



**RPOAS**  
**CENTRAL BRANCH**  
**JUNE 2022 NEWS**



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## A MESSAGE FROM

### VICE CHAIR MOIRA DUNN

Hi all

Summer is here! Usually you can trust May for lovely warm days but not this year so here's hoping for some fine weather ahead.

The warmth of feeling, however, was in no doubt at the Older Members' Lunch I attended in early April at Torwood Garden Centre as colleagues picked up where they had left off 2 years before.

As you will see from the photographs below a couple of Life Certificates and a presentation to our retiring Chairman and his wife Gwen were made. All in all, it was a lovely day and a privilege for me to be part of it. Personal thanks to Alan Blue and Helen Chalmers for their help before and on the day as our Secretary was otherwise engaged with her feet up! All the best Lesley, hope to see you on

two good pins soon. We all missed you and know how much time and effort you always put in for things to go smoothly. Many Thanks.

I attended the Annual Conference at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld with Mike Mill on 14/15 April where the main emphasis was on care and well-being, so important for us all. If you feel you can spare a little time for our own local 'police family' please let us know.

Take care and enjoy your summer.

Warm wishes.

**Moira D**

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## BRANCH COMMITTEE

The Committee is much reduced with the loss of Chairman Bill Culbard, Audrey McLeod and Alex Macmillan. Their past contributions were, of course, greatly appreciated and they are much missed.

If you think you could commit to serving the Branch in this way, please make yourself known to one of our current committee members. We'd be delighted to hear from you! The occasional meeting, the odd delivery or visit, and hopefully some very sociable lunches!

## EXISTING COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman **Moira Dunn**  
Secretary/Treasurer **Lesley Struth**  
Mike Mill and Ian Wright.



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## SECRETARY'S UPDATE

### POLICE TREATMENT CENTRE

The latest update from the PTC can be found in the Spring issue of RPOAS News. The good news is the Centre is open for business once again.

REMEMBER you must join up and pay monthly to access treatment as a retired officer. Download application forms from the PTC website.

### ANNUAL FEE

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOW PAID THE ANNUAL FEE OF £12 which was previously deducted by Pensions Department at source annually in July. That was a very long time ago and the service was greatly appreciated. It is a nightmare doing it ourselves within the Branch.

There are still a few members with outstanding fees for the year 2021-22. Could you check your accounts to see if payments had been sent to RPOAS

Central or if unsure, please contact Mike Mill. Sometimes, lottery payments can be mixed up as the fee is the same. Lottery goes to RPOAS, not the Branch and any queries should be directed to our Admin Assistant Tracy McKenzie. There is also a lottery update within the magazine.

**If you believe that you currently have membership fees outstanding, please get in touch in the first instance with COMMITTEE MEMBER MIKE MILL on [mikemill233@gmail.com](mailto:mikemill233@gmail.com)**

### PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEE –

**The Branch's TSB Bank Account details are -**

**Account No 82075363**

**Sort Code 87-64-01**

If you have set up a Standing Order with your bank for your annual fee or the RPOAS lottery, do check that it is being deducted annually and not monthly. Lottery is also £12 and is deducted in December and can easily be confused with your Branch fee.

**PLEASE REMEMBER – LIFE MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM ANNUAL FEE**

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### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Craig Rankine who joined the Branch recently.

Are you in touch with colleagues who are not members of RPOAS? Please send on an application form to them. Forms can be obtained from



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Committee member Mike Mill. There are members' benefits on offer on our website, an employment page, a bi-annual Association magazine, Members' Private Lottery, as well as important pension updates and news of former colleagues who have passed away across the twelve Branches. The more members we have, the stronger our voice when lobbying for pension rights, etc.

**For only £12 a year, it makes sense to join.**

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### **RPOAS WEBSITE**

Remember to visit the website regularly to check out updates, past magazines and the all-important Obituary page which carries details of members of all twelve Scottish Branches who have passed away.

### **RPOAS NEWS MAGAZINE**

The next issue is due out in September 2022. Adverts and interesting articles are always welcome. Please send on to me at

**lascentralbranch@gmail.com**

Most of our Branch members are happy to receive the magazine by e mail but as we get older, some of us may decide that a paper copy is more convenient. Please let me know if this is the case. It can easily be arranged.

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### **BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

Our next newsletter will be circulated locally in September 2022.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Details of the new provider with effect from 1 April 2022 can be found within the latest issue of RPOAS News. Any issues please contact RPOAS Administrator Tracy McKenzie.

### **RPOAS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**

The Conference, which was opened by Chief Constable Iain Livingstone, took place at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld in April 2022 with Moira Dunn and Mike Mill representing the Branch.

One result of the deliberations which affects us as a Branch is the increase in annual capitation fee from £3.50 to £5.



### **BEST WISHES TO**

Gus Kennedy, Mike Kiely, Dorothy MacLeod, Alex Macmillan and Jack Wardrope who are experiencing ill health or hospital treatment at the moment.

