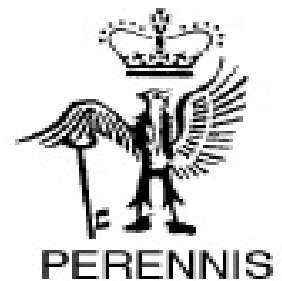


# The Retired Prison Governors

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association

# NEWSLETTER



Founded in 1980 by Arthur Williamson – 34 years of continuous publication

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EDITORIAL

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A Year in the Life of a Retired Governor Grade

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Prison Governors Association, Retired Prison Governors Association or those of the Editor



It is thirty four years this year since Arthur Williamson produced the first copy of this the Retired Prison Governors Newsletter and what a thirty four years it has been for the Prison Service.

It has without a shadow of doubt undergone more operational changes than at any other time in history.

Going back to the 1980s we recall the introduction of Fresh Start, which saw the reduction of overtime for the uniform grades, selling off of quarters, abolition of the chief officer grade along with the governor grades being numbered 1 to 5. We further saw the change from four Regional Directors to the 15 Area Managers.

1987 saw the first and only aircraft assisted escape from a

British prison, which amongst other things resulted in ball-cocks being strung on wires across dispersal prison exercise yards. We saw governors having the ability to take remission from prisoners on adjudication removed from the list of awards, and the Health Care being taken over by the NHS, but perhaps the greatest change and the one with the most impact was the privatisation of some new establishments, along with market testing of others. We have witnessed the management of Crown Courts and escort duties being transferred to the private sector. We have further been witness to the closure of numerous prisons as well as the closure of the colleges at Love Lane, Aberford Road and Leyhill. Market testing became all too familiar, as did having to enter into competition with the private sector in a bid to operate newly-opened prisons. Further on in this edition of the Newsletter readers will discover what

other steps are being taken to put out to tender and privatise even more of the prison estate and its services.

Private Finance Initiative has not been the cure-all that it was said to become: indeed I believe that if the clock were to be turned back it's doubtful if it would have been introduced on the scale which it has been. That applies not only to the Prison Service but also to some of the other public bodies which became the subject of PFI by various governments over the last three decades, and of course we have the latest charges brought by the MOJ against Serco and G4S for the overcharging of the management of prisoners on "tag".

I leave you the readers to draw on your own thoughts and experiences to decide which changes have been beneficial and which have not.

### **Retired Activities**

Articles published in the Newsletter over the past thirty four years have made us aware of some of the truly amazing adventures in which we, the RPGA members, are involved. We have had the pleasure of reading about travels and adventures to some of the most remote parts of the world, strange hobbies, charity work, acting as professional advisors - the list goes on, and let's hope our members continue to do so for a further thirty-four years and beyond.

### **Retired Prison Governors Management Committee**

Chairman.... Graham Smith, Secretary.....Ray London, Treasurer Graham Mumby-Croft, Membership Secretary.... Harry Brett

Newsletter Editorial Team.... Mick Roebuck, Paul Laxton, Jenny Adams Young,

Letters Editor.....Bob Duncan PSPC Representatives.... Paul Laxton, Jan Thompson

Dave Taylor Committee

## **RPGA-MAIL REGISTER**

The e-mail register has now been operational for over 12 years and has proven itself to be an effective means of rapid communication between members.

It offers updates on current prison events and allows members to keep in touch with each other.

Joining the RPGA does not automatically place you on the register. If you would like to join the ever growing register please send an email from the address you wish to have registered to Mick Roebuck email: [michael.roebuck2@btopenworld.com](mailto:michael.roebuck2@btopenworld.com)

E-mail addresses may not be passed to third parties without permission from the person(s) registered to that specific e-mail address.

Please remember that if you change your email address you must inform Mick Roebuck, otherwise you will cease to receive further updates.

# HOUSE FOR SALE IN A NEWFOUNDLAND OUTPORT.



By John Ramwell  
August, 2013

An outport is a small coastal community where kitchens are almost public places and king cod brought wealth and plenty. Cod fish did indeed bring plenty but that was years ago before the infamous 'moratorium'. Now outports are a shadow of their former selves: though they remain stable they are largely devoid of young people who, at the end of their schooling, leave for work elsewhere.

My wife, Jenny, and I have lived in such a community for almost ten years and for ten years we have entertained and been entertained in more kitchens that you could shake a stick at. Unannounced, local friends and neighbours will throw the door open, take off their boots and yell, "Any one in?" Soon we are all gathered around the table and out come the tea and buns. Ours is a Pentecostal community so only rarely does anything harder than soft drinks come out of the cupboard. When they heard that Jenny used to teach line dancing she was asked to start a class in the community hall. Some were somewhat askance but it was sold, at least to some, on the basis it was a keep-fit class! It is said by the more devout that sex standing up might lead to dancing! ... Or was it the other way round?

Once established around the kitchen table the gossip starts. It is never malicious gossip - just people genuinely interested in their neighbours. Who is up to what, how is Mrs.-up-the-road doing since her operation, what about this weather – it can't last ... and did you hear what happened to Mr. so-and-so' – seen in the store with the pastors wife; and Lloyd got his moose licence and is off to bag one next week. We should be good for a joint – of moose, that is!



Our place in Cottlesville



Around the kitchen table

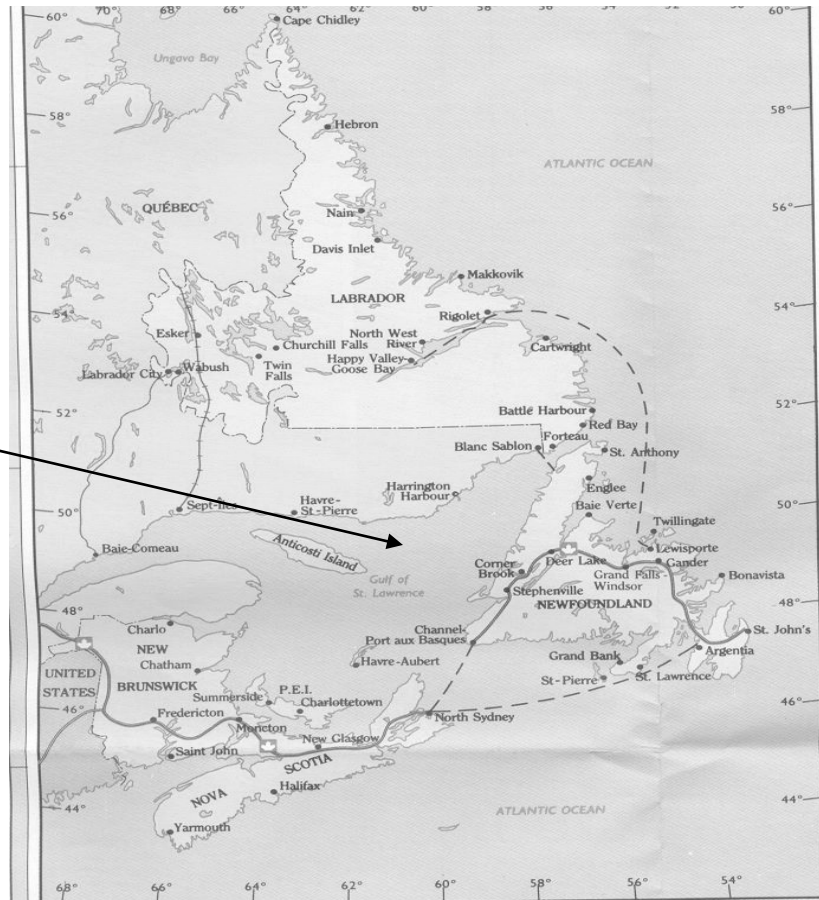
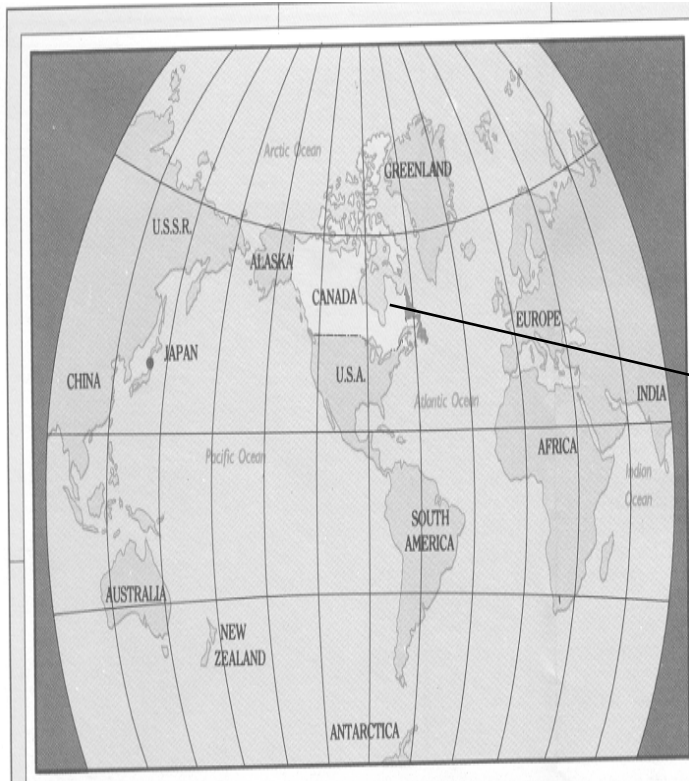
You will know that this is in contrast to our life back home in Bolton, England where our culture and society, though sharing much in common, is a little different: not better, not worse, just different.

So just where is our place and how did we ever end up there?

Before I retired I applied for a Churchill Scholarship on the back of a proposal to advance the activity

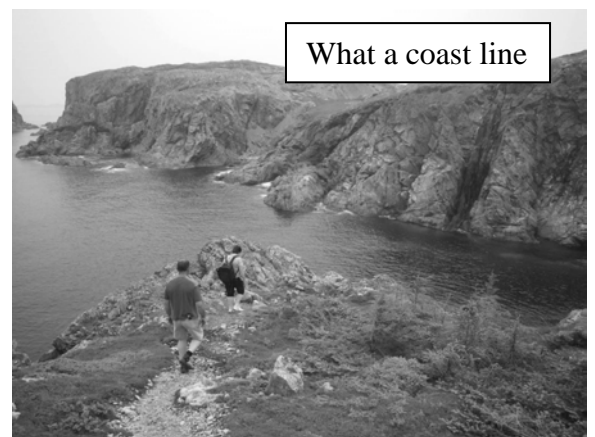
of sea kayaking in order to promote tourism to Newfoundland. Surprise, surprise! After several previous applications this one was successful.

I suspect that many of you could not go straight to a world map and put your finger on Newfoundland. I recently asked a hall full of British students where it was and only one put his hand up and he got it wrong. Just in case you're not sure – and of course you did know – here are a couple of maps:



In 1497 John Cabot visited Newfoundland in the good ship, Mathew, and bagged it for King Henry VII and England. Five hundred years later our Queen Elizabeth II and 'little old me' came to Newfoundland to celebrate the anniversary.

I believe I was successful (but then I would!) with others of course, in helping to encourage ocean kayaking. We put on courses and expeditions and the number of visitors from Europe, mainland Canada and the US who wanted to kayak the fantastic coast of Newfoundland increased significantly. But this is all another story.



How we came to acquire our second home is quite the tale. We were on the way back to St Johns Airport on the east coast having spent a few days with friends on the west coast. This is a ten hour drive and we broke the journey half way with other friends in central Newfoundland at a small place



called Cottlesville, which way back then seemed to be at the very end of the known universe as we kept on driving and driving ... and driving. Today we know that we are, in fact, an hour and half's drive north of Gander.

Our host was most insistent we take a look at his uncle's house that was about to go on the market. "But we're not thinking of buying another place; takes us all our time to run the one we have back in England." Refusal was clearly going to offend so we trotted up the road and down the hill and were given

the tour with the whole family in attendance. We could hardly refuse without offending and the next thing we know the place is ours.

Do we ever regret our decision? Not for a second; the best thing we ever did.

To this day I still wonder how it all happened. No paper work was involved. "Thanks for the payment, it's all yours." We could have been buying a bar of soap. I need to add that this transaction could not happen in quite the same way today as new regulations do insist on official documentation. Back those few years ago property that had been originally been claimed by the early settlers could be sold on by the descendants on no more than a mere handshake. I don't even remember shaking hands! Today sworn affidavits as to rightful ownership have to be obtained and the provincial government has a hand in the proceedings.

In line with our British insistence on 'proper paperwork' when buying a house, we very soon had the place surveyed and registered... all legal like.

Though sound and basically in good condition there was much potential for improvement and I soon set to with my hammer and screw driver, paint brush and chain saw and started renovations. If it remained still I painted it and if it moved I nailed it down!

But here's the thing. Before starting work on our outpost home I could just about change a light bulb. I hardly ever had to turn my hand to any serious DIY back home in Bolton as it was far more effective to ask a professional. Now I was faced with quite a major renovation job. I remembered the adage, 'how does one eat an elephant,' and so I set to 'one bite at a time.' I recall installing new electric lights and wall switches – a task that should have been done by a qualified electrician – with instructions and colour coding in one hand and screw driver in the other with blue sparks flying around like November 5<sup>th</sup>. If we had the British 240V system rather than the Canadian 110V I doubt you would be reading this right now.



I remember flooding the bathroom as I tried to install a new washbasin. I still have the scars from falling timbers in the basement and my first efforts at decorating, at concreting and fixing led me along a very steep learning curve. Would I do it all over again? Not bloody likely!

After almost ten years I am satisfied with the results. Rather like my brother pouring out his home brew, 'Brewed to my entire satisfaction,' he would say with a glint of anticipation in his eyes. Others might well find fault with my DIY attempts but the satisfaction I feel when friends and fellow kayakers come over from Europe and stay quite comfortably in the self contained basement apartment makes up for the stress and frustration when the work had not always gone right. I look around and remember the energy and pain. It was all a labour of love and imperfect it may be but I did it.

But now Jenny and I are moving on. Does anyone want to buy an outport home in Newfoundland?



Our quota of cod



Sunset over the bay

# **The Prison Hulk ‘*Success*’** – the convict ship that never was.

By John Berry

I was trawling eBay and found a post card for sale from the USA of a convict ship named the ‘*Success*’. It was a most unusual post card demonstrating the branding of convicts on board ship, something of which I was unaware. Furthermore the uniform being worn by the warder seemed out of context for the period, but not being an expert on prison uniforms it interested me. For the vast sum of \$3 including postage from the USA, I became the proud owner of the post card.

Like many prison staff I am interested in the history of the prison service and over the years I have built up a small library of prison artefacts. Unlike ‘Colonel Jim’ who used to collect items from prisons to start the first prison service museum, I have had to find them from a variety of sources – and pay for them.

Never having heard of the ‘*Success*’ as a prison convict ship I started to do some research and found out that I had been ‘misled’ by the advert on eBay. However, it made for an interesting story so I thought I would share it with you all.

This information is taken directly from Wikipedia but a number of books have been written about the ‘*Success*’, so if you want to know more about this ship the information is out there.

## **In the beginning**

*Success* was an Australian prison ship, built in 1840. Between the 1890s and the 1930s, she was converted into a floating museum displaying relics of the convict era and purporting to represent the horrors of penal transportation in Great Britain and the United States of America. After extensive world tours she was destroyed by fire while berthed in Lake Erie Ohio USA in 1946.

## **History**

*Success* was formerly a merchant ship of 62 tons, 117 feet 3 inches x 26 feet 8 inches x 22 feet 5 inches depth of hold, built in Natmo, Burma in 1840. After initially trading around the Indian subcontinent, she was sold to London owners and made three voyages with emigrants to Australia during the 1840s. On one of these voyages, *Success* sailed into Sydney town just the week before Christmas 1849 with families who had survived the Great Famine.

On 31 May 1852, *Success* arrived at Melbourne and the crew deserted to the goldfields, this being the height of the Victorian gold rush. Due to an increase in crime, prisons were overflowing and the Government of Victoria purchased large sailing ships to be employed as prison hulks. These included the *Success*, *Deborah*, *Sacramento* and *President*.

In 1854 the ship was converted from a convict hulk into a stores vessel and anchored on the Yarra River where she remained for the next 36 years. In 1857 prisoners from *Success* murdered the Superintendent of Prisons, John Price, the inspiration for the character Maurice Frere in Marcus Clarke’s novel ‘For the Term of his Natural Life’.



### ***Success* as a museum ship**

In 1890, *Success* was purchased by a group of entrepreneurs to be refitted as a museum ship to travel the world advertising the perceived horrors of the convict era. Although never a convict ship, *Success* was billed as one, her earlier history being amalgamated with those other ships of the same

name, including HMS *Success*, which had been used in the original European settlement of Western Australia. She was incorrectly promoted as the oldest ship afloat, ahead of the 1797 USS *Constitution*.

A former prisoner, bushranger Harry Power, was employed as a guide for her first commercial season, in Sydney Harbour in 1891. The display was not a commercial success, and her owners promptly abandoned their business venture and scuttled the ship in Kerosene Bay.

The following year the sunken *Success* was sold to a second group of entrepreneurs and refloated. After a thorough refit she was taken on tour to Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart and back to Sydney, and then headed for England, arriving at Dungeness on 12 September 1894.

In 1912 she crossed the Atlantic and was exhibited as a convict museum along the eastern seaboard of the United States of America and later in ports on the Great Lakes. In 1917 she was briefly returned to commercial service as a cargo carrier, but sank after being holed by ice. Refloated in 1918, she resumed her museum ship role and in 1933 was featured at the Chicago World Fair.



However, despite ongoing repairs the vessel was becoming rapidly unseaworthy. She was towed to Lake Erie Cove in Cleveland, Ohio to be dismantled and sold as scrap, but was destroyed by fire set by vandals while berthed alongside the Lake Erie Pier in Sandusky Ohio, on 4 July 1946.

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## WHO CAN YOU TRUST

By John Ramwell

After a number of cold calls and unsolicited Emails that offer all sorts of services and goods that you know are false and are trying to 'scam' you out of cash, it is little wonder that your trust in anything that comes across the modern communication network is fading fast. Even when dealing with trusted sites you can never be sure that passwords are not being accessed or the site is being hacked. Trust is a diminishing commodity on a much wider sphere than just the internet and is becoming a feature of modern society. The larger and usually trusted companies such as the supermarket chains are also guilty of duping us from time to time ... and as for the banks and the bankers, enough said!

Of course we have always had to be wary about who we trust. Our memories and history itself reminds us that we need to choose carefully when trusting businesses, individuals and companies. Our ability to make sound judgments is paramount if we are not to be let down: let down by local artisans, by local retailers, by local politicians, local health care providers. The list is lengthy.

We do need to find a balance between naivety and cynicism and this comes with experience which, even when extensive, can be hard to draw.

If you agree with me that trust is getting harder to place we should wonder why this should be. Our society has become secular: we have become more materialistic and more selfish. I am not a religious individual. In fact I often wonder where religion fits into our lives when we know from our daily news of barbarous and heinous crimes against humanity. Chemical weapons in Syria, over one million displaced children, modern slavery, suicide bombers, war, war and more war. Are we simply created and then left to our own devices? - Maybe.

When times are generous we seem to move towards the temples of shopping malls and away from the temples of God. It seems that the desperate turn to religion for comfort and when comfort is found and we are not quite so desperate then we forget. The recent disclosures of aberrant sexual behaviour among those we trust as church leaders cannot have helped matters. The very young and the very old, the vulnerable in our society are often the victims of the more vindictive amongst us. Those we trust in care and children's homes have let us down. Humanity has failed them and us.

As we trust less and less we inevitably become more distant from each other. We build protection around us and this is particularly true in our overcrowded towns and cities. It is possible to take a walk down town to the markets and wonder about the parks and not engage another soul in conversation. Loneliness is a terrible state. Whatever happened to the 'Big Society'? I guess it just got bigger and much less trusting.

