

Retired Governors Newsletter

In co-operation with
The Prison Governors
Association



EDITION 24
AUTUMN 1991

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EDITORIAL

MAILING LIST

Among new members added to our mailing list for the Retired Governors' Newsletter are the following: A Kirby, R S Smith, J Sandy, C J Jones, R Withers, D Shaw, M Selby.

The Retired Governors' Newsletter is circulated to around 300 retired members of the Service, including spouses of retired Governors. In addition, one copy is circulated to each establishment to keep serving members in touch with those who have retired.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Can we remind all our readers to notify the editor of changes of address.

NEWS FROM RETIRED GOVERNORS

Our main objective of the Retired Governors' Newsletter is to pass on news between retired Governors. We would welcome many more contributions from all of you who have retired, particularly of social events and gatherings involving retired Governors.

THE BRIXTON ESCAPE

Most retired Governors will have felt the greatest sympathy for the position that Reg Withers and others were placed in after the Brixton escape. Retired Governors will no doubt recall that a number of previous occasions have occurred when Governors have been made the convenient scapegoat for some prison disaster or other. As many of you will have seen, the Association did its best to defend Reg Withers particularly in respect of those matters for which he was clearly not responsible. There was a great deal more to this incident than we can put into print.

RETIRED GOVERNORS' TIE

The PGA symbol modified for retired Governors is now available. The symbol is displayed at the top of this newsletter. Ties incorporating this symbol are available from Graham Smith, Governor V, Prison Service College, Love Lane, Wakefield, at £4.50 (post paid). Ties are available in dark blue, maroon and black.

GILBERT HAIR

The Editor has received the following request for information by an author researching a book:

"I should be most grateful if you could publish my request for information in the Retired Governors' Newsletter. Some years ago, I became friends with Mr Hair's widow Lucy and their daughter Barbara; the former has since died, and the latter seems to have moved from London.

I am anxious to obtain any information about Gilbert Hair, who was clearly a most interesting and (speaking of penology) influential person.

Yours sincerely
Jonathan Goodman, 43 Ealing Village, LONDON W5 2LZ"

PGA GOLF TOURNAMENT

John O'Neill writes:

"The 1991 inaugural meeting of the PGA Golf Society at Lutterworth Golf Club on Wednesday 29 May 1991 was a huge success. It wasn't only because of the "POTS" to be won but the hospitality, friendliness and excellent food contributed enormously. There were only two features which tended to put a damper on the day, the small attendance and the cold weather.

Nevertheless, the magnificent eleven, resplendent in a spectrum of colours, varying from the crushed strawberry of Terry Hinchcliffe to the more sober black of Barry Lee, drove off into a stiff November breeze. It's amazing how golf has changed over the years. At one time all you could get by way of golf balls was the dimpled white Dunlop 65. There was Terry Hinchcliffe contrasting his crushed strawberry with spangled coloured balls - all the better to see we are told. It would never happen at St Andrews!

The rules and etiquette were strictly adhered to and Davis, Wiltshire and O'Neill were no exception, calling through Davies, Gordon and Hinchcliffe while they looked for one of O'Neill's huge drives to all points of the compass. However the remark from Teg Davies that the five minute search was up was most sportsmanlike and unbecoming of the intrepid trio. It was rumoured that Teg was getting his own back on O'Neill for the occasions he used to thrash Teg when the Governor/Dep pair played at Ranby. Poor old Teg, emphasis on old, unfortunately had to finish early in the afternoon having injured his arm while driving 293 yards to a 320 yard hole. That's absolutely true. He was on the front of the green for one. He was later heard to say ruefully, 'It's my short game that lets me down, I took five at that hole.' Never mind, Teg, it was ever thus.

We hope you have fully recovered and that you will not leave it another year before playing again, our nerves couldn't stand it. The rumour is abroad that Teg and his mates would have been penalised by two strokes for slow play had it not been for Teg's injury, but it's only a rumour.

