



# NARPO Bulletin (Merseyside Branch)

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



## Autumn 2020 *From the Chair*

I trust the past months have not proved too much of a challenge for you. Hopefully the lifting of some restrictions and the opening of many exercise related establishments, shops, garden centres, National Trust centres and the like will provide some opportunity for you to experience some normality. One big plus for me is being able to see all my family albeit not necessarily all together. We can only hope the current positive trends continue and we are not forced into any local lockdowns.

Despite the restrictions that the Corona virus has placed on the work of the Branch I am delighted that both the executive and committee have been carrying out various tasks to ensure we meet our members needs. Regrettably, the one thing we have not been able to do is to send representatives to the funerals of our members who have sadly died during the lockdown. I recently watched a video of a funeral at a crematorium where only the immediate family were present when had things been different the Crematorium would have been full and no doubt many would have been outside. I found it saddening and my thoughts go out to all the families who have been through a similar experience.

The June meeting of the committee was held via Zoom and whilst a different experience it worked out well. Due to the cancellation of the AGM the committee dealt with the business that would normally have been done at the AGM, i.e. approval of the report, financial statement and the committee. Mike Dixon and Iain Fortune (as stated in my last bulletin) did not stand for re-election and Lesley Culley, Tracey Denton and Lynne Boardman, who had been co-opted members, were elected to the committee for the coming year. The Executive was also elected and is now Malcolm Parry, Chair, Christine Parkinson, Vice Chair, Eddie McGrath, Secretary, Frank Richardson, Deputy Secretary, John McDermott, Treasurer, Bob Johnson, Deputy Treasurer, Colin Lewis, Assistant Secretary (Welfare) and Lorna Lyons, Assistant Secretary (Admin). You will note that Robin McGrath is no longer Vice Chair and this is to enable Christine to become Vice Chair as part of our succession planning and make sure we have members ready to take over any role either permanently or during temporary absences. I thank Robin for all the hard work he has done and will be continuing to do but not as Vice Chair. Frank Kite has also stepped down as Treasurer after many years looking after Branch finances. I thank Frank for all his commitment and hard work. Frank remains on the committee. In the Annual report listing of the committee Brian Starkey was omitted in error. Brian remains on the committee.

It is likely that future meetings, certainly the August one, will also be held by Zoom. In relation to social activities you will be aware we have had to cancel a number of events. Disappointing but absolutely necessary. The one outstanding event is the visit to the Christmas markets later in the year. This is still under review and will obviously depend on what prevails nearer the time. Lorna and Ruth will keep you informed as and when.

I repeat a paragraph from this bulletin last year 'Remember the ethos of NARPO relates to Pensions and Welfare. 100 years on it is still, if not more so, relevant and this Branch has not only helped a lot of members through difficult times but also provided advice in relation to individual pension issues. **SO PLEASE COME AND JOIN US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS VITAL SERVICE.**

If you are interested, particularly if you are one of the younger retirees (remember it is vital we reflect the wide age spectrum of the branch), then please do contact me on [chairperson@narpo-merseyside.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@narpo-merseyside.org.uk) and we can have a chat about what is involved.

You will be aware from previous bulletins and emails that we have now changed our address to a PO Box to enable easier access to routine post. Whilst our mobile number remains the same, we now have a new landline number, 0151 777 4332. Yes, it is a direct police number as the Secretary has now been able to complete the move of the Branch office to Copy Lane police station. The accommodation is excellent and may I thank the Chief Constable and his staff for agreeing to the move and supporting Eddie in its finalisation and set up. Our banking process has also been updated with the adoption of digital banking.

So, despite the lockdown much has been happening behind the scenes and hopefully in my next bulletin later in the year life will be even more back to normal albeit perhaps not the normal we have been used too.

As ever I end reminding you this is your Branch so please let us know how we are doing and if you have any ideas for the future then please tell us.

As the nights close in please be careful and may the coming months be safe and kind to you.



Malcolm Parry



(Chairman)

# Eddie-torial

We are living in strange times. I mean who would have thought you could walk into a bank wearing a mask and the alarm not be sounded???

The postponement of Pre-retirement Courses for the time being has had an effect on recruitment of new NARPO members. Merseyside Police have kindly agreed to send out membership forms and details to all officers who have retired since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. This may result in some duplicity but better to have received two membership forms than none. If you are aware of any recent retirees who have not had the opportunity to join NARPO I would be pleased to know.

As the Chairman has stated, we are now operating from spacious, well lit, and functional accommodation at Copy Lane Police Station. During the early part of lockdown, I was working exclusively from home which was not ideal and on occasions inconvenient. I have developed a system whereby I have Wednesdays as a "rest day" because in the current climate there is no post on that day.

