

Retired Governors Newsletter

In co-operation with
The Prison Governors
Association

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EDITORIAL

Following the reaction to Edition No. 17, we have decided to continue to produce a professionally printed newsletter, continuing to use the PGA's Warrington printer.

Mailing list

The number of people on the mailing list continues to rise quite sharply. Among those additions to the mailing list we welcome the following. John Childs - who retired a year or two ago as a Gov I from Headquarters; Bob Booth - who retired as a Gov I from Headquarters this summer; Vey Roberts - who retired as Governor of Winchester Prison recently; Brian Hayday - who retired as a Gov II from South East Regional Office; Norman Wainwright - recently retired as G V (Caterer) from Wormwood Scrubs; R Harding - recently retired as G IV from Highpoint; John Pudney - G III at Swinfen Hall; Eric Martin - G II from Wellingborough. We also welcome G Lamb - ex G V Acklington and Ray Rollinson B.E.M. - who has been retired some years - a former Chief I.

Can we remind all our members to make retired colleagues aware of the existence of the newsletter. The newsletter is now circulating within the Service on the basis of one per establishment. Applications to take the newsletter should be addressed to the Editorial Office.

PRISON SERVICE NEWS

You should receive a current (November) edition of the Prison Service News with this letter by courtesy of the Editor of the Prison Service News. As usual we publish extracts from recent editions of the PSN edited by one of our readers.

WANTED: EDITOR FOR PGA MAGAZINE.

The following note appeared in Bulletin 15 from the PGA and is circulated for the attention of any of our readers who might be interested.

"The PGA is now in a position to work up a regular magazine for members. The NEC have decided that the next step is to appoint an editor on a part time basis, to be responsible for producing a publication up to six times a year. The NEC believe that this task would be particularly suitable for a recently retired Governor. There would be a fee of £2,000 a year. Anyone interested is invited to contact Brendan O'Friel, Vice Chairman at H M Prison, Manchester, M60 9AH. (061 834 8626) for further details of the post and the procedures for appointment."

FUTURE OF THE RETIRED GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

Following the proposals in Edition No 17 the editorial staff of the Retired Governors' Newsletter now believe that the following is the best way forward.

First, we intend that the Retired Governors' Newsletter should continue to circulate to all those on our existing circulation lists. However, to defray future expenses we propose to invite existing members to subscribe £5.00 per year by banker's order as attached to this edition of the newsletter. We will be inviting all new members to our mailing list to join on the basis of subscribing members. We believe that in this way we will safeguard the future production of a quality Retired Governors' Newsletter. The objective will be to produce at least two newsletters a year.

FINANCIAL POSITION AND ORGANISATION

Bill Martin will continue as Treasurer for at least a year or so after he retires early next year. Bill has now opened a newsletter account to which you are invited to subscribe by the attached Standing Order. The account has had the present balance of our funds paid into it and stands at £168.42. The intention is to produce a financial statement each year with properly audited accounts.

LINKS WITH THE PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION.

When we published Edition 17 we put at the top left hand side of the newsletter, "In co-operation with the

Prison Governors' Association". This represents the position at present. We take the view that if those on the mailing list wish to become associate members of the PGA this is entirely in order. This will be at no further cost and will be entirely a matter for the individual concerned. Under no circumstances would we want to put pressure on anybody to become an associate member of the PGA if they do not wish.

As regards the value of links with the PGA, the PGA NEC see value in members of the PGA being able to continue in associate/retired membership after retirement. In addition to the Retired Governors' Newsletter we may want to consider other benefits that can be provided for retired members, including the possibility of occasional social activities. The PGA also has the potential to act as a central reference point for any employer or organisation seeking the services of a retired Governor.

Any member wishing to become an associate member of the PGA should complete the attached form.

EXTRACTS FROM PRISON SERVICE NEWS.

We again include a section of items which have appeared in the Prison Service News since the last issue of the Newsletter.

NEW ESTABLISHMENT: Swaleside, a Category C establishment for 504 prisoners took its first inmates in August.