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## **HEALTH UPDATE – JACK WARDROPE**

For your information ex Chief Inspector Jack Wardrope has been in Hospital in Larbert, Glasgow and Stirling for the past 8 weeks following amputation of his lower left leg. He has recently transferred to the Bellfield NHS Assessment Centre at Stirling Community Hospital.

Access to the complex is restricted. Only designated visitors (2) are allowed access at any time.

Jack is also receiving kidney dialysis treatment at Larbert 3 days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This treatment is very tiring and as a consequence no visitors are permitted apart from family on these days.

Jack is currently in Room 5 on the first floor.

Jean Wardrope can be contacted on Mobile 07876406741 to arrange a visit.

## **Lance Rattray**

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### **THANK YOU FROM SECRETARY**

Following stage 1 knee surgery on 4 April, I am recuperating ahead of the second op – total knee replacement - on 27 June. It's been a hard slog to say the least – I don't respond well to incarceration - so your kind wishes were very much appreciated, especially the telephone calls and cards and flowers from Tracy McKenzie, Joyce Hunter, Bill and Gwen Culbard and Archie Murray. Thank you for thinking of me and so sorry I had to miss the April lunch but very much hope to attend the June lunch – thank you to

Mike Mill for hastily arranging it before I return to hospital for Part 2!  
**Lesley**

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## **DIARY DATE**

Hello all.

Ian Reid and I would like to offer up a **monthly Wednesday afternoon/early evening meet up at The Rising Sun in Bridge of Allan**. The lounge area will be made available on Wednesdays to all former, and still serving, members who wish to come along and rekindle old friendships, share overly embellished stories from the past, or simply catch up and chat with some friendly, welcoming faces.

The first one was held on **Wednesday 17/11/21**. We hope to make it a regular monthly meet; however, the area will always be available. Hope to see some of you along for a catch up.

## **Ian Arthur**

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## **UPDATE FROM POLICE SCOTLAND, FORTH VALLEY DIVISION**

Sadly, we said farewell to Inspector Marie White who has moved on to another department outwith the local area. Marie has been a valuable friend to the Branch over the past few years and we wish her well.



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Superintendent Mandy Paterson is our new contact within Police Scotland and we look forward to meeting her in due course. I'm not certain but I think Mandy may have hosted a visit for Branch members at Falkirk Police Office several years ago. We hope to catch up with Mandy over the next few months.

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## **CENTRAL BRANCH WALKING GROUP**

If you enjoy getting out in the fresh air with some friendly company, then this is for you.



**Gordon McKenzie, Alex Brown, Neina Keenan, Alan Murray, Robert Nesbitt, Linda McKenzie and Bill McLauchlan.**





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### **Stuart Dodds and Robert Nesbitt**

Our first outing for many moons saw us at Sheriffmuir doing the Mar/Argyll Trail on 29 March (see pics above taken by Bill McLauchlan).

We started from Clan Macrae memorial and had a nice 2 mile walk around the alleged battleground. We

were joined by Alan Murray, recently retired from Police Scotland. It was good to hear a positive report as to how things were going in the new regime and hopefully it will go from strength to strength. None of us like change but measures to counteract the everyday dangers faced by current officers make it a necessity.

**Our next walk is around Gartmorn Dam on Tuesday 28 June at 11 am. It's about a 3 mile walk.**

Please contact me at [mdunno01@mdunno01.plus.com](mailto:mdunno01@mdunno01.plus.com) mobile **07754 316 778** if you want to join the walk. Look forward to seeing you there. Newcomers always welcome.

Take care till then.

**Moira D**

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## **LUNCH FOR OLDER MEMBERS IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BILL PORTER**

If there was ever a retired police officer who revelled in regular catch ups with old colleagues, it was Bill Porter. Unless there was a diary date to look forward to, Bill was on my case enquiring when the next lunch was. No matter where or when, I knew that his name would be top of the list.



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How he would have enjoyed the gathering at Torwood on 5 April 2022, following zero events for two years due to the pandemic. It was fitting then that he had some part in events following the very kind donation from the Porter family in memory of Bill who sadly passed away in October 2020.



**The late Bill Porter with his granddaughter Kimberly at her Passing Out Parade in 2015.**

20 members were delighted to meet for lunch at **Torwood Garden**

**Centre** on 5 April 2022, to enjoy the first lunch in over two years while remembering those who are no longer with us. The lunch was financed by the kind donation from the family of the late Bill Porter who sadly passed away in October 2020. Bill was a much loved and enthusiastic and loyal member of the Branch, attending every lunch and outing literally until his failing health prevented him getting there. He is greatly missed as are the other familiar faces from lunches past who are no longer with us.



**Past Chairman Bill Culbard and his wife Gwen were special guests.**

A presentation was made to Bill and Vice Chair Moira Dunn surprised Gwen with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a small token of our appreciation of all they have both done



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to support and promote the Branch over many years.

