

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



As I write this it feels like only a few weeks ago that I was writing the introduction for the 2018 edition, and yet another year has passed, and we are heading into the year 20/20, a place where my eyesight used to be once upon a time!

This is our fourth Newsletter and we trust that you will continue to find the articles informative and helpful, giving an insight into the Fund processes and procedures. We would like to thank the Organisations we support for providing valuable updates on their activities throughout the year and would encourage you to contact us for information if you are interested in joining any of them - the Wounded Police & Families, Injured Police & Carers, Parents Association, Carers Group, Disabled Police Officers Association or Forgotten Families. They all do great work.

The schemes within the Fund have not changed over the past year and we continue to endeavour to support our clients and those wishing to apply for assistance. Eligibility brings many benefits amongst which the annual home visit remains one of the most valued. Assessment Officers proactively contact every eligible client on their list to offer a visit, which is a pivotal part of our service as it allows us to keep in touch, update you on our schemes, offer help and support on the application process. It also helps us assess any need for an Occupational Therapist visit and enables the officer to make a case when writing up items requested under the General Support scheme.

We value all feedback and would ask you to express your views on the services provided, positive or negative on the questionnaires enclosed with Letters of Offer or correspondence throughout the year.

There has been a lot of media coverage in 2019 reflecting on the sacrifice and role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Police Service of Northern Ireland. As colleagues we watch and listen to those reports, recognising many of the names and faces and are left with mixed emotions of both sympathy for those left behind, and those living with the scars of the past, as well as a sense of gratitude for the sacrifices made by many families and officers.

Please share information on the Fund to those you feel may be eligible for our support and contact us if you require more copies of the Newsletter to pass on to individuals or to leave in Police Family organisations. We would be more than happy to post out whatever number you request.

All of us on the Board continue to remain supportive of the clients and organisations, and work hard to maintain the service and apply the robust governance which allows us to continue to

operate. I feel that it is important to thank them for all of the work they do throughout the year in a voluntary capacity and for their invaluable support to the staff and clients.

If you have not visited our website at www.nipolicefund.org please do, it contains up to date information and news as well as advertising events for other organisations. If you would like to advertise an event relating to our client base you can email the information to: admin@nipolicefund.org.

We trust that you will enjoy reading this year's edition, as always, we welcome feedback and suggestions for future publications.

We at the Fund would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Chair – Dr Michael Wardlow



It's that time of year again when I reflect on all that has happened in the year since the last edition of the Fund Times. Although the political environment has been somewhat chaotic, if not toxic, over the past year the work of the Fund has continued. The reality is that the needs of our clients have not changed and it is a privilege to be able to provide support to help those who are so deserving of our support.

We are conscious that the suffering and need of those who have served, and the families that support them or who have lost so much, continues no matter what changes around us. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues for their dedication and hard work in helping to deliver this support, and for their concern for the welfare of our clients. It is humbling to lead such a dedicated and caring team. I would also like to place on record my thanks to the Board of the Fund for their commitment and support.

The coming weeks and months will bring new challenges and uncertainties but we in the Fund will continue to support our clients to the best of our ability. We may not be able to please all of the people all of the time but we will continue to work to ensure that our service to our clients is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible in meeting the real needs of those who have given so much over the years.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chief Executive – R Pedlow



PERSONAL ALARM FOB

We have recently partnered with PPP (Private Patient Plan through AXA) to provide Personal Alarms to vulnerable clients identified by the Fund Occupational Therapists and Assessment Officers.



If you believe that this would be beneficial/ essential to your well - being please contact your assessment officer for further details. **How the personal alarms work**

The personal alarm can be worn discreetly as a bracelet, wristband or pendant.

The alarm base unit detects when the button on the personal alarm bracelet or pendant is pressed and quickly connects to our 24-hour emergency response centre in the UK:

- The response team will know who you are and will have access to any medical information you have shared with us.
- The response team will try and speak with you over the alarm's speaker to assess the situation.
- The trained and experienced response team can provide help and advice or contact your keyholders or the emergency services on your behalf.
- Even if you are not able to speak, by pressing the alarm button the response team will know who you are and where you are calling from so can direct support to you very quickly.
- The alarms work in the home and garden, up to 75 metres (246 ft) away from the base unit, and are water resistant so you can be confident of support when you require it.

