



The National Association of Retired Police Officers

1919 - 2019
A Century of Service

**'To safeguard the rights of members and to promote measures
for their welfare, with particular regard to pensions'**



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I am pleased to be the Patron of the National Association of Retired Police Officers [NARPO] in this their Centenary year and it is with great pleasure that I write the foreword to this book celebrating a hundred years of the National Association of Retired Police Officers.

From small beginnings on Friday 25 July 1919, NARPO has grown to be the largest Public Sector Pensioner Organisation in the United Kingdom and now represents over 89,000 retired police officers and their widows/widowers. Throughout that time NARPO has maintained its primary objectives of protecting members' rights and promoting measures for their welfare, and has campaigned for improvements to police pensions, widows' pensions and the state pension. NARPO's work, together with other bodies, has led to significant improvements in the pensions of police widows, and this work continues today.

NARPO continues to thrive and membership continues to grow; the Association is there to help members manage their life, work and leisure after the Police Service. Retiring from the Police Service can bring its own challenges and our members often need help and support as they make this transition. I wish NARPO every success in this their Centenary year and many years beyond.



1919 - 1929

At 7.15pm, on Friday 25th July 1919, 500 retired police officers gathered at Essex Hall on the Strand in London. Representing forces from all over England and Wales, they established the National Executive Committee of the Retired Police Officers' Association.

Delegates came from Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Gloucester, Lancashire, Blackpool, Bristol, Hastings, Halifax, Liverpool and London. The newly-elected chairman, R. Hannah, opened the inaugural meeting with a rousing speech:

'We are called together this evening with a view to putting our house in order; to discuss and decide upon the best means to secure the success and stability of our Association.'

William Turner was formally elected as the first national secretary and George Hodder was appointed as the first president. Both were former police officers of the Metropolitan Police.

War and Unrest

During the First World War, the pay and conditions of police officers had deteriorated considerably. Their wages were generally lower than those of industrial workers and, although the government offered some temporary bonuses, they did not meet the costs of daily life, which had risen by 76% during the conflict.

Following the war, workers undertook industrial action in protest against pay freezes in both the public and private sectors, imposed by the government to control wage increases. There was internal unrest in the police force also, as their pay had been frozen and the ban on police officers' wives working had been re-applied after its temporary suspension during the war.

Working conditions for police officers were also challenging, with a 'split shift system' consisting of two four-hour periods of work with a break of four hours in between. It was badly organised and detrimental to family life, as well as to the officers' health. A shortage of serving officers in the aftermath of war led to additional duties for those who remained on active service.

The difficulties experienced by police officers resulted in the creation of a police union by the Metropolitan Police, which campaigned against their unfair treatment. By early 1918 branches had been established in other cities, such as Manchester which had more than 300 members. Senior police officers and Home Office officials opposed the union, which led to the dismissal of at least one of its key organisers.

On 28th August 1918, the union issued an ultimatum to the police commissioner, Sir

Edward Henry, demanding a pay increase and the reinstatement of the sacked official. The government responded with threats to prosecute the union secretary. The following day, large numbers of sergeants and constables resorted to the drastic measure of industrial action. Prime Minister David Lloyd George conceded the union's demands but added that the union could not be recognised in wartime, instead of which he proposed a representative committee. Following the meeting with union members, he replaced the police commissioner and tasked his successor with suppressing the unrecognised police union.

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In March 1919, the Prime Minister formed the Desborough Committee to inquire into recruiting, conditions of service, pay, pensions and allowances. Its recommendations included an immediate pay increase and standardisation of pay rates throughout the country. The wages of a constable rose from £109 per annum to £182 10s. The commission granted the police an internal representative body, which led to the establishment of the Police Federation in July 1919.

1919 Police Act

The Police Act 1919 prohibited the police from joining a trade union that could take strike action.

It officially established the Police Federation of England and Wales as the only internal representative body for all ranks from constable to chief inspector. All police officers were required to resign from the unofficial union or they faced dismissal. Every force elected a branch board for

the new federation. The Police Federation was founded officially on 15th August 1919, three weeks after the first meeting of the Association of Retired Police Officers.

Industrial action broke out once again, and a national strike of police officers took place, mainly in London, Birmingham and Liverpool. However, the formation of the Police Federation went ahead and their first conference was held in November 1919.

A United Stand

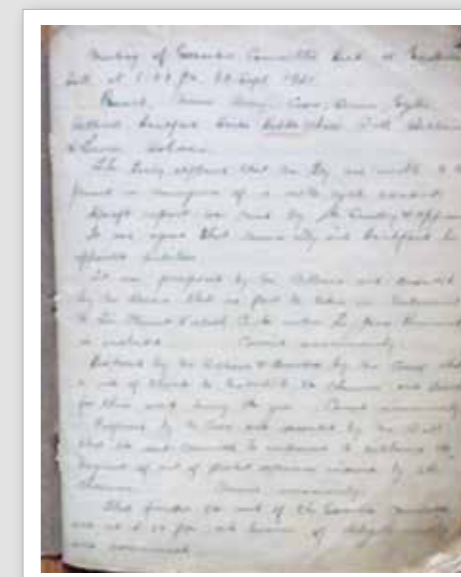
A group of retired police officers had been meeting in London as early as autumn 1918, and the first reported meetings of the Association of Retired Police Officers date from January 1919.

William Turner was elected as honorary secretary, and Richard Harris, editor of the Police Review, was the first honorary treasurer. The Association's early meetings were mostly held in the Police Review offices.

The Association's first objectives were:

- 1) To seek the revision of pensions, which were still based on pre-war pay scales.
- 2) To seek an amendment to the Police Bill, to include all police pensioner widows. (Widows from before 1st September 1918 were to be excluded from any changes to rates of pay).

When the National Executive Committee (NEC) was formed in July 1919, the Association of Retired Police Officers had some 3,000 members. Early organisers travelled around the country setting up local branches and galvanising former police officers into action. The proposed annual subscription rate was one shilling.



The Police Review in March 1919 reported that: *'Branches all over England and Wales were not only springing up, but subs of one shilling per member were rolling in.'*

The earliest surviving record of a National Executive Committee meeting dates from 30th September 1921, held at Ecclestone Hall, London. One member was absent due to a motorcycle accident.

George Hodder took the chair and the meeting lasted one hour, during which Sir James Remnant, MP for Holborn and known as 'the policeman's friend', addressed the delegates, urging them 'to enrol all the pre-war police pensioners, also the widows of the pensioners'. He committed himself to fighting 'until they got justice'.

The NEC voted to refuse to take part in a testimonial to Devonport MP Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke, another champion of the police pension equality cause, unless Sir James Remnant was included.

Pensions and Poverty

The Old Age Pensions Act 1908 had provided a non-contributory pension for people over the age of 70.

The plight of police pensioners was first highlighted during the First World War. Their pensions were fixed, so when the value of currency depreciated, many suffered poverty and hardship. In October 1918, retired police officers delivered a petition with 1,400 signatures to the House of Commons for amendments to the Police Bill. Despite support from MPs it has had little impact as the government did not wish to set a precedent for other public sector workers.

Following the Desborough Committee report, police pensions were increased in line with a pay rise, and a standard scale was introduced. A constable retiring with a weekly pension of £3 3s 4d, received almost as much as a skilled craftsman working 44-48 hours per week.

The recommended starting point for the increase was 1st April 1919. There was no special provision for the re-assessment of pre-war pensions.

By 1921, not all police authorities had implemented the pension increase. The Western Daily Press estimated that only 90 local authorities had partially paid the increase and that some 25,000 police pensioners only received a third of their allotted 20 shillings per week 'in the eventide of their lives'. Some elderly police widows were even forced to apply for parish relief. When a former police constable committed suicide in Bath, the local press reported that he had been worried about his pension.

Supported by 250 MPs, there was a call for a substantial increase in the pension for pre-war retired officers and that all local authorities administer the increase with no limitations of age or income. The government failed to redeem their pledges on the issue and the battle continued.

The First Chairman

George Robert Hodder was a founding member of NARPO and was elected its first chairman in 1919.

A former inspector in the Metropolitan Police, he had been involved in the Police Pensioners Executive since his retirement in 1900, after 22 years' service in the force.

George Hodder was born in 1857 in South Wales. His father, George Ackerman Hodder, was a corporal in the 94th Regiment of Foot. At the age of 14, George junior began work as a letter carrier for the Post Office. He resigned after six years to join the Metropolitan Police and was allocated to B Division. George was transferred through several divisions and rose through the ranks to become an inspector in X Division.



In 1889, George received an award from the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire for helping to rescue a tobacconist and his wife from a fire the previous year.

A married man, George had five daughters. He was a prominent member of the Baptist Church and was actively involved in the Temperance Movement. On his retirement in 1900, George's service was commended in the Willesden Chronicle:

'During his service locally he had won the esteem not only of his fellow officers and men, but the regard of very many of the civil residents... Mr Hodder was shrewd and capable...and his qualities of tact and street justice, tempered with good humour, made him many friends and few enemies.'