Bill intends to continue to take an active part in Branch life but must focus on his health which necessitated giving up the busy role of Chairman. A fantastic ambassador for our Branch, we thank him for all his dedication over the years. A hard act to follow.



**Life member Alex Ferguson receives his life membership certificate from past Chairman Bill Culbard at the April lunch.**



**New life member Jim Lindsay receives his life membership certificate at the April lunch.**





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**Life member Bill Strang**



**Helen Chalmers distributing Easter eggs. Bill Strang and Grant O'Donnell are also shown.**



**Vice Chair Moira Dunn distributes Easter eggs. Alex Ferguson and Cecil Ferguson also shown.**





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**Helen Chalmers distributes Easter eggs to the group**



**Great to see our oldest member Leslie Cumpstey (near left) opposite Bert O'Donnell looking so well and enjoying the lunch in his 95th year.**



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## **OUR NEXT LUNCH**

### **BRANCH LUNCH –**

### **HOLLYBANK**

Mike Mill has organised our next lunch which will be held at the **Hollybank in Stirling on Wednesday, 22 June 2022 at 12 noon.**

This is open to all members who are very welcome to bring a friend or family member along with them.

2 course lunch (main and sweet, tea/coffee): £16 payable by individual members on the day.

The venue requires advance notification of numbers so please let me know if you wish to attend and can offer transport to any member requiring same.

Many thanks and I personally look forward to seeing friends again ahead of my hospital treatment the following week when I will be out of action again for a couple of months.

**Lesley**

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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

To all members who celebrate a birthday over the next few months.

Good health for the year ahead.

## **NEW LIFE MEMBERS FOR 2022**

Alisdair Douglas, John Ferguson, Brian Hencher, Jim Kindness, Brian Mulgrew, Hugh Paterson and Willie Scarlett.

**(LIFE MEMBERS DO NOT PAY AN ANNUAL FEE SO PLEASE REMEMBER TO CANCEL ANY STANDING ORDER YOU HAVE FOR PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEE. YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER ON 1 JANUARY 2022 AND ARE THERAFTER EXEMPT FROM FEE).**

We have several life membership certificates to present and contact will be made with recipients over the next few months to arrange presentation or delivery.



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## OBITUARIES

### FAREWELL TO

#### GEORGE PORTEOUS



**Central Scotland Police Foreman  
Mechanic George Porteous**

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death on 24 April 2022 of **GEORGE PORTEOUS, 88 years.**

George joined Stirling and Clackmannan Police in 1960 as a mechanic and was well respected by his colleagues. He was married to Margaret who was a serving policewoman during the 1960s.

George retired from Randolphfield in 1999, having clocked up an amazing 39 years of service.



**Margaret and George with then Chief Constable, the late Willie Wilson at George's retirement presentation.**



**George (2<sup>nd</sup> left) with colleagues and friends Driver/Cleaner Archie Johnston, Traffic Warden**

**Bill Shanks, and Special Constable Alex Black.**



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In later life George suffered from cancer, macular degeneration and then finally dementia which stripped him of his mind but poignantly he could still tell folk how to strip the engine of a jaguar and in the care home he had reverted perhaps to happier memories from his past life believing the care home was his deeply loved police garage.

Sadly, George's wife Margaret passed away in March 2022. They are survived by their daughter, Margaret Smith and her family, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Former colleagues and friends were able to pay their respects at George's funeral which took place on 4 May 2022 at Stirling Crematorium.

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## **EDITH KELSO**

It was with deep sadness that I announced the death of Edith Kelso, wife of the late ex Inspector Robert (Bob) Kelso. Edith had been receiving Dialysis treatment for many years but ultimately grew very frail and had been in hospital for quite a few weeks before her passing on 21 April 2022, the day after her 84th birthday. Her daughters Anthea and Yvonne were with her.

A service was held on 3 May 2022 at Bannockburn Crematorium where a number of ex Police colleagues and friends attended.

Sincere condolences to the family.

**Mike Mill**

## **ROBERT (BOB) LESLIE**

**1937 – 2022**

**Life member Bob Leslie, 85 years**, passed away peacefully within Strathcarron Hospice on 4 June 2022, surrounded by his family.

Bob served with Stirling and Clackmannan and later Central Scotland Police with service in the Flying Squad and later, the Force Traffic Department including Patrol, Force Driving Instructor and latterly on the Motorway Accident Unit.

Bob is survived by his wife Anne, son Bobby, daughter Shona, grandchildren Andrew and Bethany, and son in law Scott, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Funeral arrangements will be circulated to members when they are available.

Bob was undoubtedly a character and we hope to pay tribute to him in the September 2022 issue of the newsletter.

**Editor's Note: The details recorded in this publication have been obtained from a variety of sources and while every possible effort is made to ensure accuracy this cannot be guaranteed. Where there has been some inaccuracy, please advise the Editor.**



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