



# ROA NEWS

Issue No 6 January 2022

## Message from Chairman



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Healthy, Happy New Year. Last year yet again has been filled with restrictions and uncertainties. We can only hope that 2022 will be a better year for us all.

One highlight of 2021 was the fact that we were able to run the belated AGM/Reunion in Harrogate. I would like to thank all who attended, it was pleasing to see so many members, old and new, who travelled to enjoy the weekend. We were treated extremely well by the Crowne Plaza Hotel staff who went out of their way to ensure that our weekend was a resounding success. We did have one incident which highlighted to me the need to have Next of Kin details recorded on the Application Form and at hand. The location of the 2022 AGM/Reunion has, due to COVID, not been selected. However, suffice to say it will be on the South Coast, details of which will be published on the Web Page and emailed to those members whose email address we hold.

At the AGM we had two new members elected to the Committee. Mel Goudie volunteered as the Vice Chair and Catriona McBeath, MBE as the Assistant Secretary. I welcome them both and look forward to working with them. Mel has filled the vacancy left by the sudden loss of Roger Conner and Catriona steps into Ken Hicks position when he was elected as Treasurer following the loss of Peter Haddock.

In November 2021 we did manage to hold our first Committee Meeting for two years and hopefully we will be able to continue meeting as we did prior to the Pandemic. Our next meeting is currently scheduled for April.

Throughout the Pandemic we have endeavored to support our members by giving advice and assistance where we are able. These have ranged from non-payments of pensions to being able to advise members in financial difficulties. As an Association we have very strong ties with the DPF and MDP and I would like to record my appreciation for their continued support.

Since I last wrote to you all we have moved house. Details of my new address and telephone number are shown on ROA Web Page. My mobile number and email address remain the same. I look forward to the challenges that this year will bring. I and your Committee are here to support you all as ex-colleagues and members.

### Harrogate 2021

During the weekend 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021, we held a very successful AGM Reunion. It was well attended with 68 present including guests. This year we were most pleased to welcome ACC Andrea Bishop who kindly stood in for Andy Adams CCMDP, Hon President of the ROA, who was unable to attend owing to a family commitment.

Chairman Geoff Heal, Secretary David King and Treasurer Ken Hicks provided reports and updates of the various activities during the past two years. Both ACC Andrea Bishop and Eamon Keating, DPF Chairman also addressed the meeting. A report of Conference proceedings and photo gallery can be found on our website and will be circulated separately.

The current officers and committee were re-elected in addition to two new members, Mel Goudie to the position of Vice Chair and Catriona McBeath MBE as Assistant Secretary.

Unfortunately, one of our members Lynn Nixon was taken seriously ill on the Sunday afternoon while spending some free time in York. She was admitted to hospital and following treatment, fitted with a pacemaker. Pleased to say that Lynn is now at home making a good recovery.

Given that our 2020 reunion had to be cancelled it was really good that we were able to meet up again socially and enjoy each other's company.

### **MDPROA Committee 2021/22**



Back Row from L to R: Neville Carter, Catriona Macbeath MBE (Assistant Secretary), Mel Goudie (Vice Chair), Supt Sandy Stewart (Liaison Officer), Ken Hicks (Treasurer), John Barber (Membership Secretary). Front Row from L to R: David King (Secretary), Geoff Heal (Chairman), Jenny Heal, Chris McComb.

### **Annual Contribution**

The annual £5 subscription falls due on 1st July and most members have set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit to cover this for that date although the subscription can also be paid by faster payment or BACS. It covers the routine expenses incurred by the association such as insurance, postage, printing, committee expenses (travel for meetings etc) and other admin costs, without it the ROA could not afford to exist. The Annual Reunion and AGM weekends are entirely self-financing and non-profit making so as to enable us to keep the costs as low as possible for the attendees.

### **Pensions Increase Update**

Civil Service Pensions will increase by **3.1% in April 2022**, following confirmation that the rate of inflation in September 2021, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), was 3.1%.

The basic State Pension will also increase by 3.1% from the start of the new tax year in April, but this is much lower than it would have been had the triple lock (of the higher of inflation; earnings growth; or 2.5%) not been suspended in September, as earnings had risen by 8.1%.

From April 2022, those on the basic state pension, the current figure of **£137.60** will rise to **£141.86**. Then for those who receive the new full state pension can expect a rise from **£179.60** a week to **£185.15** next spring.

## Message from our President Andy Adams, Chief Constable MDP



Hi everyone, I hope you are all well; and for those who attended Harrogate, I trust you had an enjoyable Reunion. Andrea Bishop has informed me that you were very hospitable towards her – that was as I anticipated, and I am grateful for you being so welcoming. As I write this short note, I am digesting some of the information on Omicron. As an eternal optimist I am looking through a positive lens – let us hope I am right to do so, and we are on a journey towards some return to normality.

