

The Retired Prison Governors Newsletter

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association

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THE RPGA NEWSLETTER GOES ONLINE



Our newest committee member and Website editor, Roger Outram, has been busy, beavering away to bring the RPGA into the digital age and join the 21st century. **Don't Worry, the Newsletter will still arrive on your doormat in April and October in its traditional print form. We know just how much you value the traditional methods of communication.**

So what is new? Well Roger has created an RPGA website which you can access by googling www.rpga.org.uk. On opening the front page, you then pick a category, such as committee, and when you click on that you will be asked for a password, which is **perennis**. All members will be able to access the website. You do not have to give your E mail address to the committee in order to access the website, although if you request the password through the

website there will be a slight delay while the webmaster confirms your identity, if you are not known to him. If you do not own a computer, you can access the website at your local library.

So why have a website? Well as an organisation for retired people we are vulnerable to the depredations of the grim reaper. We need to attract new members from serving Governors as they approach retirement. Granting current PGA members access to the website containing information about membership, its benefits including how to access advice and assistance, along with application forms, is essential if we are to survive and prosper. The website will also contain information about the committee, dates of committee meetings and the AGM, and minutes of those meetings. There will also be information about links with other organisations, in particular the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance. (CSPA) There will also be a growing digital archive of items that have appeared in the newsletter, very handy if your partner has thrown out your collection of newsletters when clearing up or downsizing, and you want to look up a piece about social care or computer jargon that you remember reading.

Unless you tell us otherwise we shall presume that contributions can be published on line and this includes archive material that goes back to 2012. Apart from the obvious exceptions of the committee, and Bob Duncan and Roger Outram who receive your letters, any contact details will be redacted to protect your privacy.

Please look up the website. You will be impressed.

PAUL LAXTON, Newsletter 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

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.



Are you baffled by the jargon of computers? If so here are a few explanations that you may, (or may not) find useful, or at least enlightening:

32bit/64bit This is a measure of how much data a computers processor unit can handle based on access to physical memory. Most older computers are 32bit and modern ones, less than 10-years old are 64bit. The good news is that 32bit optimised software will run on a 64bit machine and 64bit software will run on a 32bit machine, albeit slightly slower.

USB 2.0/3.0/3.1 USB stands for Universal Series Bus and simply means a standardised system for computers to connect to peripheral items such as keyboards, mice and external drives like a CD. The standards for USB are controlled by an International body to ensure that USB is the same from any source, anywhere in the world. The

main difference in the numbers relates to the speed at which they can transfer data. The original USB 1 has been superseded now, but transferred data at the rate of 12mb/sec. The latest USB 3.1 transfers data at the rate of 10gb/sec or almost 1000 times faster. You may not be aware but USB is colour coded inside the connection with USB 1 being white, USB 2 black and USB 3 blue. USB also delivers power as well as data.

USB A/B/C This refers to the type of connection on the end of the lead. USB/A is the standard oblong connection at your computer. USB/B is the smaller square type of connection, usually used on printers and other peripherals, although this is now almost redundant. USB/C is the latest micro connection and connects to and charges items such as mobile phones and tablets. Many newer laptop computers come with at least 1 USB/C port.

Wi-Fi Contrary to popular belief Wi-Fi does not stand for Wireless Fidelity but is actually a trademark name for the Wi-Fi Alliance, which is the organisation that oversees the standardisation of the system and compliance with Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) regulations. The current IEEE standard is 802.11ac so if you are looking for any item of Wi-Fi equipment then this is the compliance standard to look for in order to achieve the best speeds and quality.

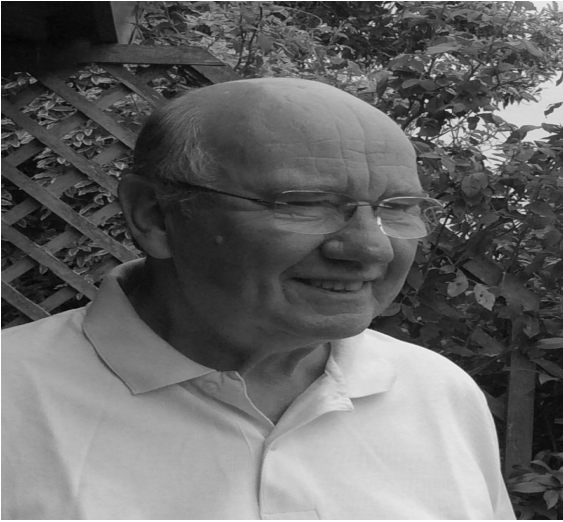
SD Cards Secure Digital cards are Memory Cards that fit into portable items such as cameras, phones and Tablets to provide memory storage function. They come in a range of sizes of Standard, Mini and Micro, and a range of capacities and data transfer rates. They also come as SDHC/SDXC/SDUC depending on their capacity.

CPU Central Processor Unit. This is the computer chip at the heart of any computer that does the actual work of carrying out the calculations that make a computer work.

Codec Stands for Compressor/Decompressor and is a piece of computer code that tells the computer how to record and play different types of media (usually music or video).

Graham Mumby-Croft

PETER JOHN LEONARD 1945 –2019



After short periods at agricultural college and in the retail trade, Peter Leonard joined the Prison Service in 1968 as an officer at Leyhill OTS before being posted to Finnamore Wood. In 1970 he was promoted to the governor grade and after the 27th AGs Course at Wakefield, was posted to Wormwood Scrubs. Thereafter he served, in various grades, at Aberford Road OTS, Wellingborough, Morton Hall, and Lindholme. His last post in the field was as Governor I at Frankland.

Peter also held headquarters posts, particularly in the DDG's office and as Head of Standards Audit. He was sent, twice, to Albania as penal policy adviser to its post-Communist government and later, to Kosovo, to do the same. He was promoted to the senior civil service in 2000 and was appointed Operations Director of the Northern Ireland Prison Service from which he retired in 2004.

In 1998 Peter enrolled for the Master of Studies in Criminology course at Cambridge University where he was a member of Fitzwilliam College. He was awarded his Master's degree in 2000.

