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## **RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND**

### **Our Patron is HRH The Princess Royal**

### **CENTRAL BRANCH**

### **NEWS LETTER – JULY 2025**

**Chair – Tom Rintoul – [Tom.rintoul@outlook.com](mailto:Tom.rintoul@outlook.com)**  
**Secretary - Mike Mill - [mikemill233@gmail.com](mailto:mikemill233@gmail.com)**  
**Treasurer - Moira Dunn- [mo60du53@gmail.com](mailto:mo60du53@gmail.com)**  
**Committee- Jim Huskie, John Wright, Dave Jones, Ian Harper, Les Robertson**

#### **Chairman's Remarks**

We are more than halfway through the year and now appear to be having better weather. Some of the golf activities have started and others will take place soon. We sadly lost our senior member - Leslie Cumpstey - last month. However, on a brighter note, I heard that the relatives of Joseph Drake, who was killed on duty in 1967, have been awarded the Elizabeth Emblem - see below. People of my age and older will remember Joe.

We are still looking at other events which can take place and are looking for input from members on what activities they would like to see. Please let us know what you would like.

Thomas Rintoul

#### **Branch Secretary's Report**

At long last, summer has arrived. At this time, the Committee is organising a few events that might be of interest to our members. Dave Jones has already organised and completed one of the three Golf tournaments the Branch completes annually. The Jim Hannah pairs was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and was well supported and enjoyed by all participants. Another two are already in the stages of preparation -the Willie Wilson trophy on 31<sup>st</sup> July at Falkirk Carmuir and the George Thomson Memorial Trophy on 12<sup>th</sup> September at St. Fillans Golf Club. I do hope these events are well supported.

The Committee are also looking at visitations to a distillery, farmed salmon processing at Rosyth and perhaps another historic walk in the Stirling or Falkirk area. I would ask our membership to suggest other activities that might be of interest or ones that might stimulate more participation. Perhaps there may be a volunteer out there who might organise walks, dog training or competitive events e.g. ten pin bowling competition.

One particular disappointment this year was our annual Senior's lunch (over 80s) being cancelled due to a lack of numbers. Several regular members could not attend due to previous commitments, however, these events take some organising and having to cancel venues and catering is quite discouraging.

On a lighter note, my recent knee surgery has restricted my participation in events but with professional help from staff at the Police Treatment Centre, Auchterarder, my recovery was successfully and speedily progressed.

I wish you all a pleasant and carefree summer and hope to see you sometime.

Mike Mill

### **Treasurer's Report**

We currently have 287 members of Central Branch, 55 of whom are life members and do not pay for membership. Of the 232 who do, please check that your yearly standing order of £15 is paid to the RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND CENTRAL BRANCH, Sort Code: 87-64-01, Account No: 82075363. This is a TSB Account and has nothing to do with the Lottery which is run at a national level. Enjoy your summer.

Moirra Dunn

### **Members Who Have Or Will Attain The Age Of 80 Years**

The following RPOAS members who have been members for 10 years and are due to reach the grand old age of 80 years this year are listed below. As a result, they now become a Senior member and do not require to renew their annual fee of £15 and so they should now cancel any Standing Orders for future RPOAS fees. Congratulations to:

**Ronnie McClelland, Eileen Nimmo and John (Ian) Wright.**

### **New Members In 2025**

The Branch welcomes our new members who have joined since the start of the year – **Ian Donaldson, Kenneth Bain, Neil Wilson, Moira Johnson, Charles Ronald Wright, Lynne Macfadyen, David Aitken and Roy Lake.** We hope you enjoy your time in the Branch and perhaps join in and help with the activities.

### **Proposed Events For The Coming Year**

It is anticipated the Branch will organise a number of events during the year. Hopefully these will include visit(s) to local distilleries, historic walks and talks with Dr Murray Cook, our annual golf competitions and a seniors' lunch. Other events and visitations are also being researched and the Committee would also invite any member who can venture a suggestion to contact the Branch Secretary or any Committee member.

### **Golf Section**

Our Golf Convenor, Dave Jones, continues to organise the Golf Section and as mentioned in my initial report, has arranged RPOAS competitions for the coming season. The golf section is very well supported and has been a great success.

Thank-you Dave Jones.

### **Golf: Jim Hannah Pairs**

There was a fantastic turnout on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 for the Jim Hannah memorial pairs with 28 players taking part at Falkirk Golf Club. The weather was great as was the course which was a credit to the greens staff.

Some excellent scores were recorded and a winning score of 49 stableford points was achieved by John Strain and Davie Aitken. In second place was new member Lynne McFadyen and her playing partner Gordon Dick who recorded 46 points beating two teams on a similar score courtesy of a better inward half.