George served as chairman of NARPO until 1923, after which he resigned due to ill health. He died in 1932, aged 75. His colleagues on the National Executive Committee published a tribute to him in the Police Review and Parade Gossip (11th November, 1932): *'...he endeared himself by his gentle nature, his truly Christian spirit of faith and service and by the wisdom and singleness of purpose of his counsel.'*

Early Branches

One of the earliest NARPO branches was established in Coventry.

On 23rd September 1922, at a meeting held in the parade room of the old police station, it was decided to form a branch of the Association of Retired Police Officers. Eleven former officers were present. Mr Shelley was elected as chairman and Mr Holmes as secretary. Two members were chosen to attend that year's annual conference in Birmingham, due to take place a week later.

In some areas, early branches of NARPO were attended and, in some cases, even established by serving police officers. One such was Bristol.

The annual subscription was set at one shilling and the second meeting of the newly-formed branch was held in the Gold Cross public house, in a bid to increase membership. By 1924, the number of members had reached 40 and the subscription had been doubled.

Coventry Branch actively supported members, especially widows, who had fallen on hard times. The 1930s saw the introduction of social activities for members, including whist drives, outings, annual dinners and concerts. The branch minutes from 1940 record the absence of the secretary, George King, after his house was destroyed by enemy action on 15th November.

Following the Second World War, social activities began again with the introduction of the first ladies' whist drive, offering prizes of a pair of stockings and some handmade crochet work.

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In 1920, Police Constable William Thomas Prout attended the NARPO national meeting on behalf of the branch. William Prout was born in Launceston, Cornwall in 1886. One of eight children, his father was a mason. During the First World War, William served in the 1st Grenadier Guards, after which he joined the Bristol City Police. During his first years of active service, William helped to set up the Bristol branch of NARPO. He remained in the city until his death in 1973.



1930 - 1939

The movement to amend the Police Pensions Act 1921, to include the widows of police pensioners who had retired before 1st September 1918, continued throughout the 1930s. MPs called repeatedly for amendments in the House of Commons.

In 1930, the MP for Devonport, Leslie Hore-Belisha, and Lord Remnant tabled proposals once again. By this time there were 12,167 police pensioners who had taken retirement before 1st April 1919 and another 20,082 who had retired since. There were no official figures available for the number of police officers who had retired before 1st September 1918, although it was noted in parliament that there had been 120,000 pre-war police pensioners in 1920, and of the 70,000 in 1930, 40,000 enjoyed the benefits of the Pensions (Increases) Acts. Mr Hore-Belisha stated that the cost of meeting the remaining pre-war police pensioners' claim was 'infinitesimal'. He added: 'We have a moral obligation to these men and it has been repeatedly acknowledged in this house' (Hansard, 11th November 1930)

According to his information, a superintendent retiring in 1930 received a pension of £370 per annum, whereas a pre-war superintendent was entitled to £145 a year.

In 1935, the National Association of Retired Police Officers was still campaigning for the equality of pensions for pre-war and post-war former officers, and for police pensioners' widows to receive pensions irrespective of the date on which their husbands left the force.

A New Branch

On 14th May 1932, former superintendent Hector Daniel Macleod convened a meeting of 70 police pensioners in Northampton town hall.

Known as a man of style, in 1899 Macleod had famously commandeered a Benz motor car in Northampton to chase a conman posing as a publicist for Barnum & Bailey's circus, who had targeted shopkeepers in the area. With the owner of the car at the wheel, Macleod chased his suspect through the local villages, becoming the first ever police officer to make an arrest after a car chase.

At the first meeting of the Northamptonshire Branch of NARPO in 1932, Daniel Macleod was elected as chair. The chief constable of the borough police, John Williamson and A. W. Bacon, the president of NARPO, both addressed the gathering to loud applause from the new members.

Over the decades, despite several changes of venue, Northamptonshire Branch has continued to thrive and now has more than 900 members, who participate in regular sporting and social events, as well as supporting their proactive welfare programme.



Membership Challenges

At the annual conference in Liverpool in 1934, it was reported that NARPO had gained 16,632 members, although only 4,467 had paid their subscription during the previous year.

Following the conference, NARPO's secretary, William Isted, led a special effort to form more new branches, which included Leicester, Derby, Tunbridge Wells, Worthing, Hereford, Sunderland and Barrow-in-Furness.

Despite the efforts of the NEC, NARPO membership declined during the inter-war years and, at the annual conference in 1937,

the new president, Arthur Denman, shared his disappointment:

'Lack of interest in the affairs of the Association still prevails, principally among older members, although they are enjoying the benefits of the Pension Increase Acts.'

By the time of the outbreak of war in 1939, the London Branch was reduced to just 200 members. The collection of subscriptions continued to be a challenge for all branches. However, despite the ongoing membership challenges, there were still new branches being formed throughout the country.

Preparation for War

At the NARPO annual conference in Manchester in September 1937, it was suggested that the organisation formed a national reserve to be 'trained for special work in the event of a great emergency', such as an air or gas attack.

The president, W. Parker, said: *'We of NARPO are men well trained in the work of protecting the*

public. When we retire on pension we are thrown on the scrap heap, and we think that is entirely wrong.' (Aberdeen Journal, 9th Sept 1937)

The resolution was to be passed to the home secretary. There was no annual conference for the duration of the Second World War, although the National Executive Committee continued to meet throughout.



1940 - 1949

By 1945 there were still very few NARPO branches, so the National Executive Committee and the County Chief Police Officers' Committee worked together to form more county groups. In the following two years, 36 more branches were added to the Association, almost doubling the total number.

Expanding Across the Country



The inaugural meeting of Lincolnshire Branch took place on 5th November 1947, at the police headquarters in Lincoln, a former residential house with an excellent view of Lincoln Cathedral.

The annual subscription was set at two shillings and sixpence for men, and two shillings for women. The first president was George Holmes and the branch secretary was A. S. Ellis.

The branch's first annual general meeting was held a year later, with 17 members attending out of a total of 73. Inconsistent attendance continued into the 1950s, mostly due to adverse weather conditions such as thick winter smogs, and the cost of bus and train fares. There were many changes on the committee too, as individuals tried

to balance their NARPO responsibilities with other commitments.

By 1956 the members of Lincolnshire Branch had increased to 216 and two delegates attended the annual conference in Blackpool. Although branch attendance remained a challenge, support for NARPO grew and social activities were introduced in the 1970s. The branch continues to thrive today, with almost 1,300 members.

NARPO meetings in the north-west of England had been held regularly since 1928. In the 1940s, more branches were welcomed into the region. Southport and District Branch was formed in 1948. The earliest minutes record that the meetings were held in the gymnasium at Southport police station.

Once again membership was a problem and the subscription income was so low that, in 1955, the Southport and District Branch could not afford to send a delegate to the annual conference in Hastings. The situation improved and, three years later, the branch secretary attended the Bournemouth conference and was awarded 30 shillings towards his travel expenses. From the early 1960s, all expenses were reimbursed in full by the branch. Like many other branches, the first social events began in the 1970s.

NARPO meetings in the north-west of England had been held regularly since 1928. In the 1940s, more branches were welcomed into the region.

In 1978, the Southport and District Branch had 66 members and despite the relatively low numbers, they invited the National Executive Committee to hold their annual conference in Southport, in 1981. This was a successful event with a varied programme of activities, including a trip to the Pilkington Glass Museum for members' wives.

By 1983, the membership had more than doubled to 175. This trend continued throughout the decade. Since the 1980s, the Southport and District Branch has flourished, hosting further annual conferences, organising regular social events, such as coffee mornings, Christmas luncheons, dinner dances and coach trips. In 1997, the police gymnasium, in which the branch had met for almost 50 years, closed but the meetings continued elsewhere.

Branches in Suffolk were also established in the 1940s. The Ipswich Branch was founded on 5th

July 1946 and, by 1949, there were branches in Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds. In 1948, Ipswich Branch had 194 members, including 48 widows. Their first social event - a bowls match - took place in June 1948. It was a high-profile occasion with lunch beforehand, attended by the local superintendent. The journey back from the match included a stop at the Butcher's Arms, the landlord of which was a NARPO member. It was a very successful event, even though some members left without paying for their tea, which resulted in a four-shilling deficit.

