



31 March 2021 V9

www.surrey-constabulary.com

Editor Robert Bartlett

938at938@gmail.com

Longest Serving Police Officer and or Staff member in the Surrey Constabulary and Surrey Police



For those who served



To qualify for entry onto the list, the whole of police service counted to the total has been in the Surrey Constabulary or constituent forces, Guildford Borough Police, Reigate Borough Police, Surrey Joint Police, and Surrey Police. Full time working will take precedent over part time. Every effort has been made to get this right but the author is reliant on people providing information, as there is no access to official records; the dreaded data protection rules strike again! Such long service as is now being evidenced is a consequence of our time, where the retirement age no longer exists and the police provide so many opportunities for former police officers and staff. This is a good news story, much needed in these difficult times for the police service.

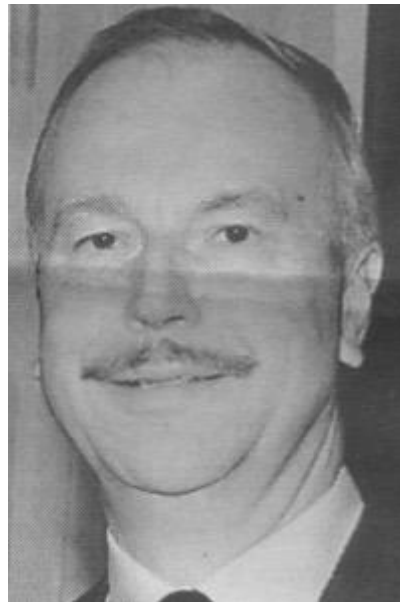
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Longest Serving Members of the Police

Service in Surrey

The longest serving member of the now Surrey Police

Chris Stemp: with **59 year's** continuous service with the Surrey Constabulary and Surrey Police having served as a Cadet from May 1959 at Haslemere; retiring October 1991 when he immediately took up a role on the police staff and working for Firearm's Licensing, as a Firearms Enquiry Officer until he retired in December 2018. (From Chris March 2021)



John Davies 58 Years: Having joined Surrey Constabulary on 20th March 1963 as Police Constable 833. All his service was in uniform becoming a Sergeant. Retired in 1993 after 30 years and 30 days, immediately becoming employed as police staff 7812, one of the first police counter officers. On 30th June 2011 when this position ended, there were 31 days before commencing on 1st August employed as a receptionist at Headquarters. In March 2021 still holding this post, though due to isolation and now recovering from Covid, not sure of a date for return to work.

Effectively continuous employed service for 58 years. (From John March 2021)



HQ on promotion to Sergeant in 1975 age 32 years

Peter Thompson: 56 Years: (PC67) Joined as a cadet in August 1963: became a police constable in 1965 retiring in 1999 and starting the very next day with the Safety Camera Partnership. April 2018 was still there as Prosecution Manager. Peter Thompson retired 10 August 2019. (From Peter March 2021)



Jim Findlay: 54 Years: Joined in March 1964 and retired in 1998. (Prior to that worked in the Civil Service for 3 years and that gave him one month for each year pensionable service, which enabled him to retire in November 1998, which counted as to 35 years service but 34 as a Surrey Police officer). After three months January 1999 became one of ‘Malcolm’s Angels’, which was not continuous work but ‘ad hoc’ when the need arose (Front Counters, Switchboard, Driving ACPO etc.) In 2003 went to work as an Angel in the Coroners Office at Ripley working every week in that post. In 2007 took on contracted work as a part time Coroner’s Office Assistant working 18 hours per week; retired 5 November **2010** when I received my **long service award for 46 years** for up to March of that year. March 19 2018 remained employed as an “Angel” in the coroner’s office. I have had continuous service there since 2003 but come the first of April the whole of the unit is going over to SCC. That is **54**

years with the Force” (24 March 2018). I am still employed by Surrey Police but will be seconded to SCC continuing in the same role as a coroner’s officer.

