

Retired Governors Newsletter

In co-operation with
The Prison Governors
Association



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EDITORIAL

MAILING LIST

The total number of people on the Retired Governors' Newsletter Mailing List continues to grow. Among others, we welcome to the mailing list Hugh Dean (recently retired as G5 from Bristol), Gordon Wood, Colin Honey and Joy Kingsley. Joy has recently moved to DHSS so is officially retired from the Service.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Don Long on being awarded the OBE in the Birthday Honours List.

PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL

The attention of our readers is drawn to the advertisement in the newsletter for the Prison Service Journal.

PRISON SERVICE NEWS

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

PRE-RETIREMENT COURSE

We hope that some of you will take the opportunity of responding to the pre-retirement course article.

FINANCES

Bill Martin writes: *Our position is that since we went over to the new current account last November with an opening balance of £168.42 we have had outgoings totalling £572.94 but there has been a*

THE PSJ NEEDS YOU!

THE PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK FOR THE 1990'S . . . BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE FORMAT THAT WILL BE DIFFERENT . . . WE HOPE TO CARRY A WIDER RANGE OF REGULAR FEATURES . . . AND HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP.

WE WANT TO PUBLISH '**REFLECTIONS FROM RETIRED GOVERNORS**' THOUGHTS ON HOW PRISONS WORKED PRE-FRESH START AND WHAT GOVERNORS REALLY DID!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO:
TED BLOOR, H M PRISON, OLD ELVET, DURHAM

steady flow of contributions and 122 recipients have made out Bankers' Orders for £5 per annum, so that we have remained comfortably in credit throughout the year since then. Our most recent bank statement gives us a credit balance of £330.48 but most of that will be eaten up by the expenses of the next edition so I expect funds to remain low until the bulk of the existing standing orders start coming in again at the turn of the year. Of course if our income remains at between £600 and £700, as it is at present, we can only afford to publish editions twice a year at current cost; it would be nice to have a bit more income but it would need quite a boost to take on three editions. I hope this information is helpful and is what you are looking for.

16th August 1989

We plan to have the newsletter books audited each year by the PGA auditors. Readers' attention is drawn to Arthur Williamson's comments about keeping costs down in his usual column.

PGA MATTERS

Over 100 readers of the Retired Governors' Newsletter have asked to become associate members of the Prison Governors' Association. The PGA will be circulating a free diary to all members and associate members before the end of the year.

The PGA has now taken into membership Northern Ireland Governors and the new enlarged organisation has a membership of around 850. The PGA has succeeded in producing a regular magazine coming out about six times a year.

The PGA has negotiated an attractive insurance deal for full members. We would be interested in whether retired members would see benefit in us trying to negotiate any special insurance arrangements on their behalf.

IN MEMORIAM

I regret to report the death of the wife of Ron Parfitt. I also regret to report the death of Lt. Col. Edward Russel. An appreciation of Col. Russel will be found in our letter pages.

May they rest in peace.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

As forecast in the Spring newsletter, we are now rapidly approaching the newsletter's tenth anniversary and coincidentally its twenty first edition. The Spring edition of 1990 should be a very special edition. To do so we need your support, particularly those of you from whom we have not heard for some time. Nothing would please Arthur Williamson more than to have a very large number of letters to publish in our next edition. I would also be particularly pleased to hear from those of you who contributed to the first edition to get some ideas on how you consider the newsletter has developed over ten years.

BRENDAN O'FRIEL

Editor

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.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Allstair Papps is to become North Regional Director when **Bill Driscoll** retires early next year.

Downview Prison, on part of the site of a former mental hospital at Banstead, Surrey, received its first inmates in June and will eventually take up to 332. (The remainder of the site will be occupied by a new 620 place local prison, **Highdown**, due to open in

1991.)

The Home Secretary announced in July that the men's remand centre at Risley will be closed as soon as possible and replaced by a training prison for convicted men.

Strangeways is manufacturing the first Bingo board for the blind - the invention of two officers from Thorn

Cross. The first board was tested by members of the Warrington and Widnes Blind Society.

The catering course at Aylesbury Young Offenders' establishment has been revived and students recently prepared a buffet for the High Sheriff of Buckingham.

A major and comprehensive review of Training throughout the prison service has been approved by the Prison Board.

Procedures to combat the problem of prison suicides have been further strengthened.

The Parole Board report for 1988 indicates that parole was recommended in just under half the cases considered.

THE FUTURE SHAPE OF THE SERVICE

Though there has been a recent fall in the prison population, the latest projections predict an increase of 1500 to 1900 a year over the next ten years.