Martin Higginson, the Legal and General representative who had teed off first with Barry Lee, put one of his drivers up a tree. He refused categorically to do a Bernhard Langar and climb the tree. The poor excuse he gave was that he wasn't

insured! I put it down to lack of bottle but I must not be too censorious, after all they did sponsor the event.

Gaines, Dixon and Penwright seemed to have eyes like hawks for not only were they able to keep their own projectiles on the fairway, but they solicitously pointed out to others where theirs were. Mostly under trees and in heavy rough. There was a strong suspicion that they were after the "POTS" and had kicked these into unplayable positions in an attempt to destroy the competition, but one does not harbour these thoughts over long.

The morning round finished. Soup you could trot a mouse on and ample ale and the inner man was ready for a siesta and not another 18 holes. The leader in every area at the halfway stage was Allen Davis. Every effort was made to have his handicap altered by at least four strokes and in view of his being a member of Lutterworth, this did not seem too harsh. Alas the secretary, Barry Lee, had already started his second round before Allen had come in so it was hoped the reduction would be made retrospectively - it was. The fun continued in the arctic conditions and a final roar went up from Paddy Scriven when O'Neill putted from at least 40 yards for a par on the eighteenth. It was only 18 inches but it seemed like 40 yards to him.

In the nineteenth the committee were hastily scrutinising Allen Davis' card: it appeared he had scooped the lot again despite the reduction in handicap. A rule was quickly passed: nobody could receive more than one prize and that was final!

The meal was excellent and very much appreciated by all. For one reason or another the following received beautifully engraved cut glass pint glasses in presentation boxes: Davis, Hinchcliffe, O'Neill, Penwright, Lee and Higginson. Some of these also received Legal & General umbrellas, again for one reason or another, but Malcolm Wiltshire got his for the most impressive cards, beating his morning round by at least 15 in the afternoon. What Teg Davies got beside a busted arm is anybody's guess.

It was a delightful day spent in good company away from the telephone. We all enjoyed it and hope that the event is annual, in and that many more will take part. Retired members interested in the 1992 Event are asked to notify Barry Lee, Governor V at Everthorpe (Brough, North Humberside HU15 1RD).

RETIRED GOVERNORS' GARDEN PARTY

On Saturday 23 June 1992 the Prison Governors' Association will host a retired members Garden Party at PSC Newbold Revel, Warwickshire. All retired Governors, Chief Officers and their spouses, widows and widowers are invited to attend.

The event will begin at 1.30pm. There will be an opportunity to see the college and its magnificent grounds and the Prison Service Museum.

There will be a short service in the chapel for those who wish to attend and a display by the dog section (with new control and restraint methods).

A brass band will play and high tea will be served.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend as, more than anything, it is intended as an opportunity for old friends to meet.

We will be able to arrange overnight accommodation on Friday and/or Saturday for anyone who wishes, and perhaps some of you may like to make arrangements to share transport or groups may wish to get together and hire.

More details and directions to Newbold Revel will appear in the next newsletter, but put the date in your diary and if you are in touch with other retired colleagues, let them know!

If you would like to come but have transport problems or any other queries, telephone or write to the PGA office on 071 217 8591 and we will try to help. The nearest British Rail station is Rugby (20 minutes) and arrangements can be made for cars to meet those who wish to travel by train.

PGA SPRING BALL

The PGA are holding a Spring Ball at Newbold Revel on Saturday 23 May 1992.

Retired members are welcome to attend. Tickets, which will include supper with wine, will be approximately £20 per head. Overnight accommodation is available and transport will also be available from some areas.

It promises to be a splendid event (one of the bands even plays Glenn Miller music!) and we will be delighted to see retired colleagues.

If you are interested then telephone or write to the office for ticket information. Room 134, Horseferry House, London SW1P 2AW

PGA NEWS

I am very pleased to report that the PGA continues to develop. We now have over 950 members and over 160 retired Governors are registered as Associate Members. During the year the Association started to make its first international contacts with meetings between officers of the PGA and representatives of the Portuguese and Polish Prison Services. Among other developments, we are introducing a completely independent Stress Counselling Service for our members, something I am sure retired Governors will recognise is probably long overdue.