Two more temporary prisons at the former remand centre at Ashford and on the site of a former mental hospital in Banstead are to be opened in December. New prisons are subsequently to be built on both sites - Ashford as a local prison for 600 to be operational in 1993 and Banstead as another local for 840 inmates in 1995

STAFF

The first radio advertisements for prison officer recruits brought in over a thousand enquiries.

The 100th meeting of the Prison Department Whitley Council took place on the 5th May in the Home Office. The first meeting took place on 13th and 14th May 1941 at Oriel College Oxford.

A small group of friends met to plant a flowering Cherry tree in the grounds of Feltham YCC and RC to mark their appreciation of the life and work of Frank Leisching.

PRISONERS

Just over 14,000 prisoners were granted parole in 1987 - 58.9% of the 24,432 considered for review.

The five year installation of a £25 million Inmate Information system to replace the notoriously outdated prison index will begin in January 1989. Some thirty establishments are expected to be 'on stream' by the end of next year. It will incorporate the local Inmate Database System already operating in 12 establishments.

SPORT: The Princess Royal arrived by helicopter at Newbold Revel Staff College to attend the first Festival of Prison Service sport on the 25th July.

Soccer: The Oxford Cup Trophy was won by Grendon who defeated Leyhill 3 - 0

The final of the Maunsel Cup was won by Hatfield who defeated Wormwood Scrubs 3 - 1 at Onley.

UNISEX: A scheme for the much more extensive posting of women officers to male prisoners and male officers to female establishments has been agreed between the Department and the POA. Some 54 establishments will be involved in the first instance.

EXPORT DRIVE: Six of Usk's rare black Berkshire pigs have been sold to the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture for over £1000, 1,000 sows are awaiting them with interest in Japan !!!

FROM THE LETTERS EDITOR

THE LETTERS in this edition suggest there is a fair measure of support for us to accept Associate Membership of the PGA., but the letter from George Iles has some reservations and these may be shared by others. With this in mind I asked Brendan to spell out the advantages and disadvantages (if any) of accepting the PGA's offer.

When I started NEWSLETTER as a solo effort back in 1980 it was with the intention of keeping retired Colleagues in touch with each other and with those still serving. In those days it was virtually a 'one man show', in that I wrote the copy, financed it and posted it off. It would never have succeeded without the

MAJOR MICHAEL OLDFIELD

M.C., V.R.D.

FOLLOWING our announcement in the Spring Issue of NEWSLETTER we had offers of financial assistance from many places. These include the Australian Bush, the Canadian Prairies, the Army Volunteer Reserve at Wakefield, staff at Risley and Wakefield Prisons and many of our readers, some of whom kindly forwarded contributions towards the cost of a headstone.

Mrs Fyfe travelled from her home in Ipswich to see Mike's relatives in the North Yorkshire village of Elvington to ascertain their opinion and Trevor Gadd also made

enquiries for us.

The relatives told Mrs Fyfe that before her own untimely death, Mike's wife, 'Tommy', had stated she wanted to be buried with Mike, but they should remain in an unmarked grave. This may sound a strange wish to some, but it is one we must respect and therefore cancel our plan to erect a suitable headstone for Mike and his wife.

I would wish to thank all who kindly supported my idea, but in particular Mrs Nan Fyfe and Trevor Gadd.

Arthur Williamson.

valuable help of Norman Browns Secretary at Manchester, Mrs Eileen Fox, who typed it all out (each copy those days ran to about a dozen pages) and addressed the envelopes, also to the encouragement and forbearance of Norman himself, and later to the Society of Civil servants who printed all the copy for a very nominal contribution from us. We all put in a great deal of hard work and many of you were generous enough to send subscriptions to help us to get the Newsletter 'off the ground'. Now we have come to a stage where we have again to look towards the future.

I realised that it was necessary to place N/L in the hands of another editor once I had retired, otherwise I would have neither the facilities or information to carry on production. At first John Powles, a young A.G. II at Manchester took the job on, but his subsequent transfer to Frankland Prison and the fact that he was then very Junior in the service made it impossible for him to continue. I was delighted therefore to learn that Brendan had agreed to take over as Editor and we could not have found a better man for the job.

