



Young Highlander turns retired poet

NARPO

A Sheffield NARPO member has used his retirement years to put pen to paper.

Tom Aitchison, who retired from rank of inspector with the criminal records office in 1991 after serving for 32 years, has written a book of poems about his early years in the Scottish Highlands.

The book, entitled 'A Boy from the Highlands', includes 17 poems which Tom penned while reminiscing about his childhood and teenage years. He

lived in the Highlands from birth until the age of 19, at which time he moved to Sheffield.

"My first main job in the Highlands was as a cook in a Monastery where the Monks taught me to cook," Tom explained. "However, what I really wanted to do was join the police so I moved to Sheffield in 1959 to do so."

While growing up in Scotland, Tom's boyhood hero was a Gaelic singer named Calum Kennedy, who later became his inspiration for writing poetry.

"I had followed his career when I was

young," Tom said, "so when my sister sent me a newspaper cutting in 2003 saying Calum had suffered several strokes I was shocked to see the impact these had had on him.

"For some reason I went into my dining room and wrote a tribute. I don't know why but the words just came to me. The poem was later broadcast on Radio Scotland and after his death was included by his family in his memorial service. This inspired me to



continue writing and to fulfil my ambition of writing a full book of poems."

Tom's poems are based around people he knew and singers from the Highlands. He self-published his book, which contains 50

photographs, in October 2010 and has sold around 250 copies. Anyone wishing to order a copy, priced at £4 including postage, should email Tom at tomj.aitchison@yahoo.com.

Retiree on a high after trip to Nepal

South Yorkshire Police

A retired South Yorkshire officer with a life-long love of walking and mountain climbing recently took on his greatest challenge when he visited the Dhaulagiri Circuit in the very remote area of Dhaulagiri, Nepal, to take on the difficult Dhampus Peak.

Since retiring in 1999, Robin Aconley, who is a bailiff for the South Yorkshire Police Angling Club at their Westwoodside lakes (*for more information visit www.sypac.co.uk*), has indulged his love of heights by taking on several difficult treks and climbs.

"My hobby has mainly taken me to the Peaks, Lakes and Scotland," explained Robin. "Since my retirement I have expanded my horizons to Mont Blanc in the Alps (4810 metres), Kilimanjaro (5950 metres) and, ultimately, to the Himalaya in Nepal when in 2007 I successfully summited the Mera Peak at 6500 metres."

His latest trek to Nepal, in October 2010, was organised by Sheffield company Jagged Globe and was made up of ten trekkers – seven from



A well earned rest

England, two from Belgium and one from Holland.

The group walked and camped for over two weeks, during which time they attempted to scale the 6050 metre Dhampus Peak and learnt first hand why the climb can be so dangerous.

One climber had to be taken to hospital by helicopter after he fell and broke his ankle while trying to avoid a falling rock. The remainder of the group had to abandon the climb at 5050 metres due to snowfall

and the threat of avalanches.

While in Nepal Robin also took gifts for schoolchildren in the remote village of Dhara Pani in the Myagdi Khola valley.

He said: "From previous trips to the Himalayas I know that schools are very remote and cost a lot of money to run so they are very appreciative of basic supplies. I spoke to the South Yorkshire Sports & Social Club Board Member who represents retired members, Bob Simpson, before my trip and the Club kindly provided pens, pencils, baseball caps and yoyos for the children. Most of the other members of the group also made a cash donation to the school."

After a few months back at home Robin is already getting itchy feet and planning his next adventure.

"In the short term I intend to make an attempt at the Cullin Ridge on Skye sometime this spring which will be a real test as it is just as dangerous as the Himalaya," he said. "However I am totally enthralled by the Himalaya, Nepal and its people and would love another visit as long as I can stay fit enough."

NARPO

On the ball for Percy Sills

Serving and retired officers took to the pitch recently for the latest Percy Sills Trophy Competition.

The 2011 competition took place at Doncaster Dome, followed by a pie and peas reunion at Club 39.

