



RETIRED GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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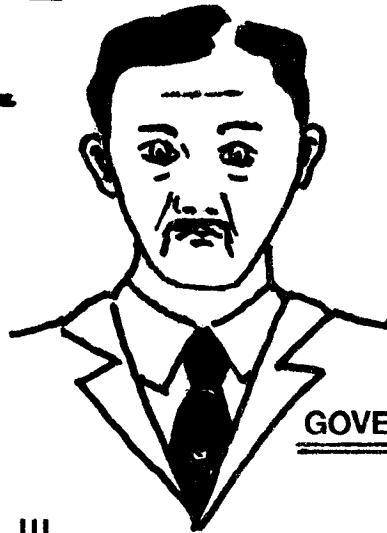
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Bill Martin

*A branch of the society of
civil and public servants
representing the governor
grades of the prison service
in England and Wales.*

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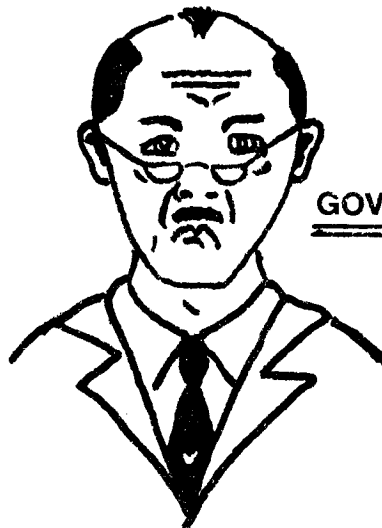
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GOVERNOR III



GOVERNOR II



GOVERNOR I



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GOVERNOR?

RETIRED GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 12

FEBRUARY 1986

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The front of this edition was designed by Derek Bagnall, Governor IV,
Staff Training Officer at Midland Regional Office

EDITORIAL

OUR MAILING LIST

I am pleased to report that we now have over 160 on our mailing list. I write to all Governor grades prior to retirement and ask them if they would like to take the Newsletter. Among those recently retired are Adrian Arnold, Bernard Frisby, Dennis Higman, Peter Meech, Stan Brumby, Peter Pye, Doug Grave and Stan Nash.

Another source of new readers is by painstaking research. We have been scouring old seniority lists and then writing to establishments to try and find the addresses of long retired Governors. A number of you have been found by this device. The co-operation of serving Governors in finding old addresses has been first class. The other source of names has been both serving and retired Governors writing to me providing me with the addresses and names of people with whom they are in contact. From these sources we have recently got in contact with the following people, who we welcome to the mailing list:-

Mrs Mary Coombs
Bob Hodgson
Donald Campbell
David Fish
Colin Lennon
Stanley Clarke
PAM Heald
Mrs Chris Cape
Mrs Marjorie Taylor
Frank Ransley
Mrs Pippa Towndrow
James Crawford
Mrs Mary Feather
Gordon Hawkins
Wally Clarke
Bob Lawson
Steve Smith

Frank Ransley appears to be our oldest retired Governor. Gordon Hawkins is certainly our most distant one as he continues to reside near Sydney, Australia. However, both of these add another dimension to the Newsletter. I would particularly welcome a number of Governors widows to the Newsletter. It is clear, from the letters they have written that they enjoy the Newsletter. We are always glad to have news from anyone on our mailing lists.

At the end of this Newsletter you will find a complete list of those on our circulation list at January 1986. I would be glad if all recipients of the Newsletter could check if they have the addresses of other retired Governor grades not presently on the circulation list. We estimate that there could be 100 or more people, particularly those retired for a number of years, who are not aware of the existence of the Newsletter. Could I particularly ask if anyone has an address for Tom Carnegie, Norman Clay and LC Davies (reported to be living in Weston-Super-Mare).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Martin wrote to me in November 1985 to say that we had a balance of £311.17 in the Retired Governors' Newsletter account. In view of this healthy balance we do

not need, at present, to ask subscribers generally for a subscription or donation. We are extremely grateful for a number of generous donations to the Treasurer.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Can I remind all those on the circulation list to notify the editorial office of any changes of address.

ORGANISATION

One of my objectives when I took over as Editor was to try and ensure that the Retired Governors' Newsletter was run and organised, as far as possible, by retired Governors. We now have a very happy combination of retired Governors and serving Governors working together on the Newsletter. I am particularly grateful to Roger Dauncey and Roland Attrill for contributing articles to this edition. Bernard Fletcher wrote his article for the Newsletter about 3 years ago and we have only just been able to publish it and, of course, Arthur Williamson continues to do the vital work of co-ordinating your letters. I am also grateful to Ted Cowper Johnson who has kindly volunteered to come in and help with the crucial work of actually putting the Newsletters and newspapers into envelopes and arranging for their despatch. As the Newsletter circulation grows, so the task of circulating grows and we will need to consider carefully our future organisation. I do want to encourage any of our readers who would like to contribute to the Newsletter, either by writing an article or in any other way, to get in touch with me. I am certain that at some stage we will need to have somebody in charge of addresses and circulation. However, perhaps at the moment that is something for the future but if we have a volunteer for this important job of keeping address lists up-to-date and of seeking out those with whom we are not in contact I would be glad to hear from them.

Another interesting development during the last 3 months was the question of jobs, particularly for newly-retired Governors. I was approached by the Head of Recruitment Executive at the Overseas Development Administration offices in Glasgow. The Overseas Development Administration were trying to find a senior retired Governor to go to the Solomon Islands rather urgently to sort out difficulties there. The Retired Governors' Newsletter was the only available source of retired Governors addresses. Recently retired Regional Directors and Governors I were therefore circulated with information about this particular job. I understand that an ex-Governor has now been offered the post of Prisoners Advisor in the Solomon Islands. The Overseas Development Administration has made it clear that they may consider advertising future posts through the Retired Governors' Newsletter, or certainly using our services to obtain addresses of retired Governors. There may be further scope for the Retired Governors' Newsletter acting as a clearing house for any agency that is seeking the services of retired Governors.

DEATHS OF RETIRED GOVERNORS

Through our attempts to discover the whereabouts of old colleagues we inevitably hear sad news as well as good news.

I regret to report the deaths of Tom Ryan some years ago, of Bob Nix and HL Spencer, who died in 1984, and of Doctor WJ Gray, CB, who died on 25 October 1985. He was, of course, Governor and Medical Superintendent of Grendon from 1962.

May they rest in peace.

