

# The Staffordshire Knot

## Staffordshire Branch of Narpo [96]

c/o 6 Hearn Court, Rising Brook, Stafford, ST17 9QN

☎ 01785 540500 (with Voicemail)

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

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Name	Subbranch
Joseph Andrew Paros	Northern
Mark Barrie Kettle (Ex West Mids)	Lichfield
Richard Paul Clarke	Northern
Fiona Broadhurst	Tamworth
Bethan Gilbert	Tamworth
David Hardy	Northern
Alistair Furniss	Tamworth
<b>We wish you all a long and healthy retirement!</b>	

## Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Staffordshire Knot. The weather in April and most of May has been really kind to us all, let's hope that this spell of sunny weather does not result in us all experiencing a poor Summer.

Locally the Staffordshire Police has appointed two new Assistant Chief Constables namely, Caroline Marsh and Paul Talbot. Paul who I have worked with on the Police History and Heritage Project, started his career in the West Midlands Police before transferring to Staffordshire Police where, to date he has served most of his service. Similarly, Caroline started her career in the West Midlands Police before transferring to South Yorkshire, then to Northamptonshire, back to the West Midlands Police before being appointed Temporary ACC in West Mercia Police. She will be moving from West Mercia Police in the next few months to take up the Staffordshire Police position.

Staffordshire NARPO, wise we have witnessed a sad event, in the passing of our long serving Assistant Secretary and Treasurer Reay Pearman. Reay was a lovely guy who was well respected both as a serving Police Officer and Executive NARPO Member I am sure that persons attending his funeral will reflect this fact.

The Staffordshire Police on the 14/6/2025 will be holding an open day, this year at the County Showground Weston Road Stafford. NARPO were invited to take part in the event as we had done previously. Unfortunately, the date clashed with



[WWW.NARPO.ORG](http://WWW.NARPO.ORG)

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**XPS Pensions** administer the **Staffordshire Police Pension**,  
XPS Pensions  
03300 545505

**ARE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS HELD BY NARPO?**

**KEEP IN TOUCH.**  
Please notify the Branch Secretary if contact information needs updating, e.g., email change, new address, new phone number, or changed spouse/partner. Contact the Branch Secretary Kevin Waters if you are missing messages.

Let us know if you want magazine and/or newsletter mailing deliveries stopped. **Narpo News** is available on the website [www.narpo.org](http://www.narpo.org).  
[Password XPOL1919]

**The Staffordshire Knot** is available via the website [Staffordshire Branch pages](#).

our Branch Meeting which we hold at Weston Road Police Headquarters, so we had to excuse ourselves from the event.

Nationally NARPO will be holding their Annual National Conference at Blackpool on Friday 5/9/2025. We will be sending four delegates and two observers to Conference, with several other Branch Members exercising a proxy vote. Two resolutions will be discussed and voted upon. One concerning the proposition that there should be one Branch for one Force and the other concerns having an independent auditor to oversee National NARPO finances.

**Mark Judson**

[Chairman Staffordshire Branch of NARPO]

