



RPOAS
CENTRAL BRANCH
SEPTEMBER 2022



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A MESSAGE FROM

VICE CHAIR MOIRA DUNN

Hi All

Hope you are enjoying the summer and everyone managed to keep cool in the unusually high temperatures we recently experienced. Who imagined we would be saying that!

As the AGM approaches, we are looking for new committee members. I know how easy it is to sit on hands and avoid eye contact but we should remember that the Association exists to support its members and their families after a life of policing. Granted, the last two years has proved trying for us all and socialising necessarily ground to a halt but hopefully now is the time to regroup, bring in some new blood and fresh ideas. If you can, please consider it.

Our secretary who up till now has done most of the organising and has most knowledge of the Branch's smooth running is quite rightly wishing to take a step back {though hopefully not too far}. I know I don't just speak for myself but for the many of you in thanking her for all she does and the huge input of editing and producing newsletters and magazines. Many thanks, Lesley.

Warm wishes.

Moira D

BRANCH COMMITTEE – VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT!

It is essential that we hold an AGM before the end of the year, given that we were unable to do so in 2021 due to the pandemic. Over the past year we have been unfortunate with the loss of our Chairman and two committee members due to ill health and other commitments.

If you think you could commit to serving the Branch, please make yourself known to one of our few remaining 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!

It is staggering when I consider that I have performed the role of Branch Secretary for 13 years come November 2022. Not everyone will agree perhaps, but I believe I have now earned a rest! While I'm happy editing



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the newsletter and organising lunch dates and circulating e mails, there are many aspects of the role, including meetings, banking, new member processing etc, which take a huge amount of time and commitment which I have been unable to focus on over the past 19 months while enduring three major surgeries on my knee. The recovery time was, and remains, horrendous. To add to my woes, we lost our financial wizard Keith Gray in January 2020 after 10 years of sterling service so there is a mountain of paperwork to be waded through.

More recently, we lost our wonderful Chairman Bill Culbard and that news was very difficult to process while I was under par. It is clear that if I don't announce my departure I will be here for ever!

Please don't allow our Branch to disintegrate for want of volunteers. I am no longer willing to shoulder the burden. WE NEED HELP!!

Seeking enthusiastic and energetic members who are prepared to take on important roles within our Committee. Please get in touch!

EXISTING COMMITTEE

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

CONTACT INFO

Vice Chairman: Moira Dunn
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SECRETARY'S UPDATE **POLICE TREATMENT CENTRE**

The latest update from the PTC can be found in the Autumn/Winter issue of RPOAS News. Congratulations to one of our newest members, Andy Malcolm, on his new role with the Charity!

REMEMBER, you must join up and pay monthly to access treatment as a retired officer. Download application forms from the PTC website. To apply for treatment, either as an in-patient or out-patient, download a form from the PTC website. One of our life members applied for in patient physio treatment in August and was given a date 3 weeks ahead so a very quick turnaround once your application is approved.

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. 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



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our Admin Assistant Tracy McKenzie.
There is also a lottery update within
the magazine.

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**

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Bryan Lowe, Andy
McGuirk and Andy Malcolm 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.

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.**

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 Autumn 2022 issue has now been
circulated and also posted out to our
non- e mail members.

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.

BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Our next newsletter will be circulated
locally in December 2022. Input
welcome!!

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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



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THANK YOU FROM SECRETARY

Following stage 2 knee surgery on 27 June, I am finally on the road to recovery. After two and a half years of agony, during which I learned how to protect my painful knee, it's a case of learning to walk normally all over again which sounds pretty simple but trust me, it's extremely challenging. Your kind wishes were once again appreciated.

Lesley

THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANISERS

It's fantastic to see our **Golf Section** and **Walking Group** back in full swing. Appreciation goes to **Davie Jones** for taking on the role of Golf Secretary following Malcolm Roy's departure after many years, and to **Moira Dunn** for getting members back out stretching their legs on some lovely routes within our area.

GENEROUS DONATION TO CENTRAL BRANCH IN MEMORY OF ALISTAIR

We were of course shocked and saddened to lose beloved member and friend **Alistair Cordiner** at the age of 70 in February 2021, just weeks after the death of his wife, Ann.