Lord Jonathan Sachs said in a recent interview (which prompted this piece for the Newsletter) that, "The growth of individualism over the past fifty years was responsible for a pervasive breakdown in trust. When trust breaks down you see institutions break down."

He added, "If people work for the maximum possible benefit for themselves then we will not have trust in industry, in economics, in financial institutions: we will not see marriages last." He went on ... "I think we're losing the plot. I think we haven't really noticed what is happening in Britain."

I have previously written about parenting in the modern world and how this has changed over the last few generations. I guess us 'oldies' have always wondered just how the world will fare after we're long gone as we see values change, trust diminish, secularism increase, global finances dipping with little chance of any short to medium-term recovery to the pre-2008 days in the life- time of our children and grand children.

Our legacy extends beyond individualism and secularism to other even more pressing matters such as climate change, food production and distribution, the squandering of our natural resources. The world we are leaving behind will see future generations picking up the tab and having to cope with our mess. Who is to blame? As I see it everyone and no one. Easy to blame the politicians but they are no more responsible than you and I.

I am currently enjoying the 14<sup>th</sup> year of retirement on a pension few will enjoy in the future. I see those coming up the line behind us becoming more and more resentful as they see us playing as they do the paying.

Inevitably nothing has been done to prepare young working parents to enable them to cope. For years they have had expectations ... expectations for a good education that lead to well paid jobs; expectations of the 'good life' with manageable finances, travel, home and family, of barbecues, wine and roses.

After World War II we in the west had little as we recovered from shortages of food and housing in the aftermath. One room only in our house was kept warm. Going upstairs to bed in mid-winter was purgatory. Mother used to make a tight budget stretch to keep food on the table. My brothers and sister – fortunately I was the eldest – were more than willing to accept 'hand-me- downs' and a family holiday was a day in the ubiquitous Blackpool where 'Albert was eaten by Wallace.' Christmas and the day in Blackpool was religiously saved for week by week. Cars, telephones and television were for the well-off. But we seemed to have more trust in our friends and neighbours and the local retailers would not dare fiddle the canny house wife even if they had thought to do so which I very much doubt they ever did.

Modern young families are seemingly unfamiliar with such a life of make do and mend with time to hang over the fence for the gossip. Suddenly – and it has been very sudden – they are finding themselves trying to maintain a life style that is now unrealistic as their debts mount up. Unlike us they are unable to start again as we did in 1945.

Keeping a car on the road, keeping the central heating switched on, having exotic meals and keeping the kids clothed in the latest fashion- these are becoming too expensive for those who have grown quite used to taking all this for granted. It's a tough call for many.

Perhaps it is no wonder they trust less and find little support from communities or even their own extended families, who are usually living elsewhere around the country and not accessible to provide things such as child care and moral support. For many it is survival but of a different kind to that we endured back then. Back then we knew there was a future.

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## **LONG TERM VISION FOR THE REFORM OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Issued 21 Jan 2014

The government has announced its long term vision for the reform of the youth justice system for offenders under-18 years of age.

The Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling, has announced that in the future a greater emphasis will be placed on the education of young people in custody. This will see the building of a pathfinder 'secure college' as well as improving existing education provision.

The pathfinder will be run by a lead education provider, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board. It will aim to improve the standard of education while also addressing offending behaviour in a way which can be continued on release.

Scheduled to open in 2017, the new pathfinder secure college is intended to be built on land adjacent to HMYOI Glen Parva. As the first college of its kind, it will provide young people aged from 12 to 17 with the best education possible while ensuring value for money.

The justice secretary also announced that establishments in the Young People's Estate will:

- See current education provision significantly increased
- Implement improved training for staff
- Have their education provider as part of the establishment's senior management team

Announcing the proposals he said: "It's right that the most serious or persistent young offenders face custody but we must use this time to tackle the root cause of their offending and give them the skills and self-discipline they need to gain employment or training upon release.

"Young people themselves tell me that better education and training would help them get on to the right path and become law-abiding, productive and hardworking citizens."

Michael Spurr, NOMS Chief Executive Officer said: "Under existing arrangements, NOMS is commissioned by the Youth Justice Board to provide places for young people along with providers of secure training centres and secure children's homes.

“The government has today announced its intention to implement a different model in the future with a far greater emphasis on education. The secure college model represents a different way of delivering services which extends beyond the services currently offered by NOMS. It will cater for young people from the age of 12.

“The announcement today clearly signals that the government sees secure colleges, if proved successful, to be the best way to address the needs of this challenging group of offenders. However, creating a network of secure colleges will take several years to implement and the initial pathfinder college will not become operational before 2017.

“I appreciate that staff working in NOMS young people’s YOI’s may have concerns about today’s announcement, but I should stress that these changes will take several years to come into effect. It is too early to speculate on how this could affect specific establishments or staff. However, any future changes will be managed and planned carefully and we will always seek to minimise the impact on staff.

“There is extensive experience of managing challenging young people within the YOI estate and I know that significant improvements have been made in recent years.

“However, because of the focus on education and the age range catered for NOMS will not bid to run the new secure college. Rather, we will concentrate on improving provision in our current YOIs to meet the expectations set out in the government’s announcement.

“In order to ensure that we are able to deliver the new requirements a Deputy Director of Custody will be appointed to directly line manage the under 18 YOI estate and the Young Peoples’ Group in HQ. This post will be funded by the Youth Justice Board.”

The government’s response follows a consultation exercise held during 2013, to which NOMS contributed.

Competition processes are due to get underway to determine who should build and run the secure college.

A competition has also started to identify a provider for the increased levels of education provision in YOIs.

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## **ARE THEY SELLING OFF MORE OF THE FAMILY SILVER?**

The competition for a range of works maintenance and facilities management services in prisons is formally underway.

Competition documents were issued last week to bidders, who will have until mid April 2014 to consider the information and submit their bids.

A detailed evaluation process will follow, with new contracts due to be awarded in late 2014 and the new arrangements coming into place in 2015 following mobilisation and set up.

The services being competed are:

- Planned maintenance and reactive repairs of buildings and equipment
- Maintenance of grounds
- Small scale works and building projects
- Management of prison stores
- Waste disposal and collection
- Energy and environmental management
- Cleaning of non-prisoner areas
- Health and safety and fire safety equipment maintenance
- Escorting of contractors and their vehicles on prison grounds

The competition for these services is divided into four geographical lots covering England and Wales. Bidders will be assessed on price and also the quality of the service they will provide.

Contracts will only be awarded if bidders can demonstrate savings greater than those that could be achieved by the public sector.

NOMS Director of Commissioning, Ian Blakeman, said: “The competition process will ensure that we provide the best service possible at the best price. It forms part of Our New Way of delivering services and will see an increasing diversification of suppliers working in our prisons.

”We have always said we will only transfer services to new providers where there is a clear value for money case to do so.

“If, following competition, services do move to new providers we will work with Trades Unions to ensure a smooth transition. TUPE and pension safeguards are in place to protect staff if this transition goes ahead.”

A detailed exercise to identify the staff in all public sector prisons who deliver the services has been completed and all of those identified will be offered one-to-one sessions to discuss the implications.

More detailed information on the next steps of the competition process will be provided to affected staff shortly

Issued 27 Jan 2014

## **Governor Tony Proctor 9 April 1942 – 30 August 2013**

Tony Proctor joined the English Prison Service in 1968 and undertook his initial prison officer training course at Aberford Road Officer Training School near Wakefield.

He was posted to Hollesley Bay Borstal in Suffolk, a bleak coastal establishment where young male offenders worked mainly on the large farm and agricultural areas. In 1969, Tony transferred to Morton Hall prison in Lincolnshire, an open male prison, where he became a Gardens Officer Instructor for a year. He then transferred back to his native Suffolk in 1974 to work at Blundeston closed prison and after gaining promotion to Senior Officer, he transferred in 1977 to the Victorian built HMP Chelmsford in Essex. Soon after there was a major fire at the prison and the roof was destroyed and most of the staff including Tony then spent several years on detached duty working at some of the major London prisons, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, HMP Wandsworth and HMP Pentonville, while the roof was repaired at Chelmsford.

Tony returned to HMP Chelmsford in 1980 and in 1983 gained another promotion to Principal Officer, this time transferring to HMP Brixton in London where among his other work he took on the role of Branch Chairman of the local Prison Officers Association.

Tony had become involved in Control & Restraint Training in its formative years and in 1985, he was selected to join the newly-created team of C&R National Instructors. He took on the role of Regional National Instructor for prison establishments in the South East of England and toured the area delivering and assessing the C&R training in establishments as well as operating courses at the new C&R National Centre at Doncaster. He soon became recognisable in the region by his old battered cars and in particular his tired but trustworthy Mercedes Benz saloon and his habit of driving with his head to one side as he was too tall for the car.

Tony continued his work in developing C&R and in particular C&R 3 (Riot Training). He was passionate in his desire to ensure the confidence and safety of all staff working in prison establishments: he worked tirelessly and demanded the highest standards of those staff and Instructors that worked for him. Many hundreds of students passed through his hands on the initial and refresher riot training courses and all will remember the sometimes frightening no-holds barred approach he took in the realistic scenarios to prepare them for their first riot.

To the surprise of many, and I think even Tony, he gained another promotion, this time to Governor and transferred to HMP Elmley in Kent in 1992 as a Governor 5 grade.

In 1997, Tony retired from the prison service and eventually settled to a quiet life in the village of Reydon in Suffolk where he once again took up work using his horticultural skills.

Tony was a larger than life man in every sense of the word: he carried out his work in the Prison Service head-on, an Officer of the old school. He did not suffer fools or incompetence kindly and would challenge shortcomings and indecision, yet he also possessed and displayed powerful diplomatic skills that often charmed and surprised prison service managers and politicians alike. On meeting someone, he always gave his trademark crushing vice-like grip of a handshake that seemed to last forever and left many with their knees weakening and hoping that he would soon release them!

Tony was an honourable person and a leader of men whom no one hesitated to follow, but he had a seldom-seen softer side and showed amazing compassion and support to those who needed it. He was loyal to those he trusted and befriended which endeared their loyalty in return.

Tony bravely and quietly fought his last battle against cancer and with the support of his close friends and wife Cindy, he remained positive throughout.

Tony Proctor was one of a kind, a legend within the Prison Service. He will be greatly missed and long remembered.

Steve McLaughlin  
C&R National Instructor (Retired)  
September 2013

# Community Service Volunteering – The Borstal and Young Offender Programme.

by John Berry

In 2012 Community Service Volunteers (CSV) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. I remember attending the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary at Buckingham Palace, having been heavily involved in the CSV Borstal placement programme since I joined the Prison service at Feltham in 1976.

CSV was set up by Dr. Alec Dickinson in 1962. Some years earlier he had established the VSO programme and CSV was developed to place people in this country rather than sending them abroad. The aim was to give volunteering opportunities to young people between the ages of 16 – 35 the chance to work in face-to-face situation with people in need.

In 1969 CSV launched the Young Offender volunteering programme and in 1971 a pioneering volunteering programme was developed in partnership with The Home Office by CSV for young offenders called 'The Borstal Programme'. The scheme operated both in open and closed borstals and was based on the philosophy that volunteering can change the lives both of those who volunteer and those who are supported. It was designed to be a transformational experience for young offenders and for many it certainly did change their lives.

Most placements were based in children's homes, old people's homes, hospitals, schools and charity shops. Borstal governors were prepared to take acceptable risks in exposing borstal trainees to the CSV experience. Both Feltham and Glen Parva Borstals were early users of the CSV scheme with considerable success. There are probably many retired governors who will remember sending off trainees on to these schemes and allowing personal officers to visit them during their placement. I have no doubts that a few of us also kept our fingers crossed when we sent the odd 'challenging' trainee. In the main it worked very well and for the 7 years I was involved with the scheme we had no catastrophic failures – although I do remember one boy asking to return because it was hard work!

I used the West Point Cadet Maxim when looking for suitable boys, and for those who knew the kind of trainees we had at Feltham it was never an easy task – Glen Parva was a much easier option. For those who are not aware of the West Point Cadet Maxim it is here:

'Risk more than others think is safe  
Care more than others think is wise  
Dream more than others think is practical  
Expect more than others think is possible.'

It is important to remember that this was at a time when we had no CRB checks and Governors, whilst careful, were prepared to take acceptable risks to help trainees benefit from their time in Borstal and in the early years of the YOI sentence.

## The Selection Process

Whilst the CSV philosophy was never refuse any volunteers, we certainly took time to try and select boys who would both benefit from the CSV experience and not damage future placement opportunities. I remember interviewing boys who had been recommended by the wing staff and the Principal Officer for a CSV placement and in the main these were approved. We tried to test out boys at Glen Parva by sending them on local community placements before they went on a CSV project. At any one time Glen Parva would have upwards of 10 boys a day going out on local community projects.

The boys then went to CSV in London with their personal officer and were interviewed by staff who then tried to find a suitable placement which matched as far as possible the interests of the borstal boy with the placements available. CSV then brokered placements and over the years developed some superb

opportunities for boys in some demanding placements. The boys were away for 4 weeks and in that time we kept in contact with them by phone on a weekly basis (more if required) and the personal officer would go and visit them.

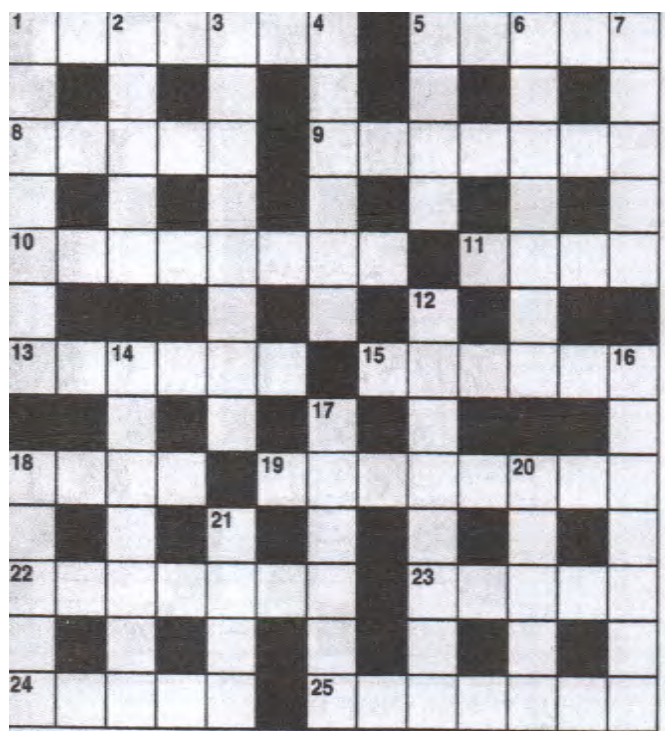
At Glen Parva at the height of the CSV scheme we were sending 30 - 40 boys a year on CSV placements and I suspect over the life of the scheme many hundreds, if not thousands of boys benefitted from the CSV scheme.

In addition to CSV, Glen Parva sent boys on a range of other placements, including one memorable placement on the Sir Malcolm Miller sail training ship and another who went to the Alternative Technology project at Machynlleth. Both boys came back having been exposed to a totally different world – one literally 90 feet up a mast and another who found alternative technology fascinating at a time when recycling was in its infancy.

### Could we do it today?

We could but I suspect we are too risk-averse today and many organisations have also developed an attitude that engaging with ex-offenders is a risk too far in volunteer engagement. So a valuable transformational experience will have been lost to many young offenders.

### A Full Cryptic Crossword



#### Clues Across

1. A place to sleep plus another prison will give you the name of this establishment
5. Sounds as though this prison could be in front
8. Something Jeremy could have been clapped in
9. Venue for a ballad
10. Someone from North Africa
11. Do this to find the porridge?
13. Most eyes have them
15. Can be flower, hay or flood
18. Convicted colour
19. Second largest of the Channel Islands
22. Taking nothing from these birds will give you a list of duties
23. A W.W. II beach
24. Not tails
25. Dumped in a drain

#### Clues Down

1. City of fashion
2. Does a dr. own this method of submersion?
3. Seriously pre occupied with something
4. Place Roger Whittaker had to leave
5. Can be taken from a book or a tree
6. Forced out
7. Sweet Alan?
12. Running hart could be this establishment
14. Bewick or hooper on the briny
16. The way land could give you a penal establishment
17. Looked after in hospital
18. Getting art helps you to this establishment
20. Could be the criminals loot?
21. House on the I.O. M.

Answers on the back page





## "From the chair"

It is late January and as I write this I look through the window out onto the Pennines I have to say it looks a bit bleak so roll on spring and ,hopefully, a good summer when the views across the Pennine Way are wonderful.

You will note that the RPGA AGM and reunion is on the 17th June this year [my birthday as it happens] which your committee felt was a more pleasant time of year for such an event and in the hope we can tempt a few more members and their partners to attend. We do try, and even the temptation of a free buffet last year, which nearly caused the treasure a heart attack, didn't increase numbers by many but each year we get a few different faces so I hope we see you on the 17th June. Attendance form is in this issue.

At the last meeting Charles Smith and Jim Blakey left the committee and we thank them for their sterling work over the years and wish them well. Paul Laxton and Jan Thompson are picking up on the pension's front and will be keeping us all up to date with the latest ploy to impact on our well earned pensions and allowances. Graham Mumby-Croft is up and running with the treasurers post and has already produced his first report which included some real progress on the bank front following a major initiative by Jim Blakey over many months.

Mick Roebuck has given us advance notice that he will stay as Newsletter editor for the next 2 years but will wish to hand it over so we will be looking for a suitable replacement, if there is anyone out there who has the skills you will be very welcome. It has to be said that Mick's dedication not only to the Newsletter but also our communications on current issues has been a major factor on maintaining membership over the years so no pressure there then.

The 2013 reunion and AGM at Newbold Revel went really well and the programme included an update from the Head of College and the PGA on current issues. I know some members have little interest in the current Prison Service but some do and it was notable that some things are just the same whilst others issues are presenting major pieces of work for those now taking the Service and PGA forward.

We were pleased to have David Taylor ascend to the committee and look forward to working with him even though he is a Lancashire Cricket member I am sure he will fit in nicely.

Just to finish my ramblings as I am off to my PROBUS Club meeting now and would like to recommend that you see if there is a PROBUS Club near you and consider joining. The clubs are an offshoot of Rotary and are for retired professional and business folk although we have many and varied professions represented in our 80 members. Some clubs are men or women or mixed though ours is male only. We have coffee and biscuits and a guest speaker on a wide range of subjects twice a month and I have given a number of talks to PROBUS groups in and around the Huddersfield area. There is a website that will tell you where your local club will be and let's face it what else have you got to do?

Graham Smith Chairman



## **Retired Prison Governors Association**

### **Reunion and Annual General Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014** **PSC Newbold Revel**

We invite you to attend the RPGA reunion and annual general meeting at PSC Newbold Revel on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 1030 for 1100 am. There will be an informal programme of events and lunch will be available in the collage restaurant.

Partners and spouses are more than welcome.

If you would like to attend please complete the form below and return to:-

**Ray London 14 James Court, Eynesbury, St NEOTS Cambs PE19 2QQ**

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I / We \_\_\_\_\_ [name/s] would like to attend the RPGA Reunion and AGM at The Prison Service College, Newbold Revel on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_



## **Brixton Prison - Resolving the Problem of Female Imprisonment in the 1850's and the Fulham Refuge.**

**By John Berry OBE JP**

For those Governor grades who served at Brixton, this article may not generate any new information about the history of the prison: however, for those of us who did not have that pleasure, you may find this article of some interest.

### **Introduction**

Ever since it opened in 1819, Brixton prison stood at the vanguard of the debate around crime and punishment. Before Brixton, the most common punishments for minor criminals had been held in public, such as the pillory and the stocks, but changing sensibilities meant the days of such spectacles were numbered. When Brixton opened, prisons were emerging as the central focus in the struggle against crime.