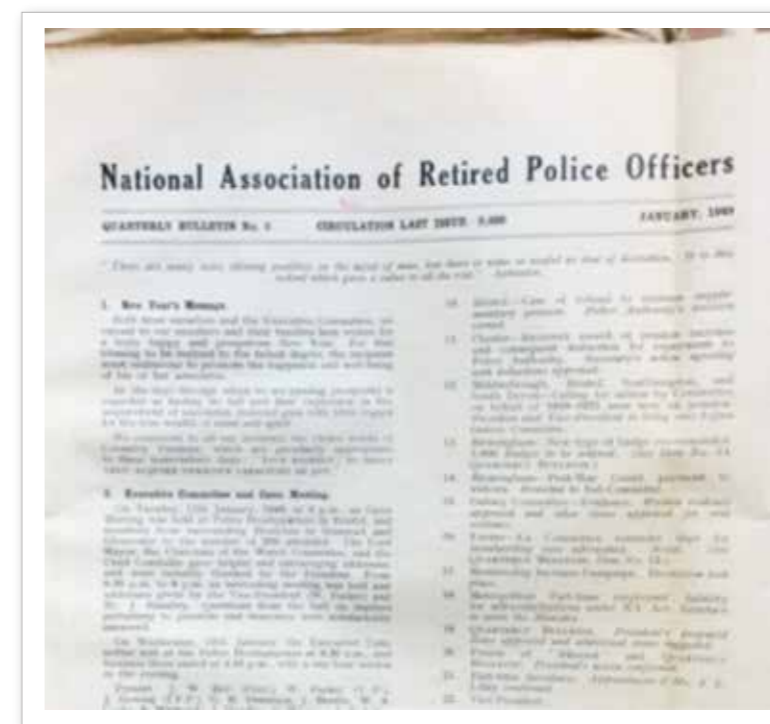
Meetings of the Ipswich Branch were held in many different venues, including a lads' club, the town hall and at the divisional HQ. From the branch's beginnings there were annual outings, to the Norfolk Broads, Great Yarmouth and Clacton.

The Ipswich Branch's main work was tackling issues relating to widows' pensions, especially supporting individuals whose application for a police pension had been turned down. By 1950, the branch had invested in a typewriter, although the minutes remained written in longhand for at least another decade.

Attendance to meetings and social events varied over the years as the branch combined work and leisure to attract and retain members - a sausage supper at a public house enticed 35 members in 1961. The social programme developed, with theatre trips, shopping excursions, dances, talks and dinners.

In 1986, the Suffolk Punch, a pensioners' newsletter was introduced. Short holidays began in the late 1980s and a bowls tournament was established in 1991 to celebrate Pensioners' Day, after which it became a regular feature. In 1994, a branch meeting was even rescheduled to accommodate the Ipswich v Norwich football match.

Introducing the Quarterly Bulletin



At the beginning of 1948, the NEC introduced the Quarterly Bulletin, as the 'official organ of the association'.

After a year of regular publication, it had a readership of 14,000. In May 1949, issue 6 reported on the growth of branches in the 'Association tree',

in which 'all blank geographical areas are rapidly disappearing'.

Since its inception, NARPO had been divided into two regions: Northern and Southern. In 1949, Wales Region was added, which included 14 new branches.

The Oaksey Committee

By 1948, some police widows from before September 1918, had been denied a widow's pension for some 30 years, during which time 'most of them were driven to undertaking menial labour, dependence on relatives, or recourse to Poor Law'.

The Police Pensions Act 1948 granted them a weekly pension of 26 shillings, which was the same as the state pension, but there was no compensation for 'their long years of undeserved poverty'.

In 1949, NARPO representatives submitted evidence to the Oaksey Committee, which was tasked with inquiring into police pensions and conditions of service. NARPO recommended that widows retain five shillings from their state pension, in addition to their police pension. Furthermore, any individuals who re-married after their partner's death should receive their pension subject to conditions of age, income and dependency of children.

Following discussions between the Oaksey Committee, members of NARPO and the Committee on Police Conditions of Service, it was

ruled that police widows had to relinquish their police pension if they wished to receive their state pension. During the intervening period, they risked receiving no pension at all.

In addition to the provision for pre-1918 police widows, the Police Pensions Act 1948 changed the police pensions code to take into account the National Insurance Scheme, which was introduced on 5th July 1948. Police pensioners were to be insured under the national scheme and existing legislation would be replaced to consolidate previous practice and to apply the new regulations to all police officers.

The key changes were the reduction of pensions to newly retired officers, when they reached the age of 65, and the introduction of a single scale for special pensions awarded in the event of injury or death on duty. There was an increase in payment for existing widows, including those whose husbands had not paid sufficient National Insurance contributions. From then on, police widows would receive their pension under the National Insurance Scheme, with the addition of a small police pension.

A Pioneering Policewoman

Police officer's wife Marion Reid Matson was widowed in 1945. She had two young daughters, aged 5 years and just 10 months.

The following January, she joined the Sunderland Borough Police as their first full time policewoman. As Sunderland's only female police officer, Marion was on almost permanent call, mostly attending to issues involving women and children. She also supported the local courts and the C.I.D. According to her granddaughter, Marion kept her front door key on the bedroom windowsill, and 'every policeman knew where our tea caddy was'.

Marion was promoted to sergeant in 1953, and then to inspector in 1962, after transferring to Newcastle City Police. Two years later, she became chief inspector. On the formation of the Northumbria Police in 1969, she received the British Empire Medal.

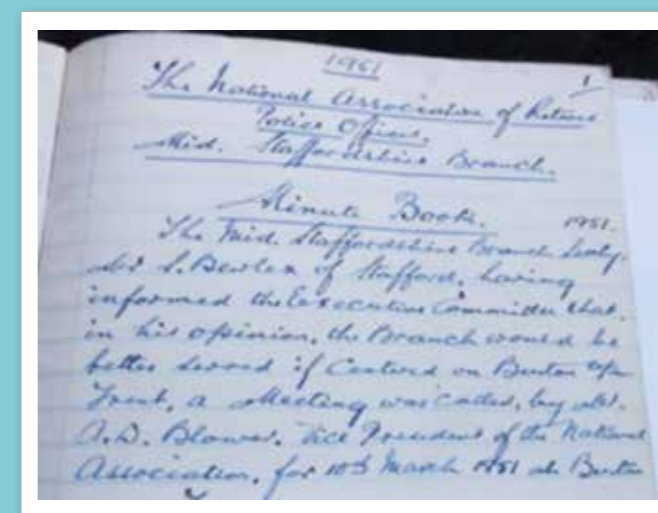
After her retirement in 1976, Marion continued to support the many charities and committees with which she had been involved throughout her career, including St George's Police Orphanage and the St Andrew's Police Convalescent Home in Harrogate. She was a member of the East Riding NARPO Branch. An extraordinary woman, Marion Matson died in 2003, at the age of 85 years.



1950 - 1959

In 1950, for the first time, NARPO's incoming president, C. Waldron, was invested with a chain of office, on which the names of all the presidents since 1919 were to be inscribed.

The new decade brought more branches, such as Burton-on-Trent, formed on 10th March 1951. This branch had already existed for some time as Mid-Staffordshire, but it was felt that the branch would be better served if centred on Burton-on-Trent. Called by NARPO's vice president, A. D. Blower, the first meeting of the new branch was held in the Magistrates' Court Room.



In April 1952, NARPO was further divided into four regions, with the creation of the Midlands Region, which included the newly-formed Burton-on-Trent Branch.

Membership Drive

In the 1950s there were between 25,000 and 30,000 police pensioners in England and Wales, of whom around 11,000 had joined NARPO.

In addition to poor recruitment, some members were in arrears with their subscriptions, leading to financial instability for some branches. In 1953, a membership drive was initiated to address these issues. Wiltshire Branch was one of the key activists in this campaign, even though the branch had only been formed in 1948. A letter from the branch secretary to the chief constable of Wiltshire shares the positive news of the branch's total of 27 members:

'Renewing associations with old acquaintances in old haunts, has a sentimental value which is gratifying'. (Wiltshire branch history)

They then joined the task of increasing membership throughout the organisation. The National Executive Committee issued a campaign circular to its 28,000 members, in which they reaffirmed their objectives 'to secure improved pension conditions and to safeguard the police pensioners' interests generally'. The pamphlet outlined their actions, including their lobbying of and representation on parliamentary committees. The NEC stated their commitment to encouraging every police pensioner to join NARPO, including police widows and members' wives.

Members were exhorted to pass on the information to their former colleagues, to encourage them to join the association of 153 branches:

ENROL NOW and if you are married ENROL YOUR WIFE

The London Branch reported an increase in membership of 3,000 during the 1950s, bringing the total to over 10,000.

Stiff white notice cards, bearing the name and address of the local branch secretary were sent to the chief constables' offices for distribution to police stations throughout the country:

'...for fixing in prominent positions in the hope that they would catch the eye of any non-member coming to have his Life Certificate signed, and of the serving men on the point of retirement'.

The London Branch reported an increase in membership of 3,000 during the 1950s, bringing the total to over 10,000 members.

A New Rulebook

In September 1954, the National Executive Committee issued a formal set of rules for members.

