

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
MICHELLE MAXINE	BURGER	STAFFORD
PAUL	MAY	CANNOCK
STEPHEN JAMES	COLCLOUGH	STAFFORD
DAVID	JOHNSTON	BURTON
KEIRON ASHLEY	EDRIDGE	LEEK
ROBIN WILLIAM	JONES	NORTHERN
DAWN J	JOHNSON	STAFFORD
MARK JOHN	MOULD	NORTHERN
DAVID THOMAS	STILLMAN	STAFFORD
SIMON CHARLES	HOLLIS	BURTON
IAN STUART	DEANS	STAFFORD
NICHOLAS	OLDFIELD	NORTHERN
RUSSELL	KNOTT	STAFFORD
ADRIAN MARK	ROBERTS	LEEK
STEVEN BRIAN	JOYCE	BURTON
JAYNE EDITH	TAYLOR	STAFFORD
JONATHAN ASHLEY GLYN	TALBOT	NORTHERN
LOUISE	HANCOCK	LEEK
STEVEN CARTER	PAULL	BURTON
CHRISTOPHER JOHN	BECKETT	BURTON
ALAN JOSEPH	WHITBY	STAFFORD
JONATHAN	TOWNSEND	LICHFIELD
TIMOTHY	CRANER	BURTON
ANTHONY GORDON	STANIER	STAFFORD
ADRIAN	WOOTTON	BURTON
COLIN PAUL	DEARDEN	LEEK
DARREN	MUNNERLEY	CANNOCK
ANDREW JAMES	EDWARDS	BURTON
DAVID ROBERT	ROWLEY	LEEK

Can we wish you all a long and healthy retirement!

A word from the wise – ‘you can’t buy time’ – enjoy life and take as many holidays and join in as many activities as you can afford while you can!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9

National Conference, Torquay

SEPTEMBER 29

National Police Memorial Day, Alrewas (see page 7).

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Kier Business Services, Pensions, administrators of the **Staffordshire Police Pension**, ask those dealing with the affairs of deceased members, where there is a surviving spouse, to submit with the death certificate the marriage certificate to ensure prompt processing of the survivor pension. The deceased's pension is paid in full for three months after death. The survivor pension is calculated from the deceased's pension date plus all the index linking since that date.

Kier Pensions ☎01642 727333

Members Called to Higher Service 2016

Your Branch Committee record with regret the deaths of the following members.

Ret DC	Graham Kenneth TAYLOR	Stafford	17.04.2016
Ret PC	Kimberley Ann SUMNER	Stafford	10.04.2016
Ret Sgt	Muriel HARPER	Cannock	17.04.2016
Ret Ch/Insp	Christopher W SHELDON	Leek	20.04.2016
Ret Sgt	John Stanley WILLIAMS	Northern	14.04.2016
Ret Pc	Maxwell John SHELLEY	Stafford	30.04.2016
Ret DC	David John DAVIES	Dorset	05.05.2016
Ret Ch/Insp	Graham V JEFFRIES	Leek	07.05.2016

Widows and Spouses called to Higher Service

Mrs. (Wife)	Edith Margaret TOOTH	Lichfield	25.10.2015
Mrs.	Violet May FINCH	Tamworth	29.02.2016
Mrs	Elizabeth ARDEN	Northern	30.10.2015
Mrs.	Margaret E STEPHENS	Northern	29.02.2015
Mrs	Sheila MALPASS	Northern	29.02.2016
Mrs	Lillian WATKINS	West Brom	10.03.2016
Mrs	Edith REID	Northern	16.03.2016
Mrs	Cynthia M WALKER	West Brom	24.03.2016
Mrs	Audry VYSE	Northern	18.05.2016
Mrs. (Wife)	Maureen BOWERS	Northern	26.04.2016
Mrs	Doris Marian STARKEY	Burton	28.05.2016

Our sympathy is extended to all the bereaved families.

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the summer edition of the Staffordshire Knot, the National Referendum on the issue of the European Union has been decided with much political infighting and fallout. However I expect as the British always do we will all just get on with dealing with the consequences of such an historic decision. I am confident that Staffordshire NARPO will still exist by the next edition of the Staffordshire Knot in October!

Continuing on the theme of the Staffordshire Knot, Gerry Robinson, who has been the editor of this publication since 2002, has decided to hang up his quill and ink in respect of this area of business. Joe Molloy has accepted an invitation to take over the editorship, we send our thanks to Gerry for his contribution over many years and also thank Joe for being prepared to take over this role.