Personal alarm features

- Easy to use emergency button with support available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Discreet and lightweight alarm **pendant**, can be worn around the neck or on the wrist as a bracelet.
- High quality two-way speaker that is audible from different rooms in the house.
- Our **pendant alarms** work up to 75 metres (246 ft) away from the alarm unit, so you can go about your daily life knowing it will work anywhere in your home.
- Simple to set-up. The personal alarm unit is ready for use from the moment it's plugged in.
- No need to worry about the battery running out. It has a daily battery self-test and low battery warning.

POLICE FAMILY NEWS



Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Parents' Association
Supporting the Parents of Murdered RUC Officers

Email: rucgcpa@nipolicefund.org



The Parents Association was formed in 2003 to give support to Parents of murdered police officers, our patron is Sir Ronnie Flanagan GBE QPM MA. We have 45 members on our roll and meet in Newforge Country Club in Belfast every 2 months from September to June.

This year we had 4 days at Magherabuoy Hotel in Portrush with 18 members attending. We travelled around the North Coast stopping off at the Millside Cloughmills for lunch on 1 of the days.

We visited Ballycastle where we had lunch in the Marine Court and on our last day after a little retail therapy, we had lunch in the Lodge Hotel before heading back to Belfast. Everyone really enjoyed our time together especially the quiz evening that Mrs. Jean Pollock organised.

Three of our members attended the Memorial Service in Kilkeel where our Chairman Greer and Vice Chairman Beattie laid a wreath on behalf of the Parents' Association in memory of our murdered children. We also had two representatives attending the Annual Service in Enniskillen

Chairman Greer and Pearl attended the Gala Dinner in the Europa Hotel at the invitation of the RUCGG/PSNI Benevolent Fund. This was an excellent evening and we had a chance to speak to Chief Constable George Hamilton and wish him a long and happy retirement after his long service in the RUCGC and the PSNI.

The National Police Memorial Day Service was held in Glasgow in September and was attended by Mrs. Rhoda Martin and Miss Velma Beacom. They also attended the reception held on the Saturday evening.

Our October weekend was to Newcastle for a 2 night stay in the Burrendale Hotel with 20 parents and Carers attending. On Saturday we travelled to Armagh to St. Mark's Church to view the new memorial wall that was dedicated in June 2019 to remember those Police Officers/UDR/and Regular Army, who either lived, or were killed on duty, in County Armagh.

Mr. David Hammerton BEM came along to tell us about the wall and we found it very interesting and would highly recommend it for a visit.



After we left Armagh we made our way through the Orchard County to visit Dan Winter's Cottage. This is where the 1st Orange Lodge of Ireland was formed and Mrs. Winters gave us a history talk which all of us really enjoyed.

At Dan Winter's Cottage there is also a lovely tea room where we had lunch and some of Mrs. Winter's fantastic Apple Tart and Cream which was a lovely treat.

Remembrance Weekend in London is an important date for us, 3 members, plus Beattie and Jean Doak's son travelled with the Armagh George Cross Association. We attended the Official Opening of the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster on Thursday, and returned to Westminster Garden on the Saturday for our own short Service of Remembrance to place poppy crosses in the Garden

We attended the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance on Saturday and paraded with pride down Whitehall on the Sunday in memory of all our loved ones. To see it on television is sad but to actually parade on this day is something else.

Over the last year, we have had 4 members who celebrated their 90th birthdays, which was a great achievement.

Sadly, we also had 4 members who passed away, Mrs. Alice Ballentine, Mrs. Pauline Bradshaw, Mr. Evans and Mr. Robert White. It is always difficult to lose members and we pass our thoughts and condolences to their families.

We are looking forward to Christmas Lunch in the Dunadry on the 28th November when we meet up with family and friends.



WOUNDED POLICE & FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

~Healing Through Caring, Recognition and Justice~

This year has been a very busy one with several changes along the way.

Wounded Police and Families Association with funding from the Victims and Survivors Service published a book, 'Proud Days'; the history of policing in Ireland under the Crown.