The time will come eventually when even Brendan will need to hand over to someone else - he will have to retire someday - and again we will require someone still serving to fulfil the task. In this respect the P.G.A. may well be able to help us. Having said that, I must make my own point of view perfectly clear with regards the future of NEWSLETTER. I feel that:-

- A) The control, format and content of NEWSLETTER must remain firmly under the direction of its Editor and its 'Editorial Board' (e.g. Treasurer, Letters Editor and any other appointed and approved by its readers).
- B) It must retain its own subscriptions and funds and these will be under the control of its own Treasurer.
- C) The purpose of NEWSLETTER shall not change in that it should present news and information to retired Governors about their own affairs and of events within the service.

We would of course be expected to make our contribution towards the printing of Newsletter. Such amount and the amount of any annual subscription for Newsletter will be decided by the 'Editorial Board' who will of course take soundings and approval from its readers.

As I see it, the first advantage of becoming Associate Members of the P.G.A. is that we will be able to have our own publication printed in a professional manner, and this seems to meet with your approval so far, secondly, when the time comes the P.G.A. may be able to assist us in finding a successor for Brendan. There maybe other advantages as well and no doubt Brendan will spell these out for us in this issue. If there are to be any disadvantages - and I cannot think of any myself - these will need to be stated for you all to decide. When you have read this edition we should therefore welcome your opinions.

Arthur Williamson.

YOUR LETTERS

Southfields, London

I write with much regret to inform you through the Newsletter that Winston Martin died on June 24th at Leicester. I had been 'dropping in' on him and his wife, Maime, and his family for many years, including my Goddaughter, Zoe, His Granddaughter.

An academic, he was fully involved in a variety of literary and artistic pursuits there, apart from running pre-retirement classes and the like. After leaving the service he ran the Bishop Creighton House in Hammersmith for several years.

His was a varied, changeable career, starting at Hollesley Bay before the war, when he joined the Yorkshire Dragoons, serving in North Africa. He returned post war as Tutor at the Staff College, Wakefield, before joining Vidler at Maidstone during an exciting period with "Teach them to live" on the education front and many other initiatives. He left the service again for 7 years to become Headmaster of St Johns approved School at Apethorpe, until they ran out of funds. This was followed by another period he often recalled with Dermont Grubb and under Brig. Paton-Walsh and Michael Gale.

I was with him again at Risley in the mid-60s, when he was 1/c of the youth Wing, where he had a flair with youngsters, but an abhorrence for the necessary paper work.

He always took much pleasure in his large family and in various work, including the British Library, Social Services, and South Africa - and of course, his four Grandchildren. I am sure there will be many who will be sad to see another enthusiast pass from us, but he had a good span, albeit an inveterate smoker who knew the consequences. His funeral was at Leicester on June 30th and he asked for donations to be sent to the Cancer Research.

I was sorry to hear of Eric Sumners demise so early. He was one of the great workers at Pentonville, while I was milling around devising all kinds of group and voluntary work schemes (none of which seemed to have survived). He likewise managed to survive four Governors in as many years there - Peter Burnett - Eric Towndrow - Ken and Alistair Miller.

As for other news. I am in touch with Jim and Beryl Absolom fairly regularly; they have moved again, this time to Gloucestershire; Roger Dauncey still renovates his mansion near Gloucester and his wife puts up with it all admirably; Dermot Grubb, has now left the council of the ISTD, but still keeps the Regional Branch going; Les and Ivy Lewis are busy near Llandeilo, Great Danes abounding everywhere.

For myself, I keep contact with the H.O. Bridge Club, a couple of South London Probation Committees, but am more involved with my wife Anne's writing on South Wales, with much proofing and travelling, and meeting with Cambrian Archeologists, Camarthen Antiquarions, CPRW and Cymrodorions, which makes for a change.

*Every good wish, Sincerely,
Adrian Arnold.*

P S I was a bit surprised to find a P.R.O.P. leaflet in the door recently, it turned out to be 'Putney, Roehampton Old Peoples' periodical - a sign of the times. A.A.

Ledbury, Herefordshire.

I read in the spring issue of Newsletter a request for Alan Robertsons address. He has now come to live in Ledbury (addressed supplied). Alan and Barbara have settled in and are both well. I see them often and enjoy their company.