PGA ELECTION RESULTS

A postal ballot for the posts of Chair and Vice Chair of the Association in September/October 1991 produced a return of over 80% of the membership. The results were:

Chairman:	Bill Abbott (Pentonville)	229
	Brendan O'Friel (Risley)	565
Vice Chair: (Two Posts)	John Baxter (Magilligan)	187
	Lynne Bowles (Whitemoor)	496
	Chris Scott (Swinfen Hall)	497
	David Simons (Highpoint)	242

DEATHS OF RETIRED GOVERNORS

I regret to report the deaths of Alan Hughes, Norman Low and P A M Heald and Barney Duggan.

OBITUARIES

Over the last two or three years the PGA has worked with the families of Governors to produce several obituaries for the national press. We hope this work meets with general approval of Governors as another way of properly marking the contribution made by individuals to the Prison Service.

Incidentally, wherever it has seemed possible and appropriate, the PGA has tried to ensure it was represented at the funerals of retired Governors and that a wreath was sent as a mark of respect on behalf of both serving and retired Governors.

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FINANCIAL POSITION

Recipients of the Newsletter will recall that a couple of years ago we put the finances onto a more business-like footing by introducing Standing Orders of £5. The effect of this new arrangement will be seen in our financial returns.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
1989	700	775
1990	1165	794

We started 1991 with a current balance of £510 but so far we have only spent £265 and our credit balance on the most recent Bank Statement is £1,107 so I will expect us to finish up by 31 December in roughly the same position as we began, around £500 in credit. Particular thanks go to Bill Martin, our Treasurer, who continues to look after the Newsletter finances.

If we can afford it, the Newsletter team will consider producing the 25th Edition of the Newsletter in the format of the PGA Magazine, i.e. we will be able to include photographs and of course we would hope to produce something of a bumper edition. To that end the Editor will be particularly pleased to have photographs of gatherings of retired Governors for inclusion in our 25th Edition.

SENIOR GOVERNOR MOVES

Richard Tilt from HQ to a Churchill Fellowship.

Ian Boon to Industrial Relations Division.

Peter Kitteridge on promotion to Assistant Director to London South Area.

Alan Rayfield from Long Lartin to South Coast Area.

Terry Bone on promotion to Assistant Director to Trans-Pennine Area.

Dai Curtis on promotion to Governor I to Mercia Area.

Tony Fitzpatrick to Garth Prison. Andrew Coyle (ex Scottish Service) to Brixton.

Tim Newell to Grendon on promotion to Governor I.

EXTRACTS FROM PRISON SERVICE NEWS

We again include a selection of items which have appeared in Prison Service News since the last issue of the Newsletter. It will be appreciated that recent issues of the PGN have been largely concerned with the Woolf Enquiry Report and the Government's response. These extracts do not attempt to reflect this area.

Current Developments

The Home Secretary has opened HMP Belmarsh (near Woolwich) - the first new prison for men built in London since Wormwood Scrubs in 1874.

In the aftermath of Judge Tumin's inquiry into the Brixton Category A escapes:

a) Admiral Sir Richard Lygo, former British Aerospace Chief Executive, assisted by Lord Rayner, is carrying out a review of Prison Service managerial structures and personnel policies .

b) The Chief Constable of the West Midlands and Gordon Lakes are carrying out an urgent inquiry into the operation of the machinery for receiving and transmitting information about high security prisoners.

The Prison Service now has its own PE Training Centre at Clayton Hall, in the grounds of the Sports Council's National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire.

Cardphones - already available to inmates at YOI's, open and Category C establishments - have now been

the subject of a successful pilot scheme with Category B unconvicted prisoners at Winchester.

Over the next six months all staff at establishments will be offered the chance of a confidential health screening by representatives of the Civil Service Occupational Health Service.

HMP Whitemoor, a dispersal prison for 520, in Cambridgeshire was due to receive its first inmates in September. Its construction has included the creation of a nature reserve on waste land just outside the walls.

