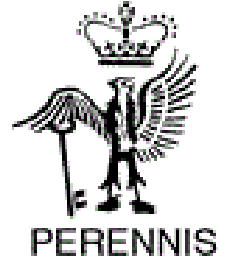


The Retired Prison Governors **Newsletter**

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association

Founded by Arthur Williamson in 1980—38 years of continuous publication



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AUTUMN 2016

Whichever side of the referendum debate you were on there is no doubt that the 23rd of June 2016 will live on as one of the most seismic events in our history. There has been nothing quite as sensational in British politics since 1945 when the world was shocked by Britain's decision to ditch the victorious war-time premier, Winston Churchill, and instead install a Clement Attlee led Labour government to deliver the new Jerusalem. The new consensus about the role of the state endured until 1979 and the NHS endures to this day. The drama that unfolded in the early hours of 24 June was the British equivalent of the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany, and the election of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa. The only real difference is that in the UK there is a vocal minority that refuses to accept the result. Indeed their reaction is not dissimilar to the emotional incontinence and vicarious grief that infected a minority of our citizens after the death of former Princess of Wales in 1997.



I make no apologies for being on the "Leave" side during the campaign and even handed out leaflets in Huddersfield town centre. For me the central argument was always about the restoration of democracy and the ability of the British people to determine their own future. Nevertheless I recognise the attachment of remain campaigners to international bodies and the mutual co-operation that they symbolise. As a vision it is not purely romantic. Like most leave campaigners deep down I expected to lose. How then did this shock result come about? No doubt in due course the Brexit vote will be subject to the kind of scholarly analysis received by the causes of World War Two. Meanwhile I will throw in my two penny worth.

There isn't the space for a full historical analysis in this editorial so I will concentrate on the immediate causes save to say that going back to our youth the decision of Edward Heath to break his promise that the UK would not enter the Common Market (as it was then known) "without the full hearted consent of the British people" has had a toxic effect on British politics since accession day on 1 January 1973. It has destroyed careers in both the Labour and Conservative parties and contributed to lengthy periods of debilitating opposition for both our major parties. I would not be so bold as to claim that the referendum has finally lanced the boil. We have been so long in the EU that the issue has become almost tribal, but across party lines.

So in the end what swung the balance? Perhaps when tempers have cooled and the most passionate remain campaigners have moved from the denial stage to one of greater equilibrium, they will come to accept that their campaign was a best an insult to the intelligence of voters, and at worst a disgrace. The attempts to use the murder of Jo Cox MP to further the remain cause by some of its adherents brought politics to a new low.

BREXIT: A BRITISH REVOLUTION

So in the end what swung the balance? Perhaps when tempers have cooled and the most passionate remain campaigners have moved from the denial stage to one of greater equilibrium, they will come to accept that their campaign was a best an insult to the intelligence of voters, and at worst a disgrace. The attempts to use the murder of Jo Cox MP to further the remain cause by some of its adherents brought politics to a new low. They might also reflect on blatant cheating and gerrymandering by the government in spending £9 million of our money above prescribed spending limits and extending the deadline for voter registration after the mysterious "crash" of the registration website. Remain campaigners might also want to consider just how important was the obduracy of Chancellor Merkel and EU grandees in swinging the result in a closely fought contest. They might also want to look at David Cameron's non-existent negotiating strategy.

Remain campaigners have blamed David Cameron for holding a referendum at all. There is little doubt that without UKIP there would have been no referendum. Events also took a hand. The surprise outright Conservative victory at the 2015 election forced him to deliver on a promise that was easy to make from the security of a Liberal Democrat veto during the previous coalition. However remain campaigners should not delude themselves that another coalition government of whatever combination would have prevented a referendum. The most likely response would have been the onward march of UKIP in Labour areas and near panic in the Conservative party. The pressure on our political system would have continued to build and a referendum would have become inevitable as the perceptive and the panicky sought a safety valve in a society becoming ever more polarised.

I should add that there were aspects of the leave campaign which troubled me, in particular the claims about the kind of money which would become available to the NHS. I was not comfortable with the immigration poster but then immigration was not an issue for me personally, probably because its affect on me is minimal. However it is different for people who cannot get their children into a local school, who see their rents rise and their wages held down. Those millions of voters get even angrier when they are denounced as racists for daring to raise the issue. I remember how angry many of our staff were when Martin Narey (remember him) announced that the Prison Service was institutionally racist. Immigration was the catalyst for the result but is only part of the cocktail of resentment felt by millions of people against the metropolitan elite. It should be remembered that the rise of UKIP and the subsequent referendum is not a solely British phenomenon. Contempt for politicians is a worldwide contagion in supposedly democratic nations. The disenchantment with unresponsive ruling elites has manifested itself in rich countries like the USA and France, struggling ones like Greece, and quiet neutral countries like Austria. Chancellor Merkel, the EU grandees and much of the leadership of the Labour Party do not seem to have grasped what is going on.

Do we need to have President Trump running the most powerful country in the world before politicians get the message?

PAUL LAXTON, EDITOR

An Opportunity - Expert Witness Work

The purpose of this note drafted for readers of the Retired Governors Newsletter is to draw attention to an opportunity for part time interesting work following retirement.

From 2000 to 2016, I was on the Register of Expert Witnesses and each year undertook some work in that capacity. Although I have a couple of cases to complete, I am taking on no new work and I am aware that lawyers are occasionally looking for people to provide Expert Witness reports and advice on prison cases. For anyone with substantial prison service management experience and an interest in legal issues, Expert Witness work provides an interesting opportunity to contribute to resolving complex issues.

I became involved because around 1999, the Register of Expert Witnesses was seeking a "Prison Expert" for the Register. It seemed to be an interesting opportunity and so it proved in practice.

There are several organisations providing registers of Expert Witnesses so for anyone interested it may be sensible to research more than one. My experience is with the "UK Register of Expert Witnesses". They can be contacted via JS Publications, PO Box 505, Newmarket Suffolk CB8 7TF, tel 01638 561590 email info@jspubs.com; website <http://www.jspubs.com>.

For an annual fee of around £200 the Register provides an entry in their Register which is circulated to many legal firms in and beyond the UK. They also provide a regular newsletter with advice on a variety of issues including professional matters and practical "conditions of service" - issues like fees, insurance and agreements with lawyers. An "Expert Witness" charges for preparing a report and for attending Court to give evidence.

My experience is that most of the prison work available consists of civil cases about injuries sustained by staff or prisoners. Lawyers have either decided to sue the prison authorities or are seeking advice about whether to sue. Expert advice is sought from a person with substantial managerial background in prison work about the merits of a particular case. Quite a number of inquiries come in – in my experience – during the year from lawyers, but only a few develop into a formal request for a report. One question you always have to ask is whether any case falls within your expertise – sometimes it is a medical or other expert that the lawyers should be approaching. Other inquiries are attempts to obtain free advice! Sometimes the lawyers are in difficulties because they need a report very quickly for a Court Appearance and they suggest very difficult timescales. Of course as an Expert Witness you can refuse to get involved.

During the fifteen years I have undertaken this work, I have been asked to prepare reports both for Prison Authorities and for those bringing a legal case against Prison Authorities. Cases have involved a number of jurisdictions – I have prepared reports in English, Scottish and Irish cases and for a case in Jersey. The law differs in the different jurisdictions. Prison practice also varies a good deal – there are often not right and wrong ways – rather different ways of operating. I also found that as I became known to lawyers in different jurisdictions, I was approached about further prison cases. Civil cases can often take a number of years to resolve as the wheels of the law grind very slowly.

Brendan O’Friel

March 2016

Now there are two things you should be aware of: -

Finding a good affordable building plot in a desirable part of East Lothian is like looking for hen's teeth.

Seeing one advertised in North Berwick is practically unheard of as in the rare event that one becomes available, they are usually sold by word of mouth and never go on the open market.

To see what I mean just enter this link – <http://www.scotland-flavour.co.uk/top10/places.html> which is to find "The Five most beautiful Towns/Villages in Scotland" and you will see that North Berwick comes up as Number One. Situated on the south bank of The Firth of Forth, it has three islands, The Lamb, Craigeleith and the Iconic "Bass Rock" sitting off the long sandy beaches of the two bays and Fidra Island, complete with lighthouse, is also a short walk from the West Bay. The Isles of May can also be seen in the distance and the 187m volcanic plug hill called "Berwick Law" complete with a set of Whales Jawbones at the top seems almost in the middle of the town.

North Berwick certainly has a lot to offer and that's before I mention the numerous Golf Courses in the area, (including the world's oldest) and the beautiful walks and scenery, which I suppose we should expect in what is after all, John Muir's home county.

House build projects are one of those subjects that we all know something about from TV Shows such as Grand Designs and I feel I could fill the Newsletter with the details of all the things you have to consider; it is definitely not for the fainthearted. The short story is that we negotiated a good deal with the builder, which included the fully serviced Plot and also building the 3000 sq ft 1:1/2 storey bungalow for which the plot had planning permission. To make life even easier, we also hired the Architect who designed the "Scandinavian Type Bungalow" to be the Project Manager and he will sign off the various "Payment Stages" of the build and ensure everything is as per Building Regulations and to the satisfaction of the Planning Department. This means that we get a house that is "designed" to make life easier for Irene with its' through-lift and easy wheelchair access to all areas.

Although moving home is a great excuse to de-clutter, overload Charity Shops and try to defy sentiment, we still managed to fill two containers for storage despite clearing the loft and giving away some house and garden furniture and garage contents. You do have to think carefully about what you store as the cost over time can be more than certain items are worth, but like most people I suppose, we ended up storing the essential items needed for the new house and also a few "memories"; the sentimental things that we just did not have the heart to throw out and who's intrinsic worth was nothing compared to the wealth of family memories much of it represented.

Having said our goodbyes to friends and neighbours we packed the car and headed for the unfurnished apartment we had rented in North Berwick for the duration of the new house build and awaited the arrival of our furniture. If you enter this link; <http://www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/marine/> or view it on Trip Advisor where you will see a lot more photos of the spectacular views we get from our apartment, which is next to this MacDonald Spa Resort Hotel.