The minimum subscription rate remained at the rate of two shillings and six pence for men and two shillings for women.

The document set out the voting rules and eligibility for being elected to the executive committee. Power was granted to each branch for 'framing rules for its government provided they are not inconsistent with the rules of the Association'.

Pensions Update

Despite the changes brought about by the Police Pensions Act 1948, the value of pensions began to fall in the 1950s, and NARPO stepped up its campaign to support its members, now campaigning for equality for the 'pre-Oaksey' widows, whose pensions were finally brought into line with that of more recent widows in the Pensions Increase Act 1956. This success was attributed to NARPO's longstanding persistence.

The Pensions Increase Act 1956 awarded an increase of 10% to those who retired on or before 31st March 1952, with a maximum payment of £100. The act abolished previous limitations on increases.

The new regulations approved a flat rate of pay for all police widows, depending on the rank of their deceased spouse.

However, within NARPO, there was still considerable concern that about two-thirds of police pensioners had not yet received their increase, especially those living outside London. It was feared that the implementation would take some months to complete, even though awards would be backdated. The new regulations approved a flat rate of pay

for all police widows, depending on the rank of their deceased spouse. The 'pre-Oaksey' widows received an additional payment of £2 per week. In 1959, all police widows received an increase in their pension of 12%.

Since NARPO's creation in 1919, successive home secretaries had been reluctant to set a precedent of granting concessions to police pensioners, which could then be demanded throughout the public sector. In 1954, Home Secretary Chuter Ede suggested that the public service pensioners present a more united front, after which NARPO took the lead in forming the Public Service Pensioners' Council (PSPC). NARPO president A. D. Blower became the new council's first chairman.

The PSPC brings together the various organisations for retired public servants and members of public sector unions to present a united voice. Alongside other organisations, the PSPC campaigns for the protection of pensioners' interests and public service pensions. It provides access to information on pension provision for former public servants, as well as all pensioners, ensuring dignity in retirement.

The current NARPO president and the chief executive officer are members of the PSPC executive, ensuring that NARPO's views continue to be represented.



1960 - 1969

Doreen E. Cooke was widowed in 1939, on the death of her husband Inspector Tom Cooke. As this pre-dated the Oaksey Committee in 1948, Mrs Cooke received a pension of £4 13s per month, in comparison to £5 4s received by later widows. She ran a café in Grantham to supplement her income. Doreen was elected as secretary to the Lincolnshire Branch Committee, in November 1950.

Throughout her service to NARPO, Doreen Cooke campaigned tirelessly for fair pensions for police widows. Nicknamed 'the widows' champion', she wrote letters to the NARPO general secretary, the county treasurer and to members of parliament.

Her correspondence led to NARPO's president and vice-president visiting the Home Office to lobby for an increase in all pensions, in line with the cost of living, and for a standard widows' pension throughout the country. She joined the National Executive Committee in 1952 and addressed the annual conference the following year. Doreen visited the House of Commons twice to bring attention to the widows' plight.

Doreen was appointed a Life Member of NARPO in 1960. She remained as secretary of the Lincolnshire Branch until 1969. It was noted that the meeting minutes throughout her 18-year-long tenure, usually closed with 'and thanks to Mrs Cooke'.



First Paid Secretary

Former police inspector, Philip Smith, became NARPO's first official salaried secretary in 1964, after his retirement from the Somerset Constabulary. This was the only paid position in the organisation at the time.

Philip James Smith was born in 1913 in Bristol and grew up in Westbury-sub-Mendip, where his father was the railway station master. He was educated at Wells Cathedral School, before attending Clark's Commercial College. In 1929, Philip began work as a 'telegraphist' for the Great Western Railway. Five years later, he joined the Somerset police. Throughout his service, he was stationed at Frome, Shepton Mallet, Long Ashton, Taunton and Yeovil, reaching the position of inspector.

Concerned about his colleagues' welfare, Philip devoted his time to working with the Police Federation - he was secretary of the Joint Branch Board and later chairman of the federation. He was also captain of his force's first aid team and later became honorary commandant of the Royal Life Saving Society, in Yeovil.

When he was appointed as general secretary and treasurer of NARPO, Philip set up his wife Eleanor's sewing room, as the national office. During his 15 years in the role, he contributed to making NARPO a founder body of the Public Service Pensioners' Council and was appointed its chairman in 1972. He was a trustee of the National Police Fund.

In 1979, after his retirement, Philip was elected to the National Executive Committee and was made a Life Member. He was awarded the M.B.E. for his work with NARPO in the New Year Honours List in 1985. It was the first time that the Queen had bestowed such an honour on a NARPO member,

and it was felt to be 'a big step forward in its work being recognised'. Philip became chairman and president of NARPO in 1987.

Concerned about his colleagues' welfare, Philip devoted his time to working with the Police Federation - he was secretary of the Joint Branch Board and later chairman of the federation.

After 25 years' service to NARPO, Philip Smith retired from the National Executive Committee in 1989, but remained involved with the Avon and Somerset Branch until his death in 1998. His services to NARPO were recognised by the foundation of a testimonial fund, supported by branches and members.



Amalgamation

The Police Act 1964 established new police authorities, permitting the re-organisation of existing forces into more efficient units.

This was followed by the Royal Commission on Local Government in 1966, which recommended a new structure and reform for local authorities and their boundaries to 'fit the pattern of life and work in modern England'. New county councils were formed throughout England and Wales, each with constituent districts.

In the following years police forces were amalgamated. There were also some changes in the structure of some NARPO branches.

In North Wales, Denbigh Branch was formed in 1966. The existing Flintshire Branch organised a social evening, in December 1965, to which they invited retired officers from the Denbighshire Constabulary. At the meeting, the members of the Flintshire Branch appealed to Denbighshire



officers to create their own branch and the Denbighshire Branch was founded in March of the following year, at Denbigh police station.

Former secretary, Gwyn Roberts and former treasurer, Thomas John Povah, held the longest tenure of Denbigh Branch. They were both awarded Life Membership for their commitment and work. Gwyn Roberts was also secretary of the NARPO Wales Region and of the NARPO North Wales Liaison Committee. He served as a trustee of the North Wales Benevolent Fund.

Police Dependants' Trust

In 1966, three police officers were tragically murdered by armed criminals in Shepherds Bush.

Following this terrible event, holiday camp owner Sir William Butlin donated £100,000 for the establishment of a trust fund for the families of police officers killed or injured while on duty. Donations from the public increased the fund to a quarter of a million pounds.

On 21st December, the Police Dependants' Trust was formally established, with NARPO members on its board. A further million pounds was raised for existing and future beneficiaries. In 1981, the Charity Commission allowed the trustees to make grants to other charities, which share their objectives. In 1988, the trust awarded £200,000 to the Northern Police Convalescent Home.



1970 - 1979

Public service pensions were increased under the Pensions Act 1971. NARPO supported its members by commissioning a report into whether the interval between the review payment and the subsequent award of the increase was detrimental to police pensioners. Although the payment fell short 'by a substantial margin', the NEC decided to hold back from further campaigning because of the unstable economic climate.

The Social Security Pensions Act 1975 provided for the index-linking of the basic flat rate, after which the National Executive Committee of NARPO, together with the Public Service Pensioners' Council succeeded in securing an amendment of the act so that the pensions increase was calculated in days, rather than in full months.

Despite these changes, there was still concern that pensions of widows whose husbands retired before 1956 were 'pitifully low'. Dubbed the 'Cinderellas of the Service', the widows of constables and sergeants received just £5.76 per week. NARPO continued to fight for widows' rights to equality.

Also in 1971, NARPO finally solved the challenges of securing payment of its members' subscriptions, by deducting it directly from pension payments.

London Police Pensioner

The London Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers began to publish their own quarterly newsletter in 1971, to keep their members up-to-date with 'a readable and informative newspaper'.

Some 5,600 copies 'of the London Police Pensioner' first edition were circulated to their 10,000 members with the hope of getting 'some reaction from at least a hundred of you', in the form of ideas, contributions, advertisements and even cartoons.

Fred Hillier had also overseen the Police Pensioners Association, which had been formed between the two world wars. The organisation had close ties with NARPO until its termination in 1971.

The first page of the inaugural issue reported on Scotland Yard's Welfare Office and offered a portrait of their branch president, Fred Hillier:

'...a man knocking on 87 who still drives his own car to conferences, undeterred by the rush hours in the West End or Islington where he still lives and maintains the most spick and span house in the borough'.

Fred Hillier had also overseen the Police Pensioners Association, which had been formed



between the two world wars. The organisation had close ties with NARPO until its termination in 1971.

In 1976, London became the fifth NARPO region, which enabled its 16,000 members to have their own representation on the National Executive Committee, rather than having to compete with other branches in the Southern Region.

