

# INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

“Servo per Amikeco”  
“Service Through Friendship”



## ‘Plod-ing On’ Region 4 (Wales) Newsletter December 2023



Well folks, that’s all for now – at least for 2023 anyway. Father Christmas and his elves have completed their last night shift for the year and have arrived back to the warmth and safety of their home, after carrying out their appointed duties of ensuring that all’s well in the world and as many children as possible will have woken up to wonderful surprises left for them by the friendly old man from the North.



Of course, we’d be fooling ourselves if life were that simple.

Sadly though, there will be many children, who, for them, Christmas will be a time of sadness. No excitement of sharing happy times with mummy or daddy this year. All they will remember will be the day when Mum or Dad put on their police uniform as usual, kissed them goodbye and then went off to work with a smile on their face, promising to be home in time to read the bedtime story. But that bedtime story was never told again. Why did some evil person think that they had the right to shoot or stab my Daddy who was just asking them to not be silly and please put down the weapon?

Can someone tell me please, why it was allowed to happen?

Every year we hear of brave colleagues who walk out of their doors, never knowing that it will be the last time they’ll close it shut behind them. Members of our wonderful police family around the world, risk their lives each day to protect the communities, frequently with little if any thanks for carrying out their duties.

Oh yes, our politicians will quickly step forward with the usual rolled out words of comfort, before minutes later, totally forgetting the grieving families who will continue to carry the burden of losing a part of their lives.

Earlier this year, 4 (Wales) Region had the privilege of hosting the National Police Memorial Day in Cardiff. The time when officers and families gathered to remember those members of the Police Family across the United Kingdom who gave their lives in service to the community.

Representatives of the IPA South Wales and Dyfed Powys Branches, together with Cardiff NARPO members, were proud to be called upon to assist during the remembrance service and at the later reception. Thank you to all who assisted on the day.

Therefore, be always thankful that you have been able to spend another happy celebration of Christmas with those you love. Hold them close, they are very important in your life – although I’m sure that you don’t need me to tell you that.

It has been over six months since the last edition of the Region Newsletter, due mostly in part to the lack of material sent in by members. I'm sure there are many of you who have travelled abroad and possibly met with local IPA members. A few lines and photographs are all we ever ask for, simply to show the spirit of international friendship is alive and well in this excellent Association. We are beginning to welcome members from non-UK IPA Sections who are now living in this country. Perhaps one or two paragraphs offering an insight into your experiences as a member in other parts of the world would interest our readers.

Members would also benefit greatly to hear from those of you who have travelled to an IPA International event during the year.

So please, send me your material, including photographs, anecdotes, police humour, observations on various aspects of policing in your particular Branch area.



### The Welcome Hand of Friendship



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

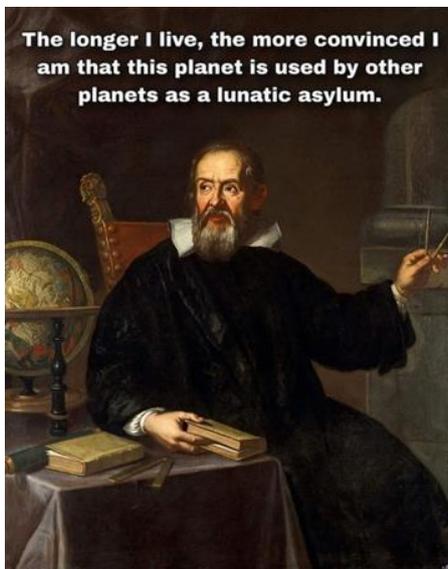
Alice Key	Dyfed Powys Branch.	A serving officer.
Aneurin Jones	Dyfed Powys Branch.	A retired officer.
Matthew Langley	Dyfed Powys Branch.	A serving officer.
Trwdi Morgan.	Dyfed Powys Branch.	A serving officer.
Azal Afzal	South Wales Branch.	A serving Police Staff.
Suzanne Taylor	South Wales Branch.	A serving officer.
Joshua Taylor	North Wales Branch.	A serving officer.
Neil Anderson	North Wales Branch.	A retired officer.
Stephen Royles	North Wales Branch.	A serving officer.

I always remind everyone that we should regard it a real pleasure to see new members join this superb organisation, especially those who are 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.

### Free On-Line Presentations

On 13<sup>th</sup> December, I sent out a follow-up email regarding four FREE on-line one-hour presentations on the subject of Cyber Crime and the various aspects of this evil form of fraud that has become so prevalent in recent times. Please don't waste this wonderful opportunity to listen to fairly short commentaries by experts in this field. It is restricted to IPA members only and you are required to register yourself on-line, quoting your IPA membership number. I am aware that a number of members in Wales have now booked for one or more of the sessions, which is encouraging. I would however like to have a rough count of those particular members attending. I would welcome a brief email confirming your booking(s) please.