Following his death, Alistair's daughter Victoria shared that her father had so enjoyed lunches and visits with old colleagues that it was his sincere wish to leave a donation to Central Branch in his will.



Ann and Alistair Cordiner

There was never a more enthusiastic volunteer than Alistair. No sooner would a circulation go out to members regarding a lunch or a visit than Alistair would immediately respond, offering transport to all he could fit into his large comfy vehicle.

Eighteen months after his death, I received a cheque in the post which brought tears to my eyes. A cheque in Alistair's memory for the substantial sum of **£2,500** to be used towards lunches and outings by the Branch.

Alistair participated in Branch activities with his trademark good humour and chatty nature, and nothing was ever too much trouble for him, particularly when he acted as chauffeur for our senior members. He



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meant a lot to those of us who shared his company, and his generous donation is a poignant reflection of how much the Branch meant to Alistair during his retirement.

I have been in touch with Alistair's daughter, Victoria, to express my sincere appreciation on behalf of the Branch.

DIARY DATES

13 September 2022 – Golf Outing.

22 September at 12 noon – Lunch at the Hollybank, Stirling. Same details as 22 June 2022.

27 September 2022 – Walking Group – Linlithgow Loch.

16 or 23 November 2022 - Branch AGM at the Jim McKellar Scout Hall, Denny, at 6.30 p.m. **(DATE AND DETAILS TBC)**

6 December 2022 – Annual Christmas Lunch for Older Members at Torwood Garden Centre.

CENTRAL BRANCH WALKING GROUP

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

Our walk at the end of June saw us at Gartmorn Dam, Sauchie.

Clackmannanshire has a rich mining history and many signs of this heritage are still visible. None are so impressive as Gartmorn Dam, lying at the heart of the local 370 acre Country Park and Nature Reserve.



The 170 acre reservoir was engineered by Sir John Erskine, the 6th Earl of Mar to power the pumps which drained his Sauchie Mines.

The area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is an important site for migratory wildfowl in the winter months. Many birds also live at Gartmorn all year round and breed there in the summertime.

Our weather was not great for this walk and it showed in our numbers. However, it was still enjoyed by those attending and our four-legged friends - Jack Russell Archie, Retriever Yoko and Border Terrier Teddy - as was our lunch at the Mansfield Arms afterwards.

Many thanks to our regular photographer, Bill McLauchlan.



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Our next outing takes us on a trip round Linlithgow Loch.

All are welcome, walks are not too challenging and the banter always good. Look forward to hopefully seeing you soon. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. and if you want to know more. please get in touch.





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Our walk on 31 August saw us visit Plean Country Park when weather was much improved from previous walk.





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Please contact me at
mdunno1@mdunno1.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.

Moirra D

CENTRAL BRANCH

FINAL GOLF OUTING OF 2022

Our final outing will be at **Falkirk
Golf Club (Carmuir)** on **Tuesday,
13 September 2022.**

The format will be singles stableford
and we will be playing for the George
Thomson Memorial Plate.

Can we meet at the Club at 9 a.m. for
registration and coffee/tea and rolls.

The first tee time will be at 10 a.m.

After play we will have a brief
presentation followed by a two-course
meal.

The club have discounted the price to
£30 for non-members and £16 for
members.

Buggies have also been discounted to
£15. These are very popular so anyone
looking to use a buggy must book it
asap to ensure one is made available.

It's always good to catch up with
former colleagues and these days are
great for a chat and some friendly
competition.

Everyone is welcome.

For those wishing to attend please
contact **Davie Jones** by
email davidjonesdj@icloud.com
or on his Mobile Tel No
07488360481.



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JULY GOLF OUTING



Golfers flank Jim Hannah ahead of the Jim Hannah invitation pairs, organised by Davie Jones and played at Falkirk Golf Club in July 2022 in fine weather.

Winners of the Jim Hannah Trophy:

Andy McGuirk and David Gowans (above with Jim)
2nd: Davie Jones and Nicky Barr
3rd: Ian Shaw and Brian Coyle

JUNE LUNCH

BRANCH LUNCH –

HOLLYBANK

We thoroughly enjoyed lunch at the Hollybank on 22 June 2022 as can be seen in photographs from the day.



