

# The Staffordshire Knot

## Staffordshire Branch of Narpo [96]

Stafford Police Station, Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2DQ

[www.narpo-staffs.co.uk](http://www.narpo-staffs.co.uk)

### WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Name		Sub Branch
GARY DAVIS	WASELL	CANNOCK
ADAM JOHN	BURROWS	STAFFORD
KEVIN OSWALD	SHAW	BURTON
PAUL ANDREW	COOK	STAFFORD
PHILIP ANDREW	WARNER	CANNOCK
PAUL DAVID	RYAN	STAFFORD
NICOLA ANN	REYNOLDS	LEEK
MARK PHILIP	DEAN	NORTHERN
RICHARD	HUNT	LICHFIELD
ANGELA	GOODWIN	NORTHERN
JOANNE SUSAN	JONES	STAFFORD
MICHAEL FRANCIS	SLANEY	STAFFORD
CATHERINE ELIZABETH	JOHNSTON	BURTON
DEREK ANTHONY	MYERS	NORTHERN
NEIL MALCOLM	COWARD	NORTHERN
ROGER SPENCER	CRAIG	CHESHIRE
JENNIFER JOY	OVEREND	LEEK
NIGEL JAMES	STONIER	CHESHIRE
SIMON	CARTWRIGHT	CANNOCK
PAUL	DOWNING	BURTON
ANN-LOUISE	BIRCH	LEICS
NEIL	WATERHOUSE	LEEK
COLIN	ASTON	STAFFORD
MARK	JONES	BURTON
JOSEPHINE IRENE	SHEPHERD	LEEK
LESLIE	BERTOLONE	LEEK
HILARY JANE	SAWYERS	NORTHERN
JOHN PATRICK	HAZELDINE	NORTHERN
JOHN THOMAS	CARROLL	NORTHERN
NIGEL	HUNTER	LICHFIELD
ALAN JOHN	MANN	BURTON
ROGER STEPHEN	HOLLERAN	LEEK
RUSSELL CHRISTOPHER	VENTRESS	STAFFORD

Can we wish you all a long and healthy retirement!

Tips for members: Don't delay, ensure your Will is up to date and ensure you have arrangements for someone to look after your affairs in case of unexpected incapacity by setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney.



[www.narpo.org.uk](http://www.narpo.org.uk)



## 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.

Kier Pensions ☎01642 727333

## Members Called to Higher Service Feb 2017 – Jun 2017

Your Branch records with regret the deaths of the following members.

	Name	Sub Branch	Age	Died
Ret'd PC	Kenneth WOODINGS	West Bromwich	78	20.03.2017
Ret'd D/Ch.Insp.	Colin WORDLEY	Cannock	84	20.04.2017
Ret'd Ch/Insp.	Anthony WYKE	Cannock	72	30.04.2017
Ret'd PC	Michael GIBSON	Northern	61	29.04.2017
Ret'd Sgt.	Bernard William DALE	Cornwall	92	08.05.2017
Ret'd PC	Dennis George LINCOLN	Stafford	71	26.05.2017
Ret'd PC	Ian WILSON	Wombourne	90	29.05.2017
Ret'd D/Insp.	Melvyn George CARTWRIGHT	Portugal	71	01.06.2017
Ret'd PC	Glenice ASHALL	Stafford	70	14.06.2017
<b><i>WIDOWS and WIVES CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE</i></b>				
Mrs. (Wife)	Margaret Mary HARDING	Stafford	72	15.12.2016
Mrs	Elizabeth DUNCAN	Cannock	89	03.03.2017
Mrs.	Jean PEARSON	Cannock	90	14.03.2017
Mrs. (Wife)	Rosemary Davies	Cannock	78	27.03.2017
Mrs	Rosemary Ursula POOLE	Burton	82	30.03.2017
Mrs.	Doreen Mary FOSTER	Cannock	85	02.05.2017

### Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the summer edition of the Staffordshire Knot, let's hope we all have a good one with plenty of holidays and loads of sunshine.