Event organiser and Doncaster branch member Don Crabtree said: "We were pleased to welcome some new faces, including some serving officers approaching the end of their service. With no serious injuries to report a great night was had by all.

For the record Edlington were worthy winners in spite of the fact that the random team draw saw some of the young guns playing together. Were the less young players bitter? You bet!

"It was a great night with lots of effort," Don added. "Our thanks go to the Sports & Social Club and the Life Members Section for funding the event and the pie and peas supper afterwards."

Hello and welcome...

It was really pleasing to hear such positive feedback from the first Life Members Newsletter and it is my privilege to welcome you to the second edition.

You will be aware from press coverage and any colleagues who are still serving that tremendous changes are taking place in the force and these will continue for some time yet.

Some of the decisions being made will have an impact on the Sports & Social Club; fewer meetings and a reduction in the provision of food at both Niagara and Club 39 will impact on profits. The number of staff employed by the force will reduce significantly affecting income from subscriptions and the lottery. However the Sports & Social Club is still well placed to meet these challenges. Careful control of our finances has ensured that whilst maintaining a healthy bank balance we have still been able to invest in Niagara and Club 39 to ensure these premises are well furnished and meet modern day demands.

Some difficult decisions have had to be made and it was with some disappointment that it was decided recently to withdraw cricket facilities at Niagara. The force cricket section had only used the facility a couple of times in recent years and the cost of maintaining the square was several thousand pounds per year. Although outside teams used the cricket square the income generated was well below this cost. In effect, members' cash was being used to subsidise outside cricket teams which could not be justified.

We continue to provide first class facilities at Niagara and Club 39 for you, your family and friends to hire for a wide range of events. Sunday lunches, themed restaurant meals and cabaret nights are proving popular at Niagara.

We are developing an ever-widening range of discounts for our members and later this year plan to launch a link to a national police offers website.

For information on all the above please visit our website at www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk.

*Peter Darling, Chief Executive
South Yorkshire Police Sports & Social Club*

Chewing the fat at reunion

Rotherham

There could be no better place for a reunion of ex-CID officers than at a pub run by a former detective. So when a group of Rotherham retirees decided to hold a get-together, The Woodman in Swinton – run by former detective 'Big' Kev Burrows – was the perfect venue.

Over 40 people attended the reunion in December, mostly retired detectives of all ranks as well as a handful of currently serving officers.

Terry Deakin, who helped organise the event, said: "As you can imagine

many 'war stories' were told, accompanied by much 'lamp-swinging'.

"Refreshments were provided by Kev and his wife Jan in the form of curry, rice, chips etc, and as usually happens when old bobbies gather, there was a good deal of 'chewing the fat'.

"I think the cold snap prevented a few from attending. I heard of about at least half a dozen people who could not make it due to suffering from man flu or other ailments but we managed without them – and drank their share in support and sympathy!"

And the winner is...

NARPO South Yorkshire and the Sports & Social Club invited readers to register for email updates at www.narposouthyorkshire.co.uk for the chance to win a cash prize of £50 in the last issue.

The winner selected at random was Alan Clarke, a retired officer who worked at West Bar for 20 years and spent the remainder of his service at Hammerton and Ecclesfield.

Alan, who is a bailiff for the South Yorkshire Police Angling Club at their Woodsetts Pond, said: "When I use the website it's usually just to have a browse and find out what's going on. It's useful to find out about the latest news and events."

Despite being the lucky winner of £50, Alan said he probably wouldn't see any of the money himself. "I've got five grandchildren," he said, "so no doubt I'll be spending the money on them!"

LOOKING BACK ON THE BEAT...

In each issue we invite readers to share memories from their time on the beat. This issue it is the turn of Phil Woodward, who retired from his role as chief inspector in 2002, and who subsequently carried out some work for the force on football hooliganism. Now a contingency planner for the force, Phil is based at the operations complex. In his free time he is secretary of both the Rotherham & County Referees' Associations.

Phil remembers: "When I was a young traffic officer I was on an early shift one January morning in the late 1970s when myself and a colleague received a call to attend a report of a vehicle having left the road.