A Parliamentary announcement in May stated that eight new prisons had been opened since 1985, seven were currently under construction, four more are planned to start on site this year and eight were in various stages of planning and design.

A review of the headquarters' structure of the Service has recommended that the four present regions should disappear and be replaced by fourteen area groups under an area manager responsible for nine or ten establishments, the area manager being senior to the highest grade governor in the group, and the headquarters' staff reorganised to include three operational directorates, should, with the Director-General, be relocated in the Midlands.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Her Majesty the Queen visited the Prison Service Industries and Farms Stand - exhibiting the best in prisons' livestock and produce - at the Festival of Food and Farming in Hyde Park.

Having heard about the visitors' creche at Winchester (Newsletter No19) in her capacity as Patron of the Butler Trust, the Princess Royal made a three hour visit to Winchester Prison and was entertained to lunch. She also opened this year's Koestler Exhibition of Art at the Festival Hall in October.

Viscount Whitelaw carried out the official opening of HMP Garth in May.

Archbishop Tutu visited Winson Green and conducted a service for staff and inmates in the

chapel.

SPORT

Drake Hall beat Headquarters in the final of the annual national netball tournament.

The North West prisons' soccer team reached the quarter final of the Civil Service national soccer trophy competition.

Stafford beat three times' winners Fulham 5-1 to carry off the Mansell Cup for the first time.

Onley were the cup winners in the first national Young Offenders seven-a-side tournament.

England beat Scotland, and carried off the Scrimgeour Cup, in the annual two day international between the two services at Scotsray Golf Club.

At the annual Home Office and Charity Commission Sports Day at the Civil Service sports ground at Chiswick, the Prison Service Sports Association carried off the Middlebrook Cup for the best overall performance.

A prison service team, 'Nicks 88', are the 1989 Civil Service basketball champions (the finals for the competition being held at HMP Kirkham).

SOCIAL

Retired administration officers have formed a club for former members of prison outstation executive staff and are about to hold their fourth reunion event.

... AND SPIRITUAL

John Morrison, who left the Service in 1986 as a Governor IV at Wormwood Scrubs, was ordained as a Deacon at the Vatican in May.

THE PRE-RETIREMENT COURSE

The Pre-Retirement Course is run over three days at Prison Service College by staff (Pat Stanmore and myself) from Prison Service College, Leicester. The course is open to all staff who are within three years of their date of retirement (formal or final as appropriate). The objective of the course is to provide those attending with information on a variety of subjects in order to promote/stimulate positive thought towards a planned retirement. At the end of the course we ask course members to complete a reactive evaluation sheet on the course - its content, presentation etc., but we are very aware that no post-course evaluation is done. So can I take this opportunity to invite those of you who have attended the course (either recently or in the past) to write to us at Prison Service College, Leicester (full address is at the end of the article) giving us your thoughts on the course now that you've had time to reflect on its

value to you. We would be particularly interested in comments on the content - What you thought was good; was there anything missing, and what has been particularly useful to you.

We use speakers from various Government Departments to explain the current legislative position regarding: unemployment benefit, income tax, state retirement pensions. A speaker also attends from POS Superannuation Section to give a full explanation of the Civil Service Pension Scheme using 'live' examples to illustrate his talk. We also have outside speakers from various organisations, professional bodies etc. to give talks on a broad spectrum of subject matter:

Corps of Commlssionalres	Outline the possibility of future employment with the Corps.
Civil Service Sports Council	Ideas on how to keep active in retirement.
Civil Service Retirement Civil Service Pensioners Alliance	How to protect your index linked Fellowship pension and more recreational ideas
Dr Ruth Lloyd-Thomas	Healthy living on retirement.
Godwins	A practical talk on the various investment options open to you with all their relative benefits/ drawbacks outlined.

And finally a talk by a retired Chief Prison Officer on adjusting to retirement - What to expect? Pitfalls to avoid? etc.

The Pre-Retirement Course - What can I say about it? It's extremely hard work, very rewarding, and the most popular course run by the Prison Department. The numbers involved are enormous - In the last financial year 88/89 we ran courses for 750 people!

When we at the Prison Service College, Leicester (please note: not the Desk Training Unit - we've abandoned training desks, we found them most unresponsive) were first approached re the possibility of becoming involved in running the Pre-Retirement Course, only Pat and I were available. So off we trotted, a bit apprehensively I must confess, to Wakefield to view the course in its entirety. Once we'd seen the course we were hooked; it seemed a real doddle; little did we know that it's a bit like an

iceberg - 4/5th of it hidden below the surface. Still, all the hard work is worth it because the course members are so responsive and enjoy the course so much, to say nothing of all the funny incidents which cause Pat and I to have near hysterics at times.