The origins of Brixton **Convict** Prison can be traced to that major shift in British penal policy at the beginning of the 1850's, which saw the beginning of the end of transportation as a penal remedy for the country's more serious criminals. The writing had been on the wall for some time in fact, with mounting criticism at home as one antipodean door after another slammed shut in the face of the trade of exporting criminals to the colonies.

The appointment of Sir Joshua Jebb (hence Jebb Avenue) in 1850 to head the new Convict Prisons Directorate marked a turning point, ushering in a period of intense reflection on the subject of female imprisonment. Home Office officials were well aware that they were entering uncharted waters. As Jebb and his colleague Captain Donatus O'Brien noted in the first of their reports on Brixton, "A fundamental shift was required in the organization of the country's provision for women convicts". Until that point, female convicts were taught to regard expatriation as the inevitable consequence of their sentence, and when detained in Millbank, usually for some months, awaiting embarkation, they were reconciled to the discipline, however strict, by the knowledge that it would soon cease as they were loaded onboard the convict ships to be dispatched to the colonies.

The announcement in 1852 that Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) refused to take any more female transportees meant that an alternative solution needed to be found quickly for the country's 1,000 or so women convicts. The result was the purchase of Brixton Prison, a former local jail, which was rapidly converted for convict use. By November 1853, just a few months after the passage of the Penal Servitude Act 1853 created a legal alternative to transportation, a full complement of staff had been recruited (including the widow of a prison chaplain as superintendent) and the first batch of prisoners installed in the old part of the prison.

By July the following year, the building work was completed, and the prison was up to its full strength of about 650. The purchase of Brixton presented the prison authorities with a whole range of novel problems. For male convicts, an alternative to transportation was already available in the form of the recently built public works prisons at Portland, Portsmouth and Dartmoor. However, the only previous provision for female convicts had

been at Millbank, where women had been subject to several months separate confinement before being shipped overseas.

It is true that from 1816 up until the early 1840s, Millbank still retained its' original designation as a General Penitentiary, which had also been available as an alternative, rather than a prelude to transportation, with one of its' pentagons having been given over to women convicts. But as in other penal regimes of the period, it would appear that little thought was given to the specific needs of women prisoners.

As for any lessons learned at the General Penitentiary, in subsequent years they seem to have been forgotten in the unseemly rush to condemn the Millbank experiment as an unmitigated disaster. Repeated bouts of rioting, together with an outbreak of epidemic disease in the 1820's, were so serious that the premises had to be temporarily evacuated. These problems were identified as management failures, with the prison having been placed in the hands of incompetent, if well-meaning amateurs. It was decided that the time had come to bring the experiment to a close, and in 1843 Millbank was ignominiously converted into a convict depot. Thereafter, its' inmates would be merely passing through its gates, initially on the way to Australia, or latterly to other British convict prisons.

During this second phase of closely-watched association, there would be, Jebb and O'Brien noted, "Appreciable advantages for good behaviour", with women prisoners able to move up through three classes, each providing slightly better conditions than the last. These privileges could be rescinded in the event of bad behaviour, and the offender demoted to the previous class. If deemed appropriate she could be required to recommence the probationary period of separate confinement.

In some respects, the regime put in place at Brixton was less harsh than that pertaining in the male convict prisons because the period spent in separate confinement was shorter and at its' end many prisoners progressed rapidly to Second Class status. Once this had been achieved, the women were allowed to converse in pairs during exercise, and to enjoy certain privileges like drinking tea in the evening and wearing a better quality uniform. For those displaying the requisite qualities of contrition, honesty, docility and industriousness, further promotion might be offered to the First Class, which after 1855 meant transfer to the Fulham Refuge. The Refuge was intended to provide a less punitive regime than the one in place at Brixton. It was hoped that when the time came to leave this benevolent institution (as Fulham's first chaplain called it) the former inmates would enter domestic service, which was seen as the most respectable employment for working-class women. Release was also governed by a more generous system of remission than for men, with sentences reduced by up to a third for good behaviour.

In 1869, the inmates at Brixton were transferred to a new convict prison for women at Woking, and the old prison was converted once again, this time to a light labour prison for men. During the previous sixteen years, Brixton had started off as the only women's convict prison. However, subsequently the probationary and penal classes had been relocated to Millbank, and some of the better-behaved prisoners sent to the new intermediary refuge at Fulham. In 1863, Roman Catholic prisoners were removed to a new wing at Parkhurst, and then just six years later Brixton was closed and Fulham became an ordinary convict prison.

## **The Fulham Refuge**

In the 19th century, Fulham was the site of a female convict prison. For almost 40 years the buildings dominated the area between Burlington and new Kings Roads until they were demolished to make way for new streets and houses. The prison was quickly forgotten and virtually all trace of it was obliterated. One of the places chosen was Burlington House, a former boys' boarding school with extensive grounds. The government purchased the bankrupt property in 1855 and converted the old mansion into offices and staff quarters. Attractive new buildings consisting of a chapel, laundry, workrooms and dormitories were erected to receive the first batch of prisoners in May 1856. The influential Head of the convict prison service, Sir Joshua Jebb, designed the prison, originally known as Fulham Refuge. Jebb took a keen interest in the Refuge and visited regularly. This may have been the reason that the inmates were known locally as 'Jebb's pets'. Fulham Refuge was planned to hold up to 200 women in the final stage of a reformatory system of imprisonment. Women who had served most of their sentence at other prisons could be transferred to Fulham to be taught domestic skills, such as laundry work, cleaning, needlework and cookery to fit them for future employment. Jebb's death in 1863 marked a turning point in the development of the Prison Service in general and Fulham Refuge in particular. Under his successors, notably Sir Edmund Du Cane, the regime became more severe. Major rebuilding was completed in 1871 at what became known formally as Fulham Women's Convict Prison to hold 400 prisoners.

What type of women spent up to 20 years of their lives behind these forbidding walls? The majority were convicted for larceny, many being persistent offenders who had spent time in local prisons. Fulham also held its share of arsonists, poisoners, forgers and murderers. The most notorious inmate, Constance Kent, confessed to the brutal murder of her young half-brother in a crime extensively reported in the national press. She was released from Fulham in 1883 and subsequently emigrated. By 1887 Fulham Prison had outlived its' usefulness thanks to a decrease in the number of female convicts. It closed in February 1888 as quietly as it had opened. The prison lay derelict for five years and in 1893 the site was sold and by the turn of the century the area had been completely redeveloped.

Some traces remain, the most compelling one being the convict arrow with the letters 'DCP' (Directorate of Convict Prisons) on the corner wall of Burlington and Rigault Roads.

### **References:**

Extracted from: 'Business as Usual? Britain's First women's convict prison 1853 – 1869' by Neil Davie

### **Editors Footnote**

Brixton prison was once again used to house female prisoners when in 1972 the two Price sisters, who were eventually convicted on being involved in the IRA bombing outside the Old Bailey, were remanded in D wing whilst awaiting their trial.

No doubt many of our lady readers will remember working there on detached duty.



# Travel Insurance

By Mick Roebuck

Many of you will be aware that upon reaching that magical age of 65, insurance companies see this landmark in your life as a golden opportunity to grossly increase your travel insurance. If you wish to travel outside Europe then this is also seen as something the companies can use to fleece a few extra pounds from your wallet.

God forbid that you have had a minor medical complaint at sometime in the distant past or even worse be on some form of current medication, as these will also be used to “up the ante.”

The latest surcharge they now wish to take money from you for is cruise protection. That’s to cover you should a helicopter be needed to airlift you off the ship. Do not even suggest to them that you are taking some form of activity holiday as you find the quotes for insurance shooting of the Richter scale. All in all these extra charges can cost almost as much as the holiday itself.

It is important of course, that before you pack your bags you do ensure that you do have holiday cover, and, if like me you are a regular traveller, then annual insurance is possibly the most appropriate for your needs.

Using one of the many companies available can be quite a daunting experience and if you do have any medical issues a considerable amount of time must be taken up ensuring that every spot, boil or pimple you may have or have had is fully registered on your application. Failure to do so will give the insurers the chance to opt out of paying up should you have to make a claim.



Those of you who are already members of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance will be aware via the correspondence they send out, that they offer a world-wide annual travel package. I have copied some of the details which the CSPA offer to its members further on in this article.

Membership of the CSPA is currently £1.50p per month deductible and payable via your Civil Service Pension.



For those of you who have on line facilities then log onto [www.CSPA.co.uk](http://www.CSPA.co.uk) where you will find a full list of all the benefits and cost offered by the CSPA to its members, including the necessary application forms for the holiday insurance.

Those of you not on the internet can call the Croydon office on 020 8688 8418 from where staff will be only too please to post out the required documents to you.

Checking through the list of benefits and items covered I find this policy equally as good as ones costing several times more.



# CSPA GROUP TRAVEL SCHEME

Premiums for the year from 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014:

Single £135

Couple £185

Single Parent £185

Family £195

The package of benefits at a glance:

**Benefit**

Medical and additional expenses+ £5,000,000

Extra overseas accommodation £5,000  
in event of injury/sickness

Emergency dental treatment £750

Repatriation of mortal remains to UK covered

Up to £2,000 for local burial/cremation\*

Emergency medical repatriation covered  
and evacuation\*

Compassionate overseas visit\* covered

Personal accident\* £30,000

Personal baggage: single item £350  
up to maximum £1,500

Delayed baggage (more than 12 hours)\* £150

Personal money, travellers cheques £500

Cash limit up to maximum £250

Loss of passport £250

Loss of deposit or cancellation £5,000

Curtailment £5,000

Delayed departure: every 12 hours\* £50  
up to maximum £200

Extended delay £2,000

Missed departure £1,000

Catastrophe cover £300

Legal expenses\* £25,000

Personal liability\* £2,000,000

Please note: all benefits are subject to £50 excess

except those marked with an asterisk (\*)



## Happy Travelling

### Footnote

Having had such a great deal with the holiday package I saved a further £300 per year on my home & contents insurance, plus I received back my first £18 annual CSPA as a thank you gift.

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CSPA???????????????

# Clickers Corner

By Mick Roebuck



## WINDOWS XP

From April 2014  
Microsoft will cease  
supporting its Windows  
XP.

This means that from that date updates for the platform will no longer be available from Microsoft. Those of you still operating XP would be well advised to regularly check that any last minute updates are downloaded into your computer before the April switch off.

## Word Processing

Does your word processor show that you have misspelt some words you have typed, even though you know you have correctly spelt them? An example of this would be words like colour and neighbour being shown as incorrect with the correct spelling being shown on your monitor as color and neighbor. The reason for this anomaly is that most word processing systems default to American spelling when downloaded. To correct this problem one simply changes from American English to UK English. If you have Microsoft Word click onto the top of your screen on the "Review" tab and from the icons now in front of you click onto "Set Language". From the drop down highlight English (United Kingdom) then press OK. For those of you operating a different WP ask the question in Google "How do I change my (name of system i.e. Microsoft Works) from American to UK English?" You will now be presented with a step by step process for your particular WP.

Still on the subject of word processing, many of you will have noticed that some other words which you spell are underlined in red to indicate they are misspelt. Examples of this would be some proper nouns such as Blundeston or perhaps Whitemoor. The reason for this is that

your processing dictionary cannot possibly hold all the world's words, but you can amend this to meet your own needs.

If there is a word which you regularly use, the next time you type it and it is underlined red, simply right click onto the word and from the drop down menu now on your monitor click "Add to dictionary"

## Printer Ink

I have written in previous editions how, given the cost of printer inks, it is important to get the most economical use of your cartridges as is possible. Again, as mentioned in a previous edition, printing non-important pages in draft format will ensure that you are using the smallest amount of ink required for that print run.

To place your printer in "draft" mode is simplicity itself and achievable as follows. Press 'Print', then from the box which now appears on your screen press Properties. This tab will open up a variety of options for you to select. Click 'Draft' then press the 'OK' button.

Most printers will automatically default back to your normal text when next you use it.

Still trying to save ink, the choice of font you select will make a difference to how much ink is required to print your document. Times Roman at a font size of 12 is considered to be the most economical. Using bold and underline will also require more ink, so only use these two options when necessary.

Save further on your printer ink by selective printing in programmes such as Word, Excel, Internet Explorer WordPad, Outlook, etc., i.e. in a lengthy document of which you only wish to print selective sections, you can choose which sections you wish to print. To do this, highlight portions of text you wish to print and click 'Print' in the File menu. In the printer dialogue window under 'Page Range' choose the option 'Selection'. Your printer will now only print



those sections you have highlighted. Further examination of the box will show that there are numerous other print options available to you.

Some of you like me, print off the odd photograph, but do ensure that it is only the odd one or two. Printing images uses more ink than any other procedure. If you have numerous images you wish to turn into hard copies then transfer them onto a memory device and go to one of the several retail outlets such as Photoprint or Boots which offers you print facilities.

Every time you turn your printer on it goes through a head cleaning process which does use a large amount of ink. The important rule here is to only turn your printer on when it's required and to save up as much printing as possible and then run it off in one go.

Another way in which printer manufacturers try to get even more money out of you is to design their printers so that they will only take their own brand of photographic paper, which is of course always the most expensive paper. Epson printers are notorious for this problem.

If you need to purchase more photographic paper and want to get the cheapest, look first at the type recommended for your printer by the manufacturer. In particular look at the weight which is usually shown in gsm and can be seen on the front of the packaging. So long as you purchase paper with the same dimensions as recommended by the manufacturer you should not encounter any problems.

I get mine from a well-known supermarket at a fraction of the price my printer manufacturer charges. The important thing is that the quality is just as good.

## **Change From Upper Case to Lower Case**

To change text from upper case to lower case or vice versa, highlight any text in Microsoft Word and press the shortcut key shift + f3. The highlighted text will now change its' case.

Pressing this key once again will reverse the action.

## **Freebies**

As ever I bring you more quality freebies, believing as I do, 'Why be on line if you cannot download a few goodies?'

The first is to enable you to download your images then edit them by removing red eye, cropping, re sizing etc. It is probably one of the best around at the moment and can be found at:

[www.serif.com/free-photo-editing-software/](http://www.serif.com/free-photo-editing-software/)

Another useful address is:

[www.nchsoftware.com](http://www.nchsoftware.com) which, once loaded, will list a whole range of software products most of which come free of charge.

## **Uninstalling Programmes**

You have installed a programme, possibly one of the freebies listed above, and now wish to remove it from your system. For Window users click onto 'Start' then click onto 'Control Panel'. Once the control panel has loaded it will list all the programmes contained on your system. Select the one(s) you wish to remove then click on uninstall.

To uninstall on Apple Macs try the following:

Most OS X applications are completely self-contained "packages" that can be uninstalled by simply dragging the application to the Trash. Applications may create preference files that are stored in the /Home/Library/Preferences/ folder. Although they do nothing once you delete the associated application, they do take up some disk space. If you want you can look for them in the above location and delete them, too.

Some applications may install an uninstaller program that can be used to remove the application. In some cases the uninstaller may be part of the application's installer, and is invoked by clicking on a Customize button that will appear during the install process.



## YOUR LETTERS

**Bob Duncan**

**28Dumpton Park Drive**

**Broadstairs**

**Kent CT10 1 RQ**

**bobduncan@hotmail.co.uk**

The privilege of collating news from former colleagues means that one is reminded repeatedly of the quality of those who dedicated their time to the Service. Even in the sad news of death, there are rich and wonderful reminders of personalities who gave so much, and contributed significantly to the quality of the Service, but did so quietly and unobtrusively. So it is again this time. I believe colleagues are genuinely interested in just news of former colleagues, but in addition our own souls are lifted by personal memories and snippets of news about their quiet contributions. I also worry that Service of today does not possess the kind of characters or the comradeship of former times.

News of **Danny and Joan Ozanne**, who state they are 'still going', despite the passage of time. Joan suffers from arthritis in hands and legs but remains busy. She remains in a group at the Salvation Army involved in preparing meals, and also with 'Messy Church' which takes place once a month and involves making cakes and sandwiches. Danny has regular visits to the hospital for 'check ups' especially now he is on Warfarin.

Danny does not drive anymore but manages with help from his daughter and her husband who live nearby in Doncaster. His daughter is still teaching, but her husband has 'retired' but has gone into house renovation, the 'in-thing' according to television.

**Alan Rawson** has left his beloved village of Ingelby Arncliffe: with his lack of mobility he was very isolated there, and has moved to a dormer-bungalow near Bradford to be nearer his sister. It is well appointed and meets his needs on the ground floor with room for guests on the upper floor. We went to stay recently and he is in good spirits, but health-wise his lack of mobility is a real set back. Despite that we visited Howarth (Bronte territory) and he walked, at a snail's pace, the whole of the hill that is the main street.

Somehow he did not quite send out all his 'change of address and telephone' cards, so if anyone would like to make contact I can supply details if you contact me.

**Steve and Lesley Metcalfe** have returned to the Isle of Wight as 'pensioners'. Lesley is involved as a voluntary counsellor at the local hospice. Steve has a little boat in Yarmouth harbour, and enjoys the miles of fossil beaches and the local clay shooting.

**Malcolm O'Brien JP** advises that he recently received an email from Hannah Aspinall, formally Hannah Sissons OBE. Prior to our retirement we were governor grades at Bristol. Hannah was Head of Inmate Services and Malcolm Head of Residence. He retired in 1966 and she sometime later. During their service together they had become good friends and remained contact with each other over the years. Hannah was a strong and redoubtable character who had more than her fair share of domestic problems to contend with after her husband had a stroke.

This was to have a significant impact on their life and their dreams of retirement. The later years of her service were a constant struggle between the needs of a full-time job and caring for a severely disabled husband. How she managed to successfully achieved this work/life balance is testament to her. Hannah and her husband Bill had always planned to spend their retirement in Spain, but this was now to be an unfulfilled dream. Sadly Bill died following another major stroke.

Some time after this sad event, Hannah, to the surprise of many, decided that she would fulfil the dream she shared with Bill and move to Spain. She bought a Villa in Torreveieja and prepared for a new life. However, life was to deal her another blow. Prior to the move Hannah was in the process of selling her car and a prospective buyer had arrived to examine the vehicle. With the engine running, and nobody in the car, it rolled backwards as Hannah was leaning in to the open door. She was knocked to the floor and the car ran over her resulting in multiple fractures of the leg. When she had recovered from this she still completed her move to Spain.

I had the pleasure of spending a very enjoyable stay of a week with her at the villa. The surrounding area is now home to many ex-pats and also ex-prison staff. The highlight of the week was when Hannah hosted a gathering of her ex-Bristol retirees at her villa. Sitting around the table it was like attending a staff meeting at Bristol, a point not lost on those

who were there, and we all had a most enjoyable evening.

In the years following my visit, Hannah met a fellow ex-pat John. This relationship led to her moving home to an area just outside Valencia. They eventually married and were very happy together. Ill health however started to affect Hannah and resulted in a number of operations: her linguistic skills were found wanting during her stays in Spanish hospitals and she was not best pleased with the attitude of medical staff towards ex-pats who could not speak Spanish.

After battling against ill health, bad luck and a myriad of problems with which life has presented her, she has remained as positive and strong as ever. Sadly, I have just heard from her, and life is determined to present her with even greater challenges, despite all she has had to endure. Recently, after a long battle to try and avoid radical surgery, she has had her left leg amputated. Hannah, only weeks away from her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday, has now to endure the gruelling prospect of rehabilitation to help her to walk again. My thoughts will certainly be with her at this incredibly difficult time.

Hannah was like a stick of rock – snap it in half and you would see Prison Service all the way through it, though she has had to face more adversity and challenges in life than most, but still remains positive.

I was therefore moved to put something together about Hannah to share with other colleagues. I have no doubt there will be many Newsletter readers who will have known her during her time in the Prison Service, and may, like me, spare a thought for this remarkable lady.

