

# The Retired Prison Governors Newsletter

Founded by Arthur Williamson in 1980 - 40 years of continuous publication.

ISSUE No. 83 | 40th Anniversary Edition



## REMEMBERING ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

Your Committee decided late last year to mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of the RPGA newsletter with a special colour edition. My big concern as editor was not being able to source sufficient material that would justify the additional cost. Thankfully my appeal for archive material did not go unheeded, and former editor, Brendan O’Friel, delved into his cupboards and produced a treasure trove, which has allowed me to select pieces for an 8 page retro section in this newsletter. The material provided by Brendan has allowed me to ensure that the founder of the RPGA Newsletter, Arthur Williamson, is properly celebrated. Inside you will find his reflections which describe how the Newsletter began. I have also included in full two other contributions from Mr Williamson both from 1990, one reflecting on the Strangeways riot, the other ruminating on the future. I cannot thank Brendan enough for his assistance in ensuring that the 40th anniversary is properly marked.

I’m also obliged to Neil Johnson who also responded to my appeal and gave me a lead to follow to track down John Powls, happily still with us, who was involved from the beginning with the production of the Newsletter, and was editor

from 1982 to 1984. I am grateful to John for his contribution to this edition, and for the insight he gives into the character of Arthur Williamson. It’s interesting to note that for the first sixteen years of its existence, the Newsletter was actually edited by a serving Governor. The roll call of editors is quite short. Arthur Williamson who edited the first five editions, John Powls, Brendan O’Friel, Mick Roebuck, and myself. By far the majority of editions were edited by Brendan, who took over as editor in 1984, continuing as sole editor beyond his retirement in 1996, through to 2005 from whence he alternated with Mick Roebuck until 2011, after which Mick took over as sole editor until giving way to me in 2015. Arthur Williamson did not just perform a stint as editor, he also performed the role of Letters Editor for thirty-three editions. Speaking of 40th anniversaries, this will be the 40th issue in which Bob Duncan has edited ‘Your Letters.’ Long may he continue. Thanks again to Brendan for the potted history.

I will keep my reflections on the Covid 19 epidemic short, not least because the full ramifications are still to play out. My condolences go out to those of you who had the misfortune to lose friends and relatives. If anything good is to emerge from the pandemic, let us hope that it is the long overdue root and branch reform that is needed of the broken social care system.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to those still in harness whose magnificent efforts to keep our prisons safe, decent and secure at great risk to themselves during the pandemic, have gone largely unacknowledged in the media. Their task was made all the more difficult by the failure of ministers to recognise that numbers needed to be reduced drastically and cell sharing completely banned. The retired branch salutes you.



PAUL LAXTON, Editor

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## From the Chair

### Life Goes on.

**D**ear members, will life ever be the same again? The past few months have been a testing time for us all, whether you are a retired Governor or in an operational setting, which I'm sure we all appreciate has challenged even HMPPS staff daily. Key workers indeed! In incident training we used to try to define "When is an incident over?" this incident may take some time yet. I hope you are all as safe and well as can be expected and avoiding the virus as much as you can. I seem to have 2 wardrobes of stuff I do not need. Email your stories, how have you managed in self isolation?

This edition celebrates 40 years of the RPGA newsletter so we thought a colour publication would mark this special event. Our thanks to Paul Laxton, our editor for the extra work he has put into this edition. Our AGM this year will not go ahead at the PGA conference as it is cancelled. We have made alternative arrangements for the AGM to be hosted 10th November. Details are outlined in this edition. The AGM will see the departure from our committee of David Taylor who has contributed common sense, humour and cricket stories for the past few years and we shall be sad to see him go. Thank you David! Would you like to join the RPGA committee? Let us know if you would, you will be welcome.