Peter Leonard was something of a polymath. He was fond of the theatre and of the arts in general. With a lifelong love of the work of John Betjeman, he was a member of the Betjeman Society, contributed to its journal and won a competition for the best pastiche of a Betjeman poem in 2013. He repeated this exercise in the Journal of the Cricket Society, published just a few days after he died.

Born in Epsom and growing up in Battersea, Peter had an abiding love for his adopted county of Lincolnshire. He was a member of its Historical and Archaeological Society and published in its journals too. His love of history led him to completing a second Master's degree, this time at Leicester University, where the focus of his research was the administration of the Poor Law in various Lincolnshire parishes. He then embarked upon doctoral research, also at Leicester, which was sadly cut short some 12 months ago by a diagnosis of mesothelioma, a form of lung cancer.

Peter and his wife, Christine, had a deep Christian faith and commitment to the Church of England. They found great comfort in the support of the Church during Peter's final months and weeks. He had recently established contact with his father's second family in Canada and thus got to know his half-siblings.

A very well attended funeral was held at St Mary Magdelene Church in Lincoln on 9th May. Those present from the Prison Service included Joe Pilling, Nigel Hancock, Walter McGowan, Peter Atkinson, Brodie Clark, Hazel Banks, Peter Earnshaw, Val Halward (widow of Robin) and me. Also present was Christine Turner Voakes who was with us on the 27th AGs course and who later resigned but remained a close family friend.

Peter Leonard is survived by Christine, their children Karl and Elizabeth and their five grandchildren.

Peter Quinn.



It's 18th August as I write and as I look from the window across the Pennine moors the clouds are sweeping majestically across the sky it's more like October than summer. My football team ,Huddersfield Town, are bottom of the Championship and the manager just sacked and Yorkshire cricket are in absolute turmoil with no improvement likely. Does any of this really matter to a retiree you may ask, well no, because us retired folk can easily rise above it and with euro in hand and the cruise ship on the horizon we go onward and upward making the best of it as we can. I hope you continue to enjoy your retirement as do I.

As an ex Magistrate in Leeds I am now on what they call the "supplementary list" which means I get to go to lunch with ex magistrates occasionally and this always includes a guest speaker which I have done myself on a few occasions. I was pleased to attend a lunch recently and noted the speaker was Veronica Bird so had the pleasure of chatting over lunch and then hearing her 40 minute talk which was brilliant. I now have a copy of her book which I am currently reading and enjoying. Yes I did pay for it.

We have sadly lost Jenny Adams-Young from the RPGA committee who resigned recently, she was a valued member of the team and will be sadly missed, she does remain a member. Our letters coordinator is now Roger Outram, also our webmaster, his contact details are in the newsletter I understand Bob Duncan has supplied letters in this edition too so thanks to Bob for his continuing contribution even though he is no longer on the committee. Roger will be delighted to receive any letter or email contributions for the newsletter.

The RPGA AGM is on the 8th October 2019 at the the PGA annual conference held at a hotel near East Midlands Airport, information about attending the RPGA AGM is in this newsletter. We appreciate the PGA allowing us to attend and facilitate our AGM at their conference and it also allows us to talk to current Governors and hopefully recruit new members to the RPGA. This year we have a stand with handouts and committee members and I am usually am allowed by the PGA President Andrea Albutt to address conference on our branch of the PGA.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and we welcome any items from members that will be of interest to members on retirement, holidays [trips] and stories of your Service in HMPS etc.

Graham Smith RPGA Chairman.

Dear Colleagues,

Once more this has been a sparse quarter for direct correspondence for the Letters section of the Newsletter but thankfully there has been some communication that I am pleased to share with you all. The letters section has been, as it should be, a popular section of the newsletter and even though I know it's an effort to put pen to paper, for we of advancing years and failing memories, I know that there are still tales to tell and opinions that need to be shared so come on just drop me a line.

We start with a letter sent in by a regular correspondent John Berry.

A view from the other side(s).

No, I am not dead yet. Nor am I planning to join that 'other side' in the immediate future – as far as I am aware!! But I thought that having now been retired for over 12 years (a mere child in relation to some retired colleagues) that I would reflect upon what retirement has brought so far.

I spend the first 10 years working part-time as an Assistant Director for IPRS, a Physiotherapy Company and thoroughly enjoyed the change and challenges it brought. It was great to be able to use all those skills we gain as Governors, which remain unknown to the general public and companies generally. It was a relatively easy transition considering that IPRS had a number of contracts with the Civil Service and so I understood the world they worked in rather well having spent 31 years in the civil service as a prison governor. We also had contracts with the Armed Forces and again my RAF service was helpful in understanding the language and the world they worked in.

At the same time I decided that I needed to do some unpaid voluntary work and having had a son who was seriously injured in Afghanistan whilst on operations as a Captain with the Royal Irish Regiment I joined the East Midlands Veterans and pensions advisory committee with a specific interest in those ex-service personnel who ended up in prison. I was also approached to become a Magistrate and have been one for the last 10 years, now specialising in family work because I was also approached to join the IMB at HMP Leicester. It was a bit difficult in the early days to have sentenced somebody and then see him in the prison on my next visit. There was never any ill-feeling but it did not seem appropriate, so I switched over to becoming a full-time family magistrate and the first person I met was a prisoner from HMP Leicester challenging a child arrangement order. You just can't win!

Having young grandchildren, I decided that I really should get up-to-date with primary school education and so joined a primary school as a school governor. After 4 years we converted to become an Academy and now I am a Director of Scholars Academy in Oadby.

Approaching my second retirement from IPRS, a retired Air Vice Marshall who was also a Magistrate sounded me out as to my interest in becoming a Mental Health Act manager. He as the Deputy Chairman of our local Mental Health Act Trust and was looking to recruit a small number of independent mental health act managers to replace a few who had retired. I reduced my hours with IPRS, applied and was accepted. Since then I have expanded the groups I work for and now cover two Trusts including Notts NHS Trust, which covers Rampton Hospital (High Security) and Arnold Lodge (Medium security) and three private hospitals. The work is fascinating and whilst it is not well paid it certainly very worthwhile and is something I hope to continue with for a few more years. A recent report undertaken by Sir Simon Wessely recommended that Managers panels are eliminated in favour of Tribunals; as they will cost an average of six times as much as a managers panel we may be retained. Anyway with Brexit, which government department has time to take any other legislation forward at the moment?

