

INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

“Servo per Amikeco”
“Service Through Friendship”



‘Plod-ing On’ No 4 (Wales) Region Newsletter January – February 2023



Well my friends, this is the first Newsletter of a brand new year. The eagle eyes among you will note that we had not published an edition for November – December. This was due to the fact that my mind was on many other things, including a two month visit to New Zealand to visit my son, new daughter-in-law and hopefully catch up on some IPA friends that I made during my previous visit – pre Covid. May I therefore wish you all a very belated Happy New Year, with every prayer that 2023 will hopefully eventually bring with it better times than we and the world have suffered during '22.

For many of us within the IPA, the word ‘Friendship’ is the basis of our membership. If that is able to be practised on an International scale, then so much the better. Here in Wales, a number of our members have travelled to various parts of the world, usually on holiday, but occasionally for less self-indulgent reasons. I’m thinking particularly of three Region 4 members who, together with other IPA members, gave up their time and considerable personal financial costs, to assist in taking much need emergency vehicles and supplies across Africa to Gambia. I’ll not repeat what has already be written, but I would urge you to read the account of Operation Zephyr in the current issue of Police World. My admiration for all your efforts gentlemen, namely Darren, Dan and Jason. Friendship is the rock that supports the IPA.

The Welcome Hand of Friendship



Once again, within the Wales Region, we bid a warm welcome to two new members who have joined us in recent times:

Adrian Barbu – a member of the Special Constabulary in South Wales Police

Damien Moynihan – a serving officer in South Wales Police.

It is always a real pleasure to see new members join this superb organisation, especially those currently serving within the local Force. We hope that we can encourage you to take part in any of the activities organised by not only your own local Branch, but by any of the three Branches across Wales. We encourage members to make use of the Section UK and Region Wales Facebook sites to find out what is happening afield across the UK and the International scene.

Remember that you are also able to sign up for the on-line IPA International Newsletter. Simply register at <https://www.ipa-international.org/> or view the editions at the Section UK website.

On a beautiful summer’s day, two English tourists were driving through Wales. At Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllyllatysiliogogoch they stopped for lunch and one of the tourists asked the waitress: “Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?” The girl leaned over and said: “Burr... gurr... King.”



Gimborn 2023

I make no apologies for repeating the 2023 diary of the IPA Gimborn Centre near Cologne. These highly Professional Seminars vary from two days to five days, with Presentations by leading experts in their field of expertise. There are no exams involved, although attendees will be expected to take part in group study sessions if appropriate. Below are the English Language seminars, currently listed:

19 – 20 Jan. Tactical First Aid
15 - 17 Mar. Crime Fighting goes Digital – Best practice for Police Officers.
20 – 24 Mar. Disaster & Crisis Management – The challenge of dealing with disasters.
03 – 07 July Police Street Survival Training.
02 – 06 Oct. The use of Drones by front line services (Police Special) – this date needs to be verified.
04 - -08 Sep. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
13 – 15 Oct ASP Instructor Course
30 – 31 Oct. Tactical First Aid.
20 – 24 Nov. Faces of Terror – Policing cyberterror and other forms of terrorism.
04 – 08 Dec. International Trans Border Cargo Crime.

If you are interested in any of these titles, you will find further information regarding these Seminars and other aspects relating to Gimborn on the Section UK website (Professional Development link)
www.ipa-uk.org/

These police related seminars are open to IPA members and non-IPA members. There is a base participation cost varying upwards from 280 Euros for IPA members attending the Seminars.

However, Section UK members benefit from financial support to attend a Seminar of up to a maximum of £250 every 2 years for any seminar (this may well be now amended). In addition, No 4 Region also offer a further £75 to assist with travel costs, plus each of the three Branches also offer additional similar support. There are conditions attached to each of these offers of financial support.

Face-to-face seminars held at Gimborn are an excellent means of raising the profile of International Friendship, and you will always leave having met and made new friends from across the police world.

During past months, a number of members have raised two important questions regarding Professional seminars, namely:

Why do they have to be in Gimborn? There are issues regarding both professionally and domestically that are restricting serving members from attending Gimborn. Why is IPA Section UK not able to provide it's own high quality presentations that are specific to the UK policing styles.

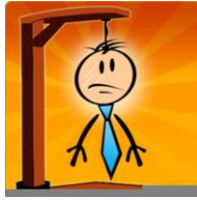
Why are there so many seminars relating to self-defence and First Aid. Surely there are many other important subjects relating to Police Investigation methods – including the roles of Police Staff, Work related issues such as Stress and Wellbeing, or Motivating Branches and Regions.