## Gimborn Seminars 2024

Friends, the schedule of Gimborn seminars for 2024 has been published and is available for viewing either via the link on the Section UK website. Even better, view the Facebook posting from V/President Chris Duncombe, dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, on the IPA Section UK Group. Here, Chris is offering a number of bursaries to support members on the following seminars:

- 05-06/02/24 - Tactical first aid
- 04-08/03/24 - Women and girls as victims of violence, trafficking and exploitation
- 11-15/03/24 - Design Against Crime – Design Out Crime
- 02-03/05/24 - Tactical first aid
- 22-24/05/24 - OSINT Tools in police work - An introduction
- 10-14/06/24 - Serve and Protect – Female Police Officers’ Defensive Tactics Instructors Course
- 24-28/06/24 - The Maintenance of public order
- 01-05/07/24 - Workplace Wellbeing (Develop and implement a framework to enhance and incorporate Wellbeing across Police Forces)
- 15-19/07/24 - Police street survival training
- 19-20/08/24 - Advanced tactical first aid
- 09-13/09/24 - Police dealing with people in mental crises
- 30/09-02/10 - OSINT tools - Application oriented advanced course
- 30/09-04/10 - The use of drones by front line services – police special
- 07-11/10/24 - Into the European Union – Challenges of illegal Migration
- 25-27/10/24 - ASP instructor course
- 28-30/10/24 - HEAT for Police Officers in International Missions – Surviving hostile environments
- 18-22/11/24 - Disaster and Crisis Management – The Challenge of Dealing with Disasters
- 02-06/12/24 - Terrorism online – radicalization, recruitment and funding
- 09-13/12/24 - Planning for Mass Fatalities and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)

Financial support is also available from 4 (Wales) Region for official IPA seminars and certain other IPA international events. There may also be additional financial support from your own Branch.

## The International Theme

The IPA is based upon its basic principle of *International Friendship*, and here in Wales we are becoming renowned for our high standards of hospitality and friendship to visiting international members. Through 2023 we have welcomed new friends from Sections USA, New Zealand, Mauritius and Ireland. Already, the diary is beginning to note potential visits from Sections France and USA.

This is a great way of meeting new friends from around the world and creating friendships that can last a lifetime. We frequently advise members who are travelling out of the UK, to submit an IPA Travel Form via our HQ office. This will enable you to meet socially with members in the country you are visiting. Very often you will be invited to visit local police venues and operational units, many beyond the scope of a normal traveller. But you must apply via the Travel Form – allowing a month prior to your arrival date. Further advice may be obtained via myself as your Region Secretary.

Here are some examples of the experiences of international members visiting Wales this year.

### **Section USA visiting North Wales Branch:**

In March 2023, Denis Hunt Region number 4 Branch Secretary received an email from Helen Murray, who with her husband Mark, were coming to the UK at the end of May for three months. Part of their itinerary was to visit North Wales during their travels.

Mark has been a member of the San Francisco (USA) Region branch of the IPA since 1985 and worked for the San Leandro California Police Department for 26 years. He spent the majority of time on motors (riding a Harley Davidson motorcycle for most of that time). Helen was also in law enforcement for 16 years. For 6 years she was a Reserve Police Officer for the Oakland Police Dept. in California, then she spent 10 years as a dispatcher for two different departments.

They now reside up in the mountains of northeast California in Chester, a small town of 2,100 people, at an elevation of 4,525 feet. They get a lot of snow every year, but this year before they left for their vacation, they had an enormous amount. Prior to leaving they had 19 feet of snow this year! Helen says they need the snow though. Their town was almost burned up by the million-acre Dixie Fire two years ago. In fact, the fire got to within one street over from their home. It burned up almost all of the beautiful trees in what had been their forest.

As well as being an IPA member, Mark has quite an impressive membership list of Police and Fire Service organisations including the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club. He is a member of no less than 15 organisations.

On arrival in the UK, they spent some time in London and then took the Eurostar to Paris and whilst in France Helen and Mark took then opportunity to visit Normandy. Back in the UK they made their way around the country by train visiting various areas of the UK, including Northeast of England and Scotland, meeting with IPA in each of these areas.

On 16th, May they came to Llandudno in company with friends whom they befriended on a cruise ship.