Joe Molloy and Glyn Dyer graciously stepped in for me representing Staffordshire NARPO at the Force Open Day on 4/6/2017. Initially Des and myself had been told that it would be on 3/6/2017 but unfortunately both had other commitments on 4.6.2017. At the open day, the Force crest from the old Baswich Police Headquarters was unveiled by the outgoing Chief Constable Jane Sawyers. NARPO were there to witness the unveiling and recording that Staffordshire NARPO were instrumental in saving the emblem from demolition. Following the unveiling, and to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Force NARPO manned a stand to promote our organisation.

Des and myself have not met recently with either the Chief Constable or the PCC, but we hope to rectify this after the 16/6/2017 when the new Chief Constable Gareth Morgan takes over the helm. Gareth Morgan was formerly the DCC of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary. We are looking forward to formulating a good working relationship with him, as we have in the past with other Chief Constables.

We wish Jane Sawyers well in her forthcoming retirement and congratulate her for her award of Queens Police Medal in HM the Queen's Birthday Honours, published this month.

Locally NARPO are fielding some problematic issues around the Force recommencing reviews of Police Pensioner Injury on Duty Awards.

The legal advice concerning the agreement of March 2008 relative to the above subject and signed by the Force, Police Federation and Staffordshire NARPO has been received from the solicitors. The advice states that the agreement is not binding in law and therefore Staffordshire Police can continue to review those pensioners who believed they had a legitimate expectation that they would not be reviewed.

As a point of interest, on 12/6/2017 the Avon and Somerset Constabulary who had commenced reviews of Injury on Duty Awards suspended the process. This may be relevant as our new Chief Constable was formerly the DCC of this Force. It will be interesting to see what his take is now on this subject.

Staffordshire NARPO are in regular contact with National NARPO as to how best to proceed regarding queries re the recommencement of these reviews. It is recommended that persons so affected refer to the National NARPO Website and search under Injury Pensions where they will find a comprehensive guide concerning the process and how to deal with it. Members without access to computers and the website may contact their local NARPO officers or the Branch Secretary.

Nationally the Police Federation have lodged a Judicial Review against the Home Office in respect of the withdrawal of Employment Support Allowance [ESA] from certain Police Pensioners Injury on Duty Awards. We will have to wait and see if this challenge is successful.

The National NARPO database Super Sleuth is being upgraded and a new Data Protection Policy has been introduced alongside it. As Staffordshire has 9 Sub Branches Des and myself are in discussion with the Wakefield H.Q. on how best to deal with our data. It is not as straight forward as Wakefield at first perceived.



Chief Constable Jane Sawyers unveiled the Staffordshire County Constabulary crest saved from the demolition of the former HQ and which has been mounted at the current HQ in Weston Road, Stafford. In attendance for NARPO were Glyn Dyer and Joe Molloy.

#### Weirdest Facts.

Gene Roddenberry created the first Star Trek television series. When he died in 1991, his body was cremated, and some of his ashes were flown into space and back to Earth on board a 1992 Space Shuttle mission. Five years later, a Celestis rocket was launched, carrying his ashes back into space again.

## BRANCH CONTACTS

### CHAIRMAN

Mark Judson  
☎ 01785 660095

### SECRETARY

Des Lockwood  
☎ 01785 615190

### TREASURER

Reay (Bruce) Pearman  
☎ 01782 625502

## SUB BRANCH CONTACTS

### BURTON

Ralph Seville  
☎ 01283 790527  
Lesley Bennett  
☎ 07986 809130

### CANNOCK

Joe Edwards  
☎ 01543 503113  
John Hartshorne  
☎ 01889 576793

### LEEK

Peter Sims  
☎ 01782 397587  
Bob Scrimgeour  
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### LICHFIELD

Phil Goodwin  
☎ 01543 268186  
Linda Hicken  
☎ 01922 452572

### NORTHERN

Keith Houlston  
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Dave Malam  
☎ 01782 620955

#### **From the archive: Murder of Mary Walton, 1963.**

Following on from my article in the last Staffordshire Knot about the North Staffordshire Crime Squad. A few weeks later a West Bromwich Sub Branch member informed me he thought I had got the dates wrong because he did not believe that Alf Morris was serving in Staffordshire in 1963.

