

Retired Governors Newsletter

In co-operation with
The Prison Governors
Association

Editor: Brendan O'Friel
Letters: Arthur Williamson
Treasurer: Bill Martin
Organisation: Sid Powell
Editorial Office: The Governor's Office
H M Prison
Manchester M60 9AH
Telephone: 061 834 8626

EDITION 17
SPRING 1988

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our new look newsletter. Following the setting up of the *Prison Governors Association* to represent the interests of the senior staff in prisons, the Newsletter has been funded by the *PGA* to produce the first fully printed edition using the Warrington printers who produce the *PGA's* own Newsletter.

Mailing List; We now have over 200 on our mailing list and the number of new members is likely to rise quickly with many more senior staff due to retire in 1988. We welcome **John Morrison** who retired early as a G4 from Wormwood Scrubs to become a priest; **Bill Keast** (G3 Haslar); **Colin Heald** (G1 Midland Region); **Bernard Marchant** (G1 Pentonville); **Les Davies** (G3 Haslar - retired about eight years; **Harry Fleischmann** (G4 at HQ); **John Richardson** (G1 Liverpool); **Arthur Ravenhill** (G4 Gartree); and **John Hughes** (G5 Bedford).

Can we remind our older readers that following grade amalgamation, the new Governor 5 Grade covers the former Assistant Governor and Chief Officer II grades; the new Governor Grade 4 covers the former Governor 4 (Assistant Governor Class 1) and the Chief Officer Class One Grades. The *Newsletter* aims to serve all who have served in the Grades of Governor 5 and above.

Honours: We are particularly pleased to record that our long serving Treasurer **Bill Martin** received the O.B.E.

Information Required: Can anyone help with the address of **Alan Robertson**? His last *Newsletter* was returned from his Devon address. Information to the Editor please.

Deaths of Retired Governors: I regret to report the deaths of **George Bride**, **Mrs Mary Coombes** (widow of Michael Coombes) **Mrs Marjorie Bantock** (widow of J.R.Grenville Bantock) and **Colin Lennon**. May they rest in peace.

Senior Officers Representational Board: I am grateful to **David Waddlove** for the following information about the SORB and the decision to join the SCS.

"The reason for the Prison Governors joining the Society of Civil Servants in 1948 was dissatisfaction with the continuing failure of the SORB in obtaining better pay and working conditions for their members. The Governors decided that this was due to the fact that to get any success in their dealings with Home Office and Treasury Officials, proper professional negotiators were required. Under the SORB, the Governors who had to meet the official side were quite inexperienced in this sort of work and were also handicapped by having to argue with their own bosses.

*When we joined the Society of Civil Servants, our branch was immediately allocated the highly trained and excellent **Sheila Roberts** who fought our battles most effectively. We never regretted putting ourselves into the hands of the Society.*

I do not know the reason why the Governors have now returned to the pattern of earlier times, but I can only hope that the new Prison Governors Association will be more successful than the old SORB in their negotiations with the official side."

Trade Union Developments: Our readers will be interested to know that the *Prison Governors Association* the new independent Union for both Chief Officer Class continues to make great progress. Over 70% of the potential membership have joined the new organisation. The *PGA* was recognised by the Home Office for consultation and negotiation in March 1988. This followed an important campaign organised by the *PGA* including Parliamentary Questions and other necessary pressures. The *PGA* has now begun the task of representing the interests of senior staff with the Home Office as well developing policy on professional issues.

Future of the *Retired Governors Newsletter*: In order to put the *Newsletter* onto a secure future footing, the *Newsletter* Production Team are recommending to our readers that retired members become Associate Members of the *PGA*. The *PGA* has constitutional provision for such a development. We have in mind an annual subscription in the range of £2 - £5, sufficient to produce a quality newsletter two or three times a year. We also believe that we may be able to develop occasional social activities, perhaps linked with the growing area groups of the *PGA*. With over 200 subscribers and the possibility this will grow substantially over the next year or two, it would be difficult to continue without clearer financial arrangements. We are asking for reaction to this idea only at this stage - let us know your views.

If the general reaction is favourable, we will circulate arrangements for collecting subscriptions with the next newsletter.

We would, of course, aim to interpret the term "retired Governor" very widely: our existing mailing list covers retired Director Generals and Chaplain Generals as well as the spouses of former senior staff.