On the first course we ran on our own we were very nervous, as you can well imagine, a state of affairs which was not helped by probably the funniest thing that ever happened to us on a course. Now we can look back and laugh but at the time we just wanted the floor to swallow us up.

We were rather unfamiliar with the equipment, so there we were up on the stage in front of an audience of 70 trying to hoist the overhead projector screen on an archaic piece of equipment. It involved hooking a fishing rod like attachment to the top of the screen and then cranking it up by turning a handle at each end.

We were cranking away like fury when the audience burst into hysterical laughter. Undeterred we carried on, only to discover to our horror that we were not only hoisting the screen but also our skirts! (Could this be the reason why the course is so popular?) To make matters worse we then discovered that in order to free our skirts we had to lower the dratted screen all over again. Still after that baptism of fire it could only get better.

Please don't get the impression that running the course is all fun and laughs; it has some awful and sad moments too. On one occasion (never to be repeated, I might add) our normal speaker from the Inland Revenue was unable to appear so, like a fool, I said, 'That's fine, I'll do the session'. I must have real masochistic tendencies. Despite the fact that I'd explained I was only giving the talk on behalf of the Inland Revenue and didn't actually work for them, the response from the audience could only be described as hostile - I still bear the scars.

Our saddest moment was when one of our speakers, who had become a dear friend to both Pat and myself, died suddenly just before one of the courses. He left a void which will probably never be filled.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the course and I take this opportunity on behalf of us both to wish you once again a long, healthy and happy retirement.

SUE FAIRS-BROWNING
(Course Organiser)
Prison Service College
19 Ashford Road
Leicester LE2 6AA

YOUR LETTERS

Harrogate

I have recently been discussing with Brendan the cost of publishing the Newsletter and also the frequency of the editions. Being a true Yorkshireman I like value for my money and, with the possibility of two editions per year, this would amount to £2.50 per issue, which to my mind was too much. Having discussed the subject at length I feel I should explain the situation.

When I started the Newsletter almost ten years ago it was typed for me by Norman Brown's secretary at HMP Manchester free of charge, and it was duplicated (again free of charge) by the Society of Civil Servants. Finally it was posted - and now I must admit - many copies went out through the mail from HMP Manchester (I'll bet Doug Tacey admonishes me for this even now).

In those early days I sent out up to four editions per year and, while each was longer than today's issue, it did not cost as much; neither was I posting as many copies. Since then we have moved on and now produce a much more professional work which appears to be received with very great satisfaction by you all. We are now sending out some 250 copies with each edition, several going to overseas readers. This being so, the postage alone is running at something around £60 a time.

In order to cut costs I suggested we may consider going back to duplicating the pages, but from your letters it does seem that the more professional copy is preferred. When it is received from the printers it is ready for putting into envelopes for posting, thus speeding up receipt at your end. (This is usually done by Syd Powell who kindly travels in and spends a whole day in HMP Manchester on this task.) Should we return to duplicating it would mean all the various sheets would have to be sorted out and arranged in numerical order. They would then have to be stapled together; thus much extra work would be entailed and delay caused. After all, I must admit the finished copy would not be as good as the professionally printed one.

Whilst I feel it was correct to have another look at the cost of publication - we naturally want to ask for as little as possible from you - I am now of the opinion that we should continue as at present, but

the final decision should come from you, the reader.

Brendan is prepared to get out more than two editions per year, providing enough material is at hand, and this of course depends very much on the number of readers who write and give us their news. We would certainly appreciate your opinions on the future content and presentation of the Newsletter, and we will certainly consider all you have to say.

The Newsletter is now coming up to its tenth year of publication and we would like very much that it should be as you wish, and at a price you will be happy to subscribe to. So, will you please give it a thought and let us know how you feel?

Arthur Williamson

Newport, Isle of Wight

The Spring 1989 Newsletter arrived today, addressed to my husband, Lt Col E M Russel.

I am sorry that I have not written earlier to tell you that he died on 20 January 1989. He had not been really well for some time, although he still, in spite of two hip replacements, cut a large expanse of grass and was always cheerful. Last September he had jaundice and, after a stay in hospital, was sent home to be nursed. They thought he had cancer of the bile duct. He was always brave and, after 50 years, I am devastated.

Michael Gale and Bill Brister wrote to me.

I enclose a cutting from the local paper.