Great to see some well kent faces along with some new members taking part.

A big thanks to the Association and to retired officer Bob MacFarlane for sponsoring the event. Also thanks to Alan Laird and Lynne Macfadyen for providing prizes for closest to the pin on the 11th and 16th holes. Thanks also go to Falkirk Golf club for hosting us again and providing excellent catering.

We were joined by members of Jim's family for the presentation of prizes and Jim's daughter Wendy presented the winners with the trophy (see below).



Finally, thanks to everyone for attending and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next event on 31st July, details of this one will be coming soon.

### **Fund Raising - Scottish Police Benevolent Fund**

A very young Anthony Green (6 yrs old) decided to raise some money for the Scottish Police Benevolent Fund. In 2024 he visited Police Stations throughout Scotland raising money for the Fund. He has now set a new challenge of summiting Ben Nevis.

Branches were asked to support this young man's efforts and along with other Scottish RPOAS branches, our Committee donated £100 to Master Green's fund-raising.

We do hope that Central Branch members agree with the decision of the Committee.

## **Police Treatment Centres (PTC)**

Forgive me for continually posting the benefits of contributing to the Police Treatment Centres. Having recently visited the PTC after some knee surgery, I would urge all members to continue subscribing or if not already a member, then I would encourage you to join. Ageing does not come without some bodily ailments and indeed many of our younger serving members are not invincible. The Police Treatment Centres (PTC) continue to welcome Retired Officers for treatment at their Centres in Harrogate and at Castlebrae, Auchterarder.

For existing members, the monthly Direct Debit fee is £4.50 (the price of a cup of coffee). Those members who are not participating at present can still sign up and contribute £4.50 monthly although a 12 month waiting time will apply before they are eligible for treatment. Although this restriction appears off-putting, one only has to consider the cost of current physiotherapy, consultancy and treatment fees to see the benefits of membership. Anyone interested should contact the Branch Secretary for information or the PTC website at [www.thepolicetreatmentcentres.org](http://www.thepolicetreatmentcentres.org)

## **Police Memorial Service**

The Scottish Police Memorial Service is at Tulliallan Police College in September and there will be a number of reps of the Association and its branches. At this time, we have no precise date. Any member wishing to attend should contact the Branch Secretary who can make arrangements for an entry pass.

## **Scottish Police Recreation Assoc. (SPRA)**

Members have the opportunity of joining SPRA. All retiring Police Scotland officers and staff are eligible to join SPRA on the payment of £15 per year. Membership opens access to all SPRA events, discount offers to gyms and golf memberships, discounted gift cards, cashback offers for supermarkets and many more benefits. – [www.sprapol.co.uk](http://www.sprapol.co.uk)

## **RPOAS Website**

Members are encouraged to visit the RPOAS website – [www.rpoas.org.uk](http://www.rpoas.org.uk) – where they will get up-to-date information on discounts, welfare and well-being support, etc. All you need is a user name (your RPOAS membership number) and your password (your surname starting with a capital letter). If you have forgotten your membership number, please get in touch with either Mike or Moira.

## **RPOAS Lottery**

To join the RPOAS Lottery, contact Tracy McKenzie the Administrative Secretary at [adminasst@rpoas.org.uk](mailto: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 into [www.rpoas.org.uk](http://www.rpoas.org.uk) then enter your User name – which is your membership number and Password- the default is your surname (start with a capital letter and then lower case). Current and past copies of RPOAS magazines are available to view and download on the website. The website is regularly updated and posts information on benefits which can be accessed by members only. Our Central Branch is not responsible for the Lottery and payment should not be made to our TSB account.

**From RPOAS Website:** [www.rpoas.org.uk](http://www.rpoas.org.uk)

### **Police Insure**

Police Insure are promoting the mantra *that 'if we can't beat your existing home insurance price and don't secure your business, we will pay you £50!'*

Specially discounted car, home and motorcycle Insurance. For all serving and retired Police officers, Police staff, Specials and families.

**(From RPOAS - As with all our members benefits we would expect our members to 'compare the market' before signing up to any product or offers.)**

### **New Picks at Motor Source Group**

Enjoy unbeatable savings this year, including £10,705 off the CUPRA Tavascan and £7,880 off the Volkswagen Golf R two of our most exciting offers yet! Our expert team is on hand to help you find the perfect car at the best possible price. Don't miss out, explore our latest offers today. Call 01522 500 055 or visit [www.motorsourcegroup.com](http://www.motorsourcegroup.com)

### **Things modest officers keep to themselves – but should they?**

While looking for events to put into the Newsletter, I recently asked members to offer events that might be of interest. One member did respond and suggested an event he was involved with might be of interest. In his own words, he did not normally talk about things like that and felt putting it in the newsletter now was not like boasting as, his wife told him, it was now ancient history and of no real interest to people. I disagree and with his permission give a brief synopsis of two events that led to a young off duty **Constable Bob Crawford** being commended for his courageous actions.