Distinguished Visitors

The Princess Royal has visited Grendon. Mrs Angela Rumbold has visited Liverpool. Archbishop Barbarito, the Papal Pro-Nuncio to Great Britain, visited Wakefield and led the ceremony to mark the blessing of the new chapel (replacing the one burnt down 14 years ago). He was supported by Bishop Konstant of Leeds (RC), Bishop Hope of Wakefield (C of E) and the Rev Roger Ducker, chairman of Leeds District Methodist Church.

Poland's first full-time prison chaplain has spent two months working in Lincoln prison and nearby hospitals.

Michael Parkinson opened the new temporary kitchens at Wandsworth.

Round the Establishments

Leyhill won a Silver Gilt Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. Among the visitors to their 'Edible Garden' - all the plants could be eaten - was the Princess Royal, Prince Edward, Princess Michael of Kent and the Home Secretary.

Albany will cease to be a maximum security prison in the mid- 1990's.

A £3.2 million industrial centre has been opened at Highpoint.

Feltham YOI competed in this year's Rosslyn Park Schools National Sevens.

Latchmere House has begun to operate as the first resettlement establishment - housing inmates who intend to live in the Greater London area and are within six to nine months of release from sentences of six years or more. Ford's first Open Day was opened by Angela Rumbold. Visitors included Dame Vera Lynn, David Essex and Michael Winner.

Maidstone won this year's Windlesham Trophy for the best kept prison garden.

Albany's 'Rambo' - handler Officer Harry Jacks - won this year's National Prison Service Dog Trials.

YOUR LETTERS

Caergwrle, Clwyd

Would you be kind enough to accept the enclosed cheque for the Newsletter for whatever period it will cover.

At the age of 81 years I plead forgiveness for news of many whom I met through Feltham, Portland, Latchmere, Hollesley Bay, Scrubs, Pollington and twice at North Sea Camp; and I am intrigued to know the bits of news of several whose names appear in the Newsletter.

Thank you for including me in your mailing list and congratulations on your competition.

Sincerely

John Garrod.

Freshwater, Isle of Wight

Thank you for sending the recent issue of Newsletter; as always, I found the contents interesting and enjoyable reading.

Will you kindly note our change of address. With our son Graham now at the University of Southampton, Wendy and I have decided to say farewell to Reading and are now settled in this lovely island.

As you reported in Edition 23, I was one of the 'Saga' team who made a small contribution to the Lord Justice Woolf Inquiry into the prison disturbances of April 1990. If you feel that a 'reflection' from me would be of some interest to former colleagues and friends, I will certainly be prepared to put pen to paper, albeit briefly, about the experience from my personal point of view. Perhaps you will be kind enough to let me know if you would welcome a contribution from me.

Sincerely

Brian Hayday

(We would certainly welcome your contribution Brian and look forward to publishing it in due course. Now, however, I read that the Home Secretary has started yet another enquiry into our Service; this time he has 'unearthed' a retired Admiral to carry out the task. Does this mean we shall all have to start swinging the lampshades when we eventually read the report? One wonders who they will get next - perhaps a Director of Marks and Spencer? WAW)

Malton, North Yorkshire

I've been going to write several times to say how much I enjoy reading the Newsletter and seeing names I remembered of people coming through the Staff College and following their promotions through to retirement. What has spurred me to put pen to paper is your mentioning my new address and saying I am a Yorkshire lass who has returned to her native county. My native county is over the Pennines, the red rose. I was only six months old when we went to live in Wiltshire, my father moved around nearly as much as Governors. So Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Kent and Yorkshire - in particular Leeds and Wakefield - have all been home to me. Now I am in Ryedale, a lovely part of

North Yorkshire as you know, and I am enjoying my retirement.

Major Harvey was Governor at Wakefield when I was appointed. He told Duncan Fairn when he arrived as the first Principal of the Imperial Training School (as it was first called), he didn't know what I would be like but I was the best looking one of those who had applied.

I started this letter three weeks ago but have been held up, having been stricken with sciatica, caused by trying to catch up with years of neglect in the large garden I inherited when moving to a downstairs flat. Can you tell me why registered Osteopaths are not included in the Health Service? It's costly treatment on a small pension, but at least I get great relief and hope the treatments soon finish, even if the big garden remains.