However his old CID colleagues in the West Midlands Police have convinced him that my facts are right.

He went on to recall a notorious murder that the North Staffordshire Crime Squad was involved in, concerning a lady called Gwen Massey.

Gwen Massey, 34 years from the Rudyard area of Leek, who sang soprano at concerts in churches in the local area. Apart from her singing her life appeared to be rather mundane, until her interest in music led to her downfall.

Whilst singing at Congleton in Cheshire, she undertook a duet with Frank Walton, a leading man in amateur operatics. This meeting led to the start of an affair between them. Gwen Massey became so infatuated with Frank Walton, that she wanted him to leave his wife and live/marry her.

To this end she decided that she was going to engineer a meeting with 52 years old Mrs Mary Walton where at some point she would broach the subject of the affair with her husband.

The meeting was arranged on the car park of the Plough Pub at Endon in the early part of 1963, which incidentally was one of the coldest winters on record with thick snow lying on the ground.

It is not known what conversations took place in the early stages of the meeting, but Gwen Massey convinced Mary Walton to get into her car and the two women then drove to Massey's bungalow in Rudyard.

On arriving the women never went inside, but it is believed that Massey then told Mary Walton that she was having an affair with her husband. Mary Walton was taken aback by this statement and a violent struggle ensued between the two women. At some point Massey produced a hammer and repeatedly hit Mary Walton about the body resulting in her death.

Massey then bundled Walton's body into the back of her Mini Traveller and drove it to the Folly at Mow Cop where she deposited the body.

A remarkable fact is that after completing this action Gwen Massey walked back through the snow to Rudyard wearing glamorous attire and high heels on her feet. Following the discovery of the body the Police enquires focused on Gwen Massey, she was arrested and following prolonged questioning she confessed to the murder. Massey convinced the Police that Frank Walton had no knowledge of her actions and the subsequent murder.

At Chester Assizes she retracted her confession, but was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. Massey was a model prisoner and served only six years of her sentence before being released.

#### **Mark Judson [Chairman of Staffordshire NARPO]**

##### **Stafford and Stone Sub Branch**

**Dates for your Diary** – remember meetings & activities are open to all NARPO members.

To help us finalise arrangements, please book places on trips ASAP. For more details visit the Stafford Sub Branch Web site or contact Mike Kozam.

Wednesday 5th July 2017, 12:00 pm – Luncheon Club.

Meet at venue Bistro Le Coq at Stowe by Chartley (Contact organiser Gerry Robinson).

Your newsletter is edited by our website manager Joe Molloy,

☎ 01889 583991 or e-mail joemolloy@narpo-staffs.co.uk.

Contributions and articles for the website and newsletter are welcomed.

## **SUB BRANCH CONTACTS**

### **STAFFORD**

Mike Kozam

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Norma Kozam

☎ 01785 257578

### **TAMWORTH**

Glyn Thomas

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Secretary Vacancy

☎ 01827 XXXXXX

### **WOMBOURNE**

Roger Jones

☎ 01902 847299

John Cooper

☎ 01902 344867

### **WEST BROMWICH**

Ken Speed

☎ 01283 533461

Peter Toghil

☎ 0121 423 3978

## **IN THE DIARY**

### **LEEK (Cheadle CC)**

7:30 pm,

**4th July 2017**

### **TAMWORTH**

7:30 pm,

**4th July 2017**

### **Burton**

7:30 pm,

**12th July 2017**

### **LICHFIELD**

7:30 pm,

**19th July 2017**

### **WEST BROMWICH**

12:00 noon

**4th September 2017**

### **CANNOCK Social**

7:30 pm,

**18th November 2017**



## SOUTHERN TRAFFIC GROUP RE-UNION 2017

7:30pm on Friday, 6th October, 2017 at St. Matthews Sports and Social Club,  
St. Matthews Road, Burntwood, WS7 9EP.