Thank you **Malcolm** for sharing that with us, especially for those who have known her. It is though a ‘story’ for all of us about how lucky we are, about the quality of people that served in our Service, and a reminder of the privilege we all had in working with such remarkable colleagues. I am sure all our readers send their best wishes to Hannah and our thoughts for her as she battles with her latest quest.

About himself, Malcolm merely says, ‘Retired, knackered, fed-up, wish it would stop raining but still managing to play golf 4 times a week! What do you do on the other 3 days?’

Not seen much of **Dave Simons** this year, but his wife Ann has been ill and is waiting on consultant advice re. an operation. We all hope it will work out well. Look forward to meeting up again with Dave in 2014.

**Paul Wailen** has been on his usual world travels including sunny Greece. He has also been busy on the last bit of his house repairs prior to putting it on

the market this spring. If rumours of house prices in London are true, then he might be sitting on a little ‘gold mine’. Then he plans to purchase a flat in London, if it is of the luxury type: might not be much better off. Time will tell.

**Veronica Bird** is well but busy as ever: she is on a ‘talk’s circuit’ and seems to be more heavily booked every year. She also cares for an old lady, who is taking up even more of her time, but then the lady was 103 on Christmas Day. She has managed several trips to her property in Spain, and a couple weeks in Turkey with Daryl Murdoch and his wife.

I have been in touch with **Tim Newell, who is also a close friend of Alan Rawson.**

He reminds me that for several years after retirement he worked with the Butler Trust, helping award-winners develop their work. He has also been involved with a restorative justice scheme in the Thames Valley, and more latterly developing a charity to provide services for families bereaved by homicide, called Escaping Victimhood. He is also supporting a mentoring scheme with short-term sentenced people again in the Thames Valley area. He also meets up with several past criminal justice practitioners in a discussion group – very lively, and he still visits 2 prisons.

He is now able to spend more time on his allotment, when not playing the role of grandpa to two wonderful grandchildren in Vancouver. So they get to do some travelling as well.

**Betty Dennis** keeps in touch and remains active but quite so much now she is in her Nineties and has moved again to now live with son Andrew. She has probably moved house more than anyone else I know. She has been out planting tulip bulbs in their long back garden, found it an effort, but felt she could delay as wanted to look forward to the bright colours in the Spring. She now lives just off the main village street, but just round the corner from the bus stop and the British Legion and the village Hall; just close enough for her to get there under her own steam. She attends the regular Tuesday morning coffee mornings. She finds people are friendly and kind and a couple who were at Hewell Grange running the farm have retired to the village. The British Legion gave them all a splendid Xmas lunch and £10 for the over 70’s. Had her Birthday been December instead of May she would have been presented with a bottle of ‘Bells’, but she was tipped to the post by ‘Stella’ who was 93 in December. Not to worry, whiskey is not her normal tippie, but she does like a glass of Croft Original. She has not been too well at the turn of the year, but is now on medication for a chest infection, so let’s hope that will effect a rapid cure. I know Betty is looking

forward to the spring when the garden will burst into colour again. I think she is marvellous: she takes what comes and just gets on with life.

**Paddy Scriven** has advised us that **Barry Rossiter** is now in a care facility near Windermere and his condition is such that it is doubtful whether he will ever be well enough to ever leave. Although he is now only 56 his health deteriorated rapidly after the death of his two children in a car accident and he was retired in 2008.

Paddy says if anyone would like to contact him she can supply an address.

Sad news from the PGA of the death of **Chris Taylor** former Governor Grade at Manchester 84-87, Featherstone 87-92, Swinfen Hall 92-96, Brinsford 96-02, and HMP Stafford 02-12. He had battled for a long time with cancer and died peacefully on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January with his family by his side.

Also we have to report the sad loss of **Vey Meredith Roberts** who passed away peacefully on the 24th January aged 85. He leaves his widow, Sheila, and 2 sons and 2 daughters. He was a career army officer and served with the Royal Fusiliers. **Mike Selby** says he was a member of one of the great London Choirs and had a beautiful singing voice. **Harry Cropper** advises that he remembers him as a charming man who made him very welcome to the team of **Barry Wiggington, Roger Kendrick and John Bailey** when he joined.

**Ivor Ward** has been in touch via **Jim Blakey** and relates that when he was a junior governor grade he worked with Vey at Brixton. He held him in high regard as a person and a colleague who gave Ivor all the support he needed at that time in his career.

**John Dring** has kindly provided some additional information about Vey. He writes 'I was chair of the Trustees at Kids VIP after my retirement from the Service. This was the charity that advised prison visits staff how to run safer and more child-friendly visits (it has now merged with the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)). It was started by **Fiona Clarke** in 1968 when she saw visitors with children queuing in the rain outside Winchester prison. Vey Roberts was the Governor and Fiona writes about how he responded about her cheeky approach to offer help. We have also had a message from Fiona Clarke OBE. 'I always regarded Vey Roberts as a very humane man, with an interest in improving conditions for visiting families. He obviously took quite a gamble in 1968 on allowing an untried and tested group of women into his prison to run a play area in visits, whilst the prevailing feeling of visits' officers was that the families didn't deserve any

facilities. The first year was full of comments along those lines!

As an aside he was a member of intake 1 at Sandhurst – I only know this as my father-in-law was his company commander!! He made the connection not me.

Vey joined the Service in 1965 and was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Staff Course, along with **Danny Ozanne**, who remembers him as being very confident and self-assured. His first posting was to Brixton where served both as a Asst Gov11 and 1, he was promoted to Gov 3 in 1976 and was the first male Deputy Governor at Holloway. He later was in-charge at Winchester. I remember Vey: he was as others have said, a man of charm and self-assurance and an asset to the Service. I am sure he was also involved with supporting the Governors' Association prior to it becoming the PGA.

**Jim Blakey** says he and **Shelia** are keeping well bearing in mind their ages and thanks to the NHS. Jim says their son is 50 and they do not feel old enough to have a son of that age: I think many of us feel that! His business is doing well: apparently last week he was in Monte Carlo as a member of the support team of the Monte Carlo Historique Rally, this week in Paris working for Bonhams, and next week Milan taking and collecting a car! How the younger generation live! At that age I thought I had done well to reach the 4's on B wing!

**Ron and Sue Curtis** write that it has been a year of ups and downs, but they are now both well and enjoying life in Oakham. Last year Sue was suffering damage to one of her knees, but there was a delay in the GP referring it to a consultant. This resulted in damage to the other knee: however, two MRI scans and two lots of minor surgery have slowly brought great improvement if not a complete cure. So Sue has put her sticks aside, got on her bicycle again and is now mobile.

The highlight of the year for Ron was reaching the grand age of 70, no Ron you not look it! Simon and Daniel treated him and his brother to a walking trip to the Monadhliath Mountains in Scotland. They enjoyed frosty days; the snow was still on the mountains, 'bagged' a Munro and only just failed a second. (There, I am sure everyone understands that!)

They continue to travel regularly to the Continent to visit friends and family. Simon and Laura are still in Eindhoven in the Netherlands. They took advantage of their last visit there to visit Brussels. They were amazed at the beauty of the old city, less so by the European Parliament and the 'EU Quarter'.

They went with their sister, to our beloved Orkney again in June; they never tire of these islands which have a special attraction and charm for them. On the return journey they stayed at Kilmartin in the west of Scotland where again, but on a lesser scale than Orkney, there are some remarkable prehistoric sites. They continue their commitment to the Methodist church. Ron is in his second year as Circuit Steward, and supporting the local Food Bank was a priority for the latter part of the year. Ron has with some regret retired from his work as a school governor, but felt it was timely, especially as the college was going from success to success under Michael Gove's reforms.

**Abi and Zarina Sheikh** have not had the best of years health wise. Abi had to return to the operating table three times before they decided that the gall stones were in the gall bladder. Things have improved since they removed the gall bladder though he has to be very careful what he eats. Zarina has had back and knee problems for the last 6 years but recently they operated on her spine; she can now walk straighter than before. Abi has had for a period to do the cooking. Zarina does not always appreciate his 'prison style cooking' and tries to persuade Abi she can stand and do it, but until the surgeon gives the all clear it is not on. His daughter, Inranra regularly brings meals round. Their culture and religion is such that the children do look after their parents.

Abi has commented that this summer his garden looked glorious and the vegetables grown were very rewarding, particularly the tomatoes, some of which grew quite large weighing half a kilo. They were a new variety called Orcado which he grew from seed and will do the same next year. (We even supply gardening tips now!)

They went to Saudi Arabia in 2013 which was very enjoyable, the only difficulty was that Zarina had to use a wheel chair for long distances as walking any distance tires her. The arrangements by Egypt Air were excellent, but Heathrow was utterly useless. On their return most of the disabled people had to walk to the baggage area and then out because they did not want too many people waiting for wheel chairs.

Depending on Zarina's health, they are planning next to go back to Borneo and the Indonesian Islands to see the wildlife there.

Colleagues will sorry to hear that **Bernard Marchant** is not well. He has recently been admitted to hospital on two occasions with heart problems. He is back home at the moment but remains weak. **Margery** says he has had a very rough time over the last few weeks, however he is now looking much better and we hope for more

improvement in the next few months. Margery remains strong but is clearly worried about his condition. Readers may recall that they celebrated their silver wedding last August, and Bernard is now 86, but we all wish him well and hope he will mend and see his 90<sup>th</sup>.

**Chris Scott** has been in touch to report that he has been to visit **John Aldridge** in hospital in Swansea, and says that John is in a deteriorating condition, very confused, and unable to walk or feed himself properly. The only good news was that he did recognise Chris. This was later updated to advise that John had been admitted to an Assessment Centre in a mental hospital, which his daughter says is better for him, so perhaps he will get treatment that will help him be less miserable. He appears to be suffering from some form of dementia. Again our thoughts are with him.

There is now a further update from Chris: 'Just an update on **John's** condition. He is physically much better than he was but has been diagnosed with Vascular Dementia which is caused by blocked or burst blood vessels in the brain. There is no cure for this condition which normally occurs when a person has had mini strokes. Having said that he appears much more like his old self but then gets confused e.g. he thinks he is in the PS College and so far no-one can dissuade him of this. He remains in the Mental Hospital in Swansea under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act which permits him to be held for assessment. He is very bored so welcomes telephone calls or visits but then there are days when he is very agitated and even more confused as his memories get mixed up. I believe that this week his consultant and her team are to make some decision about what will be best for him in the future although she has ruled out the possibility of him ever living on his own. He no longer has the capacity to make rational decisions. I will update when I know more after a further visit later this week. Lynn Bowles has visited and plans to do so again.'

So sad, I was with John at Love Lane for a while and he was one of the fittest people around. Then when I went back to Liverpool, John used to host Area meetings at Stoke Heath. I remember the excellent buffets, but as I was at Gartree for the helicopter escape, I did not appreciate the helicopter training centre which was next door to Stoke Heath. John also used to come over to Liverpool and undertake 'enquiries' for me, he would always say, 'Tell me what outcome you want; then I can always steer the questions so it comes out right!'

I have spoken to John on the phone and he was remarkably cheerful and alert and able to chat freely about earlier days. The latest news is that he is much better and likely to be discharged soon.

Our regular stalwart, **Mike Selby**, posts an update to advise that all is well generally health-wise, except for battles with his dentist who is reluctant to pull a tooth out until all that remains is a vacant shell from which a vast filling falls out. His shoulder is recovering so that he can now return to play golf, pronounced 'goff'.

They had excitement over the New Year with the tide flooding into their house down in the harbour in Newport, Pembrokeshire. They were there fortunately so had to mop up like mad, an exhausting exercise. Also the feeling of disorientation caused by nature showing that it is in charge and not feeble human beings. Which reminds me there is an even higher tide forecast for Feb 2- so mops at the ready?

The 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start Victim Support. It started in a new way right here in Bristol- pronounced 'Brizzle'. It is now a world-wide movement which is under threat in G.B. from our political masters. The Bristol celebration takes place before the Lord Mayor, High Sheriff etc. and Mike participates in describing the experience of being a Volunteer, so he got to make a start on preparing it. (I am sure it went very well-Bob)

It did! Mike has further confirmed that he attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Victim Support. Several of the original founders were there and it was fascinating talking to them. He was wheeled out to represent the Volunteers and was given a certificate for 20 years' service.

Now Mike is shoring up the defences at home against especially high tides predicted from February 2<sup>nd</sup> onwards for a week. As well as that he is attending Slapstick Silent Film Festival in Bristol: he recommends it to anyone in the Bristol area.

Greetings from 'down under' in Australia from Allan and Emily Radford, who says:

**Don't mention the cricket'**. The Ashes were a total disaster and at the time of writing England were 3 down in the ODI's. What are our chances of the remaining events? Captain Cook must go.

The latter half of 2013 was not very comfortable for us. Emily recovering well now from a knee operation in June, and I did not know how well domesticated I had become. Cooking is now my speciality, though I do not enjoy house cleaning (what no reband cleaner!) About August time my fitness and ease of movement began to fail; aching and stiffness in all joints, neck, arms, buttocks and thighs. I had trouble get dressed in the mornings, unable to put socks on or tie laces. I could not sit on a chair for more than a few minutes for the pain, nor sleep at night. Various medical procedures and medication failed to alleviate the matter. In

November, the doctor eventually sent me for blood tests to examine for Poymyalgia Rheumatica. Eureka!!

At last a correct diagnosis, and with prescribed medication I very quickly returned to full mobility. It was though a worrying time for months.

On a more cheerful note, June saw the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our arrival in Australia which then qualified us to apply for Australian citizenship. We bye-passed the test because of our age, and on 19<sup>th</sup> December we were sworn in as Australian Citizens at a ceremony in Mandurah, our home town, which is about 70 kilometres south of Perth. We now get to vote in general and local elections, which is compulsory in Australia. This country has been good for us for many reasons, so Emily and I were proud to contribute to the raising of the general IQ in our locality, a fact of which we often take pleasure in reminding friends and relations. (They even brag like Aussi's now!)

The downside of living in a Commonwealth country is the UK State Pension. I notice that recently the state pension is to be raised by GDP 2.90 a week in April. When I 'became of age' in February 2003 and having qualified for a full pension the rate was GDP 85.91 a week. What is it now? Successive UK governments constantly refused to give the annual rise that we are entitled to, and so my pension remains at the rate of 11 years ago. (Not only a bragging Pom but a winging one!) <http://www.bpia.org.au/is> in Australia continues to campaign for equal treatment for all of us who have paid National Insurance contributions in an equal manner. Please visit this link to offer your support, especially if you are ever thinking of emigrating. I remain grateful that our Civil Service pensions continue to attract an annual increase, however meagre that has now become.

No doubt many of you will have been shocked at the destruction the bush fires have had on lives and property in Australia. Always a problem in the heat; we are fortunate to live in a fairly safe environment with little or no bush nearby. We while away our time in the comfort of beachside coffee shops and the like. We are looking forward to a planned trip at the end of February, down to the Margaret River Wine Region of WA: such an age since I retired from Holme House in 1995.

We are still avid supporters of Newcastle United Football Club; pleasing to see they are having some success this season and are in the top half of the table. **H,Away the Lads.**

**A belated Happy New Year to you all.**

Great to hear from you, glad you wrote before you got sozzled down in the wine region!

# MIDDLESEX INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX

Readers may be interested in the history of the establishment we knew as Feltham Borstal or Young Offenders Institution as it is known today.

The building was opened on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1867 as the first state recognised industrial school for boys.

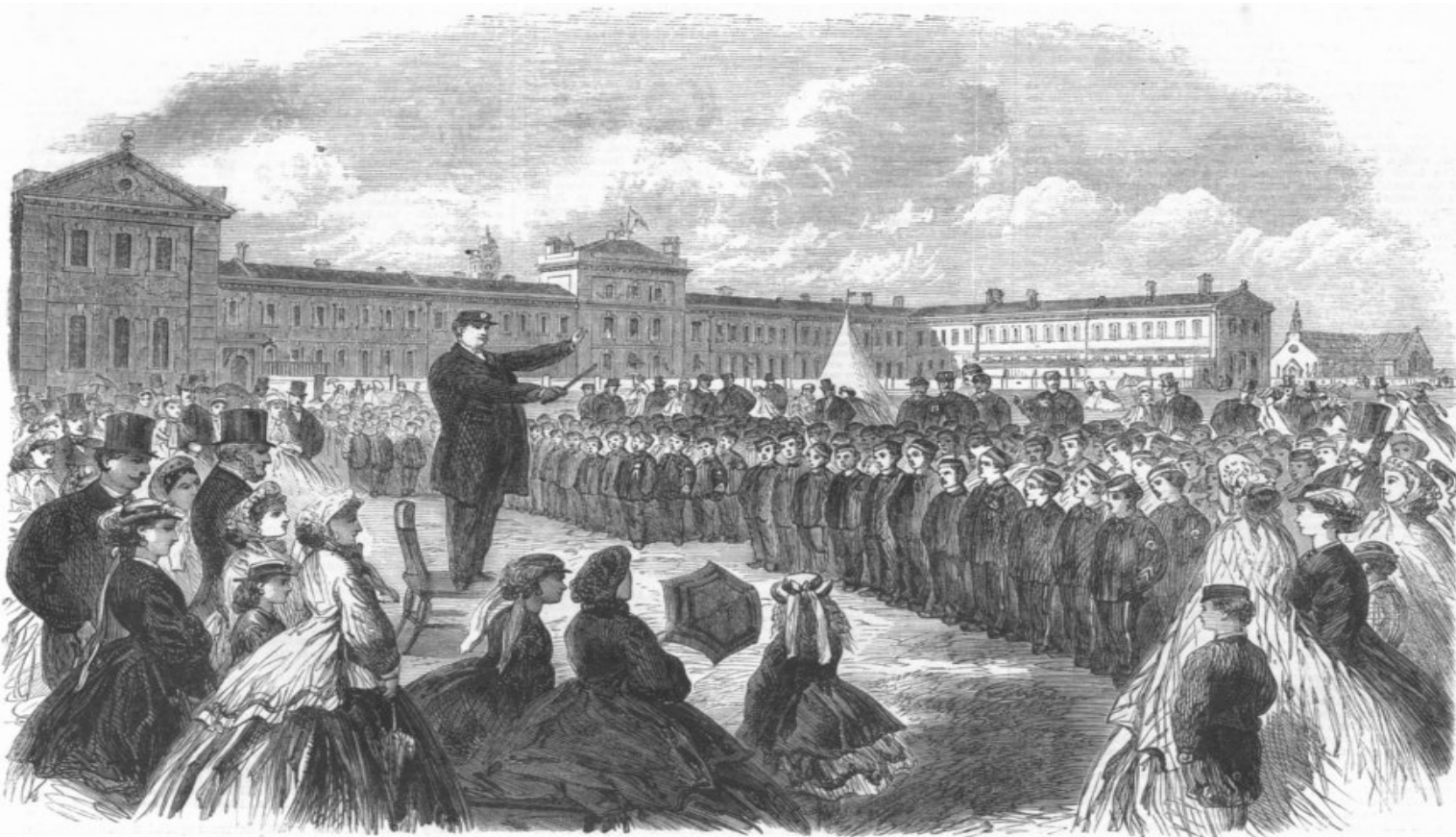
Set in 100 acres of grounds the school housed 700 young men.

It closed in 1909 and became a Borstal in 1911.

Our former RPGA Chairman Dave Simons has fond memories of the institution which he shares with us below:

*"I was born at the Borstal in 1935, at 26 Southgate Quarters. I went to the Sunday school at the borstal church. The parson then was The Rev. Dunn and I was christened and baptised at the church. The picture below looks very likely to have been taken outside what was in my time there the old administration block, at the back of which was the bake house where all the staff bought their bread. I used to have to cycle or walk with my sister to get our bread. My father was a gym instructor there from about 1931 to when we left in about 1947 when my dad got promoted to P.O. and we went to Lowdham Grange."*

*Dave Simons*



There will be many retired members who have similar such memories of maybe this and other establishments. Before such information is lost in oblivion why not share them with us by sending in items for future publications.

