

INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

“Servo per Amikeco”

“Service Through Friendship”



‘Plod-ing On’ No 4 (Wales) Region Newsletter September - October 2018



Remember our extended Family

Whilst these Newsletters are designed to spread the news of the IPA membership across Wales we must never forget that we are merely a small part of the world wide family devoted to law enforcement and the protection of life and property. Therefore, when a member of our extended family is brutally attacked whilst defending those principles we will all feel the same pain.

It was therefore heartbreaking to once again hear of four law enforcement officers in Pittsburgh, USA who were savagely shot during a needless and violent crime of religious hatred. I'm sure that all members within the International Police Association will spare time to think of those officers and their immediate families as they recover from their injuries received whilst performing their lawful duties.

Through this Newsletter, let's think a little bit more on the question of Friendship.



Sadly we say goodbye to one of our immediate family. Stanley Barber, South Wales Branch member No 407, died on 11th October following a long illness that had confined him to his bed for many years. Stan was 92 years of age and a former BTP Chief Inspector based in Cardiff. As can be seen from his number of 407, Stan was one of the original members of the newly formed IPA in 1950 and met Arthur Troop on a number of occasions. In 2015, the South Wales Branch was proud to be able to present Stan with his 60 years Certificate of Membership. IPA Branch members attended Stan's funeral, together with serving and retired BTP officers. Condolences were forwarded to Suzanne and the members of the family and an extended obituary will be placed in the Police World magazine.

Sometimes we need someone to simply be there...Not to fix anything or do anything in particular, but just to let us feel we are supported and cared about.



Well all sorts of things have been going on during these past two months, but first we leap back slightly, back to 29th August when Region Chair Ken Davies and I met with Mr Matt Jukes QPM, Chief Constable of South Wales Police, together with his Deputy Mr Richard Lewis. The meeting was to update Mr Jukes on the advances within the IPA, with particular attention to the Professional Development opportunities for our members and the spreading of IPA information to all officers and staff within the Force. In addition Ken presented Mr Jukes with a Certificate identifying him as Joint Patron of the South Wales Branch. As per our tradition, each of the poor gentlemen had to suffer the indignity of pretending to be overjoyed at receiving an IPA mug. So a good meeting, no absolute offers made by Mr Jukes other than the promise to consider any applications made by Branch members who might wish to take on one of the professional IPA seminars, either at Gimborn or the UK. In addition Mr Lewis agreed to be our point of contact to receive any IPA material that we might wish to be circulated via the Force intranet systems. I suspect that within a couple of days he was regretting that offer.

So there we have it, direct contact has been made with each of the Chief Officers of the four forces within the IPA Wales Region. I hope that we will also be afforded a similar opportunity to meet the new Chief Constable of North Wales, Mr Carl Foulkes, once he has had the opportunity to find his feet in the new role. So we as your Executive, made the contact with the senior officers and identified the value that membership of the IPA can have for serving officers and staff, it is now up to each of you who are serving, to take advantage of the extremely professional seminars that are on offer, together with the opportunity of receiving generous funding via the IPA. No guarantees, but perhaps the response to your applications to attend such seminars will now be received with greater understanding as to their importance in your career by Managers within the Force.



We send out a warm welcome to new members across the Region. Firstly a very belated welcome to Mr. Mark Collins, Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police who quietly became a member of the local Branch back in May and in fact was joined by his Deputy, Darren Davies who also signed up in October (no pressure there Darren). Also into the same Branch we welcome Adam Villiers, who became a member almost immediately upon joining the Force. So greetings to you all and we hope that the IPA will offer a wider perspective on Policing around the World, plus the opportunity to meet and make new friends when travelling. Remember that the opportunity to meet international members is available to you on a purely social basis when on holiday, simply submit the IPA Travel Form one month before your visit and generally you will be able to meet for a social drink etc. with potential new friends.