#### **Incident 1**

The incident occurred when PC Willie Nimmo and Bob were on duty in Raploch about midnight one night in 1968. They received a report of a house fire in Raploch Road in the old-style houses, a block of four flats with central close and stairway. Ambulance and Fire Services had been notified but they arrived first and found the fire was in the bottom right flat and neighbours told them it was occupied by a single male occupant. They went in and flat door was unlocked so they crawled into the living room where all the smoke was coming from and found the occupant lying unconscious partly on the sofa. The fire appeared to have taken hold on a nearby armchair. They grabbed the man and dragged him out of the flat and carried him on to the pavement where they found two Army corporals who were passing on their way back to Drip Camp. They said they were First Aid trained and took over the casualty while Willie and Bob went back and very quickly checked other rooms

to make sure there was no-one else in the house. Ambulance and Fire Brigade arrived and fire was quickly extinguished and confined to the living room.

The occupant recovered and the cause of the fire was a surfeit of alcohol and a dropped cigarette which set the armchair alight.

Both PC's Nimmo and Crawford were surprised later when they were commended in the Chief Constables Monthly Order. They were also awarded Certificates from the Society for Protection of Life from Fire and had to go to the Town Offices to be presented with their certificates. The two army lads were also commended for their actions at the same ceremony.

The presentation was also notable as after it they were offered a dram or two from the Provost and were on the point of refusing, as they were in uniform, when Superintendent Willie Rennie gave them permission to accept. Bob said that was the only time that happened in his entire career! A couple of weeks after the incident, the occupant of the flat, whose name he can't remember, came down to Raploch office and thanked them both personally which they appreciated.

#### Incident 2

While Bob was on holiday in Macrihanish, Argyll, he heard cries of help coming from a 10 year old girl who was obviously in difficulties in the heavy seas. He immediately swam towards her and caught hold but lost his grip when a wave hit him. Another swimmer also came to assist and together they managed to pull the girl to safety. Unfortunately, another swimmer, a middle-aged man, who also tried to assist in the rescue, drowned.

Bob was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on Vellum for his brave actions, as was his wife Catherine, who was also assisted in the rescue.

The photo shows Bob and his wife Catherine being presented with their certificates by Councillor James Marshall, Chairman of the Stirling and Clackmannan Joint Police Board and Chief Constable Edward Frizzell.



Congratulations Bob and thank you for sharing.

#### **OBITUARIES 2025 – Central Branch**

<b>John (Jack) Wardrope (80)</b>	<b>28.02.25</b>
<b>Yvonne Geddes</b>	<b>20.03.25</b>
<b>George Matchett (83)</b>	<b>23.03.25</b>
<b>Gordon McKenzie (68)</b>	<b>27.03.25</b>
<b>Robert (Bert) O'Donnell (88)</b>	<b>12.04.25</b>
<b>Stewart Marshall (74)</b>	<b>21.04.25</b>
<b>Leslie Cumpstey (98)</b>	<b>14.05.25</b>



A short summary of their Police service is listed below. These comments are from Officers who served with them and are based on their own reflections. The Branch takes no responsibility for mistakes in members' reflections of their colleagues but do apologise for any memory lapses or exaggerations of events.

### **JACK WARDROPE**



Jack Wardrope was born in Stirling in 1945. His father was a policeman in Stirling and Tullibody. Jack attended primary school at Tullibody and secondary school in Alloa. On leaving school he took up employment with an engineering firm in Alloa but then joined the Stirling and Clackmannan Police Force and was stationed at Falkirk.

After a few years in the Police he left and returned to the engineering work but then came back into the Police Force. He was stationed at Stirling before becoming a Detective Constable in the CID at Stirling. He was then promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant and stationed at Stirling.

A few years later he was promoted to Detective Inspector and posted to Alloa. His final promotion was to Chief Inspector when he became the local Unit Commander. Before retirement he was transferred to the Professional Standards Department. He retired from the Police in 1999.

Retired life did not mean an easy time for Jack as he took up employment as a store delivery driver and worked in a garden centre to name but a few aspects.

Unfortunately, retired life was not kind to Jack as he suffered from several serious illnesses which resulted in stays in Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow and finally in Strathcarron Hospice where he died on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

One of his main hobbies was model railways and as such he was a member of the Bonnybridge Model Railway club. He was interested in how to wire the layouts and was an avid builder of cottages etc for the layout.