GENERAL

One of the particularly pleasant aspects of being Editor is the contact one has with former colleagues. I even hear from those not on our mailing lists. Ben Lyte, who has just retired, wrote to say that he did not wish to take the Newsletter because he would be too busy! On the other hand I am indebted to Jack Williams for putting me onto Stanley Clarke's address. Jack appears to be extremely well and busy in retirement. I had a telephone call from Richard Downton to make sure he had not missed an edition of the Retired Governors' Newsletter. As you will gather, from Roland Attrill's report of the opening of Stocken, Geoff Lister, Ted Cowper Johnson, Bernard Frisby and Roland Attrill were all present on that occasion. I was also able to be present at the Midland Region Assistant Governors' Conference at Malvern in the autumn when Doug Grave was presented with gifts on behalf of his colleagues.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST

Among those appearing in the New Year's Honours List were:-

CJ Train, Director General - CB

Dennis Higman, recently retired North Region Director - CBE

John Richardson, Governor of Liverpool - OBE

Colonel Jim Haywood - MBE

From the Newsletter's point of view Colonel Jim's MBE for work for the Prison Service Museum must be unique as the award reflects his work after retirement. We hope to persuade Colonel Jim to contribute to a future Newsletter on the subject of the museum.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICITY

As part of the drive to contact retired Governor grades, I have recently written a letter to the Prison Officers' Magazine and to the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship and the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance. We are also considering putting an advert in the personal column of the Daily Telegraph. Anything that retired members can do to have the Retired Governors' Newsletter publicised through local groups of the Retirement Fellowship or Pensioners Alliance would be very helpful.

OPENING STOCKEN PRISON

Friday 8 November was a beautiful Indian summer's day heralding a whole day of slick organisation, eloquent speeches and a most happy opportunity for ex-colleagues to enjoy the fellowship of each others' company once again.

The occasion was the formal opening of the latest arrow in the penological quiver in the shape of HM Prison Stocken, near Oakham, in the Midland Region.

Midland Region Headquarters was represented by Director, John Sandy, once again apparently restored to good health after a nasty illness, Brendan O'Friel, Deputy Director, and representing MRO of the era in which Stocken was spawned, Geoff Lister, Ted Cowper Johnson and your truly, Roland Attrill. Brendan kindly ferried CJ and me whilst Geoff got to Stocken under his own steam.

Willie Whitelaw did the honours - it wasn't explained to us by a Home Secretary twice removed should open a new penal establishment - but he did it in his inimitable style and in his speech fed the media with juicy titbits as a reward for being there. It was on TV news that same evening. He was backed up inter alia by the Minister, Lord Glenarthur, (who told me that he was once a commercial helicopter pilot) and the PSA supremo.

Chris Train, looking his usual lean, cadaverous, road-running fit, self was there with a much less lean Gordon Lakes, who looked equally fit and well. The Department was also represented by P1 Division in strength. Those many of us who had P1 dealing with SEO Reg White will be interested to learn that he has been promoted Principal in situ. He now sports a very grey beard. Michael Gale was expected but sadly didn't make it. Many of us were disappointed about this. The Director of Works, Mr McMaster, was there looking very satisfied with his new addition to the prison estate, as did all the representatives of the contractors who built it.

The usual bevy of local VIPs were in attendance, ie, Fire, Police, Ambulance, Probation, Education, Board of Visitors, local RAF (see later) and added local colour, as did the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, looking very distinguished and venerable.

I was more interested to see Bernard Frisby there, his sylph-like figure and bouncing good health advertising the fact that he has substituted his former gubernatorial role with that of cattle rancher! Bernard told me he presently has 180 head of prime beef and he checks his roll twice daily.

For me the highlight of the opening ceremony was the staff parade. With the Chief Officer firmly in command the uniformed staff were spic and span and (so far as I could see) only one partially slashed peak in sight. The turnout was a credit to the Governor and his Chief Officer.

The conducted tours round the establishment after the opening ceremony were well attended, though not by we 'ex-es' for whom another brand new prison did not generate that much adrenalin, so we enjoyed a much shortened look around. I was not alone in noting the excellent block work in the interior walls and that every internal windowsill was made from solid hardwood and looking both impeccable and expensive. The prison is surprisingly spacious for these cost-conscious days and the very large lawned areas looked very smartly tailored in the autumn sunshine.

The prison has been occupied since July and is already full. There is virtually no industry as such and presently emphasis is on trade training, education and PE. I spoke with the PE staff and they are in their seventh heaven with a palatial gym and inmates climbing over each other to use it.

Ted Polkinghorne, the 'founder' Governor, hadn't missed a trick. He'd done all his homework, especially on the guest list and his own performance on the day was both polished and professional.

Ah, provender. The cold buffet was really something. For the sake of economy all the catering was done in the prison, including a very impressively decorated iced birthday cake. There was enough cake for everybody, though it was with not a little trepidation that I tentatively, and for the first time in my life, tasted navy blue icing but I needn't have worried. This part of the huge Prison Service cap badge centrepiece was as tasty as the huge cake it covered. I have never seen so many different kinds of cheese. A great feed, beautifully presented.

Clearly Stocken is seen by the uniformed staff as the place to be. I was delighted to meet several with whom I had served elsewhere, in fact it was one of the many bright spots in my day. The quarters look rather gruesome. I was given to understand that they are "of advanced design" but my researches amongst the uniformed staff with whom I was acquainted left me with the strong feeling that the local Housing Committee will not be overworked. Evidently because the quarters are sited immediately under the flight path of the nearby Cottesmore RAF fighter station, an effort has been made to minimise nuisance and to insulate sleepers from too much disturbance by designing the bedrooms on the ground floor and the living rooms upstairs. I didn't visit the quarters but staff feedback was not favourable. Very few of the houses appear yet to be occupied and in such a lovely countryside setting, and with beautiful Oakham so nearby, most staff will likely be seeking their own properties away from the prison. I found myself wondering how soon the quarters stock will be reduced through the hands of local estate agents. We shall see.

An excellent day for everybody. The unusually fine weather lasted throughout and the Department's latest Category C closed prison was well and truly launched. Ted Polkinghorne, to whom we all owed the day, would have been well pleased to have overheard the compliments from departing guests. Thanks Ted and well done.

