



RPOAS
CENTRAL BRANCH
NOVEMBER 2022 NEWS



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A MESSAGE FROM

VICE CHAIR MOIRA DUNN

Hi Everyone

2022 is racing on and we are heading for our AGM with Christmas just round the corner!

We are grateful to Superintendent Mandy Paterson of Police Scotland for facilitating our use of the Lecture Theatre within Randolphfield for our AGM.

For those attending, please park around the back where there is easier access to the theatre and Sgt Alan Imrie will be waiting to let us in.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Till then all the best.

Moira D

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POLICE TREATMENT CENTRE

The latest update from the PTC can be found in the Autumn/Winter issue of RPOAS News.

REMEMBER, you must join and donate 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.

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



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MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM ANNUAL FEE. YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER ON 1 JANUARY OF THE YEAR YOU REACH 80 - IF YOU JOINED RPOAS 10 OR MORE YEARS BEFORE THE YEAR OF YOUR 80TH BIRTHDAY.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Kevin Chase, Gordon Dick and Danny Doyle 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 updates from the PTC and the SPPA 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 Spring 2023 issue will be in circulation at the end of February/beginning of March 2023. Adverts and interesting articles are always welcome. Please send on to me at lascentralbranch@gmail.com

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

DIARY DATES

23 November 2022 - Branch AGM at the former Police HQ, Randolphfield at 6.30 p.m.

6 December 2022 - Annual Christmas Lunch for Older Members at Torwood Garden Centre - 12 noon start.

URGENT VACANCIES

RPOAS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

JOB DESCRIPTION

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The role of the Executive Secretary are multifarious and not confined to taking minutes of meetings, acting as the Association's Chief Executive Officer as the administrative linchpin of the Association and through whom all



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Association Executive business requires to be processed.

The principle role of the Executive Secretary is to support and be supported by the President in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Executive Board. The responsibilities of the Executive Secretary include:

- making all the arrangements for meetings (booking the room, arranging for equipment and refreshments, organising facilities for those with special needs, etc.)
- preparing agendas, and circulating them and any supporting papers in good time
- receiving agenda items from other AEC Members
- ensuring that AEC and associate meetings are quorate
- minuting AEC and associate meetings and circulating the draft minutes as appropriate
- ensuring that the minutes are processed and properly adopted
- checking that AEC Members and others as appropriate have carried out actions formally agreed
- circulating the agendas and minutes of the annual general meeting and any special or extraordinary general meetings
- sitting on all sub-committees and disciplinary panels as appropriate
- acting as the Association's approved signatory in relation to all accepted legal documents, contracts and other papers.

GENERAL:

By virtue of office an Ex-officio member of all sub-committees/working groups formed by the AEC

EXECUTIVE TREASURER

The role of the Executive Treasurer is to maintain

- the financial records of the Association showing all of the intromissions,
- to present written up-to-date financial reports at meetings of the Association's AEC and at any time on request
- to prepare annual accounts
- to present fully prepared annual accounts and supporting papers for annual inspection by the constitutionally appointed Book Examiners
- to present examined and signed annual accounts to the Associations Annual Conference Meeting

In the process of undertaking the maintenance of accurate and up-to-date financial accounts:

- administering such bank and other financial accounts approved and operated in the name of the Association
- pay in a timeous manner all properly incurred invoices and financial claims made against the Association.



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- record, make bank lodgments and receipt in respect of all income received by the Association.

GENERAL:

Accounting records and supporting material shall be maintained for a minimum period of 6 years, ie current year plus five previous years accounting records.

By virtue of office an Ex-officio member of all sub-committees/working groups formed by the AEC.

Both of the above positions while being on a voluntary basis qualify for an Honorarium

Contact Tracy McKenzie if interested.

AN UPDATE ON THE AUTUMN STATEMENT FROM RPOAS SIGNPOSTER IAIN GREGORY WHO IS A FORMER CITIZENS ADVICE OFFICER

The State Retirement Pension WILL rise by 10.1% in April 2023. That is clearly good news. A huge relief to pensioners.

And, as a bit of a surprise, the same 10.1% increase will also apply to Pension Credit. If you are a pensioner, or have friends and family who are, check to see if they are entitled to

claim PC. It opens the door to a few other useful things as well. Go to the following link and check:

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

Means-Tested benefits (for example Universal Credit) and Disability benefits are also to rise in the same way. Good news there as well for lots of people, and the second measure which I said was vital. The "Benefit Cap" will also be increased in line with inflation. Minimum wage (for those 23 and over) will rise from £9.50 to £10.42 an hour from April. Have a look at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for all the rates.