A Buffet will be provided at a cost of £8 per person (non-refundable)

All persons wishing to attend please confirm with Brian Brough, Tel. No. 01543 671396,

Email: [bri.glyn@tesco.net](mailto:bri.glyn@tesco.net), or

Linda Hicken, Tel. No. 01922 452572, or 07783928524, Email: [lindahicken@aol.com](mailto:lindahicken@aol.com)

All those wishing to partake of the Buffet should send a cheque made out to Brian Brough, to 54 Highfield Avenue, Burntwood, Staffs. WS7 9AP, no later than Tuesday, 26th. September 2017.

Please come along and support the Re-Union which has proved very successful in the past, it's open to all ex members of STG, and their wives, partners, support staff, and associates.

Please contact ex colleagues who may not be members of NARPO, and invite them along too.

*Tamworth Sub Branch vacancies for a secretary and a treasurer.*

*We are indebted for the dedication and service provided by Dave Gardener in recent years and wish him and Margaret every happiness in their new life by the coast. Chairman, Glyn Thomas would appreciate some help with event arrangements, and record keeping in these not too onerous roles.*

### Radio Shacks

I recall there were ONE or TWO radio Amateurs I met whilst serving but memory is failing so forgot their identities. Are there any more out there in their retirement "shacks"? Could you please put a call out for me and see who they are?

It would be great to get contacts from the "home county". It would have to be on the HF bands of course hopefully 80 & 40 metres. Brian Podmore, licensed British Radio Amateur **G3INQ**

**National Police Memorial Day:** Fri 29th Sept. 2017, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas (Details available from Brian Whitehouse, Stafford Sub Branch)

**E-mail List.** When a message is sent to all our contacts we are receiving around **50** failed delivery reports which have to be checked and removed from the inbox, which is quite time consuming. Please update us if you have changed your e-mail address. To help you, there is a link to **Update E-Mail Contact** on the Web Homepage. We are removing obsolete fmail, freeserve, orange, orangehome, and wanadoo addresses.

Have you updated your nominee beneficiary for death benefit from the Benevolent Fund?

*Some members of the Benevolent Fund overlook that they have nominated a beneficiary in the past and life changes: the nominee dies or become divorced. Members should notify the Benevolent Fund Treasurer of who should receive the death benefit. This is currently Member: Classes A and C = £5000; Class B = £150.*

## Injury on Duty Award Pensions Reviews

At the Staffordshire NARPO Branch committee meeting held on Saturday 17/6/2017, one of the items discussed was the ongoing matter of Staffordshire Police recommencing reviews of injury on duty (IOD) pensions, together with other associated matters.

Branch committee members had been provided with several documents prior to the meeting to assist them with their deliberations. These comprised a series of letters and e-mails from two of our members to the Branch Chairman and Branch Secretary, and copies of responses sent to the correspondents.

The Branch committee was of the view that the content of the correspondence from the two members constituted complaints against the Executive of Staffordshire NARPO, National NARPO and the Police Federation, both locally and nationally. Its remit allows the Branch Committee consideration only of whether there has been misconduct by members of this Branch.

Some of the correspondence [emails] received from the two members was deemed less than savoury and (as stated) amounted to complaints. After a lengthy debate the Branch committee members came to the conclusion that the Branch Executive had, during the course of two and half years, taken the appropriate action to respond to the many issues raised by the complaining members, and these extensive efforts were recorded in the correspondence files.

