

RETIRED GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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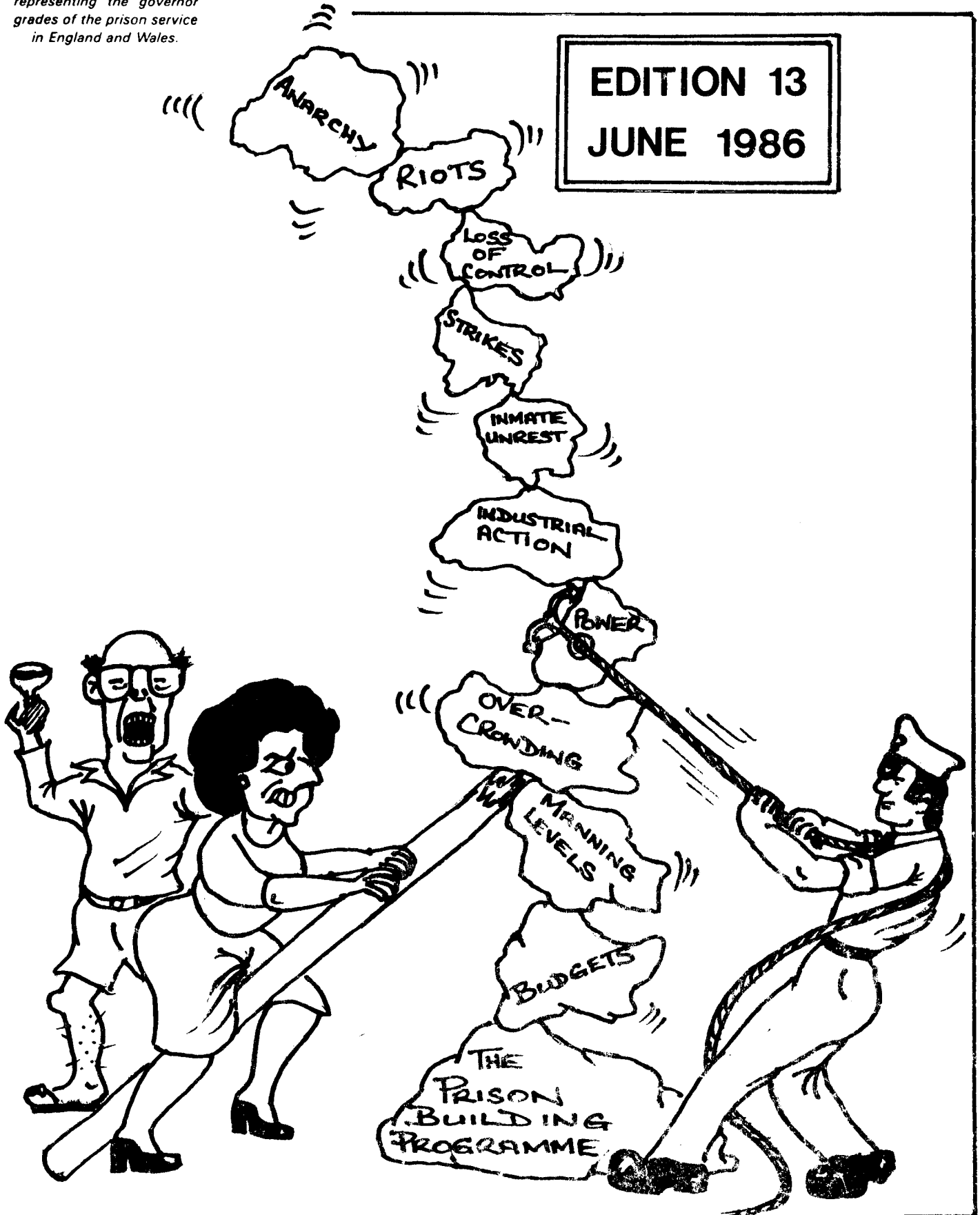
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*A branch of the society of
civil and public servants
representing the governor
grades of the prison service
in England and Wales.*

EDITION 13
JUNE 1986



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EDITORIAL

OUR MAILING LIST

I am pleased to report that we now have over 175 on our mailing list. Among those recently retired are:-

Mr EVH (Ted) Williams
Mr Frank Jones
Mr John Bailey
Mr Ken Taylor

Among those who have been retired some time we are now in touch with:-

Mr Alan Bainton
Mr Joe Green
Mrs Kelly
Mr Norman Lewington
Mr Jim McGowan

We advertised our existence through the Prison Officers' Magazine - now re-named 'Gatelodge' - in January 1986. We received no replies from that advertisement. However, at the same time, we wrote to the 2 Civil Service pensioners organisations and asked them to publicize our existence. From that source we received a letter from Mr Les Davies. In April 1986 we put in a short advertisement in the personal columns of the Daily Telegraph and from that source we heard from Mr Roland Green. All this illustrates that advertising produces very few results and our main source of contact remains our existing readership and their contacts with former colleagues. While I suspect we have now established about as large a readership as we are likely to, we do ask all our readers to let us know of any addresses they have of other people with whom we should be in contact. We meticulously follow up all these contacts although, inevitably, not all those who have retired wish to remain in contact.

We are still looking for a contact with Mr Tom Carnegie and Mr Norman Clay. Anyone with a lead on either of these 2 gentlemen's whereabouts is asked to contact the Editor.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RETIRED GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

We are grateful to a number of our readers for contributions to this edition of the Retired Governors' Newsletter. I have also taken the opportunity of printing an article about Knutsford Prison, which I came across in the Knutsford Historical and Archaeological Association magazine. We are always pleased to have articles from retired members as the Newsletter is an opportunity to commit both assessments and memories of the Service to paper. I would be particularly interested to hear from those of you who have done Service related work after retirement.

I would also be particularly interested to hear from anyone who was involved in the change from the old Superior Officer's Representative Board, which I understand represented the views of Governors, Chaplains and Medical Officers, to the present arrangements whereby Governors came to be represented by the Society. This is a piece of history about which I have never seen anything written.