We are both enjoying North Berwick and our apartment with its' far-reaching views over the West Links Golf Course and out to the Firth of Forth and North Sea, where we never tire of watching the variety of ships that pass each day. We even use <http://shipais.com> to get all the details of the ships that pass our window and marvel at the skill of the tugs that bring the oil rigs in from the North Sea for repair/renovation to Largo Bay at Methil in Fife. Because the Firth of Forth is approx. 10 miles wide at this point, we can clearly see the landscape on the "Fife Side" which looks quite magical at night when you can see the twinkling lights all the way from Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges right round to Crail, ending where the coastline meets the North Sea and turns out of sight, towards St Andrews.

Retirement offers us many opportunities and is for all of us, despite life's trials and tribulations, a time to "enjoy" the little things in life that we never really took the time to fully enjoy when pursuing our Prison Service careers. If after reading this, I have tempted you to sample the delights of North Berwick, perhaps

on a day trip from Edinburgh, then please feel free to contact me via Harry/Mick, for any information you require. Oh, did I mention The Puffins? <https://seabird.org/wildlife/seabirds/puffin/12/26/46>

Robert Young

Did you know?

So who thought that the death penalty by hanging was finally removed from the statute book as a punishment in 1965, after the last executions at Manchester and Walton prisons in 1964? Well if you did, you were wrong.

Arson in Royal dockyards:

Arson in royal dockyards was among the last offences that were punishable by execution in the United Kingdom. It remained a capital offence even after the death penalty was abolished for murder in 1965, although John the Painter seems to be the only one ever actually executed for it, in 1777.

The criminal law consolidation acts of 1861 removed various capital offences from the British statute books, leaving only five: murder, high treason, espionage, piracy with violence (piracy with intent to kill or cause serious harm), and offences under the Dockyards, etc. Protection Act 1772. This Act set out a comprehensive list of crimes punishable by death, such as causing a fire or explosion in a naval dockyard, magazine, warehouse, or ship, until the Act was repealed by the Criminal Damages Act of 1971.

High Treason

Under the law of the United Kingdom, high treason is the crime of disloyalty to the Crown. Offences constituting high treason include plotting the murder of the sovereign; committing adultery with the sovereign's consort, with the sovereign's eldest unmarried daughter, or with the wife of the heir to the throne; levying war against the sovereign and adhering to the sovereign's enemies, giving them aid or comfort; and attempting to undermine the lawfully established line of succession. Several other crimes have historically been categorised as high treason, including counterfeiting money and being a Catholic priest.

High treason was formerly distinguished from petty treason, a treason committed against a subject of the sovereign, the scope of which was limited by statute to the murder of a legal superior. Petty treason comprised the murder of a master by his servant, of a husband by his wife, or of a bishop. Petty treason ceased to be a distinct offence from murder in 1828, and consequently high treason is today often referred to simply as treason.

Considered to be the most serious of offences, high treason was often met with extraordinary punishment, because it threatened the security of the state. Hanging, drawing and quartering was often employed. The last treason trial was that of William Joyce "Lord Haw-Haw", who was executed in 1946.

Since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 became law, the maximum sentence for treason in the UK has been life imprisonment.

Enjoying being an Independent Custody Visitor.

Back in 2013, we decided to leave our home in Spain where we had lived for almost 15 years and return to the UK. We had had our fill of English coast, sun, sand, sea and Sangria so we headed for the to Brighton. So much had changed in the years we had been away and we are still catching up with those

changes almost three years down the line.

One of the changes that most interested me was the election of Police and Crime Commissioners. I had heard about these elections when in Spain, but understood that the turn out for the elections of these roles was extremely poor and, when talking to local people, most of them had no idea who they were or what they were supposed to do.

I became an Advisor to a Charity in Brighton called RISE, an organisation which supports victims of domestic abuse. The PCC's Office contacted them and asked if they could nominate anyone to be a member of their Elders Group and they asked me if I was interested. That role is for another magazine article in the future.

As a result of my time spent in the PCC's office, I was asked if I would be interested in becoming an Independent Custody Volunteer. I had never heard of the scheme and had no idea people were recruited to visit Police Custody Cells to ensure that the detainees were treated in accordance with Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE). I was interested to learn more so I agreed to join.

Obviously there was the usual Police Check and references were required. Training was very comprehensive with a lot of opportunity for interaction with the tutors. I had long since forgotten, if in fact I ever really understood, the details of PACE so had a bit of reading up to do but I enjoyed the experience and it does help the old grey matter to learn something new.

One of the other things I didn't know is that Police detainees no longer get taken to a Police Station but to Police Custody Suites with dedicated staff in control. These are specifically designed centres rather like you see in American 'Cop' Series with a high bridge for the staff and the prisoners are below with the escorting officers. Here the booking in and removal of property etc. is done in the presence of CCTV cameras. Once processed, the detainee is taken to the cells in the back of the building where they are observed in cells by CCTV.

Brighton Police are now experimenting with body cameras so every part of an arrest and experience of custody will be recorded on camera, something I was surprised to hear was welcomed by most Police Officers.

In Brighton, there is an Inspector, a Sergeant and a Constable on "The Bridge" but the day to day needs of the prisoners are dealt with by Private Security Staff. My experience so far has indicated that they have a very good relationship with the Police and the detainees:

However, there are sometimes shortages of items like blankets.

These items along with food and hygiene products are part of their contract with the Home Office. Compliance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act is supervised by the uniformed staff.

The training we received and the ongoing support is excellent. Since doing the basic training I have been at a Conference in Birmingham where the Chief Constable from the West Midlands updated us on the situation about deaths in custody and gave us insight into the recent improvements in some Forces for detainees with mental health issues. Some Forces are now taking Mental Health Nurses out with them to assess if behaviour is likely to be due to mental health problems rather than criminal behaviour. If that is the case they are now taken by ambulance to a place of safety rather than police cells.

The age at which a person can be detained in Police Custody has now been changed to 18 years old from 16 years. Appropriate adults are generally available within a couple of hours for those vulnerable prisoners who need them.

I was also surprised that there is a nurse on duty in the custody suite to deal with prisoners who may be on medication or need to go to hospital. Sometimes it is because they are suffering from too much alcohol, psychotic episodes from legal or illegal substances, or self harm.

At the Conference we were addressed by the head of HMIP who also inspect the Suites and who told us that our reports form a great part of their evidence during an inspection.

The commitment is not too onerous with visits taking place, along with a colleague, about once a month. Visits are, just like Governor's visits to Prisons, at random times during the day and night.

My experience of the Custody Suite in Brighton and the staff that run it has been, so far, extremely positive. The staff are most helpful and give the impression that our role is useful to them as they have little power to change things they feel need attention. Our regular reports add pressure to the authorities to improve facilities.

It is rather strange at first being back in a custody unit but the familiar sights, sounds and, of course, the smells soon make you feel quite at home. There is no clanking of doors and the sound of keys, as the cells all open with key cards and number pads. I was hoping there might have been a change in the insults but the language is just the same.

There are some difficulties recruiting volunteers as there is no remuneration, just reimbursement of expenses, but I have found it both interesting and rewarding, not to mention meeting some great people. Try it, you just might like it.

CHRIS DUFFIN

DARWEN BORN, BLACKBURN BRED: GROWING UP IN THE AGE OF AFFLUENCE

AUTHOR: PAUL LAXTON REVIEWED BY: CHRISTINE DUFFIN

As ever, Paul has written an extremely detailed and well researched book this time about his life growing up in what is now the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen, in Lancashire. He takes us through the social, economic and political changes that have influenced his life and many of the residents of the town, over the last 64 years. Blackburn and its smaller neighbour, Darwen, are northern industrial towns which have changed dramatically in a relatively short time.

He examines the religious divides between Protestants and Catholics in his early days and the more up to date religious differences of today with a large Muslim community in what was a predominantly Christian area.

He details the economic fortunes of the town during its heyday and how that changed as its industries folded, a story which affected many small industrial towns in the North of England. Those economic fluctuations had dire consequences for the people who lived there.

Those changes inevitably influenced and gave rise to changes in the political landscape of the town.

He describes the social evolution of the town through the music of the era. The changes to the social mobility which was much prized by the working classes. One of the greatest stepping stones to moving up the social ladder was through the Grammar School system. This was a great prize introducing children who would never previously have had the opportunity, to learn about subjects that had previously been the exclusive territory of the middle classes. Paul talks about that how that education impacted on his life.

It is a personal story but told in such a way as to give the reader a great insight into the social history of a Lancashire borough over six decades.

It was of particular interest to myself and quite evocative as I too was born and brought up in a small Lancashire cotton town and also had the benefit of a Grammar School education.

Like his other books, he claims it is not meant to be an accurate social history text book but given the amount of research and observation, I feel it could be classed as such. I thoroughly recommend it to anyone who enjoys a trip down memory lane or a good slice of social history told by a genuine observer. Highly recommended.

RPGA: E-MAIL REGISTER

The E-Mail register has been operating for around 13 years and has proved itself to be an effective means of rapid communication between members. It offers updates on current prison service developments 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 register then please send an E-Mail from the address you wish to have registered to Harry Brett at

harry_brett@sky.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 E-Mail address you must inform Harry Brett, otherwise you will cease to receive further updates.

From The Treasurer.

Those of you who read my Newsletter submissions, (and I readily admit that they are not the most riveting items that appear), will know that since I took over as Treasurer I have had concerns about the Association's financial viability, when faced with the situation that the membership is not growing, and subscription rates are fixed at the amount paid when the member joined. If you have been paying particular attention, you will have noted that I have also highlighted the issue of the cost to this Association of providing PGA diaries to those members who opt to receive one each year. This is because when the cost of a diary and postage is calculated against the income received through subscriptions, the Association

loses money on each and every diary provided. In 2015 we lost in excess of £600 on providing diaries to members, and when it is considered that in the same year the accounts show a deficit of expenditure over income of £436.75p it becomes clear that if we could solve the problem of the financial loss on the provision of diaries then the fiscal future would look that little bit better.

