

RPOAS CENTRAL BRANCH

Newsletter Spring 2023



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Branch Secretary's Message

This is my first newsletter since being elected Branch Secretary in November and. It has been a trying few months for me in attempting to grasp the enormities of the job since Lesley gave up this mantle. Firstly, I would welcome all the new members who have joined since I took over. My enormous thanks are also to our Chair, Moira Dunn who, like me, was very hesitant in accepting our elected roles and who also took on board the additional task of Treasurer. My thanks also go to our other stalwart volunteer Committee members of Bill Culbard and Les Robertson. I was disappointed in the turn out at our AGM in November when only 14 members appeared. The venue of the Old CSP Headquarters at Randolphfield might not have suited everyone. Perhaps our next AGM in October 2023 might be better attended.

As many will see, the Committee now comprise of senior members some of whom, myself in particular, are now having difficulty in recognising many of the names who are now retiring. Because of this I am now asking for some of our newer members to throw their hats into the Association and help us out or advise in organising events/outings that are suitable for our newer membership.

I would ask our members to bear with our committee for a bit longer in order that we can organise other activities that will benefit us all.

Mike Mill

Message from Chair

We have been enjoying some lovely sunny weather of late and although still cold, we can now look forward to all that Spring brings.

Run down of year so far. Said a last farewell to Mike Keily and Matt Morrow in January. Bill Bruce having a private ceremony – my husband Les was stationed with Bill in 1968-70 and had a few stories to tell of "policing in what was then a tough mining village".

February saw me turn 70 – quite a shock to the system but passing on...! The Committee's first ever Zoom Meeting; the funeral of Alex MacMillan and the presentation of the Branch's donations to Maggie's and Strathcarron. (see photos attached).

I can't believe we are in March already, however, this month has seen Lesley Dodds and I enjoy a visit with Catriona MacMillan - she and Alex were involved and enjoyed taking part in the Walking Group which has sadly taken a back seat of late. Lesley Struth's excellent Magazine was distributed to those who requested a paper copy. If anyone would be able to help with future distributions, please get in touch with myself or another member of the committee – such help would be gratefully received. The Spring Senior Lunch will take place at Torwood Garden Centre on the 14th when it is anticipated 22 will attend.

Till next time, take care and enjoy all the newness and hope this season brings.

Kind Regards
Moira Dunn

RPOAS Message Circulation

A few members are reporting that they are not receiving messages. Some of the circulations are going into their spam boxes. I would ask that you check your spam boxes in case circulations are landing there.

Donations to Charitable Organisations

As is our normal practice at the AGM, the membership voted for Charities that might benefit from a small donation from the Branch. It was unanimously decided that a donation of £250 would go to Strathcarron Hospice and £250 to Maggie's.

On Tuesday 6th March 2023 a cheque for £250 was handed over to a representative from Maggie's and later another cheque for £250 was handed over to a representative from Strathcarron.

Both cheques were received with thanks.



Membership Fees

Members are reminded that the annual membership fee has been raised from £12 to £15 due to raised fees we pay to the National RPOAS. I would ask that those who pay using the Standing Order Mandate alter it to allow for the increase to commence July 2023.

Some members are still due for last year and I would ask that you check to see if payments have been made.

Fred Olson Visitation - "Balmoral" Cruise Ship - Rosyth Docks

The names of all MEMBERS who had submitted an interest in the visit on 22nd June 2023 had been submitted to Fred Olson.

I am pleased to say that all interested parties had been successful and forms had been sent to them to see if there was any cancellations.

PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEE

The Branch's TSB Bank Account details are –

**Name - Retired Police Officers Association Scotland
Central Branch**

Account No 82075363

Sort Code 87-64-01

Year runs from 1st July to 30th June. Fees have increased to £15 from 1st July. Please amend your existing standing order accordingly. If you require a Standing Order Mandate to set this up with your bank please let us know. Standing Orders are the most convenient form of payment both for you and us. Many thanks in advance.

PLEASE DO REMEMBER –

LIFE MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE ANNUAL FEE.
YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER IN THE JANUARY OF THE YEAR YOU REACH 80, IF YOU JOINED RPOAS 10 OR MORE YEARS BEFORE THE YEAR OF YOUR

NEW DIVISIONAL COMMANDER FOR FORTH VALLEY

We have a new Divisional Commander – Chief Superintendent Barry Blair.

Chief Supt Blair started his career in Central Scotland Police as PC443 in 1999. He has held a number of roles within local policing, CID and Public Protection.

