



# NARPO Newsletter (Merseyside Branch)

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

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## SUMMER 2025



### From The Chair

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. Since the last edition Malcolm Parry kindly conduct tours of the Williamson Tunnels for NARPO members, which received excellent feedback. Brian Curran continues to put on City walking tours, with several new summer dates scheduled. The latest 'Commerce Tour', took us on an interesting route incorporating the Fruit, Corn and Cotton Exchange. Brian is certainly a knowledgeable and entertaining tour guide.

The ABBA and Windsor trips were a resounding success, so popular that two were organised. As you can see, some of us dressed for the occasion and I have reduced my input to allow more space for photos in this edition! The show was unlike anything I had seen before, such talented musicians, realistic imagery and a wonderful atmosphere. In Windsor, the weather was perfect for exploring. Ruth did a fabulous job in organising both trips, with Colin and Kath helping on the first trip and Lorna on the second.

Our Annual General Meeting took place in April, and we welcomed the Chief Constable, Serena Kennedy to her last meeting as Merseyside's Chief. The occasion was marked by making a small presentation to the Chief to mark her upcoming retirement and in recognition of the support given to NARPO by Merseyside Police, for which we are very grateful. Two committee members, Colin and Ruth Rowan, were presented with life membership for their respective significant contributions to the work of the branch. Colin, a committee member for over 25 years stood down, whilst Ruth still serves on the committee. Colin and Ruth are both truly deserving of this accolade and it was fitting they were both presented with their awards by the Chief Constable at the AGM.

Kath Melling, Lynn Boardman, Sandra Dean and John Forshaw stood down and I thank each of them for their contributions during their service, we are most grateful. It was a pleasure to elect 22 committee members and 4 co-opted members who include Paul Dykhuisen, Barbara Hebden, Wendy Sudworth and Pauline Trubshaw. Congratulations to our Vice-Chair, Stan O'Connor who was elected to serve on the National Executive Committee (NEC). The NEC are lucky to gain a dedicated, meticulous and hard-working addition to the Board of Directors.

My sincere appreciation to our committee members who all make contributions in many ways to ensure NARPO Merseyside is there for our members.

Sending our members my very best wishes.

*Christine Parkinson MSc (Chairperson)*

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### ABBA VOYAGE & WINDSOR



## EDDIE-TORIAL

Well, Spring certainly sprung. Great weather and plenty of NARPO Merseyside activity both social and administrative to report. At the Annual General Meeting the Committee 2025/26 was formed:

**Christine Parkinson (Chair)**  
**Stan O'Connor (Vice-Chair)**  
**Eddie McGrath (Secretary)**  
**Phil Green (Deputy Secretary)**  
**Lorna Lyons (Assistant Secretary – Admin)**  
**Colin Lewis (Assistant Secretary – Welfare)**  
**John McDermott (Treasurer)**  
**Bob Johnson (Deputy Treasurer)**

Ann Aspinwall, Eddie Cowan, George Dafnis, Tracy Denton, Paul Dykhuizen, SallyAnn Fidler, Bill Fallows, Mike Gardner, Barbara Hebden, Jackie Holder, John McCarthy, Gerrie McConaghy, Arthur Monk, Ruth Rowan, Malcolm Schroeder, Brian Starkey, Wendy Sudworth, Pauline Trubshaw.

There are still Committee vacancies. Please consider offering your services.

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During March I attended the Volunteer Cadets Final Ceremony when awards were made in various categories at the end of their twelve month stint. It was amazing to see the programme at first hand and the progress made by individuals who I believe will have benefitted by their participation no matter whether their future is a Police career or otherwise.

I was privileged to make a presentation on behalf of NARPO Merseyside to the Cadet who demonstrated the most progress over the course of the programme. There was actually two winners of this prestigious award, Cadet Emily Wilson who sadly could not be with us, and Cadet Bradley Redmond.

I informed all the Cadets that in about 40 years' time those who took up a Police career would be welcomed into NARPO.....but probably not by me!

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### WIDOW/ERS DRAW WINNERS

Christine Bateman, Joan Mulligan, Patricia O'Toole, Flo Owens, Helen Whittaker, Gillian Enstone, Ellen Poole, Jean Kirby, Catherine Hyde-Price, Edith Marshall, Norma Povey, Mary Johnston, Patricia Tunstall, Philomena Preston, Susan Lee, Patricia Forster, Margaret Mackay, Blodwen Prowing, Susan Corker, June Cowin, Frances Davies, Joan Galbraith, Vivienne Power, Johanne Anderson, Patricia O'Hara.

## NARPO Merseyside – Looking to the future

In March, NARPO, with support from Later Life Ambitions, hosted a parliamentary drop-in event as part of our ongoing campaign to reform police survivors' pensions.

The drop-in provided MPs with the opportunity to meet and engage with those who have been directly impacted by the pension system, including spouses, campaigners, and supporters. These individuals have been tirelessly advocating for change, and this event allowed them to share their personal stories and highlight the urgent need for reform.

Representatives from NARPO's National Executive Committee were present to offer additional insights into the campaign, discuss the key issues, and outline the changes we are calling for.