The Branch Committee also considered the demand from the correspondents for the recent legal advice Staffordshire NARPO had obtained through the Police Federation to be further reconsidered. The Branch Committee rejected this idea. The background to this is that in November 2016 Staffordshire Police announced a change to its policy on reviews of IOD awards. This was challenged by our representative at the Pensions Board on the basis that there existed an agreement made with Staffordshire Police in 2008, that IOD awards made prior to March 2008 would not generally be reviewed. Staffordshire Police then postponed instigating the policy change to reconsider the matter. It then announced to NARPO on 18/02/2017 that the IOD award reviews would commence in 2017. The Staffordshire Branch Chairman contacted both the Police Federation and our NEC at Wakefield, who supported (in accordance with established procedure) a request that the Police Federation fund the obtaining of legal advice on the 2008 agreement, which the Police Federation subsequently agreed to. The legal advice obtained by the Police Federation is that the 2008 agreement is fundamentally flawed and not enforceable. The Police Federation has declined a Staffordshire NARPO request for the entire legal advice to be published, but has agreed to a summary being circulated. This is published on our website ([www.narpo-staffs.co.uk](http://www.narpo-staffs.co.uk)) and has been sent to members that are on our e-mail contacts list. The Branch committee agreed with the NARPO NEC stance that, until such times as a NARPO member has an appropriate case for appeal against an IOD award review, there is no point in seeking further legal advice on the 2008 agreement or other IOD award matters.

The two members have asked for disclosure of legal advice obtained in 2008 in respect of the agreement. It has now been established that no formal legal advice was obtained by Staffordshire NARPO at that time. The first legal advice on that agreement was that obtained this year through the Police Federation (as described above). It has further been established that the Police Federation did not have written legal advice in 2008. The Branch Committee has learned that a solicitor visiting the Police Federation office informally perused the draft agreement and verbally advised it was acceptable. Staffordshire Police has disclosed to Staffordshire NARPO in 2017 a summary of legal advice it had about the agreement, from 2008.

The two members have raised concerns about the transfer of administration of Staffordshire Police Pensions to Mouchel, subsequently taken over by Kier. Staffordshire NARPO issued an e-mail on 27 Feb 2015 announcing this would take place in August 2015. Members were also informed of this in the summer edition of the Staffordshire Knot, published in July 2015. Issues raised about data protection and the processes have been investigated by the Office of the Information Commissioner. The investigation found some process errors and issued advice to Staffordshire Police. The principle concern for members was that sensitive medical information had been

exchanged. The Branch Committee is satisfied that is not the case. Whilst Kier has data showing amounts to pay individuals, it has no medical records or information about the medical reason for the payments.

The Branch noted that from Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 a new Chief Constable, Gareth Morgan, is in post. He has transferred from Avon and Somerset Constabulary. We understand that Avon and Somerset Constabulary has suspended conducting reviews of IOD awards. The Branch is therefore sure that Mr Morgan is well sighted on the issues. In welcoming him to Staffordshire, the Branch Executive will be seeking a meeting as soon as possible to continue the practice of regular meetings with the chief officer and will pursue this matter in the agenda.

Among the requests made by the correspondents was that a group meeting be convened for Staffs NARPO IOD Award members. It was decided that there would be no group meeting. NARPO members with concerns about IOD award reviews are referred to the guidance which is available on the national NARPO Website ([www.narpo.org.uk](http://www.narpo.org.uk)), and should individuals require further advice they should contact Staffordshire NARPO. Branch and Sub branch officers will always provide assistance to members on an individual basis.

The Branch committee did not uphold the complaints against the Executive. A vote of confidence in the Branch Executive Officers was moved and passed.

Related, but separate to the above, the Branch Committee discussed a pressure group established under the name Injury on Duty Pensioners Association (IODPA). This group is not part of NARPO or affiliated to us. The group has a website and internet blog. Its members remain mostly anonymous and publishes articles and documents relating to IOD matters.

The group has been sending unsolicited anonymous e-mail invitations to people in Staffordshire promoting the IOD awards cause. National or local NARPO has no issues with members contacting the IODPA for advice, if they feel it is more appropriate for them. Branch officers have received queries from several people about these e-mails, including a serving officer and ordinary police pension members. We can reassure our members that we have not shared any member's information or e-mail addresses with them. It appears IODPA purchased commercial mailing lists and are using these to target potential recruits.