During the first evening of their visit, they were hosted by Bill Rogerson, Chair of the North Wales Branch. Mark presented Bill with an IPA Pennant and Police patches. Police and cruise experiences were also exchanged. On 17th, May Helen and Mark made their way to Amlwch on the Isle of Anglesey, enroute visiting the RNLi Lifeboat Station at Trearddur Bay and bringing with them, some of the famous Californian sun sunshine. At the station they again met up with Bill Rogerson who showed them the Atlantic 85 Lifeboat 'Hereford Endeavour'.

During the evening of 18th May, they visited Llangollen where they met up with Lois Ellis, Secretary of the North Wales Branch and Dan McNulty Vice Chair of the Branch.



Mark and Bill exchange IPA and local Police memorabilia

### **Friends from Section New Zealand visit Wales:**

This was a response from Kevin Riorden and his wife Robyn from the Wellington area, following their visit to Cardiff in August during a UK and European tour:

“Wow, what a welcome we got in Cardiff, meeting a variety of members for a coffee in the middle of the city (Cardiff Castle). We were slightly late, as we had trouble finding the café – google maps were not always reliable.

From this meeting a small group of the members took us on a personalised tour of the city (Cardiff Arms Park) and the central city. There were many stories that came out during that tour. Then our Welsh host Dennis (who we had also previously met in Wellington at a Region 4 (Wellington) IPA function), took us in his car to another part of Cardiff (Cardiff Bay and the Senedd) where we explored for several hours, before returning home after a meal, exhausted.

As a result, we had an excellent targeted list of things we wanted to cover over the next few days, (excellent advice by Dennis & the IPA members).

We were made 'guests of honor' at a restaurant for an IPA dinner on our last night in town, this was a fantastic evening of laughter and stories about policing that lasted a long time, and we did not want it to end.

The Welsh IPA showed us a fantastic time and were very generous and accommodating, and the friendships made during that time was marvelous. I know that Dennis put a lot of effort into our visit, and it really worked out well for us and we immensely enjoyed his company and the recommendations of things to do in Wales".



Coffee at Cardiff Castle

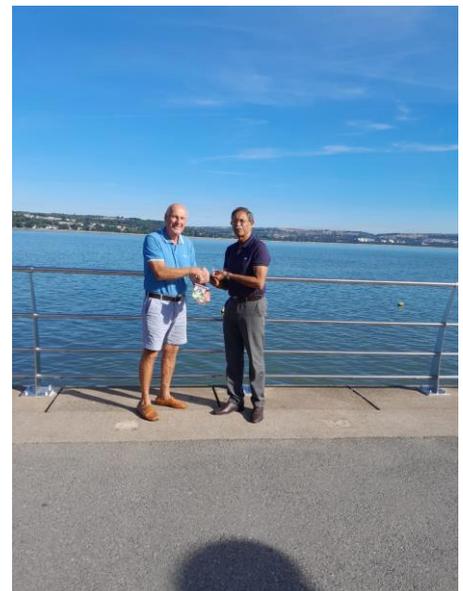


Italian Restaurant – final evening

and visitors from Sections Ireland and Mauritius.....



Damian Crummey from Section Ireland met briefly with Denis Hunt and Ken Davies near Cardiff whilst on route to the IPA International Conference in Greece.



Jean Breneau from IPA Mauritius met with Gwynfor Hughes on the Swansea waterfront during a visit to Wales.

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

## Our New Region Challenge Coin

By late January or early February 2024, we will hopefully see the arrival of our new Challenge Coin issued by 4 (Wales) Region.

Each coin will be consecutively numbered, measuring 50mm diameter and supplied in a clear plastic wallet. As yet, the final cost has not been decided, but it is anticipated to be no more than £10. The style of the consecutive numbering will permit a further continuing order being placed without a further cost incurred.

A number of the coins will be retained as gifts for visiting international members, with the remaining number available for onward sale. It is hoped that members across our own Region will purchase at least one, perhaps two coins. Each item sold will benefit the Region account and eventually those members who seek financial support when attending IPA seminars and international events.

As you will see from the below impressions (apologies for the poor quality), we have named each of the four Welsh Police Forces rather than the three Branches. To simply name the Branches would have meant the identity of Gwent being omitted.



With 2025 being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the IPA by Arthur Troop, we may consider a special Region anniversary coin of a totally new design. But we will release further details early next year.

As we now reach the closure of another year, may I, on behalf of your Region Officers and Regional Committee, wish each of you and your families, a very peaceful and safe New Year. We obviously are not gifted to know what lies ahead but may all your hopes and ambitions be fulfilled. Thank you for your continued support of the IPA, we'd not be here without you all.

And so finally, here's a thought to end the year on.