*This is me in colour on the Tarka cycle trail in Barnstaple, North Devon in late June 2020.*

Are you one of those folk now using the "ZOOM" application to communicate virtually with friends, committees and others? Your committee have met twice on ZOOM so far, to discuss how to improve the website which we would encourage you to visit, and give us your ideas on how we can improve it. (rpga.org.uk)

ZOOM has enabled us to run the association business as smoothly as we can and our treasurer has been pleased as it has saved us travel costs too! You will note from his section in this newsletter that we continue to be in a stable financial position. Thanks to Graham Mumby-Croft for keeping us in the black.

I make the annual appeal for items of interest for the newsletter, past experiences in your career, things you have done in retirement, great places to visit, with photos if possible. Our editor will welcome your contributions, as will Roger Outram, our letters and email coordinator. Contact information is in this edition.

I place on record my thanks to the RPGA committee for their work during the last 12 months. Next year will be a challenge for us to improve two way communications with members and increase membership. The world may seem to be on hold but we will go on!

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman



## HELP, PLEASE

### PETER LEONARD'S MEMORABILIA

Peter Leonard worked at Wormwood Scrubs from 1971-74. His widow, Christine, has asked me to dispose of various pieces of his prison memorabilia. She has agreed that I should pass his large collection of Scrubs photographs to an academic legal historian, Richard Ireland, who has a special interest in prisons. Richard will digitize them and, subject to copyright permission, will make them available on the Open University's Prison History UK website.

Many photographs are of Victorian/Edwardian days though others are from the 1960s/1970s era. Though I never worked at Scrubs, I visited many times and have found it relatively easy to identify most of the latter. I cannot identify the people in the photographs reproduced here. If any member of the RPGA can assist, I should be most grateful to hear from you at [pmq1@outlook.com](mailto:pmq1@outlook.com)

**PETER QUINN**



## Computer Corner incorporating a 'Zoom' special

Well, we do indeed live in interesting times, and as I write this in August we are now into the sixth month of lockdown and restrictions on social gatherings and meetings that the Coronavirus Pandemic has brought upon us.

I, and all the members of the Committee do hope that this copy of the Newsletter, and my Computer Corner, find you in good health physically, but much more importantly, mentally as well.

A great deal has been said about the impact of the current restrictions on peoples mental well-being, and in particular the impact on people who are having to be very careful, because they are in the group of people most vulnerable to the effects of catching the virus. Unfortunately, many members of the RPGA fall into this category either because of our ages, or because of underlying health issues, or maybe, like me, both.

There is help available through a variety of sources, and if you are a computer user, and have an internet connection there are plenty of places online where you can seek help and advice and therefore I would urge you to go online and search for help, guidance or support-you will be amazed at just what is out there.

One of the things that we are doing as an association is looking to improve, and expand the RPGA Website, and we have set up a small working group to look at what we can do to improve the site in order to provide a better, and more immediate service to members. This work is being lead by Roger Outram who looks after the website. To make access easier we have now removed the need for a password to enter the site, and Roger has started to place links on the site to other websites that members might find useful or interesting. Initially he has placed a link to the CSPA site and Age UK, both of which contain information that you may find of use. Further links will follow.

The easiest way to find the site is via this link:  
**<https://rpga.homestead.com/Newsletter.html>**

We would really like you to have a look at the site and to let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for making it better, including any links to sites that that you may have found, and think that other members might find useful. We



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

will test all links in advance of publishing them to members to ensure that we are directing you to a safe site.

That leads me nicely into the subject of safety on the internet.

Having said that there are lots of sites offering help and advice to people, about a whole range of subjects, you should always apply a liberal dose of caution before you blindly click on a link to a site. It is also important that you do not simply follow links found as a result of a Google search, and in particular by clicking on the first result that looks as if it matches what you are searching for. Not always the best, or safest option.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of Google, there are still sites that appear high in Google search results that are not 100% genuine. For example there are still sites that offer a service to fill in, and submit, official applications for services such a EHIC health cards for European travel, driving licences and passports. The application process for all of these is free, even though there is a charge for the item itself, such as a passports or driving licences, but some sites also charge a fee for actually submitting the application on your behalf. This is of course not illegal, but many of these sites do not point out that they are charging you for something you can do yourself directly, for free.

