

The Retired Prison Governors

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association

NEWSLETTER

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PERENNIS

We have had another excellent 6 months recruiting new readers. Among those joining our mailing list are Jo Fowler, Gerry Ross, John Cooper, Alex Fraser, Peter Tucker, Bill Brice, Alan Rawson, Graham Lawrence, J J Gilmore, H J Tanner, Tom Cadman, Doris Kendal, Keith Denshaw, David Alderson, John Gratton, Bill Ginn, Gerald Fagg. Welcome to everyone. We hope you find the Newsletter and associated services of real benefit to you as a retired Governor. The Newsletter now circulates to over 400 addresses.

4th RETIRED GOVERNORS GARDEN PARTY

There was another excellent turnout for the 4th Retired Governors Garden Party at Newbold Revel. Photographs of the event are carried elsewhere in this edition. There are also a number of letters in the Letter Column about the event. It followed the format of previous years. Gordon Fowler was asked to open some new refurbished accommodation (with integral sanitation) at Newbold Revel, which he did with suitable style and panache.

We are very grateful to the staff at Newbold Revel for providing such good hospitality including ensuring that some of us could watch part of the World Cup final.

WINTER HOUSE PARTY 1996

We have arranged another Winter House Party following the success of last year's House Party at Buxton. This year we are going further South and we have booked the Abbey Hotel, Malvern for the weekend 23 - 25 February. Full details of the event will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. We would be grateful if you could make bookings in good time.

GENERAL

My thanks to several of our readers who very rapidly told us Mrs Betty Dennis' address.

Can I remind everyone that if we do not obtain changes of addresses from people, we will have no knowledge of your whereabouts

and you are unlikely to receive the Magazine. Can I also remind everyone that our best source of new readers, particularly among those who have been retired a little while, is yourselves. You have an unrivalled network of contacts and it is always a great pleasure when someone who has been retired a number of years writes in to ask to take the Newsletter through one of our existing readers.

OBITUARIES

I regret to have to report the death of the following:

Lady Megan Bull, Vernon Elvy, Gordon Francis Edwards, Martin Burnett, Ken Watson and Gordon Chambers

I also regret to report the death of 2 serving Governors. Colin Scott who had a piece in the last Newsletter unfortunately died in May. Douglas McCombe, Deputy Governor at Exeter died very unexpectedly in June.

SENIOR STAFF MOVES

The following senior staff moves may be of interest. Mr A Walker

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■ Winter House Party 1996 – 23-25 February – See inside for details ■

(ex Governor Barlinnie and ex Deputy Chief Executive Scottish Service to Director of Operations South, Mrs M Donneley, Promoted to Governor 1 in-post at HM Prison The Mount, Mr R Doughty promoted in-post to Governor 1 at HM Prison Preston, Mr P Leonard promoted to Governor 1 in charge of HM Prison Frankland, Mr J Harrison promoted to Governor 1 and posted to Contracts and Competitions Group at Headquarters, Mr M Morrison promoted to Governor 1 and taking charge of Parkhurst, Mr J Mullen promoted to Governor 1 and taking charge of Long Lartin and Mr R Tasker promoted to Governor 1 in-post at Swaleside. Mr R Halward, Assistant Director to lead a project on the custody of high risk prisoners, Peter Earnshaw Governor 1 to take charge of Manchester Prison, Nick Wall Governor 1 to take charge of Norwich Prison, Rod Jacques Governor 1 to HM Prison

Inspectorate, Mr R Duncan Governor of Wakefield to take charge of Liverpool Prison, Mr Colin Allen has been appointed Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons and Mr A Woods to the Inspectorate of Prisons on promotion to Governor 1.

BUPA PRIVATE HEALTH CARE FOR PGA PENSIONERS

I draw everyone's attention to the PGA BUPA Health Care Scheme which we have now been able to extend to PGA pensioners. Details later in the Newsletter.

PGA NEWS

The PGA continues to flourish despite immense problems and difficulties. We held a very successful Conference at the end of March at the Abbey Hotel in Malvern. This was the first time that the Association had moved out of Prison Service accommoda-

tion and held a Conference in a Hotel. We believe this was the right step now that the Association is firmly established.

At the time of writing we are awaiting a whole series of changes, including the publication of General Learmont's Report into Prison Security, a re organisation of the Prison Service area structure, the arrival of a new Personnel Director just appointed from the Private Sector and a host of changes to the way establishments are run. Morale among senior staff is pretty low through the combination of very heavy work load and a growing blame culture which seeks scapegoats when things go wrong. The Prison population in August reached a new all time high of 51,800 with 53,000 plus projected for next year. The most frequent question to the PGA Office is about early retirement packages.

Below and far right The Retired Governors Garden Party 1995



DOES ANYONE APPRECIATE THE SERVICE GOVERNORS GIVE?

I received the following letter from Jo Fowler and I shall be interested if others have had the same experience . . .

Lowestoft
Suffolk

Dear Brendan,

I hope you will have received my earlier letter of thanks I have received so many letters of good - will but one thing sticks out as appalling, not just in my mind but in the opinion of others. In fact several suggested that I should send an open E Mail round the Service similar to the one sent a few days ago by Mr Walker to John May. If he and all Governors can be publicly side swiped perhaps a taste of the same for Messrs Lewis and Walker would have been appropriate. I have refrained

because I am not prepared to sink to their level

Although I have received a letter from John Thomas Ferrand as grade manager I would have thought a letter of thanks for 25 years of governorial service from the heart of the organisation would not have come amiss. I realise I have resigned but not under a cloud nor to my knowledge have I ever embarrassed the Service. It is an indication of the level to which the personnel management qualities of the upper echelons of the Service have sunk in their pursuit of business practices and neck saving techniques. Under any previous Director General or Board member under whose ambit I came a letter of thanks, probably from both would have been received. I wish every one well for the future but I fear for the well being of every Governor under this hard - bitten mechanistic leadership.

With Best Wishes
Jo

SSAFA AND FHS

I have received a letter from the above organisation which is published below. I hope it may be of interest to some colleagues.

Dear Retired Prison Governors SSAFA/FHS together look after anyone who is, or has ever been in the Armed Forces, their families and dependants. 14 million people are eligible for our help. In 1994, our dedicated volunteers helped on 83,380 occasions and obtained £7.6 million for our clients.

As a member of a caring profession, in your retirement, you might be interested in offering a few hours a week of your expertise to us.

In many parts of the UK we need more caseworkers, friendship visitors, drivers, treasurers, team organisers, fundraisers, etc. We offer job satisfaction, training, team work and all out-of-pocket expenses.

If you are interested in volunteering, or would just like more information, please contact me. We need you.