"What we saw on arrival was a real sight for sore eyes on such a cold and icy winter's morning on a dark unlit country road on the outskirts of Rotherham in South Yorkshire. Four young men with shaven heads all dressed in long colourful robes and beads around their necks looking lost, cold and bewildered stood next to a VW Camper Van with its back end in a ditch and the front end on the grass verge.

"We spoke to them and they said they had skidded off the icy road. Fortunately no damage or injury had been caused. They said they were Holy Disciples and were spreading the word of 'Hare Krishna'.

"Feeling some sympathy towards

the lads we decided to help them get the van out of the ditch. So my colleague would drive and steer whilst the four lads and I would push from the back so we could quickly get the van back on to the road.

"We briefed them on what we intended to do then as agreed, after a count to three, I started to push, having great difficulty keeping my footing on the icy surface and getting thoroughly cold only to find the van wasn't moving. It was clearly evident I was the only one busting a gut pushing and I then became aware of a low chant.

"The four lads were all stood around the back of the van facing it with their arms outstretched and their hands open about an inch from the vehicle chanting the phrase "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Hare Rama Hare Rama" over and over again.

"When I asked what they were doing and why weren't they pushing they said they were seeking divine assistance and they didn't need to push the van as they expected their prayers to be answered and it would move back onto the road with no physical exertion from them! Their prayers clearly hadn't been answered!

"We did find the incident quite amusing and had difficulty keeping our faces straight but we didn't share their faith in holy deliverance so we called for a recovery vehicle to attend!"

WANTED TALES FROM THE BEAT

Got a story to share from your time on the beat? NARPO has in the region of 2,000 members, each of whom clocked up around 30 years of service, there must be thousands of interesting tales to tell.

If you would like your story to be considered for publication contact Peter Darling on 0114 296 4945 or by email at peter.darling@niagaracentre.co.uk



NARPO NEWS FROM SHEFFIELD

Sheffield branch members finally enjoyed their Christmas dinner dance eight weeks late after a number of unexpected setbacks.

Branch chairman Mick Brookfield explained: "The dinner dance was scheduled for 4 December 2010 but had to be cancelled due to the snow. It was rearranged for 29 January 2011 but shortly before the event Niagara lost its supply of gas due to a fractured main. Despite this we decided to go ahead. However, as the main course was being served there was a power cut and just to help matters the temperature outside was sub-zero!

"Despite these extremely testing conditions we were treated to a superb night. The staff were magnificent, the food was excellent and most people seemed to enjoy the novelty of eating by candlelight.

"Fortunately, power was restored shortly before the need to evacuate the building due to safety regulations. Peter Darling was called out and it is reported that he managed to find a coin old enough to fit the slot meter!"

A raffle was held in support of the Palliative Care Unit at the Northern General Hospital and Roy Shenton was presented with a watch to mark

the occasion of his 25 years as Secretary of the Sheffield Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers and also the Old Comrades Association.

"His anniversary actually takes place in April and on behalf of all members throughout South Yorkshire I would like to thank Roy for his enormous contribution over the years," said Mick. "It is difficult to find words to describe his dedication and enthusiasm and I am sure that all members will join me in wishing him many more years in office to come."

Upcoming events include:

- 8 June: Branch social evening
- 16 May: Five-day holiday to Isle of Wight
- 22 July: Summer dinner dance
- 7 September: New members' night
- 13 October: Old Comrades dinner
- 16 November: Branch social evening
- 3 December: festive dinner dance

Membership of the branch continues to grow and new members are always welcome.

Mick Brookfield can be contacted on 01246 810347 or by email at mick.brookfield@btinternet.com.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR BARNSELY

NARPO Barnsley held its Annual General Meeting on 1 March at the branch's new venue, the Wilthorpe Hotel, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley. All officials were re-elected and the vacant role of president was filled.

Branch secretary Michael O'Hara said: "The meeting got off to a shaky start because of a double booking with the ladies pool team, but everybody enjoyed themselves and it was a good evening. Current officials were re-elected unanimously and Jock Murdoch took up the vacant role of president.

