

# 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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### NEW PRISONS MINISTER WANTS TO SCRAP SHORT PRISON SENTENCES

Rory Stewart, the recently appointed Prisons Minister, has called for the use of custodial terms of less than 12 months to be "significantly reduced, if not eliminated." Mr Stewart made the call in front of the House of Commons Justice Select Committee on 26 June, and the following day the Justice Secretary, David Gauke, criticised the inefficacy of short sentences, and stated that community penalties resulted in less re-offending. Mr Stewart did make the confusing caveat that short sentences should still be available for serious and violent offenders, though why such a short sentence would be appropriate for that kind of offender he did not explain. Nevertheless, within the Conservative Party Mr Stewart's comments are the equivalent of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Castle Church in Wittenburg in 1517. To the Daily Express and the Daily Mail this is nothing less than heresy and their condemnation was swift. Yorkshire backbench MP Philip Davies, whose apparent influence on penal policy is out of all proportion to his real importance, was heavily quoted.

Back in 2009 it was the Prison Governors' Association which was hit with the full force of inflammatory headlines when the press discovered a resolution on the Conference agenda calling for the scrapping of short custodial terms. I remember it well, as I had drawn the short straw of proposing the resolution on behalf of the NEC, which conference approved despite media pressure. Last year the PGA repeated the call. It's nice to know that ministers have finally caught up. It is hoped the ministers will be emboldened by the relatively muted response to the shelving of plans to build five new women's community prisons. The number of juveniles in custody has reduced drastically over the last ten years with no serious commentator saying that our society is less safe as a consequence. It's time to take a similar approach with adults, and I for one look forward to the day when only offenders who breach court orders or are otherwise in contempt of court are imprisoned for short terms.

**In this issue...** You can read another potted history of a penal establishment courtesy of Francis McGilway, this time HMP Bedford. As ever Your Letters are at the very epicentre of the newsletter. You can also find the press release issued by Andrea Albutt, President of the PGA, prior to 2018 Conference, and a report by your editor on a speech given by Phil Wheatley to the same gathering. There are pieces from regular contributors John Berry and Dave Taylor and a fitting tribute to the late Adrian F.H. Arnold submitted by his stepson. Until his death in May Mr Arnold was one of the last surviving retired governors to have served in World War Two.

**Next issue APRIL 2019,** Please keep the contributions rolling in.

PAUL LAXTON, EDITOR



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### 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 [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_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.

## MANCHESTER WALKS

It was a very wet Easter Bank Holiday Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, and although I had booked this walk some three weeks earlier, I had not anticipated that it would be quite so wet. The temperature was nothing to write home about either, averaging about 11 degrees Celsius; but all that did not put me off. I should have guessed that the combination of a Bank Holiday and the location of Manchester would not result in a dry day.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 it will be 200 years since 16 people were cruelly and savagely cut down in an area of Manchester called St. Peter's Fields. Plans are well advanced for the commemorations.



THE PLAQUE THAT NOW HANGS ON THE COLUMN OF THE RADISSON HOTEL IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER. THE BUILDING WAS ORIGINALLY THE FREE TRADE HALL

About fifty thousand people, some say more, had gathered in an area of Manchester to protest about poverty, in particular the Corn Laws which kept the price of grain artificially high, taking the price of a loaf of bread out of reach for most people. They also came to protest about their right to vote, as at that time not every male person was eligible to vote: in fact it is estimated that only 2% of the population had the right to vote. In the County Palatine of Lancaster, and every other county, if you were eligible to vote you had to travel to Lancaster to raise your hand at an election to have your vote counted: not a fair and equitable system. Henry Hunt and the journalist William Cobbett had begun to campaign for universal suffrage. They argued that extending the vote to working men would lead to better use of public money, fairer taxes and an end to restrictions on trade which damaged industry and caused unemployment.

The crowd came from all over the districts of Manchester and beyond. The meeting was called as a rally might today be called, and the speaker was booked to speak to the crowd. He was a well-renowned orator; the equivalent of in modern times in terms of reformers might be Tony Benn or Martin Luther King. This was the very same man campaigning for universal suffrage with William Cobbett, and if you could attract Henry Hunt to your protest then you could be assured of a large crowd.

Lord Liverpool was the Prime Minister of the day and his cabinet consisted of other titled aristocracy. Viscount Castlereagh was the Tory leader in the Commons (there was no such thing as 'The Conservatives'; this was the day of Whigs and Tories) with Lord Eldon as Chancellor and Lord Sidmouth as Home Secretary.

Europe and the continent of America were recently involved in revolution. It was only 30 years since the French Revolution of 1789 and of course the American Revolution which lasted 24 years had only ceased in 1787, therefore the government of Great Britain was fearful of rebellion and revolution and was wary of public assembly. The great fear was that any revolution would start in Manchester because of the numbers of people in poverty there. The Napoleonic wars had just finished in 1815, income tax was introduced as a way of raising money for the war effort and was deemed as a temporary measure. It still has to be renewed by Parliament every year. It was a time of great suffering as child labour still existed.

So wary of protests were local magistrates and Government that they therefore planned to arrest Henry Hunt and the other speakers at the meeting, and decided to send in armed forces – the only way they felt they could safely get through the large crowd. The enormity of the crowd surprised both the protesters and the Magistrates. This had the air of a peaceful protest, although there were more radical protesters prepared to use violence at other assemblies, with families and bands. This seemed a bright happy gathering of peaceful protest. Banners were carried by men, women and children calling for Equality and Reform, topped with the red cap which was popular in the day.

But according to local magistrates, however, the crowd was not peaceful but had violent, revolutionary intentions. To them, the organised marching, banners and music were more like those of a military regiment, and the practices on local moors like those of an army drilling its recruits. They therefore planned to arrest Henry Hunt and the other speakers at the meeting, and decided to send in armed forces – the only way they felt they could safely get through the large crowd. The Magistrates were taking no chances and with the help of the Government assembled 600 Hussars, seven hundred infantrymen, an artillery Unit with two six-pounder guns, four hundred men of the Cheshire Cavalry, and four hundred special constables waited in reserve. There was no official police force at that time.

The time came to disperse the crowd. A small hustings had been set up on which the speakers were to stand. To talk to a crowd of that magnitude without any amplification would have been futile as only the front five rows would have heard the words. The magistrates, watching from the window of a house overlooking both the crowd and the hustings were fearful and decided to read the assembled through the Riot Act. This is not the epithet it is today. It was the only way the authorities had at their disposal to disperse crowds.

The magistrates then took the fateful decision to order the charge. People who were already cramped, tired and hot panicked as the soldiers rode in, and several were crushed as they tried to escape. Soldiers deliberately slashed at both men and women, especially those who had banners. It was later found that their sabres had been sharpened just before the meeting, suggesting that the massacre had been pre-meditated.

According to an eye witness the first casualty was a two-year-old infant being carried in his mother's arms, slashed down on by a sabre and killed instantly. It must have been a terrifying ordeal for the people involved. Apart from those who died the list of those injured passed 160. News reached the poet P.B. Shelley when he was in Italy and he wrote compassionately in verse about that day. It is entitled 'The Masque of Anarchy'. The title word 'Masque' is meant to portray a mixture of the farce of a pantomime with the hidden cruelty that a mask would conceal. Such masks are worn at protests today. Its' verse is compelling and emotional. I quote one verse which speaks to the surviving protestors thus: -

Rise like lions after slumber  
 In unvanquishable number  
 Shake your chains to earth like dew  
 Ye are many – they are few.

That last line sounds vaguely familiar, but the poem is well worth reading against the background outlined here.

There is no doubt that this horrific incident spurred the rate of progress on many reforms, not least of which were the repeal of the Corn Laws and the two Reform acts that followed soon after. This was an event that changed the social history of the country and is as important an event as any other in Britain's progress to modernity in the nineteenth century. But it is a sad way for reform to happen and we have not learned from history, as it seems in many countries throughout the world the lessons are still to be learned. The best way to finish this is by posting a list of some of those who died that day and in subsequent days.

DAVID TAYLOR

### LIST OF PERSONS KILLED AT ST. PETERSFIELD,

On the 16th August, 1819.

*Or who have subsequently died, in consequence of the Injuries there received.*

Name.	Residence.	How injured.	Remarks.
Ashton, John.	Cowhill, Oldham.	Sabred.	
Ashworth, John.	Bulls' Head, Manchester.	Sabred and trampled on.	A Special Constable.
Buckley, Thomas.	Baretrees, Chadderton.	Sabred and stabbed.	
Dawson, William.	Saddleworth.	Sabred and crushed.	Killed on the Spot.
Fildes, ———.	Kennedy Street, Manchester.	Rode over by the Cavalry.	An Infant.
Lees, John.	Oldham.	Sabred.	} A Coroner's Inquest on the Body adjourned without a Verdict.
O'Neil, Arthur.	No. 3, Pigeon Street, Manchester.	Inwardly crushed.	
Partington, Martha.	Eccles.	Thrown into a Cellar.	Killed on the Spot.
Whitworth, Joseph.	Hyde.	Shot.	
Crompton James.	Barton.	Trampled on by the Cavalry.	
Heyz, Mary.	No. 8, Rawlinson's Buildings, Oxford Road, Manchester.	Rode over by Cavalry.	

## **Adrian F. H. Arnold (20.12.1925 – 09.05.2018) - A Life and Career**

Born in Canterbury, Kent, he leaves behind a loving wife Anne Arnold, three children, three step-children, four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

### **Prison career: - (during which he even found time to advise the Milton Keynes Development Corporation )**

- Assistant Governor/Housemaster at Usk Borstal, Mon. (1953/5)
- Deputy Warden, Goudhurst Detention Centre (1955/6)
- Commandant of detention camps, Cyprus (1956/8) - Colonial Office/UNESCO, camp for EOKA 'terrorists' in Kokkinotrimithia & youth prison in Nicosia during Greek & Turkish unrest where his prisoners included the Bishop of South London (Greek Orthodox) the Director of Prisons, Nicosia, and I think the Chief of Police.
- Superintendent of Prisons, Northern Nigeria - Kakuri Prison (1958/60) Designed, built, and opened the multi-lingual literacy & secondary education youth prison, with vocational training syllabus in agriculture, building & carpentry workshops and fishery, for the first Borstal there (1959-60)
- Wormwood Scrubs prison, Borstal Allocation Unit (1961/2)
- Grendon prison, opening the first U.K. psychiatric prison (1962/4) - developing a therapeutic community for adults & youth & training programmes for inmates/staff, incl. those from overseas.
- Founded the 'Cellar Club' (1962-90 with Dr Mary Ellis – SMO, Feltham Borstal) - at Friends' Meeting House, St Martins Lane, off Trafalgar Square, for Borstal/YCC/YOI ex-trainees in trouble, until it foundered through lack of Probation Service support.
- Tour of prisons, mental hospitals & youth training centres (1964) - Denmark, Germany & Holland
- Tour (1965) of Canadian & Californian prisons, lumber camps, drug centres and community training centres and reporting back to the Prison Department (no longer the Prison Commission), leading to a book on 'Management & Treatment in the Prison Service'.
- Risley Remand Centre, Lancashire (1965/7) - revision & development of induction procedures and observation & classification techniques.
- Pentonville Prison (1967/72) chaplains, magistrates & prison staff interdisciplinary liaison in group & community work, mainly for alcoholics, gamblers & homeless with A.A., G.A. and Recidivists Anonymous. Founder member of Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP).
- Council of Europe 'Sensitivity Seminar' with chaplains & governors (1969) in Vienna, Austria.
- Training of magistrates - visiting lecturer (1970 onwards)
- Huntercombe Borstal (1972/4) - development of open-plan education, construction industries training, CSV, Duke of Edinburgh award schemes, links with parishes, schools & community liaison.
- Milton Keynes Development Corporation (1972/4) - hon. adviser - design & costing of the new-town's local government & community-based health, legal, religious, social & penal services.
- Civil Service Prison Chaplains Selection Board & Chaplains Conference representative (1971/85).
- Hollesley Bay Youth Custody and Detention Centre, Suffolk (1971/4) - 300 staff & 500 trainees, literacy, secondary, technical, multi-faith & multi-cultural education with community-based developments in education & faith with faith communities, Directors of Education, Social Services, Health & the Probation Service.
- Deputy Regional Director, South East Region, Prison Department – (1977/82) - tactical & operational support/surveillance of S.E.R. establishments.
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO) representative at U.N. & Council of Europe conferences as honorary secretary of the International Prisoners Aid Association (IPAA) (1977/86) - Brussels, Caracas, Strasbourg & Vienna, for 'Prevention of Crime', 'The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners' & 'Repatriation of foreign prisoners'- and Home Office representative at medical/psychiatric conferences in Ottawa (1984). IPAA (as NGO to the UN & EU) reported on chaplaincy/court/penal/police procedures around the world.
- Feltham Y.O.I. & Remand Centre (1982/85) - including the building and development of the Remand Centre with multi-faith & multi-cultural opportunity & computer technology - until retirement in 1985.

