



COMMUNICATION - WELFARE – SOCIAL

Dear Members

Welcome to our December Newsletter.

Remembrance Parade

Three members, Pauline Collins, Kevin Street and Darren Wiles, represented us at the Remembrance Parade in London this year, my thanks go to them. This is a significant event in the calendar and it's important that NARPO continues the tradition along with all the other services.

Sad Losses During the Year

Unfortunately, it is a fact of life that we have lost a number of retired colleagues and serving officers during the year. We thank them for their service; may they be remembered and rest in peace.

Social Events

Our next social event is on Saturday 13 December at the EPSA Club Room, Police Headquarters, Chelmsford and I look forward to seeing you there.

I do hope you will be able to support the Branch at some of our events during 2026. They are good for keeping in contact with old friends and for making new friends.

Festive Season

On behalf of our Branch Committee, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob

Robert Good - NARPO Chelmsford – Branch Chair
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December 2025

Dear Friends,

I wish you seasonal greetings and hope you and your loved ones have a happy Christmas and New Year.

As to the last branch event of the year.

Christmas Get-together - Saturday 13th December

A last call for those who wish to attend our annual get-together to be held at the EPSA Clubroom at Headquarters. To be held between 12 noon and 4pm, you and guests will enjoy a free cold buffet (well perhaps a warm mince pie), tea and coffee provided by your branch. The bar will be open for soft drinks and something a bit stronger, unfortunately at your expense.

As a change in entertainment, we will hold a Christmas related quiz with a couple of prizes for the winners. All very light hearted, hopefully 🎄 🎄

A sessional tot of alcoholic mulled wine is also available, courtesy of your branch, and perhaps another mince pie in order to celebrate the Christmas season.

As an added bonus the EPSA Shop will be open between 10am and 2pm, always good for that last minute gift !

So, if you haven't notified me of your attendance and wish to come, it is not too late, just let me know and I can update the numbers for catering arrangements.

I thank those who have already let me know and I look forward to seeing you all on the day.

As a branch, we continue to offer assistance to those members who may need help with transport to events. Please let me know and I am sure we can arrange.

2026 Events

May I thank you for supporting my role over the years and hopefully the 2026 event calendar will attract you to local, as well as further afield social events.

Please feel free to make suggestions and I am happy to look at any viable event.

So in closing, I hope to attract you to our Christmas get-together but otherwise to some events next year.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Regards

Pat Mahoney

Social Secretary

NARPO Chelmsford Contact Direct_narposocialsec@gmail.com

Dear Members,

Three members of our branch attended The Cenotaph to represent us at The Remembrance Parade. Please see below a report that I prepared from their experience of the day which I hope you find interesting.

Kind Regards

Sue Heaton

Secretary Narpo

Chelmsford Branch

Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph 2025

This year three of our members were lucky enough to be selected to attend the Remembrance Day parade at the Cenotaph in London on behalf of the Branch.

A great honour for them as you can see from their personal thoughts and memories of the day.

Pauline Collins

Early start from Shenfield and when I arrived at Liverpool Street, I was greeted by two lovely ladies offering me a poppy cab.

The London taxi drivers offer a free transport service to Horse Guards Parade. I shared the cab with 3 veteran soldiers, and it was so interesting talking to them and sharing their experiences.

I arrived at my meeting point E32 and there were a few members from NARPO already there. The lead gentleman asked for a volunteer to carry the wreath and I offered.

The moment was both humbling and deeply moving reminding me of the courage and dedication of those who served.

It was truly an honour to lay the wreath on behalf of NARPO at the London Cenotaph, paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

My own father served in World War 2 in the Royal Navy, and I wore his medals with emotional pride.

It was a real pleasure to meet many NARPO members from many counties especially John from Kent with his little dog Lulu who was a star, waiting patiently in the line-up to march.

Also to meet Kevin Street the Vice Chair from Chelmsford Branch, who knew and worked with my late husband Larry Collins.