NARPO is here for all its members, including many who do not use e-mail and the internet. Our primary concern is to promote measures for the welfare of members with particular regard to pensions, which includes injury on duty awards.

#### **Staffordshire NARPO Branch Committee.**

#### **NARPO Holiday 2017: Legal & Illegal London**

Regrettably, this trip has been **cancelled**. We thank Gerry for the time and effort he put in to arrange the itinerary, but there were insufficient bookings to make the event viable.

#### **Burton and Uttoxeter Sub Branch**

This Sub Branch goes from strength to strength with new members joining on a regular basis, some joining several years after retirement. Attendance at the meetings at Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton is on the increase. The next meeting is Wednesday 12th July at 7:30 pm. The Christmas Lunch menu will be available at the following meeting, on 11th October 2017.

#### **AGM results for West Bromwich.**

Chairman: Ken speed. Vice chair: Don Bartlett.

Secretary/Treasurer and Welfare: Peter Toghill. Committee member: Charles Mcgaffney.

Our gratitude is sent to Terry Barton who has stood down from the secretary role after many years of service to the Sub Branch.

## Before You Die

The aide memoire published in the previous edition of The Staffordshire Knot has been well received, with positive remarks and examples of people using the checklist. If you wish to refer back to the guidance, it is available on the website narpo-staffs.co.uk. The Branch Secretary will send a copy on request to members.

Continuing on the theme of dealing with estates, here we outline three steps to smooth things for your survivors. Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney, and (often overlooked) closing Social Media and Internet based accounts.

### Wills

It is surprising to learn in conversations how many of our members have not taken steps to prepare for the inevitable. People still shy away from making a Will, even when they have valuable assets. If not your home, it can be jewellery, a vehicle, a life insurance policy, or your beloved pet. It makes sense to have a Will, no matter what your age. Many leave it late in life, yet we know the Grim Reaper can knock on the door when least expected. If you have a spouse, civil partner, or one surviving child, things can be simple. But if you are in a relationship, even long standing, that is not legally recognised, or offspring from different relationships, making a Will is particularly important to ensure those who matter to you benefit from your estate.

### Lasting Power of Attorney

Often, and quite tragically, people suffer, illnesses, accidents and injuries which leave them totally incapacitated. This can suddenly occur, or over time, your capacity to function declines to the point you can no longer deal with your affairs. Such a situation often leave spouses, partners and dependents with a double problem. Faced with your care and welfare, they also need to process the ongoing matters of life, paying bills, maintaining and renewing property. So having considered a Will. What do you do to ensure someone has access to your money to keep things ticking over?

There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), one for property and financial affairs, and one for health and welfare. It is beneficial to get these in place early. A person must have their full understanding and mental capacity to sign over decisions on their future to a third party. If you fail to have an LPA in place before you lose mental capacity, your next of kin will have to apply to a court of protection for authority to look after your money and health. This would be an expensive and stressful procedure.

As with wills, you can do it yourself and draw up your own LPA via the website for the Office of Public Guardians at a cost of £110 to register. The process takes about 8-10 weeks. Alternatively, you can get a solicitor to draw up the LPA which will involve their fees and the registration fee. As soon as the LPA is registered it takes full effect and allows the Attorney to act on your behalf immediately, unless you specify differently. Remember to tell your bank you have an LPA in place so the attorneys have an easier time of taking over your affairs.

LPAs are a modern version of what was termed Enduring Power of Attorney. EPAs remain valid unless replaced by you making an LPA. If you previously signed an EPA it would be wise to check it covers your current situation and wishes.

### Closing Internet and Social Media.

Survivors and Executors are increasingly faced with the problems of closing Internet and Social Media accounts. Ensure that with your personal papers you keep securely a current list of all active accounts, usernames and passwords. Some social media give a choice of closing accounts or leaving a memorial account.



**Card carrying**  
NARPO Members can gain **FREE ENTRY**  
**throughout the 2017 main season**  
**including Magical Christmas 2017**

Check website for details