**Academic and Military background: -**

- Ashdown House, Forest Row, Sussex - 1935/9 - head boy.
- Ardingly College, Sussex-1939/44 - scholar (classics), Certificate of Education (8 credits), Subsidiary Higher Certificate, head prefect, captain of cricket, hockey, soccer, boxing & C.C. running.
- Glasgow University - Army (pre-OCTU-1944) short course in surveying & engineering.
- Bombay University - 1945 - Certificate in Urdu.
- Training in Parsee faith & theology by girl-friend's family in Bombay.
- South West Essex College (London) - Intermediate Arts Degree - History & Latin.
- St Catharine's College, Cambridge - (1949/52) - BA (Hons) 1951 - Modern Languages (french & german) 1951/2 - MA 1958 - secretary of the Tagore Institute & Social Action Group, president of the hockey club.
- Heidelberg University - Diploma in German.
- H.M. Prison Service Staff College - 1953/4 - social administration & penal history.
- Manchester University - 1964/5 - Simon Fellow/lecturer in sociology & social administration - wrote book on "Management & Treatment in the Prison Service" (370pp).
- London University (external) - 1969/70 - Certificate in abnormal psychology (with distinction).
- London University (Walbrook College) - 1970/72 - lecturer in sociology.
- London School of Economics - 1970/2 - postgraduate course in social psychology.
- Oxford University Extra-mural Studies Department - 1972/4 - director of studies on 'The Psycho-sociology of Deviance' for chaplains, police, prison staff, psychologists and social workers.
- Royal Indian Army -1944/7 - OCTU (Deolali), troop commander, 6th & 28th Punjab (Para) LAA Regiment (Wah & Secunderabad), and thence to Intelligence Officer, H.Q. Royal Indian Artillery (Bombay & Poona), including intelligence for the 'mercy' trains from India to Pakistan & back.
- Royal Pakistan Army -1947/8 - Intelligence Officer for the first political elections after Pakistan's Independence, population surveys, village & community government (Karachi & Quetta areas).
- Tours (1946/8) of asylums/hospitals in India & Pakistan, and tours of Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Parsee & Sikh temples, including Amritsar & Ayodhya and the ancient caves of Ajanta, Baja, Elephanta, Ellora, Karli and the chalcolithic city of Mohenjo-daro.
- Founding of the Church of South India -1947 -first ecumenical church, except R.C.'s & Baptists.
- Secondary Modern teacher, Houndsfield Road School, Edmonton, Middx-1948/9-civics & history
- Docker/shoregang rigger at King George V & Albert docks, London (summer 1949) and
- Coalminer at Wilhelmina Victoria Mine, Gelsenkirchen, Germany (summer 1950).
- Bournemouth Grammar School teacher -1952/3 - modern languages (french & german).

**Publications: -**

- A Summary of the Faiths
- Custody & 'the Psychology of failure' - restricting custody to difficult & dangerous offenders.
- Talk to the ISTD at the House of Lords (16.1.76)
- Talk to the Union Society of Cambridge (28.2.73)

**Societies/Clubs committees: -**

- Association for the Prevention of Addiction.
- British Association of Social Psychiatry.
- British Society of Criminology.
- Howard League of Penal Reform.
- Institute for the Study & Treatment of Delinquency (general secretary - 1985/6).
- Institute of Religion & Medicine.
- National Cyrenians Ltd.
- Ramakrishna Vedanta Society

### **And in retirement ... some of his other numerous activities:**

- Chairman of Gordon House Association in association with Gamblers Anonymous & Stonham Housing Association Ltd. (1986).
- Managing Council of Cranstoun Drugs Services Ltd. (1986 onwards)
- South West London Probation Committee (1986 onwards)
- St Paul's Church, Wimbledon Park, P.C.C. member, p/t church magazine editor, collections treasurer, Wandsworth deanery synod member (1986/97).
- Holy Trinity, Roehampton ecumenical parish with the Methodist Church at Minstead Gardens, Joint Church Council (JCC) & Wandsworth deanery synod treasurer.
- South London Interfaith Group (1986 onwards)- joint secretary since 1990, visits and dialogue with multiple faith communities in South London and helping to found other more localised groups within the area, viz: Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth & Wimbledon. Also member of the World Congress of Faiths, and linked to IARF, IIC, the CCJ, the Interfaith Network for the UK, and several other local, national & international interfaith groups.
- Deputy principal, Cromwell School of English (TEFL) - overseas vacation pupils (p/t) (1977/94).
- German teacher/head of department, Burntwood Lane School, Tooting (1989/90).
- 'The Great Faiths of Southfields' course tutor, started during the autumn of 1991. (1991/2)
- 'Southfields Youth Forum' (1991/92) - founded group for mixed youth of different faiths in Wandsworth/Wimbledon, later with E.U. 'Petra' (the European Youth Group) funding, the main committee consisting of:- a Muslim chairman, Christian secretary, Sikh social secretary, Jewish treasurer and Hindu facilitator - produced multi-faith/multi-cultural evenings open to the public, theatre evenings and a booklet, called 'The Summary of the Faiths', 62pp.
- Christian Ecumenical Course (1992/3)

### **Editor's Notes:**

**Thanks are due to Mr Arnold's stepson, Greg Solomon, for this detailed account of the life and work of his distinguished stepfather.**

**I think it was Denis Healey who said that all politicians should have "hinterland." I'm of the view that the same stricture should apply to prison governors so that our profession retains its reputation for intellectual independence and moral integrity. Adrian Arnold was the embodiment of Denis Healey's dictum.**



**Believe it or not this is part of the delapidated ruin of one of our former establishments.  
Can you recognise these buildings?**



## THE THINGS YOU FIND IN CUPBOARDS

I was in the Family Court and we had just finished for lunch. I decided to stay in and eat my lunch rather than go out for a walk. Opening my briefcase I found I had forgotten to put my book in and so I looked around in the cupboards and found a stack of old Justice of the Peace Magazines from 2000 - 2007. Grabbing one, I sat down and began to flick through it and lo and behold I found an article by Peter Quinn.

Whilst I never had the pleasure of working with Peter in a prison, I did spend some time with him when he was in HQ redrafting parts of the Prison Rules. To this day I still blame him for changing rule 43 to rule 45. However, when Peter retired he went off to pastures new and became a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Law University of the West of England and was a Trustee of the charity Prisoners Abroad.

Apparently Peter had decided to extend his range of skills and apply for a post on the Probation Board – a bit like the Prisons Board but probably less formal! Now that would have been in the days when we only had one National Probation Service that was in general pretty successful rather than the mishmash of private and public services today - which leaves a lot to be desired.

Peter then described in great detail how he tried (with the aid of a Pimms or two) to get a copy of the application form. Eventually after several misaddressed forms, one duly arrived and Peter duly sat down to complete it. Having expended a huge amount of cerebral energy in meeting the job spec. he tried to fax the form back as it was the final day for receipt of applications. Apparently he was then told they did not accept Fax applications and - as Peter accordingly noted – that is why he was never appointed as a member of the Probation Board.

Still, as he observed it would probably have interfered with his cricket – watching not playing. If Peter wants a copy of this article then if he gets in contact with me I can always email (or fax it to him).

Lunch over then I went back to work in the Court – still thinking of Peter and his change of Rule 43.

John Berry

## From the Chair

Well another summer gone and hasn't it been a good one for us retirees to enjoy? I hope you are all well and enjoyed some sun. I have seen a lot of cricket at Yorkshire [not a good season for us] and had a few trips around the country. Notice I don't use the "holiday" word, as I don't think as a retired person you can technically be on holiday-one big holiday hey?

Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter which is put together with care by our Editor Paul Laxton, along with contributions from the Committee and members. I ask again for any contributions from members on what retirement is about for you to share with our members, i.e. holidays [sorry trips], hobbies, and reminiscences are always welcome and inform us all.



Our 2018 AGM was at The Stratford Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon on 6<sup>th</sup> June and was the Committee's latest attempt to encourage more members to attend the AGM/reunion, meet ex-colleagues and maybe use the event as a chance to see Stratford. (over...)

Most of the AGM organisation was carried out by Jenny Adams Young and we had a fine sunny day with some of us staying over the night before. We had 2 presentations, one from Gareth Sands, Operational Governing Governor of HMP Hewell Grange, and one from Don Makepeace of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance [CSPA] with whom the RPGA now have an ongoing working relationship. I know some of you are not interested in what is occurring in the Prison Service today and are glad to be out of it, but some of us are and it is fascinating to listen to someone like Gareth who is very much on the front line today as we were years ago. His management approach is underpinned by a strong focus on leadership and communication with staff and inmates alike and, having worked in both the public and private sectors, is able to apply learning from both. Don on the other hand was able to bring us up-to-date with current issues affecting pensioners of today and things which affect us all in our retirement. We very much value the link we now have with the CSPA and feel we have a voice via a major pensioner-focused alliance of many thousands. Our RPGA committee link with the CSPA is via Paul Laxton and Harry Brett who are both also active within the CSPA and are able to feedback to our Committee and keep us up-to-date.

I would like to report back that our latest attempt to increase attendance at the AGM/reunion at Stratford was successful but alas it was not to be, so next year, and being conscious of cost, we are moving the AGM to a date in February, probably at an establishment and really moving away from the Reunion concept of the AGM which continues not to attract the numbers we would like: indeed, we have now removed social events from the AGM agenda. The minutes of the AGM are available on our website which is now being managed by our new Committee member Roger Outram who will oversee all IT issues for the Association as well as some of the excellent work Bob Duncan has delivered on members' letters. Roger replaces Allan Hall who leaves the committee following a valued contribution to our work over a number of years.

The headlines from the AGM are a surplus of funds for the first time for 3 years and a current balance at the bank of £5578.36p. Graham Mumby-Croft, our Treasurer, was unable to attend the AGM in person. We hope to see him back soon but he was his usual efficient self sending written copies of the accounts. Membership is currently 416 which is a loss of 10 over the year, mainly through members' deaths. Recruitment needs to be our priority from now on if we are to survive. Information on next year's AGM will be circulated soon.

The latest news I read on prison issues relates to HMP Birmingham under "Urgent measures", and as an SO there in 1976-1982 [is it really that long ago?] I remember it being a tough prison to work in but we always felt in control and no, it wasn't perfect, but when staff begin to feel unsafe the problems just compound and make things worse. The problems these days with drones keep being reported, but I have to reflect on when I was at Stafford as a POUT in 1969 prisoners used to make catapults out of elastic bands and cotton, fire them across the outer wall from their cell and haul some snout in that way. Not much different apart from the technology? My ears pricked up listening to radio 4 recently with a story about alleged corruption in Ugandan jails and remand prisoners being employed to work for Prison Officials on farms' crops and building houses which the official then rents out-why didn't we think of that?

I wish to make a note of thanks to your Committee who give their time freely to keep the RPGA on track and relevant to our members' needs in today's world. I ask again for your contributions to the Newsletter or maybe come to the next AGM too: it would be good to see you.

**Graham Smith RPGA Chairman.**

## **THE CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS ALLIANCE (CSPA): AN INTRODUCTION by Don Makepiece, Vice-Chair CSPA and nominated link with the RPGA**

The Civil Service Pensioners Alliance (CSPA) and the RPGA have agreed to create a link with each other. The aim is to provide a basis for working together on recruitment to the two organisations. As a first step, we are publishing information about our respective organisations in letters to each others' journals. In addition, **RPGA members not already members of the CSPA, can now join it with 6 months free membership.**

The CSPA was formed in 1952 to lobby to restore the value of Civil Service pensions. Index-linking was achieved in 1972 and since then we have defended this and campaigned for improvements. In 2010, the CSPA, along with unions, mounted a legal challenge against the Government's change to inflation indexing for Civil Service pensions from the Retail Prices Index to the Consumer Prices Index. We also help members if they have problems with their Civil Service pension and meet regularly with the pension administrator MyCSP, and the Cabinet Office, to resolve any personal or general problems. We are the organisation formally recognised by the Cabinet Office, Government Departments and MyCSP, as speaking for Civil Service pensioners and as such, by law, we must be consulted on any plans to retrospectively change the pension scheme or administrative arrangements. We have over 50,000 members with local groups and branches throughout the UK and in Malta. Members receive 'The Pensioner', CSPA's quarterly magazine, with news about our activities and other issues affecting pensioners. The CSPA Website [www.cspa.co.uk](http://www.cspa.co.uk) contains up-to-date news and a CSPA Facebook page is also available. CSPA membership costs £24.00 per annum and joint membership £33.60.