# Prison Service Roll of Honour

## MEMBERS OF THE PRISON SERVICE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918

The 28<sup>th</sup> July this year sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 and whilst war is not something to be celebrated readers may well like to reflect on those who fell during that conflict, and as well as remembering those who belonged to their own families you may also like to be aware of those who served in the Prison Service before being sent to fight our enemies and gave their lives for us.

NAME	PRISON RANK	PRISON	RANK IN NAVY OR ARMY	DATE OF DEATH
Armstrong, Joseph	Class II Clerk	Cardiff	Lieutenant, Royal Field Artillery	Killed in action, 5th May, 1917.
Beck, John	Warder	Wormwood Scrubs	1st Class Petty Officer, Royal Navy	Lost on H.M.S. "Goliath", 13th May 1915.
Bacon, Fowler	Class II Clerk	Portland	Private, 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry	Killed in action, 21st March, 1918.
Barnes, Horace V.	Warder	Canterbury	Sergeant, Sherwood Foresters (D.C.M.)	Died of wounds received in action, 7th May, 1917.
Bennett, Bertram J. K.	do.	Maidstone	Corporal, East Surrey Regiment	Posted as "Missing" since 30th November 1917, and his death has been presumed.
Brasier, Leonard G.	do.	Pentonville	Serving on H.M.S. "Good Hope"	Lost on H.M.S. "Good Hope", 15th November, 1914.
Brenton, Samuel	do.	Wormwood Scrubs	Corporal, 11th Lancashire Fusiliers	Posted as "Missing" since 29th May 1918, and his death has been presumed.
Bromilow, John M.	do.	Parkhurst	Sapper, Royal Engineers	Died of wounds received in action, 9th October 1915.
Bryant, Ernest R.	do.	Camp Hill	Sergeant, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards	Died of wounds received in action, 7th February, 1915.
Burt, Wilfred H.	Nurse	Winchester	Acting Corporal, Royal Army Medical Corps	Died of pneumonia while on active service, 12th September, 1918
Burton, Ernest H.	Warder	Durham	Lance Corporal, 2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment	Reported Killed in action, 31st October, 1914.
Calder, Gilbert J.	Draughtsman	Prison Commission	Sergeant, Artists Rifles	Posted as "Wounded and Missing", May 1918, and his death has been presumed
Cawtheray, Herbert	Warder	Portland	Private, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers	Killed in action, 9th September 1914.
Chapman, George	do.	Leeds	Sergeant, Yorks Regiment	Posted as "Missing", 3rd May 1917, and his death has been presumed.
Cheshire, Walter W. W.	Nurse	Durham	Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry	R.N. Hospital, Haslar, Gosport, 26th November, 1915.
Clarke, William M.	Labourer	Shepton Mallet	Bombardier, 29th Battery, Royal Field Artillery	Killed in action, 3rd November, 1914.
Clissold, William H.	Civil Guard	Parkhurst	Corporal, Royal Marine Light Infantry	Killed in action, near the Dardanelles, 25th May, 1915.
Collins, Denis	Warder	Camp Hill	Acting Sergeant, Royal Fusiliers	Killed in action, 23rd February, 1918.
Collinson, George	do.	Manchester	Gunner, Royal Field Artillery	Died of wounds , 30th November, 1917.
Cooley, Evelyn W.	do.	Camp Hill	Lance Corporal, 1st Hampshire Regiment	Killed in action, 23rd August, 1916.
Cooper, William J.	do.	Chelmsford	do. 1st Dorset Regiment	Posted as "Missing", in September 1914 , and his death has been presumed.



Copley, Arthur G.	do.	Leeds	Sapper, Royal Engineers	Killed in action, 12th April, 1918.
Cottrell, William	Civil Guard	Portland	Lance Sergeant, 5th Dorset Regiment	Killed in action, 26th September, 1916.
Davies, William B.	Warder	Shrewsbury	Sergeant, Middlesex Regiment	Killed in action, 14th July, 1918.
Davies, William J.	do.	Dartmoor	do. Dragoon Guards	Died of cancer following wounds received in action, 12th March, 1919.
Dixon, Harold P.	Civil Guard	do.	Private, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers	Posted as "Wounded and Missing", in September 1914, and his death has been presumed.
Duckett, George	Warder	Camp Hill	Sergeant, 2nd Battalion Border Regiment	Killed in action, 26th October, 1914.
Ellerment, William A.	do.	Cardiff	Private, 1st Battalion Bedford Regiment	Killed in action, 8th January, 1915.
Gee, Charles	do.	Portland	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of malaria, 13th November, 1917.
Geyson, Harold	do.	Manchester	do. do.	Killed in action, 9th November, 1917.
Gilpin, John L.	do.	Feltham B.I.	do. do.	Died of dysentery while on active service, 18th November, 1918.
Gwydir, Robert B.	R.C. Priest	Swansea	R.N. Chaplain	Lost on Hospital Ship "Rohilla", 30th October, 1914.
Haken, William C.	Warder	Pentonville	Sub-Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Killed in action, 13th November, 1916.
Haskell, Frank	do.	Parkhurst	Gunner, Royal Marine Light Infantry	Lost on H.M.S. "Aboukir", 22nd September, 1914.
Hatch, Frederick	Civil Guard	Dartmoor	Private, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Died of wounds received in action, 16th May, 1916.
Hawes, F.L.	Draughtsman	Prison Commission	Sergeant, 12th Battalion London Regiment	Killed in action, 18th April, 1915.
Hawke, Albert E.M.A.	Class I Clerk	do.	2nd Lieutenant, King's Royal Rifle Corps	Died of wounds received in action, 11th September, 1916.
Hewitt, Joseph B.	Warder	Parkhurst	Private, Hants Regiment	Died of wounds received in action, 2nd November, 1917.
Hilborne, William H.P.	do.	Northallerton	Bombardier, Royal Garrison Artillery	Killed in action, 10th November, 1916.
Hislop, James	Temporary Officer	Wormwood Scrubs	Captain, Bedfordshire Regiment (M.C.)	Killed in action, 27th September, 1917.
Howarth, Roger T.	Clerk and Schoolmaster	Lincoln	Private, Northumberland Fusiliers	Died of pneumonia while on active service, 3rd April, 1919.
Howe, George F.	Warder	Leicester	Corporal, 5th Dragoon Guards	Died of wounds received in action, 16th October, 1914.
Hymer, Edward W.	do.	Wandsworth	Sergeant, 2nd Dragoon Guards	Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, 28th July 1915.
Jacomb, Herbert G.	Civil Guard	Portland	Private, Dorset Regiment	Killed in action, 13th November, 1914.
Jury, Richard S.	Warder	Liverpool	Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of wounds received in action, 4th November 1918.
Jennings, William	Clerk and Schoolmaster	Manchester	Battery Quartermaster-Sergeant, Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of wounds received in action, 22nd July, 1917.
Kent, Albert	Warder	Dartmoor	Corporal, Gloucester Regiment	Killed in action, 21st December, 1914.
King, Henry J.	Night Watchman	Borstal B.I.	Rifleman, 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade	Died of wounds received in action, 26th February, 1915.
Kitchen, James L.	Warder	do.	Sergeant, 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment	Died of wounds received in action, 2nd November, 1914.
Lane, John H.	do.	Dartmoor	Company Sergeant-Major, East Surrey Regiment	Killed in action, 29th April, 1916.

Large, Frank W.	Civil Guard	Portland	Private, 1st Battalion Gloucester Regiment	Killed in action, 9th May, 1915.
Law, James	Warder	Preston	Sergeant, Military Mounted Police	Killed in action, 30th October, 1918.
Lichfield, Charles W.	do.	Camp Hill	Gunner, Royal Field Artillery	Killed in action, 25th October, 1917.
Lonsdale, Arthur S.	do.	Parkhurst	Private, Hants. Regiment	Killed in action, 2nd November, 1917.
Lutener, G.A.	Clerk of Works	Prison Commission	2nd Lieutenant, Royal Engineers	Killed in action, 31st January, 1917.
McRitchie, Christopher W.	Class II Clerk	do.	Private, 2nd Rifle Brigade	Killed in action, 1st July, 1916.
Mears, William W.	Warder	Brixton	Sergeant, Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of wounds received in action, 22nd April, 1917.
Meeks, William H.	do.	Pentonville	Private, Coldstream Guards	Killed in action, 25th October, 1914.
Milsom, Horace	do.	Camp Hill	Lance Corporal, Dorset Regiment	Posted as "Wounded and Missing", 17th November, 1916, and his death has been presumed.
Milward, Stanley R.	Class II Clerk	Prison Commission	2nd Lieutenant, 5th Berkshire Regiment	Killed in action, 11th August, 1916.
Moore, Frank	Warder	Portland	C.Q.M. Sergeant, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	Died of wounds received in action, 15th March, 1915.
Morris, Harold H.J.	do.	Brixton	Corporal, Royal Engineers	Died of wounds received in action, 29th April, 1917.
Mudford, Walter	do.	Birmingham	Bombardier, Royal Marine Artillery	Lost on H.M.S. "Good Hope", 15th November, 1915.
Myers, John F.	do.	Northallerton	Captain, Yorkshire Regiment	Killed in action, 9th October, 1917.
Nash, Soloman	do.	Manchester	Sergeant, Worcester Regiment	Killed in action, 23rd April, 1917.
Nicholson, Walter W.	Civil Guard	Parkhurst	Private, 2nd Battalion West Riding Regiment	Died of wounds received in action, 8th April, 1915.
Otter, Thomas F.	Warder	Portland	Gunner, Royal Field Artillery	Killed in action, 8th May, 1918.
Over, William S.	Class II Clerk	Wormwood Scrubs	Sergeant, Hampshire Regiment	Killed in action, 15th September, 1916.
Pallett, Thomas R.	do.	do.	Lance Corporal, Northumberland Fusiliers	Killed in action, 29th April, 1917.
Piggott, Francis H.	Warder	do.	do. 13th Reserve Hussars	Died of wounds received in action, 5th November, 1914.
Poole, William	Hospital Warder	Parkhurst	do. West Riding Regiment	Died of wounds received in action, 21st April, 1915.
Pridmore, George W.	Warder	Hull	Sergeant, 1st Battalion Northampton Regiment	Killed in action, 22nd December, 1914.
Randall, Walter	Civil Guard	Dartmoor	Private, Lancashire Fusiliers	Killed in action, at Mons, 25th August, 1914.
Rayner, Edmond I.	Warder	Wormwood Scrubs	Corporal, Royal Marine Light Infantry	Killed in action near the Dardanelles, 30th April, 1915.
Reeves, Harry	Class I Clerk	Dartmoor	Border Regiment	Killed in action, 28th October, 1916.
Reynolds, William H.	Clerk and Schoolmaster	Wakefield	Corporal, 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers	Posted as "Missing", in October, 1914, and his death has been presumed.
Rooke, Ernest J.	Warder	Parkhurst	Corporal of Horse, 13th Hussars attd. Royal Horse Guards	Drowned on active service, September, 1917.
Ross, William	do.	Pentonville	Sergeant, Royal Fusiliers	Posted as "Missing", 28th September, 1915, and his death has been presumed.
Sargent, Trevor T.	Civil Guard	Portland	1st Class Stoker, Royal Navy	Lost on H.M.S. "Tipperary", 1st June, 1916.
Sergeant, Harry V.	Class II Clerk	Prison Commission	Sergeant, 15th (County of London) Batt. London Regiment	Killed in action, 13th October, 1915.
Sharp, Frank J.	Temp. Night Patrol	Dorchester	Private, 1st Battalion Dorset Regiment	Posted as "Missing", in October, 1914, and his death has been presumed.

Strickland, Charles	Warder	Wandsworth	Able Seaman, H.M.S. "Cressy"	Lost on H.M.S. "Cressy", 22nd September, 1914.
Suter, Frederick G.	do.	Feltham B.I.	2nd Class Petty Officer, Royal Navy	R.N. Hospital, Haslar, 8th May, 1916.
Tedder, Alfred J.	do.	Borstal B.I.	Sergeant, 7th Battalion, Rifle Brigade	Died of wounds received in action, 31st July, 1915.
Tee, Harry	do.	Portland	Lance Corporal, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment	Died of wounds received in action, 9th November, 1914.
Tobin, William	do.	Preston	Sergeant, Royal Engineers	Killed in action, 11th October, 1916.
Turner, Reginald A.	Class II Clerk	Pentonville	2nd Lieutenant, Machine Gun Corps	Posted as "Missing", since 21st March, 1918, and his death has been presumed.
Turton, George	Warder	Dartmoor	Corporal, 9th Lancers	Killed in action, 21st November, 1917.
Twigg, Ellis	do.	Wormwood Scrubs	2nd Lieutenant, Royal Fusiliers	Killed in action, 18th September, 1918.
Upton, John W.	do.	Wandsworth	Acting Sergeant, Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of wounds received in action, 28th July, 1917.
Usher, Willie E.	do.	Borstal B.I.	Sergeant, Royal Horse Artillery	Killed in action, 10th March, 1917.
Vanson, Robert W.	Civil Guard	Portland	Able Seaman, H.M.S. "Cressy"	Lost on H.M.S. "Cressy", 22nd September, 1914.
Vinson, William	Warder	Dartmoor	Lance Corporal, Royal Sussex Regiment	Died of enteric-rheumatic fever in India, 25th August, 1916.
Watts, Clement F.	do.	do.	Corporal, 2nd Devon Regiment	Killed in action, 27th October, 1918.
Williamson, Thomas C.	Civil Guard	Portland	Lance Corporal, Royal Marine Light Artillery	R.N. Hospital, South Queen's Ferry, Edinburgh, 18th June, 1916.

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## HMP HUMBER

**Announced January 2014**

The prison created by the merger of HMP Everthorpe and HMP Wolds will be known as HMP Humber. The process of establishing the two prisons into one physical site will continue over the coming months but the site will start using the new name now.

Ed Cornmell, Governing Governor said: "The naming of our merged prison HMP Humber is a significant occasion. HMP Everthorpe and HMP Wolds had proud histories and achieved a great deal since their opening in 1958 and 1992 respectively. Today is a celebration of all what has been achieved by the two staff groups and two prisons as well as an opportunity to formally come together as one prison and one team for the future.

"HMP Humber will serve the people of North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Building on the firm foundations that are there, the new prison will merge together from two physical sites over the next year to become one prison with one set of services. There will be a significant saving for the taxpayer through this merger and a need for new ways of working. However, most importantly this is an opportunity for us to renew our focus on rehabilitation, preventing crime and supporting our community."

The decision to merge HMP Everthorpe and HMP Wolds into one site, as part of the modernisation of the public sector prison estate was announced on 7 June 2013.

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## CONSEQUENCES AND COSTS

John J Ramwell

Quite recently I was having a cup of coffee (okay, and perhaps also a doughnut) in my local fast food café. I was alone and so was enjoying one of my favourite pastimes – people watching.

Where are they from? Where are they going? What are their hopes? You know the sort of thing – we all do it. I admit to being fascinated with this game of amateur psychology. I know I probably come to all the wrong conclusions. Then again, maybe not always as much can be revealed by facial expressions, body language and general appearance. It is all academic and helps to pass the time.

Occasionally, though, you see signs and symptoms as manifested by your fellows that is not that academic but instead gives a clear indication of at least a few of the issues they have to deal with. Even the casual onlooker will notice those around them with unusual and distinguishing features, some of which must have been life-changing.

I was struck by the number of fellow diners who were clearly grossly overweight. Not just a little large (excuse the oxymoron) but obese. Before anyone says anything – I know I have a diet problem and am overweight. I am anticipating a hard time from the nurse next week. This piece is not about our eating habits and lack of exercise. It is, as the title above suggests, about the consequences of being obese or just being irresponsible and who pays the price. Yes, of course there is a price to pay. I pay for being overweight every time I lumber out of the arm chair and decide to ‘do something useful’ in the garden. I am probably storing up a health issues and the State is paying for the nurse giving me advice that I’ll possibly ignore.

My defence, which is hardly any defence at all, is that there are some more guilty than I. I watched a young girl of about ten with her Mother. Mother, who was actually quite trim, was sipping on a coffee and her daughter (I’m guessing it was her daughter) was seriously overweight and was sitting before a pile of French fries (chips to you and me) and a hamburger with all the trimmings. She was doing this meal justice as she filled her face with the huge hamburger. I have this vision of a huge meat roll gripped between two podgy small hands with two eyes peering over the top.

I thought, ‘This has to be a case of child abuse if ever I saw one.’ The future for this kid is very likely to include damaging health and life style issues such as Type 2 Diabetes and an inability to enjoy any sustained activity. Sad, really ... quite sad.

If this cameo was a ‘one off’, well, ... But it isn’t. Look around you in any area where people congregate. A large number are grossly overweight. Occasionally the media will take this issue on following some pronouncement from officialdom but by and large it remains a ticking time bomb which no one seems prepared to defuse. It is said that some children will die before their parents because of poor health due to an unbalanced and excessive dietary intake.

It is not just that we over-indulge in food. We over-indulge in anything that brings initial pleasure such as drugs, alcohol, sex and rock and roll. The rationale, ‘everything in moderation’ is ignored. It is ignored at our individual as well as collective peril.

And in order to indulge ourselves we often get into debt. The issue of Pay Day Loan companies is currently in the news as Government attempts to cap interest rates (which is never going to work).

What are the explanations for this self destructive behaviour? Is it due to inadequate parenting, simply just over-self-indulgence and/or ignorance and/or the overwhelming urge to satiate our urges and to do so NOW. Why wait when you can have it NOW because “you’re worth it.” - So the advertising moguls tell us. The fun of anticipation has gone and we seem oblivious to consequences; at least we don’t seem to care about them – not when they’ll come along tomorrow to bother us. Today we can have it –whatever ‘it’ is – tomorrow will be a long time coming: to hell with tomorrow. It is curious why we should be, as a species, so self-destructive. Whether it is binge drinking, addiction to illicit, or even licit, drugs, self-harming sexual activity, over-eating and voracious retail therapy leading to unmanageable debt.

Perhaps every case has its own explanations. It just seems that if we can, we will. Once we have the freedom, the freedom of choice and the freedom to do as we want, then many of us can’t handle it too well, if at all. With little in the way of restrictions as to when, where and how much, we do need some sort of control to provide a balance.

Perhaps there should be a more obvious link between our behaviour and the consequences of our behaviour. Misbehave in class when I was a kid and the teacher gave you a hard whack with the ruler. Behaving badly led to punishment. As the meerkats would say, ‘Simple!’ (I’m watching too much television).

If only it was that simple. There is much less of a connection between our personal behaviour and any consequences of such behaviour, and this disconnection, either by time or by omission, makes it look like we can get away with much.

The fact is, though, that we actually, in the final analysis, get away with very little. To all actions there are reactions and we are not very good at evaluating these reactions or consequences. We have a tendency to self-harm by not considering the longer-term effects.

It is all very well when we take on the consequences at a personal level, but what about when the rest of society around us has to pick up some of the tab? Should the State pick up the cost or, indeed, any part thereof? For example, why should your GP spend NHS time and money caring for your health if it is clear you are not taking personal responsibility for it yourself. What if she/he said, ‘Come back when you’ve stopped smoking or lost so much in weight’? I understand some doctors are already adopting this line. Imagine the Job Centre telling an unemployed person, ‘You were frequently late for work and unreliable at your last job which is why you blew it, so on yer bike, no job-seekers allowance for you.’

I know we have to make allowances for those stuck in the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse: it is, after all, an affliction, but when do we hear health care workers or politicians dare to mention that at least some of these ‘patients’ could and should take on some personal responsibility for their own welfare? Of course I realise that many do, and work hard to keep themselves free of addiction and I can only hazard a guess as to the hell they go through in their attempts to succeed.