It was with this in mind that the Committee took the decision this year to grasp the nettle and put forward a resolution to the AGM which sought a mandate to revise the membership subscription structure, and in addition to put in place a mechanism for bi-annual review. This motion was passed, and attached to this article is a copy of a letter that will go out to all members whose subscriptions will be affected by the change. Those who will be specifically affected are those members who currently receive a PGA diary, and those members whose subscription rate on joining was less than the £13/year currently charged. If you currently pay £13/year and have not opted to receive a diary then there will be no change in your rate of subscription at his time.

Headlines from this year's financial report to the AGM, (covering the 2015 financial year), were that whilst for the second year running there was a deficit of expenditure over income, (as previously mentioned a sum of £436.99p) at the end of the year the available cash balance stood at £8805.56p.

Income for the year, which comes entirely from subscriptions, was down on the previous year by £226-00p. However, despite inflation being at record low levels, costs do still continue to increase, and in 2015 expenditure was £6325.71p.

The largest single cost to the Association is that of producing and distributing the Newsletter. As we strive to maintain and hopefully improve the quality, so the cost is likely to rise, as of course are postage costs.

The second largest cost is the PGA diaries and, as already mentioned, hopefully this is now to be addressed. It is partly due to the amount that we hold in the bank as a cash balance that I recommended no increase in fees for those members paying £13/year and not receiving a diary, as I believe that the finances are relatively healthy with the exception of the financial burden associated with the provision of the diaries.

A summary of the 2015 accounts was provided at the AGM/Reunion held at Newbold Revel in June and is available to any member who wishes to have one. Please email or phone me if you do require one. (graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com or 01522 889993)

For those of you who had dealings with the Shared Service Centre before you retired, this little tale will not surprise you: however if you retired before the advent of the Shared Service Centre, you were the lucky ones.

Graham Mumby-Croft

The Doctors' Trial (9 Dec 1946-20 Aug 1947):

Trial against 23 medical professionals for conducting medical experiments on people.

The Milch Trial (2 Jan 1947-14 Apr 1947): Trial against former Field Marshal of the Luftwaffe Erhard Milch for human experimentation and using slave labour.

The Judges' Trial (5 Mar 1947-4 Dec 1947): Trial against 16 accused of abusing judicial process for anti-Semitic purposes.

The Pohl Trial (8 Apr 1947-3 Nov 1947): Trial against 17 SS officers for atrocities against prisoners of concentration camps.

The Flick Trial (19 Apr 1947-22 Dec 1947): Trial against 6 industrialists for using slave labour and plundering of occupied territories.

The Hostages Trial (8 Jul 1947-19 Feb 1948): Trial against 12 generals for atrocities against civilians and plundering of occupied territories.

The IG Farben Trial (27 Aug 1947-30 Jul 1948): Trial against 24 directors of chemical conglomerate IG Farben for planning and waging wars of aggression, using slave labour, and plundering of occupied territories.

The Einsatzgruppen Trial (29 Sep 1947-10 Apr 1948): Trial against 24 SS officers for conducting atrocities and mass murders against civilians.

The RuSHA Trial (20 Oct 1947-10 Mar 1948): Trial against 14 SS officials for implementing racist policies.

The Krupp Trial (8 Dec 1947-31 Jul 1948): Trial against 12 directors of Krupp AG for planning and waging wars of aggression, using slave labour, and plundering of occupied territories.

The High Command Trial (30 Dec 1947-28 Oct 1948): Trial against 14 high ranking officers for waging wars of aggression, atrocities against prisoners of war, and atrocities against civilians.

The Ministries Trial (6 Jan 1948-13 Apr 1949): Trial against 21 officials for planning and waging wars of aggression, atrocities against prisoners of war, atrocities against civilians, using slave labour, and plundering of occupied territories.

These later trials found 142 of 185 defendants guilty of at least one of the charges, and 24 of them received death sentences (11 of which were later lessened to life imprisonment).

The conclusions of the Nuremberg Trials had long-lasting effects on international law: for example, the findings of the International Military Tribunal directly led to the Genocide Convention of 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and the Geneva Convention on the Laws and Customs of War of 1949 and its' 1977 supplementary protocols.

Many criticized of the Nuremberg Trials. For example, British and American critics pointed out that those found guilty were not allowed to appeal. Another criticism cited that, while Wilhelm Keitel, Alfred Jodl, and Joachim von Ribbentrop were found guilty for conspiracy to commit acts of aggression against Poland for the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1939, Soviet leaders who were signatories to the very same pact were not charged with the same crime. Nevertheless, **through course of history, most agreed that the International Military Tribunal conducted the Nuremberg Trials in full compliance with international law.**

John Berry OBE JP

The Nuremberg War trials 1945

Whilst we are remembering WW1, 2016 is the 71st anniversary of the end of World War II.

As early as Jan 1942, the Allies began to discuss the punishment for European Axis leaders should the Allies become victorious in the European War. Through a series of discussions at meetings such as the Tehran Conference, Yalta Conference, and Potsdam Conference, the Allies determined the details of the International Military Tribunal. The legal basis for the trials was established by the London Charter, issued on 8 Aug 1945, which restricted the trials to the "punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis countries"; the term "war", seen in "war criminals", further restricted the actions eligible to be tried to after 3 Sep 1939, the date when the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany. The Soviets initially suggested holding the trials in Berlin, Germany, but ultimately another German city, Nürnberg (Nuremberg) was chosen because the Palace of Justice at Nürnberg was largely undamaged and it had a large prison complex. Some also preferred Nürnberg for the association of being the ceremonial birth place of the Nazi Party.

The members of the International Military Tribunal were:

President of the International Military Tribunal

The Right Honourable Colonel Sir Geoffrey Lawrence (United Kingdom)

Main Judges

The Right Honourable Colonel Sir Geoffrey Lawrence (United Kingdom)

Francis Biddle (United States)

Professor Henri Donnedieu de Vabres (France)

Major General Iona Nikitchenko (Soviet Union)

Alternate Judges

Sir Norman Birkett (United Kingdom)

John Parker (United States)

Robert Falco (France)

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Volchkov (Soviet Union)

Chief Prosecutors

Robert H. Jackson (United States)

Sir Hartley Shawcross (United Kingdom)

François de Menthon (France)

Auguste Champetier (France)

Lieutenant General Roman Rudenko (Soviet Union)

On the first day of the Nuremberg Trials on 18 Oct 1945, the prosecution entered the names of 24 major war criminals and six criminal organizations for crimes against peace, waging wars of aggression, crimes against humanity and war crimes. At the conclusion of the first phase of trials (The Trial of the Major War Criminals) on 1 Oct 1946, most of those accused of major crimes were found guilty, with 12 given death sentences.

The first of 10 hangings was carried out on 16 Oct 1946 (Martin Bormann was not in captivity and Hermann Göring committed suicide). Those who were given prison sentences were entered into Spandau Prison in 1947. The International Military Tribunal also found the Schutzstaffel (SS), the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) and the Gestapo to be criminal organizations.

The later phases of the Nuremberg Trials (The Trials of War Criminals before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals) were presided over by American judges. Between Dec 1946 and Apr 1949, the following trials were held:



visit North Berwick

I saw an e-mail that Harry Brett had forwarded from Peter Leonard and also read in the Newsletter that Sian West had become a new member and both of these factors triggered thoughts of the time Peter, Sian and I spent together on the First Tranche of Prison Service Governors/Managers to attend Fitzwilliam College Cambridge. It also occurred to me that I have a few photos that members might enjoy seeing and those of you who remember me, may like to hear about Irene and I's latest "Retired life Adventure". To make this article more interesting/interactive, I have given you 5 links to Google, the contents of which I hope you will enjoy.

The over-60s supposedly have 7 Million Spare Bedrooms, the equivalent of 2.6 Million Family Homes. If we all moved on, it would be the equivalent of 10 Years worth of Government Housing Targets, but nobody willingly adjusts their life just to help Official Statistics. Rightmove say that 64 is the ideal age to move, as you are still fit enough to lift furniture etc. and 32% of people move to downsize. None of these Statistics applied to us however and as fate would have it, we are certainly not downsizing.

When I left The Scottish Prison Service for the Home Office, Irene and I lived very happily in Horsham West Sussex for 21 years; however, we both agreed that it was now time to return home to East Lothian in Scotland where we had family and friends. In retirement I had been IMB Chair at Tinsley House IRC which held single men, women and families and I was also appointed as the first IMB Chair at "Cedars PDA" (Pre Departure Accommodation) in Pease Pottage W. Sussex, the only facility of its' kind in the UK which was for families who refused to leave the UK voluntary and was jointly run by UKBA, G4S and Barnardo's. (You will recall that the imprisonment of children was a big political issue for the Coalition Government) <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2010/05/12/coalition-will->

Although we liked Horsham (and the warmer climate) and would miss all the friends we made over the years, we now have the most adorable 2-year-old granddaughter and a 14-week-old grandson to consider. Another factor was the increasing amount of travel between Horsham and Edinburgh for family events and funerals. There was also the realisation that the lovely Sussex Flint Fronted House we both loved was no longer suitable for Irene who has had Primary Progressive MS for many years and so we started the process of seriously looking for a suitable bungalow in East Lothian Scotland to enable us to be closer to family and friends.

For those of you who don't know, East Lothian is a very desirable county and house prices, especially on what they now call "The Golf Coast" can be expensive, even more so now that the SNP have increased the Land and Buildings Purchase Tax quite considerably above the rest of the UK. However, even after offering well over the asking price (Offers over in Scotland) for an old bungalow that we would have to completely renovate and getting nowhere near the accepted price, we were starting to feel a little despondent. But it would seem that there is a God, as when back in Scotland in October last year for yet another funeral we saw a fully-serviced building plot with full planning permission, advertised for sale in the very picturesque seaside town that we both liked, called North Berwick.

