



## THE NYASALAND POLICE ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER No 1/2021

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*Greetings to you all,*

#### **It's Something New:**

Yes, it is new, some good news for a change and that surely is the development of successful vaccines to counter the ongoing virus pandemic. Already they have been administered to a fair number of the more vulnerable of our citizens. However, with the UK in yet another lockdown, our thoughts remain with those who are affected by this awful nightmare, directly or indirectly.

#### **And Ditto, Here's Another "New":**

Vanessa, "Our girl in the Faroes" and a great supporter of the Association, has come up with a Newsletter first - a "Love Story" - read below and be happy.

### **Love in the Time of Corona**

Vanessa L Farmery: Faroese House-Spouse



It is not unusual for a Faroese national to take a spouse from overseas: in fact one could say it is customary practice. DNA analysis of the Faroese population in 2004 demonstrated that the male markers were predominantly Scandinavian while the female markers were mainly Scots and Irish, a result which supports historical accounts of Norsemen settling in the Faroes in the ninth century and either bringing women from the British Isles with them or fetching them later. You could conclude, then, that in carrying me back to his northern home my own personal Viking, Jens Kristian Jensen, has simply followed in his forbears' footsteps!

Our original intention had been to make our union official in Denmark in May and announce it at the 2019 Nypol Reunion but... well, you all know why that didn't happen. In fact, my house sold five days after the borders across Europe were closed in March, trapping me into lockdown in the UK until June. My nail-biting escape via three eerily empty airports was fraught with threats by the airline to send me back to Britain, but I finally arrived in the Faroes after two days instead of the usual ten hours.

When we started making plans to get married here we were told to apply through the Danish [Familiereetshuset](#), an administrative obstacle course. Various government agencies in the UK, Denmark and the Faroes (many them working restricted hours) passed us on, contradicted one another and sent us down inappropriate labyrinthine websites. We struggled to procure the documents I needed to demonstrate my eligibility and even consulted two lawyers and the British Consul - no help at all! - for advice. Then, after six weeks, a stroke of luck! As we were miserably trudging back to the car after yet another knockback, I noticed a strap-line stencilled across the plate glass window of an office block I had never passed before. "The Faroe Islands Welcome New Residents," it read. We could hardly believe our eyes! Not one person we had spoken to had ever said, "Oh, you need this place..." Inside we were dealt with quickly and efficiently by Beinta and left with a simple form to fill in and clear instructions to follow. A week later we visited the Law Courts with an affidavit attesting to my single status, the judge witnessed my signature and we returned it to Beinta. This time she handed us a scrap of paper with "Aug 14th, 2.30" scrawled across it.

Friday August 14th was a rainy day and the Faroes were in the grip of a second wave of Covid. We had already received a text telling us that our ceremony would take place outside unless the weather didn't allow it, so in a way we were grateful for the downpour. We hadn't told anyone about our wedding, and didn't relish the idea of being outed by a bypasser. Dodging raindrops and balancing an umbrella we scrambled up the steps of the Town Hall and tugged on the door handle. It didn't give a millimetre so we walked around the building, twice, trying alternative doors and peering in at windows, but there was no sign of life. I suggested that we try the 'New Residents' office, which had been open once before when the Town Hall hadn't been, and as we approached it a young man emerged from a doorway, fag in hand. He looked at me with astonishment, then dawning comprehension as he took in the cream hat adorned by pink rosebuds and bouquet to match, and scuttled back inside, returning with another

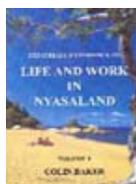


young man and our girl, Beinta. They, it transpired, were our witnesses, and seemed rather surprised to find us out in the rain. Once inside the Town Hall we were admitted to a stately room where the celebrant, Annika Olsen - Mayor of Torshavn, greeted us warmly. There were a couple of formalities before she read us - in English - Khalil Gibran's piece on marriage from 'The Prophet', which was auspicious because it is the reading I would have chosen had I been asked to provide one. (I think the Viking would have been happy if she had read a recipe for fish-head soup, quite frankly, but he's not very romantic.) She then pronounced us man and wife and congratulated us (from a socially safe distance).