So I guess I can say that I have now undertaken the Trinity of a Prison Governor. Magistrate and IMB member. Retirement is great and with only a few health problems (so far) I am looking forward to my next 12 years in retirement.

As an aside, it was great to hear from Peter Quinn in the last newsletter. Hopefully we can hear more from him in the future. Two old Glossopians contributing; that must be a group or maybe a 'Glum of Glossopians' might be appropriate. If you have ever been to Glossop on a rainy day you will understand the collective noun.

John Berry OBE JP

Followed by a welcome e-mail from Judy Gibbons with a request to pass on her contact details to Kate Warburton which I was pleased to do.

To: roger@rsoutram.co.uk

Roger, I was so pleased to hear Kate's good news and what she has been doing since she left Styal Prison where I first knew her. I would be grateful if you could give her my regards and email address if she would like to catch up - even maybe, on Antarctica!

Since leaving Styal I was posted to P4 Division and then to Holloway. I left the Prison Service in 1973 and went to Oxford Brookes University leaving to become a Social Worker working with Oxfordshire Social Services as both a social worker and latterly Assistant Divisional Director in Residential Care and Child Care in Oxford City. Then was appointed Divisional Director for Eastern Wiltshire based in Swindon. In retirement, I was Vice-Chair of Wiltshire Health Authority for 7 years and have also been Chair of three local charities in the Wantage area since retiring and am still Chair of one local charity. Throughout this time I kept in touch with Joanna Kozubska, who sadly died in 2017. At Joanna's funeral the women Governors were well represented. It was, even in those circumstances, lovely to meet up again as in our days the women governors were a small group and we all knew each other well.

Many thanks and kind regards

Judy [Gibbons]

The following is a contribution from Bob Duncan who continues to maintain contact with many of his friends and former colleagues and happily is willing to share his communications with us all and also with those others of us who contribute to or just enjoy the read of this newsletter.

I attended the wedding of **Kit Jarman** and **Kate Lomas** in March at the college chapel of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford on a beautiful spring day. A lovely setting for such an event and the organ music played by the Senior Organ Scholar, Ceri Ngai, was fabulous, particularly The Postlude, Le F'ebure –We'ly : Sortie in E flat, which made you feel alive with plenty of 'get up and go'; a bonus with the age of the majority of those attending. An excellent buffet was served in one of the college halls, only slightly marred by innumerable speeches by Kit; he appears to have grown to like his own voice and being as seen as present and in charge. Kit has though given up his flat in Oban, and they have sold the Kaye's house in Barby and bought a bungalow in Kilsby, not far from where Kate has always lived.

John Sandy reminds me that with all the other activities he has been or still is involved in, that he forgot to mention that he has also been Mayor of Waverly Borough Council in 2000/2001, Millennium Year. Waverly is the largest Borough in Surrey. (I wonder what John thinks of Boris as our possible Prime Minister, as it is still up in the air as I write this,).

Sad to hear the news re **Denis Marsden, Ray Revely, Roland Adams, Peter Leonard and Graham Gregory Smith**. I never served with Denis, but we did share a training course together. He joined the Service in October 1966 and served, amongst others at Deerbolt, Parkhurst, Featherstone and Wandsworth. He also from memory served for a period in the West Indies. He was a very good colleague and gentleman. He would have been 90 in September, so had a good innings.

I served with **Peter Leonard** at Wellingborough, and were landed sadly with turning it from a Borstal into a Young Offender Prison – what a headache, no one in the establishment except the Admin Officer and my myself knew how to calculate sentence release dates! I had, along with my gifted partner, Danny Ozanne, done so many at Liverpool in our time together, we could do them in our sleep. It also meant that all discipline staff came out of civilian clothing and into uniform. I think we were able to sustain the traditions of the Borstal system for a while, but gradually the whole ethos changed, and what had developed so gloriously from that vital decision to turn Rochester Prison into the first Borstal, was abandoned by the whim of some senior civil servant and the Home Secretary. As you might gather from later in the Jottings, **Hugh Kenyon** would have been ‘turning in his grave.’

Roland Adams retired to South Wales and was very kind to Marjorie Taylor after her husband Bill Taylor died in post while Governor of Usk. Marjorie was a family friend and we often visited her. When in her 80's she still played the organ at the Borstal for the Sunday Church Service. She would be collected in the prison van and taken back home. Naturally, she always took her handbag which contained the house keys. On one occasion she picked up her Roberts Radio which was not dissimilar to her handbag, clearly, the van driver was too polite to say anything, so it did not come to light until she was returned home. Panic! But no, within a few minutes the van driver had managed to force open a window, climbed in and opened the door for Marjorie. A good thing Usk was not a big crime area. I would meet up with Roland every so often, he too had Governed Pentonville and loved to talk about it, and felt very sad it seemed to have deteriorated. We also spoke on the phone and he would help anybody he could. He was always a pleasure to talk to and he was a gentleman in the full sense of the word.

Paul Wailen was back in reasonable health, though he is still having eye treatment. He still loves to travel to foreign climes; he was in Malta in early March (weather dreadful!) but hotel superb and getting around to visit all the historical sites on the wonderful public transport system. He is currently undertaking the Pilgrims Way to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. But being a modern Pilgrim he is doing it by car. Unfortunately, he is not feeling well again and is waiting to see his consultant. He was to visit us this month, that will now clearly be delayed.

Graham Gregory Smith

I was able to attend Graham's thanksgiving funeral service on the 8th of July at St George's Church in the beautiful Kent village of Wrotham. I was a little saddened that there was no one else there from the Service, but we are an ageing group and travel is no longer as easy as it used to be. But Susan had a number of kind letters from people they had served with.

We had both commenced our new careers at Dover Borstal, Graham in 1968 and me in 1965, though I had been seconded to Southampton University when Graham commenced there, under the rather eccentric Frank Liesching. We were, though to meet up later at Scrubs where we were both quartered in the large houses running along the prison wall, where his daughters and my 2 children used to meet up in the passageway separating us from the wall.