"Because of the falling numbers attending and the closure of the police canteen, it was decided that we would end the Widows Christmas Lunch and instead double their M&S vouchers to £20."

The branch will hold its quarterly meetings on 7 June, 6 September

and 6 December. The meetings will take place at the Wilthorpe Hotel and start at 7pm. Spouses and partners are welcome.

Michael said: "Business is usually over in less than half an hour then the bar opens and refreshments are served. There is also a free raffle with two cash prizes and another prize of a bottle of whiskey. Each raffle ticket is worth £2 at the bar on the night."

The annual lunch will take place at Ardsley House Hotel on 27 October, starting at 12 noon. Tickets, priced £10, should be purchased from Michael O'Hara before 30 September. Cheques should be made payable to NARPO.

For further information please contact Michael O'Hara at m.ohara45@btinternet.com.

BUSY TIMES FOR DONCASTER

Busy times lie ahead for the Doncaster branch of NARPO, which is maintaining membership and continuing to attract new members.

Events are taking place every month from May until December, including trips to Ripon Races and Malvern Flower Show, a golf day, a bowls evening and a Christmas dinner dance.

Branch secretary Les Agar said: "Bad weather caused our 2010 Christmas dinner to be cancelled so we have arranged a Spring Ball at Doncaster Golf Club on 28 May. It's an excellent venue and we are hoping for a full house.

"In other news our branch struck lucky in the force lottery. Colin Naylor scooped the big one at Christmas. I'm still waiting for that drink Colin!

Les welcomes suggestions on how the branch could be improved for members.

Contact Les Agar on 01302 710 286 or 07734 812820 or by email at lja13bawtry@talktalk.net.

NEW FACES WELCOME AT ROTHERHAM

The Rotherham branch of NARPO has a selection of social evenings coming up – and new faces are encouraged to attend.

Social evenings will take place on 13 July, 12 October and 14 December (Christmas Social) at the Reach Centre, Ferham, Rotherham.

Branch secretary Malcolm France said: "At each social evening there will be a buffet, prize quiz and prize bingo. We get regulars coming to the events but it would also be nice to see some new faces. The evenings are a good chance to get together, have a catch up and potentially win some prizes."

Quarterly meetings will take place on 20 July and 19 October, also at the Reach Centre. The Christmas Dinner will take place on 16 November at the Consort Hotel, Thurcroft.

For further information please contact Malcolm France on 01709 812265.

From the beat to getting people off the street

South Yorkshire Police

When most officers retire they take the opportunity to relax, take up a hobby or spend more time with the family. But when the former deputy chief constable of South Yorkshire stepped down in 2002 he threw his all into helping the homeless.

Martin Davies first got involved in looking at social conditions in Sheffield while serving in the police. He had moved to Sheffield in 1990 after having served in Cardiff, Bristol, Somerset, Dorset and at the National Police Staff College in Bramshill. However it wasn't until he retired after 43 years in the force that he could dedicate his time to improving facilities for those living on the streets.

Martin explained: "While serving as deputy chief constable in South Yorkshire I arranged for a study to be carried out by Sheffield Hallam University to look at street sleeping, drunkenness and drug misuse with a view to developing facilities in the city.

"When the report came back it included a footnote which mentioned a little known charity which was being run in Coventry and Cambridge to deal with these same problems."

The charity was called Emmaus (pronounced E-may-us), founded in Paris in 1949 by Father Henri-Antoine Groues, a Catholic priest and MP better known as Abbé Pierre. Emmaus soon spread around the world and, by the time it arrived in



the UK in 1992, there were already Emmaus Communities in existence in 38 countries. The charity works by offering people a home, work and the chance to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment.

Martin said: "It wasn't until I retired in 2002 that I had sufficient time to devote to setting up an Emmaus community in Sheffield. It took a lot of convincing people that this was something we should do."

"By 2006 funds had been raised to purchase a former cutlery factory, a grade 2 listed building called Sipelia Works, which has now been partially restored to provide self-contained accommodation, communal living space and a social enterprise including work space and a shop which is open to the public.

