



COMMUNICATION - WELFARE – SOCIAL

Dear Members

Welcome to our September Newsletter.

Retired Officers Police Records

Thank you to everyone who has replied to my request for information. I have now finalised my submissions to Essex Police but a small number of members continue to forward their details. It would be helpful if any future submissions are made direct to Hannah Wilson at the Essex Police Museum, Essex Police HQ, Chelmsford, CM2 6DN or via email to: Hannah.Wilson@essex.police.uk

The information I have supplied has been under the following headings: Full Name, Collar No.(s), Service Start and End Dates, Postings, Promotions – with dates where known.

Retired Officers Garden Party and Social Events

It was great to see so many of you at the garden party in July. NARPO continues to make a financial contribution to this event and this avoids any charges being made to attendees.

As a Branch, our Social Secretary Pat Mahoney, organises a number of events during the year and these are a good opportunity for members to meet old colleagues and to make new friends. The next event I would like to highlight is the September Brunch to be held at the Harvester, Springfield Road, Chelmsford at 11 am on Thursday 18 September. If you can make it, please let Pat know on 07935 400002 or by email to: narposocialsec@gmail.com

Passing of Our Previous Chair – Geoffrey Markham

As many of you will know Geoffrey was my immediate predecessor as Branch Chair and sadly, he passed away in July. As you would expect I wrote to Pat his widow on behalf of the Branch.

Geoffrey's input to the Branch as Chair, and afterwards as a Life Member was invaluable. A sad loss to us all.

Bob

Robert Good - NARPO Chelmsford – Branch Chair
Chairman.narpo.chelmsford@gmail.com Mobile: 07941083696

Dear Members,

Myself and Pat Mahoney attended the National Conference which was held on 4th/5th September 2025 in Blackpool.

On Thursday evening we attended the conference dinner, which gave us time to network with other branches, discussing and sharing good practice. Delegates from Swansea Branch and North Sussex were on our table.

The president proposed "The Loyal Toast" and welcomed the guests. Following the meal, a donation was made to Kim Critchley, The Mayor of Blackpool, who addressed and thanked "The National Association of Retired Police Officers"

Following this the photographic competition winner was announced and the winners of the Branch awards. Although we didn't win, it was a lovely surprise to see that myself and Pat Mahoney had been nominated for our work on behalf of the branch by a member or members, with only 26 people being nominated including us. Mick Gurden was also nominated for Welfare Officer of the year award amongst a small group of 21 nominees.

Its not about winning it was the fact that someone had taken the time to put the nominations forward and clearly thought we should be recognised which makes all the effort we put in worthwhile, so thank you.

The Conference itself took place on Friday with 248 delegates present. We were addressed by the President and the Annual Report and Finance Report were presented to us by the Chief Executive Officer of Narpo Alan Lees and Richard Atkinson. Questions were then taken from the floor.

The President stated transition to incorporation had gone well and thanked everyone. This has afforded financial security and the NEC are now Directors of NARPO with a membership exceeding 90 thousand. Over 350 branch welfare officers have now been trained, a big increase from the 40 that were trained in 2021. The report from the Hillsborough enquiry is expected in November and the Public Enquiry into the miner's strike at Orgreave has not as yet been given any terms of reference. The Police Covenant has been accepted by the oversight board and following the change of Government, Narpo now have full membership and a position at future meetings.

Following this, presentations and discussions took place regarding Recruitment, Retention and Marketing.

A Recruitment video was shown at conference and will be uploaded to the NARPO website shortly for use by branches and a careers advice and support page is now live where you can browse jobs. CVs can be requested free, along with additional training on a one to one basis re. CV preparation and interview skills at low cost.

Actor Graham Cole OBE, if you remember him, who played PC Stamp the area car driver from the 80s TV show The Bill gave a very interesting and funny presentation. Graham was the first civilian to be made an honorary member of NARPO in 2010. This was voted for by police officers in recognition of the research undertaken to create and maintain his character. As well as becoming a patron of PTSD999 in 2016 supporting our Blue Light personnel, he has been an ambassador for Childline and NSPCC for over 30 years and also supports many other charities. Graham is also President of Scouting London and South East, President of Voluntary Police Cadets and an Ambassador for The Sir John Cass Foundation. He was awarded the Freedom of the City of London. Graham has appeared in

over 30 pantomimes and has also starred in many other productions. In 2010 Graham was awarded the OBE by HM the Queen in the New Year's Honours list for his contribution to Charity and Theatre work.

Presentations were also given on Collaboration, the Covenant and Oscar Kilo

Two Resolutions were brought to Conference

Resolution No 1 - Gwent Branch

This conference instructs the NEC to review the branch structure of the Association and to consider how branches could be coterminous with existing force areas.

As a part of the review the NEC should engage with our members and branches and are instructed to return to Conference 2026 with their findings and a proposal

For - 52.20%

Against - 47.80%

The vote was carried

Resolution No 2 - Birmingham Branch

That the board appoints an internal auditor, Independent of the NEC to :

- Provide an appropriate level of governance in respect of NEC expenditure;
- Assess and advise on financial controls and procurement practices; and
- Increase transparency of Headquarters financial expenditure, producing internal reports with recommendations as appropriate and an annual report to each national conference

For - 63.85%

Against - 36.15%

The vote was not passed due to a 2/3rd majority required for it to be passed

Farewell to NEC Members and Introduction of New Members was given prior to President Richard Critchley closing the conference.

On a personal note, I think the Conference went very well this year with some interesting topics being discussed. Next year's Conference will be held in Torquay on Friday 11th September 2026.

Kind Regards

Sue Heaton

Secretary Narpo

Chelmsford Branch

Obituaries

- Nick Milbank who served for over 50 years as a Cadet, Police Officer and Support staff member. He passed away on 6th June 2025 aged 67 years.
- Geoffrey Markham who retired as ACC in 1999 after holding the post for 15 years. He was involved in the Essex police sports association, a trustee for the Essex police Memorial committee and involved in NARPO. He passed away on the 8th July 2025 aged 88 years.
- Brian Boon who retired as an Inspector and after retirement worked as a management accountant at Essex HQ, with a total service of 46 years. He passed away on 17th July 2025 aged 85 years.
- Michael Hewitt who retired as a constable in 1994 and served at Colchester Traffic. He passed away on 20th July 2025 aged 80 years.
- Christopher Clancey who retired as a constable in 2000 and served at Southend, Shoeburyness, Benfleet, Rochford and Billericay. He passed away on 20th July aged 78 years.
- Richard (Dick) Chaplin who retired as a Sergeant in 2001 and served at Stansted, Dunmow, Ongar, Epping and Force Support Unit. He passed away on 5th August 2025 aged 74 years.
- Kenneth Nettleton who retired as a constable in 1984 and served at Colchester, Clacton, Billericay and as a Dog Handler in Chelmsford. He passed away on 11th August 2025 aged 98 years.

May they all rest in peace

Gary Sanderson – Newsletter editor