He was a well-respected individual and this was reflected in the number of people who attended his funeral at St Ninians Parish Church on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, Jean and the family.

Tom Rintoul

### **YVONNE GEDDES**

Yvonne sadly passed away on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Yvonne was a transferee from Tayside Police to Central Scotland Police in 1977. She initially started her new post in Stirling but after several years was transferred to other areas and eventually to Grangemouth Police Office.

I had just started as a shift Sergeant at Stirling when Yvonne arrived at Stirling. She was a confident and capable officer who had a no-nonsense approach to life. She was later transferred to the then 'B' Division where she continued until her retirement when she moved to Bridge of Earn with her son.

Mike Mill

## **GEORGE MATCHETT**



George Matchett was born in 1943 at Alloa and after schooling he took up employment with the National Coal Board, working in Alloa. He subsequently joined the Police in 1966 and did his initial training at Alloa and Stirling where he served on the street as a constable and then in the CID as a Detective Constable. He rose through the ranks and became the Superintendent at Stirling and then the Chief Superintendent at Falkirk. He was thorough and methodical in his Police work and would often arrive for work before the nightshift finished. He will be remembered for his work in setting up the Major Incident Control Room at Grangemouth and for his administration capabilities in dealing with the Polmont Train Disaster, on 30<sup>th</sup>

July 1984, the Tornado aircraft crash at Glen Ogle on 2nd September 1994 and a number of Major Incidents at Grangemouth Petro Chemical Complex.

George was firm but fair in dealing with officers and when an officer wanted his assistance, no matter what time or day or night he would be there to answer the call and give advice. Even after retiring from the Police he still had the Police interest at heart and went on to become a Councillor with Clackmannan Council and then Chairman of the Joint Police Board.

Sadly, his wife Ann died in 2023. We pass on our sympathy to his daughter Kim and the family.

Tom Rintoul

## **GORDON MCKENZIE**



Gordon McKenzie was born at Airthrey Castle Hospital, Bridge of Allan on 21st April, 1956. He was educated at Alloa and on leaving school he had the option of taking up an apprenticeship or becoming a Police Cadet. He chose the latter.

His police career began in Stirling and there he met and married Linda (daughter of Sgt Tom Tosh). They started off life in Cambusbarron and later moved to Callander where he was promoted to Sergeant and later Inspector. During his time in Callander, he was a keen walker and became a member of Killin Mountain Rescue Team and also a member of the Underwater Search Unit. He was actively involved in the Callander Round Table and Rotary and enjoyed participating in their activities. Gordon was a keen

fisherman who, due to his location only had to step out the front door of his house which led directly on to the River Teith.

He was actively engaged with the RPOAS walking group and gave conducted walks around the Callander area. Sadly, his health deteriorated and he was in hospital on several occasions. He died on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Strathcarron Hospice.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Linda and their family.

Tom Rintoul



## **ROBERT (BERT) O'DONNELL**



Bert was born on 25th June, 1936 at the family home in Cambus. He enjoyed his life in Cambus and on one occasion while walking about he found a fiddle in a refuse bucket. Bert quickly retrieved this and took it home where he polished it and restrung it so that he could play the instrument. He was banished to the shed where he learned to play.

Bert then decided to join the Police and joined Stirling and Clackmannan Police and stationed at Stirling and Kilsyth.

At regionalisation he became a member of Strathclyde

Police but this only lasted a short time when he transferred to Central Scotland Police.

He was stationed at Falkirk and later promoted to Sergeant and stationed at Alloa and the Hillfoots area.

He was a member of the Scottish Strathspey and Reel Band, the Milton Fiddlers and the CSP Ceilidh Band performing with others at various venues throughout the area.

On retirement Bert started up a motor servicing business in Tillicoultry and this passed on to his son when he retired from the Fire Service. It is now in the hands of Bert's grandson.

For the past 10 years Bert suffered from Motor Neurone Disease which got progressively worse and as a result he was unable to play his beloved fiddle although he still enjoyed listening to Scottish Dance Music.

Bert sadly passed away on 12th April 2025, and the Branch pass on their condolences.

His funeral took place on Tuesday, 29th April 2025 at Stirlingshire Crematorium and was conducted by Peter MacDonald (ex CSP).

Tom Rintoul

## **STEWART MARSHALL**



Stewart Marshall was born on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1950 at Sauchie, Clackmannanshire. He attended Sauchie Primary School and High school in Alloa. On leaving school he took up employment as an apprentice with a local firm where he met his wife, Sandra.