Sincerely Leslie Oxford.

Nailsworth, Gloucestershire.

I read the latest Newsletter with great interest and pleasure. It's so good that it seems a bit mean to pick on the odd "a La Guardian" typographical error, but it was rather amusing to read about the latest "Butter Trust Awards". D.I.F. should appreciate that.

Congratulations on the new format, and on the proposal to offer PGA associate membership to us has-beens. I for one will be happy to pay a subscription on the lines suggested. And in the mean time enclose a small cheque towards expence.

I often think nostalgically on 'C' and 'D' wings at Wakefield, (but to be honest I feel rather bitter that "they" have demolished the ancient gatehouse and with it the two top flats where we spent 5 formative years).

I enjoyed the letters, but was very saddened to read of Colin Lennons untimely death. I first knew him as a P.O. at the Staff College, when some of us "leaned heavily" on him to join the Governors grades, which he did with great ease and subsequent distinction. He was one of the nicest people I have ever served with.

We remain well and somehow extremely busy.

Sincerely David Atkinson.

(Many thanks David for your generous contribution which I know Brendan has

acknowledged. It is now a very long time since our days at Wakefield under Alan Bainton - a man not always understood, because he was 'light years' ahead of his time, but he was a Governor I was always happy to be working under - pity his health caused him to retire early.)

Arthur Williamson.

Reading Berkshire

As I am about to retire from H M Prison Service, I would, like many who have retired before me, wish to keep in touch with the service, having given thirty years of my life to it. I would therefore be grateful to receive a copy of Newsletter from time to time.

My best wishes are extended to all my colleagues throughout the service. They are a wonderful lot who despite our ups and downs are never slow to offer friendship and support when things get tough. I speak from personal experience.

*Best wishes
Brian Hayday.*

London W5

Congratulations on the 'new look' Newsletter - it is so much easier to read. You wanted Alan Robertsons Address (*this was again supplied - Thank-you*). They moved just before we moved here from Devon in September of last year. You also ask for views on the suggestion that retired Governors should become Associate members of the new PGA. I don't have any clear view about that, but I certainly think we should contribute something towards the cost of the Newsletter and would be willing to pay the £2-£5 suggested. Hope all goes well with you.

*Yours
David Hewlings.*

Bournemouth. Dorset.

Please note change of address. We moved here in March into a new house near to where we used to live and also retrieved our old telephone number.

It's nice to breathe fresh air again and although we enjoyed living in London, it was all becoming too much of a hassle and London in particular was no place for a retired Governor, in my opinion.

Please find enclosed cheque as a contribution towards expenses.

Sincerely Charles Graves.

Paulton, Bristol.

I see from the latest retired Governors Newsletter that its future is somewhat insecure, and that we are recommended to become associate members of the PGA, to ensure its future. What is the matter,

are you desperate for membership? I would want to learn a lot more about the constitution of the PGA. before I volunteer for membership. I am prepared to pay an annual subscription for the continuance of the Newsletter as I find it most interesting to read of people I served with. Happy Days.

I continue to enjoy my retirement, keeping busy and healthy. I now have no contact with any service members and assume those still serving are all tied up with 'Fresh Start'

Sincerely George Iles.

(We do not appear to have explained things enough George, so please read my comments prior to these letters. - Arthur Williamson)

Cringleford, Norfolk.

With reference to your editorial in Edition 17 of Retired Governors Newsletter, I should be happy to become an Associate member of the PGA and pay whatever annual subscription is decided.

I am all for social activities but, as I said in my letter to Arthur Williamson on 19.8.80, "As to meetings of exGovernors, as I see it, one would be mainly, if not only, interested in meetings ones own contemporaries, in which case rather than holding meetings on a Regional area basis, they should be held on say, a vintage basis. For instance ex-Governors who joined the service from say, 1946 to 56 or thereabouts. However on reflection I now realise that such get togethers would be very difficult to arrange and the response would probably not justify the effort and expence involved.

I would be interested in having an up-to-date list of retired Governors, preferably with their addresses and telephone numbers if possible.