The London Branch also gained new premises at the prestigious address of Peel House, Regency Street. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Robert Mark officially opened the new headquarters, remarking that he 'was fast approaching an age when he might...have a vested interest in making the police pensioners' association more efficient'.

Oldest Police Pensioner

The London Police Pensioner reported on a presentation to their oldest member, who celebrated her 104th birthday in 1978.

Ann Eliza Hanks was the widow of Inspector Charles Hanks, who died in 1908. Following her husband's death, she was employed in Wimbledon Section House, where she worked until 1930.

On her birthday, Ann enjoyed 'a very hectic day of celebration', which included a visit from the Sussex chief constable, as well as the chairman of the London NARPO Branch, who presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

At the age of 104, Ann was in very good health and enjoyed many leisure activities, including knitting her own clothes. Great-grandmother to 28 children, she could remember clearly events from the end of the previous century. Her fondest memory was meeting her husband at Vine Street police station, when she was working in a nearby restaurant that served meals to the prisoners.

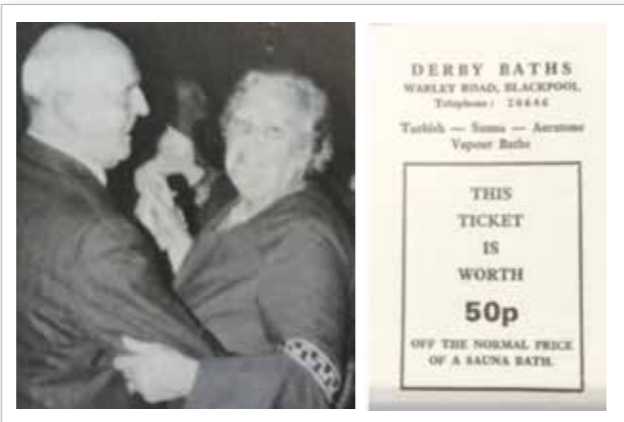


A Social Whirl

The 1970s heralded a new era in the history of NARPO, as many branches launched a busy calendar of social events and leisure activities.

These ranged from light luncheons and formal dinners to coffee mornings, games evenings and dances. The London Branch held one of its most enjoyable social occasions in 1978, with the 'liveliest bunch ever' at a buffet dance at Wood Street police station. The 92 members who attended were 'amongst the most active and vigorous pensioners in the Region'. They danced the night away, accompanied by the Metropolitan Police Band.

The London Branch held one of its most enjoyable social occasions in 1978, with the 'liveliest bunch ever' at a buffet dance at Wood Street police station.



Two years earlier, three NARPO members had been invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace. The Queen's guests were Mr and Mrs Thomas Doody and Mrs Una Blues.

The NARPO annual conference also became more focused on social activities. In 1977, it was held in the Winter Gardens at Blackpool and delegates received a free pass to enjoy a range of recreational activities, such as tennis, bowls and putting. They had free admission to the open-air baths and vouchers for saunas and Turkish baths. The conference ticket stated:

'we hope...that you will return home refreshed from your short stay in Britain's most successful resort'.

The culmination of NARPO's new social life was the diamond jubilee celebration at the end of the decade.

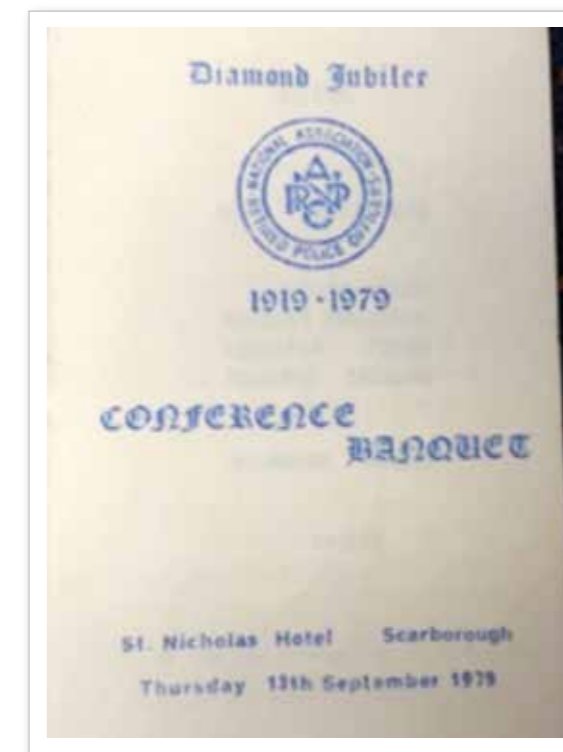
Diamond Jubilee

The National Association of Retired Police Officers celebrated its diamond jubilee (60 years) at the annual conference in September 1979, in Scarborough.

At the start of the celebratory dinner, a toast was given to the Queen, followed by toasts to their hosts, the borough of Scarborough, and finally to NARPO. The guest speaker was Sir Robert Mark, the Metropolitan Police commissioner.

At the start of the celebratory dinner, a toast was given to the Queen, followed by toasts to their hosts, the borough of Scarborough, and finally to NARPO.

The menu for the diamond jubilee dinner consisted of minestrone soup for starter, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding for the main course, and lemon meringue for dessert. Table wine was not included, but was available for 'individual purchase'.





1980 - 1989

At the 1981 annual conference in Southport, further changes to membership were introduced. These included the authorisation of an award for outstanding national service (for non-members, as well as members) and a proposal for widow members to be exempt from paying a subscription after the age of 70.

There were also changes to the awarding of Life Membership of NARPO. In appreciation of their long and valued service, Life Members were to receive a new-style coloured certificate on a goatskin parchment, to be presented at a special function. A Life Membership badge was added in 1987, during which year there were 51 recipients of the coveted award.

London Challenges

Since NARPO's foundation in 1919, London had been represented by one branch, which included former officers of the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police.

The branch was the largest in the country with a quarter of the entire NARPO membership. Since the creation of the London Region in 1976, the branch could elect two members to the National Executive Committee.

The City of London members also had their own pensioners' association, which had been formed in 1912. In 1983, the National Executive Committee of NARPO granted them their own City of London Branch. Although surprised by this decision, the London Branch welcomed the change:

'We hope...that the step taken by the City will enhance and stimulate, rather than diminish, the friendly bonds between us'. (Francis Drake, chairman of London Branch)

Four years later, there were more challenges for the London Branch, which led to a walk-out at the 1987 annual conference. Prior to the meeting in Blackpool, the branch had decided to send 24 delegates and to table a motion relating to the Police Pensioners' Housing Association. However, on the advice of the Conference Steering Committee, the NEC took the decision not to debate the motion at the conference. Some branches challenged the decision, in support of London, but a close vote confirmed the NEC's decision.

At the annual conference, London Branch chairman Jim Murray led a protest by asking permission to withdraw from the meeting, followed by other delegates. The debate over the issue continued throughout the following year.

In 1988, London Police Pensioner celebrated its fiftieth issue. When it was computerised, along with the NARPO Bulletin, the LPP highlighted the role of Joan Sheen, who had distributed both publications to members for 24 years, after being nominated to



the task by her father, former police constable, Harry Mercer.

From 1965, Joan had typed the envelopes, filled them and delivered them to the post office, with each distribution amounting to some 11,000 items. The only technology available to her was a Roneo type wax card onto which the names of the members were typed. The cards were then fed into a hand operated machine, which frequently broke down and 'seldom gave a perfect result'.

The operation was a family effort, which included her husband, teenage children and Joan's mother, who all worked flat out to complete the distribution on time. In 1989, the London Police Pensioner was distributed from a 'floppy disc', which was sent to the distributors, who fed the data into their computer. The envelopes were addressed automatically, then filled and sorted into post codes.

On her retirement, as 'distribution manageress', the London Branch chairman Don Milburn paid tribute to her long service:

'Joan is no ordinary lady, she is a dedicated member of the Police Family'.

Moving to a New House

Over the years NARPO headquarters moved several times. In the early 1940s the national office was based at 4/5 Lion Square in London. By 1947 it had moved to Sheffield.

In 1984, the NARPO's national office moved from Liverpool to Cannock. According to the annual report, 'the move was made with little upset to the membership in general, but with a lot of extra work falling on the staff'. However, it was noted that 'some files were disturbed, some mislaid and some correspondence obviously went astray'.

The general secretary, Alec Faragher, ran NARPO operations from the garage of the new address.



A New President

The decade ended with the appointment of Leslie Percival Male as NARPO president in 1989.

Les was born in 1922 in Aston, Birmingham. On leaving school, he began an apprenticeship as an electrician. After meeting his future wife, he enlisted in the army in 1939, joining the South Staffordshire Regiment. During the war, he served as a commando.

In 1948, Les joined the Birmingham City Police. He was the first post-war police recruit elected to the Birmingham City Police Joint Board and he held several positions, including chairman of the former Police Council. He contributed to the Police Advisory Board, the Police Dependants' Trust and many other working parties. Les also took part in debates and interviews on television and radio. In 1977, he was awarded the MBE for his service to his colleagues and was one of the few recipients of the Federation Bowl and Federation Plate.