"We opened our shop in late August 2007 and in 2008 Emmaus Sheffield opened its doors to its first Companions."

'Companions' is the name given to

the homeless people who live there. There are currently eight living in Sheffield but a refurbishment is taking place to increase the accommodation by a further six bedrooms.

Most Companions earn their living refurbishing and repairing donated furniture and electrical goods which are then sold in the shop. Through this work they learn valuable skills and help Emmaus reach its goal of becoming self-sufficient.

There is no time limit to how long each Companion can stay, but a typical stay is around six months. In the two-and-a-half years since it opened Emmaus Sheffield has housed over 60 Companions.

"Unfortunately they haven't all been success stories," Martin admits, "but it is very, very pleasing to see the successes that are able to leave us and take their lives forward themselves."

As well as being instrumental in developing Emmaus Sheffield, Martin was also the national chairman of Emmaus for six years. During that time he helped to increase the number of Emmaus communities across the UK from nine to 19. He now dedicates around four or five days a month to Emmaus Sheffield, which has five members of staff and 15 volunteers.

"Volunteers come and go," said Martin. "We are always looking for people to help us develop the business, either in the shop or to drive vans."

Anyone interested in volunteering at Emmaus Sheffield should telephone 0114 272 0677 or visit www.emmaus-sheffield.org.uk.

Event invitation to retirees

SYPSSC

A cabaret evening and a day at the races are just two of the events being organised by the Sheffield Sports & Social Club in the next few months.

Throughout the year the Club puts on a wide range of activities including nights out, Christmas parties and theatre trips.

Club secretary, Alan Reaney, said: "The events are open to any paying member as well as Life Members. At the moment we only get a few retired members coming on the trips but we want to remind them that they are welcome to join any of the trips or events and that we offer a special retired members rate.

"Those who have retired have been members of the Club for years and we want them to know they've not been forgotten. We would love it if more Life Members joined us more often."

The cabaret evening will take place on Saturday 7 May at Niagara, while the day at the races will take members to York on Saturday 11 June.

Most events are very popular so people are advised to check the notice board at Niagara and book well in advance. Non-members are welcome once members and retired members have had chance to apply.

To enquire about any events or request to be kept updated about upcoming activities please contact Alan Reaney on 0114 2523602 or by email at Alan.Reaney@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Emmaus fact and figures

- So far £2m has been raised for Emmaus Sheffield, mostly by national and local charities including the Graves Trust, The Church Burgesses, Sheffield Quakers and Westfield Health
- The largest donation of £500,000 came from an anonymous charity
- Emmaus's aim is to be a self-supporting business in the next five years
- Research by Cambridge University shows that each Companion can save the taxpayer over £31,000 per year by savings in benefits, the Criminal Justice System and health-related services
- The social enterprise prevents about 130 tons of household waste going to landfill per year, saving the Local Authority approximately £8,220 per year

LOTTERY BAG YOUR SHARE!

Prizes of over £100,000 are awarded each year by the Sports & Social Club lottery, including the star Christmas prize of a car.

To apply for shares go to the SYPSSC website, click on 'Lottery', then download, complete and return the application form to Niagara.

Shares cost just 30p each! Remember, the more you have the better your chance of winning!

Former Inspector cracks the art and literary worlds

A retired inspector who was in charge of the Public Protection Unit at Barnsley is enjoying a double dose of success after not one, but two, changes of career.

Upon retiring in 2006, Michael Fowler, who served in Doncaster, Barnsley and at Sheffield HQ, began a new career as an artist.

It didn't take long for him to make his mark on the art world and he was soon exhibiting in a number of prestigious galleries. However Michael didn't stop there and – determined to put his experiences from the force to good use – he has also written a book and landed himself a publishing contract.

Explaining how his new careers took off after retirement, Michael said: "I have always painted and written and they have run alongside one another throughout my career. However, because of my family circumstances as a younger person I was unable to achieve my ambition to be an artist and was always determined that when I retired I would take the opportunity. And I did.