Best wishes
Enid Mather

(I apologise for assuming you were a Yorkshire lass, Enid - particularly as you were born in 'enemy country' - but then, someone has to be born in Lancashire after all. We are happy to regard you as an honorary Yorkshire-woman after all the work you did for the Service at Wakefield. You never told me in those days that you had been chosen for the reasons given by Major Harvey - and I can just imagine him telling Duncan Fairn to appoint you. No wonder we had good meals when he joined our particular Staff Course in the evenings. With regards the Health Service, I suppose we should think ourselves lucky that we still have one these days. WAW)

Manly, New South Wales, Australia

I don't know if this enclosure will be of any interest to readers of Newsletter. It's a bit like an Academy Award for the Best Foreign Film.

I shall be going to the USA in November and intend to run up the mother of all bar bills at my complimentary hotel accommodation.

Glad to hear your plumbing has now been fixed.

Kind regards to all readers of Newsletter.

Gordon Hawkins

(The enclosure mentioned by Gordon was an invitation from the American Society of Criminology, based at the Ohio State University, to attend their fiftieth anniversary celebration.)

The actual wording was as follows:

"It is my great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to receive the American Society of Criminology's Sellin-Gluck Award. As you will know, this award recognises outstanding scholarly contributions to the discipline of criminology by a non-North American criminologist. In your particular case, the Awards Committee took note of your outstanding work on public rhetoric about organised crime, the politics of crime control, prison administration, deterrence, pornography and the scale of imprisonment.

This is a wonderful achievement in a very distinguished

career. We intend to celebrate your achievement along with the 50th anniversary of the Society at our November meeting in San Francisco. As you know, the recipient of the award is asked to give an address. Within the next few weeks could you please send the title for your address to Ruth Paterson, Program Chair. Also, since we would like to announce the award with appropriate fanfare in the 'Criminologist', please send a copy of your resume.

I am pleased to inform you that the Society will reimburse your travel expenses to the meetings to the amount of \$...., and we will as well provide three nights complimentary hotel accommodation.

I look forward to extending my personal congratulations to you in San Francisco.

Yours etc"

(This is a magnificent achievement, Gordon, and may I congratulate you on behalf of all who know and served alongside of you in the UK. What a pity it did not include your old bar pal Aiden Healey. Nevertheless, I hope you enjoyed your trip and that they did not query your eventual bar account. WAW)

University of California, Berkeley, USA

Many thanks for your long and interesting letter of June 9th just received here. I am situated at Berkeley until the end of August - writing another book.

No I'm not Dr Hawkins - I am not even a Professor any more as I've retired. The Americans always assume that if you're anyone at all you must have a doctorate.

I am afraid I don't know where Aiden Healey is. I've lost track. Is he still working? Surely you can find out with all your contacts. If you do I'd be grateful for his present address so that I can renew contact with him.

Take care and regards

Gordon (Hawkins)

P.S. Aiden and I used to drink Tetley's Bitter. Must have been a blow to them when we both left. Out here I drink a variety of exotic brews.

(Many thanks again for your news Gordon. For a man who has retired you appear to be leading a busy - and no doubt profitable - life. Good luck to you. I will try to locate Aiden, and if we succeed I will put you in touch. WAW)

I feel certain many of our readers will remember Aiden Healey. He was for some years the PE Organiser at Wakefield where he was responsible for the Staff College, Officers' Training School and then later he went to Head Office as the National PE Organiser. At some stage he left to go to a school in Surrey, but later returned and was the PE Organiser for the North Region.

I know he bought a property at Thornton-le-Dale in North Yorkshire, but believe he has moved again. If any of our readers happens to know his current address, will they please let me know and I will write to him - and also send him a copy of the Newsletter.

W A Williamson

Wakefield

Two things prompt me to write to you on this lovely evening - I have just put the telephone down having spoken to Frank Ransley who lives alone in Hampshire, but his daughter lives nearby. At the age of 94 he is doing very well - he may not think so, but at that age he can answer the phone in the true 'Ransley manner' and knows all there is going on around.