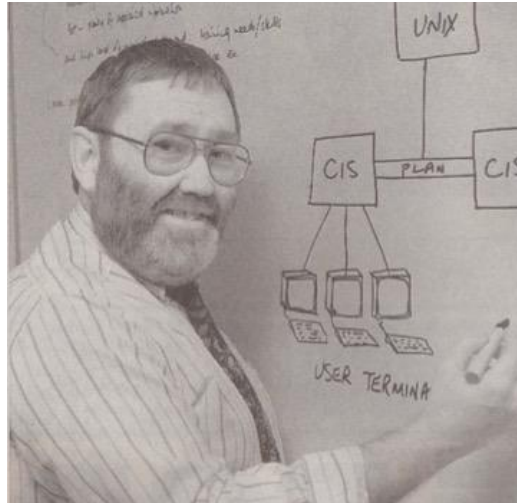
31 March 2019: Jim Findlay: Unfortunately my attempt to be the longest serving employee of the Force has come to an end. The Coroners Office was taken over by Surrey CC last April and at that time they would not give me a contract so the Force continued to employ me as an ‘Angel’ but attached to SCC on a secondment but that will finish at the end of this month as SCC have now agreed to a contract commencing 1/4/2019, so although I am doing the same job it will be as an employee of SCC. It is fitting as I joined in March 1964; 55 years. A good innings though!



Keith Worger: I joined the Surrey Constabulary on 22nd August 1961 as Cadet 28 at the age of 16 years. I was based at Dorking and Dorking Traffic. I then became a constable (405) aged 19 years in 1964 being posted initially to Farnham then Ash section where I later became section motorcyclist. Within a fairly short time I was posted to Farnham Traffic as a motorcyclist before being transferred to Burpham when Farnham closed. I remained there as a motorcyclist for 13 years before being promoted and surprise, surprise, was then posted to Chertsey Traffic. I remained there before retiring after 32 years in 1996. I then became a civilian (full time) in the Criminal Justice Unit as a supervisor and prosecution officer before retiring in 2015 after **54 years service**.



Dave Vigar: Police Staff at Reigate Front Counter and with the Mobile Police Office (aka the Fun Bus), having joined as a Cadet in 1964. (Formerly Cadet 69, PC/PS 1009, Inspector/Chief Inspector until 1995) Working Reigate front counter in June 2016. **Total 52 years (Some service with BTP to be clarified)**



Tony Grant: Cadet 14 from 1 May 1967 - 12 July 1969; PC 1057 13 July 1969 - retired as Inspector on 12 October 1998 after 30 years service (bought back some cadet service); police staff from November 1998 in the Criminal Justice Department and still serving in that Department. Not counting the 6-week break I had between retiring and re-joining as police staff I will have served **52 years** with Surrey on 4 April 2019.



Tony Salter: I joined Surrey Constabulary 22nd April 1964 as PC 897 (the original) retired 30th April 1994. 1st May 1994 Employed Surrey Police Staff as Holmes Support Officer (ID No 7897) retired / redundant 31st January 2015 Therefore something like **50 Years 9 Months** continuous service



Terry Ashcroft January 2016 **50 years 2 months** service – lately instructor Dog Section and School. Joined on 31st Jan 1966 and retired on 16th Feb 2016. 30 years 2 months as a police officer retiring with the rank of sergeant.



Harry Maynard 1923-1973 Police Officer and caretaker at Oxted Police Station (May have served beyond 1973) **50 years**



Janet Dickens: I worked for 50 years and am still volunteering with Surrey Police. My dates are as follows: 16 January 1961 – 31 December 1961 at Weybridge Police Station - full time (37 hour week) as shorthand typist working in Bench Office. 1 January 1962 moved to Egham Police Station - full time - where I was Station and CID Shorthand typist until about December 2001. December 2001 until January 2005 (unsure of specific dates) transferred to Front Counter at Egham - full time. From 2005 or 2006 until 15th January 2011 I worked part time as Front Counter Staff at Egham (14 hours per week). I then retired. Sorry I can't remember exact dates when I went part time. Since retirement in 2011, I have been volunteering for Surrey Police in the Property Office, first at Staines Police Station and now at Chertsey where I do most of the filing for the whole of Surrey property. I do between 25 and 30 hours per month there. I also help out Nationality Office at HQ at their busy times throughout the year. **50 years.**