## *Members Called to Higher Service Mar 2025 – Jun 2025*

<i>Your Branch records with regret the deaths of the following members:</i>				
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subbranch</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Died</b>
Ret'd PC	John Dean	Leek and Cheadle	77 yrs	23 Feb 2025
Ret'd PC	Kenneth Woollam	Northern	80 yrs	4 Mar 2025
Ret'd C/Insp	Fredrick Michael Roberts	Burton and Uttoxeter	85 yrs	6 Mar 2025
Ret'd Sgt	Dennis Henry Parker	Cannock/Rugeley	88 yrs	10 Mar 2025
Ret'd DC	Alan Shaw	Northern	86 yrs	20 Mar 2025
Ret'd PC	John Dean	Leek and Cheadle	77 yrs	23 Feb 2025
Ret'd PC	Karl Lee	Northern	68 yrs	13 Mar 2025
Ret'd PC	Nigel David Fermor	Burton and Uttoxeter	74 yrs	6 Apr 2025
Ret'd PC	Graham Stenton	Lichfield (Ex Hamps)	86 yrs	5 Apr 2025
Ret'd DCI	David Lloyd Tooth	Stafford and Stone	82 yrs	11 Apr 2025
Ret'd PC	Anthony James Mothershaw	Stafford and Stone	89 yrs	3 May 2025
Ret'd -	Roger Anderson	Womb (Ex WMids)		3 May 2025
Ret'd DSgt	Alan Joseph Whitby	Stafford and Stone	83 yrs	8 May 2025
Ret'd DCI	Bruce R Reay Pearman	Northern	83 yrs	12 May 2025
Ret'd Sgt	Peter Findlay Burns	Stafford and Stone	73 yrs	17 May 2025
Ret'd PC	Gregory John Warrilow	Northern	77 yrs	31 May 2025

## *Widows and Spouses Called to Higher Service*

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subbranch</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Died</b>
Mrs	Margaret Jean Machin	Stafford and Stone	81 yrs	15 Feb 2025
Mrs	Carole Drew (Wife)	Leek and Cheadle	69 yrs	19 Feb 2025
Mrs	Isabella Ensor (Wife)	Lichfield	90 yrs	7 Mar 2025
Mrs	Freda Fielding	Leek and Cheadle	93 yrs	20 Mar 2025
Mrs	Margaret Woolliscroft (Wife)	Leek and Cheadle	85 yrs	14 Mar 2025
Mrs	Helen Murdoch Adams	Northern	99 yrs	16 Mar 2025
Mrs	Jillian Timmis (Wife)	Stafford and Stone	66 yrs	12 May 2025
Mrs	Mary Gwyneth Hill	Northern	92 yrs	19 May 2025

### **Staffordshire Branch Website Update**

Website users are advised that, following a recent upgrade to the national website, our Branch website page address has changed to:

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

Please update your browser Favorites or Bookmarks accordingly.



**NARPO Funeral Drape:** To pay tribute to the service and dedication of our members, NARPO offers funeral drapes for use during services. These drapes are designed to cover all coffin sizes, with the emblem prominently displayed on each side.

Additionally, we provide a range of Staffordshire uniform caps and helmets —both male and female — in recognition of retirement rank.

Arrangements will be made for delivery to and collection from the undertaker, ensuring a respectful and dignified tribute.

For further details, please reach out to your local or Branch representative.

### **Stafford and Stone Subbranch**

Just a few words to let you know what is going on with the Stafford and Stone Subbranch. It's almost time for the next subbranch meeting. It will be on Thursday 26 June 2025 at the Constitutional Club in Lloyd Street, Stafford. The meeting will start at 7:30pm, and we have a guest speaker from the Community Link (Stafford & District) charity.

At the last AGM in February there were no new volunteers for the committee, so the existing committee was voted *en bloc* for the next year. We didn't vote on a Chair, but Mike Kozam will take the role of Deputy Chair in the hope that someone new will volunteer to be Chair. It hasn't happened yet;

Gerry Robinson is Treasurer, Brian Whitehouse is Welfare Officer and I am still Secretary, with Bob Lea and Bryan Tunney assisting.

We realise that not everyone is able or wants to come to the evening meetings, and so to enable those that want to be involved and meet former colleagues without the need to find your way to evening meeting, we will have a morning get-together with a free coffee at one of the coffee shops in Stafford Town Centre at the end of July/beginning of August. This will be an opportunity for all members, widow(er)s, partners, including those that perhaps do not feel able to come to the formal meetings, to have the chance to meet casually and enjoy a free coffee/tea. This may be a good time for those who have lost someone and are feeling a bit adrift to meet other in a safe environment. We will send out an email with details closer to the date. If you don't normally receive Stafford Subbranch emails, please email or text Phil Challinor to express an interest, so that he can contact you ([philchallinor@narpo-staffs.co.uk](mailto:philchallinor@narpo-staffs.co.uk), or 07908 617 946).