Roland Attrill
November 1985

NORTH SEA CAMP - GOLDEN JUBILEE

Rosamond and I were glad to be among those who witnessed the dedication of a wooden seat and the planting of a tree on the Green at North Sea Camp to make the golden jubilee of The Camp, on 31 May 1985, by the Bishop of Grantham.

The ceremony took place at the conclusion of an open-air jubilee service attended by inmates and staff and conducted by the Chaplains of North Sea Camp, during which the prayers were led by the Bishop and the address given by Peter Jennings (Assistant Chaplain General, North Region). At the beginning of the service the message, written by Sir Alexander Paterson from the Prison Commission, Home Office, and dated 14 March 1935, to The Pioneers of North Sea Camp and was read by an Officer and that message was one of many very interesting items on display in an exhibition.

The exhibition, which was excellent, had been staged to show the development of The Camp from the arrival of the original party on foot, under the leadership of Bill Llewellyn, to the present day. It included a number of photographs, some of which, together with maps of the marsh, had been "blown up" by the Reprographic Branch, as well as individual contributions from past members of staff. Some of the private papers of the late Barney Malone were on display and dipping into these, as well as into the Governor's Journal (also on display) for the same period, made fascinating reading and threw light on many of the difficulties of leading and managing a team of housemasters and of being a member of such a team; just as relevant today as they were then. An excellent video film (made by the Directorate of Works) about North Sea Camp and the reclamation of land was available for viewing. We regretted that we did not leave ourselves sufficient time to study in detail all the exhibits.

Among the past members of staff attending who we knew (and recognised!) were Doug Tacey and Den Towler and among those we met for the first time was John Garr od, the only other ex-Housemaster present. He was, of course, one of the original staff and, like us, disappointed that there were no other ex-Governors or Housemasters present. Perhaps, also like us, they had only heard of the celebrations belatedly, or not at all. (Many letters of apology, in reply to invitations sent to ex-members of staff were on display at the exhibition but, as far as we could see, none were from Governor grades - which suggests the latter was the case!)

There were sporting events, also involving local people, over the weekend and a locally organised charity marathon went along the banks through The Camp on the Sunday. After attending morning chapel at The Camp on Sunday with the inmates and other visitors - including local parishoners - Rosamond and I walked from The Plumbers around the boundary of the 1,000 acres now reclaimed in beautifully sunny, but typically windy, North Sea Camp weather.

The methods of reclamation and bank reinforcement, whilst much the same as in the past, are now far less arduous for the inmates. We were told that because of the distances involved they are now transported to and from work, hard hats for all are the order of the day and there is little, if any, man-handling of the tubs by inmates. Those who experienced working conditions on the marsh in the earlier days will realise what limitations the current (overprotective?) Health and Safety regulations would impose.

As an aside, we thought a great deal about the past whilst we were there. How as a bachelor I joined the Service at North Sea Camp in April 1951, how, in August of that year, Peter Burnett sent Rosamond and me a telegram on our honeymoon in Holland to tell us we could not, after all, have the quarters he had allocated to us as Sid and Sheila Rudge had been posted to North Sea Camp and, with twin daughters, they had a prior claim on the accommodation! How David and Florence Gould (and family of 3) accommodated

the homeless newlyweds on their return until we organised a caravan to be parked at the end of the then Matron's quarters, just below the bank. How very different was the style of leadership given by Alan Robertson when he succeeded Peter Burnett as Governor. How Arthur Williamson came to North Sea Camp for a week or so as part of his induction training as he transferred from the Works to the Governor grades (I wonder if the current regulations would permit visitors to be put to work with inmates on the marsh party?). But, this is not the time or place to indulge further reminiscing!

The land now enclosed is at various stages of cultivation and that under crops stood comparison with the surrounding countryside. The Farm Manager is to be congratulated on its very high standard.

One couldn't help but make a favourable comparison of the smartness of inmates today with those of 30 years ago. Much of it due, no doubt, to the design of present day uniforms and a detention centre regime. How different too to see uniformed staff in the North Sea Camp setting which, apart from some additional buildings and brick-built quarters and works' buildings in place of the wooden ones of 30 years ago, looked much the same. L and L, H and B and K and G still remain almost as they were and the security stops at locks, there being no security fence.

We stayed at The Priory, where Joy Paine still flourishes in surroundings, also unchanged, over the past 30 years! Her hospitality was as welcoming as ever and she is pleased that the links between the village and The Camp are being encouraged. Of course the Paine connection with The Camp goes right back to when Peter was "vetted" by Bill Llewellyn before he was appointed Vicar and Chaplain to The Camp and there were a number of references to him in the exhibition. Also The Priory was a much used refuge by many Housemasters, especially the bachelors of the early days.

Finally, along with the other guests at the jubilee, we much enjoyed the hospitality provided by Jack Hanson and his wife at their house and by the Officers in their club after the ceremonies on the Friday evening were over. This contribution provides an opportunity to record our thanks to them all for making us so welcome and allowing us to share the celebrations with them.

Roger Dauncey
September 1985

PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL

I have received the following letter from the Editor of the Prison Service Journal:-

Prison Service Journal
Editorial Office
HM Prison
Leyhill
Wootton Under Edge
Gloucestershire GL12 8HL

Dear Colleagues

I am writing this letter as Editor of the Prison Service Journal, which I am sure you will remember from your own time in the service.

The Journal continues to circulate despite many financial pressures and threats to close and we publish an edition every 3 months which is circulated through the service and to most UK universities and a good few foreign ones as well.

I thought there might be some retired colleagues who would be interested in subscribing to the Journal, which could be easily done by writing to the Administration Officer at Leyhill Prison enclosing a year's subscription of £2.85 made payable to Leyhill Prison.

Could I also take the opportunity of saying that we would greatly welcome any articles from retired Governors about any matters relevant to penology generally and perhaps particularly articles relating to past events.

If anyone would wish to contribute we like articles generally about 1,500 to 2,000 words in length. They should be sent to me at HM Prison Gartree, Gallowfield Road, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 7RP.

Yours sincerely

Richard Tilt
Editor

REFLECTIONS ON THE SERVICE IN THE FIFTIES

I suppose that my contemporary ex-Governors regard me as "a Young Prisoners' Governor", if they have any regard for me.

For the last 13/14 years of my Prison Service I was Governor of the North Regional YP Centre (1956-1965) and in charge of the Southern Region (1965-1971) but not many of my former colleagues will remember what I was doing in 1957 - and why should they indeed! However, there is a story to be told of that 1957 year, especially when one looks back and thinks of that special breed of men - PDs.