Pete Wickens completed **49 years and eleven months** service at the end of May 2008 when he retired after joining as a 15-year-old cadet 23 June 1958. Peter served as a police officer up to the rank of chief superintendent and in retirement a part time member of the police staff at HQ as Sports Social Manager. Retired Sports and Social 23rd May 2008 = **49 and 11months.**



Ian Parrot total service is about **49 to 50 years**. However Ian had no wish to be involved in the project.

Howard Page: (Deceased) served **49 years and 7 months** He joined on 1st September 1871 retiring 1920 as superintendent and deputy chief constable.

Phil Miles. Joined in Sept 1960 and retired (as a civilian employee) in August 2004 making **44 years continuous service**; continued on a part time basis (which for two years was continuous) finally retired after **about 49 years**.



Dave Morley: 48 years connected to Surrey Constabulary/Police Cadet 54 from 1963-1966 at Reigate/Redhill; Pc 949 from 1966-1996 at Reigate/Redhill(1966-1967) - Guildford (1967-1969) - Shere/Bramley/Godalming (1969-1980) - HQ Operations Room (1980-1988) - Reigate (1988-1989) - Caterham (1989-1991) - Godstone Motorway Control (1991-1996) From 1996-2005 CE 8390 at Godstone Motorway Control. 2005-2007 The Highways Authority at Godstone Motorway Control although I kept my Police ID. In late 2007 returned to Surrey Police working in Data Bureau at HQ then Guildford; retiring 31 March 2012. **48 years**



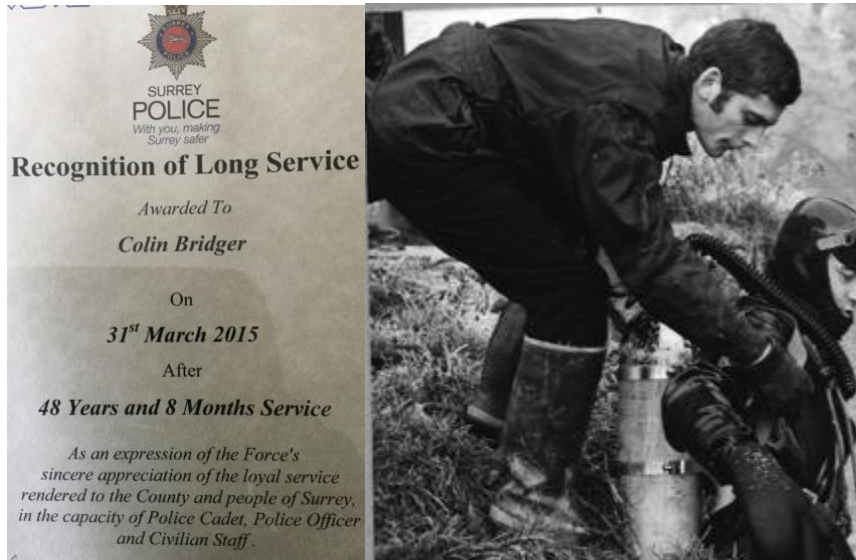
Michael Morley. Joined as a Cadet 16 on 25 August 1959 and appointed Constable October 1960. He retired 23rd July 2000 starting a new job on the police staff in Admin of Justice 24 July 2000 retiring for a second time in Feb 2008; came back in August 2008 and completed 3 months assisting CJ Dept with the Operational Support Review. Total **48 years 9 months**



Captain Hastings (Deceased) the first chief constable of the Surrey Constabulary served 1 Jan 1851 and retired 31 August 1899; **48 years and 8 months** service as chief constable



Colin Bridger Joined Surrey Constabulary 5th September 1966 as a Cadet. March 1969 became a PC. Retired in November 1998 (cadet service counted) and started as Police Staff next day. Worked with the Surrey and Sussex Police, Joint Command, Major Crime Team as an Exhibits and Disclosure officer. I served for **48 years and 8 months** retiring from the Major Crime team at Woking on 31 March 2015.