Mrs Ann Needle
Branch Recruitment Officer
SSAFA Central Office
Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother House
19 Queen Elizabeth Street
LONDON SE1 2LP
Tel: 0171 403 8783 ext. 223



Extracts from Prison Service News

A selection of items which have appeared
in Prison Service News since the last issue
of the Newsletter.

EXTRACTS FROM PRISON SERVICE NEWS

In May, Prison Service News changed its format, abandoning its previous tabloid style for a glossy magazine size and lay-out. There was a protest in the next issue, (from an outside academic), followed by an assurance from the editor that feed-back had generally been favourable. Your collator meditated cynically on whether the change was trendy, user-friendly (whatever that means), cost-cutting or even politically correct! What he had found is that it is just as difficult to extract items likely to be of interest to governors. (Incidentally the April issue cost £9,913 less £2,373 advertising revenue).

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

In the second year of the Executive Agency results include:

Rates of escape down 32%, assaults on staff and prisoners down 6%, trebling ended in March 1994 and 82% of the population are in uncrowded conditions. 95% of prisoners with access to sanitation 24 hours a day.

Between April 1994 and March 1995 there were 196 escapes from prison service establishments and escorts, plus 15 from escorts by private contractors.

Alan Walker, previously Deputy Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, has joined the Prison's Board as one of the two operational directors.

The new prisons in Bridgend and Fazackelley will be the first to be designed, constructed, managed and financed by the private sector.

Lowdham Grange is to be rebuilt and operated by the private sector. The new prison will provide 500 category B places.

Securicor has taken over responsibility from Brixton for court duties at the Old Bailey, South-west Crown Court and the Court of Appeal. Contracting out court escort and custody work is to continue. Contracts covering South West England and South Wales, South-East England, and Central Wales will be let early in 1996.

This years Butler Trust awards were again made by the Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace. Lord 'Dickie' Attenborough celebrated their group award with the Downview Staff Drugs Team.

The maximum level of punishment which Governors can impose has been increased by 50% to 42 days.

The new temporary release system will result in a 40% reduction in the number of prisoners benefitting.

New rules have been introduced to guard against prisoners misusing card phones.

The cost of the Prison Service rose from £845,366,000 in 1979/80 to £1,638,200,000 in 1993/94, (the former figure having been calculated on 1993/94 prices)

ROUND THE ESTABLISHMENTS

Prince Charles visited the **Hull** staffs' youth crime protection scheme.

In February **Wakefield** staff commemorated the 400th anniversary of the House of Correction on the site and launched a history of the prison under the title "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush", (available from Jack Quich at the prison for £5.50 including postage and packing).

Rudgate and **Thorp Arch** has amalgamated into **HMP Wealston** - a category C/D training prison for 600 inmates.

Wymott and **Garth** share a new visitors centre (made from prefabricated sheeting).

VE Day celebrations began early at **Portland** with the discovery of an 1100 lb World War 11 German bomb under the town's former football pitch and the evacuation of 4,000 islanders - but no one from the establishment (which remained . . . during the making safe of the bomb).

A memorial garden in tribute to prison staff killed in World War 11 has been dedicated at Newbold Revel.

INTERNATIONAL

A profile of inmates in the US and this country have found that US inmates on average receive longer sentences for comparable offences, were older on average and twice as likely to have been brought up by one parent. But on both sides of the Atlantic more than 90% of the prison population were male; more than half had served previous adult sentences, about one-third had a relative,

most often a sibling, who had served a prison sentence and there was a larger proportion of minorities in prison than in their respective adult population.

The Prison Service's National Rugby XV went down for the first time to the French Prison Service Team by 12-10.

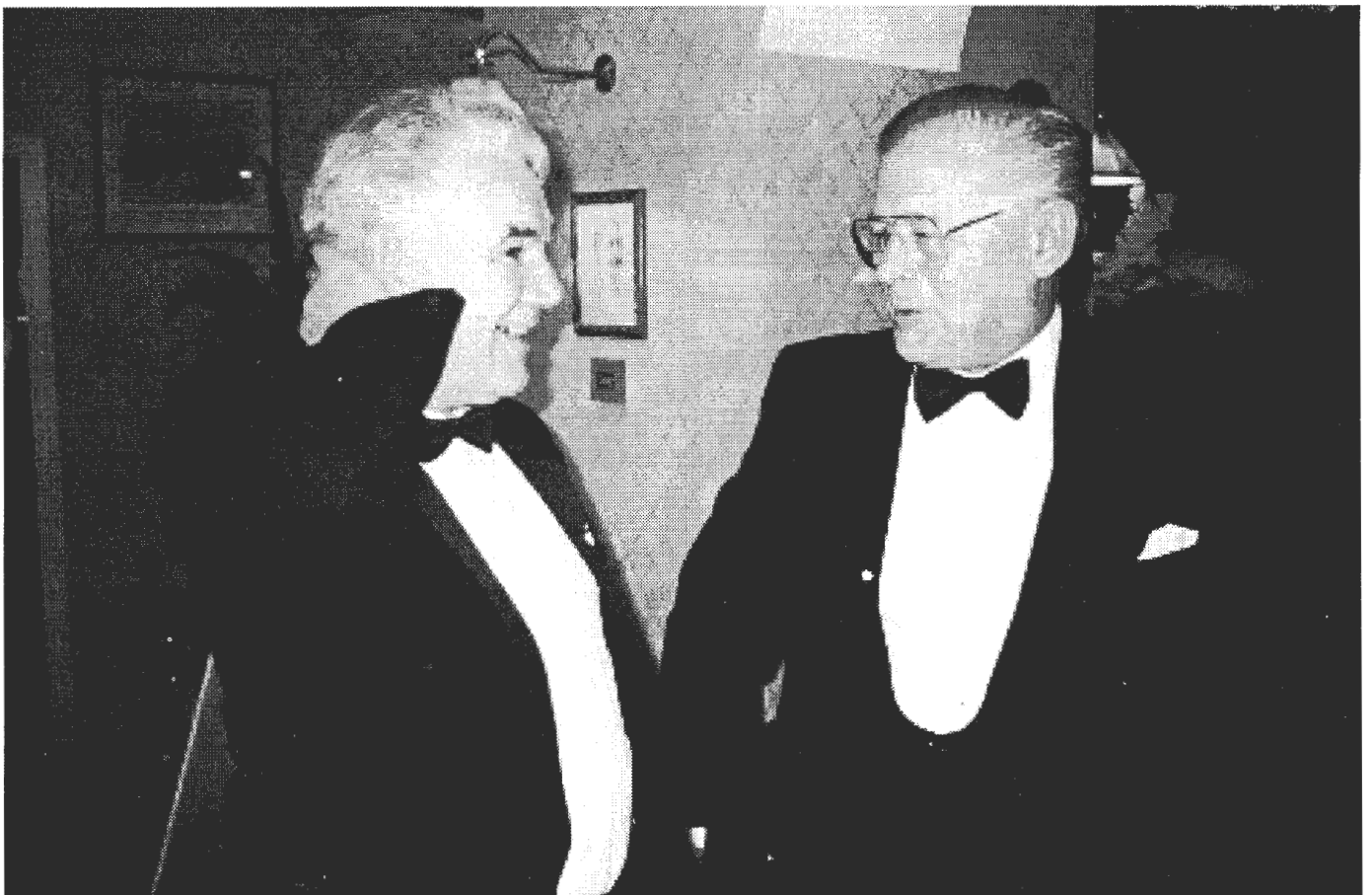
FLORA AND FAUNA

Leyhill's prison garden received the Tudor Rose award for the best garden at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and one of the only few gold medals awarded.