Andy and Helen Chalmers, John Wilson and Jim Grant.



Ken Pratt and Leslie Cumpstey



Helen Wright, Matt Morrow & Gordon McKenzie



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**Gordon and Linda McKenzie, Ian
& Helen Wright**



Archie Murray



A Murray & Bill Strang



Scrumptious!



Marion Jackson & Joyce Hunter

Our next lunch which will be held at the **Hollybank in Stirling on 22 September 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



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offer transport to any member requiring same.

Lesley

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR OLDER MEMBERS – TORWOOD GARDEN CENTRE

We are delighted that the lunch for our senior members will go ahead on **Tuesday, 6 December 2022 at 12 noon**, for the first time since 2019.

Please contact the Secretary to book a place. If you require transport to and from the event, please let me know. Similarly, if you can offer transport, please let me know.

ANNUAL LEAVE 2022

After missing being away from home on holiday during lockdown, Gwen and I finally had a good reason to escape. Her son Mark, who has lived in Toronto for the past six years, was getting married to his fiancée Laura – in Italy! (her parents are Italian). The date was set at 10th August 2022.

We had arranged to have four nights in Florence, then travel 80 miles south to the wedding venue, a villa in Castiglione del Lago.



Former Chairman Bill Culbard and his wife Gwen in Florence for a family wedding.

Florence is a beautiful place, with lots to see and visit, and we also arranged a day trip to Siena and San Gimignano, both well worth the visit.

Three people carriers were hired to take the wedding party and luggage, and we were accompanied by another couple of similar age (whose wedding we are attending in September)! The celebrations were arranged by a wedding planner, and the whole event was quite spectacular. It was held outside in the lovely lawns, where we all sat on cushions in the amphitheatre, and enjoyed the show. As it took place in the early evening, it was followed by dinner, again *al fresco*, including the cooking. Later, there was dancing to the music of an



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excellent five-piece band. The evening's entertainment culminated around midnight, with a spectacular fireworks display.

The following day, there was a pool party, where a few of the guests took it literally, and a lovely lunch, after which we headed back to Florence by train, and flew home the following day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To all members who celebrate a birthday over the next few months, especially Leslie Cumpstey who is 95 years young at the beginning of September.

Good health for the year ahead.

OUR SENIOR MEMBER

Leslie Cumpstey celebrates his 95th birthday on 1 September. On 31 August, former Chairman Bill Culbard, Vice Chair Moira Dunn and Committee member Mike Mill entertained Leslie and Inspector Marie White (who recently transferred) to lunch in Stirling.

As can be seen from the photographs, a good time was had by all!



Leslie and Inspector Marie White



Marie and Bill



Mike, Leslie, Marie and Bill



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Mike and Leslie

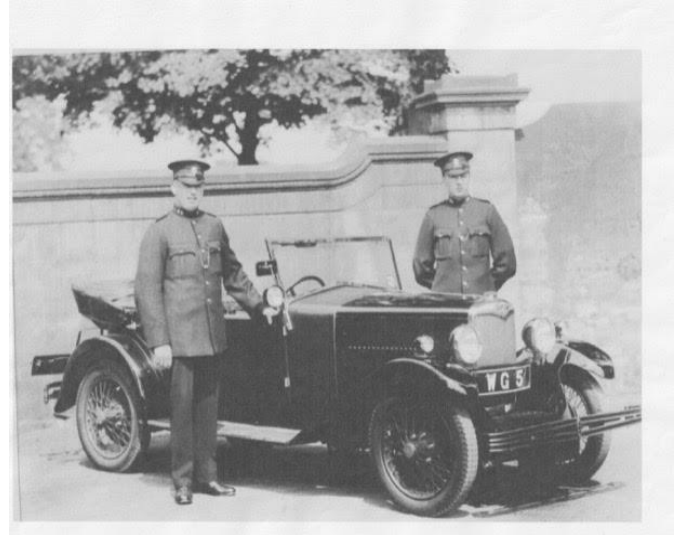
NEW LIFE MEMBERS FOR 2022

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

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS



Many thanks to Margaret, daughter of the late George Porteous who sent in some interesting old photographs, a selection of which appear above.