Ron Hagley (Deceased): Joined 10 November 1935 and retired as a chief superintendent on 27 September 1974. From September 1974 he was Welfare Officer until he finally retired in November 1983 after **48 years**



Andy Richardson: Former superintendent joined Surrey Constabulary 6 September 1966 to 13 January 2001 then a civilian Firearms Enquiry Officer from 20 January 2001 to 31 August 13. **47.5 years.** Now retired



Mick Mello ex DC62 - Joined 15 March 1967, retired 6 October 1997 from Police, started next day 7 October 1997 as Police Staff; The firm finally managed to get shot of me on the 31st. March 2014, which equates to **47 years and 16 days** continuous service.



Jim Vear: (Deceased) Joined Surrey Constabulary in July 1962 as a cadet and then the regulars in May 1964. In October 1994 retired and immediately carried on in a civilian capacity as a driving instructor with the driving school and still there June 2009. **47 years**



Graham Kendall: Sept 1971 - April 1972 Cadet; April 1972 - 2003 Police Officer; 2003 - 2018 Police Staff. Making a total of **47 years** in uniform as a specialist dog handler and on drug related work. Graham says, "I have had a fantastic life with Surrey."



Neil Hansford I joined Surrey Constabulary as cadet 70 in September 1971 and attended the short 'B' Course at Hendon. I served as a cadet at Farnham until September 1972 when I became Police Constable 749 completing my initial training at Dishforth, a semi-operational RAF station. On completion of my training I was posted to Reigate in January 1973. In 1975 on marrying Sue Seymour (WPC 1, later PC1201) I was posted to Shere and then Godalming. In 1979 I was offered The Police House at Tilford, just south of Farnham and

worked the Frensham rural section. I retired in 2002, having been a Duties Officers for a few months a role, which I then continued as a member of Police Staff, a roll I continue in at Mount Browne. With the big 65 looming in October 2018, my service is set to end at **47yrs.**

Phil Brown: Joined Surrey Constabulary in September 1968 as cadet 46. I then joined as PC 231 in November 1970 and retired in April 2000 (having bought back 9 months cadet service for pension purposes). Immediately took up a position in the Criminal Justice Unit at Staines. I stayed with CJ when amalgamated at Woking in Nov 2009 and I finally retired on 4th October 2014 after **46 years and 1 month.**



Linsey Hand: I joined the cadets in September 1972 (Met Cadet 24808) and later transferred to Surrey in 1974 as Cadet 10 based at Reigate. Became PC 1123 and based at Caterham in 1975 completing (extended) service in 2012 at Reigate (37 years). On retirement in 2012 became an Investigating Officer 14958 with Woking CID based at Guildford Police Station. I later returned to Eastern in 2014 where I remain in the Safeguarding Investigation Unit at Reigate. I am currently in my **46th year.**

Fred Smith: March 2018: from May 1956 cadet 11 at Guildford and FHQ to 1958; January 1959 constable 751 Guildford to 1969; July 1969 sergeant Woking to 1974; May 1974 sergeant FHQ 1974 to December (retirement) 1986; January 1987 civilian at FHQ (civil defence officer) to 1994; May 1994 to June 2002 (emergency planning officer) until retirement. Grand total **46 years** and all **full time.** Also served as Federation Constables Representative and Surrey Branch Board Chairman; Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades (now SPRCA) Hon Secretary since 1990 i.e. 28 years



Dave Bowden: Served as a chief inspector then upon retirement worked in HQ Firearms Department until he retired 13 May 2011 **46 years**



Roger Weedon: Served as a Superintendent when he retired working as police staff in charge of HQ Firearms Licensing Department; retired 31 December 2010 with **46 years** service.