BRANCH CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN

Mark Judson
☎ 01785 660095

SECRETARY

Des Lockwood
☎ 01785 615190

TREASURER

Reay (Bruce) Pearman
☎ 01782 652205

SUB BRANCH CONTACTS

BURTON

Ralph Seville
☎ 01283 790527
Lesley Bennett
☎ 07986 809130

CANNOCK

Joe Edwards
☎ 01543 503113
John Hartshorne
☎ 01889 576793

LEEK

Peter Simms
☎ 01782 397587
Bob Scrimgeour
☎ 01782 503755

LICHFIELD

Phil Goodwin
☎ 01543 268186
Linda Hicken
☎ 01922 452572

NORTHERN

Keith Houlston
☎ 01782 616118
Dave Malam
☎ 01782 620955

National NARPO

1. The National NARPO funds are sound and membership continues to increase.
2. Work is ongoing in respect of further consultation around the proposed new rules for NARPO. Hopefully this work will be complete following full consultation in time to take it to the National NARPO Conference in 2017 at Scarborough.
3. There is still much concern and debate about the decision that the Police Treatment Centres have taken to start charging retired members for their services. John Carrington and I, the West Midlands Regional Representatives, have been doing our best to convince National NARPO that they need to do something positive in respect of picking up the slack as a result of the decision that the Police Treatment Centres have made. At this moment in time there appears to be a reluctance from the NEC, because of the associated costs surrounding convalescence provision.
4. Work and fund raising is continuing in respect of the new Police Memorial at Alrewas, on which the Police Mutual (PMAS) are leading.

Local Staffordshire NARPO update

5. The Sub Branches continue to thrive with local committees putting in a lot of hard work to support their local members, in terms of organising events and providing welfare support for retired officers in need of assistance. Des and myself try to visit all of the Sub Branches to keep the members aware of local and national issues affecting NARPO members.
6. On 25 June 2016 Staffordshire Branch of NARPO had its third meeting of the year at Police H.Q., Weston Road, Stafford. Topics discussed were re-distribution of funds to Sub Branches, the proposed new national rules for NARPO, motions submitted by other Branches to Conference 2016, and whether or not the Branch would support them, updates concerning the Force Welfare and Benevolent Funds and a general round up of welfare issues being dealt with by Sub Branches.

SUB BRANCH CONTACTS

STAFFORD

Mike Kozam
☎ 01785 257578
Norma Kozam
☎ 01785 257578

TAMWORTH

Glyn Thomas
☎ 01827 67545
Dave Gardner
☎ 01827 311096

WOMBOURNE

Roger Jones
☎ 01902 847299
John Cooper
☎ 01902 344867

WEST BROMWICH

Peter Toghill
☎ 0121 423 3978
Terry Barton
☎ 01902 495249

IN THE DIARY

WEST BROMWICH 5th September 2016

LEEK Social Evening
7:00 pm,
6th September 2016

TAMWORTH 6th September 2016

LICHFIELD
20th July 2016
21st September 2016

WOMBOURNE 4th October 2016

NORTHERN 6TH OCTOBER 2016

Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner

Des and I had a meeting with the PCC on Tuesday 21/6/2016.

A. We congratulated him on his re-election to the position of PCC.

B. We asked him about how Brexit might affect Staffordshire Police. He felt that, whichever way the vote went, it would not have a significant outcome for policing in Staffordshire.

C. He stated that he would continue to roll out more technology, so as to keep more frontline police officers on the streets and interacting with the public.

D. We asked him about police numbers he stated that currently there were 1736 officers and approximately 200 PCSO's. He was attempting to find more money so the Chief Constable could recruit a few more officers or PCSO's, depending on what she decided.

E. We asked about the current position regarding the sale of the old Police H.Q. site. He stated that a bidding process had started with 17 expressions of interest in the site. He believed that a more realistic value of the site would be about half of what the old Police Authority had expected to raise from the sale.

F. We asked about how the out sourcing of the police estate to Keir was going. He stated it was working well and to date had made savings of approximately £600,000.

G. We asked about the link up with the Fire Service. He stated that this was work in progress around front and back office functions. There was some resistance from the Fire Management and the Fire Brigade Union. The Fire Authority were now more amenable to the idea.

H. He informed us that work was about to start on a new Lichfield Police Station, on a site opposite the Hedgehog public house, on the outskirts of Lichfield, at the A513/Eastern Avenue junction.

I. We asked about the appointment of the new ACC and he informed us that there was only one female applicant a West Midlands officer named Emma Barnet. The interview process was due to take place the week commencing 27/6/2016.

From the archive.

In the Monthly Budget of March 1946, I came across a section of commendations.



IN THE COUNTY

TAMWORTH SUMMER LUNCH

Sunday 31st July 2016
Book through Dave Gardner
by 18th July.