PRISON SERVICE NEWS. You should receive the current edition of the Prison Service News with this newsletter by courtesy of the Editor of the PSN. As usual, we publish extracts from recent editions of the PSN, edited by one of our readers.

1988 PERRIE LECTURES. Your attention is drawn to these lectures, details of which will be found in the Newsletter.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSISTANCE. Contributions of any sort from our readers are very welcome. The newsletter is a unique record of Prison Service events and personalities but depends on our contributors. So please keep the letters and articles coming in. We also need help with administration, particularly keeping a record of readers addresses and changes of address. Volunteers for a membership secretary would be appreciated. Sid Powell has kindly undertaken the task of making up envelopes and dispatching; a growing task with our readership. Would a retired Governor like to help with the Editorship?

JACK HANSON M.B.E. I am indebted to Alan Dunnett, Deputy Governor of North Sea Camp for the following account:

Governor of North Sea Camp, Jack Hanson, died in Boston's Pilgrim Hospital on 3 February 1988, after a long illness. Jack (58) had been Governor of North Sea Camp since June 1984. He joined the Service as an Officer at Durham in March 1964 and subsequently was posted to Grendon Underwood, following initial training at Leyhill OTS. In 1968, he qualified as an Assistant Governor via the 'limited competition'. His travels then took him to Liverpool, Ranby, Whatton, and Send in 1978, where he distinguished himself as Governor with the "Short. Sharp, Shock" Detention Centre Regime. Jack was awarded the MBE by her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace in November 1986.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, 9th February 1988, at St. James Church, Freiston, and was attended by upwards of 250 people, consisting of family, friends and colleagues, some of who had travelled great distances to be there, particularly the representatives from Send. Also present was the Mayor of Boston, together with dignitaries from the Police, Fire and Probation Service. The funeral took the form of a Prison Service occasion to mark, with formal due respect, the passing of the 'big man'.

Typical overcast and very blustery weather set the scene as the coffin, draped with the Union flag, was carried into the church by six North Sea Camp uniformed pall bearers, on a path lined with uniformed staff from various establishments.

The service was conducted by North sea Camp Chaplain, Revd. Brian Grellier, assisted by Assistant Chaplain General (North), Revd. Peter Jennings, Revd. Wesley Loane (Methodist) and Father Daniel Reid (RC Priest). The Lesson (Revelations, chapter 21, verses 1 - 7) was read by Mr J R Sandy, Director, Midland Region.

Revd. Grellier told the congregation that Jack was a man who had real concern for the welfare of his staff and inmates and demonstrated this in many practical ways. "There was the occasion one Sunday when the clergy let the camp down and failed to arrive for a service. Jack immediately filled the breach and took the service himself".

A committal Service followed at Boston Crematorium.

The main family mourners were Jack's widow, Dorothy, and his sons, John and Jeremy, with their wives and his sister, Letty.

Before and after the funeral, the Officers' Club at North Sea Camp was the venue for all visitors to get together, recall memories and partake of refreshment. I had the feeling that had Jack been able to witness the gathering, some ripe down-to-earth comment would have passed his lips.

The occasion was well attended by serving Governors and Midland Region Staff. From all accounts, it would seem that the only retired Governor seen was Charlie Knight, ex 'The Veme', who had also been up to visit Jack last year.

Dorothy has indicated that most probably she will reside initially in Boston, being close to son, Jeremy, a policeman at Grantham. The elder son, John, and wife Mary, intend to return from Germany this summer and take on a restaurant in the Peterborough area, with Dorothy sharing the accommodation, but as Dorothy says, "once I settle, I may well want to remain in Boston, amongst the many friends I have made".

EXTRACTS FROM PRISON SERVICE NEWS

We again include a selection of items which have appeared in the *Prison Service News* since the last issue of the *Newsletter*. Incidentally, the *News* chalked up its 50th issue in March so the *Newsletter* sends its fraternal congratulations.

New Establishments

FULL SUTTON, the only purpose-built dispersal prison in the present building programme, began to receive its first inmates. The Archbishop of York, supported by 'Gus' Harris, R.C. Bishop of Middlesborough and the Methodist Chairman of the York and Hull District, subsequently dedicated the new Chapel of St. Cuthbert's.