DEATHS OF RETIRED GOVERNORS

I regret to have to report the deaths of the following retired Governors and spouses:-

Brigadier EJ Paton-Walsh
Mr GE Cavill
Mr S Millar
Mr Tiny Townsend
Mr Duncan Fairn
Mrs Fairn
Mrs Ann Bainton
Capt. D Dewar

May they rest in peace.

I also regret to report the death of Sir Arthur Peterson.

GENERAL

I am pleased to be able to report on several retired colleagues who I have recently seen. My old boss Geoff Lister has been abroad to Mauritius looking at their prison system for a short period. He has also been directing the extended interview procedures for new Assistant Governors at Wakefield. Ted Cowper Johnson has been a great help in distributing the Newsletter. He has been responsible for seeing all the Newsletters and Prison Service Newspapers were put into their envelopes, sealed, stamped and despatched. (We apologise to those of you who had to pay surcharges on your last Newsletters - the fault is the Editor's not Ted Cowper Johnson's.) I was present at a Midland Regional Conference at Malvern on Wednesday 19 February when Midland Region Governors presented Ted Williams with a pair of binoculars on his retirement from the Service. Also present was Gordon Fowler, who had lost none of his ability to tell the right sort of stories at the conference dinner. We were also pleased to see Stanley Clarke who, although unable to join us for dinner, came in to have a drink with some of his old colleagues. Stanley Clarke looked very well and was on very good form.

SERVICE NEWS

Retired colleagues will, of course, have learned from the local and national press of the very considerable difficulties experienced by the Service throughout March, April and May. The difficulties originated from industrial action and the threat thereof but the widespread inmate disorders on the night of 30 April were probably worse than appeared in the media reports. A very large number of establishments experienced minor difficulties which were not reported in the press. These operational problems have inevitably caused some delay in assembling this edition of the Newsletter.

Congratulations are due to Joe Whitty and Reg Withers, who have been selected for promotion to Governor I. Joe Whitty takes over Long Lartin and Reg Withers has already taken over Parkhurst.

I am pleased to report that I am to succeed John Lewis as Governor of Strangeways in September 1986. Any correspondence to the Retired Governors' Newsletter should, therefore, be directed to Manchester from Thursday 18 September 1986. Letters should be addressed to:-

The Retired Governors' Newsletter
Governor's Office
HM Prison
Southall Street
MANCHESTER M16 9AH

Until 18 September 1986 letters should continue to be addressed to:-

Room 1501
Calthorpe House
Hagley Road
BIRMINGHAM B16 8QR

OUR COVER

Thanks to Derek Bagnall for producing a wry reflection on our recent troubles.
I hope to comment more fully next time.

DEATH OF SERVING GOVERNOR

I very much regret to report the death of David Yates, Governor III Deputy at
Frankland, in a motor accident outside the prison during April.

PRISON GOVERNORS' TIES

In September 1985 (Edition Number 11) we advertised the existence of Prison Governors' ties. Bill Mansfield, who handles the sale of these, reports that we had a particularly good response from retired members. However, in view of the number of additional Governors now on our mailing lists, we repeat Bill Mansfield's message:-

"The Prison Governors' Branch has recently obtained a new supply of high quality ties in a choice of blue or maroon. The ties are available at a price of £3.60 each from:-

Mr Bill Mansfield
Governor
HM Remand Centre
Low Newton
Brasside
Durham DH1 5YB

Telephone: 0385 61141

Cheques, which need not be sent with orders, should be made payable to 'Prison Governors' Branch'.

For those of you unfamiliar with the ties, you may like to know that they carry the Sui Generis motto that appears on the top left-hand side of the Retired Governors' Newsletter notepaper."

PRISON PERSONALITIES AT KNUTSFORD PRISON

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am indebted to the Knutsford Historical and Archaeological Association for permission to reproduce parts of an article by G Nulty, first published in Volume II, Number II of their magazine from autumn 1984:

"The proper title of Knutsford Gaol was the House of Correction, its aim being the reform of petty criminals. It was built in 1817 with the impressive sessions house to the design of Thomas Harrison, who also designed the Grosvenor Bridge at Chester and who, incidentally, encouraged Lord Elgin to buy the Greek works of art known as the Elgin Marbles.

The new gaol at Knutsford was necessary because of the big increase in crime following the Napoleonic wars, which left Chester Prison overcrowded. In the first 20 or so years of the gaol's existence the number of inmates varied between 200 and 300 and about 1/5 of those were women. People actually convicted of crimes formed only about 2/3 of the total and the others were awaiting trial at either Knutsford, Maclesfield, Congleton or Chester.

The prisoners at Knutsford were guilty of only minor offences - begging, assault, petty larceny, poaching or drunkenness. The penalty for more serious crimes was hanging or transportation. In the early 1840s more than 3,500 convicts were sent to Van Dieman's Land and although transportation ended officially in 1853 it was 1865 when the last shipment of 1,000 convicts left these shores for western Australia, which had already received 10,000 in all.

At the census of 1841 the youngest prisoners at Knutsford were 2 children aged 10 and the oldest was a man of 67. There were 64 teenagers but most prisoners were between 20 and 30 years of age. It was after 1853, and the official ending of transportation, that Knutsford House of Correction was enlarged to take 700 prisoners, some for long sentences, and about that time too the "House of Correction" began to give way to the term "prison".

The gaol, with its 40' high wall soon occupied the whole of the triangle of land between Toft Road, Stanley Road and Bexton Road. The pressure on the establishment increased when, in 1866, it was stated that nationally 1/15 of the population lived by crime.

At first the head of the prison staff was the Gaoler or Keeper and in the early days he was a Mr Christmas. There was a Matron, named Sarah Gaskill, for the women and 3 female Warders. There were 8 male Warders, or Turnkeys, with a Task Master for men another for women, also a Clerk Schoolmaster, a male Nurse (who had a sick bay) and a Night Watchman. The diet laid down for well behaved prisoners was adequate, if monotonous. Breakfast: one pint cocoa, 6oz bread. Dinner: one pint soup, 1lb potatoes, 3oz meat. Supper: 6oz bread, 1pt gruel. Punishment for breaches of prison discipline meant so many days on bread and water. Fractious prisoners were put in special dark cells in solitary confinement which (Mr Christmas reported) made them more tractable and produced a favourable impression on their minds. There were 22 of these cells.