Inspired by Whatton's floral successive win in the Windlesham Trophy annual competition, The Times published an article on prison gardens in it's 2 September issue.

Boots to protect prison Dogs' paws from broken glass or sharp objects hurled during disturbances have been pioneered by the service.

At the PGA Annual Conference 1995



COLIN HONEY'S ADDRESS AT RAY CAMPBELL'S FUNERAL

How does one begin to give thanks for the life of Ray - for even though we all now know his first name was Eric - Ray is the name by which he will be remembered. Like me you will all have in your mind's eye an impression of Ray, that smiling, beaming, fun-loving figure, and like me too you will all have in your hearts a warm affection. How could it be otherwise?

Like so many people here today he spent a lifetime in the Prison Service: he was a Prison Service man, he was a natural, he was at home with people, he had the common touch, he could and did get alongside everyone with whom he came in contact. He did not claim to be a great academic; as he used to say, he only possessed two books, and he had almost finished colouring both of them. But he possessed flair, he understood people, he genuinely cared about them - and I saw instances of these qualities over and over again when I was working with him.

I first met him in the sixties at a conference of Assistant Governors (old-fashioned speak for Grade 5, or is it 4?) when he was at Feltham as a Principal Officer (that's old fashioned speak too). Prior to that he had served, since joining the Service in 1950 at Lewes, Dartmoor and Brixton, and he had been elected to the National Executive Committee of the Prison Officers' Association. In June 1969 he became an AG at Portland.

Unaware of the policies of the establishment he one day asked one of his colleagues for a bit of advice. The advice he received turned out to be incorrect, and Ray was censured when he acted on it. His colleague did the noble thing and owned up that it was his fault in wrongly advising Ray; whereupon Ray was summoned into the Governor's presence to be given a pearl of wisdom - "if you want advice on carpentry you don't go to a plumber" - and so for ever after that, this colleague was known as Plumber by Ray.

After Portland Ray had various assignments with the manpower team, at that time attached to a division of headquarters known in those days as P6 (still more old-fashioned speak). Next he moved to Ashford, then to Wormwood Scrubs, and so to be Governor of Humbercombe, a young offender establishment. In 1985 I invited him to join SE Regional Office as an Assistant Regional Director with responsibility for young offenders and, for a time, women's' establishments. His contribution to the morale of the office was enormous with his ready wit, and what seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of jokes (many of which, it will not surprise you, I am unable to repeat to you here today). His Secretary loved working for him; although years younger than Ray he always referred to her as Matron. "Is it that time already" he would say as she arrived in the office in the morning, to work in what he described as the geriatric wing. But she got her own back. When the girls at SERO decided to enter a netball team for the Home Office Sports Day, Ray in his customary way asked them if they would be wearing regulation issue green knickers from Holloway - so, at his retirement party they presented him with a pair of green knickers.

But when the situation demanded it he could act with coolness, patience and courage - as happened for example during a hostage situation at Wormwood Scrubs in 1980 for which he was officially commended by the Home Secretary. His distinguished career was recognised by the award of the OBE in the Birthday Honours List.

When he retired in 1987 he went off to Australia, we thought at first to write his memoirs spycatcher style, as others with secrets to reveal were doing at that time - but not so. He did do some work with the BBC and ITV, and he continued to travel widely in retirement, for pleasure and professionally, running courses for the Crown Agents in Singapore and Malaysia and Botswana, visiting prisons in several overseas countries. Each year he organised and acted as course manager and lecturer on the Crown Agents' UK Advanced Prison Management Course. During the most recent course which ended just the other day on 23 March, although clearly very ill indeed, Ray struggled to honour his commitment to that course. His dogged determination to go on impressed everyone as did the way he coped with diabetes. Andy Hadfield of Crown Agents said of him that there are people in many countries who are members of Ray Campbell's Prison Academy.

But it is for his sense of humour, his ready quips that we will remember Ray. "Is the flasher of Freshwater about?" he used to say to Brian Hayday's wife when trying to reach him on the phone. He always had a colourful phrase with which to emphasise a point - that's just about as feasible as having King Herod popping down to Mothercare to do a bit of shopping - was one such. And so one could go on.

We have all lost a good friend, for so he was to all - but no grieving he said, keep it light-hearted. He had a good life lived to the full. Asked what hymns we should have today - just get 'em to stand up and sing The Sun Has Got His Hat On.

Sheila, Murray, Marian, and Valerie, and all the members of Ray's family, our thoughts and the genuine affection in which we hold Ray are with you today.

26 June 1995

Winter House Party 1996

23 – 25 February 1996 at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern

After the success of last year's Winter House Party at Buxton we have been asked to arrange another further south, so this year's Retired Governors' Winter Party will be held at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern, on the weekend of 23 to 25 February.

The magnificent Abbey Hotel, built around the old Priory, is friendly and full of excellent facilities. The all-inclusive weekend, including the tour of Malvern by luxury coach, is offered at the total cost of: £98.00 per person. All accommodation is in twin, double or single rooms with en-suite bathrooms. There are facilities for the disabled.

Malvern is a delightful small town which boasts, among other things, the Elgar Museum. The local swimming pool complex adjoins the hotel and guests are given complimentary admission. The station is next door to the hotel. There is a regular service from Birmingham New Street and lifts can be arranged.

As the hotel hosted the 1995 Prison Governors' Association Conference, we can vouch for its quality, so why not join your friends?

The all-inclusive programme of events is as follows:

Friday 23 February 1996

Arrive at leisure at the hotel.

From 4.30pm afternoon tea will be available in a private room for you.

6.30pm A welcome drink and a talk on Malvern and its surrounding area.

7.45-8.00pm A three course dinner in the Priory View restaurant.

Saturday 24 February 1996

Take breakfast at leisure in the restaurant or in your room from 7.30am-9.30am. Then on to a tour of Malvern and its surrounding area (by coach). Back to the hotel for a light buffet lunch.