Cost of living payments - we are told that in 2023 there will be a payment of £900 for people of working age, on means-tested benefits; £300 for pensioner households, and £150 for people receiving Disability benefits. Details to follow.

So far, so good, but please remember that these rises do not happen until April 2023. Also, inflation hit 11.1% in October, and I do not see it falling below 7.5 to 8% in 2023.

So now the not so good news. Energy prices are insane - we all know that. The present "price cap" expires in April next year and is set at £2500 per annum for a "typical household". The Chancellor has said that this will increase to £3000 from April 2023. No easy way of working things out, but just take your average current monthly bill and add 20% as a (very) rough guide.

Not good at all is the fact that the Income Tax Personal Allowance (the



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point above which you start to pay tax) will be frozen for two years from April. This is effectively a "stealth tax" as, if you get a pay increase, you are going to pay tax on all of it, without any "offset". We have our own tax rates in Scotland, but the personal allowance is the same, so this will affect us.

Interestingly, the starting point for UK top rate tax (for very high earners) was reduced from £150,000 pa to £125,140 pa (again from April) with the rate set at 45%. In Scotland we currently pay 46% at £150,000. I foresee a change coming along there.....

The main National Insurance, Inheritance Tax, and Dividend thresholds are now going to be frozen until April 2028, so effectively the odd "stealth" tax rise there as well.

And amongst the background noise, I found this: "The annual exempt amount for CGT (Capital Gains Tax) which is the tax you have to pay from selling a "chargeable asset", will be cut from £12,300 to £6000 in 2023, and down to a - ridiculous - £3000 from April 2024". This affects more people than you might think. Any issues then see a local accountant for advice.....

Finally, it now seems that Zero Emission vehicle owners will have to pay Road Tax (VED) from 2025. Details not yet known, but I could have written that one down as a certainty.....

So, there we go - like the Curate's Egg - good in parts. There was of course a lot more than this, but I think these are

the main points affecting most of us. I just hope that business owners are going to get a few more positive boosts over the coming year as well, because they could well do without the rise in Corporation Tax and, once again, councils must think very carefully indeed about how much they increase Council Tax next year.....

CENTRAL BRANCH WALKING GROUP

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

All are welcome, walks are not too challenging and the banter always good. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. Unfortunately, the group is not quite back on track but hoping normal service will be resumed soon!

Should you want to join or have suggestions for a walk please let me know.

Walking is a great way of keeping fit and improving mental health with a group of like-minded people.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Please contact me at
mdunno1@mdunno1.plus.com
mobile **07754 316 778**

Take care till then.

Moira D



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SCOTLAND'S MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

As I frequently discover, it's so difficult to identify volunteers so a huge thank you to **Alan Blue, Jack Marshall and Archie Murray** who recently represented the Branch and joined RPOAS colleagues from across Scotland at this worthwhile two-day long course which was held at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld.

The course was run by Sgt Laura Gibson of Police Scotland. Further feedback will be available in due course as the guys are just back and have yet to update fully on this outstanding course.

FALKIRK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

I met a couple of retired members recently and they asked about local history stuff. The following web address

<https://falkirklocalhistory.club/>

will gain you access to Falkirk Local History Society webpage. There are numerous articles available to read as well as some photographs and meeting dates information. As the name suggest it is mainly information in the Falkirk area.

Regards,
Allan Meek

FINAL GOLF OUTING OF 2022

Our final outing was held at **Falkirk Golf Club (Carmuir)** on **17 October 2022**.

The winner was Alan Laird. Second was a visiting retired Tayside officer Ronnie Menzies. Third was John Strain, these two are pictured together.





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Winner Alan Laird (left) is presented with the winning plate by Davie Jones.

Golfers, please contact **Davie Jones** at davidjonesdj@icloud.com or on Mobile Tel No 07488360481

BRANCH LUNCH –

HOLLYBANK

We thoroughly enjoyed lunch at the Hollybank on 22 September 2022 as can be seen in photographs from the day. Members who attended were asked to remember Alistair Cordiner whose family's kind donation covered the cost of lunch on this occasion as it was the first such event since receipt of the generous donation.



Cecil Ferguson is presented with his life membership certificate by Vice Chair Moira Dunn.