On his retirement, Les became an education welfare officer and joined NARPO. He was elected as chairman of the Birmingham Branch. He represented Southern Region on the NEC and

when he was nominated for re-election in 1989, he was described as 'still keen enough, young enough and anxious to continue to be of help to his colleagues'. He served as president of NARPO from 1989-1994, after which he resigned due to ill health. Les died in 2005, a year after celebrating his diamond wedding anniversary. Les was a keen dancer and had a sharp sense of humour.



1990 - 1999

In the 1990s, NARPO enjoyed two major celebrations: The Association's 75th and 80th anniversaries. The organisation also took part in a national service to commemorate the Second World War and a trip to Russia.

75 Years

In 1994, NARPO celebrated its 75th birthday, with social events at New Scotland Yard and at the four police sports clubs.

The London Branch marked the occasion of the 75th anniversary on 25th July 1994 by gathering together in the capital, just as the first NARPO members had. The celebrations took place at the Peelers Restaurant at New Scotland Yard, with 170 attendees. Honoured guests included the deputy chief commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Home Office representatives.

London Branch president Jim Murray paid tribute to the organisation's founders, after which followed an award ceremony for new Life Members, interspersed with drinks and an 'excellent' buffet. The president cut the 75th birthday cake and the guests 'declared themselves well pleased with the evening'.



NARPO News

In the New Year 1995, the first issue of NARPO News was published, replacing the Quarterly Bulletin.

The aim of the official magazine of the National Association of Retired Police Officers was to 'take our fine organisation into a new era'. The general secretary welcomed the first readers: 'It is my belief that the production of this new style magazine is the first step towards achieving that goal'.

In addition to a new editorial column, NARPO News offered other regular features: an address by the president, readers' letters, holiday offers, branch news and parliamentary reports. The new magazine was distributed to members directly from the printers, in order to keep the news 'relatively fresh' and to release the branch secretaries from the burden, although some branches preferred to maintain the 'old' distribution system.



Trip to Russia

NARPO also took part in a reciprocal visit to Russia. The National Executive Committee hosted a small Russian delegation, following the trip undertaken by British police pensioners.

The visit was reported in NARPO News:

'Both parties learned much from each other and not least, that there are many problems common to retired officers, regardless of their country'.

The Moscow Police presented a beautiful tea service to their British partners.



Change of President

Towards the end of the decade, Idwal Wyn Jones was elected president of NARPO, following the retirement of Derek Harrison.

In 1975, Idwal retired from the Greater Manchester Police after 25 years' service. He had served in the Royal Military Police before joining the Salford City Police.

Idwal was honorary secretary of NARPO Salford Branch and chairman of the North-West Area Group. He was involved in many other organisations, such as the Forces' Help Society. An experienced public speaker, Idwal was North West Area Vice President of the Association of Speakers' Clubs of Great Britain.

In his opening column for NARPO News, he declared his commitment to protecting members, especially from the impact of government cuts. He expressed his concern about the withdrawal of force

facilities from police pensioners, reassuring his readers that 'we are still members of the extended police family'.



Remembering WW2

On 13th August 1995, the police service held a Victory in Europe/Victory in Japan Commemorative Service at Coventry Cathedral in gratitude to the role played by police officers in the Second World War. Many NARPO members attended and the Queen sent a message of thanks and best wishes.

Organised by the serving Police Staff Associations and NARPO, a march took place through the streets of Coventry prior to the service. 'A smart and well disciplined' group of NARPO members joined the parade to the cathedral, accompanied by distinguished guests, including the NARPO president, Derek Harrison.

The service was described as 'moving and inspiring', with music by the Police National Orchestra, the West Midlands Police Brass Band and the Tayside Police Pipe Band. The Bishop of Coventry delivered the address and members of



NARPO's NEC gave readings. The names of almost 2,000 police officers who lost their lives during the war were listed in the order of service, and the Police Service presented two benches to the cathedral in their honour.

After the service, refreshments were served on the site of the old cathedral, which was 'a time when old friendships were renewed and pleasant memories recalled'.

NARPO House

On 4th February 1999, NARPO moved into their current premises at 38 Bond Street, Wakefield.

The new building was large enough to support the association's growth, as well as accommodating visitors and guests. President Idwal Jones conducted the opening ceremony in the company of invited guests.

Until 1992, NARPO's headquarters had always been in the home of the general secretary and his wife, who provided clerical assistance. By 1997 the head office at West Yorkshire Police Headquarters had become rather crowded so, the following year, Bond Street was purchased. Since then, there has been little alteration to the building, although the NEC used to meet in a large downstairs room next to where the kitchen is situated.

By 1997 the head office at West Yorkshire Police Headquarters had become rather crowded so, the following year, Bond Street was purchased.

As the organisation grew, the need for activities such as accounting and marketing increased.

In 1999, Sue Ward was appointed as committee clerk/bookkeeper. There were also changes to NEC meetings, which were now attended by the general secretary. When Michael Thornton was appointed to the post in 1999, his first annual conference was unusually challenging, due to a road tanker strike which restricted the availability of fuel. The conference in Southsea was then hit by unseasonable weather, and over a foot of water fell at the Pyramid Centre and the roof leaked.

At the end of the decade, NARPO celebrated its 80th year with a dinner at the annual conference. Looking back with pride at their achievements, NARPO members also looked forward to 'entering the new millennium with confidence'.



2000 - 2009

The new millennium began with the granting of a coat of arms for NARPO, by the Royal College of Arms. At the top of the crest stands a griffin, the traditional guardian of treasure, holding a gold bezant (coin), signifying the treasure. The griffin's wings are chequered to show the links with the police service, and the bird is sitting on a blue and gold wreath.

On the shield below sits a pelican, a symbol of piety, benevolence and service to others. The motto is inscribed in Latin on the scroll: *Eis Servire Qui Serviverunt* - 'Of Service to Those who Served'.



Lifelong Members

During the first decades of the new millennium, NARPO celebrated the contributions of some of its longest-serving members. In 2003, the death of Kathleen Annie Finch represented the end of an era for those who knew her.

Kathleen met her first husband, police constable Kenneth Charles Rollins, while he was on duty in Coventry. They were married in 1936, and had one son. Tragically, Kenneth was killed during the Coventry Blitz in 1940, when a landmine fell as he was digging people out of the rubble of a collapsed building.

Despite her sister's saying that the police would never have her, Eleanor joined M Division of the Metropolitan Police, at the age of 25. After transferring to C Division, she was made an inspector in 1949.

A member of Coventry Branch, Kathleen devoted herself to lobbying for the improvement of police widows' pensions and was elected to the NEC. In 1967, she was awarded Life Membership and remained an active member of her branch for 36 years.

Through her work with NARPO, in 1958, Kathleen met her second husband, George Finch, a former officer of Dudley Borough Police. He died in 1967. Kathleen Finch died in 2003, aged 95 years. Her obituary in NARPO News read:

'Mrs Finch really is the end of a link to our proud history. We would not be the Association we are today, if it were not for her generation and the work they carried out on our behalf.'



The achievements of Eleanor Cottle, the longest serving member of London Branch, was celebrated in London Police Pensioner. Eleanor made the decision to join the police while she was on a bus. She was travelling home from her work at the Girl Guide HQ when she overheard two female police officers talking. Her immediate thought was: 'I'd like to do that'. In her interview with LPP, she also recalled having visited a fortune teller previously who had predicted that she would wear navy-blue!

Despite her sister's saying that the police would never have her, Eleanor joined M Division of the Metropolitan Police, at the age of 25. After transferring to C Division, she was made an inspector in 1949. In 1961, she was promoted to superintendent. She retired from the force the following year.

Eleanor's favourite memories of being a police officer included being on duty on Coronation Day. She was also first marker in the Memorial Parade in 1947. She recalled the Second World War, during which a bomb landed nearby during her coffee break, fortunately only spilling her drink. One of her most important cases involved the kidnapping of a baby on her beat. Eleanor pursued the perpetrator to Macclesfield, after linking her with a missing person from Stafford.

Eleanor was a keen gardener and decorator. She belonged to the police choir, was a member of the cricket team and of the first Women Police First Aid Team. Following her retirement, Eleanor eventually settled in Surrey.



Trailblazer

In 2010, NARPO widow Alice Stockdale celebrated her 100th birthday. Described in the local press as 'a true trailblazer for female equality', Alice was the first female police officer in Leigh Police Force.

Whilst serving, she met her husband, Alf Stockdale. After her marriage she left the police and became a prison officer at Strangeways Prison in Manchester. Alice's husband continued to serve in the police and, after his retirement, they moved to Ambleside, where they worked as housekeepers, until Alf's death.