**Such is love, in the time of Corona.**



*On behalf of all our members I extend our congratulations to Vanessa and Jens and wish them a long and happy marriage*



### **Life & Work in Nyasaland:**

With kind permission of Mpemba Books, owners of the copyright, we are able to reproduce articles included in Colin Baker's books '*Expatriate Experience of Life and Work in Nyasaland*'. Those so far added are listed and can be viewed on the Nypol website via Chit-Chat 2021.

### **Reunion 2021 - Date Reminder**

It is now two years since taking over as the Association Organiser and I am pleased to say that I enjoy the work involved and the contact with members. Also, when possible, organising the annual Reunion. Now, Our 2021 Reunion is scheduled for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at the Holiday Inn, Coventry, with prices held at the same level as in the previous three years with provision to stay on the night before and/or after at the same rate.



### **“My Life in the Nyasaland Police”**

This book was written by the late Malcolm Llewelyn and, via his son Ian, is published this month. It sets out his service in Nyasaland where his duties took him to just about every district in the country and to holding so many different posts. Beyond a good read, it is totally absorbing particularly so for those of us who had the privilege of serving with him. Further, Ian has a

limited number of copies available to members at no cost – for further information contact Nypol by email or telephone the Association Manager on 01453 766794.

### **Medical Booklet**

Following my request in Newsletter 3/2020 for information regarding the booklet "*Hints on the Preservation of Health in Tropical Countries*". I am grateful to Mick Thacker who has kindly produced a copy which can be viewed via Chit-Chat 2021 on the Nypol website.

## Appeal for funds

May I remind members that the running costs of the Association are met through their generosity plus, in past years, when a Reunion has taken place, the proceeds of the raffle. As it is now over 18 months since I last appealed for support and we had no Reunion in 2020. I would now like to a renew my appeal. Our costs include postage, the Website Host and Domain Name. If you are able to respond to this appeal, please complete and return the attached form to Ken Wilkinson as soon as it is convenient to do so. All contributions will be very gratefully received.

## Police Hockey:

With help from members we have identified all but two of the Police hockey team. The names have been added below to those so remembered but there remains two of them who have yet to be positively identified. There they are, ringed, could it be that they were drafted in and having only limited links to the Police - as was Sinbad Illingworth. If you can name them or even have some idea of who they might be please let us know.



**Back row:** Cyril Marlow, Jack Burge, Sinbad Illingworth, Ray Powell, Vic Smithyman, John Mullin, Jon Dennison, Frank Chevallier

**Front row:** Robin Gorham, Alex McDonald, Jack Grincell, **Johannes Klopper ??**, David Nash, **...??...**



## Website

We have an excellent up to date website and much effort is made to keep it interesting and attractive. Last year more than 20 items were posted to Chit-Chat but sadly the vast majority did not come from members. I am therefore appealing very strongly to all members for their support as a matter of urgency and importance by sending us items of interest such as reminiscences, anecdotes, photographs, copies of documents etc relating to their service or time in Nyasaland – for

possible inclusion on the Website. Your memories are of particular interest and relevance to us all. I very much hope for a really large response to this appeal, thus enabling the Nypol website to be kept fresh and interesting.

## RIP ~ John, Simon & Cynthia

Since the last Newsletter we have sadly learned of the sudden death of **John Savage**, the very tragic accidental death of **Simon Burgess** (son of Brian) in Zambia, where he had lived for several years - and the passing of **Cynthia Ledger**, wife of Peter. Our sympathy and condolences go out to their families, friends and colleagues.

*Very Best Wishes and Stay Safe at this difficult time,*

**Ken Wilkinson -**

*January 2021*