"I approached several galleries upon retirement and they took my work. I was also offered joint exhibitions.

"I now paint for four galleries and for a fine arts consultancy. I have also had success in the prestigious Mall Gallery, London, where I have exhibited in several exhibitions."

Michael's artwork has been commended by The Society for All Artists (SAA) and in 2009 he won The SAA Professional Artist of the Year Award. He also teaches art to students at The Northern College, Barnsley.

Incredibly, while building up his reputation in the art world, he has also managed to find time to write.

Michael, who served in CID, the plain clothes (vice) squad and the drugs squad, said: "In terms of the writing, that has run alongside the painting, though not as intense or as

prolific. I have been a member of various writers groups through the years and have made many attempts at writing a detective/thriller/whodunnit, only to be thwarted, because of lack of time with work and family commitments.

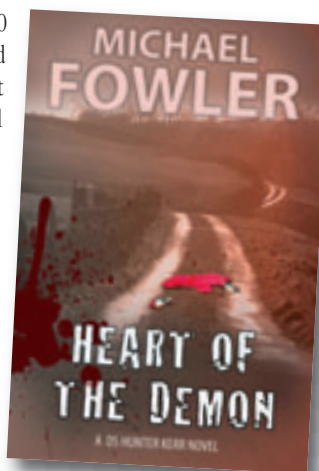
"In the autumn of 2006 I became determined to make a serious attempt at my crime novel, drawing on my experiences as a detective. The first draft was completed in the summer of 2007 and 18 months later, following several re-writes, I began submitting samples of the manuscript to publishing houses."

After several rejections he redrafted the novel and introduced the characters Detective Sergeant Hunter Kerr and his partner DC Grace Marshall. The new format worked and

in February 2010 Michael was offered a publishing contract with Barrington Hall Publishing, which is now Cambridge House Publishing.

'Heart of the Demon' is about a serial killer in the Dearne Valley and was released in October 2010. Michael's second book 'Cold Death' is due for release in May 2012.

"As a result of my writing I have now become a member of the Crime Writers Association and currently rub shoulders with the likes of Ian Rankin and Val



McDermid," Michael said.

He is currently halfway through his third book and when he is not writing he can be found painting in his studio. He also regularly paints in Derbyshire with artist friends and visits both Cornwall and Venice once a year to paint.

'Heart of the Demon' is on sale now from WHSmith and online booksellers.

Further information is available at www.mjfowler.co.uk.

Travelling miles for 'Smilie's'

Support Staff

A group which started life in a room at Sheffield Children's Hospital now attracts families from across the UK, largely thanks to a retired police support staff member.

Smilie's Network supports children suffering from Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis and their families throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Former policy assistant Chris Corker and his wife Christine were involved in the creation of the group in 1994 when their late son Daniel was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease at the age of eight.

Chris, who retired in December 2009, explained: "The first meeting was held in a room at the Children's Hospital with about six families. Word soon spread and it has just grown and grown!"

As the group grew meetings

were moved into a church hall at Totley and later they started organising more outings, which they call Fun Days, where the children can take part in adventurous activities. Smilie's hosts around three Fun Days each year costing around £1,500 to £2,000 each.

The increased geographical coverage was the stepping stone for Smilie's to become part of Crohn's and Colitis UK which is the leading charitable organisation for sufferers of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Smilie's still retains its independence but taps into the medical and organisational expertise that the charity is renowned for.

This year, Smilie's families will be going to the Sheffield Ski Village, Ambleside in the Lake District for water sports and the annual Christmas Party held at Niagara.



Chris explained, "Every two years we also go to Ironbridge Gorge near Telford where there are lots of activities, museums and a youth hostel which we take over for the weekend."

The weekend away includes activities such as quad biking, archery, rifle shooting, treasure hunts and zip wires. Smilie's charges just £20 for each child suffering from Crohn's and one parent while other members of the family are charged for just bed and board.

"When a child is poorly the other children in the family can sometimes miss out on things so for this reason all our events are for the whole family," Chris said. "All activities are paid for by Smilie's and it usually costs around £8,000 to pay for the weekend away."