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COST OF LIVING CRISIS

BACKGROUND

It is no exaggeration to say that we currently face a cost of living crisis unseen for at least 40 years. Inflation has now passed the 10% mark, and it is quite possible we will see it reaching 13% or even higher in the New Year. Interest rates are going up (and may well hit 4% by 2023). Essential foodstuffs are rising in price by the day, and the cost of energy has already ascended to crisis levels. The so-called "energy cap" (covering electricity and gas) was raised by an incredible 80% last week, which will impact consumers from 1 October onwards. Those dependent upon oil, tank gas, or biomass, are also experiencing vast increases, and even coal is predicted to pass the £36 a bag mark early in January (due to coal fired power stations coming back online.) Without government intervention, this will not be the end of the spiral of increases, and numerous agencies, including my own, are working very hard indeed to get urgent action from the politicians.

I do think that we will see some substantive action very shortly but, in the meantime, here is a summary of the assistance which is available, dependent upon individual circumstances, as at date of writing - (31st August 2022) - **there may be changes by the time this is circulated.**

CURRENT POSITION

Energy Bill Support - From October onwards, for a period of 6 months, **all**

of us irrespective of income or savings, will receive a credit to our electricity account, totalling £400 - £66 pcm in October and November, and £67 pcm from December through March. This may not be a vast sum, but it will help.

Top-up to Winter Fuel Payment -

If you are of State Pension age, you should be receiving the annual Winter Fuel Payment. You qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment if both the following apply:

- you were born on or before 25 September 1956
- you lived in the UK for at least one day during the week of 19 to 25 September 2022 - this is called the 'qualifying week'

The payment is usually £200 per annum (paid before Christmas) or £300 if you are 80 or over. This year you will get a further £300. Remember this is per household so, if you are a couple, it will be split between you equally. The majority of couples will therefore get either £500 total (or £600 if over 80). You normally do not need to claim, but make sure you are getting this payment, and if you need any help, please contact the **RPOAS Transition and Wellbeing team.**

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE -

This may well be applicable to some widows / widowers (or perhaps people you know).

- Households on means tested benefits will receive a payment of £650 this year, made in two instalments. This includes all households



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receiving the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit

Pension Credit

This can get complicated but, as always, **Transition & Wellbeing** are very happy to assist. And as a matter of note, if you know any widows / widowers, or perhaps older friends and relatives, it is always worth checking on entitlements to **Pension Credit**. Please get in touch if you want assistance / guidance.

PROVISION FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

- People across the UK who receive the following disability benefits will receive a one-off payment of £150 from September:
 - **Disability Living Allowance**
 - **Personal Independence Payment**
 - **Attendance Allowance**
 - **Scottish Disability Benefits**

- **Armed Forces Independence Payment**
- **Constant Attendance Allowance**
- **War Pension Mobility Supplement**

Another point worth noting is in relation to Attendance Allowance - this is ***not*** means-tested and anyone meeting the criteria (Attendance Allowance helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you) should get in touch. It opens the door to numerous other entitlements as well.....

WARM HOME DISCOUNT SCHEME - This is a "one-off" payment available to people on low incomes, or those in receipt of the Guarantee Credit element of **Pension Credit**. It is £140 and the scheme reopens in November. Whilst this might not be available to many of our members, it could well be open to widows / widowers, so please get in touch if you have any questions.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

The Scottish Government has introduced one or two other benefits, which may be open to those on low incomes, or experiencing hardship. The Child Winter Heating Assistance Payment is designed to help disabled children, young people and their families with heating costs in winter, and the Home Heating Support Fund is intended to assist those



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"experiencing significant financial hardship".

Two excellent advice sources, which you may care to use are:

Home Energy Scotland

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org>
/ **0808 808 2282**

Age Scotland

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/information-advice/> **0800 12 44 222**

Age Scotland can advise on all relevant entitlements and benefits, and **Home Energy Scotland** can provide access to energy saving measures, as well as possible funding for some energy-related home improvements.