A truly memorable day which I will not forget.



Kevin Street

5.00 am and the big day is here; parade boots are polished, trousers pressed, shirt and tie also.

Nerves starting. Can I do this? How will it be? Quick coffee and start.

The drive from rural Suffolk to Colchester - no trains from here to get there in time.

Arrive at the station. Park the car and see ex-service men, some in kilts and follow them. From their chat they have been before.

Very quickly we arrive in London and then the tube to Embankment

My nerves have gone. I'm amongst others with a common purpose. British Legion staff showing the way. A brisk walk to the muster area and there is our section – E32.

Gradually the muster ground filled with more veterans and then we were off to take up our positions This year E32 were to head the march past after the service - a great honour I thought.

Adjacent to Narpo were some Czech police who had relatives that had been part of the resistance in the second world war and defied the Russian invasion of 1968. Some Naval air crew vets were handing out tots from hips flasks - alas I abstained having to drive later



An assistance dog was part of the parade and attracted much attention.

The wait was soon over; the parade came to attention and the cannon sounded.

What a noise and the two minutes silence began. The last post played by the Royal Marines

I am now biting my lip; the emotion is at its highest. The last time I heard this in person was when the same Royal marines played it at my dad's funeral, but I held it together - just.

The service and wreath laying seemed to pass very quickly, the band struck up and then we were off to the cheering and clapping.

We kept close order and did well when the command came for eyes left.

I was totally taken by the amount of people who had turned out on this fine day to remember those who had given so much in previous conflicts.

Very quickly we are to eyes right for the Royal Salute for HRH Duke of Edinburgh and then it was over.

All that remained was a group photo a long journey home and memories that I will carry for the rest of my life

Darren Wiles

The day started early with a 7.25 train into London with my son.

After parting ways at Whitehall, I made my way to Horse Guards parade to find the NARPO meeting point. After saying hello to those who had already arrived, I headed off for some breakfast from the numerous catering establishments.

Once returned to the meeting point, I had a chance to catch up on old times with members from the Met, Cambs, Hampshire, West Mercia and more.

The wonderful blue skies and warm temperature made the time pass quickly.

We were section E and very fortunate this year to lead the parade.

Around 9.50 we set off onto Whitehall to form up.

It was a wonderful proud moment to see the crowds and take in the atmosphere

At 11am the minutes silence began, and royal family and dignitaries laid their wreaths.

It was an awe-inspiring experience as we passed the Cenotaph paying our respects

We returned to Horse Guards and saluted Prince Edward who represented the royal family.

A truly memorable day I will never forget.



Sue Heaton

Secretary Narpo - Chelmsford Branch

Obituaries

- Brian Darton who retired as a Constable in 2002 and served at Braintree and Felstead. He passed away on 7th September 2025 aged 79 years.
- Paul Hanson who retired as a Constable in 2015 and served at Southend, Shoebury and Westcliff. He passed away on 15th September 2025 aged 64 years.
- David Peter Williams who retired as a Sergeant in 1983 and served with Metropolitan police before transferring to Southend Borough and Essex and Southend Joint Constabulary, Basildon. He passed away on 30th September 2025 aged 93 years.
- Terence Fisher who retired as a Sergeant in 1989 and served with Southend Borough He passed away on 5th October 2025 aged 83 years.
- Robert Gladstone who retired as a Sergeant in 1992 and served at Rayleigh, Basildon and Canvey Island. He passed away on 10th October 2025 aged 87 years.
- Colin Stockwell who retired as a Constable in 1989 and served as a Cadet prior to National Service, then Maldon, Grays, Rayleigh and Rochford. He passed away on 20th October 2025 aged 87 years.
- Robert Gladstone who retired as a Sergeant in 1992 and served at Rayleigh, Basildon and Canvey Island. He passed away on 10th October 2025 aged 87 years.

May they all rest in peace

Gary Sanderson – Newsletter editor