I read recently that the increase in sexually transmitted diseases is unremitting and that the STD clinics up and down the country are working flat out. The same patients turn up for testing and treatment on a regular basis but seemingly make little attempt to curb their behaviour, and this against the backdrop of antibiotics failing to work against resistant strains of bacteria. So what! -Someone else’s problem.

To sum up, everything, but everything, comes at a price. Although we may not pay for it immediately, you can be sure it will be paid for in due course in one way or another. Some may think that by declaring bankruptcy and thereby dodging creditors is an easy option. It is not. My assertiveness about this comes from the experience of a family I am acquainted with. Getting into debt and then being unable to repay leads to misery, for some more than others, for it seems that there are a few, mainly from younger generations, who suffer less remorse about over-borrowing. None the less failure to regulate ourselves, be it over indulging and/or over-borrowing, leads to a cost manifested in a variety of ways and which, at the end of the day, has to be paid for.

These costs will be paid for in the future: of this you can be sure. What will remain uncertain in many cases is just who, eventually, does the paying. We all know that there is no such thing as a free dinner. Maybe it is time, even overdue, that we should all, government, media, educational institutions, welfare bodies, all start a loud and aggressive conversation about consequences and costs. Perhaps it should start with education from parents and from schools.

A small foot note. I used to teach First Aid to young offenders. The Tutor Organiser (do you remember these?) asked me to fill in when the regular teacher failed to show. "What shall I teach?" I asked. "Whatever," was the reply. I had a few hours to think about it and decided to talk about money. I asked the class how much they thought it would cost to live away from home and I asked them about their aspirations regarding work and leisure. We attempted to put a cost to everything: to rent, utilities, a night out, clothes, food, etc. Finally I asked them about what they expected to earn. As I scribbled the figures on the blackboard it soon became abundantly clear that there was a massive miss-match between expected income and expenses. There was a sober few minutes as it dawned on the class that they may be better off staying in the Borstal. For me it was an important lesson. Just why was home economics not taught to young people before they had to put it all into practice? This was back in the early '70s. Things have not improved.

I guess this is sounding like a rant and perhaps it is. What's more it sounds like a rant from a self-satisfied, sanctimonious and grumpy old man and perhaps this is just what I am. I am not on a moral crusade. My (sanctimonious) stand on morality is, 'Do what you want but avoid hurting anyone along the way.' I'm not claiming I always succeed in this aim but... I am not trying to spread any gospel: only point out the obvious and ask whether I am getting steamed up about nothing very much – again!

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## **Situations vacant**

A vacancy exists from amongst our members for a cartoonist who is able to submit appropriate works of art for inclusion in future editions of this Newsletter. It would be helpful if the suitable candidate had access to a scanner in order to submit their work electronically to the editorial team. However if access to a scanner was not available a hard copy sent through the post would still be acceptable as we can use our own scanning facilities.

We know the skills are out there, so come on and share it with your colleagues.

Interested then please contact any member of the committee.

# Houses of Correction

Houses of correction were established in the late sixteenth century as places for the punishment and reform of the poor convicted of petty offences through hard labour. London contained the first house of correction, Bridewell, and the Middlesex and Westminster houses opened in the early seventeenth century. As reflected in the first reformation of manners campaign, the late seventeenth century witnessed renewed interest in reforming offenders in this way, and resulted in the growth in the number of houses established and the passage of numerous statutes prescribing houses of correction as the punishment for specific minor offences including vagrancy. In London, these developments led to a significant growth in the number of commitments to its four houses of correction.

During the eighteenth century houses of correction, which were often generically termed **bridewells**, evolved in response to increased legal scrutiny of the basis of commitments. The number of prisoners did not decline, but the types of people imprisoned changed. Like other prisons, in the last quarter of the century they were affected by the Prison Reform Movement.

## Offences and Punishments

Except in the City, where beadles could also make commitments, offenders were typically committed to houses of correction by Justices of the Peace, who used their powers of summary jurisdiction to order immediate punishment for those accused of minor offences. In the Middlesex and Westminster houses of correction in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the most common charges against prisoners were prostitution, petty theft, and "loose, idle and disorderly conduct" (a loosely-defined offence which could involve a wide range of misbehaviour). Some of these offences, particularly the thefts, were actually indictable as felonies, but plaintiffs and Justices of the Peace appear to have preferred the quick justice of a summary conviction and stint in a house of correction to more formal judicial procedures. In addition, a small number of prisoners were simply committed because they were unable to find sureties to guarantee their appearance at Sessions.

Reflecting the fact that most of these offences were victimless, in the sense that no specific individual could be identified as the victim, the plaintiffs behind these commitments were primarily official, especially night watchmen and constables, and informers attached to the Reformation of Manners Campaign. Other plaintiffs included the victims of theft and the parents and masters of disorderly children and apprentices. Over two-thirds of the prisoners were female, and although information about prisoners' backgrounds is limited, most appear to have been poor, single, and recent migrants to London.

Virtually all the prisoners were put to hard labour, typically beating hemp. In addition, over half were whipped, particularly those deemed guilty of theft, vagrancy, and lewd conduct and night walking (prostitution). More than half of offenders were released within a week of their commitment, and two-thirds within two weeks. For the most part, punishment in houses of correction took the form of a short, sharp shock.

The character of commitments to London's houses of correction changed in the eighteenth century, however, as they were subjected to increasing legal scrutiny. The number of prisoners committed for idle and disorderly conduct and streetwalking declined as Justices began to charge prisoners with a wider range of more specific offences. At the same time, a much larger number of offenders, including felons, were simply committed for safekeeping until their trials. In 1720 an act allowed the use of houses of corrections for purely custodial detention of "vagrants, and other criminals, offenders, and persons charged with small offences". By the 1760s and 1770s, prisoners awaiting trial accounted for more than three-quarters of those committed to the Middlesex and Westminster houses.

By the late eighteenth century, bridewells were used increasingly like prisons, both as a place to hold those awaiting trials and as a place of punishment for those convicted. Between 1706 and 1718, an attempt was made to make imprisonment in houses of correction a punishment for convicted felons, but this failed. In response to the collapse of transportation in 1776, the Act which led to the creation of the hulks once again authorised the use of houses of correction for the punishment of convicted felons at hard labour, as did the 1779 Penitentiary Act.

Like most prisons, conditions in houses of correction depended on whether a prisoner could afford to pay for luxuries and better treatment. Most prisoners were poor, and dependent on the "kindnesses of the keeper" and

charity provided by prison visitors. Referring to the Middlesex House of Correction in Clerkenwell, in 1757 Jacob Ilive complained, 'The present constitution of this goal seems to me to be founded chiefly for the emolument of the keeper and benefit of the tap.'

In 1780s and 1790s, however, houses of correction fell under the influence of the Prison Reform Movement. A 1782 Act required County Sessions to appoint Justices of the Peace to inspect houses of correction and ensure hard labour was provided, and in the same year Gilbert's Act provided measures for raising money for the reconstruction of houses of correction. In London, Bridewell was an early adopter, providing improved conditions for prisoners along with segregation of prisoners, solitary confinement, and regular inspections.

The opening of Cold Bath Fields in Middlesex in 1794 exemplifies all these trends: both a house of correction and a prison, it provided solitary confinement as well as an infirmary, religious instruction, and employment.

### **Prisoners and the Evolution of Houses of Correction**

It is likely that most poor offenders had little control over whether they were committed to a house of correction. The fact that Henry Fielding described houses of correction as "schools of vice" and "seminaries of idleness", suggests that bridewells may have been preferred by the poor to other prisons, where prisoners were forced to stay much longer, possibly with less charity, awaiting trials. Given the discretion exercised by plaintiffs and Justices of the Peace over how to prosecute many offences, it is possible that some of the accused were able to convince their prosecutors that a short (if painful) stint in a house of correction would be preferable to a longer stay in prison awaiting a formal trial, with all the additional costs that would place on the prosecutor. In this sense, a preference for this form of punishment over the traditional prison may have contributed to the continued use of incarceration in bridewell even in the face of repeated criticisms and legal obstacles. In the longer term prisons eventually became more like houses of correction rather than the reverse.

In addition, and paradoxically, complaints by prisoners and others about overcrowding, disease, and mistreatment by keepers in houses of correction generated pressure which contributed to the reforms implemented in the late eighteenth century, including improved bedding and medical care and the introduction of regular inspections.

### **London Houses of Correction**

#### **Clerkenwell**

The Middlesex house of correction was originally built in 1616, and was rebuilt in 1774-75. It held many more prisoners than New Prison, the county prison intended to hold prisoners awaiting trial in Middlesex. This house of correction often contained more than one hundred prisoners at a time, and numbers increased with the inclusion of prisoners sentenced to hard labour following the suspension of transportation in 1776. John Howard found 171 prisoners when he visited it in 1779. Unsurprisingly, it proved difficult to prevent escapes, and there was a mass escape in 1782. In 1794, it was replaced by Cold Bath Fields.

#### **Surrey**

In 1770 this house of correction, in Southwark, was presented by the Surrey grand jury as "too small, unhealthy and unsafe". Two years later the decision was taken to build a new building, owing to "population growth and the need for more suitable prison accommodation". The following year the new building, on St George's Fields, opened, with separate wards for men, women, and children. Nonetheless, when John Howard visited the prison in 1776 and found twenty-nine prisoners, he criticised it for having dirty rooms (there were chickens in two or three of them) and no infirmary. Several sick prisoners were on the floor without any bedding or straw provided and there was no work for the prisoners. In 1780 the building was destroyed in the Gordon Riots, and when it was rebuilt wards were added for the correction of incorrigible rogues.



# RPGA

## Reunion and Annual General Meeting

### Newbold Revel



On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, 23 members met at the Prison Service College for the Annual Reunion and Annual General Meeting. To generate interest, the format of the day, started with a very interesting briefing from John Robinson, Head of the College, on the work currently done at the College, followed by a guided tour round the site. After a buffet lunch, Kevin Billson from the PGA NEC outlined the current workload they face in the rapidly changing service. The day concluded with the AGM, after which Wendy Carey conducted a short Service.



*Kevin Billson*



*John Robinson*



*John Berry*

General feedback has been positive, although there have been several requests for the Event to be held earlier in the year. Consequently, we propose to hold a similar day at Newbold Revel on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014. If anyone has any specific request for briefing, talks or other presentations on the day, please contact Ray London with your suggestions.

Some of the attendees at the 2013 AGM



Current prison population

**Population and Capacity Briefing for Friday 31/01/2014**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>84,977</b>
<i>Male population</i>	<i>81,045</i>
<i>Female population</i>	<i>3,932</i>
<b>Useable Operational Capacity</b>	<b>85,657</b>

	<b>Prisons</b>	<b>NOMS Operated IRCs</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>84,175</b>	<b>802</b>
<i>Male population</i>	<i>80,243</i>	<i>802</i>
<i>Female population</i>	<i>3,932</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Useable Operational Capacity</b>	<b>84,815</b>	<b>842</b>

<b>Home Detention Curfew caseload</b>	<b>2,384</b>
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## APPROACHING THE GENERAL ELECTION: THE PENSIONS LANDSCAPE

By Paul Laxton

After my head had cleared following the New Year celebrations I was reminded that I needed to do a piece for the next newsletter. All I needed was some inspiration! Thankfully the Prime Minister rode to my rescue at great speed putting pensions back to the top of the political and media agendas. On a quiet Sunday for news Mr Cameron announced that the “triple lock” to calculate state pension increases would be retained in the next parliament if the Conservatives remained in office. Just to remind readers that ties state pension increases to the rate of inflation of whichever is the higher of wages or prices, or alternatively a guaranteed minimum of 2.5% should both those rates be lower. Pressed by Andrew Marr to give his party’s position on the preservation of the universal benefits that were the subject of my article in the last newsletter, Mr Cameron refused to go beyond the current commitment to maintain them for the life of this parliament. However within 24 hours of a political storm breaking, the Prime Minister’s office reported that he was “minded to repeat the pledge,” which in my view falls some way short of an absolute commitment. It is no secret that Tory members of the cabinet as well as their Liberal Democrat partners are determined to reduce the approximately £8 billion annual cost of so called “pensioner perks.”

The promise to retain the triple lock was the cue for a splenetic outburst from a gentleman representing something called the Intergenerational Foundation. He called the promise unaffordable. I know little about the Intergenerational Foundation but I do know that there are influential thinkers who believe that our generation commands both an unfair share of the nation’s resources, and has not taken its fair share of the pain in the period of austerity that seems set to continue. The Chancellor, Mr Osborne, who must have signed off the Prime Minister’s pledge, was also remarkably relaxed about universal benefits, saying that he could raise only “tens of millions” from cutting back in this area, when, as he believes, the country needs to find the rather more significant figure of another £25 billion’s worth of spending cuts in the first two years of the next parliament. I am assuming that Mr Osborne is equating wealthy pensioners with those who pay the higher rate of tax, around 2.25% of the pensioner population, which would indeed raise only a trivial sum. However, all this assumes that the Conservatives win the next General Election and that Mr Cameron remains leader, and it still comes with health warnings. We have members of our own for whom the date on which they receive the state pension is receding into the distance.

While there are clues about whom the Chancellor regards as wealthy (assuming intellectual consistency), there are fewer clues as to whom the Liberal Democrat leader, Nick Clegg, regards as wealthy. Although he has banged on relentlessly about what he calls “Lord Sugar’s bus pass,” Mr Clegg has not given any meaningful indication of where the line should be drawn between those deemed rich and those deemed poor, given that he believes that real rather than trivial savings can be realised. The Labour party has now decided that it supports Conservative plans for a national benefit cap, (again no indication as to how this will work) but crucially unlike the Conservatives, plans to include the state pension in the figure. Within the Conservative party, Iain Duncan Smith has publicly let it be known that pensioners should not be excused austerity, particularly as Job Seekers Allowance will be pegged at a 1% annual increase for three years. Deeper within the bowels of the party, the Centre for Policy Studies, an influential Tory “think tank,” in a summary written by Dominic Raab MP, called for the end of “grey welfare” and the strict means testing of universal benefits. At its most stringent interpretation this would abolish the bus pass, free prescriptions, free TV licences for over 75’s, free eye tests and the winter fuel payment other than for those in receipt of pension credit. This is intended to facilitate cuts in income tax and national insurance contributions, which Mr Raab would eventually like to see merged. At a stroke all those with incomes over £146 per week would lose all those benefits calculated to be worth on average £670 per year. The effect on those pensioners with low incomes but above pension credit level would be catastrophic. For those on just the wrong side of the cliff edge, it would represent a cut in income of around 8.8%.

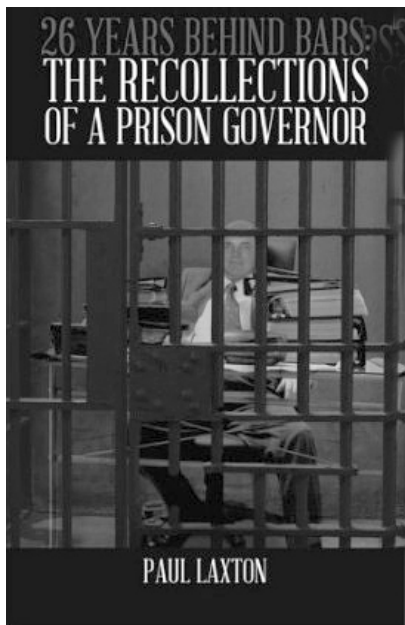
We, of course, are fortunate that we have our inflation proofed public sector pensions. Should we maintain an embarrassed silence rather than risk being told we have no room to talk? So is the attack on universal benefits our problem? Are we simply being greedy by arguing for their universal retention when our country is so much in debt and a quarter of 16-24 year olds have no regular work? Why should we not take a hit like everyone else? The answer to the first three questions is a resounding “No.” As for the hit we are most assuredly taking it.

Firstly, inflation is greater for older people. Pensioners spend more on essentials such as food and fuel. The less mobile you are the more reliant you are on more expensive local shops. The more time you spend in the house as older people inevitably do, the more you spend on fuel. Furthermore, pensioners are less likely to be IT savvy, thereby forgoing savings that can be made by shopping on-line, and also spend less on the kind of gadgets which tend to come down in price and skew the CPI downwards. In September 2011 when the CPI inflation figure was 5.2%, (used to calculate pension increases from the following April), The Office for National Statistics calculated average pensioner inflation to be 6.5%, i.e. over a quarter higher than the official rate. The RPI which was previously used to calculate the annual increase stood at 5.6%. It can readily be seen that the change from RPI

to CPI has put pensioners even further behind the curve. The change from CPI to RPI is calculated to reduce incomes by around 15% over 10 years. These points readily dispose of any argument that we are being featherbedded. Added to that I have no doubt that the use of CPI or some other index that still gives an inflation figure lower than RPI will continue to be used long after the current austerity is a historical footnote. Finally as the generation most likely to have savings, we are badly affected by historically low interest rates. Indeed for those occupational pensioners who, unlike us, are forced to purchase an annuity with their pension pot, the hit they take is magnified. As for our public sector pensions, there is no need to be embarrassed. They are deferred salary. You only have to look at the salaries paid to senior professionals in the private sector in schools, hospitals and prisons to demonstrate the point.

As a group we are not totally homogenous. Our older members will be drawing both their occupational and state pension. I am part of the group that is not yet drawing the state pension, doesn't qualify for the bus pass but does qualify for free prescriptions. Amongst those of us who have not yet reached state pension age some will draw their state pension at the old rate whereas those of us who reach state pension age after April 2016 will receive the new higher single tier state pension less the deductions for the years contracted out. The legislative process should be completed by April so I should be in a position to write a detailed article for the Autumn 2014 issue. Finally we have a small group of members who took voluntary redundancy but are too young to qualify for their service pension. All of us provided we can put off the grim reaper will someday be part of that older members group.

Politicians are already drawing the battle lines. There is considerable testing of the water going on to see what the public will stand and how this translates into votes. As articulate retired professionals we are well capable of writing to our MP's and well capable of buttonholing candidates on the doorstep and exposing their intellectual inadequacies. Most importantly, we are the age group most likely to vote. 76% of pensioners cast their vote at the last election, compared to 64% across the electorate as a whole. All this gives us a measure of power that we would be wise to exercise in both our own interest and the interest of those who still draw their keys. The state pension and universal benefits may only be a part of the package that we receive, but we should not stand by in silence and let it become a declining asset. The Institute for Economic Affairs, an extreme free market think tank, has called for the phasing out of the state pension and outright abolition as far as the younger generation is concerned. We may scoff at this nonsense, but those of us with long memories will recall that even Mrs Thatcher balked at prison privatisation, which came to pass after her departure. It is a sober reminder that yesterday's crazy ideas do become tomorrow's policy.



## Review of 26 Years Behind Bars

By Chris Duffin

The stated aim of the book is to provide a “thematic rather than a chronological approach” to the Prison System during the Authors career and as such is arranged in Chapters covering many aspects of the Service.

I shared about 15 years of those analysed but, as far as I am aware, never came across the writer. I recognised so many of the descriptions of the system during the late 70’s and lived through many of the changes mentioned. Fresh Start, The Woolf Report and Learmont, to name just three. I suspect that the mid 80’s to the mid 90’s was the fastest moving set of changes in all the public services in Britain. Given the description of the period since I left at the end of the 90’s, it is still changing at a rapid pace. The reader can decide if that is for the better or the worse although the writer is hardly reticent about his views on the matter.

Each chapter describes the impact of the major events that have imposed changes on, not just staff and prisoners, but on many other areas of society. He talks about the effects the media, political influence, changes to the structure of society and the attitudes of the public have had on developments in the Service.

The chosen areas make the task of writing this book a massive undertaking which I feel has been tackled well. It is, without a doubt, very informative and has brought me up to date with current changes and effects that I have missed after 14 years hiding in a backwater of Spain. Taking a thematic approach means that each chapter is covering the same events but along the same time line and as such has some cause for repetition, but viewed from a different perspective. The Author has peppered his book with many personal stories to illustrate his points; many of those will ring bells with readers who were around at the time.