We work with other pensioner organisations on wider pensioner issues. We lobby MPs and campaign in partnership with the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) and pensioners from British Telecom, Royal Mail, and the Post Office who are members of the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP), under the campaigning umbrella *Later Life Ambitions*. Our current campaigns include: maintaining the triple lock for state pensions and increasing pre-2016 state pensions to match the new single tier state pension; retention of universal pensioner benefits such as the bus pass and free prescriptions; improving National Health Service provisions, long-term care and services to support living at home. CSPA offers an extensive range of membership benefits and services. Many members were attracted to join us by the CSPA travel insurance (see below). We continuously review our membership services and extend the range of benefits: for example, we now offer cash back at a wide range of high street retail outlets (e.g. M&S, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Boots). Other key services include:

**Provision of a free initial legal advice service.** If a lawyer is then required to act on behalf of a member, the legal advisers discuss how they can help and likely costs. Our **financial advisors** provide financial guidance and regulated advice to manage investment planning.

BC Technologies provides a free service to CSPA members answering **computer problems** and gives advice on computer purchases. We have entered into a charitable partnership with Hearing Star providing an **audiology/hearing aid service** available to members and their families.

For CSPA members renewing their **house and contents insurance or motor policies**, the Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS) will beat renewal costs by at least £10. CSIS also provides an over-50s life insurance policy that can include funeral cover.

The CSPA Group **Travel Insurance** Scheme is provided for members their spouses or partners. It is a Worldwide Annual Scheme with pre-existing health conditions discounted; you simply have to be fit to travel and, provided a member joins before they are **85**, they can remain in the scheme for life.

Members also get discounts on **pre-booked holidays** and discounts on Airport Parking, Airport Hotels and Airport Lounges. Fred Olsen Cruises offer CSPA members a 10% discount on your first sailing then 5% above their 5% Loyalty discount.

A number of RPGA members are members of CSPA and active in CSPA Groups. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information why not visit our website or send for a recruitment pack to:

**Mike Duggan, General Secretary,  
CSPA Head Office, Grosvenor House,  
125 High Street, Croydon,  
Surrey CR0 9XP  
Tel: 020 8688 8418  
Email: [enquiries@cspa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cspa.co.uk) – Website: [www.cspa.co.uk](http://www.cspa.co.uk)**

**(Quote reference RPGA on applications)**

## YOUR LETTERS

The following is a contribution from my dear friend Bob Duncan to who I owe a great debt of gratitude not only for this contribution but also for an act of kindness to me when I was at a low ebb in my life. He continues to make my life easier by sharing, with us all, the contacts and experiences he enjoys with the broad spectrum of his acquaintances, friends and former colleagues.

Dear all

I was privileged to be invited to 'A Service of Thanksgiving for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMP Pentonville' in March this year at St Paul's Cathedral. The wife of one of the staff was a member of the Epping Forest Scottish Pipers Band, so we were entertained to highland music on the forecourt of the Cathedral prior to the service, as the Cathedral was being security checked by the police as Her Royal Highness Princess Anne was to be in attendance.

This was also thoroughly enjoyed by the usual tourist's visiting London. Staff from Pentonville were dressed in Number 1 uniform (sadly no longer issued!) and looked very impressive. So many friends to meet up with, it had a kind of carnival atmosphere about it. One guest (I had been advised in advance of the VIP's attending) was Trevor Brooking who was of particular interest to me (he was with the Butler Trust Group). Enid's grandson is an ardent West Ham supporter like his father, and was keen to get his autograph for his West Ham Centenary book. Trevor obliged with his usual charm and grace, and I was a 'hero' for a few hours to one young man. Also there **was Rev Peter Timms** looking extremely well, we had a good chat about former times, and exchanged contact details. **Bill Abbot** was supposed to be there but had fallen to a virus earlier and was not at all well, so I missed the chance to meet up again. I could have reported catching up with **Gary Monaghan**, only he did not turn up! He is obviously still around.

An address was given by Dr Andreas Aresti, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Westminster and a former inmate at Pentonville 1997-1998, a time when I was the Governor. He spoke passionately about how supportive all the staff were and of the excellent help he received from the education department. We had quite a chat about his time there, and it clearly illustrated that investing in our charges can change lives.

The Prisons Minister was in attendance and wrote a message for all the staff. He said, "I'm Rory Stewart, the new prisons minister, and I just wanted to say how moved I've been and how privileged to be able to attend the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pentonville Prison at St Paul's Cathedral.

Coming out in the evening, seeing the prison officers, many of them in their number one dress, with their medals on, hearing the pipe band playing, just reminded me how much shared history we have, how much of a positive sense of pride we should have in the ethos of the Prison Service. And what so many prison officers up and down the country are doing to protect the public, to turn around lives in that great tradition. So thank you very much indeed, and particularly, Happy Anniversary to Pentonville."

Encouraging words indeed, let us hope he means it and is committed to fighting for the funds to sustain and support 'the ethos of the Prison Service' including restoring number one uniform.



### OUTSIDE ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

I also happen to know that the Governor Grade behind all the celebrations received a personal message from the Permanent Secretary, saying, if part of the aim was to keep Pentonville open and operating, he had gone a long

way to achieving that goal. I have often written that Pentonville should remain and be a fully operating prison both for its location and its historical significance to the Service, as it pioneered and established the 'ethos of the service' that the minister identified as crucial to the Service.

A rather touching letter from **Alan Bramley** who has written, 'I just wanted to record my appreciation for the work which you have done in relation to the RPGA Newsletter. I always particularly enjoyed your 'reports' on your meetings and correspondence with esteemed, former colleagues.

I am sure Roger will do a good job but it certainly won't be in your style; which I shall miss.'

He then asks after **Rowland Adams**, stating, whilst I never served with him, we do share some history. We both served at Shrewsbury, his period of command being many years before mine. He also contributed a great deal to the development of the library services; another interest we had in common.

He was a speaker and joint organizer of a conference at the Library Association in London in 1976. I attended and met a young librarian from a psychiatric secure unit in Hampshire..... She later became my wife!! What a lucky conference for me.

He asked if I could put him in touch with Rowland, which I did. Rowland was as gracious as ever, he is now in his 90's and reckons he must be the oldest of the retired Governors; he is also in reasonable health and has very good neighbors who help out. He is still able to drive but only short distances. He remains alert and interested in the Service as ever.

In May the Times published what was a full and frank interview with **David Gauke**, the Justice Secretary which offered a ray of hope as became clear that he had listened to the experts and for once, as a politician was making a lot of sense. He stated: 'With prisons you have some level of discipline... but we also have to succeed in rehabilitation. We need to provide a second chance.

Firstly he announced a plan to increase the number of prisoners released 'on temporary license to allow them to work.' He also states that he wishes to see the prison population fall, and wants a concerted effort to reduce the number of people being locked up each year. He accepts that it depends on how successfully we can build confidence in non custodial sentences, and how much we can reduce re-offending. He points out that crime has fallen but the prison population has almost doubled from 44,000 in the early nineties to 84,000 today. At the end of March there were 5,343 prisoners serving a sentence of less than 12 months. He states that only in exceptional circumstances should people be "sent to prison for less than a year": In terms of rehabilitation it does not work'. (So there Mr. Home Secretary Howard!. The evidence shows that when a person has been inside for less than 12 months the reoffending rate is about 66 per cent, but the reoffending rate for those that get a non-custodial sentence is lower. Short sentences should be a last resort. (As the PGA has been advocating this for a very long time it should feel both vindicated and pleased that at last there is a Minister that recognizes reality.)

There should also in his view be alternatives to incarceration for many women and mentally ill prisoners. Often women offenders have particularly complex needs - a very high proportion are themselves victims of domestic abuse. I think there's also a public acceptance that custody is not always the right answer in terms of family issues. As for those with mental health problems, in some cases prison can be absolutely the worst place for them.

The Ministry of Justice may also set up secure old people's homes for elderly offenders. We've got 1,600 prisoners over the age of 70. We have not developed what the right answer is but clearly there are different needs, and they are not a danger to society in a large part.

This is an issue raised by the Elmley IMB for the last 2 years and rejected by the Prison Minister, so it is gratifying to see that the Secretary of State has accepted there is a need.

'I believe there's public acceptance that we need to ensure prisons are places where we can turn people's lives around. That is much harder when jails are overcrowded, when inmates are doubled up in cells and unable to access education.

If the prison population starts increasing again and we want to have a culture of rehabilitation then we are going to need to make sure we have got the right facilities and the right staff to make that happen. That comes at a cost for the taxpayer when I suspect the taxpayer would rather spend the money on the NHS.

He admits that in some prisons things have gone badly wrong. 'The degree to which drugs have got in is pretty striking. When you hear of letters supposedly from solicitors soaked in drugs, or what appear to be childrens paintings with drugs to scrape off, that is shocking.

He wants a 'carrot and stick' approach to law and order. 'We need to focus on the corruption, make sure violence is dealt with and disrupt gangs but prisoners must see there is a purpose for them. If they feel their life is worthless then drugs are a way to while away time .Employment opportunities and family visits will be offered as rewards.

Anyone who thinks prisons are holiday camp goes to a pretty strange holiday camp. However he wants to encourage drama, writing and painting. There is a role for the arts. The creative sector is a big employer, you hear of someone involved in a prison production who ends up in the West End as a lighting technician.

Mr. Gauke may be on a mission to modernize prisons but he is uncomfortable with preachiness. He says, 'Society rightly expects us to punish wrongdoing and that's necessary but it is not sufficient. The vast majority will be released and if they are unemployable then we are just storing up more problems. If they are released and we've turned a good proportion around then that's prison really working.'

That is probably the most encouraging statement by a Secretary of State for a very long time. Of course the acid test is how much he can turn into reality and find the cash to support it, but at least is thinking that is a breath of fresh air

Encouraging that **Phil Wheatley** is also enthused by his article, he writes, ' This is an excellent analysis of the realities of sentencing policy and worth a read for anyone who really wants to understand the problem of how to reduce the prison population to a level the Government can afford. A prison

Minister who seems to have understood more about the work that Prison Officers do than his many recent predecessors. I find it really encouraging that he recognizes the skills that Officers have and is prepared to celebrate and publicize them.'

As **Nick Pascoe** is now the 'Area Manager' for the South East I met up with him on his visit recently to Elmley Prison. He will be well known to many colleagues. He is not retired, but thinking about it, as under the new pension arrangements, everyone is assessed as to the notional value of their 'pension pot', and should it exceed the now lower 'tax free allowance', then tax is payable on the excess. For one senior member of the Service, it means potentially that the whole of the 'lump sum gratuity' will have to be used to pay the tax bill! How things have changed, so be grateful we served in a time when benefits were greater.

It is saddening to hear of so many colleagues who are not in good health, age affects us all, but some are currently suffering greater degrees of health problems.

**Sheila Blakey** informs me **Jim** as not been at all well. The good news is that they sold the big house, and are now settled in the bungalow, but it has been a bit of a nightmare for several months whilst builders extended and improved the property to their particular design.

Jim has had a number of illness complications over the last year and is not his old self. Sheila ensures he gets good care, and she is also now the gardener as well, as Jim is not up to it. Their son's business continues to prosper, and he lives nearby so is able to give support. I am sure we all wish Jim well and hope that his medical problems will be overcome. One bonus is that they have a very good GP.

**Dave Simons**, our eminent past chair, has had a rough time recently with various illnesses, you can tell it is serious; he has hardly played a round of golf for the last year! Ann has had a lot of treatment to her shoulder injury, but there is little more they can do, so remains to some degree limited in what she can undertake and Dave has now undertaken a lot more of the household chores etc.



Dave in happier times with Bob and Harry

**Paul Wailen** writes that his health life has been pretty exciting; whilst at the gym in April he collapsed with a heart attack and actually died! Fortunately, all the instructors were defibrillator trained and four of them got to work on him and brought him round. On the way down to the floor, he had a very severe trauma to the head when hitting the floor. There was apparently much blood. He was taken to Bart's Hospital and had a stent put into his right arm, and remained in hospital for a week and recovery was rapid. He was then transferred to the Royal London due to the trauma to his head and given a whole series of brain scans. The Surgeons, (as well as discovering a brain!), saw that there was a bleed to the brain. They were not sure if that had caused the cardiac arrest, but after several days of deliberation they decided the fall was the cause, and Paul was discharged and stayed at his brothers for a week until sufficiently recovered to go home. He remains under supervision of a prominent cardiologist, and he is pleased with progress. He is currently on a cardio rehab programme for eight weeks and is on his third week at the time of writing Paul says he has made some life style changes, especially diet. Correct diet and appropriate diet are considered the key to recovery.