'All aboard the Skylark'

10 am on Monday, 3rd September was a beautiful sunny time of day for members of the South Wales and Dyfed Powys Branches to launch a raid across the Channel (Bristol Channel that is) on the good ship 'Waverley', led by our dastardly Cap'n' Ken Davies. The mighty vessel 'Waverley' is the last remaining operational passenger paddle steamer in the world and was built in 1946 to replace her predecessor that was sunk at Dunkirk whilst attempting to evacuate troops.

Our destination this morning was initially to be the coastal town of Minehead. As we sailed out of the small town of Penarth near Cardiff, the sun was giving of its best, but the further we got to the English coastline the bleaker, windier and damper it became. "Why this hostile wet welcome" thought we, as we gripped our passports ever closer to our bosoms. This unpleasant attitude from our neighbours across the sea was in fact heightened even more when, walking down the disembarking gang plank we were immediately faced by the muzzles of a pair of cannons. This didn't bode well thought we, as Cap'n Ken immediately dispersed the troops out into the town to seek out good food and grog at nearby taverns.

The rain kept hitting us intermittently over the next few hours when finally at 4.15pm we all gathered at the small railway station and boarded the West Somerset Steam Train for a superb rattle along the tracks down to the end of the line at Bishop Lydeard. There is nothing more entertaining than being on a steam train, surrounded by groups of passengers, of whom the male species seemed constantly content to bore their female partners with the most innocuous of information regarding various steam locomotives and equipment that we would occasionally pass along the route. However, it was a glorious one and a half hours of the clickety-clack of the train running along the rail track, clouds of lovely smelly steam working its way into our carriages and the constant sound of the train whistle. Ah, the memories of lost youth from years gone by.

So arriving at Bishops Lydeard we then boarded buses for a final journey up into Clevedon where in theory we would have a relatively short journey back across the Penarth. Another slug of grog in the nearby pub seemed an ideal way pass the time until 8.15pm when our lovely lady of the seas would be waiting at the end of the pier.

8.15pm arrived and strange, no lovely lady of the sea in sight. In fact, we were kept waiting until she sailed out of darkness and into harbour at around 9pm as if nothing was wrong. By this time we were all extremely chilled from the fresh belting wind bearing down upon us from the mouth of the River Severn. In fact we were all so glad to eventually get on board and down into the café area for warming coffee that any thoughts of moaning to the crew went out of the portholes.

A somewhat one hour late arrival back at the wonderfully illuminated promenade of Penarth brought to an end a superb day out amongst great friends from across the South of Wales, plus two lovely guests, Matt and Chrissy from the USA (Chrissy is a reserve officer back home).



“I’m not an IPA member I’m afraid, but”

A short while ago I received an email from Jake Robinson, a senior Police Cadet in the Gwent Force. Jake was travelling to New York on a visit for his 18th birthday and was looking for IPA contacts etc. whilst in the big city. This posed a slight problem as Jake is obviously not a member (but promises to be if he is successful in applying to become a Police Officer) and it would have been unlikely to arrange anything at such short notice. However I advised him to simply take his life into his hands, walk into any police station and introduce himself. Brave lad. Here are a few of the new friends that he met from the NYPD who were more than helpful to him. We aim to please and hopefully encourage future members.



Ron Chestna 89 years of age was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night .

Ron replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

Ron replied, "That would be my wife."



The Arthur Troop Scholarship 2020

This is an international IPA grant which will assist towards a visit overseas to undertake police related studies at an educational establishment but NOT the International Conference Centre, Gimborn which is already supported by way of bursary from Section UK. Each Scholarship consists of a bursary of not more than 2,500 euros and is to be used towards expenses of attending a course/seminar at an educational establishment usually outside Europe i.e.USA.

At the recent IPA 63rd World Congress in the Netherlands, Section UK were extremely fortunate to receive three such Scholarship awards for 2019 for members who submitted their applications by the end of March this year.

If you have a yearning to undertake a period of police related study outside of Europe in 2020, full information has been circulated via the Section UK website and Facebook pages. The opportunities for good funding are out there. You just need to make the effort to apply for them.

In the UK we used to drive on the left side of the road – Now we drive on what's left of the road!