It is fair to say I share many of the views voiced in the book. I take issue with some of the descriptions of those who the author considered responsible for some of the attitudes of policy makers but that itself is a good reason for reading the book. If we only read things that we agreed with, life would be very dull.

I particularly share his view of some of those people in the service I joined who were inspiring, innovative, dedicated and let’s face it, sometimes beyond quirky. Those “qualities” were what the service thrived on. Many of those mentioned, I had the privilege to work alongside but, again, the author spares no one’s blushes when he feels the need to blame.

I wholeheartedly agree with his view of one person. He points out, quite rightly, that the P.G.A. will lose a great asset when Paddy Scriven retires. Her dedication and historical knowledge of the service will be sorely missed.

I certainly don’t recognise the service described over the past ten years and feel I am better off having avoided the current “improvements” to the Prison system.

There are parts of the book that are written in the “at time date and place stated” which I found refreshing but I have to wonder who the book is aimed at. If I were writing a dissertation on 30 years in the British Prison System, this would be the book to study but I suspect I would only be required to write about one aspect of that subject and you could pick any chapter you fancied.

For those members who wish to be taken on a trip down memory lane and at the same time maybe have some of their views challenged, it is well worth a read. For those who retired some years ago, it will describe a service you would not have dreamt could happen.

“Go on, you know you want to.”

Pauls Book is available from Amazon Books price £12.73 ISBN 10 ... 1491883189 ISBN 13...978-1491883181

# HEWELL GRANGE MY MEMORIES

By Malcolm Manning

I served at Hewell as an Engineer II - 1959/64.

The Governor was Hugh Robertson and Ralph Skrine was Dep.

At that time Hewell was run on the lines of a Public School.

The cricket teams turned out in immaculate whites, and the rugby team always played the game of bash the opposition on the field and shower with them afterwards. In fact, an Officer T.A. Ben Fowler and myself played second row. I recall one game against an outside team from Alvechurch when Ben and I were being well and truly thumped. At half time I mentioned this to Rowland Webb, Senior

Works Officer (now aged 96) and he laughed and said that when the visitors arrived they commented that Ben and I were big Borstal Boys and Rowland told them we were a vicious pair in for rape & deserved a good hiding we got.



We had an old Stoker - Alf Chellingsworth - who had been a Game-keeper for the Plymouths - and lived in a cottage on the north-east corner of the estate called Puddles Lodge. He was full of tales of the Plymouth family.

Outside the main house was a large dovecote, and in the laundry yard a big underground rainwater tank. Alf explained that the Earl of Plymouth's wife was an Italian beauty renowned for her perfect complexion and she would only wash in this water which contained dove droppings washed off the roof, and when the family went to

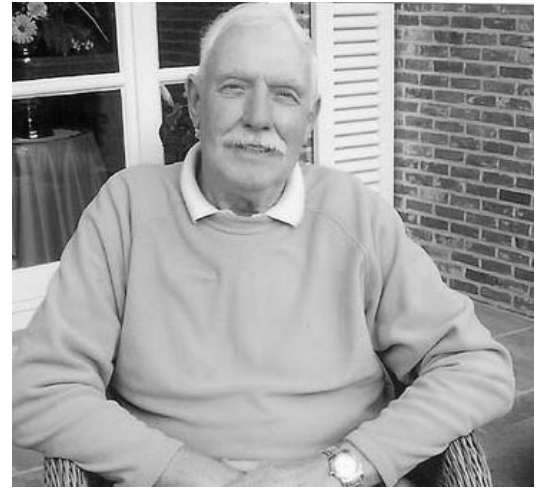
London for the Season it was Alf's job to make sure that a firkin of the water was dispatched via the milk train every morning. All the paths through the woods had been dressed with quartz pebbles and in my time if you scraped away the leaf mould these could be found. In her later years Her Ladyship became a bit of a Harridan and if on her walks she found a weed growing through the quartz she would pull it up and leave it with the roots skywards to indicate to the gardener her displeasure. "Downton Abbey" in real life.

I recall one Christmas we discovered the inmates secret brewery located in the walled gardens. We decided not to remove it but dosed it pretty liberally with laxative from the Sick Bay. I must say on Christmas Day quite a few of the lads experienced a good session of Colonic Irrigation.

There was an Annual Programme where a group of lads spent two weeks away camping with Oxford Undergrads, who then returned to Hewell to live as Borstal Boys for a couple of weeks. One year we had them building

a road in pouring rain. It took on the appearance of the Burmese Railway urged on by an Officer well known for his Anglo-Saxon vocabulary.

It was I must say that that period of my service was a very enjoyable time and I used to look only in the evening when I passed through the Dining Hall that I cringed when I saw the Undergrads had changed from Borstal kit to civvies and that two of them were wearing the dog collars of College Chaplains! I must say that that period of my service was a very enjoyable time and I used to look back on it fondly during later times during the troubles in the Cat.A. system of the 70's and 80's.





# THOSE WERE THE DAYS.

## *First posting.*

by Roger Brandon

I write this in response to two e-mails from our editor Michael. The first was the plea for contributions to the RPGA Newsletter. Whilst I was deciding that I hadn't anything in my head to submit I looked at one of Michael's 'today on line' news links, about a small disturbance at Nottingham prison. The picture of the glass and steel gate-lodge bore no resemblance at all to the Victorian edifice that greeted me as I took up my first posting as an A.G II (T) all those years ago.

What was more startling was that the roll is now 1060, compared with the 290 of

my days. Very well, I shall put down some recollections of that first posting, some of which I am sure will be common to many of us.

I joined as a direct entrant in 1975, but there was a three month gap before training commenced. I was allowed to join HMP Stafford as an auxiliary, driving a mini-bus. This nearly finished my career before I started, as there were some really unpleasant characters on the staff and I seriously wondered whether this was the life that I wanted. It started on the first day when I parked my Mazda in the car park (Japanese cars were not common at that time). An S.O. with a group of officers in tow passed. Ignoring me he just looked at the car and said 'f!!!!!!! Rubbish' before passing on.

A few days later I was sitting having lunch in the mess when an officer came and sat opposite me. "You're from Keele aren't you?" I confessed to having come from the nearby university. "That's a f!!!!!!! Rubbish place isn't it?" They don't teach you how do deal with this at Uni.

I soon learned that these officer were just as nasty to each other, so I didn't take it personally, and there were some nice guys there (I never saw any female staff there, and it would not have surprised me if the gatekeeper refused to let any in).

After surviving Stafford (with an inward vow never to accept a posting there) it was time for my month as a supernumerary officer, and I was sent to the tiny Local prison of Shrewsbury for a month. This thoroughly restored my faith and was a joy of a prison. The staff were stuck in the 1930s and taught me all sorts of rules that I later discovered to be quite against Standing Orders, if not illegal, but they were interested in the welfare of the prisoners. This was possibly because it really was a 'Local'. Many of the prisoners lived in the same areas as the staff, and even those that didn't had been in and out so many times that they were all old friends.

Part of the month included a spell on night duty. There were only two wings, A and C and the duties consisted of those two plus yards. My night on A wing consisted of doing all the pegging and not disturbing the night patrol who was delighted at having a 'go for' and not having to wake up at intervals. C wing was so small that it only had one pegging point and was reserved for a night patrol of very advanced years who was able to put his chair and alarm clock next to it and not have to get up at all. When I was taken into the wing we found him with his trousers off. He cheerfully explained that he had wet himself and had put his trousers in the hot plate.

I could have happily stayed at Shrewsbury for the rest of my career, and is surely the only prison where you can sit in the grounds and watch salmon leaping the weir? But Wakefield beckoned and I started on the 32<sup>nd</sup> A.G. course in September 1975.

After a few weeks at Wakefield it was time to submit our posting preferences. I didn't mind where I went, but I put that I was keen to work in a Local Prison to gain a wide experience. We had to put two establishments so I put Winchester first, followed by Leicester. Of paramount importance was the availability of a quarter as I was married and could not afford to buy.

Postings were decided by Ron Oram in Head Office. Some people thought that he was a person, but most of us had decided that it was an acronym for some machine, such as ERNIE, with the R standing for 'random'.

In due course my posting came through as Nottingham, with a note saying that 1) it was a Local Prison, 2) near to Leicester (where they seemed to think that I was keen to be), and 3) had a quarter. I complained to my tutor (one A.G. Wheatley, he of the Reliant Robin) that Nottingham was not a Local, but a training prison, and he patiently explained that H.Q. did not actually know anything about the prisons that they managed, but hey, two out of three was pretty good.

I didn't have any domestic reason to be near Leicester so it was actually one out of three, and after the preliminary visit I discovered it was actually nought as there was no quarter. I mentioned this to Head Office, who seemed genuinely surprised that the A.G. that I was replacing (Ken Vipond) was living out. Nottingham seemed a nice place, and there was clearly no point in complaining, so I set about finding somewhere to rent. Help came from Governor Mitchell at nearby Lowdham Grange. He had some empty quarters and would be prepared to rent one to me. We chose a nice 'J type' surrounded by fields and moved in, but before I could pay any rent there was a flurry of H.Q. phone calls culminating in them explaining to Mr Mitchell that you couldn't charge rent to someone who was entitled to a quarter. Living in the country and motorcycling to work proved an agreeable existence, and work at the prison was varied and interesting.



The prison consisted of B wing, with 260 inmates, and a portacabin pre-release unit, generally referred to as 'Beirut'. I was one of two A.G.s and we split B wing down the middle and ran half each. On top of that one got the pre-release unit, but I was very fortunate in that Nottingham was just about to start taking lifers and I was made lifer A.G. Considering that I was only just out of training I think that I had a lucky start to my career.

Part of my duties was to compile the monthly statistics. I forget the name of the system, but it consisted of card indexes with holes punched all round the edges. You clipped out the holes that related to the prisoner (e.g.: 'over 4 years', 'married' etc) and then by inserting a knitting needle you could lift out all the cards, except the ones you wanted. It took all afternoon. Being the custodian of this cumbersome apparatus led to me being volunteered to liaise with H.Q. Psychology unit, who were working on a model to predict offending behaviour, something of an imperative as there were concerns that the prison population might even top 50,000. They had a computer and eventually came up with the Zener model. Statistics of every sort were fed into the mainframe and after much whirring and grinding it printed what looked like a cut-away box with a flexible rubber sheet fixed over it. Something about the dips and peaks in the sheet predicted the likelihood of re-offending. Various other schemes were also trailed and it was eventually discovered that the most accurate predictions could be made just from the offender's age and previous convictions. My contribution was to suggest that you could tell a lot from looking at the prisoner's photograph, but this did not go down well.

Another very pleasant duty was visiting the outside parties. One of these was located at the old courtrooms in Nottingham, now the Galleries of Justice museum. The cellars were full of the junk of decades and we were asked to clear it. The party uncovered a series of dungeons, whilst in the courtyard were gravestones carved by the prisoners themselves before being executed. Some had carved their epitaphs into the brick wall. In the dungeon we discovered irons and manacles, and graffiti in the ceilings, made with the smoke of candles. These told of prisoners awaiting transportation. I took photographs of these, and was pleased that I did for by the time the museum opened years' later irons and graffiti had disappeared and I was able to supply a record.

Another outside party that I always enjoyed visiting was at Ruddington, the Army surplus disposal centre. Rows of Jeeps and B.S.A. motorcycles awaited auction, and there was everything you could want should you wish to start a war. I confess that my visit to the party consisted of "Everything O.K.?" before heading off to view the goodies.

My Governor was Phil Harrap, who had some traditional views. He summoned me to his office one day to say that he had heard that officers in the Mess were calling me 'Roger'. This was bad form and the beginning of a slippery slope. They would soon call me Roger on duty, and when there was an emergency would start questioning my orders. I didn't dare say that they already did both, and that I was jolly glad when they told me that a decision was questionable.

In 1977 Phil Harrap moved on and was replaced by Major Douglas Martin, and Phil asked me to show him round on his preliminary visit. At this time my wife was heavily pregnant with our first child, but I was a young, keen, A.G. still in awe of Governors, and it didn't occur to me to suggest that I might need time off. I don't know if husbands did attend births in those days, but I don't think the midwives encouraged it, and it didn't enter my mind to suggest it (and my wife was a midwife). So when, on the day of Doug Martin's visit, my wife said that the time had come, I took her to the hospital, settled her in, and then toddled off to the prison which was around the corner.

Doug Martin was a marvellous military type, with a bristling moustache, and we took to each other. As I showed him round he said "Got any family, Brandon?" I hesitated. "Well sir, I am not sure. I didn't when I came in but we might have by now." When I explained he laughed approvingly. "When the old trout had our first I was out playing a chukka." Later that evening I called at the Governor's quarter where the Harraps were entertaining Doug, to tell them that we had indeed had a daughter. Doug soon took to calling me Roger, although he was always major or Sir to me, and would refer to my wife as 'the child bride'.

I was very lucky in the P.O.s and S.O.s that I had on my wing. The way that the training was structured meant that you entered the prison with just a few weeks theory under your belt and they taught you everything you needed to know about actually running a prison. Then one day, two years later, you suddenly became their Line Manager and completed their annual reports and promotion appraisal. Fortunately they had a good sense of humour and we were able to compile their reports together amid much hilarity.

I felt the need to broaden my horizons before becoming eligible for promotion and responded to a trawl for Parkhurst, then, of course, a Dispersal. I left the world of order and discipline and entered a world of 'absorbing aggression'; something that I never got the hang of.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

*As editor of the Newsletter I wish to take this opportunity to thank all you who have submitted articles for publication in this and previous issues. Without your submissions the newsletter would be a very meagre communication and a less interesting read. It is your valuable contributions which makes our publication something members look forward to receiving and reading, so do keep them coming.*

*If you are one of those who have not yet put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard why not make a resolution to submit an item for the autumn edition, the closing date for which is August bank Holiday*

# From The Treasurer.



## Graham Mumby-Croft

It hardly seems a year since I took over as Treasurer from Jim Blakey and there is no doubt at all that it has been an eventful year. You will recall that both Jim and I have written in some detail regarding the trials and tribulations of trying to convince both Barclays and Lloyds Banks that the change of treasurer was perfectly legal and above board and not part of some international money laundering scam, but luckily those problems are now well behind us and I am happy to be able to report that all accounts for the association are operating without problems.

With regard to the actual financial position of the Association, I am pleased to be able to report that in my first year as treasurer I have managed to not reverse all the good work that Jim did in his years as treasurer, and at the end of the financial year on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 I was satisfied that I had a reasonably good handle on the funding situation, and, most importantly, the Association remains solvent and in good financial health.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January I was confident enough that I had balanced the books correctly to dispatch them to the auditors, for checking and certification. I had hoped that I would be in a position, when preparing this piece, that these would have been returned to me in order that I could make my report based on certified accounts, but unfortunately the deadline for this copy to be with the printers means that whilst I can provide a financial overview, any figures are subject to confirmation and certification by the auditors.

Some of you may have picked up on the fact that in the second paragraph I stated that “I had a reasonably good handle on the funding situation” and some of you may question, “Why only reasonably?” The fact is that the financial affairs of the Association are relatively simple, in that money comes in, and money goes out, and I know to the penny what comes in, and to the penny what goes out. The going out bit is not a problem, because every penny of the Association’s funds that is spent has to come through me as Treasurer, and I am happy that I have that element under good control.

The more difficult side is the money that comes into the Association. There is in effect only one source of income and that is the subscriptions of the membership. At the end of 2013 my record of subscriptions held 468 names, consisting of existing paying members whose details were passed to me by Jim, and new members joining during the year, all of whom are notified to me by Harry Brett, the Membership Secretary. Of those 468 paying members 99% pay by standing order from their bank accounts, into the Association’s main bank accounts. The 1%, who do not pay by standing order, are mostly members who are living abroad and who have not retained a UK bank account, and these pay by either cash or cheque.

Each quarter I receive a bank statement showing income and outgoings for the period and, as you can imagine, the quarterly income element consists of between 60 and 120 individual standing order payments, all of which have to be checked and cross-referenced. Unfortunately both our bank, and members’ banks, tend to be very frugal with information, and as a result very often the statement will not specify from which of the 8 Smiths, 5 Jones, 3 Williams, or various other duplicated surnames on the membership list, a payment has originated. Add to this that some members pay from accounts in other names and you will see that quite often checking the quarterly statement becomes an exercise in investigation, as well as financial control.

In the past year the payment which has me most confused is the one that shows on the bank statement with no name at all, simply a bank sort code and account number. Trying to determine who this payment is from is proving to be a considerable challenge as due to "Data Protection" Barclays, our bank, cannot and will not inform me from which bank and/or account this payment originated. Also, because of confidentiality and data protection, I am unable to simply publish this bank account number and request the member it belongs to, to can contact me. However I will not be beaten and am determined to solve this particular mystery.

In addition, for reasons that are unclear, there are a number of members from whom I have not received payment during the past year. Bearing in mind that normally communications are very good regarding any members who fall ill, or sadly pass away during the year, I am usually aware of situations where membership subscriptions will stop. However before I attempt to contact those members to determine if there is a problem regarding payment, or if they wish to close their membership, I have to be clear exactly from whom I have received payment and it is for this reason I stated that, "I had a reasonably good handle on the funding situation".

With regard to the financial results for 2013, as I stated earlier, I have not yet received confirmation from the auditors that the accounts are certified and therefore the following information is subject to verification. The main headlines are:

- Income for the year was **£6346-00p**
- Expenditure for the year was **£7261-54p.**
- In the 2013 financial year expenditure exceeded income by **£915-54p.**
- The main reasons for this deficit was that within the year we paid for two batches of PGA diaries, a total of £1774-00p for the year, and the Spring 2013 Newsletter, which was the largest edition to date, cost £1796-36p to print and distribute, which together with the cost of the Autumn Newsletter at £1371-44p means that we paid a total of £3167-80p for the cost of Newsletters.
- Miscellaneous costs included **£263-18p** cost for PGA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary memorabilia and **£35-96p** for a gift of wine to Brendon O'Friel to mark the occasion of his stepping down from the committee.
- At the end of the 2013 financial year the main operating accounts for the association, (Barclays and Lloyds) had a combined balance of **£9365-89p.**
- During the year we paid a total of **£100** as donations in lieu of sending flowers for members who had passed away. These were:  
RBH Jones  
John Oliver  
Lesley Lloyd-Rees  
Joe Whitty
- There were no payments made from the Benevolent Fund during the year and the balance at the year's end was **£6053-36p.**
- Lloyds Bank paid the RPGA the sum of **£250**, into the Benevolent Fund, as compensation for the mistakes that they made in the process of transfer of Treasurer details. The committee decided that this figure should be transferred into the Barclays current account.

I will publish a full financial report for the AGM later this year, however in the meantime if any member has any questions or queries to raise I would be happy to receive them.

## A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A RETIRED GOVERNOR GRADE

By

JAN THOMPSON



As a retiree, have you ever been asked the question: What do you find to do to fill in the time every day now you don't have to go to work? It got me thinking! What exactly do I do? I decided to take a look back at the last 12 months and this is what I did in that time.

### November 2012:

Went to **BURMA** for two weeks.

Now it has been opened up again for tourism, Burma (or Myanmar as it is now known) is a very interesting place to go - but go soon before it becomes like so many other countries, cashing in on visiting 'wealthy' western tourists! There is so much to see and experience, the highlights for me were:

The gold-encrusted Shwedagon Pagoda, with its' highly ornate 90 metre stupa in Rangoon (Yangon), the old colonial capital of days gone by. Also in Rangoon we saw a giant 70-metre-long reclining Buddha whose serene features were topped by a crown encrusted with diamonds and other precious stones.