Paul has just been to visit us, is looking well and is very careful what he eats, though he still likes 'a good meal'. We had a splendid time mulling over the 'good old days', and exploring part of the Kent countryside.

**Veronica Bird** has been involved in a house sale and purchase which has been fraught with difficulty, but is now taking place. I have her new address, so if anyone needs to be in touch I can arrange to link you up. The sale of her book is going well and up to April this year 3,000 copies had been bought.

By co-incidence the wife of someone I have not been in touch with for over 19 years was at a Yorkshire Country Woman's Association meeting at which Veronica was speaking and promoting her book. She approached Veronica after and said I note the Foreword is by Bob, do you have any contact details as my husband worked with him and would like to be in touch. So out of the blue in June I received a lovely letter from **Colin Tanswell**. He will be known to many for his time at Love Lane, his involvement in opening up Newbold Revel, and his organization of trips to Strasbourg to the European Commission, for the Senior Command Course. He finished his service at Manchester in 1998.

He mentions he is a Barnsley FC supporter and has visited the "Dove" public house, which was frequented by Veronica's father. Colin has been retired 20 years in August, when he will also be 80; and lives in 'the leafy village of Ackworth'. He was always a keen runner and I can remember him training to undertake the London marathon. He says he is beginning to feel his age but has remained active; he gave up running in 1991 due to arthritic knees and took up cycling, but feels that the roads are now becoming more unsafe, and might have to give that up.

He has kept up a busy lifestyle in retirement with plenty of activities in the local community, gardening and until 2016 making regular trips to their static caravan in Norfolk, where coastal walking was a bonus.

He relates that his eldest son still lives with them, but the youngest married a Canadian lass and now lives in Winnipeg. They miss him and are planning to visit him for the second time later this summer. A far cry from Strasbourg the furthest away I had been before!

He has been married to Sue for 55 years, but their lives were turned 'upside down' in 2016 when Sue was diagnosed with cancer; she has now received an 'all clear' but has to continue with chemo therapy medication with its attendant side effects. 'It is times like that when you have to review what is important in life.'



He mentions it is all too easy to lose contact with work colleagues but he is still in touch with Tim Turner, and Pam Davidson who was in charge of the Newbold College Support Office, but was earlier Head of Management Services at Elmley Prison; where I am currently involved. In many ways it is a small world.

I was thrilled to hear from Colin after all this time, as I am with everyone who makes contact. It always brings back happy memories from the past. I will now keep in touch with Colin.

It was good to see **John Dring** at the AGM of the Retired Governors Association; he has been a loyal supporter for many years. The sad news is that he is in the early stages of Motor Neurone Disease, but one has to admire the fortitude and courage with which he is facing up to this. He intends to tackle life as normal as long as possible. The good and tremendous news is that he married Midori in May this year, and has been kind enough to send me a photo which we print with great joy. It is just a little sad that we must print it in black and white, but their smiles of true love will warm the hearts of even the most cynical of you.

John also sent me a second photo which includes Bryan Paling, good to see him looking so well and almost smiling.

**BOB DUNCAN AUGUST 2018**



## RETIRED PRISON GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION: 2018 AGM TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to be able to announce that for the first time in at least three years I am able to report that at the end of the financial year the Association's finances were in surplus rather than debit.

There are several reasons for this and in particular you will notice that there was no cost in the 2017 financial year for diaries. This is because the invoice from the PGA arrived too late to be included in the 2017 figures and will appear in the 2018 financial year figures. This may of course also mean that if the invoice for the diaries this year arrives earlier we may very well find ourselves bearing the cost of two sets of diaries in a single year. This will not be the first time this has happened, and although it does tend to skew the annual figures slightly, it has no real detrimental effect on the overall finances.

However the headline figure is that at the end of the financial year the Association had a cash balance of £9897.61 in the bank, which, all things considered, is a healthy balance and one that in my view means the Association still remains financially viable and looks set to be so for the foreseeable future. With this in mind I see no reason to recommend either to the Committee, or to this meeting, that any increase in subscription fees is required in the coming year. This is a situation that I will keep under review and, should the need arise, I will bring forward proposals to the Committee, and subsequently to the AGM, for an appropriate increase, in order to keep the Association financially viable.

As you will be aware from my article "From the Treasurer" in the Newsletter, I took steps at the end of this financial year to close the Lloyds Clubs and Societies account that had been in operation for several years, but had been superseded by the Barclays account, into which the vast majority of members were paying their subscriptions. One of the anomalies of this account was the fact that we were receiving several ghost payments from members who I was sure were no longer with us, but for whatever reason their subscriptions were still being paid by Standing Order into this account, mostly at a rate of £5/year. Various attempts to contact these members or their families had failed, and it was my view that the only way to bring this matter to an end was to close the account. As a result, on the 31st of December 2017 this account was closed and the whole balance was transferred into the Barclays current account therefore in this year's accounts the Lloyd's Current Account will no longer exist.

You will note that the Benevolent Fund remains the same as last year at £5578.36p. There is an addition of £50.00 to add to that from a member who had overpaid subscription fees and who wished the overpayment to be paid into the Benevolent Fund. This should have been done last year but was overlooked by me and will be corrected this year. Apart from that there has been no other movement in the Benevolent Fund.

Looking at income, the total for the year was £6195.00 which is an increase of £661.00 over the previous year, however you will note that this figure includes a sum of £300 of donations which is the amount donated by Committee members towards a retirement gift for Bob Duncan, therefore the increase in income was in fact a modest £319.00. However, this was offset by reduced outgoings where the figure for 2017 was a total of £5565.31p against a figure in 2016 of £6232.21p, a difference of £666.90p. In this case the expenditure for 2017 also includes the cost of the gift for Bob Duncan of which £300 was money donated directly by the Committee. Consequently this gives a more healthy figure of a reduction in expenditure of £966, but it needs to be remembered that had we have had a diary invoice to pay in this period this difference would have been reduced to zero.

I should point out that the reason the costs for the teak bench which we bought for Bob Duncan as a retirement gift appears in the accounts is twofold: firstly, because I paid for the bench using the RPGA current account, so all donations from the Committee were shown as income to offset the outgoing and secondly the balance of the cost was taken as a donation by members. The total cost of the gift to Bob was £364.99 of which £300 came from the committee and £64.99 from RPGA funds. You will note from the accounts that the 3 largest costs that we have as an Association are:-

Post/Phone

Printing

Travel/Subs.

The first 2 items are inextricably linked as they relate to the cost of communicating with the membership and in particular of producing and distributing the Newsletter. Two editions of the Newsletter costs between £600 and £650 each to print, dependant on how many pages there are per edition. It then costs almost as much to post this out to members, meaning that in total each edition of the Newsletter costs approximately £1200 to print and distribute. At £2400/year this is by far the largest cost element of running the Association. As a Committee we are always seeking to ensure that we are getting best value for money and the cost of the Newsletter is something we watch very keenly: however, we are united in our view that the Newsletter forms the backbone of the Association, and indeed was the founding principle of the RPGA, and as a result we always look to ensure that we do not scrimp on costs in this area.

Committee meetings represent almost entirely the cost of travel and subsistence. As a Committee we are very aware of the need to keep the cost of meetings to a minimum, balanced against the fact that Committee members live in almost every corner of the country. We only meet 3 times per year, including this AGM, and always look to use a centrally-located prison establishment as the venue, making best use of the generosity of friendly Governors who give us the use of a space for free. Additionally, several Committee members car share to attend the meetings which also helps to keep costs down.

As a result of our closer links with the CSPA we have now withdrawn from membership of the PSPC saving our annual membership fee of £90 plus the travel and subsistence costs of attending 2 meetings per year in London. Alan Hall, who represented the RPGA at these meetings, is stepping down from the Committee with effect from today's AGM and we will not look to fill his position at present.

I would like to turn my attention to the AGM. You will no doubt notice looking around you that the attendance is quite poor. Today has cost the Association in excess of £1000 and it does not take a genius to work out that with an attendance this low this does not work as good value for the Association. The Committee, and in particular Jenny Adams Young, put a great deal of work into researching this venue and we chose it on the basis of being central to the country with easy public transport access, particularly being so close to a railway station and major road networks. The idea was to make attendance attractive as an opportunity to meet fellow members and to transact the business of the association as our constitution requires us to hold an AGM. This does not appear to have worked. As Treasurer I do not believe the Association can bear such a cost on a regular basis and therefore we will have to go back to the drawing board with regard to the future format and venues for the AGM.

GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT

## Retired Prison Governors Association

### Treasurers Report Financial Year 1/1/17 to 31/12/17

#### Current Accounts and Benevolent Fund Account

<b>Barclays Community Account (Current)</b>	£-p
Carried Forward on 1/1/17	£7,322.49
Income from 1/1/17 to 31/12/17	
Subscriptions	£5,790.00
Donations	£300.00
Interest	£0.00
Other	£0.00
Sub Total	£6,090.00
Expenditure From 1/1/17 to 31/12/17	
Printing	£1,297.00
Stationary	£116.00
Post/Phone	£1,128.74
Travel/Subs	£1,436.08
Refunds	£13.00
Diaries	£0.00
PCPS	£345.50
Donations	£414.99
Miscellaneous	£99.00
Room Hire/Catering	£715.00
Total Expenditure 2017	£5,565.31
Totals	
Carried Forward on 1/1/17	£7,322.49
Income 1/1/17 to 31/12/17	£6,090.00
Sub Total	£13,412.49
Expenditure 1/1/17 to 31/12/17	£5,565.31
Sub Total	£7,847.18
Statement Balance at 31/12/17	£7,847.18
Minus uncleared cheques	£0.00
Actual Balance at 31/12/17	£7,847.18

<b>Lloyds Clubs &amp; Societies Account</b>	£-p
Carried Forward on 1/1/17	£1,945.43
Income from 1/1/17 to 31/12/17	
Subscriptions	£105.00
Expenditure From 1/1/1 to 31/12/17	£0.00
Balance at 31/12/17	£2,050.43

**Total Income 1/1/17 to 31/12/17**

Barclays Acc	£6,090.00
Lloyds Clubs & Societies Account	£105.00
Total Income for year ended 31/12/17	£6,195.00

**Cash Balance @ 31/12/17**

Barclays Account	£7,847.18
Lloyds Clubs & Societies Account	£2,050.43

**Total Cash Balance** £9,897.61

**Miscellaneous expenditure**

Insertion fee for Spring Newsletter.	£45.00
Insertion fee for Autumn Newsletter	£54.00
Total	£99.00

**Benevolent Fund**

**Lloyds Benevolent Fund Account.**

Carried Forward on 1/1/17	£5,578.36
Grant as approved by Committee.	£0.00
Total	£5,578.36

**Balance on account on 31/12/2017** £5,578.36

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Barclays Acc (Subs)	£5,790.00	£5,361.00	£429.00
Lloyds Clubs & Societies Account (Subs)	£105.00	£173.00	-£68.00
Donations for Bob Duncan	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
<b>Total Income for year ended 31/12/15</b>	<b>£6,195.00</b>	<b>£5,534.00</b>	<b>£661.00</b>

<b>Annual Expenditure</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Printing	£1,297.00	£1,073.57	£223.43
Stationary	£116.00	£145.39	-£29.39
Post/Phone	£1,128.74	£1,528.18	-£399.44
Travel/Subs	£1,436.08	£1,550.82	-£114.74
Refunds	£13.00	£0.00	£13.00
Diaries	£0.00	£1,042.60	-£1,042.60
PCPS	£345.50	£166.00	£179.50
Donations	£414.99	£125.00	£289.99
Miscellaneous	£99.00	£120.10	-£21.10
Room Hire/Catering	£715.00	£480.55	£234.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,565.31</b>	<b>£6,232.21</b>	<b>£666.90</b>

**Balance Income/Expenditure**    **£629.69**    **-£698.21**    **£1,327.90**

<b>Year End Cash Balance</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Barclays Account	£7,847.19	£7,322.49	£524.70
Lloyds Clubs & Societies Account	£2,050.43	£1,945.43	£105.00
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>£9,897.62</b>	<b>£9,267.92</b>	<b>£629.70</b>

**Retirement Gift for Bob Duncan**

<u>Donations</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Amount</u>
J Adams -Young	Cheque	£25.00
Alan Hall	Cheque	£25.00
Jan Thompson	Cheque	£25.00
Dave Taylor	Cheque	£25.00
H Brett	Deduct from claim	£25.00
Graham Smith	Cheque	£25.00
Ray London	Cheque	£25.00
Mike Lewis	Cheque	£50.00
Paul Laxton	Cheque	£25.00
Graham Mumby-Croft	Cheque	£25.00
Roger Outram	Bank Transfer	£25.00
<b>Total Donations from Committee/Individuals</b>		<b>£300.00</b>
<b>Donation from RPGA Funds</b>		<b>£64.99</b>
<b>Total Amount Paid</b>		<b>£364.99</b>
<b>Balance on RPGA account</b>		<b>-£64.99</b>

I certify that these accounts are correct and include all transactions.