Piracy on the High Seas

The Piracy Act 1837 (7 Will 4 & 1 Vict c 88) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It abolished the death penalty for most offences of piracy but created a new offence often known as piracy with violence, which was punishable with death. This offence still exists in the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland, but is no longer punishable by death in either country.

Section 2 of the Act creates the offence of piracy with violence:

‘Whosoever, with intent to commit or at the time of or immediately before or immediately after committing the crime of piracy in respect of any ship or vessel, shall assault, with intent to murder, any person being on board of or belonging to such ship or vessel, or shall stab, cut, or wound any such person, or unlawfully do any act by which the life of such person may be endangered, shall be guilty of felony...’

United Kingdom

The offences of piracy, which existed in 1837, have since been abolished. The "crime of piracy" mentioned in section 2 is now defined by the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 (in section 26 and Schedule 5), which simply sets out articles 101 to 103 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982):

ARTICLE 101

Definition of piracy

Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) Any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed—
 - (i) On the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;
 - (ii) Against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) Any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) Any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).

ARTICLE 102

Piracy by a warship, government ship or government aircraft whose crew has mutinied

The acts of piracy, as defined in article 101, committed by a warship, government ship or government aircraft whose crew has mutinied and taken control of the ship or aircraft are assimilated to acts committed by a private ship or aircraft.

ARTICLE 103

Definition of a pirate ship or aircraft

A ship or aircraft is considered a pirate ship or aircraft if it is intended by the persons in dominant control to be used for the purpose of committing one of the acts referred to in article 101. The same applies if the ship or aircraft has been used to commit any such act, so long as it remains under the control of the persons guilty of that act.

Since this definition is restricted to the high seas, piracy in British territorial waters would today be treated as robbery, assault or attempted murder under the Territorial Waters Jurisdiction Act

1878, or as hijacking under the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 (which can also be applied to piracy on the high seas).

In 1998 the mandatory death penalty was abolished, and the sentence is now up to life imprisonment.

John Berry OBE JP (with kind thanks to wikipedia)

BIRDWATCHING TRIP TO THE CAIRNGORMS, 23rd – 30th APRIL 2016 JAN THOMPSON

I was lucky enough to join some friends on a trip to the Cairngorms earlier this year in the hope of seeing some birds that don't venture further south into my patch in the East Midlands!!! The trip was organised through a friend of ours, Chris Mills, who runs Norfolk Birding (Birding tours and wildlife photography). There were six participants on the trip: Myself and three friends from the Leicester area (commonly known as the Leicester Ladies!!) and a couple from north Leicester. Chris runs a number of different trips both in the UK and overseas, including Spain and India. For anyone interested in bird watching (not twitching!!), here is a review of my trip:

This Highland tour was based at the lovely spacious accommodation of Feith Mhor Lodge near Carrbridge, not far from Aviemore. This big old refurbished shooting lodge, set in its' own grounds with a large kitchen, dining room, lounge, drying room and 6 en-suite bedrooms, proved perfect for our stay! The tour offered a great overview of the specialist Highland species and we had fantastic views of all the iconic Scottish Highland species – **Golden Eagle; White-tailed Eagle; Capercaillie; Black Grouse; Ptarmigan; Crested Tit; Osprey; Slavenian Grebe**, plus breeding plumaged **Red-throated** and **Black Throated Divers**. We also had stunning views of breeding plumaged **Snow Bunting** and an interesting array of **Cross-bills**, including the larger-billed **Scottish Crossbill** types. Mammal highlights were significant too with 3 **Pine Martens** and 5 **Badgers** putting in prolonged close up appearances! Also a great supporting cast of **Bottle-nosed Dolphins**, numerous **Red Squirrels** and **Red Deer**. Over the 7 days we recorded **125** species of birds.

TOUR DETAILS:

Saturday 23rd April: Day 1 – Nottingham to Aviemore, Highlands

We were met at Long Eaton railway station around 7.30am then continued to Junction 24 of the M1 to pick up the other couple. The cases were all loaded into the minibus and we were heading north by 8am. The first birds of any note (no sightings counted until we arrived in Scotland!!) were 2 **Red Kites** as we were passing near to the town of Doune. There were also plenty of roadside **Buzzards and Kestrels** too! We arrived in the south of the Highlands mid-afternoon and made our first proper birding stop to look for Black Grouse in an area where Chris had seen them on previous trips. We were in luck and as we passed in the minibus we could see quite a good group, plus some closer birds in a smaller group further along. We parked and walked carefully back to look at the small group. There were 5 **Blackcocks** superbly strutting around, occasionally dropping their wings and cocking their tails. Their steely blue shining plumage and red wattles were revealed through the telescopes. Having enjoyed good views of these birds we drove back to the more distant group we had seen. There were at least 15 more male **Black Grouse**, this time a little more distant. Nearby, in the fields, a few more additions were spotted to get the trip well and truly underway with **Curlew, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Widgeon** and 6 **Golden Plovers** in stunning sum-

mer finery! All this happened to a backdrop of constant **Willow Warbler** song although we couldn't see him/her.

By late afternoon we arrived in Aviemore and stocked up on food provisions for the self catering lodge. We were soon at our lovely accommodation in Carrbridge, with a wonderful large garden complete with **Red squirrels**. We had an early evening meal and headed to bed ready for an early morning pre-breakfast birding venture!

Sunday 24th April: Day 2 – Abernethy Forest, Highland and surrounding areas

Alarms were set for 4.30am and we left around 5am for birding at a nearby forest location. En-route we passed 4 very smart **Goosanders** before walking through the forest. It was a fine, dry, cold sunny morning – ideal! A **Tree Pipit** flew over calling but everyone was focussed on looking and listening for the real “target” species! As we made our way onto a clearing we all stood very quietly, waiting. Suddenly Chris realised he could hear a male **Capercaillie**! We stood perfectly still and it didn't take too long to find a superb male **Capercaillie**, lekking along a ridge in the forest about 25 metres away. We stood very still and over the next fifteen minutes, in complete silence, we carefully watched him walking through the trees displaying to 2 females who were also seen briefly before they flew up into the trees. Having enjoyed this magnificent experience we carefully withdrew, ensuring the male could continue to lek undisturbed. As we drove from the forest we could hear a **Tawny owl** calling so we stopped and waited. He appeared briefly, sitting in the trees on the edge of the forest - a nice daytime view!

We then drove to Lochan Eileen, with sunshine and light winds but a little chilly - the weather was ideal for forest birding. The car park feeders provided ultra close views of at least 2 beautiful **Red squirrels** before we headed off into the nearby woodland. A few more common birds were in evidence: **Chaffinch**, **Siskin**, and **Gold crest**. We then heard the distinctive “rippling” call of a **Crested Tit** and eventually it showed itself reasonably well, albeit briefly, in the tops of the trees, though well enough to see its' amazing raised crest! A little more searching and a variety of birds continued to show up :- **Redstart**, **Tree Pipit**, **Bullfinch**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Mistle Thrush** and a drumming **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. On the Loch we were treated to beautiful mirror images of the hillside plus reflected views of **Goldeneye** on the water and **Common Sandpiper** along the waters' edge.

Our early morning sortie had lasted well into the mid morning and we headed back to the accommodation very happy but ready for breakfast, possibly brunch! Our timing was excellent! Just as we pulled on to the driveway an **Osprey** flew over the accommodation giving us fantastic views as it flew overhead.

After a relaxed brunch and with the weather still sunny and fine we headed for some more forest birding near Dulnain Bridge. Once we got amongst the Scots' pines we were soon hearing the distinctive calls of **Crossbills**. After a bit of searching in the tops of the trees the first birds were located. Most of these appeared and sounded to be **Common Crossbills** but there was a good selection of birds and we encountered several groups before finding a larger billed Crossbill. Whilst this bird didn't quite reach Parrot Crossbill proportions it was clearly bigger billed – possibly a **Scottish Crossbill**. We had lots of views and fun watching these amazing birds. Whilst in the wood we also noted a singing **Tree Pipit**, numerous **Siskin**, **Coal Tit**, a **Treecreeper** plus **Willow Warblers** and **Blackcap**. A **Sparrowhawk** was soaring high above us, as were several **Common Buzzards**.

We rounded off a very successful first day with a late afternoon visit to a small Lochan and were soon enjoying lovely views of two superb, breeding plumage **Slavonian Grebes**. We also saw **Little Grebe**, **Goldeneye**, **Tufted Duck** and **Common sandpiper** in the pool, plus plenty of **Sand Martins** and **Swallows** overhead.

Monday 25th April: Day 3 – Loch Garten, Boat of Garten and Nethy Bridge

We again opted (not a term I use lightly!) for an early start although the usual local Black Grouse lek was very quiet and it was fortunate we'd had good views of them on the journey up. We then headed to Loch Garten but with heavy snow falling and windy conditions birding was a lot trickier! A stroll around the forest produced a singing **Redstart**, **Treecreeper** and **Siskin**. Out on the loch there were **Goldeneye**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Goosander**. We also saw brief views of several **Crossbills** and heard **Crested Tit** twice but couldn't get very satisfactory views. No visit to the Scottish Highlands is complete without visiting the famous RSPB Loch Garten! So, with the snow falling heavily we didn't need a second invitation! We enjoyed an hour of the **Ospreys** at their nest and some interesting dialogue from the wardens about the birds. There were also several very close **Red Squirrels** showing very nicely on the feeders. We started to head back to the accommodation, stopping off first at Nethy Bridge where we had nice views of 2 **Dippers**. Then another stop at the River Spey Bridge where there were several **Goldeneye**, **Common Sandpiper** and a smart male **Red-breasted merganser**. A short stop at the Spey Bridge further on at Boat of Garten produced a pair of **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Goosander**, **Goldeneye** and **Common Sandpiper**.