Stewart and Sandra were married on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1970, and shortly thereafter they obtained employment with North British Hotels, working at various locations throughout Britain, ending up at the Adelphi Hotel in Edinburgh. At this point Stewart got to know a local man who played the pipes and Stewart's interest in piping grew. Stewart also obtained experience as a Chef and learned management at the hotels.

However, Stewart then left the hotel industry and joined the Stirling and Clackmannan Police where he was given a police house in Cornton where, with his

wealth of experience, he used to work on his car and his neighbours' cars at the garage which was attached to the Police House. His Chef experience also shone out as on one occasion he obtained a deer which had been killed and he butchered, skinned and cut the beast up. All of the officers in the six houses got a parcel of venison with Stewart's compliments. I know that this is a true story because I got a parcel of venison from him.

Stewart was fortunate in then getting a Police House at Cambusbarron and when he purchased it, he decided to extend the house. He got books about house building and eventually built the extension himself, doubling the size of the house.

He was promoted to Sergeant and Inspector in the Traffic Department and was eventually in charge of the Traffic Department, the Underwater unit, the Mountain Rescue Squad, the dog section and the Firearms Department. He was later in charge of the I.T. Department.

During this time, he continued with his piping and was a member of various pipe bands.

He was then promoted to Superintendent at Alloa in charge of the Clackmannan Division from where he retired after completing 30 years police service.

Retirement was not in Stewart's way of life and he was actively engaged in the work at the local church, cutting grass and doing all sorts of repairs. He was also a black belt in Karate and ran classes for the local youth of the area where he was also actively engaged in the local community centre. An avid fly fisherman, he spent many long hours afloat at Lake of Menteith in particular but also pursued this hobby in all 4 home countries.

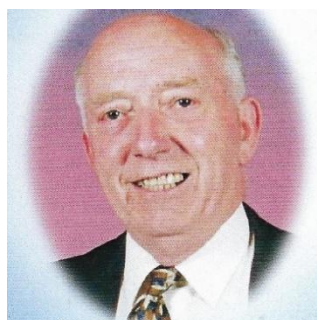
Unfortunately, Stewart became ill and was given only months to live. However, such was his tenacity, the months became 8 years before he passed away on Easter Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025, just 3 days short of his 75th birthday.

His funeral took place on Friday 2nd May 2025 at Cambusbarron Church, and thereafter at the Stirlingshire Crematorium.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Sandra and to her family. He will be sorely missed by the family and in the community.

Tom Rintoul

### **LESLIE CUMPSTEY**



Leslie Cumpstey (97) was the RPOAS oldest member. He was born on 1/9/1927 in Oldham and started his working life in a butcher's shop. He later joined the RAF and was stationed in Helensburgh where he met his wife. Leslie decided that they would stay in Scotland and he joined Stirling and Clackmannan Police in 1949. On regionalisation he remained with the newly formed Central Scotland Police and was stationed in

Grangemouth, Stenhousemuir and Larbert Police Stations. Sadly, his wife, who had suffered ill health, passed away and later, Leslie met and married Jean. After 25 years service, Leslie was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to the Force Control Room, Randolphfield, Stirling, where he finished his service. At this time, Leslie had finally settled down in Fallin. It was here when Leslie suffered another sad loss where Jean, after a long illness, passed away.

He was an active member of the RPOAS and attended many functions. He particularly liked the Annual Seniors' lunches where he loved to reminisce old times.

Leslie's mobility worsened in later life and this prevented him from attending RPOAS events. Leslie passed away on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Bellfield Care Centre, Stirling.

Mike Mill

## **THE ELIZABETH EMBLEM**



On 11th August, 1967, Constable Joseph Stewart DRAKE, aged 36 years, of Stirling and Clackmannan Police Force, was on duty with Constable John NELLIES, in the Eastern Division Crime Car when they received information that a stolen lorry was being pursued by other Police vehicles. They established a road block between Bonnybridge and Dennyloanhead but the driver of the stolen lorry intentionally struck their car as they tried to intercept it. Joe Drake was killed while his colleague escaped with severe shock.

Constable Drake, who was then stationed at Falkirk, had joined the police in 1953, serving first at Falkirk then Stirling, Causewayhead and Drymen before Falkirk once more. His name is recorded on the roll of honour at the Scottish Police College memorial at Tulliallan.

On Friday, 4th July, 2025, it was announced that Joe Drake's (pictured) relatives are to receive the Elizabeth Emblem which is an award to be given to the relatives of the civilian forces and other occupations who had been killed on duty. An official presentation of this award will be made in the not too distant future.

Tom Rintoul