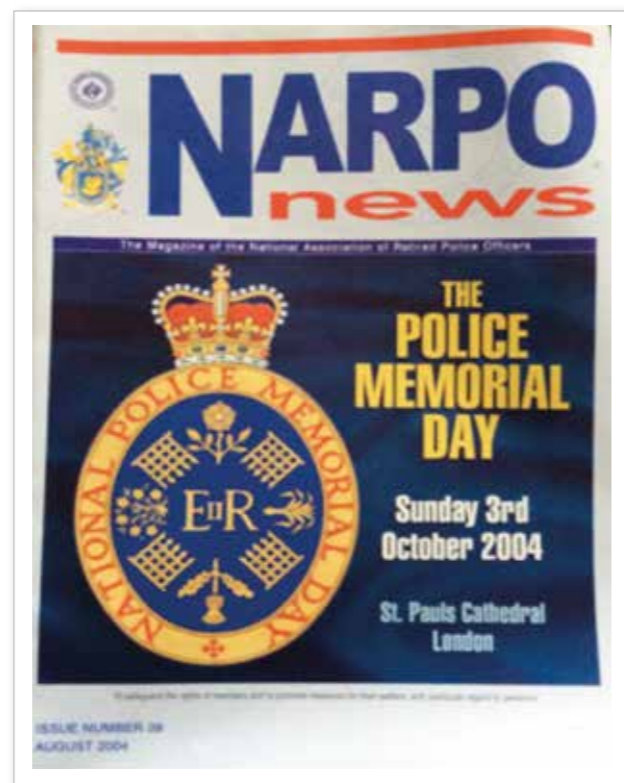
To celebrate her centenary, the Wigan & Leigh NARPO Branch held a party at her nursing home, with a birthday cake and a bouquet of flowers. Alice's family attended, describing her as 'an extremely interesting person with a great personality'. Her niece recalled listening to her aunt's stories as a child:

'Aunty Alice would always tell us stories about her job with the police and in that time she was involved in some big jobs, like murders.'

NARPO Changes

In 2003, NARPO News had a makeover, with a new multi-coloured cover and improved layout and pages. The letters page now offered a fountain pen worth £65 to the writer of the star letter.

There were more changes at the heart of the organisation, including a revision of the rules, succession planning and a more effective regional structure. In 2004, the regions were further divided into eight, bringing the total of regional representatives to sixteen. The new regions were: North West, North East, Midlands, Eastern, South East, South West, Wales and London. The new representatives met around the country, making them more accessible to branch members.



Women in NARPO

Peggy Sandford from Berkshire was the first woman to join the NEC. In 2007, she was joined by Sandie Wilde from Manchester Branch.

By 2010, six out of the sixteen NEC members were women: Sandie Wilde and Kate Rowley representing No.1 Region; Pat Gates and Lynn

Haydon from No. 6 Region; Margaret Morgan from No. 7; and Jackie Cole from No. 8.

In 2009, Sandie Wilde became the first woman in 90 years to become vice president, a post she held for five years. She ran the annual conference in 2013 in President Eric Evans' absence.



Changing Roles

In 2004, the dual role of the general secretary and treasurer was split into two new roles: chief executive officer and financial controller.

At the time of the changes, Michael Thornton had been in post as general secretary for five years. He was duly appointed as the first chief executive officer.

The first financial controller, Sue Ward, served NARPO until 2016, when she retired. She made changes to the book keeping, formulated computer packages and invested monies for future projects.

Mike was born in 1941 and served in Hull City and Humberside Police Forces, until 1987. He then joined NARPO and represented his local branch as secretary and treasurer. He was employed by NARPO, in 1997, as assistant to the general secretary.



Mike's wife Jennifer also worked for NARPO, and supported him until his retirement in 2009. Many remember her hard work on the NARPO stall at the annual conferences. During Mike's tenure, the membership increased at a steady rate.

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Regional Initiatives

In 2004, Manchester Branch initiated a scheme for the Police Federation to encourage police officers to join NARPO, by paying their first year's subscription. This increased the Manchester Branch's membership from 900 to more than 1,400 in just two years.

Other branches followed suit, resulting in increased membership across the organisation. The Police Federation later changed their rules to allow funds to be used for NARPO subscriptions.

Manchester Branch also instigated a project to enable police officers coming to the end of their career to join as associate members, by offering

them advice on CV writing, job applications and interview technique. This initiative encouraged more retired police officers to become NARPO members.

NEC member Sandie Wilde attended the Federation conference to promote the new schemes in 2004, and since then the NEC has sent two observers every year. NEC members also run a stall at the conference to promote NARPO, especially to those officers who are about to retire.

In 2009, the North West Region held their first welfare seminar, with the result that other regions followed their lead. Seminars are now held almost every year at regional level.

Another regional initiative was the amalgamation of Peterborough and Cambridge Branches, in 2006, led by newly-elected member of the National Executive Committee, Lawrence Wright. A former police officer in the Huntingdon Constabulary, Lawrence retired in 1987 after almost 30 years' service and joined NARPO immediately. He was the branch secretary for Peterborough for 14 years and became a member of the NEC in 2005.

Lawrence's bid to combine the two branches into one was to make it easier for individuals to join a larger branch linked to their place of service, which would cover all the locations they had served. After this successful merger, other small branches were encouraged to follow suit.

Welfare

Ensuring the welfare of its members continues to be one of NARPO's primary objectives. East Lancashire Branch (formerly the Burnley and District Branch) set this as its main focus in the 2000s.

The branch met in Burnley Police Station, which opened in the 1950s and had its own 'ballroom', complete with a sprung floor for dances, and a bar. Caring for members, especially police widows, had long been a tradition in the area, with police cadets visiting police widows at Christmas with a card and a gift.

The branch chair, Mike Griffin, introduced a variety of initiatives at the branch for the entertainment and education of its members. Activities included talks, weekly computer classes and regular trips throughout the country and abroad, to France, Germany, Belgium and Ireland.

In collaboration with other regional branches, the North West Police Benevolent Fund was created in 1974, which now owns three lodges for convalescent care. The first Welfare Conference for North West branches was held in 2009.

The North West Police Benevolent Fund, aware that members requiring treatment experienced difficulties travelling away from home, bought a small hotel in Langho, near Blackburn to be used for physiotherapy treatment and short stays. The fund had already bought lodges in the Lake District for rental and convalescence several years before and were providing physiotherapy through their establishments.

In 2017, they extended the hotel and built a treatment centre for serving and retired officers. The state-of-the-art treatment centre has 30 bedrooms and is the only one of its kind in the country.

A Change of President

David Anderton served as president from 2005 until 2008. He retired from Merseyside Police, in 1993, after 34 years' service, having attained the rank of chief superintendent.

He served as secretary of the Merseyside Branch of the Superintendents' Association from 1981 to 1984, and as chairman of the branch from 1984 to 1993. David was an elected member of the National Executive Committee of the Superintendents' Association from 1986 to 1993 and, during this time, he was a governor of the Police Convalescent Home at Harrogate and a member of PACTS (Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Transport Safety). In 1995, he was elected a trustee of North West Police Benevolent Fund.

In 1995, David became a member of the NARPO Merseyside Branch Committee and was elected branch secretary the following year. In 1997, he was appointed as the Northern Region Representative on the NEC. He has been the chairman of the North West Region since 2015.



2010 - 2019

Clint Elliott was appointed chief executive officer of NARPO in 2009 and remained in post for seven years. A former Cleveland police officer, Clint was involved in the Police Federation of England and Wales, rising to the position of general secretary.

On his retirement in 2006, he became the deputy chief executive of NARPO.

Throughout his tenure as CEO, Clint worked hard to develop NARPO's image, both internally and externally, as well as improving the availability and quality of services offered to members.



A Successful Conference and a New President

The 2013 NARPO conference was held at a new venue, York Races, which attracted the highest number of delegates for some years.

Discussions included the proposal for a new single-tier state pension and care costs, which were to be introduced in 2016. During the afternoon, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, Kevin Hurley, gave a presentation, which was followed by a lively discussion. The conference saw the resignation of the president, Eric Evans.

Born in 1934, Eric Evans joined the Gwynedd Constabulary as a police cadet. He served for 37 years, in Gwynedd, Somerset, Bath and North Wales, attaining the rank of deputy chief constable.

Born in 1934, Eric Evans joined the Gwynedd Constabulary as a police cadet. He served for 37 years, in Gwynedd, Somerset, Bath and North Wales, attaining the rank of deputy chief constable. After his retirement from the force, in 1991, Eric



joined NARPO and became the NEC representative for Wales four years later. Together with his wife, he travelled around the country, visiting branches and promoting NARPO's work.