He worked across the Forth Valley area, including roles as a Community Inspector, Divisional Response Inspector and, latterly as DCI Public Protection based out of the Forth Valley Hub, before moving on to roles outside the division, including Local Area Commander at West Lothian and as Superintendent in Criminal Justice Services.

Most recently working as the head of criminal justice transformation during which he led on Police Scotland's criminal justice response to the Covid pandemic.

We congratulate Chief Supt Blair on his promotion and thank him sincerely for his recent communication:

"Having started my policing career in this area, I am delighted to be back and as part of my role, I am really keen to support the association as best I can. If there is anything I can do to assist, please do not hesitate to get in touch".

POLICE TREATMENT CENTRE

If you do nothing else in retirement, an important benefit to give to your future self is to join the Police Treatment Centre. REMEMBER, you must join and donate a minimum of £4.50 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. It's a fabulous facility with amazing staff and we are so fortunate to have access to it on our doorstep.

LOTTERY

To join the RPOAS Lottery contact: Tracy McKenzie RPOAS Administrative Assistant at adminasst@rpoas.org.uk. At an annual cost of £12 you are supporting the Association as well as hopefully winning a prize!

To access the RPOAS website please log in to <http://www.rpoas.org.uk> then enter your Username – which is your unique membership number and Password – the default is your surname (e.g. Smith).

Current and past copies of RPOAS News Magazines are available to view and download on website. The website is regularly updated and posts information on benefits which can be accessed by members only.

Obituaries

One of my saddest duties as Secretary is to inform members of our colleagues who have passed away.

WILLIAM (BILL) BRUCE - Saturday, 14 January 2023

Bill served as P.C. in Balfroon, Fallin and Denny throughout the 1950 to 1970s. His father was always proud to say he was a good community policeman, particularly in the tough mining village where he served for 13 years. To this day Bill Jnr is told by many that Fallin was never the same after his father was transferred!

According to his family, one of Bill's most notable achievements while serving was receiving a commendation from the Secretary of State for Scotland in February 1972 for the apprehension of a man armed with a loaded shotgun on 6 November 1971.

Bill was predeceased by his wife Mary in 2007. To their surviving children, Bill, Brian, Margaret, and Linda we offer our deepest condolences.

MATTHEW (Matt) MORROW 19.6.48 – 15.12.22

Matt was born in Edinburgh on 19th June 1948. He joined the then Stirling and Clackmannan Police force as a Cadet before being appointed a Police Officer.

His first posting was to Grangemouth before being transferred in 1970 to the Traffic Department at Randolphfield, Stirling where he spent 15 years of his service. He was promoted to Sergeant and then Inspector where he was stationed at Stenhousemuir and then Chief Inspector. Matt retired in 1996 but continued at Randolphfield in a civilian role as an Office Manager retiring fully in 2011.

During Matt's police service, he was very involved in Church activities, particularly at the Allan Church Bannockburn where he first met his wife Senga. They were married in 1968 and later had two daughters Jill and Kirsty. During their marriage, both Matt and Senga involved themselves in the Church where Matt later became a Church Elder. Matt and Senga had three grandsons who they both adored before sadly, Senga passed away.

Matt was a popular and well-liked person, both as a Police Officer and community member. He never forgot the people he had worked with and was constantly giving advice and help to those who needed.

He will be greatly missed.



ALEXANDER DONALD MacMILLAN - Friday 20th January 2023

Alex along with his wife Caitriona were resident at Oakeshott Nursing Care Home, Stirling, where Caitriona is still residing.

Alex joined Stirling and Clackmannan Police Force in 1961 and served in Alloa, Tilllicoultry and the Traffic Department, Randolphfield, Stirling. His final time in the Police was spent on the Police Accident Unit until he retired in February 1989.

On his retirement, Alex, or as he was fondly known as Big Alex, was a very keen walker, who led many a walking group around the area. Colleagues recall the many times when he walked from his home to Randolphfield to start work in the Traffic Department



Obituaries (continued)

EX INSPECTOR DAVID HENDRY - on Thursday 16th February 2023.

It was with sadness that I reported the death of Ex CSP Inspector David Hendry (74) who died suddenly at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert,

David has suffered from Parkinsons Disease for several years and had been in Hospital for 3 weeks with an unrelated condition. David spent his early Police years in Balfron and Drymen where he worked with his friend Ivan Ruxton who had maintained a long acquaintance. He was well respected by everyone he worked with as the many comments on social media displayed.

David resided in Airth with his wife Helen and had 3 sons Gary, Richard and Steven.
Our thoughts are with his family.