Signed G.S. Mumby-Croft    Treasurer Retired Prison Governors Association.    31/01/2018

# Latest developments on longstanding civil service pension concerns

In the 2017 Winter issue of *The Pensioner*, reports were provided on a range of civil service pensions matters, following a verbal update that had been provided by the GS to the 2017 AGM.

In particular, the piece covered the five longstanding grievances that the Alliance had with the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCS), which, for ease of reference, are listed below:

- Pensions for life for widows, widowers and surviving civil partners, after remarriage or cohabitation
- Service before 1978 to count towards benefits for survivors of post-retirement marriages
- All service before 1948 to count
- Abolition of the National Insurance Modification
- Recompense for pension losses caused by pay pauses in the 1970s

## THE EC IS PREPARED TO HEAVILY INVEST ITS TIME AND RESOURCES INTO DEVELOPING AS BIG A CAMPAIGN AS THE ALLIANCE HAS FOUGHT IN ITS HISTORY ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS MOTION

When it met on 26 April, the EC was able to give lengthy consideration to the most recent information held by the Cabinet Office on the costings for these improvements.

It could also consider the options available to civil servants who retired after 1 October 2002 to opt for the improved benefits that came with the then new Classic Plus and Premium Schemes, which included those covered in the first two bullet-points detailed above.

At the conclusion of those discussions, the EC agreed that, although access to the benefits of the Classic Plus and Premium Schemes came with the payment of additional contributions from the individual, it could not argue that those who had declined to make those extra payments should be entitled to the benefits for which others had paid.

The EC also concluded that, if there was to be any hope of extending the provisions of the first two bullet-points above to those in the Classic Scheme, it could only be for those who had not had the option of going into the Classic Plus or Premium Schemes - that is, those who had retired before 1 October 2002.

The EC also concluded that a combination of costs and a lack of reliability of current information held meant that there was simply no prospect whatsoever of persuading the Cabinet Office, at this stage, that the measures covered by the third and fourth bullet-point above could be the subject of serious discussion.

On the fifth bullet-point, the EC agreed that, for a number of

reasons - not least being the uncertainties about the bases upon which disputed pension losses caused by pay pauses in the 1970s could be calculated, and why subsequent pay freezes and caps should not be similarly treated - further research was required before considering whether any further action was feasible.

Taking all those factors into account, the EC felt that, before taking any further forward its recommended approach on these long outstanding areas of policy, it should be the subject of a debate and decision at the 2018 AGM and has therefore submitted the following motion to be considered by groups and branches:

*This Annual General Meeting (AGM) notes the report on the Alliance's five longstanding issues of concern with the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCS) carried in Group Circular 872 and agrees that the Executive Council (EC) should:*

- *Only pursue the policy of abolishing the loss of survivors' benefits upon remarriage or cohabitation for those members of the PCS Classic Scheme who retired before 1 October 2002 and who were, therefore, unable to opt for either the then new Classic Plus or Premium Schemes*
- *Similarly, only pursue the policy of securing the reckonability of service before 1978 for survivors' benefits of post-retirement marriages for those members of the PCS Classic Scheme who retired before 1 October 2002*
- *Temporarily, put the policy objectives of the abolition of the National Insurance (NI) Modification and the securing the reckonability of service before 1948 into abeyance, pending more favourable circumstances*
- *Conduct further research into the viability of the policy of obtaining recompense for pension losses caused by pay pauses in the 1970s*

*In endorsing the proposals detailed in this Motion, the AGM agrees that the EC should undertake all feasible and practical steps to persuade the government to accept the two policy priorities set out above.*

Even if the AGM does agree to the modified approach proposed by the EC, these will remain tasks of Herculean proportions for the Alliance to persuade the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury and government to make what they consider to be retrospective changes to pensions in payment and to provide the millions of pounds necessary to fund these improvements.

However, the EC is prepared to heavily invest its time and resources into developing as big a campaign as the Alliance has fought in its history, with the help of members, groups and branches, to do all that it can on the first two objectives of this motion.

# A HISTORY of BEDFORD PRISON from 1165 to 1999

Presented by Francis Andrew McGilway

Editors Note: I have curtailed Frank's history of HMP Bedford at 1999 mainly for reasons of space. Part 2, Bedford since the Millenium will appear in the next issue.

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## INTRODUCTION

Bedford has had a "town" Gaol since 1165, with the first one being built in Stonehouse Street. In 1589 the town gaol was moved to the old bridge over the River Great Ouse before being moved again in 1795 to a location near the current Prison site. The current Prison in St.Loyes Street, assumed the role of the town gaol when it was built in 1801.

**BRODIE CLARK CBE, GOVERNOR OF HMP BEDFORD 1989-1992**



A County Gaol was built in Silver Street ( previously Gaol Lane) in 1660 and was the place where John Bunyan was incarcerated for 12 years. The County Gaol operated from here until the current site in St. Loyes Street opened in 1801, assuming the role of both town and county Gaol.

The current Prison was also used as a House of Correction from 1801 until 1819, when the House of Correction was moved to Tavistock Street before closing in 1851.

The current Prison is steeped in history having 54 governing Governors to date and witnessing significant changes over it's 217 years of existence. It remains a male, Category B "Local" Prison, for the purpose of receiving remanded and convicted prisoners from the courts, until they are released from short sentences, or allocated to a "Training Prison".

I was fortunate to experience 5 years here, before retiring from the Prison Service in 2009 and my book was compiled by using historical facts and the events that I witnessed at Bedford. The subterranean landings are still in use and the old debtors cells are still in existence above the administration area, but not used! Entire families were locked up there, in cramped conditions, with small doorways to the cells and a recess in the walls for the use of candles.

Capital punishments took place in public, above the old gate lodge until a "hanging shed" was built beside A Wing. A total of 16 executions occurred at Bedford Prison from 1801 until James Hanratty became the last one there in 1962. Old skeletons have been discovered in the prison grounds during excavation work, as executed convicts were buried within the walls in most cases.

Bedford Prison held many infamous prisoners and they are detailed in my book. All details recorded, are as accurate as possible from my personal recollection and historical records.

## **Chapter 1**

### **FIRST TOWN & COUNTY GAOLS 1165-1801**

1165-1589

First town gaol built on Stonehouse Street.

Common gaols were supervised by the Sheriff of the County, who was the King's representative and who appointed jailers to do the actual work. These jailers made gaols places of profit for themselves, by robbing the prisoners, selling liquor and accepting bribes. Most crimes in early times, were punishable by death. Prisons were seen as a place of safe custody until trial and execution, not a place of punishment.

1576

Houses of Correction were set up under the Elizabethan Poor Law, for the "correction" of idle apprentices, prostitutes, beggars and others on the fringe of crime. Houses of Correction were the responsibility of the Justices of the Peace and not the Sheriffs. Work included hemp beating, wood rasping and weaving.

1589-1795

The town gaol's 2nd location was the old town bridge in Bedford, which crossed the river Great Ouse. It was a small single room building, about 8 square feet without windows, used to lock up the local drunks and vagabonds. There was insufficient food and drink, a lack of light, air, sanitation, washing facilities and hygiene in general. This enabled typhus and other serious diseases to become endemic..

1660-1801

First county gaol opened beside the Chequers Inn on the corner of High Street and Silver Street, (was Gaol Lane) and operated as such until 1801. A plaque outside Evans ladies clothes shop, marks the location and this was the gaol where John Bunyan was imprisoned for 12 years. John Bunyan's arrest warrant was signed on 4-3-1674 and whilst incarcerated here, he wrote the famous Pilgrim's Progress book. This county gaol was about 33 x 13 metres in size and came under control of the County, with no national restrictions or guidelines. The Jailer could sell food, drink and beer to his prisoners, making himself a tidy profit. Male and female prisoners were detained here, sleeping on straw, which was cleaner than the mattresses provided. Prisoners shared beds and had to pay towards their board !

All clothing was stamped with "arrows", to indicate that they and the prisoners, were property of the Crown.

1677

John Bunyan released for second time, after first being imprisoned from 1660-1672 because of his religious beliefs.

1710

John Bamford recorded as the first Governor of Bedford Prison.

1720

An Act of Parliament authorised magistrates to commit offenders to either a common gaol, or to a House of Correction, where conditions there became as bad as those in gaols. There was no segregation of gender and as liquor was freely available to prisoners, drunkenness, rioting and promiscuity, were commonplace.

1769

Jas Howard, first member of the Howard family to govern the Prison.

1770

Thomas Howard becomes the second family member to become Governor.

8-2-1773

John Howard appointed Sheriff of Bedfordshire. After visiting families of destitute debtors, he was so appalled by the conditions in Bedford County Gaol, in Silver Street (Gaol Lane), that he campaigned for more humane conditions. Although it was decided in 1790, to build a new Prison, it was not completed until 1801, which is the current site.

1776

Transportation of prisoners to the American colonies ceased and instead of this sentence, those identified were housed on prison ships, known as "hulks". Prisoners were still transported to the Australian colonies until 1840.

1783

John M Howard appointed Governor until 1814

1784

An Act of Parliament provided for the separation of male from female prisoners, with the approval for separate cells in all new prisons but this was generally ignored !

1791

The First General Penal Reform Act was passed, bringing all County Gaols into line and the sale of beer

by Jailers, was banned.

1795-1824

Town gaol moved again, to its 3rd location near the current site, in St.Loyes Street, where the new Prison assumed the role of town and county gaol.

1797

County Gaol in Silver Street condemned and a decision to build new county gaol was made. In October 1797, a committee of 4 people, including Francis the 5th Duke of Bedfordshire and Samuel Whitbread, were tasked to find a suitable location for the new prison. The Duke of Bedfordshire owned an area called Dove House Close and as it was deemed suitable, he sold it for 10 shillings. John Wing, a local builder who had carried out work for the Duke of Bedfordshire, was asked to prepare plans and an estimate for the new Prison. His 3rd plan was accepted at the cost of £6,850.

Samuel Whitbread thought this quote was expensive and he asked London architect, Henry Holland to view the plans again. Holland agreed that the cost was reasonable and contracts were then signed. The prison in St.Loyes Street, was built in the shape of a cross, which was the case for other new Jails, until the 1970s. All bills for running the Prison, were paid by the Quarter Sessions, now the Crown Courts.

## **Chapter 2**

### **19th Century Events**

18-6-1801

New Prison opened on St.Loyes Street which was the county gaol and operated as the House of Correction until 1819. The Prison has remained here, where the original building included a "turnkey's" lodge, cells for debtors, felons and house of correction prisoners. There were hot and cold baths near an oven to purify infected clothing. The silence system was enforced with great severity, for all prisoners on exercise or "working" the treadmill. Prisoners were allowed one hour's exercise per day but were not allowed to talk and walked one yard apart holding a rope and wearing hoods, which only allowed them to see the ground.

A hand "crank" was installed in cells, where prisoners had to turn the crank, some 10,000 times a day in non productive work activity. The warders were able to tighten or decrease the tension of the crank by turning a screw, located outside the cell, hence the name for Officers of "screw"!

The treadmill could be used to grind corn and prisoners would spend up to 12 hours a day on it, with a 20 minute break every hour. The treadmills made overcrowding worse, as accommodation was reduced to house the grindstones and machinery used, taking up 2 of the largest cells. This was one of the reasons for treadmills being removed.

Prisoners' work also included picking oakum from old rope covered in tar and picked apart strand by strand, using their fingers.

All prisoners were expected to work, which included beating hemp, the stalk of the cannabis plant, to dry it out and make rope.

Meals were eaten in the cells. Prison food was not very pleasant, consisting of thin soup, called gruel, made from fatty meat and rotten vegetables. Porridge was the only breakfast meal, giving the name "porridge" to people who served a sentence. Prisoners under punishment, were fed bread and water only (one and half pounds of bread and 6 pints of water) for 3 days and then a normal diet for 3 days, alternately and this could last for weeks, until their punishment ended. This punishment only ended in the late 1960s.