Peter Macdonald and Leslie Cumpstey



Bill Culbard and Cecil Ferguson



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Frances Ferguson, Mary and Harry



John Wilson



Mary and Harry Arbuckle



Leslie Cumpstey and Moira Dunn



Gwen and Bill Culbard



Marion Jackson and Joyce Hunter



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Liz Thom and Archie Murray



Bill Strang and Ken Pratt

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR
OLDER MEMBERS (80
years and over)
AT 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.

23 have signed up so far and all are catered for travel wise.

Please contact Lesley to book a place: E mail lascentralbranch@gmail.com or 07825957429. If you require transport to and from the event, please let me know. Similarly, if you can offer transport, please let me know.

**UPDATE FROM INSPECTOR
MARIE WHITE**

Life member Leslie Cumpstey celebrated his 95th birthday on 1 September.



Farewell Friends...

I have been asked to write to let you know that I will no longer be your point of contact for the Central Branch of RPOAS. At the end of March 2022, I moved to a new role within the Professional Standards Department. I am very much enjoying the challenge, learning new things and it is certainly an interesting role; however, the move unfortunately means I no longer have the same links to C Division (Central



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Scotland Police) and would therefore be doing you a disservice to continue as your point of contact.

I remember the day that I agreed to take over from Detective Superintendent Wilson Gill, who was himself retiring at the time. I did wonder what I was letting myself in for. I then attended an AGM (2018) and was welcomed straight away.

I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the various events I have attended, listening to some great 'job' stories, the visits to Stirling and Falkirk Offices and I have made some good friends along the way. I particularly enjoyed the lunch events at Torwood and the Gallery and I felt really honoured to be invited to Leslie Cumpstey's 95th birthday celebrations at the Birds and Bees Restaurant in Stirling at the beginning of September.

I have benefited from being part of your group more than you can imagine and have been absolutely humbled by all the unseen, thankless work being carried out behind the scenes to support members. The visits to those who are sick or infirm, the time spent looking after or helping others, arranging social events, general communication - checking in on people and the representation at funerals at the saddest times. This means so much, to so many, and is quite selfless. So, I want to say a particular thank you to the small group

of people 'behind the scenes' who are doing so much for those who need them – you know who you are!

Whilst I am sad to go, I am leaving you in excellent hands. Superintendent Mandy Paterson has volunteered to take up the mantle – many of you may already know her and she has served in Central for most of her career and is currently based at Stirling. I am very sure she will keep you abreast of everything you need to know. She is also much nicer than me!

I will no doubt hear how everyone is doing and will keep in touch! In the meantime, thank you for allowing me to be part of your group. I might return to C Division one day!

Stay safe and I wish you all the very best.

Marie

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS
FOR 2023 –**

80th birthday coming up

Bill Brunton, Bill Culbard, Gerry Dewar, Charlie Gill, George Matchett, Mike Mill, Bob Moir, Robert Nesbitt and Tom Rintoul.

Please remember to stop any future standing order bank payments to the Branch, while taking into account if



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you are a lottery member, the £12 fee for this is deducted in December.

(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.)

**THANK YOU FROM
BRANCH SECRETARY**



Sincere thanks to members who have been in touch following the announcement that I was standing down from the secretary's role after 13 years.

It has been a very long time and it is only fitting that I pay warm tribute to my companions along the way from the enthusiastic early days of

Chairman Lance Rattray who grafted tirelessly alongside me from 2009 onwards to get the Branch back on track. His organisational skills transformed the Branch and the valued telephone co-ordinator system he set up to ensure inclusion for non e mail members remains in place today.



Another literally life-saving service Lance set up was a dedicated volunteer team who transported one of our members to and from hospital treatment in Glasgow daily over an extended period.

Many afternoons were also occupied visiting older colleagues or presenting life membership certificates. Attending Executive meetings and Conference and so much more besides.

Kindness in another's trouble indeed. Thank you, Lance, for all you did for us. Very happy memories and some fabulous outings and visits for members when many contributed and worked well together.



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Looking forward to spending more carefree days at the beach with this special girl.

An energetic and exuberant puppy bounded onto the stage next as former dog handler **Harry Arbuckle** succeeded Lance in 2012. His trademark good humour entertained as we teamed up to visit older members throughout our area on a weekly basis and met members at the regular lunch events. The visits to elderly members, many who lived alone, were greatly appreciated.

Harry also set up the National Golf Championship which brought together members from all over Scotland for the annual event. A mammoth task but so worthwhile for its camaraderie and sportmanship.