A free afternoon to visit the shops, the Priory or a stroll up to the Malvern Hills (don't forget your walking boots!).

From 7.00pm join us for dinner in the restaurant where later on you can all join in with the dancing to a band with music to cater for all tastes, plus spot prizes.

Sunday 25 February 1996

After breakfast - served on Sunday from 8.00-10.00am - why not join the locals in the Priory for Morning Service.

Once again, free time to explore the area - then back to the hotel for your Sunday lunch and a sad farewell until 1997!

A private room will be available for bridge or board games. If there are enough players, a bridge competition will be held.

If you wish to attend or want a hotel brochure, please fill in the attached slip and return it to the address given. It would be helpful to have bookings by Christmas if possible.

BOOKING FORM

Name _____

I would like to book _____ places
for the Winter House Party 1996

Address _____

Room(s) required

Double Twin Single

Post Code _____ Telephone _____

I would like a brochure (please tick)

I have the following special requirements (ie: diet, disabled bathroom etc.)

I enclose a deposit of £ _____
(£10 per person please)

I enclose the full amount of £ _____

Please make cheques payable to the
PRISON GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

I am willing to offer a lift to (number) _____ people from (place) _____

Please send booking slip and cheques to:

Harry Brett, Training Unit (North), Sherbourne House, Sherbourne Street, MANCHESTER M35 1EH

Acknowledgements will be sent • Maps will be sent in early January

The 100th Edition of the Prison Service Journal

A beautiful July day; Newbold Revel looking absolutely at its best; luncheon in the Blue Room to the sounds of the Chamberlain Wind Quintet. And the purpose of this? A commemoration of the one hundredth issue of the Prison Service Journal in its present form.

About fifty people, all of them closely associated with the PSJ over the years, gathered to hear John Staples, the present editor, recite a brief history of the Journal and to read messages from retired editors. John remarked upon the Journal's unique quality in that it melds the ideas of practitioners and academics into a coherent whole and, freed from the conventional constraints of other civil service publications, it has consistently explored the sensitive interface between research, policy and practice. John reminded guests that the Journal's problems now mirror closely those that it has had over the years particularly as regards its funding. Yet it survives, largely through the commitment of a relatively small group of people who give large amounts of their own time to ensure its continued existence.

Responding to John, the Director General echoed the words of his 'Foreword' to the present issue: "The Prison Service Journal . . . has grown from humble beginnings to a publication which has gained status and credibility across the globe. Its very survival through successive governments and budgetary restrictions is an indication of its special value. I know nothing quite like it".

Derek Lewis then presented a copy of the celebratory Journal, signed by the present Editorial Board, to each former editor and one signed by everyone who attended the function to the Prison Service Museum.

PETER M QUINN

BUPA private health care for PGA Pensioners

The Prison Governors Association BUPACare scheme provides serving members with private health care at very low rates, and those who join as a serving member can continue membership into retirement with a 25% discount off the standard subscriptions. If you are not already a member of the PGA BUPA health care scheme, then, as a pensioner you are still able to take advantage of other schemes that BUPA offer - providing you join before your seventy-fifth birthday.

The BUPA schemes can be summarised as follows:

- **BUPACare** – provides access to over 900 BUPA Participating Hospitals and covers out-patient, day-case and in-patient treatment. The scheme also covers emergency treatment overseas.
- **EssentialCare** – also gives access to over 900 BMA Participating Hospitals nationwide but in exchange for the lower subscription does not cover out-patient consultations.
- **LocalCare** – provides cover for out-patient, day-case and in-patient treatment at a single, nominated local hospital.
- **Local HospitalCare** – again gives access to a single, nominated local hospital and in exchange for the lower subscription excludes out-patient consultations.

The monthly subscriptions for people joining before 1st December 1995 are:

Age	Status	Local Hospital Care	LocalCare	EssentialCare	BUPACare	LocalCare and HospitalCare are rated per person. Subscriptions have been adjusted for tax relief at 25% and payments can be reduced by choosing to pay an excess.
60-64	Single	20.93	29.70	29.51	54.20	
	Married			56.55	103.85	
65-69	Single	26.98	38.00	37.73	68.36	Further details are available from: Malcolm Passingham Health Care Adviser
	Married			75.45	136.73	
70-74	Single	37.31	52.18	46.34	81.79	Telephone 01628 483229
	Married			92.66	163.57	

Your Letters

Shrewsbury Shropshire

Please find enclosed my Bankers orders and as application form to be a member of the Retired Governors Association. I also send my best wishes to you and your committee for the future.

I shall observe with interest who will succeed Mr Lewis as head of the Prison Service. I have always believed that the person at the top should have come from the Governor Grade.

When re-organising a large organisation I would have thought it would have in everyones interest to keep the most effective and sound parts and then deal with the areas. We know how successful the P.E. Branch has been over the last 40 years, leading up to a sense of excellence. The strong belief, commitment and dedication with the Branch cannot be bought. I believe the current system is working hard to destroy the unique team spirit among all the P.E. staff throughout the Service. I know many Governors value the sterling work performed within their own establishment in 'keeping the lid on' and providing a positive, meaningful regime option.

I was most disappointed when some months ago the P.G.A. failed to give the support much required and requested. Governors. P.E. Branch H.Q. staff were slaughtered under the reduction of P.E. staff - when other specialist groups were not only retained and increased, but gained promotion to higher rank and salary.

The treatment of two colleagues of mine is deplorable. Senior staff speak of care of their own staff, but the treatment of both these members (both of whom have been loyal and dedicated servants throughout their service) find themselves is disgusting to say the least.

Sincerely
Bill Brice

(NEWSLETTER does not normally print details of current details within the service - if we did it would mean a new approach and a much larger edition, but in this instance I feel the current situation should be drawn to the attention of retired members - not that they need to learn much more about ridiculous and pathetic way those on the Prisons Board

and at H.Q. are running the so called 'Modern Prison Service'. Give me the old system any day for efficiency - yes and indeed, HOPE. W.A.W.)

Kingston-upon-Thames Surrey

Sorry for having taken so long to respond. This retirement business is not rest after all. I have been very busy indeed, and have had little time to myself. The family, house and hobbies take up a great deal of time.

I will however be still involved with the Prison Governors Charity Fund and look forward to pushing forward and making a success of that venture.

We are having a meeting in early August (this of course will be over and done with by the time this appears in print. W.A.W)., which with the clearance from the Charity Commission should see us on the way.

Yours Aye
Alex Fraser

(Glad to learn you are being kept busy Alex, but delighted you have taken time off to write to NEWSLETTER. The 'Governors Charity Fund' is a new one on me - and to many other retired Governors. Nevertheless we wish you all the success it no doubt deserves. When you can find time again, will you let us have an article on it please? W.A.W).