Prisoners sent to Prison for the first time were known as “STARS” and received a better diet than old “lags” returning for a 2nd, 3rd or 4th time. Fruit was never on the menu and prisoners were given one pint of tea at breakfast, dinner, tea and supper.

The first 10 prisoners were received from the old County Gaol in Silver Street and John Moore Howard the Jailer, was assisted with the transfers, by the town Constables.

The new jail presented some problems for Samuel Whitbread and his colleagues, such as the Jailer finding it unpleasant living with his family in the entrance to the Prison. The Justices ordered that the iron gates on each floor be boarded up, so that prisoners could not see into the Jailer’s living accommodation. Small windows were cut into the boarded gates at eye level, so that the Jailer could look in but prisoners could not see out.

The salary of the Jailer was £190 per year, from which he had to pay a “Turnkey” (Warder), who could not be a debtor under confinement.

Debtors were people who owed money and could not pay. The debtor and often his family, were imprisoned until the debt was paid or cancelled. Members of the imprisoned family were allowed out during the day, to work or visit people who could pay off the debt, before returning to the Jail in the evening.

Prisoners could only receive a visit after 6 months in custody and every 6 months thereafter, consisting of 30 minutes a time.

1-8-1801

First 2 public executions at Bedford Prison, John Brown and William Pepper. A bill was presented to the Quarter Sessions, amounting to 18 shillings, 9 pence. This covered the executioners’ fees for food, drink, burial costs, carriers, assistants and beer.

Until the early 19th century, male prisoners were hanged and female offenders were burnt at the stake. Before the new Prison was built in 1801, all public executions in Bedford, were carried out at Gallows Corner in Bidenham (Bromham Road corner of West Grove). People would travel miles to see a hanging, bringing a picnic and meeting up with friends. Public houses would remain open all day, with fights breaking out, as onlookers wanted the best viewpoints.

Hangings in the Prison were carried out above the Turnkey’s Lodge (Gate) where an iron railing was erected around the top of the Gate lodge. A staircase was built to the top of the lodge, where a scaffold was erected, for the purpose of hanging the condemned prisoner.

There have been a total of 16 executions in Bedford Prison, with many of the prisoners buried in the prison grounds. Not all hangings were held in public view, as the “Hanging Shed” was later erected next to A Wing, near the prison wall, adjacent to Adelaide Square.

The most famous hanging in Bedford Prison, was James Hanratty in 1962. He and other condemned prisoners, were held in a separate cell, guarded by 2 Officers, 24 hours a day. A team of 6 Officers spent 8 hours a day with the prisoner, eating, drinking and talking to him, ensuring he did not cheat the Hangman. The 2 Officers detailed night shift prior to the execution, were the same 2 who escorted the condemned man to the gallows.

1801

After being Chaplain of Bedford Prison, the Reverend Philip Hunt, brought the Elgin Marbles back to England, for Lord Elgin.

1812

New women's wing built on F2, with 10 cells, until women were no longer detained in Bedford in 1896. The wing is still used by male vulnerable prisoners.

1819

New House of Correction built on nearby Tavistock Street and was used as such until 1851.

1823

Home Secretary, Robert Peel, introduces the "Peel's Gaol Act", which instructed local authorities to implement general reforms, recommended by John Howard, the Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

1824

St. Loyes Street site used as the town gaol.

1828

Second storey added to F Wing, where vulnerable prisoners remain.

1839

Prison Act introduced, to classify prisoners into debtors, untried, hard labour and "others". It also required Prisons to conform with cell regulations in terms of size, ventilation, light and warmth.

5-8-1843

Sarah Daisley ( Dazley ) last woman to be hanged in Bedford Prison.

1845

The Chapel named, St. Peter and St. Paul, was built, coming under the diocese of St. Albans

1845

New gate lodge opened after the old one was demolished in 1841 because carts were unable to enter the prison, with goods and prisoners.

1849

Prison enlarged with A, B, C wings being built.

1853

R E Roberts appointed as Governor until 1887. He was the longest serving Governor (34 years)

1856

Bedford becomes the first Prison to take prisoners' photographs.

24-12-1857

Wall adjacent to Adelaide Square fell down.

30-10-1860

Bedford was the first Prison in the world, to photograph prisoners.

15-5-1863

Thomas Jenkins, aged 39, Bedford's first black prisoner, number 7166, remanded in custody for "Refusing to enter into a recognizance to give evidence against Robert Jordan and William Craddock for the murder of Frederick William Budd."

1865

Prison Act introduced to formally abolish the distinction between gaols and Houses of Correction.

1877

Act of Parliament directs the control of Prisons from Local Justices to the Home Secretary.

1881

The number of Prisons in England and Wales reduced from 113 to 67.

1898

Prison Act confirms that the “crank” and “treadmill” are to be abolished. Prisoners were required to turn the crank handle, up to 10,000 times a day. The treadmill required prisoners to “walk” up to 50 steps per minute.

## **Chapter 3**

### **20th Century Events**

1900

Bedford Prison becomes the first gaol to introduce trades training for prisoners, prior to their release.

1919

Warders renamed Officers. In Victorian times ( late 19th century ), Warders carried bayonets while Principal Warders carried a cutlass.

1921

Exercise for prisoners increased to one hour a day, with the requirement to have their hair cropped and wear broad arrow marked suits being abolished.

1923

A 7 hour working day introduced for prisoners.

1929

The first “earnings scheme” for prisoners is introduced at Wakefield Prison.

1936

All prisoners allowed to have tobacco, not just those serving over 4 years.

1939

The average national prison population this year, was 10,326.

1945

Kitchen built at basement level between B and C Wings. A hospital was also built at the end of B Wing.

The average national prison population this year, was 14,708.

1948

Sentences of Hard Labour and corporal punishment abolished.

Stitching mail bags by hand, became a main means of labour for prisoners, who had to sew 8 stitches to the inch, taking about 4 days to complete one mailbag.

1951

Home Leave introduced for all eligible prisoners.

1952

The average national prison population this year, was 23,670.

1953

First Pre Release Hostel opened in Bristol.

4-4-1962

James Hanratty was the last person hanged at Bedford Prison. It was reported that his execution took 23 seconds from the time that the Governor opened the cell door, to the moment that the hangman pulled the lever to release the trap door.

Although the well known Hangman, Albert Pierrepoint, did not conduct a hanging at Bedford Prison, (Hanratty was hanged by Harry Allen) he did hang 608 prisoners between 1933 and 1955, before he retired in 1956. Among those he hanged were Timothy Evans and William Joyce (Lord Haw Haw), along with numerous war criminals in Germany, most notably Irma Grese.

Pierrepoint died in 1992, aged 87 and recorded in his book published in 1974 : "Capital punishment, in my view, achieved nothing except revenge"

August 1963

Great train robbers located on F Wing, where a special exercise yard, with a wire meshed roof was built, to prevent a possible helicopter escape. The yard is still in use today, for vulnerable prisoners in need of segregation. Ronnie Biggs was allocated with his unique number, 002731 and later transferred to Wandsworth Prison, where he escaped on 8-7-1965.

13-8-1964

Gwynne Jones at Manchester and Peter Allen in Liverpool, were the last 2 prisoners to be hanged at 0800 that morning. The executioners were Harry Allen and Robert Leslie Stewart respectively.

8-11-1965

Death penalty abolished and Parole Board established. Bedford's "hanging shed" used as a photo studio. Prisoners having their photograph taken, could look up and see the metal beam where the rope was attached, as the chair was positioned over the "drop" doors !

December 1966

Total Prison population 33,086.

1967

Eligible prisoners released on licence for the first time, when authorised by the Parole Board.

1967

Birching in prisons abolished. The last birching of a prisoner in England took place at HMP Hull in 1962.

1971

Board of Visitors appointed by the Secretary of State.

1974

Health & Safety at Work Act is introduced to all Prisons.

1978

Richard Tilt appointed as the 42nd Governor of Bedford. He later became Director General of the Prison Service and the first D.G. to be knighted for his services.

1980

Although the prison was certified to hold 179 prisoners, it was holding in excess of 330.

1982

Bedford Prison becomes the first in the country to introduce the computerisation of prisoners' records.

1983

Edward Polkinghorne appointed as the 43rd Governor.

14-3-1983

Prisoners escape from Cell B4-1, using a hacksaw blade to cut their window bars and a metal chain, securing a ladder, which they used to scale the perimeter wall.

1985

Jonathan Uzzell appointed as the 44th Governor. Workshops were converted into a gymnasium and weights room on the ground floor and a Library, with Education Unit on the first floor.

3-3-1986

Officers change from blue to white shirts.

1987

Unconvicted prisoners no longer allowed to have food and drink brought in for them daily, which could have been a main meal of fruit, biscuits, cakes and a can of beer ! These items were checked by staff , who could break up cakes etc. and beer was emptied into cans, to prevent storage !

1-11-1987

Fresh Start for Prisons introduced, having major changes to terms and conditions for all staff. These included the sale of staff quarters, the changeover from weekly to monthly pay, with no paid overtime, the removal of Chief Officers and a proposed 39 hour working week.

1988

Christopher Scott appointed as the 45th Governor

The lower part of the Chapel was converted into offices, with the Chapel above being refurbished..

1989

Brodie Clarke appointed as the 46th Governor.

1990

Work began on provision of in cell sanitation together with showering facilities on all wings .



Prior to this, prisoners “slopped out”, emptying their chamber pots and collected water from the recesses, 3 times a day. Prisoners were entitled to a bath once a week and given 30 minutes to so or shower and change their clothing. Some prisoners were forced to have a bath, including those who stated they were allergic to water !

1991

New gate lodge built. Prior to this, prisoners were taken off coaches on St.Loyes Street, with Officers lining the route, through to the Main Gate.

1992

D Wing, Health Care Centre, Reception and Gate opened, costing some £10 million. Operational capacity increased to 464.

1992

Works Department converted to E Wing with a workshop, with the Works Department moving along the wall, adjacent to Tavistock Street.

The Hospital Wing at the end of B Wing was demolished and a new Kitchen was built in its place. The old Kitchen was converted into a Charity Workshop, until 2001 when it was converted into an Induction Unit . Stephen Moore became the 47th Governor.

1-10-1992

New Criminal Justice Act came into force. Although the certified number of prisoners was 230 during 1992, it actually held 465.

1-4-1993

Prison Service becomes an Agency Status and Derek Lewis is appointed as the Director General. He introduced significant changes, including the “Decency Agenda”, which controversially asked staff to address prisoners as “Mister”.

1994

Edward Willets appointed as the 48th Governor.

1995

A Wing was extended doubling its numbers from 60 to 120 and the “hanging shed” attached to A Wing, was demolished.

16-10-1995

Director General, Derek Lewis forced out following the Woodcock Report into Whitemoor prisoners’ escape in December 1994.

1996

“Slopping out” officially ended. In England and Wales.

1997

Secretary of State, Ken Clarke introduces “Next Steps” for Prison Service.

19-7-1997

Pre booked visits introduced by Prison Service.

1998

Anthony Ireson appointed as the 49th Governor. In cell televisions introduced by Prison Service.

1999

Home Detention Curfew ( tagging ) introduced by Prison Service. Group 4 begin escorting Bedford prisoners to court.

**PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018  
PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS – THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR PRISONS**

\* \* \* \* \*

***Are our leaders good enough?***

This may seem a simple question, but the answer is certainly not simple or straightforward. Prison Safety Statistics published each quarter remain horrendous with records broken around violence, prisoner on prisoner and prisoner on staff. We have an ever growing number of prisons in special measures, performance improvement plans and urgent notification, along with those who don't quite meet any of these criteria but are still struggling on a daily basis to achieve and are often failing to do so. We have crumbling prisons and an inability to give a safe, decent and secure regime to large numbers of men and women in our care due to lack of staff, not-fit-for-purpose contracts and a much more violent, disrespectful, gang and drug affiliated population.

Against this backdrop, there seems to have been a subtle campaign to question the ability of leaders from the Chief Executive Officer to Governors. I often hear the Prisons Minister talk about the qualities of Prison Officers - and I totally agree with him - but very rarely, if ever, about the quality of leadership. Is the state of our prisons down to the quality of leadership within the Service, at Prison and Executive Board level? The first two or three years of this decade, we probably had the best performing prison system ever, even though we remained overcrowded in many of our establishments.