Graham always had to go 3 months ahead of us on each posting, so went to Chelmsford in June 1973. Our daughter, Elizabeth was one and a half years old, and we followed in August. (We always seemed to move on August Bank Holiday.) Our Governor at Chelmsford was **Mike Selby**. He and his wife Jane and children became great friends to this day. He also had been at the same school as Graham so had a lot in common. Michael went on to do great things at Grendon Underwood and was responsible for a lot of innovation. We also knew Rannoch and Evelyn Daly, and were to meet up again later at Scrubs”.

Mike has written a personal letter to Susan about their time together, and Susan has kindly let me print it. It is important because it reveals so clearly the real leadership and perceptive qualities that Graham possessed and how he could be relied upon in a crisis.

Graham Gregory-Smith.

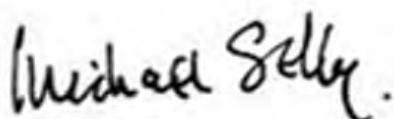
A personal & vivid memory.

We worked together at Chelmsford prison. It was in the mid seventies and this prison, at that time, housed about 300 London villains. These were mainly divided into those on B wing- serving less than 4 years and C wing - over 4 years, including life . I was the governor and Graham was a recently joined assistant governor -invalided out of the army-the Black Watch.

The first incident in my memory bank was a "sit down" in B wing, where about 80 inmate refused to go to their calls at 9 o'clock lock up. The reason for this was rather obscure . We played it low key , seeking the reason for this odd but potentially dangerous behaviour. We assembled off-duty staff, violence was to be avoided, if possible. Discussions followed, led by Graham. I was situated up above - observing. At 11 o'clock we were getting nowhere , so I waved the staff into to the wing. Leading them was the tall upright figure of Graham. All eyes were upon him. He steadily marched towards the prisoners, suddenly they disappeared, there was a rattle of closing doors. The wordless action is etched in my memory and there is no doubt whom I needed to thank for solving this possibly explosive situation.

The second was one of our usual Friday afternoon end of the week informal meetings. One of Graham's tasks was to interview prisoners preparing their report to the parole board. I can recall him saying "It's suddenly struck me that, over these last few weeks, the prisoners I interview have not described Chelmsford as the place of no hope. There has been a change for the better." He was perceptive and had made his own significant contribution to this positive move.

I enjoyed working with him. As the staff said "You know where you are with him, he's straight."



Michel Selby

7.7.91

On promotion to AG1 in 1976 Graham was posted to Wormwood Scrubs where they met amongst other such captivating colleagues, **Brian Dodsworth (chaplain), John Morrison, John and Mary Staples, Colin and Lucille Scott, Brian Ritchie, Paul and Frances Wailen, Derrick and Glenys Dean, Kelvin Wyatt, Sid Malcolm (Chief Officer), and Eric Sibley.** Norman Honey was the Governor.

Graham was in charge of what everyone called D Wing, which was the long sentence wing including a high number of Category A prisoners; and as such Scrubs was part of the 'dispersal system.' It was the only wing where a certain number of the prisoners' dined out at the main meals. From memory 'table 4' was identified as the focus of the ring leaders. It was being monitored as closely as possible.

I was posted to Scrubs as Deputy Governor with a joining date of Monday 3rd September. On my preliminary visit, the outgoing Dep. had alerted me to the fact that there were rumbling from a certain faction in D Wing. The 'riot' took place on the Friday 31st August 1979 and was contained and the wing brought back under staff control. The next day over 60 prisoners complained sick and alleged that their injuries were as a result of the 'riot', implying staff brutality. This resulted in a Regional Director's investigation. After several months of this hanging over all the staff, the Regional Director referred it to the police. This raised the tension amongst staff. Graham was named as allegedly assaulting a prisoner. I was not aware of this at the time. I was not present for any of the riot, yet I was summoned by the police for an interview, which was distinctly unfriendly and lasted 2.5 hours. It was clear to me that they had an agenda and were seeking to lay culpability with senior management. When I pointed out I was not at the prison that night, they would say 'As an experienced Governor, what is your assessment on how the event was handled, was it in the guidelines laid down by Headquarters?'

Anxiety overall this rose amongst staff generally. As expected there was clear proof that Graham was not even in that part of the wing where the prisoner alleged he was attacked. It was also clear that different prisoner factions were settling old scores amongst themselves. It did not help that the Governor was not coping with all this very well. I would get a knock on my quarter each evening for several weeks about 7 pm or so, and Norman would politely say, 'Bob, can we talk over some aspects of the riot I need to get it clearer in my head.' I, of course, was just a sounding board. Despite the pressure on Graham he never became neither angry nor embittered but was a bit more cautious and reserved. The Regional Director's Inquiry Report into the Incident was ordered to be published by the House of Commons and appeared on the 23 February 1982. That was almost two and a half years after the incident, but it did have to await the outcome of the Police Investigation, which concluded that there was insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution of assaulting an inmate by any member of staff.

Willy Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, had agreed to come to the Prison and address a full staff meeting re the outcome. He kept his word and came; he outlined as above but was only cautiously received by staff generally. That was though was the formal end of the whole sorry and harrowing saga. The Governor by the time the Home Secretary came was John McCarthy, John asked me to join him in his office to greet Willy. On arrival, after introduction, John said 'would you like a drink, Sir 'Willie's eyes twinkled and he responded. 'A pink gin would go down well.' There was a bit of spluttering from John before he replied, 'We are a bit of a dry house here, I really meant a tea or coffee!'

Some years later Governor's Conference was held at Liverpool University, Willy Whitelaw was a speaker. Catering arrangements were not good, and we were spending longer in the bar whilst dinner was being prepared. Willy wandered over to me and said hello, he must have remembered me from Scrubs. We chattered generally; I then could not resist asking him that as Margaret Thatcher was out of the country

and he was therefore technically 'in charge' how he had got away from London midweek. He chuckled and said 'You do not tell the Prime Minister everything so that she cannot always find one, and this is to my advantage I am more than halfway home to my house in the Lake District and can have a long weekend with the family. If there is a desperate need my secretary will find me.'