With twenty new prisons - few of which have already been opened - in the pipeline, the Home Secretary announced in October the addition of further six to provide 3,600 extra places by 1993. A £29 m. contract has been awarded for WHITEMOOR - a cat. B non-dispersal prison at March in Cambridgeshire.

LITTLEHEY, a cat. C prison built on the site of Gaynes Hall received its first prisoners in mid-February.

THE MOUNT, a YCC for 488 trainees at Bovingdon - Hertfordshire's first penal establishment in modern times - received its first residents in March.

The purpose built remand centre at FELTHAM - with a capacity of 360 - has at last opened. Planning permission has been given for a new local prison to be built on the Ashford site. In the meantime, however, Ashford is to be re-instated as a temporary remand centre.

Distinguished Visitors

The Princess Royal has maintained her close interest in the Prison Service. She paid a two and a half hour visit to Holloway in October and made her first visit to a maximum security establishment at Wakefield.

Her visit to Manchester in March was in her capacity as President of the "Save the Children Fund". She was particularly concerned with the Visitors' Centre - partly funded by the charity - and the visiting area, but she also toured the prison and

chatted to staff and prisoners. Later in March she presided over the third *Butter Trust* award ceremony at Lambeth Palace.

Current Developments

- New measures to help combat smuggling, trafficking and the misuse of drugs by inmates - distilling the lessons of painful experience - have been promulgated to the service. (A Parliamentary Answer recorded that there were 2,300 reports of substances or implements relating to the misuse of drugs in prison in 1986)
- More than 3,000 prison staff living in official quarters have applied to purchase their house under a special discount scheme offered by the department. Eight hundred offers have already been made and 375 accepted.
- There were over 300 participants in the final Chief Officers' Conference held at Loughborough University in December. Conference Chairman was CO 1 Alf Rendle, ISM of Wandsworth.
- Since 1st March remand prisoners have ceased to be entitled to have food and drink brought in by relatives and friends.
- New measures to prevent escapes by helicopter have now been implemented.
- The education budget for prison service establishments is to rise from £20.5 m. in 1987/88 to £23.2 m. in 1988/89.
- Governors' adjudicatory findings and awards have been ruled by the High Court to be subject to judicial review, setting aside a 1978 ruling by the Courts when Boards of Visitors' Adjudicators were made subject to judicial review.
- Two military camps are to be used temporarily as prisons - Rolleston (previously used in 1987) and Alma Dettingen Barracks near Camberley. They will be manned by military staff under prison service governors.

Felicitations and Farewell

Brian Emes - at present head of P7 Division - is to succeed Gordon Lake as Deputy Director General in August.

Bring back Transportation

The Director General, DPMS and Martin Mogg, Governor of Northallerton YCC took part in the International Congress on Correctional Services held in Sydney in January as an adjunct to the Australian Bicentennial celebrations.

YOUR LETTERS

Market Drayton

It has taken several months for us to settle into our retirement home, but we eventually moved in on November 30th last and should soon have the place the way we want it.

When we unpacked I found the *Newsletter* you kindly sent before I retired. It is most interesting; I served with John Scriven, Dennis Ward and Wally Colton at different places and times. They all figured in the Spring '87 edition. I would like to be on the mailing list and enclose a small cheque (*thank you very much John - ed*). Meanwhile, my best wishes to you. I hope the 'Fresh Start' will soon gain full acceptance and help you steer your overcrowded flagships.

John Richardson

Rome

I write to apologise for not having replied to your letter. It was overlooked and only discovered by accident. Certainly I would wish to be included on the *Newsletter* Mailing list. It is good to be kept informed about the service and past colleagues. I enclose the mailing slip and ask if there is a subscription. I suppose there will be: sad news for a Scot. Life for me could not be better and I have no regrets. Getting back to study though not too difficult, does require a certain amount of discipline. In many respects the Beda is no different to a prison, only now I am one of the inmates. There is much routine to the day with classes in the morning and the rest of the day for prayer and private study. What is certain is there is little free time if you use the day correctly. Perhaps you know the Beda. It is situated near St. Pauls outside the walls, and, like St. Pauls we are on Vatican territory which has its own benefits. No doubt you are much involved with 'Fresh Start'. I was in the Scrubs las weekend, there appears to be much gloom there amongst the staff, yet they never were the best barometer for change.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

John A. Morrison

(The good news for you as a Scot John is we do not yet have an official subscription, but of course contributions are always welcome to offset the costs. WAW)

Crediton, Devon

Many thanks for the *Newsletter* and the Prison Service News. Could you arrange for the *Newsletter* to be sent to Lew Davis's address please? He retired eight years ago and was Governor of Haslar. He lives nearby. Best wishes to you, Arthur and the readers of the *Newsletter*.