In the afternoon we headed down a river valley just to the east of the Cairngorms. The objective was mainly to look for raptors, although the snow showers were still falling intermittently and hindering our chances. As we headed up the valley the weather cleared a little and we watched a group of **Common Crossbills** a few feet away from the minibus! A group of 4-5 **Red Grouse** were seen, several **Curlew** were calling and displaying, plus 2 **Snipe** were drumming overhead. A beautifully marked male **Wheatear** showed up close by on the heather and then, as the weather improved, 2 **Buzzards** and 2 **Kestrel** appeared. We were really hoping for a Golden Eagle or a Merlin, as these were the species Chris had encountered in the area before, but after an hour's scanning we had no joy. Just as we were about to leave, a huge raptor appeared overhead. Incredibly, an adult **White-tailed Eagle** drifted slowly away from us dropping into a conifer plantation on the distant ridge – fabulous and well worth the wait. We were joined a few minutes later by a couple of other birders - they had missed the original Eagle but luckily a second **White-tailed Eagle** appeared, a little more distant this time, but still very clear to see. We all celebrated with one of (my friend) Sue's famous peanut butter flapjacks!

An excellent day was rounded off with an excellent evening meal and a few glasses of wine back at the accommodation.

Tuesday 26th April: Day 4 – NW Speyside & North Coast

The weather forecast for today was not good - strong northerly winds with heavy snow showers - so we decided to head to the coast where at least we had chance a of some birds along the coast. We arrived at Portsoy mid-morning where a White-billed Diver had been present recently but a quick look at the sea told us that unless it was very close inshore it was going to be very difficult to see in the raging white waves and surf! Still, we contented ourselves with 2 **Red-throated Divers**, a **Great Northern Diver**, **Razor-bill**, a few **Guillemots**, **Sandwich Tern**, **Common Scoter** and an almost constant stream of **Kittiwakes** and **Gannets** passing by. A **Great Skua** unexpectedly flew west, no doubt caught up in the stormy conditions. After a couple of hours in the cold, northerly wind we retreated to the café and had a nice hot soup and cup of hot chocolate!

Further along the coast at Burghead we spent a further (this time) pleasant couple of hours scanning the sea off the mouth of the bay. It was less rough here but surprisingly we didn't see as many sea birds as

expected. We had a nice flock of about **45 Eider** as well as **Sandwich & Common Terns**. Out on the rocks were several **Cormorant** and **Shag** plus, on the sea, **Red-breasted Merganser**. The shore line hosted **Hooded Crow, Turnstone, Curlew** and **Ringed Plover** plus very good views of a friendly **Rock Pipit!**
Wednesday 27th April: Day 5 - NW Speyside, Findhorn Valley and Chanonry Point

Today there was an improvement in the weather, the wind had dropped and the snow showers had eased! We took a short drive to a moorland loch to look for Black-throated Diver. The water was a little choppy and the first scans of the large loch didn't locate any divers. Then Chris noticed two distant divers, so we drove closer and saw two superb breeding plumaged **Red-throated Divers**. These are delicate divers with slender lines and up-tilted bills and heads. They surpassed any previous experience I have had as they started a courtship display, very reminiscent of Great-crested Grebe – wonderful!! A bit more searching and we located the best of all the black and white patterned birds - an exquisite breeding plumage **Black-throated Diver**, fully appreciated with good views through the scope. We also noted several **Red grouse** showing very well plus **Oystercatcher, Redshank, Widgeon** and **Meadow Pipits** up close.

The weather was still good so we headed to the Findhorn valley, arriving at 11am for raptor watching in improving weather conditions. As we headed down the valley we stopped for nice views of a male **Redstart, 2 Grey Wagtail** plus several **Song** and **Mistle Thrush**. We reached one of Chris's favoured vantage points midway along the valley and had lunch here. We were pleased to be immediately distracted by approximately 30 **Red Deer** on the hillside when a **Golden Eagle** came into view over the ridge opposite. This bird eventually soared right overhead disappearing behind us, only to reappear a few minutes later with a second **Golden Eagle**. The action then continued, with both **Golden Eagles** in and out of view for the next forty minutes, including a **Buzzard** and a **Raven** mobbing one of them. Eventually they disappeared but shortly afterwards a **Peregrine Falcon** skimmed along the top of the ridge – a brilliant hour of raptor action before we headed towards the Black Isle area where we had 30 **Teal, Hooded Crow, Black-tailed Godwit, Lapwing, Curlew, Ringed Plover** and **Oystercatcher**. Nearby we also noted 2 **Tree Sparrows** and several **Yellowhammers**.

We then headed to Chanonry point where we were able to watch a mother and calf **Bottle-nosed Dolphins**. Also from here we located several **Eiders** plus a scattering of **Guillemot** and **Kittiwake**: another superb days birding.

Thursday 28th April: Day 6 - Cairngorm, Insh marshes and Speyside evening hide

We had a veritable 'lie in' with breakfast at 7am!!! Weather-wise, today definitely looked the best chance for heading up to Cairngorm mountain to look for Ptarmigan. It was clear from the mountain car park camera images online that we would have to take the funicular to the top as the lower slopes and paths were under several inches, maybe even a foot, of snow!

A stop-off at the lower car park gave us lovely views of **Ring Ouzel** before heading up to the main car park. On arrival a few **Snow Buntings** flew overhead then a superb male breeding plumaged **Snow Bunting** landed on one of the walls in the car park, just a few feet from us - a wonderful start to the day!

We took the funicular to the top of the mountain - a new experience for most of the group although for me, as a skier, this was nothing new. From here, just outside the cafe, there was a small balcony viewing area although it was knee deep in snow but we were able to start scanning the nearby slopes. It was exceptionally cold, well below zero but very sunny, and after thirty minutes most of the group had retreated inside for coffees and teas. Chris and I (the hardy ones) continued scanning the area. A distant **Golden Eagle** was a nice distraction, as was a **Peregrine**, but we couldn't locate the desired Ptarmigan so we decided to warm up inside the café with the rest of the group and after a very welcome coffee (and the best cheese scone I have ever tasted) we started searching again, although the number of skiers had now increased which could be a problem for trying to spot Ptarmigan.

Then suddenly, a bit of movement in Chris's scope and he realised he had a pair of **Ptarmigan!** The birds weren't close and it took a while to get everyone to see them but fortunately they both started feeding

and the movement allowed everyone to get reasonable views. We celebrated with a second coffee before heading down the mountain on the funicular. One third of the way down, from the carriage, we spotted another **Ptarmigan** just below us - how typical!! When we got back to the car park we also had good views of **Red Grouse, Meadow Pipit, Wheatear** and a couple of **Raven** passing overhead.

We then headed to Insh marshes but soon stopped the minibus as 2 **Ospreys** flew overhead. We eventually arrived at Insh where we had wonderful views of 3 more **Ospreys**, including two at a nest site. The loch also hosted 3 **Goosander, Goldeneye** and **Common Sandpiper**. We arrived at RSPB Insh Marshes late afternoon and from the viewing platform we added quite a few new species for the trip – **Eurasian White-fronted Goose** and **Whooper Swan** were surprises and also **Snipe, Widgeon, Redshank** and **Lapwing**, but the real highlight was a beautiful hunting male **Hen Harrier**.

We had a fish supper then headed for an evening session (by appointment) in the Speyside wildlife hide. Around 9.30pm the first of 5 **Badgers** arrived. These northern Badgers are really small compared to our beefy English counterparts. Shortly afterwards the excitement was ramped up a notch as a **Pine Martens** arrived and eventually 3 **Pine Martens** were all visible together, feeding just a few feet away from the glass windows of the hide! Chris said that this evening was by far the best evening he had ever had at this site, possibly aided by the very cold weather. This rounded off a very successful day!

Friday 29th April: Day 7 - Boat of Garten & Carrbridge

We headed out this morning to the car park at RSPB Loch Garten where Chris had been told that a Crested Tit was coming in for food. We had seen Crested Tit earlier in the week but had struggled to get clear protracted views so Chris took some seed and peanut butter with him. We had lovely views of many **Siskins** taking seed from the ground plus plenty of **Coal Tits**. Eventually the **Crested Tit** appeared - he was in and out very quickly on the first visits but in the end we had great views of the **Crested Tit** as it fought to extract seeds from the peanut butter Chris had smeared on the tree! Also around the area were **Tree Pipit, Redstart, Goldcrest, Siskin, Redpoll** and **Crossbill** and a very obliging **Treecreeper** also showed very well allowing some pictures to be taken. After lunch back at the accommodation, with all the target species seen on the tour, we decided on a circular 6-mile walk around the woodland and nearby river valley. The highlight was plenty of **Buzzards, Curlew** and 20 **Golden Plover** in their breeding plumage.

Saturday 30th April: Day 8 – Return Home

After an early breakfast and packing up the van we reluctantly started the long journey back home. As with the pick-up, the other couple were dropped off at Junction 24 of the M1 mid afternoon and we were taken to Long Eaton station to catch the train back to Leicester after a fantastic week's bird watching. I have to say that this was the best Scottish bird watching trip I have been on (I have done a fair few trips!) and loved every moment of it, even the weather couldn't dampen my spirits!

Birds recorded

Over the week **125 species** were recorded but most memorable will be the great views of the **Golden and White-tailed eagle, Capercaillie, Ptarmigan, Black Grouse, Crested Tit, Crossbills, Ospreys**, stunning breeding plumage **Black-throated Diver** and **Slavonian Grebe** plus the **Pine Martens** and **Badgers**.