In May 1957 I was transferred on promotion from the D/G post at Leeds to relieve Cliff Shoemake at Northallerton, he was on his way to well earned promotion at Brixton. That is where the men serving Preventive Detention comes in. A few months previous to me going to Northallerton he had received, in small batches, PDs over 45 years of age from various prisons throughout the country. When I arrived he had a hundred of these most contentious of men.

However, he and his Chief Officer, Will Smith, who had a wealth of experience at Dartmoor (as an Officer) and Parkhurst (as a PO), had ironed out a lot of teething problems and I soon settled down to my new life. I found, for instance, that at the age of 46 I could hold my own in physical fitness, and one week in June I scored a hundred on our rather long but narrow tar-mac exercise yard - it took me 2 evenings to do it but by the end of the second evening my cover drive was working well and I was banging the ball against the wall which was fully 25 yards away!!

I remember another incident where PO George Turnbull, a 6' 2" Liverpool Prison full-back in his younger days, was "sent off" by a "PD" referee for a very heavy tackle on our of our more loquacious "PDs". I remember also when Charles Cape Esq (i/c of education throughout the Service) was paying a 2-day visit with an Inspector of Education. During his first evening tour of the prison he was passing the entrance to the small hospital wing and enquired of me if there were any patients. I replied that we had one man in a hospital room who was suffering from asthma. I further said that he was somewhat remarkable in as much as he was studying for his 'A' grade in pure maths. Nothing amazed me what Charles Cape Esq did or said but I was mildly surprised to say the least when a handshake became almost an embrace when they recognised each other as Governor, Lowdham Grange, and Sheldon ex-BI winner of the mile at the aforesaid establishment in 1943 or so - shades of the "Long Distance Runner".

We had a good three-quarter size billiards table in the wing and I had only been at Northallerton a few days when one evening I was greeted by a PD by the name of Gulliver (whom I knew as Winson Green in 1938 as Red Band Works). He told me that he had arranged a game with our Christian Science visitor, Mr Alfred Edwards, MP, from Middlesborough. I realised this as a "taking the piss" effort on their part because Alfred was a former North East Regional qualifier in the English Amateur Championships.

I think, however, "someone up there" was helping me for Alf could not get going and I could do no wrong. I beat him 100 to around 75 and told the assembled PDs that I would rest on my laurels and in future only play their tournament winner (once in 6 months).

I have never worked in an establishment where prisoners ("inmates" I suppose I ought to say) guarded their possessions so jealously. No-one was allowed to smoke whilst playing billiards. The table was brushed and ironed daily and all the other leisure pursuits were just as strictly guarded and looked after. There was a system in those

days when an extra one-sixth of their sentence could be gained in extra remission. There was a board, comprised of a Stipendary Magistrate, a Prison Commissioner, a layman (in our case a Leeds University Professor) and a Senior Probation Officer who met bi-monthly in the prison to consider the PDs applications for early release. The PDs had to get a written promise that they would be seriously considered for employment upon release. Many men wrote continuously to prospective employers and some weird and wonderful letters were composed. First aid, through St. John's Ambulance Society, was a very popular evening class and we had a first class Instructor. I remember that we had a PD who reached Mcallion Grade (tantamount to fourth year) and he managed to secure a promise of employment at Crossley's, the Halifax carpet manufacturers. I know that he was in steady employment with them 4 years after his release for I met one of their Directors at Park Avenue, Bradford, when Yorkshire were playing country cricket and he told me that the ex-PD was working steadily and getting an extra £2.00 per week for his first aid qualifications and was on call for emergencies.

Now I come to the point of my story.

In May 1958 I received instructions from Head Office to make all arrangements with British Rail to transfer the PDs to Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey in semi-open conditions. So, one memorable morning on Northallerton Railway Station at 08.30 am May 1958, I watched the special train, containing 98 PDs, a Senior Principal Officer and an escort of 16 Officers, including the Reception Officer (with all their valuables and private cash), also a Cook and Baker Officer, who served 2 meals on the train. There were 20 tons of materials in 2 containers also on the train and I am pleased to say that the train arrived safely on the Isle of Sheppey at 16.30 pm.

When I totted up the accumulative years of imprisonment on transfer I was astounded to find that it totalled 768 years.

Is this a record?

One final fact, which is a testimony to the Northallerton staff, we never had a query re any article of property, cash or any other article.

The following day Northallerton was classed as an inter-mediate training borstal - but that is another story.

Bernard Fletcher
May 1983

YOUR LETTERS

I wish to express my appreciation to colleagues who kindly loaned me copies of edition number 5 and I have replied personally to all but one. In the latter instance the sender did not include his name or address, so a reply was not possible. May I therefore say "thank you" to whoever forwarded the copy to me.

The readers response to the last edition was very encouraging indeed and from the following extracts it will be seen that at long last many were persuaded to write and let us have their news. Many thanks and please keep up the good work so that the future of the Newsletter can be assured.

Amongst the many letters I have received was one from Mrs Norah Higham who wrote to express her appreciation for the comments made about her husband, Peter. I wish to thank her and at the same time assure her that future copies of the Newsletter will be sent to keep her in touch with her many friends.

The following letters were also received:-

Windsor, Berks

I should be very glad if you could address and post the enclosed for me. It has been a wish of mine for a long time to know Nora and Ken Whetton's address, as since they left Devizes I've had no means of contacting them until his letter has appeared in the Retired Governors' Newsletter.

Thank you.
Kathleen Ware.

(Your letter will have been forwarded to your friends Mrs Ware and I hope you have regained contact with them. Readers are reminded that whilst we do not publish addresses, Brendan will be happy to forward your letters to anyone whose name appears on his mailing list.)

WAW

Bevere, Worcester - 24 September 1985

Thank you for the information regarding the Governors' Newsletter. I retired from the Service at Stafford in December 1979. Until October 1983 I lived in the Lake District, where I became actively involved in the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship. Cumbria is a lovely place to live but we could not cope with the continual rain. Since moving to Worcester we have spent a great deal of time travelling and have visited many parts of the world, including a long stay in Christchurch, New Zealand, with our son. I am pleased to say that I have remained in contact with some of my old friends in the Service but am looking forward, via the Newsletter, to renewing my acquaintance with others now living in retirement in this area.

Finally, I must add that I am pleased Arthur Williamson's efforts have succeeded and the Newsletter has become well established.