Stan Hawkins

(Many thanks Stan for letting us have Lew's address. We will certainly send future copies to him. As you will get a copy of the current edition Lew, may I personally say how pleased I am to get your address and hope all goes well with you. We would be delighted to hear from you with your update news - WAW)

South Wirral, Cheshire

We have sold the shop and have moved to the above address. Please not this for your records. *(We have done so)* We both continue to be fit and well and hope you and your good lady are the same. Regards to all involved in the *Newsletter*.

Bert Jones

Burton Joyce, Notts.

You will remember I informed you that I wish to remain on the mailing list for the *Retired Governors Newsletter*. I am now writing to inform you of my new address which will be at Lowdham, Notts.

Mrs. J. M. Sumner

London W5

This is just to let you know we have changed our address. As you see we have moved back here after 15 years or so in Devon. This was a difficult decision and was due to my wife's health, which has not been good for 2 - 3 years now. It was not helped by having a rather large house in an exposed position almost on the beach at Seaton. We thought we should be within easy reach for the family and, much as we miss Devon, it is great to have our family around us and in and out.

David Hewlings

Saskatchewan, Canada

Thanks as ever for my copy of the *Newsletter*, both Anne and I always enjoy reading it and catching up with the news of old colleagues and friends. I am somewhat embarrassed to say that after reading in an earlier *Newsletter* of your

proposal for a headstone for Mike Oldfield's grave I had every intention of writing to offer support, but somehow I never got around to it, so it was with renewed interest that I see you are prepared to follow it up. I am more than ready to help and hope that others, like myself, are pleased to have a second opportunity.

I remember Mike back in 1959 when he was in charge of O.T.S. at Wakefield. He was always a gentleman and I was much saddened to learn some years ago of his premature demise; we were all much poorer for his passing.

I enclose a small sum towards the cost of postage etc. of the Newsletter and if you will let me know the arrangements for the headstone I will remit immediately. Would it not be worth asking some of the present serving members of the Prison Service if they might be interested? I was delighted to see references to Mark Winston; he might remember me from the infamous 18th Staff Course. I certainly remember him, with his anecdotes from the Court Mission days, to his sparkling wit and humour and his ability to hold his audiences in the palm of his hand. Please pass on my best wishes to him and his wife and if he ever gets time to write to me I would love to hear from him.

In similar vein it was great to hear of other old colleagues and I send them my best wishes. Colin Brown, Ray Campbell, Reg Dalton and Tom Abbott; incidentally I shall be representing the Correctional Services of Canada in Australia in January (1988) at the Conference there and I may bump into Tom and one or two others.

It was quite nostalgic when I addressed the letter as I remember the time I spent in Manchester in the old Borstal Allocation Wing. Lyn Davies was the Governor and it may be that that is where this letter is now being read - in the Governor's office at the morning 'knitting circle' - or don't you have them anymore. If it is Brendan, may I add my warmest personal regards to you and should you ever be in touch with Lynn, please give him and his wife best wishes from Anne and I.

John Duggan
(Mark: I will forward John's address if you wish and many thanks for your letter and very generous subscription to the Newsletter. I am personally delighted to hear from you and to learn of your appointment as Deputy Commissioner in the Canadian Federal Prison Service. May I regard you as yet another of my 'apprentices' on D wing at HMP Wakefield who has more than made the grade.

Congratulations. I had often wondered where you had vanished to and now that I know where you are I am more than delighted to read of your advancement. With regards to the headstone for Mike I have put a short note at the end of these notes. Will let you know in due course if we can proceed further. Arthur W.)

(John & Tom did in fact meet at the conference and Tom refers to it in the following letter WAW)

South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

I just wanted to write to say how much I enjoyed reading through the Autumn 1987 *Retired Governors Newsletter*. I also wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge the assistance I received from so many colleagues, many of them retired, since I took up my appointment as Director of Prisons for Victoria.