Well behaved prisoners were given various jobs, particularly hand weaving or, if given hard labour, one task was working the treadmills which supplied the prison water from a well situated behind the present sessions house. The roof, mainly of glass in the

newer part of the building, gave endless trouble and there was much other building work. alterations, painting and repairs to keep the men busy. The women were employed in spinning, needlework and laundry and got 9d (4p today) for making a shirt and 1 shilling (5p) a week for laundry.

For about 30 years, until 1880, the Governor was a Mr Gallop, an able and conscientious man who was actively getting the prison to pay for itself. So wide was the scope of his operations that the prison became known as 'Gallop's Farm'. The Governor and his 2 pretty daughters were well liked in Knutsford and attended most of the social functions.

The prison Chaplain, Rev WN Truss, joined the prison staff in 1869 and stayed until 1906, dying in 1921 at the age of 87. He helped the local clergy by taking their church services during sickness or holidays. He would occasionally enliven his sermons with a tale, either humorous or moral. He once recounted the story of 2 brothers who had been in prison for stealing strawberries and on their release they wrote to thank him for his kindness to them. With the letter was a basket of excellent strawberries. Soon afterwards, however, back in Gallop's Farm he met the brothers again doing another stint for stealing strawberries.

In 1906, towards the end of the prison's history, the Governor was Major JO Nelson who, in his annual reports, spoke highly of the state of discipline of the prison. Earnings of the prisoners had increased by nearly £400. There had only been one case of corporal punishment in the year, no escapes or attempted escapes. The daily average number of prisoners was 563 (though there were cells for 718 - 638 men and 80 women) and their earnings were valued at £3,256. A breakdown showed that 4 book binders earned £135; one carpenter £10; 161 cotton pickers £46; 65 cotton sorters £19; 10 hat makers £19; 8 hammock makers £30; 8 knitters £80; 3 labourers £48; 54 mail bag makers £462; 5 needleworkers £74; 59 Oakham pickers £27; 8 rope (untarred) teasers £4; 21 sack makers and menders £220; 6 shoe makers £109; 1 smith £10; 25 tailors £471. Those employed in the ordinary service of the prison were 3 bakers earning £90; 3 cooks £80; 38 cleaners and jobbers £609; 1 hospital orderly £23; 4 stokers £73; 16 washers (laundry workers) £347. In addition 57 prisoners were not effective for employment.

The Chaplain (who had succeeded Mr Truss) was the Rev H Drury Baker and he reported that services were held daily in the prison with a communion class every month. The School Master and a School Mistress carried out daily instruction with 40 males a week being eligible. He did not think that men over 30 profited by, or took kindly to, school work. Very few women were eligible in the year and sometimes weeks went by without a single case. The number of juvenile - adults (presumably teenage)- prisoners at Knutsford was undoubtedly decreasing no doubt because of the new probationary system. Every care and attention was paid to this class of prisoner, he said, and the results were more or less satisfactory. He had found that physical drill was of most service and did more good than many lectures. Outdoor schemes would also be of great benefit. Personal and frequent visits would help far better than lectures and talks. "Many of these cases should never have seen the inside of a prison" he stated.

It was partly because of the probationary system that the rundown of Knutsford Gaol occurred. In November of 1911 the Prison Commission wrote to the Home Office raising the matter of closing that part of Knutsford Gaol set apart for the occupation. It said that most women prisoners were from Chester, Runcorn and Stockport, places "very favourably situated for committals for Manchester and Liverpool".

Nothing further was heard until August 1915 when the visiting Committee again wrote to the Prison Commission to draw attention to the decrease in the number of women prisoners stating that the 80 cells in the women's prison had not been occupied for a long time. A number of Warders had been removed leaving a staff of only 10. There were 36 quarters belonging to the prison and there were to be 26 vacant. These were the houses known as County Terrace and those on Bexton Road, opposite the coach station.

In September the same year the Under Secretary of State ruled, at the request of the Army Council, HM Prison Knutsford will be placed at the Army's disposal for temporary use as detention barracks. The present population of the prison was very low and the military authorities were having great difficulty in finding accommodation for soldiers sentenced for military offences.

The next month, October 1915, the remaining civil prisoners were removed and the military took over. At the end of the war conscientious objectors were housed there and later it became the Knutsford Ordination Test School, which trained young men, most of them ex-servicemen, in the Church of England ministry. The Rev Tubby Clayton of Toc H fame was there, as was the Archdeacon Burn of Chester Cathedral.

The prison Governor's house was the building on Toft Road, opposite the entrance to the Railway Station, better remembered today as the offices of the former Urban District Council. The last Governor to occupy the house was the Governor of Strangeways Gaol in Manchester, Major Fitzclarence. He was related to the Earls of Munster and to the royalty for the family descended (not as Knutsford people widely thought, from Charles I and Nell Gwynn) but from George Augustus Frederick (1794 - 1842) whose father was William IV and his mother, Mrs Jordan the actress.

The Major had a tragic end. He was in a car driven by his son Geoffrey, then a bank clerk in Manchester, which failed to take the corner at the crossroads by the Three Greyhounds, Allostock. The Major was killed. There were at that time 2 other sudden deaths in the family and the young bank clerk succeeded to the title. He died in 1970.

The Governor's house was therefore vacant from the late 1920s. The Urban District Council vacated offices in the King's Copy House and took over the house. Shortage of houses was, at that time, the Urban District Council's biggest problem and it was agreed that accommodation could be found, with minor improvements and alterations, in the prison and about 20 families soon moved into their temporary homes. A new entrance was made into the thick walls at the junction of Bexton Road and Stanley Road.

Knutsford House of Correction was finally demolished in 1934. A study of the records leaves the impression that the administration was more compassionate than some pictures of the period would have us believe."

Those of you who know Knutsford will recall that the facade of the prison still stands. The main area of the old prison is occupied by Knutsford Bus Station. Have any of our members heard of Major Fitzclarence before?