Gerry Robinson has arranged a Subbranch Afternoon Tea event at the Stone House Hotel, A34 Stone for Thursday 11 September 2025. It is heavily subsidised by the Subbranch - full details and booking form are included in this edition of the Knot.

As most of you know, we are involved each year in assisting with the Christmas Tree festival in St

Mary's Church, Stafford. Well, this year, we are applying to display a tree for Staffordshire

NARPO. We will not know if we have been successful with getting one of the 100+ spaces until July/August. If we do, we will need to decide on a theme, so if you have any ideas please let us know. It will not be just for Stafford Subbranch but for the Staffordshire Branch and is sponsored by the Branch.

Welfare wise we have had a relatively quiet spell, but we are still available if you are aware of anyone who needs help, so please let us know.

**Phil Challinor (Secretary)**

### **Stafford and Stone NARPO Subbranch Special Celebration Afternoon**

**Tea:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025, see **Page 4**, must be pre-ordered with Gerry Robinson in advance by 27<sup>th</sup> August. Tel.: 07902 915500 or email [gerryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:gerryu3a@gmail.com).

## National Police Memorial Day - Monday 29th September 2025

Staffordshire NARPO will again be marking this occasion with a service at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas (near Burton-Upon-Trent). This year the short, informal service led by Reverend Brian Williams will be held in the area at the head of the designated memorial garden 'The Beat'.

Entry to the arboretum is free (donations are appreciated) and car parking is **£5 if booked in advance, or £7 on the day** per vehicle.

To book in advance use the website

<https://www.thenma.org.uk/visit-us/plan-your-visit/book-tickets>

or phone 01283 245100 to get your parking discount code.

We meet up in the cafeteria in the main Remembrance Centre from 11:00 am for the service at 12 noon. In the event of poor weather, the service will be held in the Chapel. Please let Brian Whitehouse, Stafford & Stone Subbranch, know if you will be attending (Tel: 01785 215099), or mail:

[brianwhitehouse@narpo-staffs.co.uk](mailto:brianwhitehouse@narpo-staffs.co.uk)). **Any Staffordshire member**

**attending will be reimbursed for the parking fee and refreshments up to £12 in total. Please see Mike Kozam the treasurer, on the day to collect your allowance from Branch funds.**

## Stafford & Stone NARPO Subbranch

### Special Celebration Afternoon Tea

Organisers. Carole & Gerry Robinson MBE

Mobile only 0790 291 55 00. E Mail. [gerryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:gerryu3a@gmail.com)

The Garden Room, The Stonehouse Hotel, Stone. ST15 0BQ. - Thursday 11th September 2025

**2:30pm Reception for 3pm tea.**

**Menu 1 (Afternoon Tea):** A selection of sandwiches, ham/tomato, tuna/cucumber, egg/cress & cheese/pickle. Selection of mini cakes. Scone, jam and cream. Tea. **Subsidised members' price: £7.50. per person**

**Menu 2 (Gentlemen's Afternoon Tea):** A selection of sandwiches as above, or more meaty ones. Sausage rolls, chips, pork pies. Selection of mini cakes. Scone, jam and cream. Tea. **Subsidised members' price: £9 per person.**

If you have any special dietary requirements, please telephone Gerry.

**MAX 40 PLACES. BOOKINGS will close on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025.**

**BOOK EARLY to avoid disappointment.**

#### BOOKING FORM

To reserve your place, include your name below and send your cheque in payment made payable to 'Stafford NARPO Sub Branch' as soon as possible, or by **Bank Transfer** to Stafford NARPO Sub Branch, Account No 65361263, sort code 08 92 99. Co-Op Bank.

Name	Choice 1 or 2	Price	Tel No.
1			
2			
3			
4			

If paying by BACS, please send an email ([gerryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:gerryu3a@gmail.com)) with your choices indicating you have paid by BACS. This will be acknowledged when payment is received. If paying by cheque, it will be acknowledged by telephone.