It contains the magnificent drawings of former RUC officer Alan Mounce with narrative by both Alan and Dr Michael Boyle. We are so grateful to Alan for his generosity in giving us his artwork for this book and to Michael for his historical knowledge.

Backroom Creative did an excellent job printing the book, as they had done with our two previous books, 'Shared Memories volumes 1 and 2'. 'Proud Days' would make a very acceptable Christmas gift for the book lover, art lover or history buff.

Please email your order to: info@wpfa-online.org.uk or text/ phone 07713586871, or by post to The Secretary, WPFA Newforge Country Club, 18B, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5NW and we will forward it.

The books are free, but we ask a minimum donation of £10 to WPFA funds plus two second class stamps per book for postage.

The Association looks after officers/ex-officers, who have been seriously and permanently injured by terrorism in the Troubles, their Carers and families. Newforge Country Club shop has copies available.

We have a new Secretary this year, volunteer Tim Hedgley LLB, who has brought a very acceptable, different view to proceedings. His theme for the year is 'Laughter is the best Medicine'

Due to illness the programme with NIPF funding began late, with the very popular Belfast Tattoo.

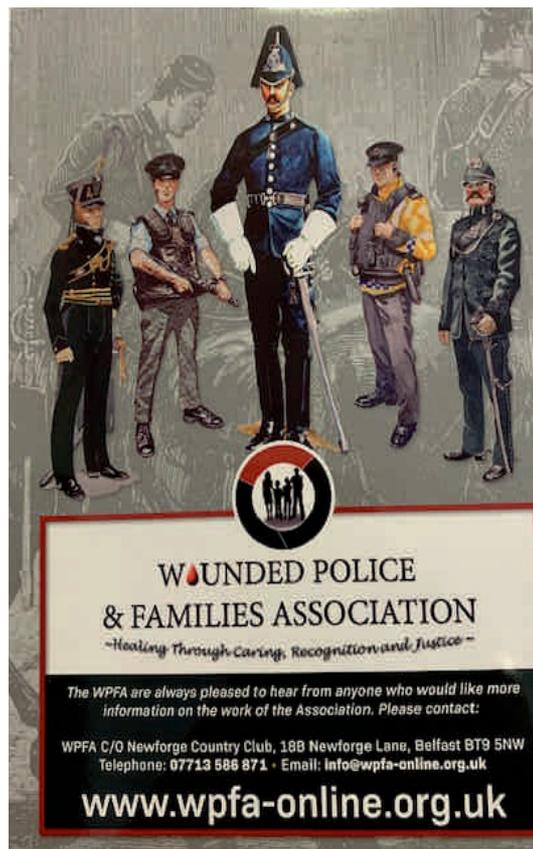
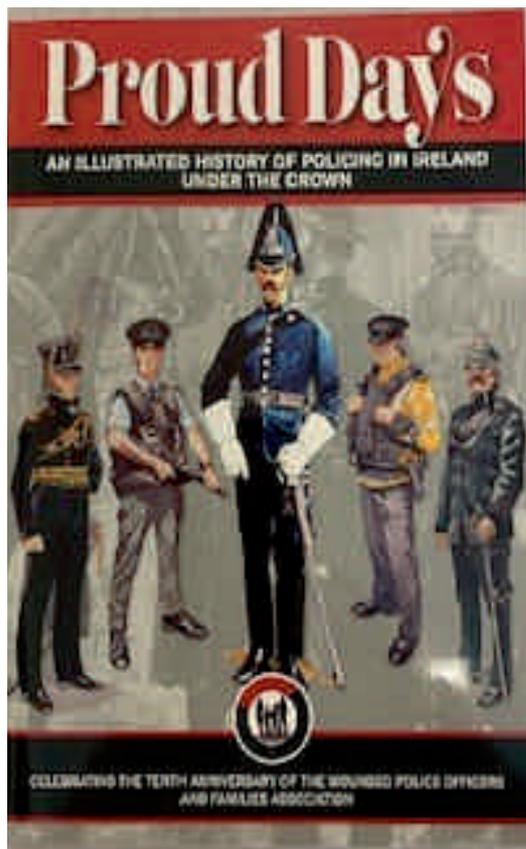
In November the group have a 2 night Respite Break to look forward to, in Liffey Valley Dublin. Visiting the Irish Military Museum, the theatre, Kildare area and Carlingford area. No doubt a little time will be allocated to shopping!