Editor

PRISON SERVICE NEWS

Thanks to the co-operation of the Press and Publicity Department at Headquarters, readers of the Newsletters receive a copy of the current edition of the Prison Service News with each of our issues. The purpose of this column is to list some points of interest from the intervening issues of the News. To those who want to complain that:-

- a. It has all been in the national press.
- b. They have heard it already through the Red Band.
- c. It wasn't even correct.

The collator would point out that as he and the Editor are still subject to the Official Secrets Act you are lucky to be reading anything at all!

NEW ESTABLISHMENTS

Thorn Cross, the first purpose-built Youth Custody Centre, was opened officially in December - on the old Appleton Thorn site. It houses 300 young offenders (January).

The derelict RAF camp at Lindholme, near Doncaster, was ready to take its first 120 Category C prisoners in November last. This was just 14 weeks after the announcement that it was to be purchased for development. It was expected to reach a CNA of 750 by March and will have a separate compound for 150 Category D prisoners (February).

REMAND PRESSURES

A third unit at Glen Parva has been converted from training to remand use and has taken over Bedford's previous remand responsibilities for 15-21 year olds (January).

Responsibility for Immigration Act deportees/detainees has been transferred from Ashford to Lachmere House (March).

NEW CHAPLAIN GENERAL

Canon Keith Pound, Rector of Thames Mead and Dean of Greenwich, has been appointed to succeed The Ven Percy Ashford, who has retired (January).

SPORT

Both netball and volleyball are now being played on an inter-establishment basis. The Prison Service national netball team played the Civil Service national team at Chiswich on the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Civil Service sports ground and centre there. Everthorpe defeated Winchester in the National Inter-Establishment Volleyball Finals (January). PE PO George Leggett of Pentonville, who is British and Commonwealth Power Lifting Champion and British and Commonwealth Record Holder, gained a Bronze Medal in the 1985 World Masters Championships in Toronto (January).

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A medical isolation unit to care for cases of infectious diseases, such as Aids or Hepatitis, occurring in the adult male population, is to be set up in the hospital at Brixton after adaptations have been made (January). The new unit for difficult and disturbed long-term prisoners, C Wing at Parkhurst, was opened on 30 December 1985. (The units most of us remember had to be closed after the other 2 wings were damaged in the 1979 disturbances.) Doctor David Cooper, PMO, will be there to provide continuity! (February).

A review - hardly the first - of the Service's court commitments has been carried out by the Prison Department for the Lord Chancellor's Department at the Management and Personnel Office in the Cabinet Office (the Prison Service representative was Ian Boon, Governor II at Midland Regional Office).

ANOTHER OVERSEAS READER

I have taken the liberty of writing to a number of Governors, who are doing other jobs now, to see if they wish to stay in touch with the Service through the Retired Governors' Newsletter. One of those to whom I wrote was John Duggan, who left the Service over a decade ago as Governor III Deputy at Wakefield Prison. He is now a senior member of the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services in Canada. I recently had a letter from him in which he indicated that he wanted to go on the mailing list and this is what he said:-

"How nice it was to hear from you once again, accompanied by the Newsletter which brought back floods of memories and nostalgia, not only for me but for Anne also. Thank Tom Abbott for me for passing on my address. I have many happy memories of my time in the Prison Service, indeed I believe the training and grounding I received was second to none and has stood me in good stead during my correctional career, now, perish the thought, 28 years long.

I will be visiting the UK later this year, from 20 June - 8 July to be exact. Firstly I was delighted and privileged to be invited to attend the Ditchley Foundation Conference on Modern Penal Policy in the Light of Shifting Public Opinion from 20 June to 22 June. Secondly, to up-date myself with some of the endeavours currently underway both in the community and institutional side of corrections and, finally, to avail myself of a week's vacation, probably in the West Country.

It would be great while I am over to avail myself of the opportunity of meeting up with old friends and colleagues once more, particularly survivors from the infamous 18th staff course. I have often thought a reunion of some sort would be a lot of fun, despite the difficulties of such a venture. I wonder how many would be interested? Perhaps at some future date I could contribute something to the Newsletter, please let me know. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely
John Duggan"

We shall certainly be taking John up on his offer to write something for a future Newsletter. I also hope to be in touch with him to find out where he can be contacted in London during his stay in June and July.

THE BUTLER TRUST

EDITOR'S NOTE

When I heard that David Atkinson had been the recipient of one of the first certificates presented under the Butler Trust Award Scheme I immediately wrote to him and asked him if he could give us a personal impression of the occasion. He writes....

"We walked across Lambeth Bridge to the Palace in tolerably warm sunshine ... an unlikely fact in itself in view of this exceptionally frigid spring and therefore perhaps worth recording. There were some 25 members of the Service with their families present as recipients, together with a goodly gathering of Ministers, mandarins, officials and former Governors from Headquarters and the Regions to await the arrival of the Trust's royal patron HRH Princess Anne.

I expect you know that the Butler Trust was very much the original idea of our old colleague Peter Timms. Peter's belief that there ought to be some way of recognising, within the Prison Service, contributions by individuals deemed to be unusually meritorious or "beyond the strict call of duty" found receptive ears in high places and a board of trustees was eventually formed under the chairmanship of Sir Richard Butler, son of former Home Secretary "Rab", from whom the enterprise takes its name and ethos. So the Prison Service Annual Awards Scheme came into being, and since HRH kindly agreed to become its royal patron and to present the awards, it must be seen, I think publicly, as well as within the Service itself, as a piece of welcome "good news" to offset the other kind of publicity which more commonly falls to our lot!

Before she presented the awards themselves, Princess Anne delivered a delightfully direct, clearly well pondered speech, of which I think the main theme might be described as "prisons are not only for punishment". Which, indeed, was what the whole thing was about for the individual citations which followed covered an enormous range of effort and initiatives. A travel fellowship, 2 bursaries and the certificates were awarded, and the recipients represented most of the diverse elements of the prison task. There were men and women Prison Officers, a Governor, a Medical Officer, a Probation Officer, nursing staff, Teachers, Instructors, Stockmen from one of our farms. They had handled difficult or threatening situations, initiated projects to meet special needs, solved unusual problems, found new ways of coping with human tragedy. It was a heartening and humbling experience, I thought to be reminded (if that were needed) of how much more is involved in the bustling, maelstrom of humanity we know as a prison than simply containment. These were personal testimonies which, it seemed to me, offered a very necessary counter-balance to the managerial theories and systems (desirable though they may be, and God knows we need good management and have not always had it or practiced it) which sometimes seems to obscure the fact that prisons will always be places for close human contact and where personal influence and attitude are at least as important as "role".