I believe that both these questions have a justifiable basis, and I have in fact brought them to the attention of the VP Professional, Ben Brickley. What I will say however, is that identifying suitable venues around the country that are financially viable when considering accommodation and catering facilities, will be difficult. A second consideration will be the actual support by our members. The Section UK recently held an on-line Presentation on Cybercrime. I wonder how many of our members across Wales actually linked into that event?

Our own experience within Wales when we have offered such first-class Professional presentations is that frequently less than ten members take advantage. How many Police Forces have offered free on-line presentations by a renowned Senior CPS Lawyer, or a discussion on the use of DNA Profiling in police investigations, or a recent presentation on the subject of Murder by a well-known Professor of Criminology?

We frequently hear comments suggesting that the IPA doesn't offer anything for the members. These events are always widely published via emails and our Facebook pages. So why not dip into some of these presentations and prove that possibly those complaints to be totally wrong.

“What I say is bring back the Rope!”



Reminiscences of Crime Journalist, Thomas Glyde of Cardiff in the 1860's

The Exploit of Tim the Barber

In those days there were many people imprisoned for debt. When they were imprisoned in the cells under the old Town Hall (on St Mary Street in the town centre) their friends used to come and speak to them through the barred windows.

In the old St Mary Street police station one side was kept for debtors to whom imprisonment meant nothing more than detention, and if their friends brought them a goose for dinner, well they were allowed to eat it. Many of them also had drink conveyed to them by their friends who were able to communicate with them by removing a little pane of glass in the window. At the back of the police station was a square yard in which the debtors used to play bowls.

One of the little houses near the police station was inhabited by a barber who used to be known as Tim. It was part of his duty every Friday to go into the prison and shave all the inmates. On one occasion, all or one of the prisoners got hold of him and bribed him to take his place in the shaving chair.

When the time came for Tim to leave the prison one of the prisoners marched out in his stead and escaped. When the prison officials some time later went to take their dinner in to the felons, lo! and behold, Tim the barber was a prisoner in the place of the man who had regained his freedom.

The Old Gallows off St Mary Street

In the old days public executions took place in a court off St Mary Street, not far from the present Central Market entrance.

The court was known in the early part of last century as Gallows Yard and was close to the then County Gaol.

At the entrance to this yard the gallows were permanently fixed – a visible menace and warning to all and sundry.

The chain with which the poor fellows were hauled up hung from the gallows, and on windy nights it would swing to and fro and eerily creak. It was said that after nightfall, many people were frightened going by it because it used to be popularly regarded as haunted by the ghosts of those who had been hanged there. It was understood that the last man who was publicly executed there was Richard Lewis (better known as Dic Penderyn) who was wrongly hanged in 1831 for the part he played in the Merthyr riots and the false allegation against him for the murder of a soldier attempting to quell the rioters. A Blue Plaque is now fixed to the wall at the St Mary Street entrance to the Market, denoting the site of the Gallows.

In those days, people showed a good deal of sympathy towards the prisoners. Often a stop along the way to the Assizes and eventually the gallows was needed to change horses at an inn. This would allow time for the inhabitants to assemble. Someone would say, 'Poor fellows. Look at 'em, Let's give 'em a drink' and then the inhabitants would all act on the suggestion with the result that the prisoners would become the centre of hospitality from all sides and would have quite as much as was good for them.

The result was that sometimes by the time the Court was reached a good many of the prisoners were drunk. Therefore, they often used to take the precaution of taking prisoners down a day or so early so that they were all sober by the time the Assizes opened!



An Introduction to Police Care

Police Care UK is a national independent charity, (formerly The Police Dependents Trust), and operates to assist both serving and retired police officers, police staff, and police volunteers across all UK police forces, who have been 'harmed as a result of policing'. It provides free practical, emotional, and financial assistance to individuals within the police family who are in need. Headquartered in Woking, Surrey, it is totally independent and confidential and receives no state funding. There are approximately 18 staff members and 100 volunteers across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has three simple aims:

- 1 To raise awareness of the harm which can be suffered as a result of policing. We want everyone to understand the dangers that police officers and staff face every day.
- 2 To enable police officers, staff and their families to recover and rebuild, and we believe that police families should have someone to turn to.
- 3 To empower Police forces to reduce harm in the first place. We believe that caring for their people is the duty of every police force, and we'll do what we can to help.

Officers, staff, and volunteers can access our assistance for themselves or a colleague (although they must have consent) by visiting the website; www.policecare.org.uk, by emailing; hello@policecare.org.uk, or by telephone on 0300 012 0030, during weekday office hours.

"As we begin the new year, I feel it might be timely to remind you that Police Care UK is still here for you and your colleagues who may have been 'harmed as a result of policing'. Although woven into every UK police force, it remains an independent charity, which faithfully provides free psychological and financial assistance to individuals within the police family who are in need. By way of illustration; across the whole of the UK this amounts to over £6m of assistance, to over 4000 families, (on average, more than one new case, every single day!). As the engagement officer, I am still available to you as a direct contact within Police Care UK (from an organisational perspective rather than for individuals), and my contact details can be circulated amongst your colleagues. If you've not already done so, I would invite you and your colleagues to consider registering for our newsletter."