Since Eric's resignation as President of the NEC he has continued to serve on the NEC and he has continued his work supporting Welsh members, especially police widows. He is also chairman of Gwynedd Branch and the Welsh Region. Eric enjoys music, reading and sport. His much-missed late wife Pat is remembered as a popular figure, with common sense and compassion.

Following Eric Evans' resignation, Ian Potter was elected to take the role of president and he remained in post until 2017. On leaving the Thames Valley Police in 1997 after 31 years of service, Ian joined the Berkshire and Reading Borough Branch of NARPO, and a year later was elected secretary. In 2012, he was elected as a No. 5 Region reserve to the NEC and joined a year later.

Ian was appointed as the first chairman of the Strategic Planning Group, which was established to examine NARPO's structure and its future. On being elected president of NARPO, Ian instigated a more structured meeting style and encouraged open debate. He also sought to improve consultation between the NEC and branches, which led to the new set of NARPO rules.

Ian's most memorable experience was laying a wreath, on NARPO's behalf, at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres,



Belgium, when he had the honour of reading the Exhortation to a crowd of some three thousand people.

'Later Life Ambitions'

In the run up to the 2015 General Election, NARPO joined forces with other organisations to campaign for the needs and aspirations of older people.

Alongside the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners and The Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance, NARPO members sought to bring politicians' attentions to those issues directly affecting the so-called 'grey vote', which represented almost a quarter of a million people.

Key topics championed by the Later Life Ambitions project included the preservation of universal benefits, the protection of the



'triple-lock' system of increasing pensions, the professionalisation and monitoring of social care, and housing reform. The manifesto was launched at the 2014 NARPO conference in Brighton.

NARPO and Parliament

Since its beginning NARPO has recognised the value in forging and maintaining links with parliamentarians.

For many years NARPO has engaged the services of parliamentary advisors and public affairs specialists, who have provided access to MPs and Lords, giving NARPO the opportunity to raise their concerns, particularly relating to pensions, and to enlist support for specific issues. Throughout the

years many questions have been submitted to both houses on NARPO's behalf and several early day motions have been raised.

Furthermore, NARPO has held parliamentary receptions and lobbies, at which MPs and Lords have learnt about the organisation's work. These occasions give NEC members the opportunity to forge useful relationships.

The Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales

NARPO has a good working relationship with PSAEW, on matters relating to police pensions.

The CEO attends meetings of mutual interest to members and, in recent years, NARPO has

exhibited at their national conference, giving prospective members the opportunity to discover how the organisation can assist in their life after the police service.

NARPO and the Police Federation of England and Wales

The Police Federation of England and Wales was officially formed on the 15th August 1919 some three weeks after the first meeting of the National Association of Retired Police Officers.

NARPO has throughout that time maintained strong links with our serving colleagues in the Police Federation particularly in relation to pension related

matters and the CEO currently sits on the Police Pension Scheme Advisory Board along with members of the Police Federation and other staff associations.

We continue to remain in regular contact with Police Federation Officials both at a National level and at a local level and all our Branches are encouraged to meet with their respective Force Federation Officials.

The Present-Day CEO

In 2016, Steve Edwards became the chief executive officer of NARPO.

Steve joined the Lancashire Constabulary in 1976 as a cadet and was appointed as an officer two years later. He worked in uniform for 12 years in many different roles, including rural beat officer, vice squad, CID, drug squad and major crime unit. In 1999, he was elected as chairman of the Lancashire Police Federation. He continued in the role until his retirement in 2008.

On leaving the police force, Steve worked for a solicitors' firm, undertaking police pension and employment tribunal work. He was appointed deputy chief executive of NARPO in 2009. A keen rugby league fan and Northern Soul fanatic, Steve is married to Deborah and they have an 18-year-old son.



The Present-Day President

In 2017, Brian Burdus was elected as the president of NARPO. Brian joined the Nottingham City police force in 1966, as a constable.

He undertook uniform duties for nearly thirty years, achieving the rank of inspector. A member of the Police Federation, he represented his area on the Inspectors' Branch Board, his main interests being welfare and charity work. In 1993, Brian was appointed to the Joint Central Committee, a post he held until his retirement in 2005.

On retirement, Brian joined his local NARPO branch and became chairman the following year. He was elected to the NEC in 2010 and served as vice president from 2013, until his appointment as president.





The Next Century

The members of NARPO have worked hard during the last decade to modernise the organisation and to strengthen its foundations for the future. The association is well-established on social media which enables members to communicate more widely and effectively. Succession-planning is also a key topic for discussion and new members are encouraged to continue the work and achievements of those who contributed in the past, as well as those whose commitment remains steadfast today.

As NARPO approaches its first centenary, it has some 89,000 members and is still campaigning tirelessly to protect the interests and welfare of all retired police officers and their dependants.

NARPO Key Dates

- 1918** Meetings of retired police officers in London throughout the autumn
- 1919** First reported meeting of the Association of Retired Police Officers, in January, in London
- 1919** First meeting of the National Executive Committee at Essex Hall, London, on 25th July
- 1919** The creation of the Police Federation on 15th August
- 1921** Earliest surviving record of a National Executive Committee meeting held on 30th September
- 1922** One of the earliest recorded branches was established in Coventry on 23rd September
- 1948** The first issue of the Quarterly Bulletin
- 1949** The creation of Wales Region
- 1952** Midlands Region is created
- 1954** A formal rule book is introduced
- 1964** Philip Smith is appointed as NARPO's first paid general secretary and treasurer
- 1971** NARPO subscriptions are deducted directly from pensions
- 1971** The first issue of London Police Pensioner is published
- 1976** London Region is created
- 1979** NARPO celebrates 60 years
- 1983** London Branch splits, as the City of London are granted their own branch
- 1985** The first NARPO member is awarded the M.B.E., for services to the organisation
- 1994** NARPO celebrates 75 years
- 1995** The first issue of NARPO News is published
- 1999** NARPO moves into its current headquarters, in Wakefield
- 1999** NARPO celebrates 80 years
- 2000** NARPO is granted a coat of arms
- 2004** NARPO is further divided into eight regions

Past Presidents

1919 - 1928	R. Harris	1958 - 1960	A. Richmond
1929	T. Hayward	1961 - 1964	W.H. Heron
1930	C.A. Holmes	1965 - 1967	A. Trigg
1931	E.R. Dalton	1968 - 1969	J. Barber
1932 - 1934	A.W. Bacon	1970 - 1977	H.H. Beavitt
1935	B. Hodgkinson	1977 - 1982	A.G. Woods - MBE
1936	A.W. Bacon	1982 - 1983	A.R. Oliver
1937	W. Parker	1983 - 1987	H.C. Holden
1938	A. Denman	1987 - 1989	P.J. Smith - MBE
1939 - 1943	J. Yates	1989 - 1994	L. Male - MBE
1944 - 1945	J. Gowing	1994 - 1998	D. Harrison - LLB
1946 - 1948	J. Bell	1998 - 2003	I. Jones
1949 - 1950	J. Handley	2003 - 2005	E. Osborne - BEM
1950 - 1951	C. Waldron	2005 - 2008	D. Anderton - LLB
1951 - 1953	A.D. Blower	2008 - 2013	Eric Evans - MVO, QPM
1954 - 1956	C.H.J. Forward	2013 - 2017	Ian Potter
1957 - 1958	W. Adams	2017 -	Brian Burdus

Vice Presidents

1948	W. Parker	1978	A. R. Oliver
1949	G. Whiting	1981	H. C. Holden
1950	R. L. Blower	1983	P. J. Smith
1952	A. Freeborn	1987	H. Marshall
1953	C. J. Forward	1991	R. M. House
1954	W. Adams	1993	D. Harrison
1957	A. Richmond	1994	D. Milburn
1959	W. H. Heron	1997	I. Jones
1961	F. Scott	1998	E. Osborne BEM
1965	J. Barber	2003	D. Anderton LLB
1968	G. Kemp	2005	Eric Evans QPM
1969	H. C. Beavitt	2008	Sandie Wilde MA
1970	A. R. Oliver	2013	Brian Burdus
1976	S. G. Vass	2017 -	Richard Critchley

General Secretary/Treasurer

1948 - 1949	W. Istead	1979 - 1992	A. Faragher
1949 - 1958	F. J. Martin	1992 - 1998	D. G. Bloxham
1958 - 1964	W. C. May	1999 - 2004	M. R. Thornton
1964 - 1979	P. J. Smith		

Chief Executive Officer

2004 - 2009	M. R. Thornton
2009 - 2016	Clint Elliott QPM
2016 -	Steve Edwards

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

1999 - 2000	Mike Thornton	2006 - 2009	Clint Elliott
2001	Dan Ewington	2009 - 2016	Steve Edwards
2002 - 2004	Joe Tildesley	2016	Sarah Chuimana
2004 - 2005	Colin Naylor	2016 -	Alan Lees

Financial Controller

2004 - 2017	Sue Ward
2017 -	Helen Morgan



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