**Send to Carole & Gerry Robinson, MBE, at 42 Drakeford Court, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 4BS.**

The Stonehouse Hotel has recently been refurbished to a very high standard and to enjoy our tea we will be in their ground floor Garden Room with adjacent conservatory to enjoy before and afterwards. Disabled friendly setting.

**You can use the Bar but at you own cost.**

*Data Protection: In submitting this form I consent to NARPO holding the personal details supplied and recording them in written or electronic forms for the purpose of arranging the event. I consent to being contacted by telephone or email given, if necessary, to discuss the booking and the relevant information to be shared with the venue management/caterers. I am aware that privacy & data protection policies are available on the Staffordshire NARPO website and in writing on request.*

## BRANCH CONTACTS

### CHAIRMAN

Mark Judson

☎ 01785 660095

### SECRETARY

Kexin Waters

☎ 07768 233123

☎ 01785 540500

### TREASURER

Mike Kozam

☎ 07806 732968

## SUBBRANCH CONTACTS

### BURTON

Chair Roy Dimelow

☎ 07485 000932

Secretary

☎ 07485 000932

### CANNOCK/

### Rugeley

Closed. No committee

Contact Branch office

### LEEK

Andrea Plant

☎ 07707 996907

Mike Smith

☎ 07955 425462

### LICHFIELD

Brian Williams

☎ 01543 253120

Linda Hicken

☎ 01922 452572

### NORTHERN

Kevin Waters

☎ 07768 233123

Dave Malam

☎ 07971 594950

## SUBBRANCH CONTACTS

### STAFFORD

Chair vacancy

☎ 0

Phil Challinor

☎ 07908 617946

### TAMWORTH

Glyn Thomas

☎ 01827 67545

Robert Vaughan

☎ 01543 257624

### WOMBOURNE

Roger Jones

☎ 07425 135129

John Cooper

☎ 07779 050244

#### How times have changed.

In June 2025 a two-bedroom property costs between £190,000 and £200,000. To place this in perspective, the main Administration Block at the Old Police Headquarters at Baswich in Stafford, on completion in 1961 cost £100,000!!!!

Mark Judson

Staffordshire Branch is a branch of National Association of Retired Police Officers, a company limited by guarantee incorporated and registered in England and Wales with company registration number 15415367. A list of the directors of National Association of Retired Police Officers can be inspected at our registered office: NARPO House, 38 Bond Street, Wakefield WF1 2QP. NARPO is a business name of National Association of Retired Police Officers.

Your newsletter is edited by our website manager Joe Molloy,

☎ 01785 561792 or email:

[staffordshire2@narpo.org](mailto:staffordshire2@narpo.org)

### Cannock and Rugeley Subbranch Dissolved

This subbranch was dissolved at the AGM on 20th March, there being no nominations to replace the retiring Chairman and Secretary.

Members are affiliated to Subbranches to facilitate contact and support, as required. For this reason, the Branch Committee will affiliate all members to either Lichfield or Stafford & Stone Subbranches. This change does not otherwise change your membership entitlements.

Any member having a particular preference for affiliation to another subbranch, please notify our Website Manager by 30th July 2025 for the purposes of updating our mailing lists: [staffordshire2@narpo.org](mailto:staffordshire2@narpo.org).

In the absence of a reply, the branch committee will assign member the subbranches.

## Travel Insurance – Are you covered?

Example have been brought to notice in recent months of our members not realising the Staffordshire Police Federation Group Insurance Policy does not cover travel for the **over 65's**.

**From 1st April 2025 worldwide Travel Insurance is included for retired members only up to age 65 years.**

An additional travel policy can be arranged for the age group that are not in the Group scheme and for those 65 years and over up to age 70 years.

Additional premiums must be paid according to the cover required.

Policy documentation is no longer distributed by post.