At the age of 72 I am happy to say that I am still active. I play three or four rounds of Golf a week. If any of my contemporaries living in, or visiting East Anglia would care for a game, I should be pleased to entertain them at the Royal Norwich Golf Club, or meet then at any other Club in the area.

*Sincerely
Richard Downton.*

P.S. With reference W.A.Ws request, please find enclosed letter to Bob Shebbeare. Please address it and forward it.

(many thanks Richard for your letter to Bob Shebbeare. It has been sent on to him and I do hope it will persuade him to keep in touch. Your kind invitation to ex-colleagues to join you in a round of golf is one which I hope will be taken up very soon. With regards to address list of readers; yes we do keep such a list, but when I started Newsletter in 1980 I asked all our readers if they wished to have their addresses published. At the time they preferred to have them kept by the Editor, but we did agree to forward any letter onwards. Certainly we could soon get a copy of the list to those interested, but first I feel we should obtain a new opinion on the subject. Naturally we would withhold the address of any colleague who did not wish his/hers, published. So perhaps we can have further comments on this subject. - Arthur Williamson.)

Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Many thanks for sending me a copy of Newsletter. Quite a trip down 'Memory Lane'. I really did enjoy my copy and passed it on to Ernie Adamson retired Chief (Governor 4) who lives nearby. Enclosed is my cheque towards cost, let me know if the money runs out.

Pleased to say I am making good progress from a bit of a heart problem. Whilst waiting to see the consultant I picked up an ancient Readers Digest (circa 1975) quote:- "No man goes before his time - unless the boss leaves early", - this gave me confidence.

Best wishes to the PGA and all colleagues - and God Bless the Pay master General.

*Sincerely
Bill Keast.*

Monmouth, Gwent

The question as to whether or not the Governors Branch of the Society should go independent was discussed numerous times by numerous committees and on each occasion we drew back due to concerns of size and finance. This despite the fact that life within the society was becoming increasingly difficult for our members owing to the militant approach of the Society. This applied particularly to the Assistant Governors in field posts who came under considerable pressure from Society members who were taking industrial action, including striking. Since the A.G.s were not prepared to take industrial action, relationships with some of the admin Staff slumped badly for a while.

I congratulate the Governors Committee therefore who had the courage to take the drastic decision to withdraw from the Society, a decision which many of us previously had

flunked. The task of the PGA will not be easy and it will certainly miss the professional guidance of the Society's full-time officers. But I offer the PGA my very best wishes and I would be pleased to become an Associate Member - if only to continue receiving the Newsletter.

*Very best Wishes
Roland Adams.*

Winchester.

I retired on 31 July, 1988 and therefore interested to read Retired Governors Newsletter. In order to do so and to give some little assistance towards the cost I have made a Bankers Order payable in August 1988. May I take this opportunity to say how pleased I am to see you active in the PGA affairs and to wish you well.

*All the best
Vey Roberts.*

Wakefield.

Thank you for your letter of the 8th June, please accept my apologies for not having replied before now, but there has been much to attend to following Colin's death.

I would like to thank you for attending the funeral service; it was greatly appreciated by myself and my son, Simon.

The quality of life for Colin over the past few years was not very good. As you know, he was a man who gave his best to the Prison Service and his years at the Staff College, although a challenge to him, were happy years. We used to look forward to receiving the Newsletter and read it from cover to cover. I appreciate the thought that I may wish to continue to receive it, but will decline as unfortunately I seem to have lost touch with many of the friends we made in the service.

I must congratulate you on the production of the Newsletter and wish it every success in the future.

*Sincerely
Beth Lennon*

Hove, Sussex

I hope you are keeping well, but I regret that I have not written sooner than this.

Your kind note in which you suggested a "few words about Greece would be acceptable", I regret I did not take up. I stayed for just over a year and when the work ran out, not only for me, but for my friends (for whose office I was working), I left, and took to the road again. Not only that but the Greeks were getting very hot

under the collar regarding my car.

All this because I am asking you to kindly note my new address in the U K and I am happy that I will be able to receive the Newsletter once more.

My work in Greece was very interesting because I learnt about the people in a way that gave me an insight into their character that could hardly be equalled by a 'foreigner'. I was accepted (until things went wrong, which they did frequently, and I became the scapegoat) as a full member of their family and received all the many and wonderful benefits that went with this.