Harry's hidden acts of kindness speak volumes to his generous nature. Thinking nothing of driving from Crieff to Falkirk to collect the elderly Marion Brown to escort her to lunches wherever they happened to be, taking her safely home and then back to Crieff, all with a smile on his face. To this day, despite stepping down as chairman 8 long years ago, Harry continues to ensure older members can attend lunches by travelling from Crieff to Bo'ness to provide transport both ways to our over 80s and we look forward to seeing him at Torwood next month for our Christmas event.

Cameron Shanks volunteered to step up next, a remarkable commitment considering he was still in full-time employment at the Police College. Retired dog handler Cameron has service to the police and to his former colleagues written in his DNA, from his teenage years as a young cadet through to the present day. I particularly remember the delicious home-baking we were treated to during the many visits to our fabulous life members, all of whom have since sadly left us.

In recent years, Cameron has unfortunately suffered from poor health which has cast a long shadow over his daily life and it's fantastic to see him continuing to thrive and do so well against all the odds. As a fundraiser for the Maggie's Centre,



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Cameron has repaid the charity a million times over. Keep well, Cammy.

In 2016, **Bill Culbard** assumed the crown and quickly put his personal experience of ill health to good use, becoming a faithful and empathetic visitor to sick and bereaved members over the next few years until everything ground to a halt when the pandemic hit. Coping with recent personal health issues, Bill reluctantly stood down from the Committee in 2021. Witnessing him at a recent lunch with his wife Gwen, it was good to see him looking so well again.

Vice Chair **Moira Dunn** set up the Branch Walking Group in 2015 and joined the Committee by invitation at that time. A very capable lady, Moira is also an experienced puppy walker with Guide Dogs for the Blind. With the loss of Chairman Bill Culbard during the pandemic when no formal AGM could be held due to government rules, Moira has assumed the role during the interim period and we owe her a huge vote of thanks for keeping our decreased committee going as we head towards the AGM on 23 November. Moira does not relish thanks or reward but as I am out of reach, I make no apology for repeating myself by saying once again, Les would be so hugely proud of you and we are too.

Keeping the Branch Finances in good order from 2010 until 2020 was

Honorary member Keith Gray. Grandson of Davie Findlay, Keith gave freely of his time and expertise and was much respected by those he worked alongside within the Branch. With multiple bank statements arriving monthly in the post, keeping the books is a never-ending task and Keith's calm demeanour and conscientious toiling undoubtedly made life less stressful for me. The dedication required is too much for one individual so THANK YOU, Keith. You were amazing!

For my own part, I hope I have achieved what I set out to do when I joined the Committee in 2007: which was simply to keep members informed, particularly of deaths and funeral arrangements to allow us all to pay our respects.

Wishing you all the very best and hoping to keep in touch with those of you I am privileged to call friends.

Lesley Struth



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OBITUARIES

REMEMBERING

RICHARD HENRY OLVER

1937 - 2022



Harry O as he was known, was born in Alexandra Street, Devonside, Tillicoultry.

He attended Tillicoultry primary school and Tillicoultry junior secondary school.

On leaving school, he secured an apprentice engineering position with the NCB at the Whins, Alloa and completed his apprenticeship at Glenochil Mine, Tullibody.

He was to be transferred to Comrie, Fife but as he did not have a car, he decided it was too far to cycle.

He resigned from the NCB and joined Stirling and Clackmannan Police Force.

He was stationed in Alloa, Tullibody, Dollar, Tillicoultry and latterly served in the role of Court Officer at Alloa Sheriff Court, retiring at the age of 55 years.

Harry was one of the very few officers who completed his full service in the county of his birth, Clackmannanshire. He was a well kent face in the area and on retiring, he was asked to temp as groundsman at Dollar Academy and when that finished, he was asked to remain as janitor. He enjoyed both positions.

Harry was a keen gardener, enjoyed fishing trips to Thurso and helping a long-term friend at his kitchen business in Stirling.

Being a sun worshipper, he also enjoyed annual holidays to foreign climes with his wife Morag.

Harry's funeral was held on Tuesday, 8 November at Tillicoultry Parish Church and thereafter at Tillicoultry Cemetery. A large number attended to pay their respects.

Harry O is survived by his wife Morag, two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren to whom we extend our sympathy.

Hector Nicolson



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JIM DOW

JIM DOW, 75 years, passed away at home on 8 November 2022.

Jim was predeceased by his wife Lorna in 2021.

Jim's police service was predominantly within 'A' Division in plain clothes with his final role as uniform inspector at Alloa.

The sympathy of the Branch is extended to Jim's daughter Karen and family.

The funeral will be private when he will be reunited with his late wife and daughter within St Thomas cemetery, Cambusbarron.

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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