Yours sincerely
R Hodgson

(Bob kindly enclosed a substantial cheque towards the cost of posting and for this we thank him very much. I would also thank him for his comments regarding my little effort with the Newsletter but without the work carried out by Brendan it would have sunk into oblivion.)

WAW

Malvern Wells, Worcester - 15 October 1985

Very many thanks for your letter and I would like to have the Newsletter sent and please let me know when you want a donation.

Best wishes
Stanley G Clarke

5 December 1985

Very many thanks to you and Arthur for the Newsletter.

Peter James (and perhaps many others too) can be assured of my fitness and enjoyment of an active life in retirement.

I note the North Sea Camp celebration. I was posted there, of course, from Lowdham Grange to help prepare for its opening. A small group of us stood and welcomed boys and staff on their arrival after walking from Stafford Prison. They were led by Barney Malone. Bill Llewellyn (note my spelling - no 'Y') was there. He started Lowdham Grange, North Sea Camp and Hewell Grange. I note that Gaynes Hall is in the news. I opened Gaynes and remained Housemaster i/c until Macfarlane arrived a few months later as the first Governor.

I seem to have missed out on some celebrations...

Best wishes
Stanley G Clarke

Gringleford, Norwich - 22 October 1985

Thank you for sending me No 11 of the Retired Governors' Newsletter. I look forward to receiving subsequent numbers, as my wife Nancy and I are now settled in this area.

You and your team are doing excellent work for which I am sure all retired Governors are very grateful.

It is interesting to read about old colleagues and friends but it would be better if some of us could meet.

I remember in the early 60s some of us who were, and hopefully still are, golfers, used to meet for a friendly competition and get together. I wonder how many of us who still play regularly would care to do the same again?

I am very sorry to learn of the death of Peter Higham and Alex Ware. They were 2 of a happy team of AGs at Wakefield in the early 50s.

Best wishes
Sincerely
Richard W Downton

(Several colleagues have expressed the wish that some sort of 'get together' be arranged. Distance, and increasing age in some instances, may make this difficult but it does seem to me that small meetings, based on a regional or country area may be possible. In Richard's case there are several retired colleagues living in the Norwich area and he could be put in touch through a letter to Brendan. What do the rest of our readers think about small 'get togethers' - preferably in the better weather months of the year?)

WAW

Caerleon, Newport, Gwent - 29 October 1985

Thank you for your letter and the copy of the Newsletter. It arrived on a Saturday morning and was a good excuse for a 'lie in'. I was amazed to find how many people referred to were friends or acquaintances. I should love to receive further copies. I have telephoned Marjorie Taylor and she would be delighted to receive copies also. Mrs Taylor remains young in mind and I am sure I gain the most pleasure from our occasional contact, for she always has news and lively conversation to offer. It is sad she can no longer go out as she would wish. She lives at Woodside, Usk, Gwent.

I am still teaching in Ponypool, but will shortly be moving to the Bath area. I have recently become engaged to a widower who lives there and we have decided to make Bradford-on-Avon our home town.

My daughter, Helen, is training for nursing at the Royal Free Hospital. My son, Gordon, has just left school and will move to Bath with us.

Sincerely
Chris Cape

(I feel certain all who know Mrs Cape would wish me to extend to her their very best wishes for her future life following her marriage and we will continue to send her copies of the Newsletter should she so wish.)

WAW

Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, Devon - 24 October 1985

Many thanks for the Prison Governors' Newsletter just received and for giving me so much space in it. I hope you don't mind me pointing out that the article published in the Western News appeared on 18 August 1984 and not 16 August 1986 (we are sorry for the error).

My father was not actually Steward at Dartmoor. He started there as Clerk, then Assistant Steward and went to Swansea as Steward in 1923. I enclose a short note about him which may be of interest. If there is anyone still around who remembers "PG" I should be delighted to hear from them as I am trying to collect as much information about him as possible.

I see Peter James is asking for news about Rundle Harris, amongst others. Unfortunately Rundle died in Exeter a few years ago.

Yours sincerely
Barbara M Stevens

PHILIP GUY STEVENS, FGS - 1883-1944

He was known to most of his friends as "PG". Though born in London he came to Dartmoor

as a small boy when his father was appointed "Clerk and Schoolmaster" at the prison. Due to his interest in geology and for his work on Dartmoor granite he was made a Fellow of the Geological Society.

PG married Beatrice, youngest daughter of Aaron Rowe, owner of the Duchy Hotel at Princetown, now the Officers' mess.

In 1923 PG went to Swansea on promotion as Steward and in his spare time lectured to the prisoners, he also greatly interested himself with prisoners welfare. In 1930 the Prison Commissioners took the unusual step of promoting him to the Governorship of Shrewsbury Prison. He was there 8 years, moving next to Norwich as Governor from where he retired prematurely after 2 years. He died at the age of 61.

Ellesmere Port, South Wirral - 31 October 1985

Each time I received the Newsletter I promised myself I would write and then felt guilty at not doing so. You are doing your part and we in turn must do ours if the Newsletter is to continue, so here goes.

Muriel and I are still in Ellesmere Port running a dress fabrics shop, which we bought with retirement in mind about 3 years before I actually did retire. I said "we" are running it but 90% is done by Muriel and I try not to get in the way too much. We have found a trustworthy helper and due to her have managed to get away for more than our fair share of holidays abroad.

We have been to South Africa twice, Florida once and many times to Spain Madeira and Tenerife.

It was good to see a letter from Ken Whetton, with whom I served at Dover Borstal when it was first opened as such in December 1957, along with Maurice Bryan and Colin Honey - with Alistair Miller as Governor. Happy days...

Apart from exchanging Christmas cards with Arthur Kearns and Lionel Steinhausen we have no contact with other retired colleagues. The Newsletter, therefore, does keep us in touch with names, faces and places and stirs old memories and some of the antics to which George Bride refers.

Keep up the good work and many thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely
H (Bert) Jones

Usk, Gwent - 10 November 1985

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the Retired Governors' Newsletter. It was lovely to find the names of old friends and colleagues of my husband. I was particularly interested in the accounts of the 50th anniversary of North Sea Camp as I came from Boston, only 7 miles away and knew the site well before ever there was a camp there. My husband William (Bill Taylor) was one of the Housemasters when Major Llewellyn was Governor; that is where we met. We had 3 terms at North Sea Camp so we saw it develop from marsh to the successful farm it is now. Bill was later Governor there in the 1950s and then at the end at Usk Borstal and Prescoed Camp, wher he sadly died 6 months before he was due to retire.