By some rare chance I was able to renew acquaintance with an old friend and former colleague John Duggan. John, who is currently Deputy Commissioner in the Federal Prison Service of Canada, had been attending the Bicentennial Congress in Sydney and we were able to link up again at my home in Melbourne. John and I had been out of touch for about 18 years, but in no time at all found ourselves talking about old friends and colleagues in the U.K. That conversation in turn led to mutual expression of disappointment and surprise that we had not been able to raise sufficient money to buy a headstone for Mike's grave.

John and I agreed that I should write and pledge our support if you re-open the fund. Between his Governors and 'Prairies' and mine in the 'Bush' I am sure we will be able to raise a significant amount.

Best wishes to all who read the *Retired Governors Newsletter*. I hope you will be able to publish this letter and if at any time you have 'gaps' in any issues I will be happy to provide a filler by way of a 'Letter from the Bush'

Tom Abbott

(Many thanks Tom for your very welcome letter. Glad to know you made contact with John - he had written to us before he set off for Australia. Did you manage to see Gordon Hawkins who is a little (???) further up the coast from you. I was surprised but very pleased to see you being interviewed outside one of your 'nicks' during your Bicentennial celebrations. We watched the programme on our TV and must say you looked remarkably fit and prosperous. Your clientele did appear on the surface to be different to ours, but these days I doubt very much if they are any more anti-authority in their outlook. Things have changed a great deal over the last few years. Anyhow you appear to be managing them alright - not that we ever doubted it. It does seem that the Prison Services throughout the many parts of the world are being run by senior staff who were originally members of our own service, so in spite of accusations often fired at us by the media, we cannot be too bad after all. May I again say how much I appreciate your support for my idea of a headstone. I will let you know what happens and will add a small comment at the end of these notes)

Morecambe, Lancs

I received the *Retired Governors Newsletter* this week and much to my disappointment there was no mention of the death of my husband, George, who died on June 14th. I am not blaming the editorial staff, but it seems the information was not passed on to you. George had been in hospital from August to December 1986, coming out just before Christmas. From then on he made a slow but steady progress towards recovery much to the astonishment of both doctors and friends. By Easter he was much more like his old self, except that he still walked with two sticks. But otherwise his health and spirits were improving all the time. His car was automatic so he could drive, which helped a great deal.

On June 13th we attended and helped out at the local hospital fete, of which we were committee members and he was fit and well. The following morning I took him a cup of tea, he looked so peaceful and relaxed. I shook him twice before I realised that he had died so peacefully in his sleep. After being so ill earlier, which he hated, I am more than grateful that he knew nothing of it.

If you see Colin Scott he could probably tell you more; he called in to see me.

Reading of John Scriven reminded me of the Christmas when we were all at Sherwood. John was Governor; George was Dep., and the A.G.'s were Freddie Owens and Lionel Steinhausen. Mr & Mrs Owens (he was then Governor of Stafford) came for Christmas. The turkey was cooked at the Governor's house, plus our assorted children, for Christmas Dinner. Happy days - it was, I think 1947.

Thanks again for the *Newsletter*

Joan Bride

(I know all our readers will join Brendan and I in expressing our condolences to Mrs Bride and what George had previously described as th "Bride Mafia". It is a fact that the sad news had not reached us when the last edition was sent out and for this we are indeed sorry. Brendan has since written to Mrs Bride. I was one of the many who had the privilege to know George and he certainly was a 'character'. My own first meeting with him was when as an AGII Alan Bainton asked me to do a spot of detached duty at the Scrubs. Tom Hayes the being the Governor there. He put me into C wing and my job was to allocate and send off

*inmates to other establishments around the South. George was at Maidstone, but for some time came up to select his own prisoners. This was for two reasons 1 - he made certain we did not send him too much 'rubbish', and 2 - he had a day out in the city. Upon entering my cell office his first words to me were "Are you one of these North countrymen who have come down here to tell me my job?" To which I replied " Not exactly, but I am down here to carry out missionary work amongst you southerners". This brought out the comment "I am not a ***** Southerner, I come from Yorkshire!" Naturally he went up straight away in my assessment and when I found out that he and I came from the same city, we were firm friends. He still insisted, however, on selecting his own prisoners. WAW)*

Norwich

I am sorry that the autumn edition contained no mention of the death of George Bride.