Roy Walters: I joined Surrey Police on 2nd September 1972 as Cadet 29, having been interviewed by the late Sir Peter Matthews. Became PC113 in January 1975, serving at Oxted, Godstone Traffic and the Motorway control room at Godstone. Retiring in April 2009 with 34 years as an officer and becoming civilian staff 13859, still at Godstone motorway room and

transferring to Guildford in May 2014 when the Highways Agency took over. In September 2018 I will have **46 years** in total with Surrey Police



Geoff Roper: Cadet 9 from April 1972 to June 1974; PC267 June 1974 to June 2004. Began service at Dorking; Godstone Traffic 1979 – 1998; last 6 years' service on Driving School. 2004 – present day – Driving School on police staff: **Total 46 years**



Neil Armstrong: I am **coming up to 46 years** in November 2018. I joined in November 1972, retired in November 2002 and continued working as a supervisor in the Contact Centre, where I still am now as a performance manager.



Dave Miller: I joined Surrey Constabulary as a constable (PC422) in August 1971. Transferred to Kent County Constabulary in September 1975. Returned to Surrey Constabulary in March 1976 (PC1199) Retired as a sergeant in August 2001. Employed as a full time, civilian Legislation Officer in August 2001. Reduced to part time working (3 day week) from April 2016. Still working in Criminal Justice Department with a total uninterrupted police service of just over 46.5 years with **45 years 9 months** service in Surrey March 2016



Brian Silver: **45 years 5 months** of continuous service with Surrey Police (Constabulary) having joined as a Cadet at Haslemere in November 1956; became a PC in May 1959. I served

as a PC at Haslemere and Oxted, Sergeant at Walton-on-Thames and Inspector at Leatherhead and HQ and retired in August 1988 (9 months pensionable cadet service) - leaving on the Friday and continuing as a Civilian on the Monday. Eventually retired in April 2002 when Divisional Finance Manager at Farnham



Colin Brake: I joined as a Cadet January 1973 until joining as a PC May 1974 retired in to May 2004 (this included a year's secondment to the UN in Bosnia) to start a new career in the driving school as an instructor however as a result of serious injury I was medically redeployed in August 2013 to work as investigator within the Event Assessment Unit now named as the Occurrence Management Unit based at HQ. I still work a 36 hour week full time on flexi shift work **45 years and 4 months**

John Collett: Joined October 1965 as police constable continued serving till end October 1995 and continued as civilian operator at Camberley, moved to Farnham police station and then to Woking and eventually I finished up at Contact Centre at HQ. I retired November 30th 2010. **45 years 1 month**



Harry McGarrigle (D/Sgt): working for Surrey Police in the Major Crime/HOLMES Team having joined on 15 December 1965, **45 years and 1 day**; retired on 15 December 2010. On retirement from the Job in April 1996, I worked as a civilian with HOLMES Support for the next 14 plus years. There was no interval between employments.



John Best: I did bang on 45 years, started on 9th January 1973 and finished on 8th January 2018. Started as a cadet, police constable 1974 then on retirement joined police staff as the manager of the police dog school



Roy Harrison: PC 200 Harrison, then 8523 Harrison with no break having joined on 15 March 1967 and still serving March 2012 as the Tape Librarian at Reigate; **45 years** on 15 March 2012. **Present position unknown**

Robert Peel: Joined on the 7th January 1971, 'retired' in 2002 having spent most of his service on Traffic and the collision investigation unit. I continued working for the force, first on the Major Crime Team before moving back to the Collision Unit to run the Incident Data Recorder project (black boxes, which are fitted to all police vehicles to provide information if involved in an accident). I finally finished in May 2015, which means I did about **44 years and 5 months**. I still do some traffic survey work for Surrey County Council, about 20 - 25 days a year.