A minimal amount of funding is provided by the national charity so



Michael Fowler is proving a hit in the art and literary worlds.

Catering changes at Niagara

SYPSSC / NIAGARA

There have been radical changes taking place at Niagara with the introduction of 'in house' catering and the appointment of a head chef.

"For many years all catering at Niagara was franchised to Harrods of Ecclesfield who satisfied our needs well," explained Peter Darling, the chief executive of the SYP Sports & Social Club. "However in changing times and with rising expectations from customers it was decided to bring all catering in house."



Gavin Stancer: Head chef

Changes were introduced in 2008 when catering for meetings and conferences started to be undertaken by a small team of staff employed by the Club. The success of this resulted in the decision to bring all catering under the Club's direct control.

"This was a significant challenge which involved a great deal of planning and, most importantly, the selection of a head chef," said Peter. "A number of quality candidates applied and after great consideration Gavin Stancer took on the role in April 2010."

Gavin has over 17 years' experience in the catering industry working in both fine dining and large banqueting establishments.

He started his career at the Le Horizon Hotel in Jersey and later moved to the highly acclaimed Baldwins Omega in Sheffield. His most recent position was as senior sous chef at the AA 2 rosette Whitley Hall Hotel.

Peter added: "Gavin has quickly stamped his mark at Niagara and devised a set of new exciting menus which can be found on the Club's website www.niagaraleisure.co.uk."



Chatsworth Challenge Walk

Chris and his wife Christine are great supporters of the Chatsworth Challenge Walk, as are many serving and retired members of South Yorkshire Police who have taken part over the years.

Everyone is welcome to join the walk which this year will take place on Sunday 11 September. For more information visit www.smiliespeople.org.uk/chatsworth.

the group depends largely on individual donations and fundraising. It has also been nominated as the chosen charity by the annual Chatsworth Challenge Walk four times in the last 10 years.

Chris, who became secretary of Smilie's in 1999, believes that the support it provides is invaluable to sufferers of Crohn's and Colitis and their families. Proof of this is the fact that families now travel from as far as Southampton, Colchester and Glasgow to take part in events.

"They gain so much benefit by being with other families who are in the same situation as themselves," he said. "A lot of parents have said to me that when their child was

diagnosed they felt like theirs was the only one to have it because they didn't know any other families in the same position. Smilie's helps to fill that gap."

Tragically, Chris's son Daniel died in a road accident in 2006 at the age of 23, but Chris has continued his involvement with the charity.

He said: "When Daniel died some people asked if we were going to carry on our involvement with Smilie's and we said yes, why not?"

"We gained so much out of it that we like to give back some of that to others. It is nice to feel that we are doing something for the good of other families as we know what situation they are in."



Looking for a place in the sun?

Whether you are planning a UK break or a foreign getaway, why not take advantage of the special rates offered by Sports & Social Club members with properties to let?

Accommodation is available in a wide range of destinations including the Canary Islands, Portugal, Egypt, Italy, Florida, South Africa and Turkey. Full details can be found at www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk. Club members, their family and friends can advertise holiday properties and accommodation on this website. Below is just a very small selection of the properties currently available.

Luxury log cabin in Lincolnshire Wolds

www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk/lincolnshire-wolds-i601676.html

Resort: Kenwick Park

Accommodation: Secluded self-catering two bedroom luxury log cabin set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, surrounded by 80 acres of mature woodlands. Sleeps up to four people. Facilities include a modern kitchen, dining table, flat screen TV, DVD and stereo, large veranda with tables and chairs, modern bathroom, private parking, woodland views. Complementary use of heated indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, steam room, gym, tennis court and squash court.

Tariff: From £150 for three days. From £250 per week. 10% discount for retired/ serving officers & staff.