George was a great character and perhaps one of the last of the old breed of prison Governors whose word was law and ran whatever establishment he was in charge of according to the book. He was also a soldier of distinction with along connection with the Military Provost Staff Corps during and after the war. He was also one of the best raconteurs and after dinner speakers that the service ever produced and there must be many who recollect his "winding ups" of Governors Conferences in the late sixties and early seventies.

A bluff Yorkshireman, I first met George when he was Deputy Governor of Wormwood Scrubs in 1951 after holding a similar appointment at Parkhurst. In later years, he was Governor of Lancaster, Eastchurch and Liverpool. He was for many years, Secretary of the Governors branch of the Society and throughout my overseas service, never failed to send me a six page letter chronicling the happenings of the service during the preceding twelve months. Under a somewhat brusque exterior, George had a heart of gold and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

Peter L. James

(Many thanks Peter for filling in a lot about George for those who were not fortunate enough to know him. As usual we can rarely rely upon you to pass on very valuable information and your contributions are always warmly welcomed - WAW)

Shrewsbury

Thank you for sending me the *Newsletter* - forwarded from my last address. As i'm getting fairly ancient, now 78, I am somewhat out of touch. I suggest you cease sending me a copy as few names crop up that I know.

I did know Scriven however, as after four years at Maidstone, was at the Verne when Michael Gale was Governor. Then Durham, Wandsworth and finally Shrewsbury for seven years - so small and pleasant that I refused promotion and retired here.

Shropshire is a lovely country and I never regretted the decision. Thanks for past service and my best wishes for the future.

Bob Shebbeare

(Much as we shall respect Col. Shebbeare's wishes, it does seem a pity that we will lose touch with an old colleague. Surely there must be someone amongst you who served with him, or knew him personally and to those I would ask that they contact him and ask him to change his mind. In anycase I feel he would welcome a letter or two from old friends - WAW)

Stafford

I read the request from Terry Weiler about 2 / 3 in a cell and 'phoned him. How it started I know not, Somebody, possibly Duncan Fearn said "Do it . . ." - so we did it. It never created any problems as far as I can recall at Maidstone, Pentonville, Stafford and as I told T.W., many

men preferred it. Selection was by 'common sense' - old fashioned maybe - but it worked. We could do with a bit more in these troubled times - and a little less talk and 'bumph' *

Eric Sumner was A/G.1 with me at the 'Ville. He was a grand lad and a tower of strength to me.

The reference to Mike Oldfield must have escaped me. If any further funds are needed please let me know.

Enclosed please find a cutting from a local paper which may be of interest.

I was in touch with Bill Ritson recently. We hope to meet shortly to chew over the 'Golden Age' _ A.R.L. Bradley quote. Best wishes to you hardworking bunch

Ken Watson

*(*Surely you don't want to do the psychologists out of a job, Ken. What else could they do? I am sorry I did not reply to your letter and card, Bill. The simple reason being that Brendan only sent them to me this week. Apparently he had filed them with the rest of the Newsletter correspondence and only realised last week he should have sent them on earlier. He also apologises. With regards to the headstone for Mike's grave I am adding a bit at the end of the letter about the position. WAW)*

P.S. The newscutting Ken mentions was from the Wolverhampton Express dated 9.12.1987. It stated that Mrs Mary Coombes, who was 80 when she died in February (87)left £10,000 to prisoners to whom she had continued to write after her husbands death ten years ago. Mr Michael Coombes, who joined the Prison Service from the Royal Navy, became the Governor of Gloucester Prison after being Assistant Governor at Armley, Leeds and Strangeways Manchester. Finally he left Hindley borstal, near Wigan to set up his own after care centre in Lancashire to help former prisoners. The couple lived near Leyburn in North Yorkshire. The executor of Mrs Coombes estate, the Rev. Norman Thomas, said, "She admired Michael's work and kept in touch with many of his former prisoners." . . .

Ipswich

I have followed your correspondence and your comments on the matter of the gravestone and memorial seat for Mike Oldfield. Andrew served with Mike at Risley until a few months before he died and I kept in touch with Tommy until she died.

