



INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION Section UK – No 4 (Wales) Region South Wales Branch

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The IPA South Wales Branch

The International Police Association (IPA) is a worldwide organisation whose base line principle and Motto is, "Service Through Friendship".

The membership is made up of both serving and retired employees of the Home Office Police Forces and the National Crime Agency (NCA), including all levels of Staff.

The IPA is a Non Governmental Organisation and does not investigate Crime.

In Section UK, membership is open to serving and retired Police Officers, Special Constables and members of Police Staff employed by a Chief Constable or other appropriately designated Chief Officer of the Police Service. In June 2017, membership was also opened to all persons employed within the NCA. The Section therefore has a unique mixture of both Police and NCA personnel who are still serving, retired, or in some instances, who have voluntarily resigned from the police service.

The South Wales Branch is extremely honored that the Chief Constables of both Gwent and South Wales Police Forces have accepted the roles of Joint Patrons.

The IPA provides social activities at an individual, Group or family level, including local and international trips, holidays, sporting events, competitions, exchange visits and very importantly, Professional Development opportunities of a high standard. Through the Section UK Professional Development scheme, together with the IPA Education and Cultural Centre at Gimborn near Cologne, the Association organises five day seminars on wide ranging police related topics, with presentations by experts in their particular field.

In addition there is a bi-annual international seminar held in various parts of the world for young police officers. For young family members between 15 and 18 years there is a bi-annual international cultural visit of seven days, the next one being in 2018 in the UK. For serving members there are opportunities for international professional exchanges. Finally but with strict controls, there are opportunities for short period international exchanges for children of IPA members with like-minded families abroad.

The benefits of individual police participation are many - making new friends both in the UK and on an International level, the opportunity to learn about professional policing practices and cultures in other countries, plus receive help and guidance when travelling abroad. The IPA also has a range of high quality houses and apartments available for rent throughout the world. For the retired police family, the IPA offers another opportunity to stay in touch with former work colleagues in addition to meeting new friends in the UK and also when travelling abroad.

IPA No 4 (Wales) Region consists of three Branches, each covering the specific Police areas, namely, North Wales, South Wales (including Gwent) and Dyfed Powys.

The South Wales Branch currently has a growing membership in the region of 165, consisting of both serving and retired Police Officers, Police Staff from within the South Wales and Gwent Forces, together with MOD, BTP and NCA officers.

Each Region and Branch has an elected Executive Committee conforming to the IPA Section UK Constitution and Rules. Our own Branch holds two or three 'formal' Branch meetings a year, together with additional social activities. Each of the formal meetings will include standard business matters, usually followed by a guest speaker on varied subjects. We have made it a policy that husbands, wives, partners and friends are welcome to attend all activities and meetings, unless certain official matters prevent this. An example of the content of a 'formal' meeting took place at our 2017 AGM when our guest speaker was Mr. Jeffrey Farrer, the then Branch Joint Patron. This was immediately followed by a demonstration with the 41st Foot Military re-enactment Society, signing everyone up for the war against the French in Canada (but don't tell the Canadians!).

Informal social activities have included visits to the Christmas Markets in Cologne, Bonn, Antwerp and Brussels, river cruises, volunteering at both the National Police Memorial Day and the International Association of Women's Police Conference in Cardiff, a weekend at Snowdon, a visit to the Senedd in Cardiff, plus the annual visit to the Abergavenney Food Festival.

On the International scene, as a Branch we are twinned with the IPA Region of Mechelen, near Antwerp in Belgium, together with having strong ties with the IPA Region in Vancouver Island, Canada.

Being the Capital City of Wales, Cardiff and the immediate area are frequently called upon to host international IPA visitors, both for one day and often longer visits. In recent times we have hosted friends from Canada, Republic of Ireland, Sri Lanka, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Spain. In September 2017 we hosted Police Inspector Saori Kimura from Japan, whilst she attended the European Crime Conference in Cardiff. Thanks to the kind assistance of Mr. Peter Vaughan, we arranged a full morning visit to the Cardiff Bay Police Station where Inspector Kimura will take the opportunity to meet with female officers and discuss the both the professional and cultural differences for women officers in the UK and Japan.

We hope that this document will provide you with an outline and brief information on the IPA, particularly in the South Wales area.

Further information and application form may be found at the main IPA Section UK website <http://www.ipa-uk.org>.

Alternatively for further information, contact the Branch Secretary, Denis Hunt, at d.hunt3@ntlworld.com or your IPA point of contact within the Gwent Police Force, Sergeant Jitka Tomkova-Griffiths.

The IPA is currently offering free membership during 2017.