After Christmas the programme will continue until February, the ongoing visiting programme has a few more members added to the list this year due to illness and increasing disabilities.

We are very sorry to record that the wife of our founding Chairman Jack, passed away recently. Janette Johnston was a lovely lady who contributed so much to our group. She was a former Part Time Reserve Officer. Janette will be sadly missed by her friends within the group.

On behalf of the Board and Membership of Wounded Police and Families Association, I would like to wish a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year to everyone in The Police Fund and to your readers.

H McCready Mrs.
Chairperson



Forgotten Families



Update on the Quilt

The Forgotten Families' quilt has already featured in the NIPF's newsletter however, on 13th August this year a new focus for the quilt was unveiled.

Some of the members of the Forgotten Families along with Ronnie Pedlow and Helen Hopper from the NIPF and Stephen White, Chair of the RUCGC Foundation, were invited to the Ulster Museum to view the quilt which is now on display in the Beyond the Conflict exhibition.

There had been discussions with the Ulster Museum over time and we were delighted when the quilt was placed into the exhibition in May 2019 and will be displayed for one year.

We are indebted to Karen Logan for all the work she and staff at the museum undertook to achieve this outcome so that others will be able to see the quilt.

The quilt was a project in which we created an opportunity for the ladies in our group to continue to support each other while also having a clear focus for an end product - the quilt. We did not ever envisage the quilt being displayed at an exhibition in the Ulster Museum.



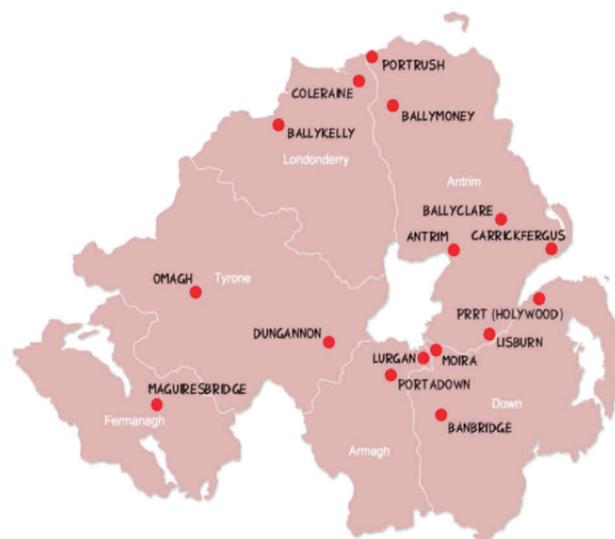
One of the photographs at the exhibition shows some of the ladies who worked on the quilt having lunch and for members of the Forgotten Families this illustrates the friendships, memories and the fun and laughter that we shared during the quilt making.

We hope you will take the time to visit the exhibition and see the quilt.

As you visit the exhibition please note that as well as ladies enjoying the experience of making the quilt we also wanted the quilt to be a reminder of those who died, were injured, carers and the families of all officers who served in the RUCGC during the time known as 'The Troubles'.

PHYSIOTHERAPY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Did you know... that you can access Physiotherapy in all of these towns across the province?



In addition to the Physiotherapy service that we provide at the Maryfield Complex, those eligible through PRRT can access Physiotherapy treatment at one of the established practices in any of the towns in the map above. All of our physiotherapists whether at Maryfield or in their own practice are qualified to the same high standard and are highly experienced.

HOW TO ACCESS THIS SERVICE

To request physiotherapy assessment just contact our clinical administration team on 028 90427788. You will be asked to fill in some paperwork and you will have a telephone triage with one of our physiotherapists before being referred to the clinic of your choice.

For further information about the Physiotherapy service we provide and some frequently asked questions, please refer to our website: www.prrt.org

PRRT is based at Maryfield, Holywood and provides psychology, physiotherapy, personal development and training to the retired police population.

