

Message from Chair – Geoff Heal



As I write this, I fervently hope that Summer has finally arrived. As a Gardener I have found that the wet and cold Spring held back my plans. Not having a heated Greenhouse has not helped and Mrs. H has strongly objected to having numerous seed trays lining the spare bedroom's window sills.

Enough of my problems. The Association is still a strong voice for our members through the DPF and I am extremely grateful to the Chair and General Secretary for that support. Over the past months we have assisted some members who have encountered problems, which thankfully have been successfully resolved.

Similarly, we also maintain close links with the Chief Constable. I know that she is under extreme pressure in the present climate, but as many of us know it is something that MDP has suffered for many years. Monetary and staffing levels being the biggest bugbears. As one Chief Officer confided to me that there were tremendous differences in policing in the Home Department and the MOD. Retirement is not so bad after all.

I am aware that some members are unhappy that 'Talkthrough' is no longer published. We are trying to find a way to get around this problem. Currently everything is done within MDP electronically and these not only included articles that might be of interest to our members, but also such items that are Force sensitive, and that is where we are trying to find a way of extracting such so that our members can still feel part of MDP. It is not only the extracting of non-sensitive matters, but distribution. Plus, a few of our members do not have access to emails, therefore we would have printing costs as well as distribution. Stay with us, we are trying to sort this out.

Well, the AGM/Reunion is in its final planning stages. I am very happy with the numbers attending, although I always wish, as I look across the Conference Room, that more of our members would attend. Still, this year we are welcoming several new attendees and I hope they enjoy the weekend with their ex-colleague's. I must state a big thank you to Mel Goudie for organizing the weekend and at such a great price. He has a Whiskey/Gin Tasting booked for the Saturday and a quiz on the Sunday evening. I am keenly looking forward to meeting up with all those attending, and I am sure we will have a memorable weekend in Stirling.

So, on that note may I wish you all and your families a lovely summer. Make the most of it while the sun shines.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to the following new members: Graeme Nixon, Sandy & Linda Stewart, Adrian & Karen Butler and Michael & Lynne Carrigan.

We look forward to meeting you perhaps at future Reunion/AGM gatherings.

My Document Locator

A few years ago, ROA made available to members a booklet 'My Document Locator' that can be used as a check list of personal documents that records where key personal records, assets and papers can be located in the event of death or incapacity. It is important to stress that it is **NOT** a Will.

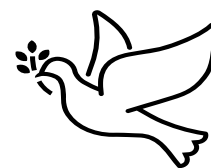
The document can be downloaded from the ROA website.

Annual Contribution

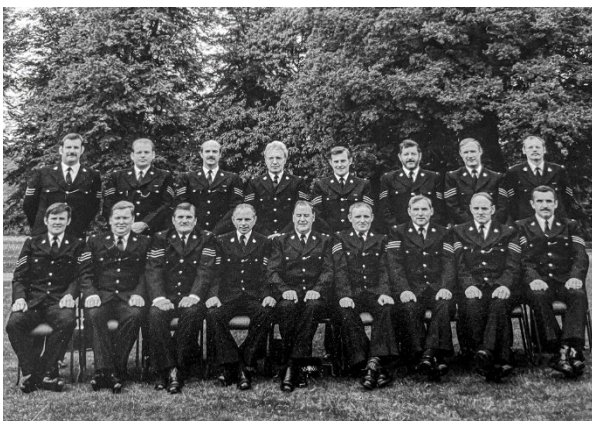
The annual subscription of £5 per household falls due on 1st July each year, regardless of the date one joins the Association. Most members now pay this by Standing Order or Direct Debit on or about this date, for which the committee are very grateful. This can also be paid by Bacs or Faster Payment directly through your bank or by cheque if preferred. If any member wishes to alter their method of payment or requires details of sort code and account number and any other details, please contact treasurer Ken Hicks via our new email address - mdproa2021@yahoo.com or general mail to:- The Pippins, Mill Road, HARDWICK, NR15 2ST. This address should also be used for sending ROA cheques etc. Please note that cheques should be made out to MoD Police R O A, (not MDP) the banks are becoming increasingly demanding in precise names.

In Memoriam

Leonard Lofting 26th November 2023
Barry Smith QPM – 26th January 2024
Robin Hall – 22nd February 2024
Bob Short – 11th July 2024



Do You Remember



Recognise anyone in this photograph taken at the Police Training School, Medmenham in the 1980's during a Sergeants Promotion Course.

Thanks to retired member John Nichols for the photo.

Message from Chief Constable – Melanie Dales



Hello everyone,

Writing this update, I reflected on the fact that 12 months ago I said there was much to be done and commented on the challenges presented to us, as other forces, of delivering the security tasking we have for Defence in a climate of financial and resourcing restrictions. As we welcome the new Government and our new Defence Minister, the RtHon James Healey MP, it is clear that these challenges remain.

This last 6 months has seen firstly a full recruitment “pause” across Defence, followed by the introduction of staffing caps in addition to the wider funding challenges facing all parts of Defence. Despite these challenges, we have continued to recruit and welcome both police and civilian colleagues to the Force. We have also run successful promotion boards up to and including Superintendent and have introduced a new Talent Management programme for police officers.

To assist the Force meet its challenges it will move to become part of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) TLB by 1 September; an interim position while we await the outcome of the Defence Armed Guarding and Security review and should provide not only a clearer direction for the future of policing in Defence but also real opportunities for MDP to influence and shape that future.

The Force also continues to influence and contribute to the wider UK policing environment. ACC Jason Gwillim has begun a secondment to NPCC to support publication of the Police Race Action Plan (PRAP) where his role will help support national intent to deliver an anti-racist police service and will also benefit the MDP, as we and other forces continue to face the challenges of rebuilding the public’s trust in policing.

ACC Justin Bibby has been appointed as NPCC Lead for Nuclear Emergencies and again this opportunity will be of direct benefit to MDP in our role in supporting the Defence Nuclear Enterprise.

For your service you would have worn the MDP badge with pride in support of Queen Elizabeth. We have now received our new force logo from His Majesty the King, and we will see this role out across the Force to provide a new identify and continue that recognition of crown service.

As always, officers across the Force have continued to fundraise for many charitable causes. This includes Care of Police Survivors - a team from across the Force participated in the annual Police Unity ride to the national memorial arboretum at the end of July and a colleague from Devonport took part in the Light the Lakes event in June. I look forward to catching up with you during the coming year.

National Memorial Arboretum –The Beat

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire has a memorial avenue 'The Beat' where fallen officers from every Police Force are remembered. and all of our fallen colleagues.

Following a recent visit to The Arboretum Geoff Heal asked if the Force would support the funding of plaques in memory of MDP officers who had died in the line of duty.

Enquiries were made with The National Arboretum, who provided a link to The National Police Roll of Honour. This Roll confirms that the officer lost their life on and in the line of duty and the Force served with at the time of their death. The seven officers that the MDP have lost in the course of their duty were listed.

We are pleased to confirm that a request for funding was approved by the Chief Constable's fund and that MDP officers who died in the line of duty will remain on 'The Beat' as a fitting tribute to the sacrifice they made.

May they Rest in Peace.