In fact, I was impounded, but not by the Greeks - it was the Italians who became convinced I was an international Drug runner, perhaps because I was travelling alone. Any woman in this condition is an enigma, wherever she may be. Even the Home Office got it wrong once, so I can hardly blame anyone else.

*Sincerely
Pat Albuquerque.*

Epsom.

Thank you for your letter and the Retired Governors Newsletter.

I was most impressed by the professionalism of the Newsletter and it was good to receive news of ex-colleagues. Some of them seem to be very active in their retirement.

I am now fully fit and enjoying a second career as free-lance consultant. I am involved in Career Change, Redundancy Counselling and the Design of Management Training Programmes. Luckily I can choose when and where I work.

I retain a keen interest in the Service. Life can be difficult at times in the Prison Service, but its people are its strength and I do hope that 'Fresh Start' will improve matters. Whether there will ever be enough resources is another matter.

*Sincerely
John Childs.*

P.S. I enclose a small donation towards the Newsletter.

Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire.

Many thanks for the latest edition of Newsletter - and many congratulations on the New Look. It has now blossomed and taken on a more permanent shape.

I agree about putting the arrangements for producing the Newsletter on a more secure footing. Associate Membership of the PGA at a subscription of £2 - £5 seems right to me.

*Sincerely
Arthur Moreton.*

Isle of Wright

Dear Arthur and Brendan,

Having recently entered my fifth year of retirement I am ashamed that this is the first time that I have written to you. It is all the more

deplorable because I so much enjoy the Newsletter towards which letters from your readers play a significant part.

Let me start by congratulating you on the evolution of what has become a polished product befitting its noble and important role! With Brendan at the helm it is not surprising that the Newsletter has progressed from the earlier typewritten form - nonetheless welcome for all its modest garb - to the very smart document presented today, thanks, it seems to the new PGA. Do I hear Jim Absalom saying "What's new about the PGA"? In anticipation of your need for funding I enclose a modest donation. May I in passing say that I sincerely hope that when the matter of subscriptions is discussed consideration will be given to the exemption of your widowed readership.

When I travelled from Winson Green to Midland Region HQ the Department agreed to sell me the official Governor's quarter as my successor at the prison had no need of it. So I bought it. When I retired from the Service my wife Gay and I continued to live in the house even though our two daughters had flown the coop leaving only our son Guy at home. The house was by then much too big for our needs but we had grown very fond of the place and as my retirement coincided with Gay's presidential year in Inner Wheel she wanted to stay in Birmingham at least for that period. We stayed in fact for a further three years but during that time Birmingham suffered ever-increasing ethnic problems, street violence, escalating crime and a rising tide of dirt and general scruffiness so that we felt the pull home to the South Coast more and more. We house hunted down here in my Homeland and two years ago found this place and promptly moved from Birmingham and all its murk to this "Sceptred Isle"! In point of fact Gay loved Birmingham. I was both bemused and impressed by this because she had become a senior counsellor in the Citizens Advice Bureau there, and was really in the front line of the ethnic travail and all the deprivation and impoverishment. However, a couple of house hunting trips to the Isle of Wright convinced her that there was more to life than high rise flats, graffiti and muggings in underpasses so that she too welcomed the prospect of returning 'home' after a very long absence. Our Birmingham house is now a Vicarage! I was fortunate to have the Church Commissioners interest in buying it as a private sale without all the hassle of estate agents. My son Guy has stayed in Birmingham where he is a groupier in a casino. He is soon off to the USA to work there.

Years ago I promised myself that when I retired I would return to my early hobby of keeping and breeding parrots and ornamental pheasants. I have spent the last two years building a large aviary and pheasantry and I now have a quite large and valuable collection of livestock. This is a selfish pursuit tying me

down somewhat which inhibits Gay's wish to travel but at least it keeps me away from the golf courses and protracted fishing absences! I am the current chairman of the Isle of Wight Cage Bird Society and along with other community projects I keep extraordinarily busy. Gay is a part-time nursing sister at Osborne House Convalescent Home which helps meet her need to be out and about meeting people leaving me a blissful life with my feathered friends.