Being retired, of course, has its advantages. It is easier to be relaxed and able to listen and enjoy when one is not conscious of a Region or a Division or institution in the background waiting to pounce. It is easy too to become sentimental and reminiscent and to think "this is where I came in!". I plead guilty to all that and yet, perhaps, it doesn't do anyone any harm to be reminded that the Service is about human beings and their treatment, whatever

current fashionable "model" is in vogue and however short of cash we may be. Certainly these awards are a unique way of recognising that, and I very much hope they will continue to be applied to that end and that people will use them and will put forward the names of colleagues who have done something of such a kind, or in such a way, that it is worth telling.

For the rest it was a very pleasant day. It was good to see Chris Train there and many other old friends from my recent sphere of work ... and from a great deal further back ... like Colin Honey, Brian Emes, Bill Driscoll, John Sandy, my old "mate" Ian Dunbar. It was good also to have a chat again with Peter Timms, who looks these days as if he had been born to the cleric's life, to remember old times at Maidstone and before and to thank him for the very considerable honour he has helped to bring to his old Service. Interesting too to hear another voice from the past in one of the accompanying speeches, that of Sir Arthur Peterson, the last Chairman of the Prison Commission, who followed Sir Lionel Fox just after I joined at Wakefield in 1959. Also to have a brief chat with Merlyn Rees, whom I last met as Home Secretary when he was accompanying the Queen to Leyhill for the Centenary ... and whom I was anxious at that time to avoid having had the misfortune (or carelessness?) to "lose" a lifer the day before!

Altogether it was a great honour and privilege to have been there. In the days to come the Prison Service is going to be subjected to even greater strains than it has borne in the past, and there seems little doubt of that. Fundamentally the issues haven't changed and the values which this award scheme seeks to recognise will survive."

PLANNED BOOK ON THE BORSTAL SYSTEM

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have received the following letter from Tom Hayes:-

"Dear Brendan,

Thank you, Arthur and Bill for yet another copy (Edition 12) of the Newsletter. I think I have a full set ever since it began and it has given me great pleasure through the years. I think this latest edition is the best ever and I congratulate Derek Bagnall on the cover illustrations, but I am afraid I cannot name any of them.

I thank you for your personal letter asking about the progress of the borstal history and Frank Ransley for his enquiry. As you know, I gathered a vast amount of material and received a great deal of help, mostly from retired Governors. Then I was ill and called for help. Geoff Penn responded nobly to my call and has put in an enormous amount of work; our respective publishers let us down and I have since found the task beyond me.

I have now abandoned the project. I am very sorry about this and I apologise most sincerely to Geoff Penn and to all those who have put in time unavailingly. If any of them particularly wanted their material returned I would try to do so; but I am afraid it would take a long time and involve a lot of work. A better solution might be to retain it and find some way of keeping it all together in the hope that someone may be able to finish the project. Geoff Penn says that he would not wish to "go it alone"; apart from being somewhat short of time he feels that he lacks the personal knowledge and experience, and thus the authority, to finish the job. If any reader would care to volunteer for the task, or has any practical ideas to offer, I would be very glad to hear from him. (If all else failed, it might well be that the new Staff College at Newbold Revel would be able, when established, to house the papers and make them available to researchers.)

Yours sincerely
Tom Hayes"

YOUR LETTERS

Hythe, Kent

I so enjoyed the news of old colleagues and friends. I had heard from several following my article 'A Life on 4 Wheels' in the CSMA motoring. We still get the odd visit from 'old boys'. Old (one a grandfather) and young from north and south.

Now in mid-80s I have no special activities to report, except from my weekly stint at the Folkestone Samaritans and do not stray far apart from our holidays in Herm. My boat was stolen last year, perhaps opportunely, though not the best way to part company.

I would like to send best wishes to all old colleagues and to you hoping that you are now fit again. Thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely
Peter Burnett

PS: What does this reported talk of closing prison workshops mean? Not back to mailbags I trust!

(Many thanks for your good wishes. I am pleased to say that I now appear to be back in good health. WAW)

Uckfield, Sussex

Thank you so much for sending me the last 2 copies of the Newsletter. Terry Weiler very kindly asked for me to be put on the mailing list. I so enjoy reading the news of Eric's old colleagues. There are several I keep in touch with but, as the years pass, the number gets sadly depleted. I look forward to receiving future copies of the Newsletter.

Sincerely
Pip Towndrow

(Your name has been added to our list and further copies will be forwarded to enable you to keep in touch with old friends. WAW)

Lydney, Gloucestershire

Just as I thought I could forget the criminal past along came the Newsletter again. To rub it in 'Postman Pat' asked for 20p excess postage. I patted him in memory of you lot.

Jim wishes it to be known that as designer and first supplier of ties, gubernatorial, he has no objection to the continued use of 'sui generis' symbol, providing that

all ties are supplied, if such continues, and each symbol used are always properly blessed in the presence of the correct number of persons and in the correct style. Jim retired in 1981 after becoming a widower. Glad to get out after all that POA nonsense (speaking as a POA member of the late 40s). Went into business with No 1 son. 1982 travelled to Far East and Middle East, then California to spend a month with No 2 son (ex-union boss now an attorney). 1983 got out of No 1 son's business - couldn't stand modern management methods. Business went bust (after Jim left it) and, please note, that as a result Jim will be leaving present address and moving to address he will notify later. No 1 son back in business and doing well - some may remember him, Brian and his brother Ken.