The other anecdote relating to the riot occurred a year later. The Security Department was in an office next to mine and I passed them on my way in and we always exchanged greetings. They also had a stilted sense of humour and liked to know as much as possible about the senior staff. I remember they sent me a Christmas card on my Birthday and thought it was very humorous. A year later on the morning of 31st August, they just said 'Happy Anniversary'; I stopped, pondered, and said, 'I did not know you knew the date of my wedding Anniversary'. 'We do not,' they said, 'we are talking about the riot.'

At a later date on a Saturday morning, Graham was the in-charge Governor. I was at home, but Jane and the children had gone shopping. Graham phoned me to advise he believed we had a hostage situation. We talked it over and I agreed to come in and check the situation with him. It was as he described and we set up the command post as required and advised Headquarters. There had been little training up to then, and the Headquarters support role was rather perfunctory, and in our case did not work at all for reasons I won't dwell on. Little did we know that this was to be the longest hostage incident to date, lasting 5 days. After 24 hours, Ron Curtis joined us saying he had been sent as a hostage situation adviser as there was no one else available: but said he had no detailed brief about what he was supposed to do but would assist in any way possible! After 2 days the army was called to assist and in particular to use their equipment in order to drill camera access to the cell to give us vision and the layout of what was going on in the cell as there 4 perpetrators and one hostage. They assured us that it would not take long and the prisoners would not be aware of what was happening. They were wrong on both counts, it took over 12 hours to penetrate the thick cell walls of Scrubs, and at breakthrough and camera displayed the inside of the cell, we saw 10 seconds of the cell layout and then a piece of wood circling in the air before it smashed the camera. At least we had seen the scenario briefly, which helped.

The Governor was away, and despite a direction by the Regional Director to return, he declined to do so. Graham and I saw the incident through to its conclusion.

At about lunchtime, on the Saturday the phone rang in the command post and Graham answered it, I heard him say, 'No Jane you cannot speak to Bob, we have an incident, and he is very busy.' A few minutes later it rang again, later I learnt the gist of it which was, 'Just listen Graham, I understand Bob is in the Prison but there is a Rugby International this afternoon, I just need to know if Bob will home in time to watch it, or do I have to record it. If I do not get a decision, your life will be a misery.' Jane got an answer.

Graham was posted to P2 Division at Headquarters in May 1982, and with the qualities outlined by Mike, got on with his career. In 1983 he was posted to Aldington Young Offenders, choosing to give his children some time away from 'living on the wall'. **Robin Stratford-Tuke** was the Governor and **Phil French** the Deputy. Phil died last year, having been in a home for 4 years, but his wife **Pauline** is still living in Aldington in a J type.

In 1987 Graham took charge of Maidstone Prison as a Governor 2 with **John Whetton** as his deputy. In 1990 he was promoted to Governor 1 and spent a further period at headquarters, and was involved in overseeing the removal of the prisoners out of Manchester after the riot. He also undertook some

inspection visits including the Verne, Albany, Latchmere House and Blantyre. (Graham's eldest sister served for a time at East Sutton Park). From there in 1994 he took charge of Birmingham Prison from where he retired in 1998. He had a flat in Birmingham and commuted arriving home in Aldington (where he had purchased the Governor's quarter) on Friday evening and returning on Sunday lunchtime. That lasted for 4 years and which Susan found was quite hard graft for them both.

Susan concludes that Graham found it quite hard to settle from commanding a large establishment like Birmingham to just her! He tried the CAB but it did not suit him to be managed after all those years, and he found the answer as a Caseworker for SSAFA, which suited him perfectly, and as always, he was just as good and respected as instanced by four representatives being at the Thanksgiving. It was my privilege and pleasure to meet up with the now 'extended Graham Gregory-Smith family' especially all the grandchildren. They have all turned out to be able, friendly and sociable, and are a credit to Graham and Susan for the values they instilled in their offspring. The day was sad yet also a happy occasion celebrating a life well-lived.

Some colleagues will remember **Professor David Wilson** when he was a humble governor grade, but he now seeks media attention. Way back in 2015 he took the lead role in a TV programme purporting to re-create how Borstal institutions operated. It was, in fact, a mockery of the reality being ill-conceived and facile. Those with long memories will recall that **Gerry Hendry** also featured in it. Gerry advised me that he did so, as, like me, he was passionate about the Borstal system and what it achieved, and wished to be able to influence how it was portrayed. Alas! He told me he failed miserably as anything he suggested was rejected; only one voice counted, 'it was the **David Wilson** show'.

So it continues, his latest offering, 'Dark Son: Hunt for a Serial Killer' was broadcast in February. It set out to prove he had the answer to 6 murders of prostitutes in London in the mid-'60s, tagged by the media as the 'Hammersmith Nude Murders', and were never solved. David Wilson undertook a 15-month investigation of his own, calling on other 'experts' to help, and centred this on a man named Jones, who when only 15 was found guilty of the murder of an 11-year-old girl in Abertillery in 1921, and admitted to the murder of a second child aged 8. Jones was released from Wandsworth prison in 1941, and joined the army and served until 1946, and then took up residence in west London, but changed his name to Harold Stevens. It was admitted in the programme that he was never a suspect by the police despite an extensive investigation.

The evidence presented was somewhat convoluted and confusing. It appeared at times that David rather pressurised some of his experts to accept his party line. Apart from the fact that 'Jones' lived in the area of the crimes, most of the 'evidence' was criminogenic in nature and an analysis of his personality type, which I suspect others may have challenged. What was clear to any viewer was the fact that David dominated what went into the programme and who was the lead role. He made it abundantly clear that he was certain of his conclusion as to the identity of the murderer, despite the fact all police scientific evidence from the murders had been destroyed or lost. He insisted that the police should open a new enquiry and he has written to them. The police apparently have not responded. Had 'Jones' still been alive he would be 113 years old, so one asks what is the point?

Roger and I remain grateful to **Brendan O’Friel** for his wise and continuous support of the Newsletter. He has on this occasion contributed to three inclusions - Obituary for **Roland Adams**, Obituary note for **Tom Rielly** included as separate Articles; and an answer to an issue outlined below.