STAFFORD SUMMER LUNCH

Tuesday 23 August 2016
Noon, Frank Finlay Centre,
off Co-operative Street.
Book through Norma Kozam
by 9th August. See page 8.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

21 August 2016, 11:00 am
Unveiling of Cyprus, Eoka
Crisis police and military
memorial.

ALDRIDGE REUNION

4th November 2016
Aldridge Conservative Club
Please contact Les Leek on
leslieleek@hotmail.com or
☎ 07939 214613

The Acting Chief Constable is pleased to record his appreciation and commend the good work of Superintendent George Hewitt, Vice Commandant N.W. Andrews, Sergeant G.H. Coaton, Miss Dorothy Jean Skeffington, Civilian Clerk, at Lichfield Division Police Station, Inspector J Gittings, Tamworth and, in fact all regular and auxiliary police officers who rendered assistance in connection with the railway disaster at Lichfield on 1st January 1946.

This commendation citation led me to research the actual railway disaster itself.

The Lichfield rail crash occurred on New Year's Day 1946 at Lichfield Trent Valley Station in Staffordshire. Twenty people were killed in the accident, caused when a points failure routed a goods train into the back of a stationary passenger train waiting at the station.

The crash occurred at 18:58 hrs, and involved the 14:50hrs fish train from Fleetwood to London Broad Street. This train consisted of seven four-wheel fish vans and a brake van hauled by a Stanier Class 5 4-6-0 locomotive. It was travelling at around 35mph when it passed into the station, and was scheduled to run through on the fast up line. However at the north end of the station, it was accidentally diverted by the failed points, onto the station's up passing loop, where it



collided with the rear end of a Stafford to Nuneaton local passenger train, which was waiting at the station on the loop. The passenger train consisted of four old wooden-bodied coaches. The force of the impact demolished the rear three coaches, and hurled the engine (a LNWR Prince of Wales Class 4-6-0 locomotive) forwards 100yards.

The points failure was caused by the extremely cold weather that day, freezing the point mechanisms. When the signalman had accepted the fish train from the previous signal box to the north, he needed to swing the facing points (that allowed entry into the Up Platform Loop from the Up line) from the reverse to normal. Unbeknown to him, the point rods had actually bent due to the mechanisms freezing up, which allowed him to place the point lever in the normal position, but actually left the points in reverse. This accident was one of the very rare occasions where mechanical interlocking failed to work correctly.



Weirdest Facts

Walt Disney had a moustache himself, but he wanted the staff at his theme parks to convey a clean cut image. So in the mid-1950's he introduced a staff code that banned beards, long hair and moustaches. Even though Disney died in 1966, the ban on moustaches remained in place and was not lifted until 2000. The ban on beards was only removed in 2012.

Mark Judson [Chairman of Staffordshire NARPO]

Secretary Notes

The Branch Secretary has been asked by several members to clarify who needs to be notified of the death of a Narpo Member :-

1. Kier Business Services Pensions Unit ☎ **01642 727332**.

Kier will write to you giving details of what they need which will be: a Death Certificate plus (where there is a surviving spouse) a Marriage Certificate. The Widow/Widowers pension will then be calculated. Please note that the Widow/Widower will receive the full pension for the first three. Also the Widow/ Widower/ Partner will automatically become a Narpo member, subscription free.

2. Narpo, either by notifying the NARPO HQ, Wakefield ☎ **01924 331250** or contacting the Branch Secretary or the relevant Sub Branch Secretary/Chairman, see contacts on pages 2 and 3.

3. In the case of the deceased being a member of the **Benevolent Fund**, where a death benefit of either £150 or £5,000 is payable (depending on the class of the member) to the nominated person or spouse, a Death Certificate will also be required to be sent to The Benevolent Fund Administrator, Staffordshire Police HQ, PO Box 3167, Stafford, ST16 9JZ.

IN THE DIARY

WEST BROM
5th September 2016

LEEK Social Evening
7:00 pm,
6th September 2016
(SEE BOX BELOW)

TAMWORTH
6th September 2016

LICHFIELD
20th July 2016
21st September 2016

WOMBOURNE
4th October 2016

NORTHERN
6th October 2016

LEEK Social Evening 7:00 pm, Tuesday 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016

LEEK NARPO SUB BRANCH will be holding a Social Evening with entertainment at LEEK GOLF CLUB, Cheadle Road, Leek.

There will be a substantial Buffet meal available.

The subsidised cost will be £3 per person.

ALL members with their spouses, widows and widowers and partners are invited.

Please complete the below form and forward it with your payment by cheque payable to 'LEEK NARPO SUB BRANCH' before **1st August 2016**, for pre-order of catering.

NAME/S _____

Contact Address _____

Contact Tel _____

Number Attending _____

PLEASE RETURN TO Mr R Scrimgeour,
8 Marlborough Crescent,
Endon, Stoke on Trent, ST9 9HN.