1984 Jim fell in love and married beautiful widow of ex-airborne soldier in presence of 30 ex-paras of his war time battalion, several Prison Service types who travelled miles to attend, and added warmth to the proceedings, and numerous friends and relatives, plus a few characters yet to be identified. May have been ghosts from the past? Funnymoon spent in Greece. That country has had trouble ever since. Contact occasionally made with ex-Governors. Jack Beisty, who probably did more for prisoners than most of us, exchanges letters twice a year and, at Cricklemass before last, Roland Adams kindly invited Beryl and Jim to a party where Roger Dauncey and his Rosamund appeared - nice of Roly and the better looking half of the partnership. Also visited Stan Clark and his wife for a happy luncheon not long ago.

Life is very busy - Chairman of local CPRE and County Executive member; regional organiser for Foster Parents Plan, Chairman of British Legion Welfare (Services) locally; sole representative in the Forest of SSAFA; organiser of Parachute Battalion re-unions; member of this and that and the other but, as you all know, Jim always worked harder than most of you lot - and for less pay.

To be honest, I did miss the companionship many of you provided and although some managed to make me spit out of grated teeth, you weren't a bad lot.

Still in frequent touch with Adrian Arnold and his wife Anne as well as others mentioned. I hope, as stated, that once settled we will see more of you, especially Stan and Pat Bester, who asked me in triplicate as to who is Beryl. Newsletter is good for an amateur effort. I'd be in favour of a meeting of those interested - try a regional one first.

Peace to all as ever.

Jim Absalom

(Many thanks Jim for your informative and amusing comments - written of course in your own inimitable style. I hope your contribution will encourage others to do likewise. For our part - as amateurs of course - we will endeavour to keep you all in touch. WAW)

Southfields, London SW

I feel I must ask Derek Bagnall "Ydy'ch gwallt chi ar eich pen chi?" which, to the uninitiated Celt is "does he have a reasonable head of hair?". (A rather unusual way to start off a letter but then Newsletter does have some unusual readers, even amongst the uninitiated Celts. WAW) Otherwise I must join the many others in retirement to congratulate you all on an excellent Retired Governors' Newsletter - indeed the front cover design was also very apt in many circumstances. You may gather that I am on Welsh classes, along with computer studies, to keep up with my Welsh born novelist/wife/archaeologist. I am also trying to improve that left-hand on 'musicianship'

classes at Goldsmiths. I mention these as much in the hope that there may be a few retired members still residing in London who may wish to call in, for we live still just 600 yards down from the Wimbledon tennis courts. Jim Haywood, whom we meet occasionally, is one of those members who still resides here. We also keep in touch with Roger Dauncey and Jim Absolom, in that we have a cottage in Llandello, South Wales, the base for St. Teilo, my wife's first love.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know I am regularly in touch with Winston Martin and his wife Mamie, who live in Leicester. They would, I am sure, welcome a copy of the Newsletter (Edition 12) as there were several of their vintage in it and also future editions. Winston, who is, in my opinion, one of the unrecognised greats of the Service, joining in 1938, completing war service, a leader in the 'H' and 'K' wings social group experiment in the halcyon days of Wandsworth with Roland Hauser, who also still runs his group centre on the Embankment. Winston left the Service in the late 50s to run an approved school, which foundered financially 7 years later. He re-joined in the mid-60s and I remember his outstanding contribution in the early days of Risley, with his opening remark to all young remands there - "How can I help you son". I have adopted this introduction to 'receptions' ever since.

Best wishes to you all.

Adrian Arnold

PS: You may not know that Eve Saville, MBE, died today (20 February 1986) after a long battle with illness, albeit she would not relinquish the General Secretary reins of the ISTD, which she ran single handed for more than 3 decades.

Manly, NSW 2095, Australia

Thanks for your letter of 6 December 1985 and the enclosed Newsletter, which I enjoyed.

I have rather a lot of writing commitments at the moment but later I'll let you have something. I have enclosed a cheque for £5.00. Many thanks and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely
Gordon Hawkins

(Many thanks Gordon for your generous donation. We will hold you to your promise to let us have some news before long and you can be assured that there are many old colleagues awaiting your news. All the best to you and yours. WAW)

Bristol

Thank you for your letter of 30 December 1986 and also for your good wishes and copy of the Retired Governors' Newsletter of September 1985.

I shall be glad to receive further copies.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely
Alan Bainton

(We are delighted to re-gain contact with Mr Bainton but regret these notes are being typed at such a tragic moment in his life. The loss of his wife has just reached us and I know that you will all join us in expressing our sorrow to Alan and his family. Mrs Bainton is remembered with affection by many within the Service and none more than my wife and I who enjoyed her friendship when we were all at Wakefield. When time permits I do hope Mr Bainton will feel able to let us have some news but, until then, I would like to express our sincere condolences to Alan and his sons, David and Gideon. WAW)

Lewes, Sussex

The Prison Service was represented at the funeral of RC (Tiny) Townsend at Eastbourne on 16 April. Brian Sutton of Eastchurch, 6 Officers and 3 Senior Officers from Lewes in uniform and myself. Tiny's daughter Joanna, son Simon and 4 or 5 family friends were the other mourners, so I am glad you acted as you did by informing me of his death in good time.

I was able to speak at some length with his son and daughter - she is the elder of the 2. My association with 'Tiny' goes back to 1947, he then being an Assistant Governor and me an Officer at Maidstone, when he ran Pattisons Farm Camp, now Aldington Detention Centre; later as an Assistant Governor II in 1958 I was with him when he was in charge of Lewes. My feelings were that his daughter very much appreciated the Service being represented at her father's funeral.

As for me I continue to thrive whilst pushing up to 67 years of age. At Easter I gave up my part-time job which I had had for the past 6 years - messenger to a respected local jeweller and silversmith but I expect to keep busy with Rotary, a local bowling green society and the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, East Sussex Branch (Charlie tells me he is a 'Man of Kent' - well someone has to be after all...). Once a year Stella and I visit Stan Bester and Pat on the Island so that I can renew our visas. Just recently we were there and met Peter and Joyce Meech. Last year Alan and Jill Packham called on us when they were over here renewing their mainland visas.

You, Bill and Arthur do a good job with the Newsletter, so keep up the good work.