However, this can be downloaded from the Staffordshire Police federation website. Call the **Police Federation Office 01785 242215 for a quote.**

The Group PAI premiums taken through you pension are automatically reduced when you reach the threshold age.

### XPS Pension Website and Email Services

We encourage members to make use of the Pension Administrator online access to pension information.

Members of the Staffordshire police pension scheme can access their pension account by registering with XPS website for self service through

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

The service holds your pension pay notices, P60 summary, and pension entitlements.

To sign Up for Self-Service you will need to have at hand the below details:

- National Insurance Number
- Date of birth
- Email address

(you may need to call and register your email address to your account by phoning first).

If your email address is held by XPS you can sign up for self service on the internet.

## **Leek and Cheadle**

The next meeting of the Leek Subbranch will be on Tuesday 1st July 2024, 7:30pm at Cheadle Cricket Club, Tean Rd, Cheadle, ST10 1LX.

We hold Spring and Autumn Meetings at Leek Hockey Club, Macclesfield Road, Leek ST13 8LD. The later being 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

We look forward to your company and contribution on that evening. A light supper will be served, and the bar will be open for refreshments.

**Mike Smith, Leek and Cheadle Subbranch Secretary**

## **Tamworth Subbranch**

Our Annual Luncheon was held on Sunday 18th May 2025, at Drayton Park Golf Club. 60 Members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal and once again had a warm sunny day to have a drink and socialise on the Terrace. On Sunday 24th August 2025 it is planned to have Afternoon Tea at the same venue and details will be circulated in due course.

We continue to meet bi-monthly at the Coton & Hopwas Social Club, School Lane, Hopwas, Tamworth, B78 3AD, with alternating Formal Meetings and Social Events, all commencing at 7:30pm.

On Tuesday 1st July 2025, we are holding a Social Event, with an illustrated presentation by Mike Taylor of M T Greenwood Crafts, Shropshire. Mike and his wife own and manage woodland in Shropshire in a sustainable manner and produce handmade wooden products. There will be a buffet provided by the Social Club, funded by the Subbranch.

On Tuesday 2nd September 2025 will be a Formal Meeting with a buffet provided by Subbranch members.

On Tuesday 4th November 2025 we are holding a Skittles night. Once again a buffet will be provided by the Social Club and funded by the Subbranch.

Our Social Events have no Agenda or Minutes and are meant to be an opportunity to socialise with your former colleagues. Partners are very welcome.

**Bob Vaughan, Secretary Tamworth Subbranch**

## **Cyprus Emergency 1955-1959 Memorial Service**

### **National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas Sunday 24th August 2025**

The annual National Cyprus Combined Memorial Service to Armed Services and Police is scheduled to take place at 12 noon on Sunday 24th August, 2025 at the National Memorial, Arboretum, Alrewas, DE13 7AR. The memorial unveiled in 2016 (a four tons stone, delivered from Cyprus) commemorates the 22 UK Police officers and 372 military personnel killed in service during the conflict with EOKA rebels.

Part funded by the Police Memorial Trust, the memorial is sited on The Beat section of the NMA.

## **From the Archive: Great Bridgeford Train Crash 1932.**

Many readers over the years will be aware of the Hixon Train Crash, the Colwich Train Crash and the Rickerscote Train Crash. However, many may not be aware that on 17th June 1932, at 1923hrs an express passenger train operated by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company travelling from Crewe to Birmingham New Street via Stafford was involved in a crash. This train consisting of four coaches with empty 4-wheeled carriage truck at the rear was completely derailed immediately after passing the south end of Great Bridgeford Station. Four of the passengers on the train were killed and another 54 persons were injured. In total the train was believed to have been carrying between 90 and 80 passengers. Nine passengers together with the train driver and fireman, were detained in hospital some with serious injuries. The rest of the injured passengers were released after treatment.

The subsequent investigation into the events concluded that the cause of the crash was a result of excessive speed.