My step often return to Yorkshire and I stay with a friend in York. We went insearch of the seat early last year, but without success. However my friend pursued the search in the company of her dog and has now written to say that the seat is in Elington Church cemetary. The inscription reads as follows "In memory of Major Michael Oldfield from the friends at Risley". The seat is at the bottom of the churchyard under a tree and has gone very green and unkempt.

Tommy had a sister-in-law in Elvington, and if you like it, I can look her up when I am next in York. I would do this with pleasure and also arrange to have the seat cleaned up, or clean it up myself.

Perhaps this information has already been fed to you, but just in case it has not come to light, I shall pass it on in memory of a fine man.

Nan Fyfe

P.S. After-thought. Mike is buried in Elvington Church yard but there is no headstone.

(I am indeed most grateful to you Mrs Fyfe for taking the trouble to visit Mike's grave and also for your kind offer to look up his wife's sister-in-law. By the time this edition reaches you, I will already have written personally to explain the position and my hopeful plans for the future - Arthur Williamson)

Isleworth, Middlesex

It certainly pays to advertise in the *Newsletter* and I was delighted to receive four rapid responses to my appeal for information about the introduction of 3 in a cell, particularly as it meant renewing contact with Stan Mitchell, Alan Packham, Charlie Pratt and Ken Watson. (NB listed alphabetically, not necessarily in order of venerability!)

Stan went to a lot of trouble over Wellingore - of which he had first hand knowledge - and has unearthed such facts as now remain about it. But he has not been able to establish - even by talking to Lincoln officers of that period - why it closed - uniquely among all the other camps adapted for prison use at the same time.

On the introduction of 3 in a cell, all my "experts" confirm it's smooth introduction in a service which still operated and responded on disciplined lines. Clearly no-one was aware, as Charlie comments, that "they were witnessing the start of what could come to influence and dominate the Prison Service and that it would not be controlled".

I am still trying to establish on what date the first 'threeing-up' is likely to have occurred. I am suspended between the absence of any reference to the possible introduction of 3 in a cell at the Governor's Annual Conference in June 1947 and a Circular Memorandum of 21 August 1947 saying that sleeping prisoners three in a cell had become necessary at a number of establishments and must be a last resort after every possible vacant room has been brought into use.

It would be too much to expect that my readers of the *Newsletter* can get any closer. You have kindly confirmed that the Governors Journals for 1947 are not held in your muniments room, so I fear I may have to accept an absence of precision on this point. Any further suggestions would be much appreciated.

Not much personal news to offer. Our sixth grandchild arrived in March, a very welcome sister for two brothers. Freda and I had tea with Diana and David Hewlings at their new residence in Ealing last week and found them in excellent form!

Terry Weiller

MAJOR MICHAEL OLDFIELD, M.C., V.R.D.

Until I read the correspondence sent to me this week for the current edition I had just about given up the idea of paying tribute to Mike in the form of a headstone for his grave.

However, you will have read the response in the previous letters and I am encouraged to find at last that my hopes are having some support. Having received such a fine offer of assistance from Mrs Fyfe and other letters offering financial backing I intend to pursue the matter again.

First we shall need to contact the relatives still living in Elvington village to ascertain the attitude and possible wishes of the family and I have accepted Mrs Fyfe's offer in that region. If they agree, I shall then contact the local Vicar to get permission from the church. Meanwhile I shall contact the local monumental masons to find out how much the stone will cost.

If all goes well I shall then go ahead and hope the money will be available in due course. It does seem that there are a growing number who feel the same as I do about our old colleague and for that I am thankful.

Arthur Williamson

STOP PRESS: Arthur Williamson and Trevor Gadd (Governor of Wakefield) are now working on this project. Any other offers of contributions to Arthur Williamson, please, C/o Newsletter.

THE 1988 PERRIE LECTURES

on

13th October 1988

at the

PRISON SERVICE COLLEGE

Newbold Revel, Nr Rugby

REMANDS IN CUSTODY

with

ROD MORGAN
University of Bath

and

ANDY MORGAN
Governor, Northwich Prison

An opportunity will be provided for guided group discussion

Conference Fee £15 inclusive of buffet lunch

For further details and an application form please write to: Trevor Williams, Conference Administrator
Prison Service College, Love Lane, Wakefield, WF2 9AQ