Whilst I have waxed lyrical over the years about Government austerity measures in prisons, it cannot be ignored or dressed up in any other way, our prisons are in the state they are in due to disinvestment and a complete failure to react to the crisis in a timely manner by Government. What this has reaped is the state we are in and the immense struggle we are facing in trying to pull ourselves out of the mire. A constant irritation of mine is that the Government does not have the humility to admit that they got their policy completely wrong this decade in our prisons. Instead the criticism seems to be levelled at our leadership. There has not been some catastrophic failure in the competence of our leaders in the past five years. The majority of Governors are the same people, competent, committed and brave. Our determination to try and keep prisons functioning against a 25% cut in budgets without a reduction in prison population and virtually no capital investment has prevented the whole system totally imploding.

There seems to be a naivety from Ministers that the piecemeal funding we have received the last couple of years will make a difference at speed. It will not. We need time to implement a long term strategy without reactive short-termism and I believe the strategy HMPPS is currently embarking on is the right one and the green shoots of recovery, however small, are showing. It is then of concern that the Permanent Secretary has taken the decision to remove a dedicated and competent CEO who knows our business intimately at such a critical time. The last thing we need is another change of direction. Without a doubt, lack of continuity this decade has contributed to instability in our prisons. Is it any wonder leaders in our organisation who ricochet from one change to another with limited resources struggle to achieve sustained improvement?

That said there is a more positive feel in our prisons, however fragile. Development of high level strategy around security and safety is beginning to be implemented into prisons, but this will take time to have a significant impact. Staffing has increased and we have achieved the recruitment target set by Liz Truss for the Offender Management in Custody Model. The new model is gradually being rolled out across the Estate. That said, attrition rates amongst new staff remains higher than HMPPS would want due to the volatile working environment. The simple fact is that new staff will take time to become confident and competent in their jail craft, and as long as we are able to keep these recruits in the Service. The hope is that over time and experience, the positive cultural impact of new staff will support

the drive to stabilise our prisons, but Governors must have the time to invest in and mentor new staff. In some prisons this is proving difficult due to the sheer pace of day to day life and these are generally our most challenging and poor-performing prisons.

The Ten Prisons Project which attracted £10 million with personal oversight from the Prisons Minister is an interesting project. The Minister expects improvements, although how much is unknown, by 1st August 2019. The funding is not recurring and must be spent this financial year. As we all know, setting up governance structures of such projects takes time. Our procurement rules mean the ability to purchase expensive bits of kit and make them operational takes time. Consultation and training of staff takes time. It seems to me that time may not be on the side of the Governors who run these 10 jails. If this funding and project does not have the impact the Minister desires, will the criticism once again be levelled at our leadership? Is this one of those short term will o' the wisp projects, or is it one which will bring about fundamental change in the funding of all of our prisons? Time will tell.

I once again repeat what I have said many times. The only way our prisons will achieve sustained improvement is if there is a will in Government to fund us appropriately and that will only happen if they accept that their austerity strategy has been the catalyst for the current situation. Scapegoating leaders will not help and in fact could hinder. Bits of money for this project or that project is not efficient and will not achieve the results so desperately needed. The prison population needs to be reduced and the purpose of prisons clearly defined and funded appropriately. There needs to be massive capital investment in our buildings infrastructure to make them fit for purpose in the 21st Century. The role of the Minister is to lobby Treasury and fight the corner of our beleaguered Service.

When politicians are brave enough to do this, the quality of our leadership will be given the platform to shine again. My cautious word is that stabilising and improving our prisons must be a long term project and any expectation that it can be achieved quickly must be scotched right now. Give us the tools and the time and we will deliver because as leaders in prisons we are the best!

I would like to finish with a quote from Teddy Roosevelt that sums up critics and also the brave leadership of Governors.

***"It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."***

That quote has just described you!



**ANDREA ALBUTT - PRESIDENT OF THE PRISON GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT OCTOBER 2018

I am pleased to say that we have had an increase in membership from 417 to 422 since the February Report. This has been mainly due to the Chairman's letter appearing in the CSPA magazine and the interest in joining the RPGA by CSPA members who were ex. Governors.

We welcome as new members, Steven Graham, Eleanor Griffin, Neil Borton, Barbara Fincham (widow of Peter), Pete Fishwick, Nigel Foote, Kevin Bartlett, David Seary, Gail Nichol (widow of Joe), Edwin Perkins, Jeffrey Woodhouse, Brian Penfold, John Plumb, Alan Pratt and Denise Hodder. All are welcome.

We have had resignations from Alan Craig and David Seary. We have had to remove Jill Alvey, Paul Biddle, Bernie Smyth and David Thompson as we have not received any payment from them for 2 years or more. All members were written to but unfortunately we received no response. We have lost touch with George Ridley whose Newsletter was returned as undelivered, so if anyone knows of George's new address then please advise me and I will replace him on the list.

We are sorry to inform members of the deaths of Peter Fincham, Adrian Arnold and Joe Nichol. Our thoughts and condolences go out to their friends and family.

Please feel free to contact me on 01477 760075 to notify any change of addresses.

HARRY BRETT, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



**Can you identify this establishment?**

## **OUTSIDE TIME - A PERSONAL HISTORY OF PRISON FARMING AND GARDENING, BY HANNAH WRIGHT**

Published by : Placewise Press, Eightslate, Uffculme, Devon, EX15 3DR

Hannah Wright, daughter of the late Farms and Gardens Manager Bev Wright, encouraged by Maurice Codd, writes of a subject which until now has not received the attention it properly deserves. She gives voice to those F&G staff who worked the land known to many of our members, expressing the pride, passion, regret and some anger at the short-sightedness of those in power. The history and development from the first farm at Dartmoor in 1852, the gradual expansion through to the high point in the mid 1990s, then to its' sharp decline later in the decade and virtual disappearance at the turn of the century is enlightening.

By the mid 1990s the F& G enterprise covered 13,590 acres and was the third largest farming operation in England and Wales-- only marginally smaller than the Co-operative Food Group--for which Maurice Codd was responsible between 1982 -1991. Quite frankly I (and many of my fellow governors) was unaware of the sheer scale of what he was giving up when he became, very much to our gain, Yorkshire Area Manager between 1991-96.

For many of us who worked at establishments which had Farms and Gardens, this book will be of interest. It is personalised and, as such, gives coverage to some prisons more than others, but many of the characters mentioned will be familiar, since, to my surprise, I never realised how mobile F & G staff were. As an example, Hannah's father joined the Service in 1975 at Camphill, did his training as an officer at Wakefield, was posted to Portland then transferred to F&G and went to Featherstone. Thence it was off to Gaynes Hall, The Verne and later to Hatfield and Lindholme, from where he retired.

Her sources include historical records, as well as the many F&G staff who recount their own experiences, plus a few prisoners' views on the discipline and satisfaction they have found having an opportunity to work on the land. Notable are the missed opportunities caused by the limitation of Treasury yearly accounting procedures, conflicting with the farming practitioners' need for certainty over three, four or five years; and was highly relevant when dealing with animal milk and meat production, the narrow vision of HQ "tick box" mentality on the treatment and training of prisoners and the political direction of contracting everything out whereby the cost of everything is known but the value of nothing.

Now with growing awareness of environmental issues there are signs of local initiatives being undertaken, particularly in horticulture by some governors, albeit mainly within the walls. Unfortunately these are mostly grant funded (not by HMG) but for limited periods only, which heightens expectations and disappointment when the cash runs out, or by change of Governor whose interest lies elsewhere.

Lord Ramsbotham, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, says in his Foreword to this book, "Current fast food habits are storing up long term health problems. What better demonstration of purposeful rehabilitation than teaching the value of good food, grown by fellow prisoners."

HARRY CREW

# Veronica's Bird

by Veronica Bird & Richard Newman.

This book describes a colleagues remarkable life story of extraordinary resilience and real achievement.

One of the strengths of the Prison governor grades was -and possibly still is- the variety of background and qualifications of its members. But few of us, gathered together in Conference, would have overcome such overwhelming obstacles to achievement as Veronica Bird O.B.E.

The method used for her life account was, clearly, the result of a series of intense interviews conducted by Richard Newman where Veronica spoke with frank openness, however painful, about childhood experience and obstacles overcome.

One personal note, during her time in the service Veronica worked with Roger Kendrick, so did I. We share the memory and friendship of a splendid, loyal colleague and regret his early death.

Resisting the temptation to reconstruct the story, because the book has intriguing readability, certain aspects stand out. The most significant is her remarkable, vivid memory which enlivens this story.

A childhood example. Born in Barnsley, then a mining town, the 6th of 9 children, with a bullying drunken Father. "Hungry, belted too frequently, cold in the Winter, I had grown used to being smudged in soot and coal dust, as the black stuff was as much in the house as in the street." Yet the precious memory "the single exception to the never ending round of unhappiness" was a new *bright red cardigan* "it was wonderful, magical and it was mine." and then the enhancing detail "it was thick, it had no holes, it wasn't darned repeatedly and it smelt of something I could recognise, newness."

She longed to escape. One method was "a refuge provided on the doorstep so to speak; it was Betjeman's hidden gem, St Peter's Church." The other was a scholarship to Ackworth School, a Quaker foundation near Wakefield. She vividly describes the social contrast, her happiness and success, especially in sports.

And then the cruel blow, her Mother's death followed by being called to the Headmistress's study and told that it was to be her last term. Reason? She is told that "your family is no longer wishing to keep you here. I'm so sorry" "But I'm taking my G.C.E "O" levels in June". She protested in vain. It was final.

So she became employed as a stall holder at £1 a week in her brother in law's vegetable and fruiterer business and looked after three daughters over the week end. He was married to her older sister Joan, and reoccurs as an unwelcome and obtrusive threat throughout her life.

An attempted evasion was to join the police and then, to distance herself further, from family interference, the prison service in 1968 aged 25. I must resist the fascinating detail and let you trace the tortuous journey, the variety of experience and the tasks presented for each promotion. But I do I have fellow feeling for her time as Deputy Governor of Armley where in her first year when in charge she experiences an escape and an hostage incident. Clearly she was recognised as somebody special and in the Chapter 13, 'Brockhill - A Basket Case,' we learn "It's a mess Veronica ...a right mess". Indeed Brockhill was a failed prison and the way she turned it round within a year is intriguing and recognised.

One old friend and colleague turns up, Rannoch Daley from the Council of Europe, sending Veronica to Russia, and hilarious chapter 14 IVANOV where her descriptive powers, insight and eye for significant detail are evident.

Overall - Highly Recommended.

MICHAEL SELBY

## RPGA Data Protection Statement

The **RPGA** needs to gather and use certain information about individuals. This statement summarizes how this personal data will be collected, handled and stored to meet the **RPGA** data protection standards, and comply with the law.

### We will:

Collect individuals' data to enable us to provide them with the best possible service; to improve the quality of existing services; to enable the development of new services to meet individuals' needs.

Individuals' data will be obtained, processed and stored in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998

Provide individuals with the opportunity to review what data is held relating to them.

Not share individuals' data with third parties without the individuals' consent unless required to do so by law.

### Subject Access Requests

All individuals who are the subject of personal data held by the **RPGA** Are entitled to:

Ask what information the **RPGA** holds about them and why.

Ask how to gain access to it.

Be informed how to keep it up to date.

Be informed how the **RPGA** is meeting its data protection obligations.

If an individual contacts the **RPGA** requesting this information, this is called a subject access request. Such requests should be by mail or email, addressed to the Membership Secretary. Individuals will not be charged for their subject access request. The Membership Secretary will aim to provide the relevant data within 14 days. The Membership Secretary will always verify the identity of anyone making a subject access request before handing over any information.

Approved by the Executive Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPUTER CORNER: GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT

There has recently been considerable speculation in the press, and in particular in the computer/technology sector, regarding rumours that Microsoft intends to stop supporting Windows 7. The reason for the speculation is concerned with the fact that there are still several million users of Windows 7 and there is a belief that when Microsoft stops supporting the system all of those computers will be open to attacks from hackers who are able to exploit loopholes in the programme's coding. When Microsoft introduced Windows 10 the company gave an undertaking that it would support Windows 7 until 2020, and since these stories have started to circulate Microsoft have confirmed that they will indeed continue to support the system until then, although no specific date in 2020 has been set. So the question is, if you are still using Windows 7 are you at risk?

When Microsoft say that they will continue to "support" a system, in reality what this means is that they will continue to issue security updates when potential problem areas are found in the system. This is because unfortunately all Computer Software is at risk from hackers who make it their job to seek out any tiny flaws in the system which have the potential to give them access to a computer, and thereby to either plant malicious software, or in worst-case scenarios take control of a computer. At the moment with both Windows 10 and Windows 7, Microsoft monitor problems of this type and as soon as a problem is spotted they issue a "fix" which goes out to users as an update. So at the moment if you use Windows 7, it is safe at least for the next 15 months or so.