Merseyside NARPO Assistant Secretary Lorna Lyons who is a widow but also served in Merseyside Police was our representative.



Lorna in discussion with local M.P. Marie Rimmer



The National NARPO Delegation



## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS



The NARPO Merseyside Annual General Meeting 2025 featured Life Membership Awards to long serving Committee Members Ruth and Colin Rowan. The awards were presented by Chief Constable Serena Kennedy.

As a member of the Social Sub-Committee Ruth has been responsible for arranging amazing excursions over the past few years. These have included trips to ABBA Voyage, Beamish Living Museum, Llangollen, and Windermere, as well as York and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. She is much loved by the membership and her outstanding contribution to NARPO Merseyside is testament to her receiving this well-deserved award.

Ruth's husband, Colin, has been a Committee Member for in excess of 25 years. Like his wife he has shown terrific dedication to the branch having held various posts on the Committee. Latterly, he has been responsible for the despatch of Christmas and birthday cards to those members who qualify by reason of age. His most important task, some would say, is the arrangement of the Annual Committee Dinner which he has done for the past 16 years. Colin, like Ruth, has made an outstanding contribution to the branch and is now leaving the Committee where his wit and personality will be sadly missed.

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## THANK YOU MA'AM!



The Chief Constable Receives Her Gift From Christine & Eddie

Chief Constable Serena Kennedy was our guest at her last ever Annual General Meeting of the Merseyside branch as she is retiring at the end of August 2025. The Chief Constable has, throughout her tenure, acknowledged NARPO as an integral part of the Police Family and always offered full support. To mark her retirement Serena was presented with a memento, a NARPO Merseyside membership application form and an item of glassware engraved to emphasise the full support she has provided in a relationship with NARPO that no doubt would be envied elsewhere.

## CUGSEY'S WALKING TOURS!

Further tours have been arranged:

### JULY 2025

9th 1300hrs Waterfront Tour  
25th 1300hrs Cathedral to Cathedral  
31st 1300 hrs Commerce

### August 2025

7th 1300hrs Waterfront Tour  
22nd 1300hrs Cathedral to Cathedral  
29th 1300hrs Commerce

**Maximum 10 persons per tour**

Starting points:

**Waterfront** - CENTRAL ATRIUM, MANN ISLAND, STRAND  
**Cathedral** - METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL MOUNT PLEASANT  
**Commerce** - OUTSIDE METQUARTER WHITECHAPEL

**Bookings via. Hon. Secretary**

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Walking Tour



Williamson Tunnels Tour

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## Welcome New Members

Nicola Hamilton, Pamela Ainscough, Maureen Fleming (widow), Stephen Potter, Pauline Bell, Mary Moore (widow), Alan Woodhouse (additional), Paul Casson, Richard O'Neil, Jasmine Moss, Barbara Fletcher (widow), Sue Kerwin (widow), Linda Pennington (widow), Andrew McNally

# Obituaries

Date	Name	Status	Age
<b>February 2025</b>			
2nd	Robert Donald Fisher	Sergeant 1768	84 years
<b>March 2025</b>			
17 <sup>th</sup>	Philip Bernard Towers	Constable 8008	62 years
18 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Fleming	Inspector	86 years
18 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Hartley Banks	Det. Constable 2182	86 years
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Frank Greaney	Inspector	79 years
25 <sup>th</sup>	Patrick Kerwin	Constable 5658	69 years
26 <sup>th</sup>	Edward Moore	Det. Constable	79 years
27 <sup>th</sup>	David Herbert Potter	Chief Inspector	81 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Brian William Tweedley	Constable 3810	81 years
<b>April 2025</b>			
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Williams	Det. Sergeant 8550	58 years
<b>May 2025</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christopher Alexander MacLeod	Superintendent	78 years
9 <sup>th</sup>	John Chard	Constable	83 years
10 <sup>th</sup>	Raymond Simpson	Inspector	73 years



This is 99 year old NARPO Merseyside member John McWilliams who emigrated to Canada to be with his daughter. Recently, and by pure coincidence, on a visit to Liverpool his daughter met NARPO Merseyside Member Geoff Swinnerton at a function. Her Dad remembered Geoff from bygone days in "F" Division when he was a senior Constable and young Mr. Swinnerton a recruit. Needless to say, contact has been maintained, and John has spoken with both Geoff and me.

He will reach the 100 year milestone in September 2025, and I have volunteered to take him his birthday card and present with Committee approval!

Meanwhile John is enjoying the Canadian version of a "99."

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Merseyside NARPO Vice-Chair Stan O'Connor (pictured) has been elected to the National Executive Committee. He attended his first meeting early in May. This is kudos for the branch, and he accepts the position with the full backing and support of the NARPO Merseyside Committee. Congratulations Stan!

## NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM



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

## And Finally.....

As one door closes another opens. Welcome back to Merseyside Chief Constable Rob Carden.



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Following on from ABBA Voyage, the ABBA museum in Stockholm is amazing. Just a thought, if Bjorn and Benny had been called Steve and Dave, would the band be known as ASDA?