Ian Ewence: I joined The Surrey Constabulary in June 1965 retiring in 1994 I went straight into C.J.U. at Woking Police Station and served 10 years then transferred to CCTV Operations Room at Walton Police Station still working for Surrey Police I retired in March at the age of 66 years then after a year was recalled and did a further 6 months at CCTV at Walton having served a total of **44 years** my collar number was PS926



Peter Martin: Joined in September 1967 as an eastern cadet; Sandgate on Course 241B; on return posted to Woking. Retired on 31 December 2000 then worked for a short time within HR before joining the Angels finishing February 2011 **43 years 6 months**



David Chat: PC 151 Total **43.5 Years** I joined as a cadet aged 16 in 1955. I did two and a half years as a cadet and then served for a further 30 years as an Officer, then worked as a Coroners Officer for 11 years retiring in 3 May 2000.



PC Horace Wolfe (Deceased) born 1887 and joined the Surrey Constabulary 3 May 1909 aged 22 years. PC Wolfe retired from Woking in 1947, becoming No 1 Special Reserve retiring in 1952 after **43 years** service with the Surrey Constabulary.

Harry Lee (Deceased) joined in 1946 and served in Guildford, marrying WPC Flora Colligan in 1948. After a short while as a PC in Woking moved to Windlesham until 1950 moving to be the village PC in Tongham until February 1962 when he was promoted Sergeant at Woking. Following a stint as a town sergeant he took over the Byfleet section in 1965. He was promoted Inspector in late 1966, doing a short stint at Guildford before moving to Godalming in January 1967. He remained there until his retirement in August 1975 when he started work as CID

office manager at Guildford, until offered a busier similar post at Godalming, eventually retiring in December 16 1989. **43 years**



Mick O' Sullivan: over 43 years service with Surrey Constabulary and Surrey Police as a DC and civilian investigator having joined in 1966 and June 2009 employed as civilian investigator with Surrey Police. **If/when did he retire?**



Colin Ward joined 25 October 1967 retiring 31 March 2011 retired on the 31st March 2011 with **43 years 5 months and 4 days** service.



Bill Pirie: Served 27th November 1967 until retirement on the 31st October 2010 as a police officer. **43 years.** Now deceased.



Lesley Cross QPM: I joined Surrey Police in Feb 1975 and retired as a detective constable 1237 in Feb 2009 - total of 34 years service -having served at Guildford, then Burglary Squad, returning to Guildford CID and then Public Protection. In Feb 2009 I returned as a Civilian Investigator in the SIU at Guildford carrying out the role of Child Protection Conference Officer until I retired in March this year 2018 - a total of **43 years.** Awarded QPM in 2003.



Philip Harley now served **42 years** and still going. Jan 1976 to 28 Nov 1976 Cadet 30; 28 Nov 1976 to 08 August 2007 PC 1058; 08 Aug 2007 and still employed as Driving Instructor at Driving School HQ in April 2018.



Colin Grafham: I've just completed **44 years 1 month** in total ... joined May 1970. I am currently working front counter at Godalming; I completed 44 years and 1 month when I retired in June 2014 from Waverley front counter.



Richard Crockford: I joined on 3/2/76 and I have unbroken service as an Officer (31 years, 8 months and 3 days) and over 10 years as Staff and yet I have the least service in the Office! OK there are only two of us but Steve James joined a few months before me. **42 years 1 month and still serving March 2018**



Mo Clark previously 239 and then 12089: I joined Surrey Constabulary as a PC on 9 March 1976. I did my 30 years and retired on 9 March 2006, then joined as an Investigating Officer on 20 March 2006. I made redundant on 31 March 2018. **42 years service**

Dave Spratt: Joined as a Cadet in June 1962 and joined the regular force in March 1965; retired as Detective Inspector in August 1996 a total of 34 years. In July 2000 returned as a Civilian working in Crime Desk and PSD retiring again in June 2008 making a total of **42 years** service.



