall Road Station within 100 yards)
Parking Onsite

FRIDAY 30th May 2025

12.30pm FOR 1.15pm

Tickets £20.00 each (Member + 1 Guest)
(Booking Form available from Hon. Secretary)

Merseyside@narpo.org
07505 477162

LAWRENCE ROAD REUNION

Friday 21st March 2025 at Riversdale MPSSA Club commencing at
7.30 pm.

Hot Pot and Black Forest Gateaux on the menu.

Contact Alf Bean 07870 403817 or via WhatsApp Group

Widow/ers Draw February 2025

Hilda Brown, Winefride Clark, Edith Davies, Violet Herbert, Linda McGeechan, Hazel Mullard, Linda Rimmer, Patricia Smith, Wendy Williams, Eileen Hart, Glenis Pattison, Ann Shannon, Anne Black, Margaret Jones, Lillian Frodsham, Susan McKenna, Joan Pryce, Patricia Corker, Susan Howcroft, Olga Jones, Sylvia Mason, Beryl Monteith, June Jones, Helen Wilmoth, Gwyneth Brown.

INCORPORATION

NARPO becoming incorporate has enabled our Treasurer to reclaim hundreds of ££££££ of VAT. Result!

HARVEY HOWELL

SOLICITORS

NARPO Corporate and Gold partners Harvey Howell Solicitors are offering our members a free consultation on Wills, Powers of Attorney and Family Trusts – including advice on how to avoid losing the family home to pay for the cost of care.

This free advice is invaluable and could save your families tens of thousands of pounds!

To book your free consultation email NARPO@harveyhowell.co.uk or telephone 0151 928 8597 quoting “Merseyside NARPO”.



Did you ever represent Merseyside Police F.C?
Did you play Divisional Football?
Did you Referee Divisional Football?

If the answer to any of those questions is “YES” then MPSSA Club, Riverdale at 2.00pm on Saturday 24th May 2025 is the place for you to attend a reunion.

Please contact Ken Wagner 07883 521285 or kenwagner@hotmail.co.uk

Continuing on a football theme, this is the Bruche Staff Team circa 1987. John Harris and I represented Merseyside. Sadly, some are no longer with us.



Back row L to R: Steve Dalrymple (Humberside) Frank Doyle (GMP) John Harris (Merseyside) Dave Calderbank (Lancs) Andy Gardner (Cumbria) Jim Smith (GMP – Trainer), Tim Burgess (GMP) Bernie Dowd (GMP)
Front row L to R: Eddie McGrath (Merseyside) Steve Tinsley (Lancs) Neil Mainon (Lancs) Steve Jones (Cheshire) John Morrison (GMP)

OBITUARIES

Date	Name	Status	Age
November 2024			
14 th	Keith Marsden	Inspector	82 years
December 2024			
9 th	Derek Roger Partridge	A/Sergeant 6759	70 years
16 th	Adrian Pover Brooks	Det. Constable	85 years
19 th	Brian Gresty	Chief Inspector	76 years
29 th	Neil Herbert Gaddas	Constable 1299	90 years
January 2025			
2 nd	Joseph Alan Ball	Constable 1260	94 years
6 th	Allen Walker	Det. Superintendent	87 years
February 2025			
13 th	Victor Philip O'Rourke	Constable 1102	71 years
22 nd	Peter John Thomas		72 years



DEBBIE BENNETT
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

INDEPENDENT FAMILY RUN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Debbie Bennett Funeral Directors is an independent family run business, with branches in Prescott, Rainhill, Bootle & Copy Lane, offering a fair priced, professional, high quality and caring funeral service.

Having worked in the funeral industry for over 25 years Debbie is an exceptional Funeral Director, holding a National Diploma in funeral directing. Debbie is currently holder of the prestigious 'Business Person of the Year' award, a much sought after accreditation presented to her at the Liverpool Echo Awards ceremony in June 2021.

Debbie is married to Alan Rogers (6924), a former Merseyside Police Officer. Debbie and Alan are offering a £200 discount for serving and retired police officers off pre-paid plans and funerals.



Tel: 0151 426 3131 • Email: info@debbiebennettfd.co.uk • www.debbiebennettfuneraldirectors.co.uk

31 High Street, Prescott L34 6HE 3A Station Road, Rainhill L35 0LL 10 The Crescent, Bootle L20 0DX 7 Copy Lane, Old Roan, Liverpool L30 8RA

And Finally.....



The Royle Family were well represented at the Federation Charity event!

Members are reminded that if they move house, change email address or change telephone number or mobile number they should inform NARPO Merseyside as soon as possible.

Recently, items have been returned to NARPO H/Q and our P.O. Box due to non-updating of details.

I appreciate that our Chairperson has already mentioned members joining the Committee but with some not seeking re-election for perfectly valid reasons it is imperative that they are replaced. We are one of the largest branches of NARPO and it is essential that we have enough bodies on the Committee. It is not hard work, 4 meetings each year at Mather Avenue, the AGM, and keeping in touch with a number of members aged over 80 years as a welfare concern.

Please, do give this some thought and get back to me.

Our branch prides itself in the number and variety of social activities. The ABBA and Beamish trips sold out within days of publication. The next social gathering is the Carvery Lunch, as advertised elsewhere. We are experimenting with a weekday event instead of the usual Sunday. It would be nice to see some new faces there. Don't be shy, it's a great way to meet old friends and make new ones.

NOMINATION FOR NEC RESERVE

Merseyside NARPO Vice-Chair, Stan O'Connor, has been nominated to stand for election as the No. 1 Region (North-West) reserve to the National Executive Committee. We wish Stan every success and the NARPO Merseyside Committee pledge their full support.

Social Media

Once again I have to implore the membership not to resort to social media before NARPO are made aware of bereavements.

NARPO play a large part in sharing the burden with the families of deceased members by dealing on their behalf with everything "Police" attached to it. The family are then free to do what they have to do.

Please bear this in mind before posting.