Mammals recorded

Grey Seal – Findhorn bay

Common Seal – seen Findhorn bay and other coastal locations

Roe Deer – numerous seen daily

Red Deer – numerous in the hills and Speyside wildlife hide

Red Squirrel – seen daily in the accommodation garden

Brown Hare – seen regularly in Findhorn Valley. Rabbit - numerous

Mountain Goat – seen in Findhorn valley

Wood Mouse – seen from Speyside wildlife hide

Cetaceans recorded

Bottle Nosed Dolphin – seen from Portsoy, Findhorn bay and Chanonry point

Common/Harbour Porpoise – seen from Portsoy

PRISON SERVICE MEMORABILIA

Many of you know that I collect items of prison service memorabilia. I was looking through eBay recently

and found a group of WW2 Royal Air Force medals, as awarded to Flying Officer Ronald Davies, who was for a number of years, the sole British guard for the number two Nazi - Rudolf Hess, in Spandau Prison. His medal group included the following, court mounted for display: India General Service Medal, with bar: North West Frontier 1936-37 (Named in impressed style: 4030740 BMDR. R. DAVIES. R.A.), 1939-45 Star, the France & Germany Star & War Medal, the last 3 being un-named as issued. Along with the medals came the following related original items and documents:- Recipient's Identity Tags, Royal Artillery Cap Badge, H.M. Prisons Cap Badge, Regular Army Certificate of Service, R.A.F. Flying Log Book For Navigators, Air Bombers, Air Gunners, Flight Engineers (22.4.1944-17.6.1946), Army Certificate of Education First Class, dated 14.10.1936, Army Certificate of Education Second Class, dated 27.11.1930, Corps of Military Police, School of Instruction, Course Certificate, dated 5.11.1934, Furlough Certificate, dated 17.3.1937, two photographs of recipient in R.A.F. uniform, a five-paged autobiographical typed account of recipient's service written February 2002, correspondence from recipient with regard to claiming his Second War Campaign Medals, April 1970.

Flight Lieutenant Roland Henry Davis (1910-2002) was born at Highley, Shropshire. The son of a coal miner, he was employed by the Highley Mining Company as a pit-pony driver. He initially joined the Territorial Army in 1928, before transferring for service with the Royal Artillery in August 1929. Having served in India, he purchased his discharge in 1937 and joined H.M. Prison Service. From January 1938 he saw service at Wakefield and Parkhurst Prisons, before moving to Winson Green, in April 1940.

As a reserved occupation he was exempt from military service. Despite this, he volunteered for service with the Royal Air Force and in October 1943 he was selected for training as an Air Gunner and carried out his training at No. 3 A.G.S. and No. 26 O.T.U. After postings to 1657 Conversion Unit and No. 3 L.F.S., he was posted as a Rear Gunner for operational flying to 622 Squadron (Lancasters), Mildenhall, Suffolk in January 1945. He flew in 20 operational sorties with the Squadron, including Wanne Eickel (2), Munchen Gladbach, Weisebaden, Gelsenkirchen (2), Dessau, 7.3.1945, 'Shot Down Me.110' (Log Book refers), Detteln (2); Dortmund (2), Hamm, Bocholt, Berlin, Heligoland, Regensburg, Rotterdam and The Hague (2). He added the following comment: 'On one or two of these raids we saw neither enemy planes, anti-aircraft fire, nor other signs of life and it sometimes appeared as if we were bombing a ghost town. On other occasions the anti-aircraft fire was so heavy and dense that Jack [a crew member] sometime remarked it was thick enough to walk on, which meant we sometimes returned to base with the fuselage riddled with shrapnel holes of varying sizes. On one raid a heavy 'ack-ack' shell came up through the tail plane but for some reason failed to explode: if it had done so we would have been blasted out of the sky in very small pieces'.

He also undertook five flights repatriating British POWs 9th-29th May and was promoted to Flying Officer in April 1945, carrying out training as an Air Traffic Control Officer, and served as Acting Flight Lieutenant in Cairo and Naples prior to his discharge in September 1946.

A/FltLt Davies returned to the Prison Service at Birmingham and he wrote that 'I had not been home long when I was sent to work in a German prison where we held all the German Field Marshals, Generals, and other high-ranking officers who had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for war crimes. I returned home and for a few years was Deputy Governor of Lincoln Prison from where I was eventually sent to Spandau Prison in Berlin, where the prisoners were held who were sentenced by the Nuremburg War Trials, and from where I finally retired in 1978'.

Mr. Davis was employed as British Chief Officer at Spandau, and it was here that he guarded his most infamous prisoner Rudolf Hess. He said in his two years at Spandau, he got to know Hess very well: 'He could speak perfect English and quite a few other languages... I used to sit on his bed and talk to him. He was a highly intelligent, courteous, old man. He was always absolutely loyal to Hitler and he would never say a word against him.'

I strongly suspect that there might be some retired prison Governors who remember him. It is certainly an interesting story and one we should all remember given that Governors have been posted to some strange locations in the past, but none as historic as this one I suspect.

Did I buy the medals and all the associated pieces? Well sadly not. They are for sale in Australia and with import duties etc... the price was outside of my collecting range. However it was a good story, which I thought should be reported back to colleagues as an article in the RPGA.

John R. Berry OBE, MBA, MSc, MA(Ed), PGD Law, Chartered FCIPD, JP.

Assistant Director Wellbeing Solutions

THE LABOUR LEADER'S SPEECH MANY VOTERS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR...

By Paul Laxton

Some of you will be confirmed Labour voters, some of you will never have voted Labour, and some of you will be floating voters. I would guess that some of you, like me, who were once Labour voters, have grown to despair of the Labour Party. Whichever of these camps you were in, I genuinely believe that you would agree with me that a functioning parliamentary democracy requires a strong opposition that can both hold the government to account and resonate with voters as a credible alternative government. For substantial periods during the 1979-97 Conservative government and the 1997-2010 government, the opposition failed to do its job. We now face yet another period of virtual one party rule because the opposition is tearing itself apart.

Below is an extract from a speech I would love to hear the next Labour leader make on his or her election, one I believe would resonate with the electorate as well as Labour's lost tribe.

" The Labour Party was founded by working people so that it could represent working people and then govern on behalf of working people. As a party we have lost touch with working people, treated them with contempt and taken their vote for granted. As a party over the last two decades we have preferred instead to be part of a metropolitan bubble of a like minded, well heeled, Guardian reading Mafiosi, that believes profoundly in its own intellectual superiority and its right to rule whichever party wins the election. We have become part of a conspiracy to undermine the very democracy for which this party heroically fought.

On 23rd June this year we received our final notice that this has to change. You are either with me or you can contemplate the prospect of UKIP MP's in parliamentary constituencies that we have held continuously since 1945. Scotland has already given us a foretaste of what is to come. As a party therefore we face becoming an irrelevant rump surviving in parliament thanks only to London. If you genuinely wish to continue to pursue student union politics that is a matter for you, but at least have the decency to join the Liberal Democrats, a once great party that has become sadly irrelevant, where you will no doubt be very welcome. Meanwhile the rest of us will get on with the task of reconnecting with the voters of this country.

There will be no more posturing, no more self righteous attacks of the vapours because a brewery named a beer "top totty", and no more apologies for potato famines and the like.

However I do apologise on behalf of the party to Gillian Duffy, the pensioner who was called a bigot by one of our former leaders for raising the issue of immigration. I also apologise to the former Labour voter from Chatham, mocked by one of our front bench for displaying the flag of St George in his window.

The Labour Party was once a patriotic party that believed in defence. Clement Attlee, our greatest former Prime Minister, fought heroically in the Great War, and many members of the 60's and 70's Labour

governments fought in World War Two. More to the point so had the voters who swept us into power back in 1945. They loved their country, they spoke of "doing their bit," and then they moved on and approved the return of Germany and Japan to the family of nations. They were not xenophobes, I repeat they were not xenophobes.

The party I aspire to lead will accept the result of the referendum in both spirit and letter. We are a democratic party, end of... Therefore we are going to confront the immigration question. We will not be accepting the free movement so beloved by both big business and No Borders fanatics. We will welcome law abiding people that we need to fill holes in our economy, whether that is to work in the NHS or picking strawberries in the fields, provided they have a job offer. Other than the right to vote they will have the same rights as UK citizens. We will be delighted ultimately to grant UK citizenship to hard working law abiding people who wish to become British and adopt our values.

We shall look long term to address the skills gaps in our economy that make us so dependent on migrant workers, particularly in the NHS. This a key part of any strategy to reduce immigration. At this point I would ask you to consider the morality of constantly plundering developing countries of their best and brightest people.

Law abiding visitors to this country will also be welcome. They just need to understand that if they do not have the offer of a job they must either support themselves or get relatives to provide for their needs. There will be no provision of housing or any form of benefit, other than a return ticket home. We shall welcome foreign students to the UK, but we will expect the countries of origin to indemnify the UK for unpaid tuition fees and loan repayments. They will be expected to go home at the conclusion of their course at which point they will be treated as visitors unless they have a job offer. The NHS will offer the full range of NHS treatment to students and migrant workers but will only offer free emergency treatment, GP appointments and neo-natal care to visitors except where reciprocal arrangements are in place with the country of origin. We acknowledge that health tourism is difficult to stamp out completely as Doctors understandably do not wish to deny any form of treatment to the sick. Therefore the cost of health tourism will be transferred from the overseas aid budget to the NHS.

We shall stop deluding ourselves that the EU protects workers' rights. To paraphrase Dennis Skinner, "Where is the EU directive on zero hours contracts?" Let me remind you that the Royal Mail is in private hands because of EU competition rules, the same rules that give the Tories an excuse not to renationalise parts of Tata steel and protect strategic industries, the same rules that will prevent us from renationalising the railways and public utilities should we ever wish to do so. There has always been a strong Socialist case for leaving the big business dominated EU. It's time that case was heard. Leaving the EU does not make us any less an internationally focussed party or country. We will still be a permanent member of the UN security council, a crucial member of NATO, and we will regain our seat on the World Trade Organisation where will press hard for reduced trade barriers. It is worth remembering that EU tariffs, particularly in regard to agricultural products, are a major barrier to exports from developing countries.

One of our former leaders, Hugh Gaitskell, foresaw the end of "1000 years of history" if we joined what was then the Common Market. He foresaw that it would eventually destroy our democracy. It cannot be right that an unaccountable, unelected European Commission makes 60% of the laws in this country. It is a travesty of the democracy that working people gave their lives for in the two great conflicts of the 20th

century. We should be delighted that we are going to be a self governing country again. Some members of this party have in their time chanted "power to the people." Well the people have just seized power. If we are to be a truly free people, then we cannot accept the jurisdiction of Brussels or Strasbourg. As a believer in Human Rights I am not advocating withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights, which a Labour government helped set up in 1950. What I am advocating is that we return to the status quo which pertained from 1950 to 1966, whereby we accept its moral force, but not the jurisdiction of a court which contains judges from repressive nations like Albania which have no democratic tradition. Ultimately we should consider whether we perhaps need a written constitution, a British Bill of Rights, to replace the 1998 Human Rights Act.