Hugh Kenyon was attracted to the Prison Service by the magnetism of Alexander Paterson’s personality and his belief that Borstals and Open Prisons could be used to form and reform character, so he joined the service in April 1934 as Borstal Housemaster, his first posting was to North Sea Camp in Lincolnshire. He rose through the ranks and in the late ’50s was appointed to the Prison Commission. When they were young his children only knew that he had an important job in London, as he caught a train each workday to commute there. In September 1967 he returned from London and declared that it was it he would be going no more from tonight. At the time they thought no more of it, other than they would see more of their father.

They as a family had clearly remained in the NSC area and had begun to ask themselves why he had so suddenly resigned. They feared there might have been some sinister implications to it. They were unable to unravel the ‘mystery. The daughter later developed cancer, received treatment and it went into recession; but then returned. Her brother felt if she had a project it would help take her mind off the illness. He suggested she might devote her energies to solving their father’s abrupt departure from The Prison Service. She accepted the challenge but was making little progress.

Mike Lewis had governed NSC and the daughter’s husband had served on the Board of Visitors at NSC, and Mike had become friends with the family. When all else appeared to be leading nowhere, they approached Mike to see if he could be of any assistance. Mike tried to find an answer, but drew a blank, phoned me to see if I knew anything, I agreed to see what I could find. I was unable to find much more than Mike but had an inkling it was linked to the Prison Commission being brought under Civil Service control by the 1961 Criminal Justice Act, which was effective from 1964. This was not sufficient to go back to the Kenyon’s with. **Mike and I** then agreed we should approach **Brendan**, that fountain of prison knowledge. He, of course, knew the answer; it centered around the Mountbatten Report which was concerned with security rather than rehabilitation. **Hugh** struggled with this for 9 months, but in the end, he felt the reformatory principles dominating the Service he had joined, had been eroded too far; he resigned, a man of principle the Service could ill afford to lose.

So the RPGA with its network not only helps colleagues to stay in touch, and traces contact details when members have lost touch; with our network of experience in many fields we can help families with their wish to uncover information about family members who have connections with the service but have questions that puzzle them because it was never raised by them previously. We are a gifted and knowledgeable group, we need to sustain it as long as possible, the next generation do not display the same enthusiasm. So do drop a line to Roger, about anything, it helps to sustain the network.

Bob

**Letters to: Roger Outram, 12 Grove Park, Magazine Lane, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 1LF.
Tel 07881 924005. e:mail roger@rsoutram.co.uk**

Obituary - Roland Adams, Prison Governor 03.03.1923 - 04.07.2019

At the end of the Second World War, the Prison Service was in serious difficulties having lost accommodation to bomb damage and being simultaneously faced with an unexpected and sharp rise in the numbers of prisoners. This was compounded by staff shortages as older Governors and Officers - who should have retired but stayed on for the duration of the war – took their pensions. To face these challenges, the Prison Service embarked on a special recruitment process for Governors for a “Reconstruction Period” taking advantage of the availability of ex-service candidates, most with considerable wartime experience. Those recruited – over several years - were given a common seniority date of 1st January 1946 – with the proviso that seniority was to be according to age. Roland Adams was one of the youngest to be appointed as a junior Governor during this “Reconstruction Period”. In later years he would rather ruefully reflect that his youth was given as a reason for not promoting him as quickly as some of his older colleagues.

Adams quickly stood out as a talented and committed Governor. Colleagues particularly valued his integrity, his high personal standards together with his calm and considered approach to his work. A staunch member of the Anglican Communion, he regularly attended services in the many penal establishments at which he served. Throughout his service, he was frequently described as a “true gentleman” – a Governor whose staff viewed him with affection and for whom many prisoners had considerable respect.

Much of his service involved working with Young Offenders. He showed a keen interest in their welfare and was particularly good at motivating staff to effectively managing their charges by example, encouragement and the occasional necessary correction. One highlight of his career was when he was tasked with opening Onley Borstal Recall Centre in 1968. At the time, serious concerns had been raised about an existing Borstal Recall Centre based in Reading Prison. To counter public criticism, the plan was to close the two old recall centres and start afresh. Adams was required to deliver an improved regime for all those recalled to Borstal and to deliver it swiftly. Onley was successfully opened and filled to capacity in less than three months, a considerable achievement against a background of contractors failing to complete work on time – for example, the internal phone system was not operating when the first trainees arrived.

A more daunting challenge was to follow. In 1971, Adams was posted to Gartree maximum security prison, Leicestershire, his first encounter with adult prisoners. Policy and practice for dealing with very long term and difficult offenders were – at best - evolving. The increase in very long sentences such as those imposed on the Great Train Robbers together with the abolition of the death penalty created serious new problems for Governors and for policymakers. Meanwhile, the security lapses around George Blake’s escape from Wormwood Scrubs and the subsequent Mountbatten report had opened a debate about whether to concentrate or disperse high-security prisoners. The decision was made to create a system of “Dispersal” prisons to which difficult prisoners serving very long sentences were to be allocated. Gartree was designated as one of the new dispersal prisons.

But Gartree had been built as a medium-security prison. The perimeter and fabric of the buildings – as well as the overall design – was not fit for purpose. So for many years, considerable investment had to be provided to improve Gartree – and other dispersal prisons – including converting the original perimeter wire fences to walls capped with anti-climb devices. These vital improvements had not been made when in December 1972; there was a major disturbance at Gartree with a great deal of damage internally. No

prisoners escaped – and Roland Adams did well to stabilize the situation without fatalities. But staff and prisoners were traumatised and it took months of work to restore a regime for prisoners as staff gradually regained confidence and developed improved skills and techniques. This disturbance was one of the triggers for increased militancy by the Prison Officers Association. Consequently, Adams found himself on the front line of a new crisis as industrial relations issues became a much higher priority.

Adams was promoted to Governor Class One in 1977 and posted to Pentonville Prison in London. There he had to face considerable overcrowding and an impoverished regime. He worked hard to alleviate the worst of the conditions and to deliver improvements to the regime wherever possible.