I am in regular contact with Stan Bester, Peter Meech and Les Wheeler all of whom live fairly near. We meet at parties and each others' houses and Peter, Stan and I are members of the Camp Hill Winemakers club which meets monthly in Camp Hill Officers Club. All very jolly. I meet Maurice Bryan occasionally and my barber tells me that Alan Packham is one of his customers but I haven't actually seen Alan for some time. I correspond with Geoff Lister who is about to finish a two year consultancy in Maritius. His wife Grace recently spent a few days here with us. She has been out to Mauritius to stay with Geoff but their home is still in Lichfield.

Another long standing friend who stayed with us this year is Betty widow of Doug Dennis. Betty asks to be placed on the Newsletter mailing list please.

Her home address is in Bath. Betty is very well and is in close contact with her sons and daughters and their families.

Healthwise, these past two years have been a bit unfriendly towards me. I am in fact presently recuperating from a third surgical assault on my plumbing and I also had an arthroscopy performed on my arthritic right knee earlier in the year.

I wonder if I might have the temerity to offer a word of advice to any of my friends and former colleagues who have a plumbing problem? Don't simply accept the need for frequent trips to the loo as the accepted penalty for 'getting on in years'. It is quite wrong to believe that it is a condition with which one must learn to live. Ask your G.P. to refer you to a urological consultant. I've met so many friends who are reluctant to seek medical advice because they are in fear of hearing something morbid. What ever the facts are, the condition is treatable and the physical relief is bliss!!

On that cheerful note I'll take my leave of you, wishing you, the Newsletter and all my friends and former colleagues good health and happiness.

*Very sincerely,
Roland Attrill*

Addendum (my memory is as bad as ever). Reading news about new prisons in the pipeline, I found myself wondering just how these new establishments receive their names - and who decided. Can somebody please tell me?

I received a letter from an old friend Harry Entwhistle who was my part-time Chaplain at Aylesbury and whom I persuaded to join the Service full-time. He was later Chaplain at Wandsworth. He became somewhat disenchanted with the Department seemingly treating religion as an 'optional extra' in establishments and was seriously considering returning to a living when he read an advertisement for a Regional Prison Chaplain in Western Australia. His many friends in this country will be interested to learn that Harry was accepted for this appointment and is now living in Perth. I shall be happy to provide his present address to anybody who would like to have it.

*Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada*

I was in England this Autumn and stayed a night with Keith Leslië (ex-Norwich) at Diss, and later went to visit North Sea Camp where I had served as a Housemaster from 1937-39. At both places I was shown a copy of your splendid Retired Governors Newsletter.

Having left the U.K. service over forty years ago to return to Canada, I did not think that I would see many, if any, familiar names. To my great surprise I came across close to a dozen, many of them chaps I had served with in my ten years in the service. Names such as 'Tiny' Townsend, Bill Taylor, Scriven, Elvy, Jack Dennett, Tom Hayes, Hugh Kenyon, David Hewlings, and close to home, Tom Abbott who left the B.C. Correction Service in the 60s to seek his fortune in England. What a gastronomic feast of memorabilia they brought forth.

May I be included in your future mailings please? I enclose a small money order to help with mailing costs.

*Sincerely
S. Rocksborough - Smith*

(This letter shows that the Newsletter is now being welcomed throughout the world and we are delighted that our friend has written. We shall of course be sending him copies of all future editions, but I would take this opportunity of thanking him first for his donation. I know he will be delighted to get letters from any old colleagues who served with him all those years ago, and knowing quite a few read our magazine I hope they will drop him a line. Just send your letter to Brendan (stamped of course) and he will put the address on for you. - W.A.W.)

Chief Officer "Mick" Price.

Andy Barclay (Governor Norwich Prison) Writes.
"Chief Officer "Mick" Price died on 19th October 1988 aged 64. A Guard of Honour was mounted at his funeral at St Faiths Crematorium, Norwich on Friday, 28th October 1988.

Mick retired from Norwich as Chief Officer I on 5th January 1984 and previously served at HMPs Pentonville, Parkhurst, Albany, Dartmoor and Wormwood Scrubs."