We shall go to war on political correctness. You will not hear me talk about isms and phobias which have no meaning beyond the limited vocabulary of the lentil eating classes. Political correctness has made a mockery of free speech in this country. Article 10 of the Convention which protects the right to free speech is not enforced at all. We shall enshrine and define freedom of expression within the law, and specifically repeal the post Leveson legislation which threatens press freedom.

We shall make it the legal presumption that the right to a family life as enshrined under Article 8 can just as easily be enjoyed in the country of origin provided it is on the UN list of safe countries, the ownership of a cat, (and I am a cat lover), not with-standing.

There will be one code of law for all citizens in this country. There is no place for Sharia law, which is an affront to our belief in equality, and only institutionalises the second class status of women in certain minority communities.

Finally there will be no room for anyone in this party who does accept the recognition of the right of Israel to exist within a two state solution to the Palestinian question."

Anyone seen flying pigs recently?

PAUL LAXTON

In 2015 the AGM/Reunion was held at Newbold Revel and Ray London, the Secretary, and I accepted a rate for room hire and catering for NOMS. Some weeks later I received an email from an EO based at Wymott indicating that the cost for the use of Newbold Revel and catering was £463.99. I responded by agreeing that the cost was as expected but that I would require an invoice against which I could make payment, in order to keep my books correct.

I heard no more until April this year (8 months later) when I received a Statement of Account from the Shared Service Centre in Newport informing me of an outstanding invoice in the amount of £480.55p against Invoice number 441382. I contacted them to inform them that no such invoice had ever been received, and challenged the figure quoted.

On the 11th April they emailed me a copy of the original invoice dated 31st March 2016. This showed a charge from March 2015 which, whilst genuine, had not previously been mentioned or invoiced. The due date for payment of this invoice was also the day of issue, 31st March 2016. To add insult to injury, 48 hours later they wrote to me to inform me that they "were disappointed to note that I had failed to pay the invoice within the required period". Their letter must have crossed mine containing the cheque in the post.

It is nice to know that some things in life are actually reliable: you expect poor service from the Shared

Service Centre, and that is exactly what you get.

Finally, the good news. After a thorough analysis I am absolutely certain that BREXIT will not in any way affect the finances of this association.

Graham Mumby-Croft

Treasurer

July 2016

IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE LETTER BELOW PLEASE CONTACT THE TREASURER TO OBTAIN A STANDING ORDER MANDATE FORM. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE LETTER BUT NOT ACTED UPON IT PLEASE TREAT THIS LETTER AS A REMINDER. YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE IS VITAL FOR THE CONTINUING FINANCIAL GOOD HEALTH OF THE RPGA.

Dear Member,

As you may be aware from various articles by the Treasurer in the Newsletter, the Association's finances have always been based on a subscription income which has remained fixed at the rate paid by individuals on joining. Unfortunately this has meant that, without an influx of new members and historically static subscription fees, the income of the Association has had no capacity to grow. In consequence, for the past 2 years the Association has ended the financial year with a deficit of expenditure over income.

Additionally, we have also charged a fixed price for those members who opt to receive a PGA diary. The rate is currently £4/year for members joining now, but is considerably lower for members who joined several years ago. This year it cost the Association £5.86p for each diary provided to those members who opt to receive one: therefore we make a minimum loss of £1.86 on each diary, but more for those members whose surcharge is less than the £4.

Following considerable discussion, the Committee decided to put forward proposals intended to tackle the issues of declining income, losses on the PGA diary and the wide variation in the rates of subscriptions being paid at this year's AGM/Reunion. There was also a proposal that, for the first time, a mechanism be put into place for a regular review of the subscription rates paid by members and that the Committee regularly review all operating costs with a view to ensuring that these are kept to a minimum, the aim being to ensure that the Association remains financially viable and can continue to provide a credible service to the membership.

The following proposals were put to the 2016 AGM, and were passed accordingly:-

The Committee proposes that the cost of annual membership of the PGA is set at £13/year for **all** persons qualified for full membership, but who do not choose the option of receiving a PGA diary, and £20/year for those who choose the option of receiving a PGA diary. New subscription rates will be effective from January 2017. Arrangements for the widows/widowers of deceased members remain unaltered. Membership subscriptions for the RPGA will be reviewed bi-annually.

All subscriptions are paid by Standing Order, therefore in order to implement these changes we require all members whose subscription rate is affected to cancel their current Standing Order and submit a new standing order mandate to their bank. This needs to be done for subscriptions payable from January 2017. The effect on individual members and the action required is as follows:-

For those members who currently pay £13/year and do not receive a PGA diary-**NO CHANGE.**

For those members who currently pay less than £13/year and do not receive a PGA diary-**INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS TO £13/YEAR-NEW STANDING ORDER MANDATE REQUIRED.**

For those members who currently opt to receive a PGA diary, irrespective of your current subscription rate-**INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION TO £20/YEAR. NEW STANDING ORDER MANDATE REQUIRED.**

If you are currently receiving a PGA diary, and in light of the increase in cost, you no longer wish to do so, then please complete a new standing order mandate and tick the boxes for: **I currently receive a diary but no longer wish to do so and: £13/year.**

A new Standing Order Mandate is included with this letter. (It's not included in the newsletter.)If you fall into one of the categories which necessitate a change to your subscription rate, please complete the attached mandate and return it to the Treasurer in the envelope provided. There is no need to enter a date for your new mandate to be actioned by your bank as the Treasurer will complete this to coincide with the current date of your subscriptions payment. **Please note that if you bank online then we are unable to forward a mandate to your bank. In this case you will need to set this up online and inform the Treasurer what your instructions to your bank were, and when this has been done.**

We hope you understand the need to update subscription rates and will continue your membership. These amendments will allow us to consolidate the Association's financial position and safeguard its' continuation in the longer term.

Yours sincerely,

GRAHAM SMITH, CHAIR
RAY LONDON, SECRETARY
GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT, TREASURER

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RPGA AGM AND REUNION 2016 AT PSC NEWBOLD REVEL

ANDREA ALBUTT: PGA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JOHN ATTARD: PGA NATIONAL OFFICER

Finally for now, **Larry Stones** passed away on the 18th June this year at the Pilgrims Hospice, Ashford, from kidney failure: he was 85 so had had a good retirement. I know **Larry** served as Governor at Dover and Sudbury, and was well known to many with his involvement in the Exam Marking Board. **Larry** was an outgoing, jovial soul who was always good company; he liked a tippie or two and good food. He was as straightforward as they come, and always very honest when giving an opinion.

I have reached the age when each death reported saddens me deeply at the loss of another quality colleague; they also bring back so many happy memories. However, on balance I now feel it is time that I should hand over the reins of this role in the near future. I will have held the role for 17 years and I feel it is probably right for the next generation to take over. It has been a privilege to be contacted by so many, often with additional information just for myself.

It does not help that I have to write an Annual Report as the Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board of Elmley Prison (about the same time as the autumn Newsletter), not that neither Minister nor NOMS take much note of it. However it did achieve some good publicity for the Prison last year, which was a bit of a first.

I am just back from visiting my friend **Alan Rawson**, who is now well ensconced in his nursing home near Bradford. His sister advises that he is slowly deteriorating physically: his brain is still very active but slow, and he has bad days when he is very sleepy and others when he is brighter. I was lucky, or perhaps a fresh stimulus, as he was much better than my last visit, and we had a very pleasurable time together. His brother-in-law asked, as he knew how much Alan loved Croatia, if Alan had visited when it was still Yugoslavia. I confirmed we had with my family, then remembered that the two of us had gone on our own one year, and that I had been stopped for alleged speeding by a local policeman (as he had no speed gun it was a bit dubious, but it was easier to pay up!) and **Alan** immediately chirped up, 'It was me who had to pay you had left your wallet at your friends' house in Belgium.' Which was true, but it proved his mind is still active as all that was more than 30 years ago!

Bernard Marchant is in a similar position to Alan health wise, but the indomitable Marjorie is still able to look after him at home. She puts a brave face on it all, but I am sure she gets tired at times. She does have good support from their 'children'.

Bill Brister remains bright as a Guardsman's button, and always wants to know what is happening in the Service, but clearly gleans a lot from the media. He is now 91 (much to the chagrin of the pension folk) and still at Holt House and caring for himself, but no longer drives, and, as you all know, has given up on sending Christmas cards. (Actually **Alan Rawson** gave that up well before Bill: I am sorely tempted myself!). Bill keeps in touch with John Kendrick, son of Roger from his second wife, and who is now a prison officer.

I have had a lovely letter from **Ivy Brown** which reads as follows:

'I am the widow of **Malcolm Brown** whose death and kind words about him were reported in the News-

letter. He had led a very eventful life before joining the Prison Service.

During and after the war he served in the Gordon Highlanders in several challenging locations, Tripoli, Germany, Palestine under the British mandate time of terrorism and freedom fighters, and finally Malaya where the war against the communists insurgents was euphemistically called an emergency, an emergency during which Malcolm saw the real side of war and lost several colleagues.

YOUR LETTERS

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A very quiet period for correspondence and contact; not helped by the fact that the date of the Re-union/AGM had to be changed late on to a date I could not manage. So I was deprived of meeting up with colleagues, which I greatly missed as it is always a delight to meet up with old friends.

Reflecting on all this I had to face up to the fact that we are all getting older. My own health is holding up, but it now takes longer to get things done. Two of my closest friends are now in nursing homes, others are suffering from dementia, my brother has had a mild stroke, two cousins are awaiting further hospital operations, and too many friends have lost partners, as well as so many dear colleagues having left us. Mobility is a problem for others. A number of widows have advised us that they no longer recognise the names of colleagues mentioned in the Newsletter. The younger generation of governors do not en masse appear to have the same spirit of camaraderie that we all enjoyed. So we have to recognise that times are changing.