His colleagues elected him to serve on the Committee of the Governors' representative organization from 1977 until his retirement in 1983. This and his position as Governor of a major London Prison meant that he was involved in representing the views of his colleagues to Ministers and to Parliamentary Committees inquiring into prison conditions. He was selected to read the lesson at the Prison Service Centenary Service at Westminster Cathedral in 1978 and regularly advised Church leaders such as Cardinal Basil Hume about prison issues.

Roland Adams was born in Ealing to Frank and Marjorie Adams. His father had fought in the First World War and lost a leg during the Battle of the Somme. Despite his disability, he taught his son to row and encouraged him to be a keen sportsman. Educated at Westminster City School, Roland Adams became a scout which may have been the catalyst to developing his sense of service. He was a scout stretcher-bearer during the blitz in London and as soon as eligible joined up for war service. After initial training with the Royal Artillery in Ayrshire, he was commissioned as a Captain in the Dogras Regiment of the Indian Army. It was this experience of being responsible for his men that motivated him to join the Prison Service at the end of the war. He served initially at Portland Borstal, a secure institution on Portland Bill, Dorset which had been severely bombed during the war. He was transferred to Hatfield Open Borstal, Yorkshire and then to North Sea Camp Open Borstal, Lincolnshire before being promoted in 1956 to Deputy Governor at Hollesley Bay Colony – a very large open Borstal in Suffolk. While at Portland Borstal, he met and married Stella Barbara Reeves.

He was promoted to Governor Class Three in 1960 and opened the new Detention Centre at Medomsley in County Durham. From there he moved to take charge of Gaynes Hall Open Borstal Huntingdon. In 1968 he was further promoted to Governor Class Two to open the Borstal Recall Centre at Onley near Rugby. In April 1971, he was posted to take charge of Gartree Prison in Leicestershire. A posting to Preston Prison, Lancashire followed in 1973 and in 1977 he was further promoted to take charge of Pentonville Prison, a post he held until his retirement in 1983. He was awarded the OBE in 1980.

Retiring to Wonastow in Monmouth, he became very active in local and church affairs, including being Church Warden at St Wonnows and assisting with the local scouts. He worked for the Crown Agents linking overseas groups with the Prison Service. Even in his nineties, he kept many of his Prison Service contacts and was an active supporter of the Retired Governors Association.

Stella predeceased him in 2006; he leaves a daughter Caroline and a son Roger. Roger graduated from the Royal College of Art with a Masters Degree in Architectural Design and runs his own Architectural & Design practice - Bisset Adams.

BRENDAN O'FRIEL

JOHN WILLIAMSON R.I.P.

Dear Harry,

I think that friends and former colleagues of John Williamson will be sad to hear that John passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday morning 16th July 2019. He had been seriously ill for quite some time, and at last he is at peace.

John spent many years on the staff at HMP Wakefield, and retired under the VERSE arrangements in 1996.

His last position was as a Governor IV, forming one third of the Amalgamation Team along with myself and my secretary, which created HMP Wealstun from the two prisons HMP Thorp Arch, and HMP Rudgate. His was an important role, and I was ever grateful for his support and contributions to a difficult task.

His funeral took place on Thursday 25th July 2019 at 2.20pm at Cottingley Crematorium, Leeds LS11 0EU. He requested "No black or navy clothing please, just casual gear."

Regards,

Grenvil Barnard

THE WISDOM OF THE JUDICIARY!!!

Older readers (come on, there aren't many younger ones) will recall the literary musings of Millbank in the PGA Magazine all those years ago. It's a pity he's not around any more to tell you of the Court of Appeal judgment in *AB v Secretary of State for Justice* on 18th January this year. In a complicated case in which a young offender challenged his segregation, a bench comprising Lord Burnett and Lords Justices Moylan and Singh concluded their judgment at Paragraph 161 with an enunciation of legal certainty:

"Accordingly, it would have been lawful but for the fact that it was not in accordance with the law."

Well, who could argue with that?

Peter Quinn

BORIS PLAYS THE CRIME CARD

The new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has certainly landed running with a series of eye-catching announcements, and a plethora of pocket-picking spending promises. How Mr Johnson plans to pay for his programme is not within the remit of this editorial, but the potential impact on the criminal justice system certainly is. The announcement of a plan to recruit 20,000 more police officers in the next three years can certainly be welcomed, but the curmudgeon in me cannot resist mentioning that that is pretty much the number of officers that were cut during the period of austerity. With knife crime rampant and detection rates at record lows restoring the visible uniformed presence and deterrent on our streets cannot come too soon. Stop and Search is controversial but Mr Johnson points to his record in reducing knife crime during his tenure as Mayor of London.

The proposals for the prison system may also be welcome to the general public but are much less soundly based. Mr Johnson seems to have swallowed hook line and line the myth that sentences are soft and that criminals are not punished. He might like to digest some statistics that disprove the proposition. Between June 2007 and June 2017 the custody rate from our courts rose from 24% to 31% of guilty verdicts, and is still rising. In the same period the average sentence for indictable offences rose from 15.4 months to 19.8 months. For the most serious offences where a determinate sentence was handed down, there was a staggering increase from an average of 31.6 months to 57.1 months. The number of sentences in excess of ten years tripled in the same period. At the heaviest end of the market life tariffs have gone up from 12.5 years in 2003 to 21.3 years in 2016. At 141 per 100,000 England has the highest imprisonment rate in Europe. Interestingly, the rate of imprisonment in Northern Ireland is much lower, at 79 per 100,000. If a province where normal policing is still problematic twenty-one years after the Good Friday agreement can wean itself of an addiction to custody, then surely there is something happening here that the Conservative party can learn from.

The increased spending on 'airport style' security is very welcome, as is the long promised crackdown on mobile phones. However if the government is serious about the drug problem it will need to reach all the way down the system up to and including the open estate. I wish I could believe the promise of 10,000 extra places. In reality, according to the Prison Reform Trust, it would need another 12,000 places just to eliminate overcrowding, assuming no further increase in the population. It is pretty clear that the government intends to increase the numbers in prison as a result of which our prisons will remain squalid and disorderly places. A further increase in sentence lengths and the abolition of automatic release at the halfway point can have no other effect than a significant population spike.