Wigston Leicestershire

I apologise for the delay in writing to thank you, Harry, Paddy, John and Bob for making the Retired Governors Garden Party such a success. This is an event my wife and I look forward to each year, and we are never disappointed with it. We realise that you and your colleagues give much of your free time and in the case of the Garden Party, a valuable week-end off duty.

It was a good to see many old friends at Newbold Revel, though there was sadness that a number were no longer with

us. However, it was good to see that many widows of colleagues able to attend and to feel they were still members of the very close comradeship of retired Governors, past and present.

We look forward to next year. In the meantime, we are hoping to be able to make the Winter House Party at Malvern; the Abbey Hotel has many memories for me from my Midland Region days (We nearly re-named the Hotel the 'John Sandy').

John Rumball

**Wonastow
Monmouth, Gwent.**

A belated note to say to you and the P.G.A. Committee for once again organising such an excellent 'old boys' re-union. It really was an enjoyable affair in all respects.

I thought it was a clever move to serve the Governors Special Wine with the lunch. I will certainly be buying some - once I can find out who to contact.

It was interesting to note that the comments from retired governors were not 'things aren't as they use to be' line, as one would expect, but more 'they are having a tougher time than we had; very surprising.

It was good to see you still looking reasonably sane, and Barbara as lovely as ever.

Incidentally, congratulations on your television performances - very impressive.

Best wishes
Roland Adams

**Cowes,
Isle of Wight**

We regret that only five members (plus us) expressed a wish to take advantage of group transport to the Annual Garden Party. Several members phoned to say they had made other arrangements this year, but would be interested another time.

We realise you were all very busy, but what came out of this tentative venture was that it was rather late in the day to make change arrangements.

Incidentally coach companies said a preliminary booking for a Saturday in June should be made in February/March. We found one mini bus hirer and the change for 7 passengers worked out at nearly £30 per head and as six of the interested party were from the island and had an added fare of £10, £40 per head for 5 hours socialising (however pleasant that is) seemed rather expensive. Sadly two of those from the island were widows who would not consider driving themselves in an case.

We are prepared to try again next year if it could be publicised early in the new year.

May I also suggest that when considering a venue for the next

winter houseparty, some thought can be given to us 'southerners' and come to the sunny south - what about Bournemouth or the New Forest ? There are many suitable hotels in the area.

The 'battle' over the Parkhurst affair is very sad as John and Marjorie are very great friends of ours. I went to see my M.P. (Barry Field) about it and spoke my mind, however it made me feel better but he's a 'nodder' and felt it would not be taken further . . . felt it would not be taken further.

All good wishes
Stan Bester

(I have tried to include all the salient points from your two letters in this 'write up' Stan and do hope I have covered them sufficiently. I entirely agree with your suggestion for the future houseparty being held nearer your area - even though us 'Northerners' may have problems getting there - perhaps we could alternate the location. I have thought on the same lines and wondered if the Oxford area would be suitable for more members. With regards transport to the Garden Party it clearly is too much to expect anyone to spend £40 to get the Newbold Revel, and yet as we all getting older - yes, and less fit to drive, it means fewer of us 'oldies' will be able to make it, and this would be a great pity. It seems to me therefore the only possible solution would be to get lifts organised with younger colleagues who are travelling up to N/R. Naturally we would expect to pay for the cost of petrol. So if anyone knows spare seats will be available at the time, perhaps the committee would fix up passengers from the area concerned - providing of course they were told in good time. I feel certain any other suggestions would be welcome. W.A.W).

**Oakland
U.S.A**

Thought you would like to frame this picture of one of the U.S.A's. most successful slammers.

My wife and I are staying with our youngest son who is an attorney in San Francisco. Last time we came I rode shotgun on a stagecoach. Also visited San Quentin and will tell you a good story of that sometime.

Keep well and D.L.T.B. (*) get you down.

Kind regards
Jim Absalom

(*) Those 'Up There Treading The Corridors of Power'.
(The picture was of course of ALCATRAZ ISLAND).

**Milford
Surrey**

A wonderful day and as usual nothing missed - in all a fascinating day. I look forward to the next time and I would ask you to thank all those who made the foundation of a very good party - its great fun to meet all good friends - and of course, the food was super.

I was able to speak to your wife - what a delightful lady.

Many thanks and congratulations on the organisation.

Cheers
Norman Golding

Northallerton
North Yorkshire

Margaret and I wish to thank all concerned for the wonderful day at the Garden Party. It was such a pleasure for both of us to meet so many old friends from years ago, and to share so many memories.

We both look forward to attending future events which may be arranged.

Sincerely
Ernie Adamson

Chippenham
Wilts.

I did enjoy the day at Newbold Revel. Please pass on thanks to all who contributed to it. As you said, 'It is all very worthwhile'.

Enclosed is a suggestion for the proposed stained glass window in the chapel at the college.

In the next village I have friends in the Rev. G.W.R. Berry and his wife and they have a son who is 'in to stained glass windows'. Ann Berry's brother is the bishop of Chichester. Whoever is organising the windows for Newport Revel may like to have his address, which I will gladly obtain.

Best wishes to you all
Charles Miles

(Your honey is delicious, Charles - F. B. O'F.)

Isleworth
Middlesex

A short note just to say how enjoyable the Garden Party was - despite the cooler climate conditions. Many thanks and felicitations to those responsible for the impeccable arrangements. My only complaint is that there are so many old friends to chat up that it is difficult to justice to the excellent cuisine (I missed my sweet for the second year running. However I must admit I made up for it with the strawberries and cream at tea.)

The opening of the 'Fowler suite' was a happy addendum. Perhaps you could extract some of the highlights of Gordon's Typical tour de force for the newsletter.

Keep the flag flying
Terry Weiler

Southsea
Hants.

The enclosed card was produced as a reproduction of the stained glass window commissioned for 'The Rowans', (the Portsmouth Area Hospice, of which I have been associated with for the last 12 years).

My Purpose in sending it to you (a) introduced Nicola Hopwood the artist - whose fees are reasonable, and (b) to

offer my own suggestion for the proposed PGA stained glass window, which is the PGA logo and a suitable coloured background. (c) Advice and design from a known artist produced for the membership to buy to pay for it. Hope this is helpful.

Muriel Allan

P.S. See reverse side of the card for Nicola Hopwood telephone number. Cost of design and actual window would be around £3,000. It would be done (and also the card) at Kingston Prison.

May I also say how much I enjoyed the Garden Party and was grateful to all who contributed. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet so many friends from the past in such lovely surroundings, and with every care taken for our comfort and pleasure. I did not the support and assistance of wives to the day as well.

Petersfield
Hants.