The Service these days isn't what it used to be, says he, but many of us on the eve of, or in, our octogenarian years would agree; we were brought up in the Alec Paterson era when it was an honour to be one of its members. However, many of us owe so much to Frank Ransley and may he continue to cope and enjoy what he has.

Alan Hughes, my closest friend in the Service, died in St Mary's Hospital, Bristol on 7th August last. A man the Service knew was there, but never acknowledged to the full. He was applauded to the full when responding to the toast at Governors' Conferences, but that was Alan using his wit, humour, humanity, sincerity and passion for honesty and loyalty. He was a man of high principles, one who feared nothing for his faith was such that no-one could challenge him. Alan was a terrific family man, but few beyond his family knew him intimately - I did. He will be remembered by so many of the staff he governed, and a smile on the faces of those who benefited from his wisdom. He never suffered fools easily. A much misunderstood character who had so much to offer, yet the simplicity of his reassuring was, to some, too simple to be accepted.

On the lighter side, I am keeping well, considering. My son gave me a set of golf clubs for my 79th birthday present earlier in the year and last week I completed 90 holes in seven days with the best round of 62. Mark you, the house suffers, the garden suffers, and at the moment, so does my back. No doubt the cold weather will put paid to the fun, but I intend to enjoy it while I can.

Sincerely
John Watson

Keynsham, Bristol

Having recently retired from the Service, I returned my PGA membership card but would like to continue membership as a retired member.

Sincerely
A Kirby - ex Gov 4 (Works)

(Glad to have you join us. As an ex works member myself, I am more than pleased to ensure you of your future copies of Newsletter. WAW)

Cowes. Isle of Wight

After 11 years of retirement and a considerable amount of hinting from my wife, I have at last put pen to paper. The motivation being that on 3 September 1991, a momentous day, not because of the outbreak of the war, but because it is also my birthday, Tom Abbott, the present Governor of Camp Hill Prison held a get together for retired Governors and their wives and

widows of Governors, living on the Isle of Wight.

The company was backed up by the present Governors of the other two island prisons and a representative group from Camp Hill staff. We all had a splendid time and I'm sure all present were grateful to Tom for the thought and effort that went into this party.

Living on a holiday island we see quite a few retired colleagues when they holiday here. Jim Absalom has called some years and this year we were pleased to see Murdo McCleod and his wife at our home. Pat and I are expecting young Alistair Miller on his yearly visit and once again I'll try to beat him at golf. Charlie and Stella Pratt have visited us in the past but they are so busy in Lewes that we have to book them years ahead.

We enjoy keeping abreast of the news - thanks to the sterling work from the producers of 'Retired Governors' Newsletter' and the PGA Magazine.

Of course we have Peter and Joyce Meech, Maurice and Sheila Bryan, Roland and Gay Atrill, and Anne Wheeler living very close by and we meet up regularly. In October we are going to the wedding of Anne and Leslie's youngest daughter, Libby.

Pat and I enjoy our lives in Cowes. I am on the general committee and the sailing committee of our local yacht clubs, I play golf every morning at Cowes and remain President of the Camp Hill Wine Circle.

Returning to the reason for my writing, you may be interested to know who attended this 'reunion' at Camp Hill. They included Roland and Gay Atrill, Peter and Joyce Meech, Wally Colton and his wife, Major Martin, Mrs Russel, Mrs Packham, Mrs Anne Wheeler, David Young (the last Camp Hill Chief Officer), John Marriott and Ray Mitchell and their wives.

I send my best wishes to all who remember me and should any of them be holidaying on the IOW do get in touch. Give plenty of notice please, if you can - we are always busy - but the important thing is - do get in touch.

Sincerely
Stan Bester

I have received several personal letters from Norman Brown and the following are some of the contents:

Westbury, Wilts

Sorry for the delay but I have been slightly out of action. I was rushed off to the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol on 7th March with a brain haemorrhage, but thankfully it is such a wonderful place and I am still here. The tests they give are similar to those given if you are off out in space. Nothing really painful but in a way amusing. I then go off to the Royal Bath United for tests for glaucoma, but again all is well, although they have found a defect in my left eye. I am more or less back to normal and trying to finish a half completed bathroom decoration.