I still keep in touch with many friends we made, Peter Burnett, Alan Bainton and Alan Robertson - who is in hospital after a heart operation I hear - and also Alan Rawson and Roger Dauncey, amongst others.

Your letter arrived whilst Stanley Nash and his wife were staying with me on their way back from the Governors' Conference at Bournemouth and we spent most of the evening enjoying it.

It was sorry to hear Alex Ware had died, he was Deputy when we came here and he met and welcomed us to Usk at Newport Station. I am wondering if Bill Martin, who is your Treasurer, is the one who was at Prescoed Camp? If so, do remember me very kindly to him.

I am now in my middle 80s and cannot get about much owing to a stroke, a broken hip and now arthritis but I shall look forward to the next Newsletter.

Sincerely
Marjorie Taylor

(Many thanks for your letter Mrs Taylor. I wish all correspondents handwriting was as clear as your own. It was a pleasure to read it and you can be assured further Newsletters will be sent you. Stanley Nash has also written to me and asks that we make certain you get future editions.)

WAW

Wakefield - 1 November 1985

Your last letter has spurred me into action, coupled with the fact that George Bride tells me it is about time I did something.

Firstly there is one name not on your mailing list who would like and appreciate it if he could be included (he already is). That is Frank Ransley. He was my first Governor in 1938, although I knew him at Sherwood Camp in 1936 and onwards. In my opinion one of the GREAT GOVERNORS who finished his says at Wandsworth. Only last week I was speaking to him and he had been up a tree pruning one of the branches - aged 88 years. When you speak to him his voice is still the same as in the days when David Waddilove, Jim Haywood, Len Simpson, 'Greg' Gregory, the late Sir Almerie Rich and many others used to hear him laying down the law at Rochester in 1938. Memorable days, especially the great evacuation on the outbreak of war, and also the day I marked out his tennis court using the lime and the liquid in his watering can which turned out to be his reserve of paraffin... I have corresponded regularly with him over the years and I know he would dearly love to hear from those who served with him, or under him. I have been trying to trace Commander Denis Venables - a Governor of his era - but have not been successful. Maybe you can help?

I am still coping with life and enjoying it to the full. I have just had 3 weeks in Kenya where I met my son Nigel. He had flown down from Oman, where he is an Instructor aboard the ex-Royal yacht in the Sultan's Navy. Where he goes from there I know not but I am hoping he will arrange my second visit to His Excellency's country in February or March (he should be there when this edition drops onto the doormat).

Although my age is one over par my golf is a far cry from that but I play twice a week and sometimes enjoy it - much depends upon the outcome. I have come to the conclusion that the older I get the more that little white ball drives you to despair.

Thank you for all you are doing to maintain the Newsletter. I am sure many appreciate it even if they remain silent.

Best wishes
John Watson

(Many thanks for letting us have Mr Ransley's address. Brendon wrote him and his reply is reproduced below.)

WAW

Alton, Hants - November 1985

Many thanks for sending me No 11 Newsletter and the Prison Service News.

I joined the Prison Service in 1924 and retired from Wandsworth in 1958. I look forward to the next Newsletter but do not anticipate seeing many of my contemporaries mentioned.

In the Newsletter you forwarded someone mentioned that Tom Hayes hoped the Borstal book would be published before the end of this year. In 1983 he told me he hoped it would be out before the end of that year. I am now 88 and hoping to see it before long.

Sincerely
Frank Ransley

(I know that several contemporaries of Mr Ransley are on our mailing list and hope they will respond by either sending their news for publication herein, or send a letter for onwards transmission to their old colleagues. With regards Tom Hayes book on Borstal, I know that Tom was taken ill before he had a chance to get it published and a long delay was the result. Now I believe he has improved somewhat and news of the future publication date would be welcomed.)

WAW

Isleworth, Middlesex - 7 November 1985

Congratulations on 2 more excellent editions of Newsletter.

I would have written after the tenth edition if only to indicate I was alive (which I feel though not newsworthy, is better than continuing silence). I was hoping to report a dramatic change in our lives. Although I spent a lot of my service pressing moves on Governors and Assistant Governors, always it seems at times inconvenient to them, their wives, their children, their plants, petc and future happiness; my wife and I have never moved during our 33 years of marriage. We have decided, with advancing years, that we must get a smaller garden and become less dependent upon a car and we thought we had something lined up - dramatically just half a mile away. At the 23rd hour, just as contracts were about to be exchanged, negotiations collapsed through the usual weak link in the chain and we are now having to start afresh. This means that in the family history the year 1985 will not be the year of the 'Great Migration' but the year of the grandchildren.

Starting the year with my younger daughters 2 sons (2½ and 1¼) our younger son and his wife presented us with another grandson in May and our elder son and his wife with the excitement of a granddaughter in September. (It must have been a very expensive Christmas this year for you WAW) As 2 of our children are also involved in recent or impending house moves (with inevitable grandparental commitments) we have plenty to distract us.

With all this we haven't seen many other "retirees" but we had tea with Marion and Duncan Fairn, still in their lovely house (and garden) in Pinner in August and found them as cheerful and entertaining as ever despite their physical mishaps. We are hoping to call on Pip Towndrow next week on our way to the coast but like so many of us she will be away taking advantage of the November rail travel concessions. I mentioned the Newsletter to her when we were talking on the telephone and wondered if it would be possible for her to be added to the circulation list (she has been added already). I believe she would like it and it would give her a link to Eric's many friends in the Service.

As to the query raised by Peter James; Alan Bainton (and Ann) moved from Ross-on-Wye to Bristol a few years ago. I have their address and if I get down to Bristol on one of my interviewing exercises for the Civil Service Commission I will see if I can persuade him to be more receptive to the Newsletter. I know he had strong views on severing links on retirement. (I do hope you succeed as I personally would like to get his news and hear how he is these days. WAW)

I look forward to writing to you with a new address in due course. In the meantime best wishes to you both and salaams to the Service.

Terry Weiler

(If the great migration has already taken place by the time this edition comes out you will now know what you forced upon so many unwilling members of staff in days gone. However, I know they will not hold you responsible and at the same time wish you all happiness in your new home.)

WAW

Ravenshead, Nottingham - 12 November 1985

Many thanks for the recent Newsletter. It is a great day when it arrives and we wallow in nostalgia for days afterwards. Arthur Williamson and I exchange lengthy letters with news of old friends 2 or 3 times a year.