PSNI employees can access our healthcare services via referrals from PSNI occupational health. Serving officers can access personal development and training directly. For further information or to make an appointment please call 028 9042 7788.

NIPF BACKGROUND AND CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Northern Ireland Police Fund has been in existence for 17 years, set up in 2002 following a report by John Steele into how recommendation 87 of the Patten Report could be implemented. We are often quoted Steele or Patten when meeting with our clients and recognise that new clients may not be aware of the formation of the Fund and how schemes available came into fruition.

'A substantial fund should be set up to help injured police officers, injured retired officers and their families, as well as police widows'. Recommendation 87 of the Patten Report.

A New Beginning - Policing in Northern Ireland Report in 1999 stated:

Disabled Officers

10.20 During the course of our work we met many police officers who had been disabled as a result of terrorist attacks, we recommend that a substantial fund be set up to help injured police officers, injured retired officers and their families, as well as police widows. The fund could supplement the income of those on very low pensions, help finance the procurement of better prostheses or household equipment for the disabled, and make grants to universities for research or for bursaries for disabled officers who wish to study.

Widows. 10.21 ...The fund recommended in the preceding paragraph should also be used to support widows in financially straitened circumstances.

The Review of the Northern Ireland Police Fund by J Steele in October 2004 stated that the Bereavement/ Disability Support (now General Support) scheme – provides support for those who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of bereavement, injury or disability caused as a direct result of terrorist violence.

Over the past 17 years the Fund has diligently applied the recommendations and worked within the remit of generosity. 'Means testing' has always been an emotive issue and the application process is applied with discretion and minimal intrusion into finances.

The General Support scheme is the only application form that requires financial information on monthly household income and expenditure relating to mortgage, rent and rates.

To comply with governance a decision was taken by the Board in September 2019 that supporting documentation relating to the General Support scheme must be provided in the form of a pension slip, mortgage statement, rates bill for all declared finance, income and expenditure. The change in policy is in compliance with good governance and accountability and demonstrates due diligence when dealing with finance awarded from the public purse.

The application form will change in the year 2020 to reflect this with a tick box beside each item in the financial section. If there is a declaration, you will be required to provide supporting documentation and tick the box.



We cannot proceed with an application if the documentation is not provided.

Monthly Income	Amount	Supplied ✓	Monthly Expenditure	Amount	Supplied ✓
Salary	£		Mortgage/ Rent	£	
Police pension	£		Rates	£	
State pension/ pension credit	£		Sliding Scale	£	

We understand that not everyone has access to a printer/ copier and if requested we will copy and return all documentation submitted. If you have any concerns regarding any of the information above please contact your assessment officer and they will guide you through the process and answer any questions.

POLICE FEDERATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 47th Annual Conference of the Police Federation N.I was held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 in the La Mon Hotel and Country Club.

The Fund Assessment Officers, Beverly Coomber and Stephen Magee attended the event with an information stand on Police Fund eligibility, schemes available and application forms.

The day proved a great success with information sharing, contacts made with police family organisations and resulted in enquiries being made and eligibilities established.

This is the second year the Fund has been invited to the conference as an exhibitor, and we look forward to attending future events.



The CAB service was launched by PRRT over 10 years ago. At this time it was evident that a significant number of retiring and retired officers were not accessing much needed assistance with the completion of statutory forms.

There was also limited knowledge of how to access statutory support available, both practical and financial, by the retired police population. In addition to this many retired officers were reluctant to contact their local CAB service to discuss requirements as this may require disclosure of personal information and employment background.

To address this situation PRRT established a CAB Outreach Service at the Maryfield site, all CAB Advisers are security cleared to the same level as PRRT staff. The staff are from the Ards and North Down CAB Office.

The CAB Service is available every other Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

When it is difficult to attend an appointment the CAB Adviser will provide advice by telephone, however assistance with the completion of forms requires a face-to-face appointment.

Each session is 30 minutes in duration.

The service is available to the following clients:

- Retired Officers
- Retiring Officers
- Family Members using PRRT Healthcare Services
- Carers of Retired Officers in receipt of DLA/ESA/Attendance Allowance

To make an appointment please contact Services Administration at 90 427788 or by e-mail at servicesadmin@prrt.org

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