Committee meetings are currently being held via ZOOM. What a great app which enables the committee to keep functioning in these the weirdest of times.

So, when will we be back to "normal?" Let's hope sooner rather than later. Next scheduled cruise 17<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

***The recently published edition of the national NARPO magazine contained a piece entitled "NARPO Bereavement Booklet 'in time of need'" indicating that copies were available from The Branch Secretary. This is not the case and copies will not be available until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at the earliest. Members will receive notice as and when availability is confirmed. In the meantime, the local document entitled "What to do when someone dies" is on the NARPO Merseyside website. It must be reiterated that upon the death of a member the Branch Secretary should be contacted immediately.***

## The "Danny" Cruise



The "Danny" Cruise postponed from July 2020 because of the Covid-19 outbreak has been rescheduled for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The cost of the experience is £20.00 per person (NARPO Merseyside member plus spouse/partner/guest.)

If members require more details and booking form please telephone the office (0151 777 4332) or mobile (07505 477162).

## WIDOWS DRAW WINNERS JUNE 2020

Lily Bailey, Winefride Clark, Eileen Morgan, Irene Robinson, Lesley Stowell, Christine Burrell, Anne Heritage, Irene Garton, Barbara Lewis, Beryl Monteith, Judith Mahon, Phillippa Fawcett, Susan Croker, Myrtle Fleming, Angela Tweedley, Sheila Condron, Dorothy Hawkins, Isabella Craven, Carol Kemp, Irene Gibson, Violet Touhey, Susan Fairhurst, Linda McGeechan, Beryl Williams, Barbara Beddoes.

## Charitable Trust Lottery Winners

Lottery winners May 2020

£500 - PC 7885 Catherine Ellis, Mather Avenue  
£250 - Pens. Jan Beattie

Lottery winners for June 2020

£500 - Con 7779 Lauren Bott, St Helens  
£250 - Con 2789 Thomas Craine, Huyton

Lottery Winners for July 2020 –

£500 - Con 8599 Dafydd Cromey, Mather Avenue  
£250 - Pens Steven Montauti

## Welcome New Members

Elizabeth Stewart, Susan Fisher, Janice Williams, Stephen Rooney, Stephen Montgomery (transfer from Southport), John Rooney, Carl Hignett, Christopher Gainer, Gary Keegan, Margaret Henry (widow), John Norbury, Michael Dacre, Phil Baines, Claire McKernan (widow), Sally Davies (widow), Kathleen Holmes, Lesley Green, Pauline Holland, Alison Armit, Robert Lloyd, Diane Bridson (widow), Robert Moss



Former Sergeant 36"A" Claydon and ???



## William John (Johnny) Edwards



"Johnny" Edwards (centre) with Ex-Cadets

Great sadness followed the NARPO notice of John Edwards' passing on 13<sup>th</sup> June this year, at the venerable age of 93. Widely known and respected by friends and colleagues, an impressive figure, tall and of impeccable bearing as befits a graduate of the Grenadier Guards, a man who didn't waste words but meant everything he did say ... and always a gentleman. Former colleagues will well remember John the Police Officer, the Drill Instructor who retired in the rank of Superintendent, but may also be interested in a glimpse of his more personal characteristics.

In fact, behind that perhaps flinty image hid the capacity for empathy and care. During his spell at the FTC as Drill Instructor he taught Police Cadets much about discipline - by his own example, as well as by having miscreants doubling sweaty laps around the school track! That of course was his job, for which he showed great flair, but in fact he brought more than an echo of military discipline to it - now, more than half a century later, his passing prompts many former cadets to reveal that they have always felt a debt of gratitude to him for advice or guidance he gave them during their formative years ... several even referring to him having been "a father figure". All such counsel of course was kept in complete confidence, becoming openly disclosed only now. For many consecutive years to date he has been the chosen Guest of Honour at Former-Cadets' annual reunion dinners.

Throughout a successful police career John cherished a great love of local knowledge and history, which motivated him to qualify as a Blue Badge Tourist Guide. This he achieved, ultimately becoming President of the Liverpool Region Tourist Guides Association. His eminent status there is well reflected in a glowing tribute paid him by the current President - she has written of his knowledge, authority, kindness and support saying, "I just wish I could live up to his standards" and "He was a gentleman through and through."

At the funeral his son, John, delivered a eulogy. Within that he describes how his father, in spite of his busy public life, in various ways went to extraordinary lengths for his family, such as driving his other son Stephen (an avid Stoke City FC supporter, which John was *not*) to home and away matches, and instilling in son John his own great love of the outdoors and mountains. John cited many pleasures and interests his father had enjoyed which included his fell-walking and camping, Tom-and-Jerry cartoons, landscape painting and playing the piano by ear. While a young soldier he was a strong cyclist and had even taken dance lessons. Within his family he enjoyed a lively sense of humour and was not averse to telling jokes at his own expense. Suffice it to say that, beyond his obvious qualities, there was much more still to John than he publicly revealed.