Unfortunately if you are still using Windows XP support for this no longer exists, meaning that any vulnerabilities in the system are not being corrected by Microsoft and therefore the system is becoming increasingly vulnerable to attack from hackers. Unfortunately there are still several million users of Windows XP. In addition to Microsoft no longer supporting Windows XP, software and application writers are also no longer developing anything to run under the XP system so it is slowly becoming redundant. Although the system is still perfectly usable and still relatively safe, the advice appears to be that it may now well be time to consider upgrading to Windows 10, although of course this is no longer a free option.

You may have noticed that several software companies have moved to a system whereby rather than buying their software in a one-off payment, you rent it on a monthly basis. Two of the big companies that follow this process are Microsoft, with their "Office suite" and Adobe with programs such as "Photoshop". This method has some benefits, the main one being that your software is always up to date, but in general the downside is that it is quite expensive to have a monthly outlay on these, particularly if you have 2 or 3 programmes that you are renting at the same time. In reality these are really aimed at business users. There is however a thriving market in free software some of which is extremely good and matches the best available from some of the big names.

As an example, an alternative to Microsoft Office is a free programme called LIBRA OFFICE. This offers a full suite of programmes that include a Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Database and Presentation elements that are each a powerful programme in their own right. It is free to download, although you will be asked if you wish to make a contribution toward development costs. This is not compulsory, and you can skip this part and go directly to the download, which is completely safe and does not try to push any unwanted "extras" onto you. Go to [www.libreoffice.org](http://www.libreoffice.org) to have a look to see if this is for you.



Of course one of the biggest names in software is GOOGLE and they have a free Office Suite that provides a Word Processor (Google Docs), Spreadsheet (Google Sheets), Presentation (Google Slides) and a Form Design (Google Forms). These all work like their Office equivalents but they have the big advantage that they are “web based” and therefore will work on any computer platform and as a consequence it is very easy to share documents across the internet. You do not have to download anything as you can use these directly from your Internet Browser. Just search GOOGLE for more information.

If you are into photography and use your computer to store, process and manipulate your photos, then a good free alternative to Photoshop is called GIMP. Whilst this programme is quite technical, and takes some getting used to, it is a powerful tool for handling all elements of photography, and whilst neither as well established or powerful as Photoshop, GIMP offers a very capable alternative at the attractive cost of FREE. To have a look at this one go to [www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org) As with Libre Office you will be asked if you wish to donate, but you can decline and go straight to the download. If you want something that does a similar job to GIMP but is less complex and easier to use you may wish to try FASTSTONE IMAGE VIEWER. This application handles downloading and sorting of photos, as well as providing tools for image manipulation including special effects. You can view this at [www.faststone.org](http://www.faststone.org)

There is a whole plethora of free software on the internet designed to either mirror the abilities of similar, but paid-for software, or that fill some of the gaps that the commercial market does not cover. In addition many software companies offer free-to-use versions of their paid-for software which are often "cut-down versions" with limited functions. However some of these may be sufficient for your needs even in their "limited" versions and may very well do the job that you want, even in their cut-down form. As an example, I use CCleaner to regularly clear my system of unwanted junk and remnants of programmes left behind if I have deleted something. The free version is perfectly adequate for my needs and although an upgraded “PRO Version” is available, I have never considered that the £19.95 cost offers me anything extra that I need.

Please remember (as I have stated in earlier Computer Corners) to ensure that if you do download anything from the internet you are doing so from a safe location. This usually means using the site of the company that developed the software and not a third party site such as CNET or TUCOWS. Third party sites make their money from advertising and by trying to get you to purchase "paid for upgrades" to the free software that you are trying to download. They will also try to inadvertently download unwanted software at the same time, (so called PUPS-Potentially Unwanted Software), usually by having the choice to download an extra pre-ticked as part of the download and installation process. Always check exactly what it is you are agreeing to install onto your computer, and in particular be wary of any pre-ticked boxes that may be set up to load all sorts of PUPS onto your system.

It is also worthwhile undertaking an internet search of any site that you may be intending to use to download software or Apps, or search the name of the software itself. You will find that plenty of people are willing to tell you if they have used this, and if so, how good or bad it is. Finally, if you have a particular problem, or piece of work that you wish to do, and are looking for an app or software to do it, then you may find that a websuite called STACK EXCHANGE (<https://stackexchange.com>) is very useful. This site is run by computer experts and is a forum- based site that deals with all sorts of computer problems from the most complex to the very simple. Chances are that someone has already had the same problem that you have, and someone else, or several people, have posted answers or possible solutions to it.

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## PRISON IS NO PLACE FOR OLD MEN

The explosion in historic sex offending allegations being pursued in court has inevitably been felt in the prison system. The number of incarcerated offenders over the age of sixty was already increasing exponentially before the Savile scandal broke in 2011. More than half of current elderly prisoners are sex offenders. Between 2004 and 2014 the number of over-60's in jail in England and Wales increased by 130%. By 2017 there were over 4,000 elderly offenders in custody compared to a grand total of just 442 over-60's serving prison terms in 1992. Compare this figure with the 70% reduction in the use of imprisonment for children in the last decade. According to the Prison Reform Trust there were 226 prisoners over the age of 80 housed in our jails in September 2016. In December 2016 101-year-old Ralph Clarke became the oldest person ever to receive a custodial sentence when given a twelve-year jail term for historic sex offences, effectively condemning a man NOT serving a whole life tariff, to die in jail. Other than the obvious fact that a jury found him guilty, how have we got here?

As has been said the trend was upwards before the Savile scandal broke. It is not just about more prosecutions, but also very much about significantly more severe sentencing, sparked not by the judiciary, but by government guidelines to the courts which have encouraged longer prison terms. Two thirds of convicted prisoners are now serving sentences of four years or more compared to 46% in 1993. One example of punitive sentencing illustrates the trend perfectly. In 2000 former professional footballer 44-year-old Graham Rix received a twelve-month custodial sentence for unlawful sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old girl, pretty much the standard penalty for the offence at the time. Fast forward to 2016, 28-year-old footballer Adam Johnson, received a six-year sentence for the sexual grooming and sexual assault (until 2002 known as indecent assault) of a 15-year-old girl. The difference in the two sentences is jaw-dropping, particularly as it could be argued that Rix committed the greater offence, one of (unprotected) sexual intercourse, which had not taken place in the case of Johnson. Life sentence tariffs have also increased dramatically leading to middle-aged offenders graduating to elderly status and sometimes very elderly status before being granted parole.

For the avoidance of doubt I am clear that the government and its' law officers are perfectly entitled to pursue historic sexual offences against elderly and not-so-elderly people on our behalf. There is no statute of limitations on offences in this country, and no serious public campaign for one. They are also entitled to reflect public opinion, provided they do so accurately, in ensuring that fairly-convicted offenders receive substantial jail terms. The question in terms of sentencing is whether they should reflect public opinion, which is typically anti-offender, or whether they should seek to lead it. There is also a legitimate question to be asked about the increasing role of victims. If educational policy is too important to be left to teachers, then the punishment of crime is equally too important to be determined by victims. There are other stakeholders in the system, not least offenders themselves.

The plain fact is that prisons are ill-equipped to deal with large numbers of elderly prisoners. Prisons are not suitable places to cope with people with mobility problems, poor eyesight or poor hearing. They are not suitable places for people who are incontinent, have suffered strokes, or are susceptible to falls. They are most certainly not the places for sufferers of senile dementia. They are not suitable for those needing palliative end-of-life care. If, as Chief Inspector Peter Clarke says, our young offender establishments are not safe for young people, then our adult prisons are certainly not a safe environment for the old. No government has ever thought to make contingency plans for the outcomes, intended and unintended, of criminal justice policy with respect to historic sexual offending.

After being convicted, offenders of hitherto good character suffer financial, familial and reputational consequences that only have a limited effect on recidivists from sink estates or on sophisticated professional criminals. This is especially true of older offenders. Unless eligible for legal aid, a six figure sum in costs beckons. Former police officers may forfeit their pension. This is all before victims make a claim for compensation. Wives and grown-up children may well desert them along with lifelong friends and former colleagues. An individual's reputation is destroyed forever. The Golf club, the Working Men's club and the Masonic Lodge will close their doors permanently. A lonely old age with all the damage to health that implies is an almost-certain outcome. With all these dire consequences it is fair to ask whether a civilised society should be adding the burden of imprisonment except where the individual remains a genuine danger to the community.

How should we deal with these offenders? One idea is the development of what can only be described as secure old people's homes. The environment can be specifically tailored to the needs of older and infirm people. The Chief Inspector of Prisons has voiced his support for this imaginative approach. A more radical approach would be imposition of suspended sentences for those elderly historic abusers who admit their guilt, most of whom would be unlikely to reoffend. I have no doubt that some victims of abuse would be unable to see the merits of this proposal and that is understandable given what they have suffered. Nevertheless I submit that for a victim, an admission of abuse has much more to commend it than a conviction from a contested case where the defendant denies his guilt from the outset and continues to do so in prison. An admission of wrongdoing must surely count for a great deal. The issue of compensation orders by Crown Court judges to save victims the hassle of pursuing offenders through the civil courts is something that could be considered. The concept of "blood money" is an established feature of some Eastern jurisdictions. There is no overwhelming reason a society that seeks to keep its children out of prison wherever possible, cannot adopt that approach for its older citizens.

As a form of punishment prison is just about the most expensive we could devise at £35,182 per prisoner place per annum in 2015-16. Custodial sentences are normally expected to serve four purposes: protecting society by removing the offender from circulation, retribution, deterrence, and reform, the last of these more typically described as reducing reoffending. Prison is spectacularly bad at reducing reoffending and hopeless as far as sex offenders are concerned, particularly now that the Sex Offender Treatment Programme is discredited. Long sentences for elderly prisoners do take them out of circulation, but they are also in many cases a death sentence. Under our laws, only the very small number of prisoners convicted of the most heinous murders are supposed to die in prison. This is very little evidence that prison is an effective deterrent for sex offenders. This leaves only retribution and it seems to me that at the moment that is all prison achieves, particularly when dealing with older offenders.

It's time for change and time for a government to run ahead of public opinion.

PAUL LAXTON

(N.B. This article is representative only of the personal opinions of its author and should not be construed as in any way representing the views of the Prison Governors Association or the Retired Prison Governors Association.)



## **BLAST FROM THE PAST... PHIL WHEATLEY SPEAKS AT 2018 PGA CONFERENCE**

When Phil Wheatley retired as Director General in 2010 relations between him and the PGA had become very strained as a consequence of the failure to reach agreement over what the Service had called "Workforce Modernisation," abbreviated at the time to WFN. Eight years is a long time and enough water has flowed under the bridge since to encourage delegates to take a view of his reign as something of a Golden Age, and give him a warm welcome. Mr Wheatley was, however, robust in defence of his successor, and expressed his concern that Michael Spurr's career could be ended rather than that of ministers whose policy is responsible for the current malaise in HMPPS. He noted that in the Scottish Service, where ministers work with the Chief Executive rather than around him, there are fewer problems.

Mr Wheatley identified three reasons for the current round of troubles. These were austerity, wild swings in criminal justice policy, and the prison population. He was clear that the 25% reduction in budget and a similar reduction in staff were unmanageable. Mr Wheatley referred to the Faustian bargain between the unions and the MOJ, the former swallowing the drastic reduction in staff in return for the policy of creeping privatisation of prisons being abandoned. Where further privatisation did occur, as with the Probation Service and Prison Works' departments, they were botched, and ministers cannot say they were not warned. Mr Wheatley made reference to the size of the prison population, largely unchanged since his retirement, despite the slashing of the budget. Perhaps more importantly, he noted the changes in composition of the prisoner population: more gangsters, more sex offenders, and a much higher percentage of offenders serving longer sentences. These of course are being managed by a prison officer cadre that has had much of the experience stripped from it as a result of voluntary redundancy packages.

Where Mr Wheatley could ski 'off piste' in a way that was not open to him during his Prison Service career was when he treated delegates to a magical history tour of the Secretaries of State since his retirement. In a little over eight years since then there have been six, leading not just lack of continuity, but to wild swings in criminal justice policy. Lack of space and a measure of discretion inhibits me from reporting him at length, but I should mention that he was particularly scathing of the split between policy and operations, engineered under Liz Truss, which he described as nonsense that didn't work in the 1980s. He was critical of a box-ticking culture engendered by ministers, and of action plans that were no more than a substitute for action.

Finally, he drew attention to Rory Stewart's proposal that the military could have an input into the training of Prison Service leaders. Mr Wheatley recalled that when he joined the service many of the in-charge Governors were Second World War veterans who continued to use their military titles and impose quasi-military discipline. And their prisons were still squalid!

PAUL LAXTON