This is the **summary as at 310822**. There will undoubtedly be further developments - soon - but in the meantime, I hope this is helpful.

Can I just finish with a **SCAM WARNING**. As we all know, every time there is an opportunity, criminals emerge from the woodwork. I have heard of people getting scam / phishing calls and emails purporting to be from legitimate sources, and all of them are trying to get your data to commit fraud. Please be extremely careful, never, ever let anyone access your computer, and never give out personal or financial data just because someone asks for it.

Iain Gregory
RPOAS Signposter



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OBITUARIES

FAREWELL TO

Former Constable 219

Robert (Bob) Leslie

Sadly, we lost a former colleague and friend Bob Leslie in June 2022. For those of us long enough in the tooth, we can fondly remember Bob who undoubtedly, was one of the job's characters.

Born in Elgin, Bob was brought up on his parent's farm in Duffus and educated at Hopeman Primary and Elgin High School. He left school at the age of 15 to work on the family farm but realised he wanted to expand his horizons and in his mid-teens, Bob joined the RAF serving at various air bases across the UK. He left the RAF several years later and on returning to the family farm, he was encouraged to join former Stirling and Clackmannan Constabulary by the local bobby. Bob went on to sit and pass the standard entrance test at his local police station which was invigilated by the local officer's wife!

In 1959, Bob reported for interview at old Randolphfield, where he was appointed Constable, issued with a uniform and told to report to Grangemouth for nightshift duty that

night. Bob later worked at Falkirk and Bannockburn before he transferred to the Force Traffic Department in 1961.

Bob married Anne in 1962 and in 1964, they were allocated their first police house at 28 Drumpark Street, St. Ninians, where they became our family next door neighbours and life-long family friends. We learned that Bob's mum had taught our dad at Drainie Public School, Lossiemouth - a small world indeed.

During this time, Bob was seconded to the former Scottish Crime Squad based at Airdrie where he was required to significantly change his appearance and grow his hair and a beard. Often away on a plot for days at a time, Bob and Anne knew it was time for Bob to return to the Force when their young daughter Shona told her mum that a strange man was in their house!

Bob had a passion for driving, cars and working on engines. In the late 60's, Bob's other favourite lady was named 'Lily the Pink', an old car he co-owned with a neighbour and used for stock car racing at Corbieewood. Bob often drove Lily which was painted in bubble-gum pink, under the name of Leslie Roberts. For those of us who attended Corbieewood on Sunday afternoons, we will remember the roar of the engines, the smell of burning oil and the bumps as the cars sped around the track with spectators cheering on from behind a rope alongside the



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racing track. No health and safety in those days!

Bob remained in the Traffic Department for the remainder of his service undertaking force wide patrol duties (cars and motorcycles), a period as a Force Driving Instructor and latterly, as the motorway patrol officer in the Force Accident Unit, Call Sign Tango 22.

Following his retirement in 1989, Bob went on to become an HGV Driving Instructor and later, a driver with M Line Coaches based in Alloa.

Bob and Anne enjoyed many holidays abroad and in later years, they loved extended stays in Cyprus, escaping the worst of the winter weather. They enjoyed many years touring with their motor home and latterly, spending time at their home from home caravan based in Forfar.

Bob is survived by Anne, son Bobby, daughter Shona, son-in-law Scott and grandchildren Bethany and Andrew. He was very proud of all his family and their life achievements. In later life, Bob and Anne were delighted and hugely proud to attend Bethany, and later Andrew's, passing out parades in the Royal Navy at Plymouth. Treasured family memories.

Bob lived a good life and is very much missed.

You have put in a good shift.

Rest easy, Tango 22.

Jill Dewar

DR IAN THOMAS OLIVER QPM

82 years

Retired in 1998

It was with sadness that we learned of the death in July 2022 of our former Chief Constable Ian Oliver QPM.

A tribute to Ian will be carried in the next issue of the newsletter in December 2022.

The deepest sympathy of the Branch has been extended to Elsie (a member of our Branch) and the family.





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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.