Yours sincerely,
Dorothy Russel

PS My husband and I visited South Africa during the winter of his last year and, when in Durban, met Molly and John Johnson. (He was Chief or Principal Officer I believe.) I played a lot of tennis with them at Queen's Club where he is Secretary. They are very well and happy there. Address: 602 Capri Heights, Old Fort Road, Durban 4001.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS

Friday 3 February 1989

**Far East War Veteran
and Ex-Jail Official Dies**

Lieut-Colonel Edward Howard Russel, a former Assistant Governor at Camp Hill Prison and a wartime Chindit and Gurkha Officer, has died at Earl Mountbatten Home, Newport, aged 77.

A private service conducted by the Rev Robert Bowyer took place at the Isle of Wight Crematorium, Whippingham, last week. Lieut-Col Russel lived at Brook with his wife Dorothy since retirement in 1971.

He was Assistant Governor at Camp Hill from 1956 to 1962 and was later Deputy Governor of Canterbury Prison and Governor of Blantyre House Detention Centre, Goudhurst, Kent.

He was educated at St John's College, Johannesburg, and was a chosen Dominion Cadet at Sandhurst.

After service with the Essex Regiment, he joined the 9th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army, and saw action in the North West Frontier, where he was mentioned in dispatches. During the Second World War he commanded a column of Chindits in Burma and, as Commanding Officer of the 3/8th Gurkhas in Saigon, he accepted the formal surrender of the Japanese on that front.

He commanded a battalion during the Calcutta riots in 1946, later returning to his regimental centre as assistant Commandant and was the last officer to leave.

After the partition of India he worked for British Paint in Durban and in Southern Rhodesia. In 1952 he returned to Britain and became an Assistant Governor in the Prison Service.

He was a member of the Island branch of the Burma Star Association, and was interested in sport. He played for his regiment at soccer and tennis and represented them in the army championships in India during his younger days.

He knew Bill Travers of Born Free fame who, as a subaltern, served under him in Burma, and he also knew David Niven. The actor Jackie Coogan was the glider pilot who flew him into Burma.

His two daughters, Jill and Ann, both attended Carisbrooke Grammar School, where his wife

taught for some time. Lieut-Colonel Russel also had seven grandchildren and this was the golden anniversary year for him and his wife.

(I know all our readers will join me in expressing our condolences to Mrs Russel and her family upon their sad loss. I have every reason to be grateful to Ted Russel (he always insisted it was Russel with one 'l') as he was an AG when I joined the staff at Wakefield Prison direct from the Staff Course in August 1956; the others being Stan Mitchell, Malcolm Holmes, Lt-Col Peter Higham and Gordon Hawkins. The Governor was the one and only Major G B Harvey. Our own two backgrounds could hardly have been more opposite, but nevertheless Ted did all he could to make me feel at home and offered some very good advice. I was aware he had been an officer in the Gurkhas, but was not aware he had such a brilliant war record. This was typical of the man. The country is worse for the loss of men of such calibre and one must wonder if the service is recruiting his like today - I doubt it very much indeed. W A W)

Horncastle, Lincs.

Many a time, thanks to the good offices of people like yourself, I have found myself recalling old times and found that I was guilty reassuring myself that I would make some response to the calls of nostalgia. Though I realise that it may not be so obvious, I would have you know that, though in exile through nobody's fault save my own, I am very appreciative of the loyalty you show in 'freshening up' the connections and reminding us of the continuing life of the Prison Service, and of the names of those 'gone before'.

I have now been retired for so long that it all seems another life. I have lost touch with so many of those with whom at one time and another I worked. Indeed, chance brings me back into contact now and again, more with ex-inmates than with ex-colleagues. I picked up the 'phone recently to find myself talking with a fifty year old ex-BI and ex-prisoner. Thank God, from all the evidence (even personal contact) this one is a success after all those years. Believe it or not, it seems I was being inflicted with nostalgia also.

I still read for a London publisher; nothing very high flown, but somewhat above Mills and Boon level (though they make money enough, Lord knows).

I enclose a Bankers Order form somewhat belatedly and perhaps I shall not now feel so shamed when I happily receive one of your very interesting Newsletters.

Sincerely,
Bernard Chilvers

Westbury, Wiltshire

Thank you for sending me the latest copy of the Retired Governors' Newsletter. I find it very enjoyable to read and it is so nice to hear of old friends. As I am now on the mailing list I attach the necessary form for my subscription.

We are both fairly well and of course we receive much news of the Service from our son-in-law.

I am sorry to read that Gordon Fowler is under the weather and wish him well. He was so respected by all.

Give my regards to Arthur Williamson. He did not know what he was starting when he commenced the Newsletter, but how thankful we all are.