Ken Williams (Deceased) retired 2000 with **42 years** service. Ken joined Surrey Constabulary at the age of 15 in 1954 as a Police Cadet attached to the Photographic Department at Mount Browne. In 1958 he joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps stationed at the War Office as a photographer connected with military intelligence work. Upon demobilisation in 1960 he took up an appointment as senior photographer for a firm of industrial and commercial photographers in Fleet, Hants. In 1962 he returned to the Surrey Constabulary Photographic Department as a civilian photographer. He retired in 2000 as Head of the Forensic Photography and Enhancement Department having served over 42 years. Sadly he passed away in July 2009 at the age of 70.



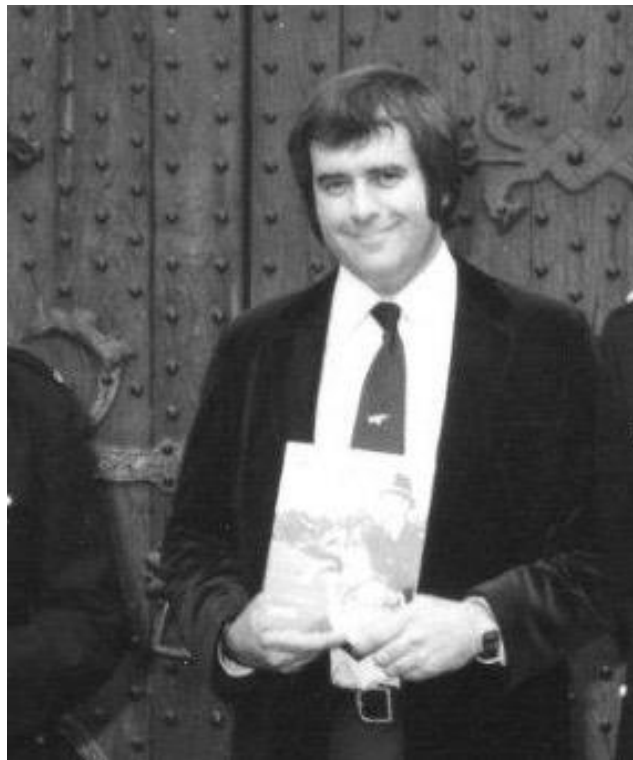
Fred Giles ex DC 628 joined 22/11/67 retired from Police 1/12/97, started next day 2/12/97 Police Staff until retired at 65 13 January 09 **41 years, 2 months** June 2009



Peter Cole (Deceased): I joined Surrey as a cadet at Dorking in July 1962, Sandgate 62 then to Leatherhead as a PC799 at Bookham. Promoted 1968 to Horley and SB at Gatwick. Back to Dorking and Holmwood Section 1974. ASU 1974 at Dorking and Reigate until retire 1992 as Inspector. After a weekend off, Admin Support Unit at Reigate as supervisor until retire December 2003. **41 years 1 month.**



Jerry Coombes served on the police staff from 13th September 1971 until 30th October 2012 in the Photographic Department - **41years one month**



Police Constable Kenneth Hitchings (Deceased) died Sunday 21 May 2006 aged 87 years. Kenneth retired from the Force in 1969 when last stationed at Dorking having completed 30 years' service. He continued to work for the Force in a civilian capacity as the first Dorking traffic warden and later as the caretaker of Dorking Police Station until he retired in 1980. Total **41 years**.

Ian Robertson: In June 2009 working with HM Coroner for Surrey although had a break for four years after retirement in Feb 1996 – total service about **41 years**; retired 2011



Alexandra Warren: Surrey Police as a member of Police Staff. I started work as a shorthand typist at Woking Police Station on the 18 July 1966. I worked continually until retiring from the Major Crime Team working as the Resource Manager - on the 31 July 2006 (**40 years**).



Barry Sullivan: Surrey PC 397 1973 – 1990 17 years; Surrey PC 1788 1992 - 2003 11 years; Surrey Police Staff 11696 2005 - 2016 11 years = **39 years** Previous service with Met from 1968 - 1973 (3 years cadet, 2 years PC).