Anne and family are now in Kent as Ian got made up to PO at the new place in London - the old barracks at Woolwich, where they even allow the cons to wear their own clothes. It all seems like a four star hotel to me.

I am looking forward to the next Newsletter. I find it all

very interesting. Manchester staff send me cards, etc and have kept me in touch with the new prison. They have knocked down the old club and have a new one near the mess, which I am told is a very superior type of eating house ... about time too. They hope the old remand prison will soon be back in use, but at the moment are pushing for extra staff ... as usual.

Regards
Norman

later he wrote:

Westbury, Wilts

Sorry to inform you that Noel Proctor's wife, Norma, has died after being ill a very long time as you know. I am glad to have news of Frank Ransley. My word, still going strong at 94. Where does he live? He was a very good friend to us all at Rochester.

(See John Watson's letter, Norman. If you want to send a letter to Mr Ransley we will be delighted to send it on for you - or any other of his old friends. I know he will enjoy getting letters from you all. WAW)

Latest report on the eye situation is at least promising. They have decided I have not got glaucoma, but there is a defect in the eye, but so far they cannot determine what it is. I have another appointment on 5th November.

I see 72 members from various establishments have been awarded commendations for their action in the riots. Noel Proctor was one, I am pleased to see. He still refuses to ease off and take any time off. By the way, from the POA Magazine I see some chap is writing a book on dear old Gilbert Mair; a bit late I would have thought since he left us in 1965. Anyway, if anyone has any thoughts on the subject they are asked to write to:

Mr Goodman, 43 Ealing Village, LONDON W5 2LZ

He is an historian and states that Gilbert joined as a Prison Officer, but if I remember correctly he joined as a Clerical Officer. He also says Gilbert was on the Inspectorate but I cannot remember this being so. I will write him, as I knew Gilbert when Dad was a Housemaster with him at Wakefield, and then he became Deputy Governor there. There are so many stories about Gilbert, but we cannot possibly reveal them all.

Sincerely
Norman

(As most of our readers will know, Rev Noel Proctor is the C of E Chaplain at Manchester and was in the thick of the riot. He was conducting the service when it started and had to be rescued from the Chapel by some of the prisoners, but was injured in the process. His wife Norma died after suffering many years with cancer. Throughout their period together at Manchester she supported him to the full and I know that she will be sadly missed by all. Noel continues at Strangeways. He has three daughters. One is nursing and another is a school teacher in the Barnsley area. A remarkable man in every way, and those who have served with him will be delighted to read he has been commended - not that it will mean a great deal to Noel. WAW)

Manchester

Thank you for your kind letter and for your loving concern.

As you know, Norma had cancer for 18 years and yet we were granted those years in order to see our girls grow up. Susan is 26 and a midwife at Bradford. Helen is 22 and a teacher at Barnsley. Rebekah is 18 and is completing her A levels.

Norma and I knew that each day we had together was a bonus, but as you can imagine I do miss her terribly. But I know we shall meet again.

Yours very sincerely
Noel (Proctor)

STOP PRESS

ARTHUR PEARSON

I am sorry to inform you that Arthur Pearson died on 4th June. He was the first Deputy Chief Education Officer until his premature retirement in 1987.

Arthur joined the Prison Service in 1970 after a career in teaching and in Local Authority administration. During his time with us he contributed to the expansion of the education services and the development of their quality.

In recognition of this work in the development of the Open University within the Prisons Department, he was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University and an Honorary Fellowship of the Library Association.

The Prison Service is indebted to him for the contribution he made to its education service and it is sad that after so much work and dedication he had so few summers to "watch the roses grow".

I G Benson
Chief Education Officer

1992 PGA Diaries are being sent to Associate Members

The editor would welcome comments from readers or pre retirement courses, information etc. What was your experience of what was provided and was it satisfactory and sufficient.