Sincerely
Charlie Pratt

(On a recent holiday at Eastbourne my wife and I managed to call to see Stella and Charlie at their lovely bungalow in Lewes - we were of course made very welcome indeed by our old friends. Both are extremely active and fit and Charlie seems as cheerful as ever. Naturally we were brought up-to-date with news of 3 sons, John, Charles and Martin. Contact with the Service is retained through Martin, who is an HEO at Liverpool Prison, Chas is in management in the clothing industry. Many years ago I wrote a reference for John, who was volunteering to join the Guards. Little did I realise that this was to be the start of a truly remarkable military career - one which his parents have every right to be proud. I next saw John on TV as a young recruit at the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance - my next sight of him (again on TV) was when he was the Regimental Sergeant Major i/c of the 2nd Batt. Coldstream Guards at the trooping of their colour 2 years ago. By normal expectations one would have imagined he had got as far as possible in his chosen career but this was not so. At the moment he is a Captain in the Coldstream Guards and my opinion is that he will go higher still. A truly remarkable record from the son of 2 very nice people. WAW)

Grimsby, Lincs

Thank you very much for the Retired Governors' Newsletter. Very few people left that I know. I joined in 1936, retired in 1964. I am housebound now with Arthritis and, indeed, writing very difficult but today it looks as if it is readable.

With best wishes.

Joan Martyn

(I would assure Miss Martin there are many readers of Newsletter who will remember her with affection. Also I would thank her for taking so much trouble to write and can again assure her that her letter was easier to read than many others. WAW)

Frampton, Dorchester

It was most thoughtful of you to remember me in connection with the Solomon Islands appointment. I have received the letter of appointment and depart for Guadalcanal by way of Australia on Friday 24 January.

Many thanks.

Sincerely
Bill Guinan

(Bill's name was one of several retired senior Governors whose names were forwarded to be considered for a post in the Soloman Islands and he is now there advising the authorities on prisons. The most recent news about the typhoons in the area is disturbing. We have not heard anything further from Bill but do hope everything is alright with him. Will pass on any information we might receive in due course. WAW)

Brockworth, Gloucester

I felt you should be made aware of the surcharge imposed on my copy of the Newsletter by Gloucester postal officials. It may be we are trying to distribute on the cheap and, if so, may we all assist in some way?

I have added my postal code for further reference (as requested by the Post Office).

King regards
Jim Webley

(Sorry for the mistake Jim. It does seem a few others had to 'cough up' extra postage for their copy and clearly it must not happen again. Meanwhile I know Brendan will ensure the correct amount is put on in stamps in future. Those who feel they have been 'cheated' should let Brendan know how much it cost them and we will gladly send the appropriate amount on. WAW)

Chard, Somerset

Thank you for sending me the 12th edition of the Governors' Newsletter. It made very interesting reading. I hope you will maintain my name on the mailing list and will you please let me know what subscriptions you require from me (your name will certainly be retained on the list for future copies. WAW).

It was nice to see letters from 3 of my old Governors, Frank Ransley, my first Governor at Portland in 1947; Les Portch, my last Governor at Reading and Jim Webley. It is nice to know they are all keeping well and enjoying their retirement, particularly Frank Ransley.

I heard over the 'grape vine', no doubt you will guess the source, that you will soon be taking over at Manchester (Brendan is due to take over as Governor at Strangeways later this summer). It will be like returning home for you as I remember you joined at Onley on its opening from Manchester. I congratulate you on your appointment and wish you well.

I regret I have some sad news. Gerry Cavill, who was Principal of Leyhill OTS at the time of his retirement died on Saturday 22 February. He and his wife, Creena, are near neighbours. Gerry did not enjoy good health in his short retirement and had several operations.

I am pleased to say May and I are enjoying our retirement and are kept busy with our many activities, particularly swimming. May could not swim when we retired but has gained a silver award and is practising for others.

May joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family. They must all be grown up now.

Sincerely
Jim Mac Gowan

Everthorpe, Brough, East Yorkshire

If this letter is published in the Newsletter I suppose the heading should be East Yorkshire. (how right you are Ron and I am glad to see that as a true Yorkshireman you have your priorities right. However, I fear I was 'one jump' ahead of you as I had already typed the true location of Brough on this sheet before I read your first paragraph - we will need to explain all this to our 'foreign friends' from the other minor counties. WAW)

We did enjoy Edition No 12 with it's cleverly drawn cover. I am told it is very true to life, although seemingly I have more of a 'Robinson Crusoe' image.

Having not yet been retired 2 years I do not find life boring. This I feel would be impossible with a Social Worker wife and 3 teenage daughters. Nonetheless, each time I read the Newsletter (after Pam has finished with it) like other readers I find myself feeling nostalgic. I recall my first Prison Governors' Conference with colleagues Maurice Bryan (later to be my best man), Dick Braund, Ken Whetton and others mentioned in the Newsletter. At that particular conference I was elected Prison Assistant Governors Representative on the Branch Committee and later was able to attend all conferences in this capacity, where I probably met more colleagues than would today

be possible. Memories of heading for Lionel Steinhausen's farewell with a car boot full of fresh crabs, leaving the golf course somewhat unceremoniously in a dumper truck after an urgent call that a prisoner had been killed on site, being shown our sleeping accommodation on a prison golf section week-end - one double bed for me and my Assistant Governor II, returning from a Governors' Conference by 'plane with a colleague - who shall be nameless (could he currently be the Governor of Hull, Ron? WAW). He used certain facilities provided at a certain stage to pay his respects (?) to his establishment - and so on and so on.

Like so many others, I too would like to meet old colleagues at some form of reunion. Advancing years, distance and expense don't make things easy but perhaps it would be possible for area meetings to be arranged. Prior to retiring I purchased the Governor's house at Everthorpe and discussing the idea with the present Governor he has agreed that facilities could be provided in terms of space in the Officers' Club, with bar facilities and buffet arrangements, should sufficient people be interested. It is easily accessible by motorway, rail (to Brough) and also the Humber Bridge. In any event, anyone finding themselves in the area would be welcome to call North Cave 3815.

I do hope you are now feeling much better Arthur.