Owner: Richard Hallbrook

Contact details: 07977 073770, Hallbrooks@TheWrenLodge.co.uk



Two bedroom duplex in Spain

www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk/el-mojon-costa-blanca-i601675.html

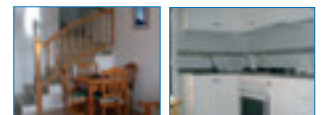
Resort: El Mojon, Costa Blanca

Accommodation: Two bedroom duplex close to beach. Sleeps four. Two bathrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge/dining area, balcony, tiled patio, private rear patio, outside shower. Satellite TV, CD player; hairdryer; washing machine, BBQ. Harbour close by. Fifteen golf courses within a 45 minute drive.

Tariff: From 220 euros per week in winter. 400 euros in July/August. Reduced rates for retired/serving officers and staff.

Owner: Steve and Linda Rogers

Contact details: 00 34 9681 74307, srogerssyp@yahoo.com



Lakeside apartment in Italy

www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk/lake-como-i601602.html

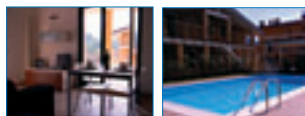
Resort: Lenno, Lake Como

Accommodation: One bedroom apartment situated on a private complex in the charming lakeside village of Lenno, overlooking the most beautiful lake in Italy. Sleeps up to three, includes one bedroom with king size bed, a sofa bed, cot, bathroom, balcony and shared outdoor pool. Equipped with dishwasher, cooker, washing machine, TV, DVD and CD player.

Tariff: £375 to £595 per week.

Owner: Phil and Diane Jones

Contact details: 0114 286 2396 / 07789 431037, philjones2@talktalk.net



Share opportunity in Florida

<http://www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk/part-share-in-villa-for-sale-i601677.html>

Have you ever dreamed of owning a property in Florida but the cost of a mortgage and running cost put you off? Here is a possible answer!

In 1991 a group of like-minded people bought a house between them and split the time into 16 shares. Each share is four weeks so that the time of year is rotated for each share. This means that each holder of a single share owns 1/16th of the house.

The house is valued (for local tax purposes) at about £90,000 so each share is worth just over £5,000 pounds in today's values. The owners pay an annual service charge which covers everything including water, electric, insurance etc.

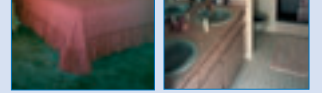
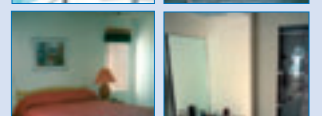
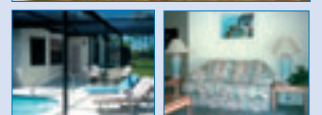
There are two shares available for sale at the moment. Both owners have had many happy holidays at the house but are now finding difficulty in travelling.

Resort: Springhill, near the Gulf Coast

Accommodation: Detached, single storey villa. Fully furnished lounge, dining area and fitted kitchen. Three bedrooms (one king, one queen, one twin). Two bathrooms (one en-suite). Fully air-conditioned. Enclosed heated swimming pool. Double garage.

Location: Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac 15 minutes from the nearest beach. Clearwater beach is about 45 minutes south. Several wildlife theme parks within a short drive, the nearest of which is Wikee Wachee. Over 20 good-standard golf courses within a 30-minute drive. Orlando and theme parks are approximately 1 hr 30 minutes drive. The location is mainly residential with a good mix of permanent and holiday homes. Good variety of shops, restaurants and bar/grill outlets nearby. Tampa International airport 40 minutes away.

Contact: John Clark, email: johnclark639@sky.com



Bed and Breakfast on the Isle of Arran

www.sypsportsandsocialclub.co.uk/bb-isle-of-arran-i601678.html

Resort: Lamash

Accommodation: Stonewater House Bed & Breakfast. Three en-suite guest bedrooms. The perfect base to explore the island, experience the stunning scenery or relax. The island has seven golf courses. Dogs accommodated with prior arrangement.

Tariff: £70 per night for double or twin occupancy. £50 per night for single occupancy. Discount for serving and retired police officers and staff.

Owner: Mark and Rachel Wren

Contact: 01770 600394, enquiries@stonewaterhouse.co.uk