Best wishes,
Norman Brown

(Glad to hear from you Norman and it is good to know you and Jean are both well. Can I once again say that the Newsletter would never have got 'off the ground' at all without the help, encouragement and tolerance that you showed me whilst we were together at Manchester. You were always willing to advise and allow me to go ahead with my idea, and together with our old friend, Eileen Fox, you were just as responsible for its success. Many thanks. Incidentally, I feel we should put Eileen's name on our mailing list. If you have it will you forward it to Brendan at Strangeways please - I think you will know the address of the Governor's office there.

Arthur W)

Stafford

This morning's arrival of the latest Newsletter and the PSN, for which many thanks, serves to remind me that I have so far failed to respond to the invitation to become an Associate Member. I trust the enclosed will make amends.

It is now almost a year since I put myself out to graze after nearly 35 years' service - undetected crime I hear you say - and I have never known a year pass so quickly. To me retirement means that when I hear the 'phone ring it is someone asking me to go out for a pint, rather than to tell me there are six on the roof, that the mailbag shop is on fire, or the staff are at the gate (again), and it is a pleasant feeling. Consequently, I am not in gainful employment, but am still involved with the British Sports Association for the Disabled and with the Royal Navy Association, both on a voluntary basis.

My house in Stafford appears to be sold (subject to contract, with all that implies) and Dorothy and I are currently looking at a variety of decaying Victorian and Edwardian Gothic horrors in the vicinity of Yeovil and Sherborne. I am reasonably confident that I will be advising you of a change of address in the near future.

My best wishes to all old colleagues and yourself.

Sincerely
Colin Heald

H M Inspectorate of Prisons, Queen Anne's Gate, London

I am writing to let you know I am transferring from the Prison Service to work for the newly constituted Special Hospitals Service Authority as Director, Home Office Liaison.

I have been interested in Special Hospitals for some time and this is a good opportunity, not only to provide a neat end to my career, but also to try to do something to help with the very real problems that exist in the Special Hospitals.

I have enjoyed my time in the Prison Service, but it is now time to move on.

With best wishes for the future,

Sincerely,
Joy Kinsley (Miss)

Reading, Berkshire

I have just received the Spring edition of the R G Newsletter and enjoyed it very much.

Enclosed is my completed Bankers Order form which I trust will bring me future copies of the well presented and informative Newsletter.

Wendy and I send all our best wishes to the many dear friends we have made over the years.

Sincerely,
Brian Hayday

Radstock, Bath

Thank you for your letter following my note to Graham Smith when I ordered the new pattern ties.

I obviously did not make myself clear when I commented on Associate Membership of the Prison Governors' Association and, on reflection, should not have bothered Graham anyway.

Many thanks for forwarding a copy of the PGA magazine - it made interesting reading, all very heartening and very professional. Give my regards to Terry Bone when next your paths cross. We served together when I governed Norwich and I have happy memories of him and his family.

Ivy and I are both well and keep fully occupied travelling and one thing and another.

My regards to any around who may remember me.

All the best,
Malcolm Brown

Lytham, Lancs

I regret not having returned the enclosed before now. It has been pending in the *Things that need Doing* file in the bedroom-cum-study, and I am appalled at the length of time that has passed since I intended doing something about it. Still, that is the beauty of retirement - you can often choose the thing that is most pleasant first and leave other matters until later. However, I send this with much appreciation of all you are doing to maintain the very high standard of the Retired Governors' Newsletter.

Though I am a fair distance from Manchester I do get into that city occasionally when I go to the North West Regional Health Authority offices in

Piccadilly, being a member of the Chaplains' Advisory Panel. If I can be of any help at all at any time please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All good wishes,
Albert Greasley (Rev)

Gosport, Hants

Many thanks for the RGN. I enclose a subscription and it is so good to hear of former colleagues both through the RGN and the Prison Service News.

I am of course delighted to be considered eligible for membership, being only temporarily 'retired' from my career in the Prison Service, to raise my family. I have two sons, Matthew 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and Christopher 9 months.

In my spare time I am local organiser for the National Women's Register, a task which helps prevent me from 'cabbaging'.

I look forward to returning to work at some future date to make a 'fresh start' of my own.

Till then, and with best wishes,
Pam Gully

WANTED

**Part Time Administrative
and Clerical help
in the PGA's London Office**

Salary by negotiation
Enquiries to the Editor
or to the office on 01 217 8591

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Arthur de Frisching has moved to Midland Region replacing **Richard Tilt** - now head of P8 Division.

Joe Whitty has moved to Feltham.

Alan Rayfield is now at Long Lartin.

Bill Abbott, John Hunter and **Martin Mogg** have just been promoted to Governor I.