He will be widely remembered anyway of course, but I hope this short tribute will complement our memories by adding some endearing aspects of his private self, aspects about which he himself was so modestly reticent.

*A very long life, very well lived.*

**Ed: Thanks to George Fowler and contemporaries for this splendid tribute to a remarkable man.**

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### National Police Memorial Day Update (from NARPO C.E.O. Steve Edwards)

As you are aware the NPMD have had to change the way we remember our fallen colleagues this year due to the pandemic. Full information is available via our website at <https://www.narpo.org/national-police-memorial-day-2020/> or you can access the information via the Event Leaflet which tells you all about how you can be involved on the day and in the days leading up to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The pre-recorded event will be released at 1500hrs on 27<sup>th</sup> September and we hope that you can find a way to get together with friends to view it. Perhaps those of you with the technology (access to the internet with decent broadband speed) can ensure that others who do not can join you to remember our fallen colleagues.

I would be very grateful if you could spread this information far and wide, to all your friends and colleagues. This year's event may be different, but we are determined that it will be seen by as many people as possible.

# OBITUARIES

Date	Name	Rank	Age
<b>May</b>			
17 <sup>th</sup>	Lucy Anne Rawlinson	Widow	86 years
28 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Hudson	Constable 1183	88 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Roland Davies	Detective Constable 5504	62 years
<b>June</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter John Henry	Chief Inspector	75 years
13 <sup>th</sup>	William John Edwards	Superintendent	93 years
15 <sup>th</sup>	Irene Mary Peden	Widow	93 years
17 <sup>th</sup>	James Michael McKernan	Constable 3951	70 years
21 <sup>st</sup>	Gilbert Ewart Hughes	Chief Superintendent	93 years
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Eileen Overton	Widow	97 years
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Carol Hughes	Widow	73 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Stanley Holland	Sergeant 3189	69 years
<b>July</b>			
14 <sup>th</sup>	Kenneth Robert Bridson	Detective Chief Superintendent	67 years
15 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Henry MacDonald	Constable	62 years
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Richard Jones	Sergeant 449	92 years
29 <sup>th</sup>	Roy Edward Davies	Constable 1856	79 years
<b>August</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup>	Kenneth William Edwards	Constable 744	89 years



## Poppy Appeal 2020

October/November is usually a busy time for us in the Royal British Legion when the **Poppy Appeal** is in full swing but this year the **Poppy Appeal** will be severely restricted.

Due to covid-19 the Royal British Legion will not be holding the Poppy Appeal as we know it. The main reasons are the safety of their members and volunteers who support us for the Appeal and the safety of the public who donate to the Appeal.

This year only wreaths and wooden crosses will be available for those who wish to remember their loved ones and friends. Local Branches will be ordering these items but will have to have covid-19 compliance measures in place before they can interact with the public. This may very well limit the availability of wreaths and crosses.

In simple terms the future is uncertain and this article refers to the guidance in place in August 2020, but it may change.

A note regards Remembrance Day parades at local memorials: These will also be restricted and these plans are currently under discussion with each Local Authority who are the lead on each ceremony. So if you regularly parade or attend the ceremony please check with your Local Authority or Royal British Legion Branch.

You may wish to support the **Poppy Appeal** and this can be done by cheque to your local Branch or online to Royal British Legion in London.

**Robin McGrath**  
**Poppy Appeal Organiser - Crosby RBL.**

### And Finally

As usual, most people are looking forward to New Years Eve – not to celebrate the coming of 2021 but to ensure we see the last of this damned awful 2020 year!

It is rumoured that Christmas Day this year has been moved to the second week in January to allow Santa time to isolate for 14 days after entering the country!

Just back from shopping. Saw a bloke purchasing 10 cases of San Miguel, 9 sombreros, a case of Rioja, and 8 paellas. I thought “Hispanic buying!”

### Covid-19 Anti-depressants

- 50% of Canada is “A”
- If Bjorn and Benny had been called Siegfried and Dieter would the band have been called ASDA?
- The problem with kleptomaniacs is that they always take things literally.
- Adam and Eve were the first to ignore Apple terms and conditions.
- If anyone receives a message about canned meat, don't open it. It's probably SPAM.
- If you wear glasses and have been required to wear a mask you may be entitled to condensation.
- 50 is the new 30 but try telling that to a speed camera!
- The leading cause of dry skin is towels!