Furthermore Mr Johnson might like to consider the potential response of the European Court of Human Rights to his proposal to give discretion over early release to prison governors. Readers will recall that back in 2002 ECHR ruled that the governor's power to award added days was a breach of human rights on the basis that he or she did not constitute an impartial tribunal when conducting Adjudications. It is difficult to avoid drawing the potential parallel. Governors have not possessed the power to detain prisoners up to the final date of their sentence outside of the formal disciplinary system since the abolition of Borstal training. Legal firms specialising in human rights will be preparing already.

PAUL LAXTON

The photo opposite was taken by me in 1987 at HMP Manchester [Strangeways] just prior to the introduction of "Fresh Start", the latest innovation at that time from HQ, radically changing the way HMPS was to manage and develop from then on. It depicts the last group of Chief Officers in post at the prison at that time with the Governor Brendan O' Friel, just before Chiefs came out of uniform and became Governors 5 [Chief 2] or Governors 4 [Chief 1]. Some say that the loss of the Chief Officers as Heads of the uniform staff created a vacuum in leadership and support that the Chief Officer gave. If the chief was wandering the jail we all knew about it and ensured things were as they should be or else "Watch out!" It was said that the Chiefs had rubber keys so you wouldn't always hear them coming: very crafty. The Chief Officers pictured as I remember them are, left to right, CO2 Foster, CO2 Maxwell, CO2 Frost [Catering], the next one I don't remember (I think he was Works Chief), CO1 Wallace and CO2 Wilkinson [Hospital.] You will note that the Catering Chief Officer Roy Frost was a very tall, robust and down-to-earth sort of chap and if a prisoner complained about their food they were referred to see him and he always reassured them appropriately.

I transferred to HMP Strangeways on promotion to Principal Officer from HMP Birmingham in 1982 and my first job was in charge of 'E' wing which held 340 under-21s, all three to a cell with no sanitation apart from a pot each and a recess half way along each landing where they would "slop out" 3 or 4 times a day. There was no regime as such apart from a bit of PE, education and a visit to the small library. As you may imagine boys 3 to a cell with nothing to do was a recipe for constant trouble with cell fires, bullying and self-harm top of the list. Allocation to a cell on reception was an art form: i.e no 20-year-old with a 15-year-old, no mixing the football supporters or lads from Manchester with Liverpool lads, long term with short term and so on. In May of 1982 under-21s were sentenced to the latest new approach to imprisoning young men, "Youth Custody", ensuring that no under-21 was sent to prison, except they still went to the same place as before with a different phrase on the warrants. We allocated them to Youth Custody Centres and had very busy days.

The address of Manchester Prison was, and maybe still is, 26 Southall Street which could be to all intents and purposes a terraced house. One Sunday morning with prisoners in the chapel, hopefully not rioting, and staff having a bacon sandwich from the mess, a knock on the wicket gate was answered by a new Officer who found a man with a piece of paper in his hand and speaking in an American accent asking if the Officer could direct him to 26 Southall Street. The Officer had no idea and asked the gate PO who came to the conversation stating that this was indeed that address and why are you asking? It transpired that he had a relative's birth certificate and had come from America to trace his ancestors. The certificate showed the birth place as 26 Southall street.

His disappointment at finding out that his relative was from such humble beginnings was very evident as



he walked slowly down the road still looking at the piece of paper and coming to a dead end with his venture at first go. Some kind person had endorsed the certificate with the actual address instead of HMP Strangeways to minimise any embarrassment in the future for the poor family. It didn't work though.

I know readers of the newsletter enjoy pictures and anecdotes/stories about prison life in times gone by, so if you have something lurking in a drawer gathering dust, please share it with us in a future edition so we can all enjoy and maybe add to the history.

GRAHAM SMITH

Obituary - Tom Rielly

Colleagues will be sad to hear of the death of Tom Rielly in December 2018 in Hospice Isle of Man. I was able to speak to him in Nobles Hospital a week or two before his death and he retained his sense of humour and interest in life to the end. Tom's funeral took place in January on Island and his ashes have been scattered both on Island and in his native Scotland. His wife predeceased him- he leaves a son and daughter.

I first met Tom when he worked for me as part of the Central (P6) Manpower Team from 1974. Tom had also been a Royal Marine and worked for British Rail before joining the Prison Service as a mature entrant in the sixties. He applied to join the Manpower teams in 1972- the incentive was temporary promotion to Principal Officer.

In 1976, the Isle of Man Government advertised the job of Chief Goaler at the Isle Man prison which was situated in Victoria Road Douglas overlooking Douglas Bay. I drew Tom's attention to the advert, he applied and was appointed. He Governed the Isle of Man Prison for more than 10 years and stayed on the Island throughout his retirement. The next appointee to the prison was formally graded as Governor Grade Three.

The title 'Chief Goaler' came about because of a disturbance at the Island 's prison around 1965. Hugh Kenyon -who had strong Manx connections – but was then on the Prisons Board – was asked to conduct a review of the prison and recommended sending a more senior member of the English service – a Chief Officer – across to run the establishment. The existing person in charge in 1965 was known as the 'Galer' – so the new post was entitled 'Chief Goaler' of the Isle of Man prison.

I was delighted that Tom was appointed and he did a good job in an old quite inadequate Victorian Prison – built for 30 – expanded a little on a very constrained site – but having to hold 80 for over a decade. Tom encouraged a good deal of community work, for example, prisoners played an important part working at the three annual Manx Agricultural shows. He had a thriving garden section – winning lots of local prizes, and he allowed selected prisoners to assist farmers with the harvest. Being a local prison, Victoria Road housed young offenders and female prisoners as well as adult males.

Tom had a great sense of humour – much needed when the Manpower team was examining the curious staffing arrangements at some establishments in 1974-75 – and he kept his sense of humour and a balancing sense of perspective as he ran the Manx Prison. It was quite a testing job as there was no expertise in prison management other than Tom. The prison was not subject to Inspection so it was quite a lonely post with minimal support. There were some quite difficult prisoners to deal with, especially those with mental health problems.

The Island now has a new purpose-built prison for 140 at Jurby. Tom's work in trying to educate the local politicians to the shortcomings of the old Victorian prison played its part in the Island Government eventually agreeing to the need for investment in a new establishment.

BRENDAN O'FRIEL