No 4 Region puts out the hand of friendship across the water

Following months of email exchanges and holiday visits by one of our members, Dyfed Powys Branch and the No 4 Region put into place the process of twinning with our Friends in the Section Ireland. Over two days in September, Clive Cowey (for Dyfed Powys Branch) together with Ken Davies and myself for the Region, travelled across to the beautiful town of Wexford where we were hosted by members of the Regions Tipperary, Co Waterford and Co Wexford, together with President Connor O'Higgins of the Section Ireland Executive.

A brief 'breaking of the ice' down in the hotel bar was then followed by a formal Executive meeting, during which time the exchange of Twinning Agreements between Dyfed Powys and Tipperary took place. This was followed by an agreement that Regions Co Waterford and Co Wexford would look towards a similar process with South Wales Branch. To then bring the whole package together Connor informed the meeting that he has proposed to the National Executive that a formal Twinning Agreement should be put into place with No 4 (Wales) Region. The formal vote for this will take place at the Section Ireland NCM in April 2019. There is no reason why a similar event should not take place between the North Wales Branch and another Region within Ireland.

The outpouring of friendship from those members who we met in Wexford was wonderful. But not just the friendship, the overpowering enthusiasm of the very active membership knocked us off our feet. What is now needed is for the Welsh Branches to put together ideas for events, not necessarily large events that can bring people together. Ideas that were thrown at us have included cycling, golf, fishing, 5-a-side football (big in the Section Ireland), and of course the Hi5 Challenge being organised by Danny Devlin in May 2019. If you are visiting Ireland (not the Section UK Region) and would wish to meet with IPA members, please either download the IPA Travel Form or contact myself and I will forward a copy on to you. If you visit the Section Ireland website you can also view the excellent IPA Houses that are around the country at a high standard and very cheap rates (self catering).



Poster found in a Church in France... (translated):

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."



The Brecon Friendship Weekend.

We were really sorry that you weren't able to join us for the Region 2018 iconic event in Brecon, you missed a superb gathering of friends. This was not just an ordinary meeting of friends however; it was part of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the forming of the Dyfed Powys Police.

The initial meeting on the morning of Saturday, 6th October at the Castle Hotel brought with it some chilly rain. But with the warmth of the gathering of friends minor issues such as that were soon put behind us. We were joined by several guests, including Darren Davies, Deputy Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys, together with his wife Beverley, and then later in the afternoon by several of our friends who had travelled across from Section Ireland, including the Immediate Past President Dennis Dunne.

Several members took the opportunity to visit the Food Festival that was ongoing in the town centre, where a superb range of local Welsh foods and drinks were there to tempt everyone's purse under the hypnotic sounds of a Welsh Male Voice Choir whose singing reminded you of your cultural roots.

Come the evening we gathered in the ballroom for an excellent four course meal. A brief interlude for the exchange of gifts and Twinning Agreements between Dyfed Powys Branch and Region Tipperary, plus a statutory raffle. Then into the finale of the evening. The Cor Meibion Talgarth Male Voice Choir entertained us for an hour with a superb selection of music, both traditional and also more modern pieces from the world of stage and screen.

The Sunday morning was first taken up with a visit to the excellent Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh, famed for the defence of Rorke's Drift by 2nd Battalion, 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot (later renamed as the South Wales Borders) Whatever you saw in the film 'Zulu', forget it. Much of it was historically inaccurate and we were soon brought down to earth by the original memorabilia that was on display in an exhibition dedicated to the battle and also the preceding attack at Isandlwana.

At midday the members then boarded a canal boat for a leisurely drift along the Brecon canal and the stunning views of the Brecon National Park either side of us, all complete with an excellent on board lunch. But sadly all good things come to an end and by late afternoon it was time for the goodbyes. A superb weekend made all the better by the wonderful company of IPA friends.

But that's not all. Without a drop of alcohol being forced between his lips, our guest Mr. Darren Davies immediately went home and signed the pledge, sorry no, he signed the application for IPA membership of the Dyfed Powys Branch. Such is the influence of good company and a well organised event.