Inle Lake, with the village houses on stilts and floating markets, where local fishermen

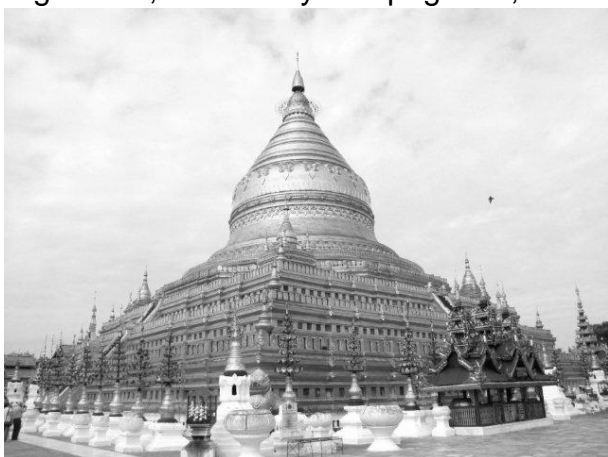
row their boats using one leg, whilst casting their strange-looking nets, and farmers grow vegetables on floating gardens made of grass and seaweed.

A journey on the local train through the Shan Plateau, with time to reflect on the British influence of the railroad and a visit to the old British hill station of Kalaw, very reminiscent of the colonial era.

Our drive to Mandalay was a version of Kipling's famous journey to the gateway to the north. With its' gardens, monastery and pagodas, Mandalay was the last royal capital of the Burmese kingdom

and is now the cultural capital of the modern country. Mandalay houses the world's largest book, the entire Buddhist scriptures, on 729 marble slabs. The 1.3 kilometre long teak footbridge of U Bein across Taungthaman Lake between Amarapura and Inwa was exceptionally interesting.

Wandering round thousands of ancient temples and stupas on the eerie plains of Bagan which rival Angkor for their splendour and being taken by horse-drawn carriage to the upper terraces of one of the temples for memorable views of the sunset.



Went to **PARIS** for 4 days.

I didn't know it was possible to pack so much into four days. We never stopped, from leaving the hotel after breakfast to returning to the hotel late into the night! Notre Dame was magical inside but I was very disappointed that the outside was not lit up in the evenings. Followed by an evening riverboat cruise down the Seine (with running commentary!), the Eiffel Tower lit up the sky.

The next day we went on a mystery train journey to the Palace of Versailles. The train was a double-decker affair and the interior was uniquely painted with scenes of opulence and decadence taking you back in time, but nothing could prepare us for the beautiful building and decorations of the Palace itself! The whole experience was tremendous. After wandering around the magnificent gardens it was time to catch the train again and move on to the Montmartre region of the city for the evening. Unfortunately we couldn't get in to see the show at the Moulin Rouge but just seeing the place all lit up is an experience in itself, as was the whole area by night.

A trip to Paris would not be complete without a visit to the Louvre to see the Mona Lisa - so small yet so mesmerising! - And all the great masterpieces of art and marble statues. We then walked to the top end of the Champs Elysees where, as dusk was descending, we went on the Ferris wheel for a better view over this area as all the lights began to bring the city alive. Walking down the Champs Elysees through the Christmas market and beautiful decorations we came to the Arc De Triomphe, venturing under the road to stand at the place of the eternal flame. Paris by night takes on a totally different aspect too.

Our final day was spent back in the Montmartre region where we climbed the endless stairway to the Basilica of the Sacre Coeur, another beautiful interior with so much amazing architecture. A trip down into the crypt was followed by the ascension of the dome for a magnificent 360 degree view of Paris: just time for a little wander round the area before making our way back to the station for the trip home.

### **December 2012:**

Went to **SCOTLAND** for 5 days.

What could be better than a 'Turkey and Tinsel' coach holiday for a person who detests Christmas! Still, sometimes these things have to be done for the good of others, so I set out with some family members to beautiful Scotland for five days of purgatory! To be honest, the actual trips out were great and the scenery was breathtaking in the winter sunshine. Shame about the themed stay at the (run-down) hotel!

One place of interest was a visit to the old jail at Inverary which has been turned into a small museum. Other highlights included the town of Oban and Loch Lomond and a lovely drive through Argyll's Secret Coast where the scenery was so inspiring. This is a lovely place to visit in the winter with the snow on the hills and the winter sun shining through.

### **January 2013:**

A quiet month travel wise but nonetheless the month was filled with lunches/dinners out and a short weekend away in Leicestershire.

### **February 2013:**

Went to the **ISLE OF ISLAY** (Scotland) for 9 days.

Islay can be a beautiful island but in February with the rain lashing down EVERY day, maybe not! The purpose of the trip was bird watching and we saw some amazing sights, including several White Tailed Eagles and magnificent Golden Eagles. For those initiated into the world of bird watching (NOT twitching) we saw a total of 103 DIFFERENT species of birds during the holiday. For non-bird watchers, we also saw otters, seals, deer, hares, wild mountain goats and alpacas.

Again, the scenery was spectacular - rugged, remote and wild - and the self-catering cottage was a lovely warm haven at the end of the day. We toured the whole of North and South Islay as well as the island of Jura and with visits to a couple of whiskey distilleries and other local crofting areas. The holiday was very good - I just wish the weather had been a touch better!

### **March 2013:**

Went to **ICELAND** for 8 days.

Wow, what an experience. Although the temperature always hovered just below zero, with the sun shining every day on the spectacular scenery what more could we ask for..... Oh yes, a glimpse of the phenomenon that is the Northern Lights!

The capital, Reykjavik, is such a clean modern city with lots of sightseeing opportunities but no good for trying to see the Northern Lights as there is too much light pollution, so after an interesting city tour we went off in pursuit of the lights around the rest of the country.

First we headed west through the Borgarfjörður valley and climbed the Grábrók volcanic crater, visiting several waterfalls on the way. Eventually, after dinner, we went looking for the lights - to no avail! Visits to Snæfellsnes Peninsula, a cruise on the Breiðafjörður fjord, a taste of fermented shark (not recommended), the beautiful Gullfoss - 'golden falls' a double waterfall that tumbles 34 metres into the Hvítá river, Strokkur ("the Churn") which erupts at 5-10 minute intervals, freshly baked hot spring bread served with Icelandic butter, geothermically-boiled eggs and herring all followed in the next few days. And the elusive Lights? Their strength is graded on a scale 1-10. We saw approximately grade 2 on our second night and everyone was elated, as this is what we'd come for, but nothing the following night.

We then headed along the south coast taking in more waterfalls, including Skógafoss waterfall, which is 60 metres high and one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country and a stop at the Eyjafjallajökull Information Centre to learn about living next to a glacier and active volcano. I remember the eruption of this volcano in 2010 as it put another of my holidays (to Uzbekistan) in jeopardy so it was very interesting to see the cause of my wrath!

For me, the best day was when we visited the Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon filled with floating icebergs, black sand, seals and stranded icebergs - such a beautiful and peaceful area. This was our last chance to see the Lights in this remote location and nature did not let us down. Although not much more than a grade 5, the night sky was alive with green swirls from 9.30pm till 2.45am - and yes, I did stay up to watch the whole spectacle as it was so amazing albeit very cold.

Heading back west we stopped at Iceland's version of the Giants' Causeway, more waterfalls and black lava beaches finishing with a soak in the famous Blue Lagoon Geothermic Spa. No more Lights but overall a wonderful experience throughout.

### **April 2013:**

Went skiing to **MERIBEL** (France) for a week.

This was my second ski holiday in Meribel in three years. The first trip was a bit of a disaster with really bad icy conditions and poor snow. I didn't fancy going back but friends persuaded me to give it a go and I'm glad I did. We had great weather (most of the time) and fantastic snow conditions, mainly due to the fact that it was later in the season, some unusually late snow and Meribel being a high altitude resort. Skiing is like Marmite - you either love it or hate it. There's no in-between and I love it! Well, I love it most of the time given good conditions! I even took the odd afternoon off to go walking in the sunshine high in the forest along summer trails covered with deep snow. Maybe Meribel isn't so bad after all!

Went to the **ISLE OF WIGHT** for a week.

I call the Isle of Wight my second home. I have a very good friend in Newport and just descend on her whenever I have some free time (and she is available) for a week of 'home from home' in a

warmer climate. The island seems to have its' own ambient micro-climate which makes it a good place to be. Lots of walking, chatting or going out with other friends is usually the order of the day and if the conditions are right, as they were on this occasion, I get to be flown over the island in another friends' micro light: all-in-all, an enjoyable break.

### **May 2013:**

Went to **OXFORD** for 4 days.

Every three or four months I meet up with another friend whom I met whilst I was working in St Helena (that's another story!) and we go exploring one of our cities here in the UK. This time it was Oxford and it certainly didn't disappoint, either weather-wise or for cultural entertainment. If, like



me, you've watched the Morse series on TV and liked the views of Oxford portrayed in the programme, then you'll be enthralled by visiting those places. We walked round the whole city during our time there and even took an informative river cruise.

The architecture of the University buildings is magnificent and totally absorbing and the University Church of St Mary the Virgin is beautiful, needing several hours to appreciate everything therein. Of course, we had to visit the Castle Quarter which incorporated the old prison, now closed (1996) and re-opened as an upmarket hotel (Malmaison). Old habits die hard and I couldn't resist going into the hotel to see how they had transformed it. I was very surprised to see that they had kept a great deal of originality to the interior and standing on the 'landings' sent a shiver down my spine as I recalled my time spent in similar settings! The bad thing is that I felt at home there - almost like being back in Leicester prison! Fortunately we managed to escape and continued our appreciation tour of Oxford!

Went to **North Wales** for 3 days.

The annual bird club weekend was based in Llandudno and from here we spent the days visiting many different sites including the Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve. We even had time for evening walks along the prom and a trek up the Great Orme.

## June 2013:

No travels this month but a busy time spent on the allotment.

## July 2013:

Went to **NORFOLK** for 4 days.

Back to the bird watching and a lovely sunny break based at Heacham. Lots of places to visit including Hunstanton, Snettisham, Holme and Dersingham Bog where we were lucky enough to see Nightjars as dusk fell. Interspersed with good company, lots of good food and probably too much wine, it all made for an enjoyable time.

Went to the **ISLE OF WIGHT** for a week.

Another return to my second home to help my friend celebrate her birthday - any excuse will do! This was by far the best week on the island - the sun shone non-stop from the minute I left my house to the minute I returned. In fact, I had the roof down on my little sports car for the whole holiday, even overnight. Fortunately the seagulls were kind to me! An excellent week topped off by another magnificent arial view of the island.

## August 2013:

Went to **visit family** for 4 days.

A short hop up the motorway staying with family to do a bit of decorating for mum and catching up with childhood friends.

Went to the **ISLE OF WIGHT** for a week.

The thought 'Why don't I just move down here?' has crossed my mind on several occasions but then I don't suppose it would be the same! Mother Nature was not so kind this time and although



the sun shone regularly, there were a number of showers throughout the week but it didn't stop me from being able to do all the things I wanted to and even managed a really long micro light flight over the island and south coast of the mainland over Portsmouth, Hayling Island, up as far as Arundel castle and back over Ford Prison!

## September 2013:

Went to **Botswana** for 17 days.

My two passions in travel are Asia and Africa so now it was time to take another safari - into the Okavango.

After flying into Johannesburg, South Africa, we took a short trip to the township of Soweto, visiting the Apartheid Museum and learning about the 1976 student uprising which culminated in the death of 12 year old Hector Pieterson.



Heading north by minibus we travelled up through South Africa into Botswana, staying overnight at a rhino sanctuary before moving on to Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. The next day we journeyed into the heart of this wildlife sanctuary before transferring to our dug-out canoes called Mokoros. We set off up the maze of creeks and narrow channels, two to a canoe, poled in the manner of punting by a local guide! It wasn't long before we saw our first hippos in the water. Then came the worst part of the holiday for me - two nights in the delta IN A TENT!!! I hate camping at the best of times but here it was very, very basic - no toilet/shower block or such luxuries. Everything, including food and water, had to be brought in and taken out by Mokoro. The

ONLY plus for me was that I didn't have to erect or take down the tent! Still, the walking safaris and trips down river by canoe were worth the suffering and many species of animals and birds were spotted.

Having survived the wilds of the Okavango, we continued to the Moremi Game Reserve and a different kind of camping - tented bush lodge, much more agreeable! Over the next three days on our safari trips into the reserve we were lucky enough to spot a diversity of wildlife and birds, including cheetahs, leopards, elephants, various types of antelope, warthogs,



lions, giraffes, eagles, vultures and beautifully colourful birds.

Moving on we ventured through the Makgadikgadi Salt Pan and into Chobe National Park. More game drives and more wildlife including raccoon, buffalo, monkeys and this time something very rarely spotted - a honey badger! (Not related to our own badgers, they are part of the weasel family). A late afternoon river cruise produced really close-up views of lots of animals including crocodiles, with a stunning sunset to end the day.

Early next day we drove into Zimbabwe and on to Victoria Falls. I have to say that having been lucky enough to see Niagara and Iguazu Falls, I was a little disappointed with Victoria Falls as there was not a lot of water in the river due to the time of year but it didn't stop me taking the opportunity to fly high over the falls in a helicopter! After an elephant-back safari and a final river dinner cruise, taking in another stunning sunset, it was time to pack up and leave early next morning for the flight back to Johannesburg and onward home.

### **October 2013:**

No travels again this month but the books were out and the internet scoured looking for further adventures to come.

I walk once a month with a hill walking club, usually 8-10 miles, go on a bird-watching trip once a month with a club, keep the scorebook at the local village cricket matches during the summer, go to the gym most days (probably being the eldest there!) and meet friends for lunch or coffee occasionally. Taking into account I have a garden and an allotment to tend, including all the jam and chutney-making from the produce, I think I manage to fill my time quite well. In fact, I often wonder how I ever found time to work!

# Prison Governors Association

Representing: The Prison Governors of the United Kingdom



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**PGA Officers:** *President*  
*Vice Presidents*

*Finance Officer*  
*General Secretary*

Eoin McLennan-Murray  
Duncan Scales  
Andrea Albutt  
Shaun Williamson  
Paddy Scriven

## **Prison Governors' Association Annual Golf Tournament 2014**

The Annual Prison Governors Association Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014, at the four-star Ullesthorpe Court Golf Club and Hotel.

All players should aim to arrive at the hotel by 0845hrs allowing time for Coffee and a bacon roll.

The first tee-time is 10.04, the morning competition is a 9-hole Texas Scramble followed by:

Lunch of a filled baguette and chips (Served to the 4 balls on their return from the 9 holes in the morning) then the 18-hole competition for the Prison Governors' Association Trophy will be played. The first tee-time is 13.04.

The day will end with a three-course meal at approximately 1900hrs.

PGA members and retired PGA members are eligible to play and all may bring playing guests. There is an additional guest prize.

Players of all ability are welcome and novices encouraged. Everyone who has played in previous years has praised the course and said how much they have enjoyed the competition.

Ullesthorpe Court is a privately owned golf course and country house hotel near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, in easy reach of the M1 and A5. The Ullesthorpe Court Hotel has four stars and a range of facilities including a health spa and swimming pool. It is an enjoyable venue for those wishing to bring a partner for a short break. Additional details are available on its website.

Golf day only - £63.00

Buggies - £22 per round; £30 per day

A non-returnable deposit will be required of £10-00 by the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

As an addition you may wish to book additional accommodation for before or after the golf day, this can be booked through the Hotel direct or through Golf Breaks.

The competition is limited to 40 players, so please book early.

For further information or to book your place in the competition, please contact Phil Morrey on 01625 553183 or by email: [phil.morrey@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:phil.morrey@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk).

### **Please Note**

**Those wishing to book overnight accommodation should do so directly with the hotel contacting Dave on 01455 209023 quoting the Prison Governors' Association.**

**Eoin McLennan-Murray**  
**President**

**Paddy Scriven**  
**General Secretary**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT FEBRUARY 2014

By Harry Brett JP

Membership continues to grow and now stands at 476, an increase of 9 on this time last year. We welcome new members, Steve Porter, Gerry Hendry, Venessa Frake MBE, Brenda Guthrie, Robert benson, Colin Stratford, Rev John Morrison (re-joined), Michael Bell, David Elliott, Joe Nichol, Michael O'Brien, Andy Bell, Dennis Chigwin, Amanda Dobbs, Brian Hazley, Melvyn James, Mary Whitty (widow of Joe), Phil Taylor, Colin Ring, James Buckenham, Arthur Wallace, Anthony Mayor and Michael Dumbrell.



We are sorry to announce the deaths of the following members; Joan Carmichael, Bishop Leslie Lloyd-Rees, Joe Whitty, Mr P C Jones, Mr C B Graves, Meredith Roberts and Robert Smith. Our deepest condolences go out to family and friends. We have also been informed of the following deaths of non-members but are known to many, they are; Stephanie Pratt, Roy Webster, Dennis Waghorn, Peter Atherton, Ted Williams, Tony Proctor and Chris Taylor, again our condolences go out to family and friends.

We have lost track of (ie moved and not told us) of the following Dr J Grubb and Mrs R Green. If anyone knows of their new address then please advise me on either 0161 980 8127 or by Email at [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com). We have also had 4 resignations, John Ryan, Allan Radford, Mr T Pye and Sean O'Neill.

I continue to be active in our local CSPA Branch as Treasurer, conference attendee and contributor to their magazine 'The Pensioner'. The local Branch uses the Freedom of Information Act in an attempt to embarrass local MP's and get information which can help in our local and national campaigns. We are currently pushing for a return to RPI as the determinate for the State Pension, protecting universal benefits, fighting the high level of personal contribution required if you go in to a care home, the inclusion of those who have already retired in to the new guaranteed state pension due to start in 2015 and of course continued protection of the NHS and all its services. Anyone interested in joining the CSPA please let me know and I will send you the forms. They have a particularly good benefit on offer from the CSIS. Their annual travel plan covers you up to 85 and beyond once you join, the homes and building policy offers you a discount equal to the value of your CSPA membership (currently £18), the motor policy guarantees to beat your motor renewal premium by at least £10 and the caravanning offer is an exclusive CSPA 15% premium discount. So anyone interested please let me know and I will send you the forms.

### **You may be paying for services you can do yourself for FREE**

**We read so often these days of people being ripped off by websites which charge a fee for government services which are free. If you need to use any of these services ensure that you use the correct URL as shown below**

When applying online for a driving licence, passport, European Health Insurance card or sending in your tax return, take care which website you use.

Searching on the internet will often result in private companies being at the top of the list - higher up than the agency you need to apply to. These companies will charge a fee for providing a checking service or forwarding your application to the relevant agency. The small print will explain that you are not on the agency site you were looking for and that you will be charged for the service. Unfortunately many people miss the small print because they assume they have reached the site they were looking for.

Don't get caught out - if you don't want to pay additional fees, go directly to the relevant web site;

Passports; <http://www.gov.uk/>  
Driving Licences; <http://www.gov.uk/>  
European Health Insurance Card; <http://www.nhs.uk/>  
Tax returns; <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/>

For general Consumer advice call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline - 08454 040506 or visit <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

# Midland Regional Conference Abbey Hotel Malvern 1984



This photograph was first published in the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Newsletter. We thought that readers would welcome a reprint in order for you to remember old colleagues, some who are unfortunately no longer with us but whose dedication to the Prison Service is legendary.



## ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD

- Across. 1 Bedford, 5 Leeds, 8 Irons, 9. Reading, 10. Tunisian, 11. Stir. 13. Lashes, 15. Meadow, 18. Gray, 19. Guernsey, 22. Rosters, 23. Omaha, 24. Heads, 25. Ditched  
Down 1. Bristol, 2. Drown, 3. Obsessed, 4. Durham, 5. Leaf, 6. Evicted, 7. Sugar, 12. Deerbolt, 14. Swansea, 16. Wayland, 17. Nursed, 18. Garthe, 20 Stash, 21. Keys