I am writing to thank you and the PGA for the excellent arrangements made on behalf of the retirees at the Garden Party. As ever, this was a most enjoyable occasion and brought home to me, as I indicated, what a privilege it was to serve in common cause with so many remarkable men and women in Her Majesty's Prison Service. The re-union is always a family affair reminiscent of 'Dear Octopus'.

As the Prison Service awaits its next battering following the Learmont/Woodcock inquiry, the thoughts of those of us who have travelled this road so many times before are with you.

I enclose for your perusal the local Diocesan Bulletin. The item on Authority and Power written by the bishop is very balanced and realistic diagnosis of the current malaise. Had it been written by either of us, it would have been construed as a political statement.

Yours ever
Gordon Fowler

Godalming
Surrey

Very many thanks from us both to you and the PGA Committee, particularly 'Paddy' Scriven and Harry Brett, for organising yet another successful and enjoyable garden party. It was, as always, a great pleasure to meet so many old friends, and we though the college looked after us remarkably well.

With the pressures that Governors are under these days, spare time becomes more precious and this makes it all the kinder of you and your colleagues to devote some of it to gatherings of this kind.

Yours ever
Bill Brister

Alicante
Spain

Today I should have been driving through France en route to England to Visit my Family, and of course to attend the

Garden Party next Saturday. I shall instead be visiting a very dear friend who is in hospital here.

Together with her Husband she came to live in Campoverde the year after Barbara and I and we all became very good friends. Sadly Barbara died six years ago this month and the following February Terry had a heart attack and literally dies on the spot.

Rose and I have remained good friends and companions. My children came to know her on their visits to me and she would visit them on her trips to England.

Now she is terminally ill with cancer of the throat, with as life expectancy of four to six months. She knows this and is bearing up extremely well. She is hoping to be discharged from hospital this week but then of course will have to have radiotherapy as an outpatient. Then we hope she will return to Liverpool where she has family.

Anyway it means there is no way I could leave her at this time so I will not be at Newbold Revel on Saturday. Will you please give my address to Lionel Steinhausen and tell him I will send the cigars I would have taken to the Garden Party for him.

I am now in my tenth year in Spain and still loving it, though I enjoy my biannual visits to the U.K.

My very best wishes to you Arthur and also my thanks for all the work you all put in for us.

Sincerely
Ron Parfitt

(I am so sorry Ron that you have not heard from me, the reason is that I did not receive your letter until it arrived with the other Newsletter correspondence this week. What happens is that all correspondence is retained at Risley until such time as the Newsletter is to go to print, then it comes to me (on the correct side of the Pennines) for sorting out and typing ready to go to the printer. I hope you will understand and forgive the delay.

By now I do hope life is a little happier for you and yours, and you can be assured we all missed you at the Garden Party. Your visit and chat is one I personally always look forward to. so may I wish you all good fortune and do hope we shall have you with us next year. I will certainly let Lionel have your address, but no doubt you will have been in contact with him by the time this edition is printed. I am in pretty regular contact with him by telephone, but he keeps 'floating off' around the country in his caravan, so he tells me anyway. Arthur Williamson).

Gosport Hants

Please accept my apologies for non-attendance at this years Garden Party.

I have to admit to neglect and failed to note the date and in consequence have made another commitment on that day. Since this other commitment was to play music perhaps I may

be forgiven.

Joyce and I remain in reasonably good health for our respective ages and you all have a tremendous day, as has been the case on previous Garden Parties.

Kindest regards
Alan Parsons

Winscombe Avon

I have watched with increasing despair the events, and pronouncements by the home office, in the Prison Service. It is a long time I retired from the service that seemed to me, then to be in grave danger of getting messier.

I do not know the recent Parkhurst Governors (John Marriott), but surely even a prison governor should be treated fairly.

I have seen several of your T.V. appearances and congratulate you on your sensible level-headed comments.

Best wishes
David Gould

(Recent press reports state that John has resigned from service and taken up a post elsewhere. It does seem as though he has been 'driven out' after all. W.A.W).

Peacehaven

Many thanks on behalf of myself and my family for your letter of condolence and for the lovely floral tribute sent on behalf of the P.G.A. and the Retired Governors Association.

I have had many heart warning messages of sympathy from Ray ex-colleagues, both serving and retired, which were very comforting. A number of them attended his funeral at which, in response to Rays expressed wish Colin Honey spoke in remembrance of Rays Prison Service career.

Ray did not wish the occasion to be a sad one and we all did our best to make it a positive celebration of his life.

We share an enjoyable life in the Prison Service and made many friends over the years. I shall continue to take a keen interest in events and hope not to lose touch.

Yours sincerely
Sheila Campbell

(We shall do all possible to ensure you keep in touch Mrs Campbell and the NEWSLETTER will be sent you as soon as the editions come out. W.A.W).

Minsterworth Gloucester

Having just received the spring issue of NEWSLETTER I see you never received my note, or you decided not to publish it. If the former was the case I enclose a copy of the information I sent which I felt would be of interest to you and other readers of the Newsletter. Of course if it was the latter reason

I respect the Editors decision and accept it.

Every good wish
Roger Dauncey

(Roger, I am 'at a loss' to why your note was not printed in our previous issue and can only assume it did not arrive at the editors office, or it was somehow misplaced. It certainly was not left out intentionally. How dare we have done such a thing to such a powerful person as yourself. In any case the news was of course very important and will certainly be of great interest to many of our readers. May I seek your forgiveness not doing the job correctly? To make amends it is printed in full below . . . I hope. Arthur).

The information from Roger was as follows:-

Rocky Smith, whose letter in 1994 Autumn Newsletter recorded our visit to him at his home in Vancouver (only made possible by the Newsletter Circulation list), said in his last letter to me how much he enjoyed getting the Newsletter and how he was always surprised to see one or two names that 'rang a bell', ever after 47 years away from the service. He said how sorry he was to read of John Watson's death; apparently Johns mother was Rocky's Matron at Portland. He and Francis plan to visit the UK in September (they should be here as I am typing this), so we look forward to seeing them again, as will many other readers.

Another letter we received brought news of Wally Colton. It will probably be known to many - particularly those on the Island - that Doris died in June 1994. We remember her especially as a neighbour at Pollington, and for her startling the whole community by undertaking, and completing (without any cheating), the Butlins walk from John O'Groats to lands End. Wally said her death was very sudden. The doctor was called on may 31st and she died in the hospice on the 19th May. A terrible shock for Wally and his family and very sad news to all of us who knew Doris.

(By the time you read this Rocky you will no doubt be back in your home in Canada. I hope you have enjoyed your visit back in the U.K. and also that future trips may be in the offing. Take care and let us have your news when time permits. W.A.W).

Badsey Evesham
Worcestershire

Reference your appeal in the Newsletter for news of my whereabouts.