I think Gordon Hawkins would appreciate a copy of the Newsletter. He has retired from his post at Sydney University and is back in Manly, NSW, after a lecture tour in the USA. He wrote me from there and I replied but, unfortunately, I have lost his address. I am sure a letter marked 'please forward' would find him.

I wonder if your office would be prepared to help a friend of mind? His father died recently and on turning out the home he came across a number of extremely interesting and well written letters from a prisoner in Lincoln Prison in 1936. This was a friend of his father's but nothing had ever been known about his prison career. Bill Morton would like to get in touch with his family as he assumes the man in question is dead by now. Is there any likelihood that the discharge register might show his address on release? (I know I could have obliged had it been Wandsworth.) I hesitate to write the Governor of Lincoln as I do not know who he is. If there is any change I would send you (or the Governor of Lincoln) the details.

Best wishes to you and thank you for keeping us 'oldies' in touch. Great pity that we could not have a 'get together' sometime but I know all about expense and infirmity so the Newsletter is the next best thing.

Please give my regards to John Sandy who, I am told, is your new Regional Director for the Midland Region.

Sincerely
'Les' Portch

(Yet another colleague interested in a 'get together'. What do the rest of you feel about the idea?)

WAW

Gristhorpe, Near Filey, North Yorkshire - 3 November 1985

Thank you for the Newsletter and please note I have now moved from Scarborough to the above address, a quiet little village on the outskirts of Filey.

I am indebted to you for publishing my letter as it brought a long, newly but sad one from Kath Ware. We were delighted to read George Bride's letter and to know all goes well with him and his family. It seems he hasn't changed since his Maidstone days.

Sincerely
Ken Whetton

(Watch out Ken or you will be getting scores of letters booking in for summer holidays by the sea. I know Gristhorpe and camped there as a youngster in the scouts in the 1930s. Passing through in latter years suggests it has changed very little.)

WAW

Oswestry, Shropshire - 4 December 1985

Life is so busy these days and I hardly ever have time to put pen to paper but I noticed that the last list of retired Governors did not include the name of Miss Jean Martyn, OBE. She did so much for borstal girls at Aylesbury and Bullwood. She is now housebound with arthritis and I am sure she would be interested to read of past colleagues. Her address (supplied in full) is at Grimsby, South Humberside.

Glad to say I am keeping well and hope you are too.

All good wishes.
Ethel Maybury

(Brendan has written to Miss Martyn and forwarded a copy of Newsletter.)

WAW

(Brendan has contacted Gordon Hawking who is in fact residing at Manly, New South Wales (see the letter from Les Portch). Still writing in his familiar black ink, Gordon's letter is as follows:-)

WAW

Manly, New South Wales, Australia - 2 December 1985

Many thanks for your letter of 13 November 1985. Leslie Portch was right, I would like to receive the Newsletter and return the tear off slip from your form herewith.

Two points:-

i. I should be grateful if it could be sent airmail, as surface mail to Australia can take up to 2 months to reach us.

ii. Let me know when to send a donation and how much.

Yours sincerely
Gordon Hawkins

(I am delighted we have re-located you Gordon and I know Brendan has already written you and enclosed the latest Newsletter for you. It seems an awful long time since you used to 'prop up' the cupboard at the morning 'knitting session' in Major Harvey's office at Wakefield - some times giving us all the impression you were having a quiet sleep, whilst all the time you were taking in every word. Happy days. Now we should be delighted to have your news as soon as possible.)WAW

Brockworth, Gloucester - 4 December 1985

Further to the plea for news of retired Governors - famous and infamous.

Since I retired to Gloucester I have discovered the **most remarkable** coincidence regarding my local community of Brockworth, situated beautifully beneath the lovely Cotswold ridge. The recent edition of the Church magazine reveals to me that the name Brockworth was mentioned in the Domesday Book and is derived from Brace-Warding. Now "Warding" means a homestead and "Brace" is a brook. The "Homestead by the Brook". Any guess which brook?

The local brook is called the "Horsbere" - the old name for Horseferry and, to top it all, at the top of my nearby road (I live in a cul-de-sac) is Horsbere House - a modern accommodation block of flats for the aged (otherwise HORSEFERRY HOUSE).

May I suggest to many colleagues from the past who heard me refer to all the other coincidences in my life that this particular one you cannot deny because if in passing by you show me affection and call in for a drink you can see for yourself.

After a long while I have finally acknowledged and accepted retirement but (ahem) I warn all of you, it isn't as easy as some might suggest. To accept all the free time.

I send my regards to old friends and colleagues. If ever you find you come nearby and fail to call for a noggin then I shall feel you have let me down.

Sincerely
Jim Webley

Hook, near Haverfordwest, Dyfed - 5 December 1985

I do enjoy the Newsletter and to hear from old friends and colleagues. In all we seem to be a lively lot, not given to letting the world just pass by. And why not - most of us were born in one World War, brought up in the Depression in spartan circumstances (by today's standards), fought in the Second World War, lived through rationing and then through to the permissive society. We have seen hard times, good times, bad times, happy times, lean times, miserable times, unfair times, challenging times, sad times and so on, surviving in the end and enjoying almost every minute of them all. In fact we are ready for anything you can throw at us. Or so it appears from the Newsletter.

You ask "Do I still run?". I do 6 miles or so. Now I have given up racing and only train every other day.

However, as my grandsons are playing squash I have to keep fit so that my performance is creditable. They are junior members of the Priory Club at Edgbaston. When they

come down here, as they do frequently, they have to be satisfied with Milton Haven Sports Centre.

Ted and Prin Horsfall were here the other day for a meal. They live just the other side of the bridge from us. We seem to have evolved a system which ensures we see each other several times a year. Ted and Prin were in great form.

I have noted your advancements with pleasure and a certain paternalistic satisfaction. Congratulations and keep it up. It is also nice to see many of my erstwhile protoges scaling the heights. That is as I expected.

My fond regards to any friends whom you may meet. These are difficult times for you all still in the Service and must be very trying. I can only pass on some good advice I once had - "In stress keep you head up and your bowels open".

Yours aye
Bill Perrie

(I hope I have reproduced your letter correctly Bill. At times I did have a little difficulty translating from the Gaelic.)