Stafford Sub-Branch News

We've been busy in the sub-branch in the first 6 months of 2016, with various events and activities. Although the numbers were low (22) for our sub-branch meeting at the end of February, the talk by our guest speaker Peter Taunton, Stafford's Town Crier, was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone. In April, Gerry Robinson's lunch club met at The Bell in Haughton. It was the first time I'd been there, and I enjoyed it so much that I've been back since! – I can highly recommend the food and service. In May, 20+ of us enjoyed 'Afternoon Tea' at Weston Hall to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday – the food and service was as good as ever, and the event was a real success. In June, a group of us visited Chillington Hall, Brewood, for a tour of the Giffards' family home. We were able to tour the gardens and view the memorial to those Staffordshire Police Officers who have sadly been killed or died whilst on duty.

In June, our early summer sub-branch meeting & social was at Stone Golf Club, where 28 members heard a really interesting talk by John Pye. John, a Northern sub-branch member, who wrote a feature in the February edition of the Knot, described how he realised his ambition to be an author, and the success he has had as a 'self-publisher' of e (electronic) books, via Kindle. If any of you are aspiring authors, I would suggest you contact John for advice on ways to achieve this, at little or no expense. Details of John's books can be found at www.catheraloflies.com

Finally, our sub-branch is holding an extra members' meeting (to include a lunch) on Tuesday 23rd August 2016 at the Arthur Findlay Centre, Stafford (details page 8). It is felt that some of our members might prefer to attend a sub-branch meeting during the daytime rather than in the evening. This lunch and afternoon meeting will be an 'experiment' - the cost of the lunch will be £16 per person and a booking form is contained elsewhere in this edition. The centre has full disability access and facilities. For those of you who can't make the lunch, do come along to the meeting which will start at 2:00pm. Please support this 'experiment' if you can.

I am looking forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible at our various meetings and activities throughout 2016.

Mike Kozam (Stafford Sub Branch Chairman) 3rd July 2016

For Benefits Information Services, you will require your NARPO member number – contact your sub-branch secretary if you don't know it.

National Police Memorial Day

**11:30 a.m. Thursday 29th
September 2016**

The Beat, National Memorial Arboretum

The NPMD is held on Michaelmas Day, which celebrates Saint Michael the Archangel, the Patron Saint of Police Officers.

It would greatly assist the staff at the Arboretum if you would indicate your intentions of attending by contacting either:-

Chairman Mike

mikekozam@narpo-staffs.co.uk

☎ 01785 257578 or

Brian

Whitehouse brianwhitehouse@narpo-staffs.co.uk

☎ 01785 215099.

We hope you will join us.

Access to Support

In May, Mike Kozam attended a NARPO Access to Support seminar at Wakefield. It was most informative, and he has already used some of the knowledge gained, to obtain support for one of our widows. One of the speakers was from Benefits Information Services, which is based in Dorset. The company produces the Benefits Update **'Wordshop'** feature in NARPO News. All NARPO members (including widows, widowers & partners), can obtain free advice on benefits from the company.

Details on how to contact them are contained in NARPO News. See footnote on left.

Stafford NARPO Sub Branch Lunch & Meeting

**Tuesday 23rd August 2016. Arthur Findlay Centre, 96A Stone Road,
Stafford, ST16 1JJ (entrance off Co-operative Street)**

Reception 12:00 pm onwards for 12:30 pm meal

Three course meal for £16pp (includes staff gratuity). Transport for those without, may be arranged. (Please contact Chairman Mike Kozam). The centre has full disability access and facilities There is a licensed bar at the venue (bottled beer only).

Please note that you can bring your own wine to have with your meal.

MENU CHOICES

Starters	1. French Onion Soup	2. Melon		
Mains	3. Roast Beef	4. Roast Ham	5. Roast Chicken	6. Vegetarian Quiche
	(all of the above served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes)			
	7. Cold Beef Salad	8. Cold Ham Salad	9. Cold Chicken Salad	10. Vegetarian Quiche with Salad
Desserts	11. Fruit Crumble & Custard Sauce	12. Fresh Fruit Salad		
Tea or Coffee to follow				

Please keep the above copy and mark your menu choice/s as a reminder.

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BOOKING FORM: NARPO Lunch & Meeting – Tuesday 23rd August 2016 – Arthur Findlay Centre.
Please reserve places at £16 pp. Cheque for £..... enclosed herewith.

Please make cheque payable to 'Stafford NARPO Sub Branch'.

Name 1: Tel No:

Email: Seated with:

***Use numbers only please for menu choices**

Menu Choices: Starter* Main* Dessert*

Name 2:

Menu Choices: Starter* Main* Dessert*

Signed:

Date:

Please forward to Secretary, Norma Kozam, 52, Windsor Road, Queensville, Stafford,

ST17 4PB. Tel. 01785 257578 by no later than Tuesday 9th August 2016