Regards,

Dave Blundell

Engagement Officer, Police Care UK Dave.blundell@policecare.org.uk



The Section UK Lottery

A simple way to help support the IPA in its efforts to raise funds for Members who are seeking assistance in attending various professional training facilities, be it Gimborn or other associated establishments.

For only £1 a ticket (payable by Direct Debit), you stand a chance of winning one of three prizes a month, namely £100, £60 and £40. Perhaps the prizes will not pay for your next Caribbean holiday, but at least you'll know that you are assisting in helping Section UK members to gain the opportunity of developing their wider professional knowledge through this excellent Association.

To take part in the Lottery, simply log in to the Section UK website using your Membership number and Password and then click onto the Link.



What's Happening Out There In The World of IPA?

For many, if not most of our membership, the world of the IPA exists no further than our Branch or Region border. The odd coffee morning or occasional social event – but not too far from home mind you – and that will be the extent of the involvement. But soon you will each be receiving the quarterly edition of the **Police World**, the Section UK magazine. Even the briefest of scans through the pages will quickly identify the range of activities that are taking place week after week, by UK members, both within the UK and across the world. Even as I speak, Spike Elliot and his wife Helen, both members of the IPA Walking Group in Region 3, are on a lengthy stroll across different parts of the USA and meeting with local and visiting international members. Then there was the Gambia expedition that I mentioned previously.

For those of you who are serving members and with limited available time for social activities, there are many Branch, Region and Section UK activities, both Social and Professional, constantly being advertised. If you are retired and with greater available time to spare, there are frequent International Friendship events across the 65 Countries that are part of the IPA. Many countries also have high quality self-catering accommodation available for low rental charges. Recently our own South Wales Branch member, Bob Evans and his wife, visited Australia and New Zealand on an extended tour. Through the simple submission of the IPA Travel Form, they were able to meet socially with members in both the countries, thereby increasing their range of friends around the world.

So where do you find all this information?

As mentioned previously, both the Section UK and Region 4 each have Facebook sites where both local and international information is available. On the wider scene, there is the main international website which can be found at www.ipa-international.org, with details of events that are being hosted by various countries. In addition, the International Office publishes a quarterly International Newsletter, providing information on a wide range of activities by Sections throughout the world, not simply social events, but superb evidence of how the IPA are taking part in global humanitarian support to those in need.

So please, look beyond the borders of your Branch and Region. You will be surprised how it will change your perspective of your IPA membership.



One More To Go Folks!

Well, we've made it without killing each other. Three Branch AGM's across the Wales Region, each resulting in a Branch Executive being once again formed, thereby ensuring the local members are offered a range of varying activities.

Sadly and as per usual, the meetings were poorly attended, with barely sufficient participants being present to carry the voting. We have raised this issue many times and stressed the serious point that Executives cannot continue to be run by the same continual group of individuals, each of whom are either out of touch with the needs of the younger serving members and their families, or have been in place for so many years that they have lost all motivation.

As a comparatively small Region here in Wales, we have been fortunate through the past twelve months to have an enthusiastic number of members who have made great efforts to provide a variety of events for you all. These have included wonderful on-line professional presentations by highly qualified people from the world of Law and Policing, plus several excellent local social events. Each Branch has now been fortunate in enthusing their own Chief Constable in becoming the Branch Patron – and in fact also becoming an IPA member in several instances. Many Chief Constables are now realizing that the IPA is an important tool in promoting the area of Wellbeing for serving officers and Police Staff. We in Region 4 (Wales) are an excellent vision of the IPA within Section UK, where very few of the other Branches and Regions have managed a close association with their local Chief Officers.

As I approach the end of this edition of the Region Newsletter, may I please ask each of you to spare a few hours from 11.00hrs on Sunday 26th March, and show your support for our final annual meeting, the No 4 Region AGM. It is being hosted this year by Dyfed Powys Branch at the Aberystwyth Police Station, with our guest this year being the President of Section UK, Clive Wood. It is appreciated that most members will be unable to travel to the meeting, and so it is hoped that we will be able to set in place a simple on-line link via TEAMS or ZOOM. Details will be announced as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting with many of you, either at the meeting (tea/coffee and chocolate biscuits provided), or in the comfort of your own home with whatever refreshment you consider appropriate.

As I grow older.....

My mind
doesn't just
wander...



Sometimes
it
buggers off
completely!

There are no strangers in the IPA, just friends you haven't met yet!

Denis Hunt

Editor / Region Secretary

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