WAW

Burton Joyce, Nottingham - 21 November 1985

Many thanks for including me in the Retired Governors' Newsletter mailing list; that appreciation extends to the consideratia and effort shown by yourself and Arthur in such comendable service to "us veterans".

Strangely the arrival of my first copy coincided with the realisation of how much the Service gave me; that may be in part that I felt I could just leave the Service and that retirement in itself would (vaguely) satisfy my needs; that all the involvement - with the rewards and the frustrations - could be quickly exchanged for golf, gardening, home and family; that I need no actively seek for any other substitute.

For a couple of years - yes - maybe ...

The Newsletter and the Prison Service News may have proved something of a catalyst to galvanise a somewhat slumbering awareness that I need to do a self-appraisal and see which side of centre the ticks falls.

Otherwise - healthwise - familywise - even finance wise - no real complaints.

Trust all goes well with you. Kird regards to all old colleagues and friends who may remember me - for whatever reason.

Sincerely
Eric Sumner

Whilst that is the last of the letters addressed to us at Newsletter, I did have a personal one forwarded from my very good friend Ron Spencer, now living in retirement with his wife Bette in Northampton. I know he will not object to me passing on at least some of its contents. He states that:-

Delighted to receive the Newsletter and many thanks. Occasionally I see Tim Newell, Roger Dauncey and Roland Attrill.

Since my retirement we have visited Iceland, touring right round with my married daughter who lives there with her husband. Glorious country and intend to return there one winter and experience that below zero weather (and the best of luck to you Ron. You can have my share as well). We enjoy Holland and have spent 2 holidays there - otherwise it is down to the sea for me.

What with grandchildren and our 2 daughters here in England we have plenty to do but we stretch ourselves with various interests. I carve wood, as does Bette and we "do" things with people - library rounds for aged, Citizens Advice work. In addition Bette paints portraits, animals, flowers and local views. Organised 2 exhibitions of her work, some of which I frame. She is now exhibiting at a London Art Gallery, doing well, but I believe it is my framing which sells her studies! Our home is full of paintings, wood chips and books, etc, which makes it interesting for the grandchildren as they cannot make a mess here...

Trust all is well with you and your family and that retirement is to your liking. Don't know why I didn't think of it before, with a little more on the pension it would be heaven, but the odd bottle of rum warms the cockles.

I am Warden at our local church, seems to surprise everyone but you will remember I wore the dog collar at Wakefield (I remember only too well, even though you were a puzzle to some of the clerica on the Chaplains course there at the time).

Keep up the good work and will endeavour to write regularly.

All the best "Ginger".
Ron Spencer

(Many thanks Ron for all your news. I will hold you to your promise to write more frequently. "Ginger")

WAW

And that, dear friends, is the last of our readers letters. It is very encouraging to receive so many and we hope the flow continues in the same way. Thank you all.

Now can I ask for some information from you?

First, does anyone have any news about Norman Clay (Big Norman). We should be delighted to hear from him. If you have his address will you send it to Brendan please?

On our frequent visits to the home of my son and his family in East Yorkshire we pass very close to the new prison currently being constructed (yes, at long last) at Full Sutton, near Pocklington. Each time I pass I cannot but remember Mike Oldfield, who being a native of those parts always told me he would be the first Governor of Full Sutton. Had the Department "pulled their fingers out" and erected it when they intended (now it must be almost 20 years ago - things move fast in Government circles) then Mike would possibly have reached his goal on his native heath. However, he was tragically taken from us whilst serving as Governor of Wakefield Prison. I know he is buried somewhere in the East Yorkshire district but I know not where.

Could anyone inform me of the village where he (and his wife) are buried as I would certainly call there and pay my respects to an honourable gentleman and very dear colleague.

This edition will not reach you until the New Year and is a few weeks old. Nevertheless may I take the opportunity of wishing you all continued good health and all good fortune throughout 1986 and also thank you all for being so supportive with our efforts with the Newsletter.

Arthur Williamson

STOP PRESS (27 JANUARY 1986)

We very much regret to report the death of Mrs Frisby, wife of Bernard Frisby, earlier this month.

I also very much regret to inform readers that Arthur Williamson has had a recurrence of his previous troubles and is back in hospital - hopefully only for a short period.

Bill Guinan reports that he has been appointed to the Soloman Islands post and flies out via Australia at the end of January.

SERVICE NEWS

SENIOR POSTS: With the retirement of Dennis Higman, Bill Driscoll has moved to take charge of North Region and Ian Dunbar has been promoted to Regional Director of South West Region. Peter Kitteridge has taken charge of Albany Prison on promotion to Governor I. Arthur de Frisching has rejoined the Service to take charge of the new Feltham, the post being up-graded to Governor I. The new dispersal prison at Full Sutton is to be governed by Barry Smith, presently in charge of Hull, which is to become a local prison.

PROMOTIONS TO GOVERNOR II: These are now made by a promotion board system. The following were successful in the board held in the summer of 1985.

CG Clark (Durham DG) posted to Channings Wood
RB Coombs (Guys Marsh) posted to Wymott
JW Dring (HQ P6) posted to Featherstone
J Hunter (Askham Grange) posted to Highpoint
CF Lambert (HQ P6) posted to Lindholme
JR Marriott (Nottingham) posted to Lewes
Miss S McCormack (Pucklechurch) posted to Hollesley Bay
TM O'Sullivan (HQ P7) posted to Bristol
JB Smith (Grendon DG) posted to Wormwood Scrubs as DG
PV Weigh (Northallerton) posted to Kirkham
PM Wheatley (Gartree DG) posted to Hull

OTHER MOVES: Because of the high level of retirements in 1985 there has been a very large amount of Governor grade moves with a promotion list of 31 from Governor IV to Governor III. One innovation is the introduction of 4 Governor III posts to prison industries, one to each Region. This, coupled with the Deputy Regional Directors joining the Prison Industries Board of Management, has brought a much greater involvement of Governor grades in the central management of prison industries.

NEW ESTABLISHMENTS: In addition to Stocken, Thorn Cross Youth Custody Centre opened in the autumn on the site of Appleton Thorn. Many of you will also have read in the papers of the acquisition of RAF Lindholme, near Doncaster, to become a large Category C prison. During 1986 we hope to be able to report on the official opening of our new Prison Service College at Newbold Revel near Rugby.

THE POPULATION: The population went over 48,000 briefly in August 1985. It has fallen back somewhat during the rest of 1985 but we go into 1986 wondering if this will be the year we are asked to lock up 50,000.