However, the aim has always been to provide a vehicle whereby retired colleagues can keep in touch, exchange views and share experiences. We know that this remains important and is welcomed and cherished by members. Whilst that remains so, we will strive to offer the service to the best of our ability, but it does need your help if it is to be sustained.

Sadly more colleagues have departed, amongst them, **Alf Cox** formerly Governor 3, who died at home in Nottingham on the 14th of March 2016. I can still remember Alf, although it is a very long time since I have seen him. He could be a bit irascible at times but was fully committed to the PGA and served on the Executive Committee. **Jenny Adams Young** comments, 'Another decent soul gone who was on the PGA NEC at one time.'

We have been informed by **Alan Craig** that **John Baxter**, ex-Northern Ireland PGA secretary, died earlier this year. It is difficult to describe the kind of pressure John faced, the troubles in Ireland were at their height, and prison staff were on the extremists' hit list. At PGA meetings John was always his quietly good-mannered, modest self, but determined to achieve the best for his colleagues. As **Harry** points out, he was also a very good host: 'John entertained me when I was General Secretary and visited Northern Ireland Prisons, and he also introduced me to the delights Bushmills: a great fellow.' **Jenny** writes, 'I felt really sad when I read this, I remember him well. He was Governor of the Maze for a while and had a very difficult and stressful time there. **Billy Irvine** used to come with him to NEC meetings and was highly protective of him. I recall having a conversation with Billy and voicing my concerns about John's health, which Billy shared. I hope he managed to have a few decent years of retirement, because he had earned them

with all the pressures he endured.'

Alan Holman's son advised via **Peter Leonard** that **Alan** died at 3am on 31st March whilst in Castle Hills Hospital, Hull, from aggressive cancer. The funeral took place on the 8th April at Woodlands Crematorium, Scunthorpe. I remember **Alan** as a quiet, modest man of great ability and tenacity; he was also possessed of a wry sense of humour. **Graham Smith** comments, 'Sad news about a lovely man and a very discerning one too as he gave me my promotion to G5 many years ago.' (Well we all make mistakes!) (continued on P29)

Finally for now, **Larry Stones** passed away on the 18th June this year at the Pilgrims Hospice, Ashford, from kidney failure: he was 85 so had had a good retirement. I know **Larry** served as Governor at Dover and Sudbury, and was well known to many with his involvement in the Exam Marking Board. **Larry** was an outgoing, jovial soul who was always good company; he liked a tippie or two and good food. He was as straightforward as they come, and always very honest when giving an opinion.

I have reached the age when each death reported saddens me deeply at the loss of another quality colleague; they also bring back so many happy memories. However, on balance I now feel it is time that I should hand over the reins of this role in the near future. I will have held the role for 17 years and I feel it is probably right for the next generation to take over. It has been a privilege to be contacted by so many, often with additional information just for myself.

Malcolm referred to it as eight years being shot at.

On the early death of his father, who was a Prison Officer, Malcolm left the Gordon's and came home to Gloucester and became a Prison Officer himself.'

It is fascinating what we do not know about our colleagues. I was particularly interested as my grandfathers (whom I never knew) were also in the Gordon Highlanders, but they were not as lucky as they were killed in France and are buried there.

Roger Outram remains as busy as ever. Apparently he was asked to help organize a re-union for Belmarsh staff, which he was pleased to do. Unfortunately he has ended up having to organize it all. Over 200 staff have shown an interest, and when I spoke to Roger, 60 had committed themselves to attending.

It has just been announced and celebrated that **Mother Teresa of Calcutta** has been made a saint by the Pope. For me it is still a thrill that working in what the public probably regard as a rather mundane Service, one experienced unexpected and wonderful experiences, one of which was meeting Mother Teresa. On her return from South America to India, she stopped off in London, and whilst there visited Wormwood Scrubs. She addressed a meeting of senior staff and then joined the R C Priest in a mass for the prisoners in the chapel. In her presence she dominated the room, not just by what she said, but her total aura and personality, which exuded peace and calm and love for everyone, particularly the underprivileged. She was small in stature, but large in personality. Her only 'luggage' for that almost worldwide travel was contained in one brown paper bag! That all happened nearly 40 years ago, but remains vivid in my memory.

I also met Desmond Tutu of South Africa, but that is another story.

With the August Bank holiday approaching, **Malcolm Manning** was also in a reflective mood in respect of 40 years earlier and the Hull Riot. He has written a very personal and honest account of the events of that

weekend, and the impact had upon all those involved, and clearly the vivid images that remain 40 years on.

I can empathise with Malcolm as the Scrubs 'mini riot' also took place on the August Bank Holiday weekend, not that I was there for it, but I joined on the Monday in the immediate aftermath and lived with the ongoing inquiry which dragged on for over a year. Although not involve directly, I was still interviewed twice by the police, which felt more like an interrogation and as if they were trying to prove someone was criminally at fault.

Malcolm's account is reproduced below:

HULL 1976

Whilst in a reflective mood the other day it occurred to me that it will be forty years since the serious riot at Hull Prison.

In the May that year I had regraded from Senior Foreman at the Scrubs to A.G.1. and was posted to Hull. The Governor was **Arthur Kearns**, a taciturn non-smoker who within a month was posted to Stafford and replaced by **Harold Parr** an ebullient big Hamlet-smoking ex R.A.F. character.

The prison population was typical of the Cat. 'A' Prison at the time. There were, however, a goodly sprinkling of top London villains whom I had run up against before in the P.R.O.P. disturbances 1970/71 at Albany.

The day before the August Bank Holiday Monday, the Dep. Gov. **Reg. Withers** asked me if I would perform his Evening Duty Governor's duties as he had an external meeting to attend. I agreed to do this for him, so that evening found myself on The Centre, the prison being unlocked for association, when at about 19.00 hours I was approached by a small delegation of inmates saying that they had heard that an inmate named Walbanks had been beaten up in the Segregation Unit and they demanded to visit him.

I told them this was a false rumour and their request was denied. What we did not know was that the wife of one of the heavies had been arrested at the train station carrying drugs so the chaps were very unhappy and looking for trouble.

My decision was not accepted and they said they wanted to speak to the No.1. Governor. I said he was not available but I would phone him. When I contacted Harold he said, 'No' to their request, 'Keep them talking' as he was coming in, 'but order the normal lock up at 20.00 hours.'

As you might well imagine, the atmosphere became increasingly tense, the delegation demands more clamorous - several of them reminding me of their ability to cause trouble from our previous Albany front-offs. I had by this time called all patrol staff to the Centre not wanting anyone isolated and vulnerable to hostage taking. So at 20.00 hours I gave the order "All away." There was an immediate rush of the entire population into 'A' Wing adjacent to the Segregation Unit when we followed them in and were met with a bombardment of cell furniture. We withdrew and secured the Centre gate. Unfortunately, the Wing skylight had no security bars and they soon smashed through the Georgian wired glass and thereby gaining access to all the prison roofs. They also smashed their way into the Segregation Unit releasing the occupants.

I was ordered by Harold, who was now in the Control Room, to withdraw to the secure office area attached to the wing with the patrol staff and hold it as a forward observation post, which we did for the next 48 hours whilst mayhem and destruction raged all around.

There is one amusing incident I recall. By the second night without food we were pretty hungry and I asked if any rations could be got through to us. We were surprised when under the cover of darkness and a quiet period, the Cook & Baker P.O. Denis Freeman bravely galloped up with a wooden tea chest full of fried egg sandwiches. The hot eggs had melted the copious butter causing them to part company with the bread. We spent a considerable amount of time searching the edible debris to reconstruct the sandwiches - but believe me an egg banjo has never tasted so good before or since!

My team were relieved from our position on Wednesday morning, returning to duty that evening to take over from staff in the one unaffected wing 'B' Wing and during that night receiving inmates who had started to surrender and ones and twos from the riot area.

It is very hard to describe the feelings one has when faced with the complete loss of control of a prison. With twenty years' service under my belt confrontation was not something new, especially in those days, but this was something different: a great deal of fear, and the complete collapse of authority. What I did learn was that when it happens, no amount of negotiations will end it, only concluding when burning itself out by the fatigue of the participants.

On the Friday morning the rioters indicated it was over. I was sent with a team to the sub centre to receive them as they came out singly and we gave them the initial rubdown search. We breathed a sigh of relief. Our troubles were over! But they were not: there then followed post-riot.

First came a large number of allegations of staff brutality both during and post-riot from the inmates, causing a police enquiry to take place. No-one knew the content of the allegations. The police stated that they would deal with the minor ones first and work their way to the more serious ones. We didn't know if this was police procedure or a mind game. Months were spent waiting to be questioned or not.

When I was taken to Police Headquarters the interviewing officer advised me that when my name was mentioned by an inmate a file was raised. His sergeant then placed a large stack of files on the table. For a moment my heart sank, then I realised that in addition to my initial confrontation I had also received the surrender, so was named by most inmates. There were some spurious allegations against me but the control room log placed me in a different part of the prison where they were supposed to have happened. Other physically and emotionally exhausted members of staff were not so fortunate. Some were charged with assaults against prisoners and convicted.

Then of course followed the Home Office Enquiry carried out so diligently by **Gordon Fowler**, who handled us considerately in having to relive it all again for which we were grateful.

Now all those years have passed, even so in my memory and I'm sure in those who may still be around, that August Bank Holiday is still very fresh in our minds.

MALCOLM MANNING

As ever always good to hear news of colleagues, I am sure you all agree, so the more who make contact the more impact your Newsletter creates. So it is, as always, down to you all.

Bob Duncan

September 2016

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Next Year's AGM and reunion will be held on Tuesday 13 June 2017. Venue to be confirmed.

Finally:

Did you recognise the mystery penal establishment shown in a cropped photograph in the Spring 2016 issue of the newsletter? I'm sure you all knew it was HMP Leeds.

And very finally:

A reminder that the success of the newsletter depends on your submissions. First time contributors welcome. Tell your old colleagues about your holidays and hobbies, or get on your soapbox and give your views on the issues of the day!

PAUL LAXTON, EDITOR