Sincerely
Ron Cooper

(Many thanks for your good wishes Ron and, yes, I am almost back to normal - whatever that means. Your suggestion for a possible re-union at Everthorpe is really excellent and I for one would be very happy to join in - and indeed give any help I can to such a venture. We have a little 'army' of retired Governors living within 'striking distance' of Brough and knowing the roads are easy and not too busy around your area I would ask them to give serious thought to coming over, preferably before the winter sets in. May I therefore take this opportunity of asking all within the northern area to get in touch with Ron as soon as possible. If we can get enough together I know we can arrange a happy re-union. Don't wait, GIVE HIM A RING NOW. WAW)

Chard, Somerset

Thank you for your kind letter of condolences on the death of my husband. It was a great comfort to me and deeply appreciated.

Would it be possible for me to have a copy of the Retired Governors' Newsletter to be published around May reporting his passing? If so I would indeed be most grateful.

Yours sincerely
EC Cavill

(Your name has been added to our list and you can be certain of receiving copies of future Newsletters. I feel certain the many friends of your late husband will share your sorrow and no doubt some will be getting in touch with you after they have read this edition. WAW)

Wimbledon, London SW19

Thank you very much for your letter. It was good of you to write. I would very much like to receive the Newsletter as you suggest. I enjoy reading it and seeing the names and the doings of those I remember, but these are lamentably few after so many years.

Yours sincerely
Patricia Paton Walsh

Thatcham, Berks

I have just read your letter in the Civil Service Pensioner and would be grateful if you would put my name on the distribution list of the Retired Governors' Newsletter. I will, of course, meet any cost. I must confess to being ignorant of its existence until I saw your letter. On a personal note I hope you are keeping well and still enjoying the job.

Yours sincerely
Les Davies

Minsterworth, Gloucester

It is most remiss of me not to have written you before to give you our news and to thank you and Brendan for the excellent Newsletter which Rosamond and I have enjoyed right from the first issue. Long may they continue and we to read them.

We bought this house in Minsterworth in 1972, when I was Governor of Feltham, and I formed a partnership (Fellows and Dauncey) in period house restoration 5 years before I retired in 1983. Fellows and Dauncey restored 2 properties, in Broadoak and Clearwell, before I retired, when the firm started working on restoring Craycroft. My partner has now moved from Minsterworth to Mitcheldean and is busy restoring his place, whilst Rosamond and I continue to work on ours - in fact it has become a way of life. But the partnership is looking for other work again and Clearwell property is on the market - so we understand - so anyone interested please write - end of commercial. (It is some considerable time since your letter was written Roger and I am sorry we could not get your 'commercial' announced sooner. Anyway, I hope you have by now disposed of it and gone on to better things. All the best of good fortune with your new career. WAW)

Apart from work on the house we are much involved with local affairs; Rosamond with WI (Vice President); MU (Diocesan Literature Chairman) and is the local press correspondent for the Gloucester Citizen. We are both friends of Gloucester Cathedral (Rosamond helps with catering), council members of the Friends of Gloucester Museums (I am Vice Chairman) and members of the Gloucester Trust for Nature Conservation. I am on a couple of committees running the village hall and am a Parish and Parochial Church Council Member (Lay Vice Chairman and Deanery Synod rep) and I still go jogging. (What do you do in your spare time Roger? WAW)

As you see life is full, but is most enjoyable. Our sons, Mark, Peter and Stephen are married - 3 grand-daughters so far - and Timothy has also set up his own place.

We are in contact with a number of retired members and regularly visit Marjorie Taylor in Usk, who appreciates continued help from the Governor and his staff and also Lyn Davies who provides much support in conjunction with the local Cheshire Home.

It was unfortunate that whilst Lyn was abroad she fell and broke her fibia. She is now in Monmouth Hospital and would welcome visitors.

We would be delighted to see you, Arthur, and any of our many other Service friends if ever you or they are in the vicinity of Gloucester. Telephone 0452 75 372. We'll put the kettle on or open a bottle to welcome you.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely
Roger Dauncey

(Many thanks Roger for your wonderfully 'newsy' letter and your kind invitation to visit you. Certainly, if Peggy and I are down your way, we shall be delighted to call. You are both fully engaged in your many activities - not that this surprises me at all. It does seem that those who do most can always find time to fit in that little extra - incidentally I did not know you had experience in the building industry - you could have given me a lot of help. All the best and we hope to hear from you again before very long. WAW)

SAM MILLAR

A NOTE FROM ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

The many friends of Sam Millar will be sorry to learn of his death at his Wakefield home during Easter week. Sam had not been well for some time and since he lost his wife Nel some 4 years ago had been in hospital a couple of times. Since Christmas he needed constant care and fortunately his 4 sons and 2 daughters live within the area and they arranged to be with him continuously in turn up to the time he died.

Sam was a true native of Ulster and came to Liverpool before the war from his Belfast. There he met and married his dear wife and also joined the Prison Service as an Officer at Walton.

Next to his family the Service was his life and we have never had a more loyal and devoted member. Upon promotion to PO he came to Leeds and this was the start of a friendship I was to have with him lasting well over 30 years. I have been grateful to Sam on so many occasions for the advice, encouragement and help throughout that long period of time. He was a true and sincere friend and there are many like myself who will miss him very much.

He was promoted to Chief Officer II and joined the Staff College at Wakefield, remaining there until he was appointed as Assistant Governor I at Leeds under Len Simpson. Sam became the first Assistant Governor I in charge of the Thorpe Arch Remand Centre when it opened in January 1965. Later he was promoted to Governor III and took charge of Medomsley Detention Centre, from where he retired.

A devoted family man, Sam was known to say "I have 4 sons who will carry me when I die and my 2 daughters will follow them". The family carried out his last wishes and as his 4 sons carried him out of the church the organist played his favourite tune, 'The Londonderry Air' - a song I had heard him sing so many times at various prison social functions - usually late into the evening. A fitting tribute to a loyal son of Ulster. The Service does not recruit many men of Sam's calibre these days - what a pity as they do not come any better. Farewell old friend and many thanks for your friendship over the years .