Sorry I omitted to keep you informed of my move two years ago from Wells. Actually I thought I had, but what with the trauma of selling my bungalow and buying this cottage to be near Doug and Andy, I must have forgotten. So many things can go wrong at the last minute, and did.

Fortunately a kind friend gave us ('me' dogs, cat and me) a home for two and I eventually took up residence on March 15th two years ago.

We are warm and comfortable, if somewhat squashed, into this tiny cottage, but the neighbours are kind. The view to the

Cotswolds are lovely and there are few hills, so I can ride 'me' little bike again.

Life for me is full of interests, especially as I have a small Grandson just about to start at the village school.

Best regards
Betty Dennis

Grantham
Lincolnshire

Would you please note, or pass on to the who keeps the records, my change of address to the above.

Sincerely
Murdo Macleod

(ex-Governor, long retired. But not forgotten. W.A.W.).

Bridport
Dorset

As a regular reader of the Newsletter I am writing to inform you of the death of my husband Frederick Vernon Elvy on 26th June 1995. Vernon was appointed to the Prison Service in 1937. During the war he was released for active service and was Commissioned in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. In 1946 he was demobilised and returned to the Prison Service.

He first became Governor of Hewell Grange in 1953. He was awarded the O.B.E. for services in 1969 and eventually retired from Lewes in 1972.

Our retirement began in Cornwall where Vernon became an active member of the R.N.L.I. This continued after our to Bridport some twelve years ago.

We made friends during our years within the Prison Service and Vernon took great pleasure from keeping in touch through your Newsletter.

Yours sincerely
Pamela Elvy

(I know the many friends of Vernon within the service will join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Mrs Elvy and her family on their sad loss. Vernon joined the service almost 60 years ago and certainly one of the group of men who helped to create and mould the post-war Prison Service. There are now very few left and I doubt if we shall see their like again whatever the shape of things to come turn out to be. Once again we are reminded what a great service OURS was and how much we meant to each other. I do hope you will keep in touch Mrs Elvy and shall ensure you get copies of future issues of the Newsletter. W.A.W).

Ravenshead
Nottingham

You asked for a letter and I think you were looking for praise of that once great county of Yorkshire.

When I left the OTS. for Pentonville in 1964, John Keightley

addressed a letter to me - 'The Steeds Farewell to his Arab'. He said that although he had converted to me to Wakefield Trinity, John Smiths bitter and Mary Smiths rice pudding, he regretted he had not made into an 'adoptive' Yorkshireman.

Last year, as president of my Probus Club I took 48 members on a day tour of Gods own County - Gloucestershire, (don't mention cricket). On our return route we were wonderfully entertained at Newport Revel and my friends spent an interesting hour in the museum. Our secretary, (unfortunately a Yorkshireman) made the comment that I was now ancient enough to become an exhibit myself.

But in answer to your query—YES—, I did enjoy my spell of (unsuccessful) missionary work at Wakefield. . . . and there's more . . .

I have just come across the notebook I compiled whilst undergoing training at Lincoln under Brigadier P.W. He said "There are only three things you need to write in that book, but in this order:- (1) Security, (2) Discipline, (3) Reformation. Anyone who tells you they come in any other order is a crank and to be avoided at all costs'.

What a pity he could not have passed that wisdom on from a very successful practitioners to certain failed T.V. pundits.

Yours

Les Portch

(It seems to me Les you were not at all the OTS long enough for our old friend John Keightley to help you complete your education on which was - and in most areas, is still the greatest part of the U.K. - I will leave Bradford and Headingley out naturally. We have disown such places- or at least I do. With regards your day trip to Gloucestershire - I suppose a day is long enough after all.

At the same time I find it difficult to believe that your secretary would say such a thing. Most Yorkshiremen are polite and incapable of such outspoken comments. With regards the comments of the famous Brigadier, who would challenge him. Very few dare when he was around and I doubt if they would today. He would have had some rough battles to fight he was serving today with the current bunch of 'faceless men' at Prison Headquarters. All the best, Arthur).

Skellingthorpe Lincoln

I have discovered to my utter dismay that I have been free loading on this excellent publication for a long time thinking it was free. But despite the words of the old music hall ditty that 'the best things in life are free', I doubt very much if the Editor will subscribe to that view, so to salve my conscience a little I am enclosing a cheque and will take steps to ensure that I do not fall into debt again.

Since retirement I have been offered three posts without ever having applied for any of them. I had only left the prison service a few weeks when offered a job in the City Treasurers Dept. There had been irregularities as a result of which one official had been dismissed and the Treasurer was worried as to how far the Malaise had spread, so he decided not to

promote from inside, but bring in an outsider. So I became a member of the mortgage loans department with personal authority to say yea or nay to loans amounting to thousands of pounds. A far cry from the Prison Service where on was almost expected to make a declaration before a Commissioners for oaths in order to gain a few days substitution pay.

One day my wife receive a curious telephone call from the Foreign Office saying that they had a post within the gift for which I had been strongly recommended.. and if I was interested would I forthwith present myself on their doorstep when they would be pleased to elaborate. Being overcome by curiosity I descended on the Foreign Office. when to my utter amazement I was offered a post in Spandua Prison. Berlin, in control of Rudolph Hess. Needless to say I accepted and soon found myself located in a beautiful and spacious city.

The duties were by no means arduous, but being so closely involved with a person who will always be an enigma in the twentieth century and the day to day dealings with Russians, French and Americans was indeed an exciting life. I came to love Berlin so much that I was Contemplating settling there permanently but was suddenly struck down with a heart attack, which meant if I continued in office I would be off duty at least six months. so once again I decided to retire and return to where I had kept my home in Lincoln.

I had barely recovered the strength to prop up the bar in one of Lincoln's hotel when one evening I was approached by the manager, whom I had known before my Berlin days with an interesting proposition. He had noticed for some time that despite the large amounts of whiskey being consumed in the bar this was not reflected in the takings the following day. Quite obviously there was a leak, and the manager, knowing I had a son still at school and that I would not be adverse to turning an honest penny or two penny on two suggested I come and work for him, ostensibly as head of stores, also ex office security. The whiskey leak proved to be simple affair and the most ham fisted detective could have solved it. It amounted to one of the barmen purchasing cheap whiskey at the local supermarket putting it into the hotel bottles and then selling it at hotel prices and pocking around £20 pre bottle. I didn't even need a magnifying glass to solve the problem; I happened to be stood in the courtyard when I heard the clinking of bottles in his brief case as he walked pass me. Of course I didn't tell the manager how I had detected the problem and he is still under the impression that Sherlock Holmes could have learned a thing or two from me..