What is it they say: the only constant is change? The year ahead will continue to demonstrate that, with a number of change programmes/initiatives reaching fruition. Perhaps the most significant will be the change in our Headquarters. We start to vacate Wethersfield on 10 January with the first tranche taking up occupancy of Wyton. That will be followed, during the year, with moves of training to Southwick Park and Coulport. As if that wasn't a big enough challenge, we make those changes under the stewardship of two new Assistant Chief Constables - as we say 'farewell' to Dave Long (after 37 years of service in MDP) and Andrea Bishop (after 3 years with us) It will be sad to see them depart, but their replacements are well set to make their impact on the Force in future years. Commander Mel Dales and Chief Superintendent Jason Gwillam join us from the Met in February, and I look forward to some of you becoming acquainted with them in the future.

Thank you all for continuing to show such an active interest in the MDP – I particularly thank those who play such a significant part in keeping the ROA going.

As we reach the end of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and look forward to another half century I raise a 'metaphoric' glass to you all.

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: *Keith J Kennedy, Stephen Read, Susan Read, Stephen Young, Joyce Young, Gillian Wheeler, David Kennedy and Konrad Chrzanowski.*

### In Memoriam

William Gray – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

Joan Webber – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Harry Norwood – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021



### MDP 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Both the Force and Federation proudly celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2021. One of our members Tom Sloman contributed an article on overseas deployment which we are pleased to reproduce below:

In Early 2000 following my appointment as the first UK Contingent Commander by Chief Constable W. Boreham, selected MOD Police personnel (Both Male and Female) undertook a rigorous training programme at the Police Training School Wethersfield, Essex. Deployment had been set for Kosovo Eastern Europe which was administered by the UN. As well as training in all aspects including Firearms training, Operational Scenarios and Tactics etc we

also had first-hand experience from veteran UN officers from the RUC and elsewhere and East Europeans who had been there.

When we arrived in Kosovo, we underwent further training with the UN. Everyone passed and so we then had a quick choice to deploy as individuals throughout Kosovo to the various units and Departments. Some of the Officers managed to stay together but we could all stay in touch via the various links ie email, telephone etc. Soon after deployment MOD Police established themselves within their various roles as Station Commanders, Investigation Units, Special Ops, HQ staff and many more. It was clear that this first Deployment was highly successful and the transition from Duty at home to a United Nations role was achieved with the highest of standards. This was important for any ambitions the Force had about further international deployment. I paid visits to the British Residence in Pristina and had excellent responses from them including an invitation from The Right Hon Robin Cook MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

This was a great experience for us and had been highly successful for all concerned. ACC Barry Smith came out and presented our UN Medals on presentation day which the UN had provided for so all deployed personnel could attend. I completed a year and returned home but many Officers extended for a further six months. Following this Deployment further International Deployments by the MOD Police in an Operational Role became the norm. Many Officers including myself returned to the UN or went elsewhere increasing the MOD Police reputation both at Home and Internationally.

## The Charity for Civil Servants

The Charity for Civil Servants –

[www.foryoubyyou.org.uk](http://www.foryoubyyou.org.uk) supports all current, former and retired civil servants throughout their lives, listening without judgement and offering practical, financial and emotional support. Telephone for confidential support and advice call 0800 056 2424 Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

The Charity's Wellbeing Hub has been specially developed to give you the opportunity to choose downloads from their most popular resources in an easy-to-use format and have them delivered directly to your inbox



IMPORTANT: You could be owed a tax refund

If you pay tax, there's a fairly high chance you've paid too much as many MDPROA Members have recently discovered! Sixty-two per cent of MDPROA Members opting to use the experts at the Tax Refund Company to check their tax codes have discovered HMRC had issued them with the wrong code, resulting in them paying too much tax – on average £226.64 each. To find out if you are due a refund go to <https://applythetaxrefundcompany.co.uk/new/2103000018> or Call the Tax Refund Company Customer Service Team on 0161 968 7345 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm) or see our FAQ's at [www.thetaxrefundcompany.co.uk/faqs](http://www.thetaxrefundcompany.co.uk/faqs)



Police Mutual have been around for many years dedicated to helping the police family including serving and retired officers and respective families and are able to provide help and guidance on a wide range of matters including insurance, finance and health & well-being issues. They have long

been associated with MDP/DPF and have a regular presence at MDP Pass Out Parades at Wethersfield by sponsoring The Alf Hitchcock Award. More details can be found on our website and also at [www.pmas.co.uk](http://www.pmas.co.uk)