If I can now presume upon your patience for one last paragraph it may be that there's a few of our colleagues around who serve with me in the war Criminals Prison in Germany in 1952-56. if so they would be interested to learn that I still travel each year to Werl, but they would hardly recognise the place again. The town is about three times as big, the prison has expanded to take up most of the old airfield, and worst of all, the comfortable and hospitable hostleries who welcome us so warmly have almost all disappeared, and the few that are left are run by Italians, Greeks and Yugoslavs. But the names of a few I meet will be familiar, such as Franz Lohagen, Willi Diers and Heinz Rinsche.

I do hope I have not bored you but you can see that as far as I

am concerned there is still life after the Prison Service, although I still remember with pleasant nostalgia the times I spent with you and other kindred spirits in the 'knitting circle' at Wakefield, but was always overawed somewhat by those two formidable Governors, Major Harvey and Alan Bainton. Kindest regards to everyone.

Roland H. Davis

(All I can say - to quote another Music Hall phrase is "follow that then". Nevertheless it is good to hear from you and I do hope the old 'ticker' is not letting you down. Certainly you have packed a great deal into your retirement(?) and the spell in Spandau must have been interesting and well worth listening to. The days at Wakefield are still in my mind and concur with your comments about our two famous Governors. Unfortunately Major Harvey is no longer with us - more's the pity as he was a character in himself and one of the finest men I have had the pleasure of meeting and working under. Glad to tell you Mr Bainton is living somewhere in the West Country. He was another great man and 'streets ahead' of his time. A pity he is not serving today as he would make 'mince-meat' of some of the amateurs running today's service. If he reads this column may I prevail upon him to drop us a line for publication in Newsletter. Keep in touch Roland and all the best. Arthur Williamson)

Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

Thank you for the last Newsletter which I found as interesting as ever, and please let Brendan know how much I appreciate his kind invitation to attend the Retired Governors' Winter House Party. I should dearly liked to take it in but 6,000 miles is a long way to journey. Instead I was content to have a week's holiday with my wife on Vancouver Island which is only 18 miles away by water.

I know that some of our older readers, particularly any who have served at Portland B.I. in the 30's will appreciate being

informed of the death at the age of 91 of Dr Guy Richmond. He joined HM Prison Service as an Asst. Medical Officer at Dartmoor and later moved to Portland. He was an outstanding personality, much influenced by the philosophy of Sir Alexander Paterson.

During the second world war he served with the RAF as a Neuro Psychiatrist and then came to Canada where he joined the Provincial Corrections Service. He was with the service for 17 years, the last 15 as Chief Medical Officer. Following retirement at the age of 65 he became Coroner of Vancouver's largest suburban areas, but still found time to write two books, namely "The Prison Doctor" and "Shadows of a Violent Mind"

Above everything he was perhaps best known and loved for his thoughtfulness for others and his compassion.

Sincerely
'Rocky' Smith

(Many thanks for your letter Rocky. There cannot be many left from the 1930's who may have known Dr Richmond at Portland, but I know they will be grateful to you for sending the news. By now - Sept. 11th - you will be enjoying your holiday in the UK - see Roger Dauncey's letter - or you may be back home in Canada. In any case, I hope you enjoyed your short stay, met many old friends and enjoyed talking over days gone by. Take care and please keep in touch. Arthur Williamson)

Note for Mark Winston – *We had a letter from David Gould asking us to re-address his letter to you. I trust this was done, Mark, and that you are now in touch with each other. Also I personally have many happy and grateful memories of our time together whilst I was on the Staff Course at the old I.T.S. in Love Lane, and also very grateful for the help and very sound advice you gave me in the years that followed. Take care and, if you are able to drop us a line, we shall be very pleased to hear from you. Arthur W.*

WILL THERE BE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

THE SHADOW HOME SECRETARY, Jack Straw, addressed the AGM of the Bourne Trust at Church House, Westminster on Tuesday 7th march 1995. His speech contained the following statement:

And I make it clear tonight that I regard privatisation of the prison service as morally repugnant. It must be the direct responsibility of the State to look after those whom the courts decide it is in the society's interest to imprison. It is not appropriate for people to make profit out of incarceration. This is surely one area where the 'free market' does not exist. At the expiration of their contracts, a Labour Government will bring these prisons back into proper public control and run them as proper public services.

My own personal comment is "three cheers for Jack Straw". Without knowing the views of my fellow readers I feel certain most will agree with the Shadow Home Secretary's sentiments. Could we then hope that HM Prison Service would be run by proper professionals? By that I mean people who have actually served out in penal establishments, and not by accountants and television executives. Only then will the service be able to re-establish itself as the finest in the world.

Arthur Williamson

LOOKING BACK

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RETIRED GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER
OF YEARS PAST

From 15 Years Ago

Newsletter Issue No. 1

48 letters were sent out to the retired Governors explaining the idea behind Newsletter and 24 replies were received. Amongst the first subscribers were Dermot Grubb (Bristol), Annie Stapleton (Kirklevington), Jack Smith (Latchmere House) and Jim Blakey (Highpoint).

The copy was typed out by Eileen Fox, Norman Brown's secretary at Manchester and I duplicated it – on the firm's machine!

Governors were already expressing concern for their successors over the direction the Service was heading – how right they were. Concern was also being felt about our index-linked pensions as it was known the Government was thinking of doing away with it. Mrs Thatcher (as she was then) tried to cover up the Government's intentions by appointing a committee to look into it and report back. This was headed by a Professor Clegg, His report saved us by stating that, not only was it proper for the Government to continue paying such pensions to their employees, but industry and commerce should do the same.

10 Years Ago

Newsletter Issue No. 9

North Sea Camp was approaching its 50th anniversary and the Governor (Jack Hanson) was anxious to hear from as many people as possible who had served at the camp during that period.

We sadly reported the death of the oldest retired Governor, Captain H G H Everard died on the 1st March 1984 at the age of 97.

By now letters were being regularly received by the editor and our circulation list had reached 136. We had Home Secretaries who actually listened to what the PGA had to say, even if they didn't act upon the advice given. We also had Regional Directors all of whom had worked as Assistant Governors and Governors during the course of their long careers.

5 Years Ago

Newsletter Issue No. 22

Newsletter had by now taken on a new look and was being printed professionally.

The Strangeways riot had taken place and the only 'Head of State' to come out of it all with credit was Brendan O'Friel. The publicity given it had one good point and that was that a number of retired Governors wrote to Brendan and this increased our circulation list again.

The Government had started to destroy the Service, Regions and R.D's were abolished and instead we were to have 15 areas, each containing 9 establishments. HQ were to move to the Midlands in the year 1994 but nobody will be surprised to learn that they are still in London!

The PGA had by now some 900 members - yes indeed 900!

What of the Future?

Of course, nobody can tell what will be in Newsletter in 15 years time. The only thing I can guarantee is that I will not be typing out your incoming letters.

Arthur Williamson