As an example, some time ago a friend went online to renew his European Health cards prior to going on holiday. He searched for EHIC on Google, and clicked on the first site that came up at the top of the results list. He filled in the online form, and paid the £15 fee, job done. Except of course, had he gone onto the official Government Website (GOV.UK) he would have been able to renew these for free.

## Computer Corner *continued...*

I would recommend that if you want to find out anything about any service provided through Central Government then GOV.UK is the “go-to” site. It is the official government website for nearly everything from Income Tax to advice on the Pandemic, Pensions, Driving Licence, and everything in between. You can use it to gain access to the Customs and Revenue site where you can deal with all matters to do with taxation, including filing your Tax Return, and you can use it to check on any travel restrictions or advice when going on holiday.

To be able to use the site securely for personal matters like tax or pensions, you will be directed to go through **The Government Gateway** which is the security portal that offers password protection to all your transactions. Before you can go through this Gateway you will be required to provide your details and will be issued with a reference code and a password. Your password will be sent to you by post as an added security measure, so joining up takes a little while, as you need to wait for your password to arrive before you can proceed. However this is well worth the effort, as once you have access through the Gateway there is so much you can do directly on the site, and all securely.

Your Local and County councils all have their own websites that provide a wealth of information on local services, and allow applications online for things such as Bus Passes, and of course in these changed times, to be able to book a slot at the Recycling Centre to get rid of your rubbish.. To ensure you are on a genuine site, all official central and local government sites have **@gov.uk** at the end of their web address.

As I have said, many people use Google to search for the sites to visit, and often people will automatically go to Google to find a website, even if they have visited the site before. One way to increase your security online is to use websites that you have used before, and know to be safe. To do this once you have found a site, and are happy that it is secure, save it to either your **FAVOURITES** or **BOOKMARKS** on your browser. In this way if you want to visit the site again enter it via the already saved address and you know that the site is safe.

To check that a site is secure **before you send personal or financial information over the internet**, ensure that the web address has the symbol of a closed padlock at the start of it, and that the web address begins with https: The “s” is the important bit here, as it means the site is secure. This does not always mean that the site is genuine, but what it does mean is that any information sent between the site, and you, is encrypted, and therefore cannot be intercepted and used by a third party.

If you are carrying out any financial transaction online, **NEVER do so on a site that does not have the closed padlock symbol, or an address that starts https//**. You will be at risk.

One of the major changes that has taken place as a result of the lockdown has been a huge increase in people working from home, and a major increase in the use of Video communications as a way of communication both for business meetings, and for friends and family as a means of keeping in touch with loved ones.

The use of video conferencing has been around for some time now but since the lockdown its use has grown beyond all expectations, and some of the programmes used in this process such as WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, Skype and Zoom have come into everyday use, and indeed have become so common that “To Zoom” as a verb has changed from meaning to move quickly and instead has become, to meet with others in a video chat or conference.

As long in the tooth as we are, the RPGA committee has itself embraced the new technology of Zoom and in the past few weeks have held a full committee meeting, and two sub-group meetings using this technology, and now, due to the fact that we will be unable to hold an AGM this year as a “live event” at which members can attend in person, we are looking to attempt to hold it as a Zoom meeting instead. I mentioned earlier that there are several video conferencing applications available, but from here on, because it is the platform the RPGA has chosen to use, I will only refer to Zoom.



## Computer Corner *continued...*

So, if you wish to join in at this years AGM then what will you need in order to take part?

Firstly you will need a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, this can be a Personal Computer, (PC), a Laptop, an iPad or Android Tablet or a mobile phone. For mobile devices, pads, tablets and phones it is best if they are connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. Laptops can either be connected via Wi-Fi or hard wired to your modem/router. PC's should be hard wired to your modem/router.

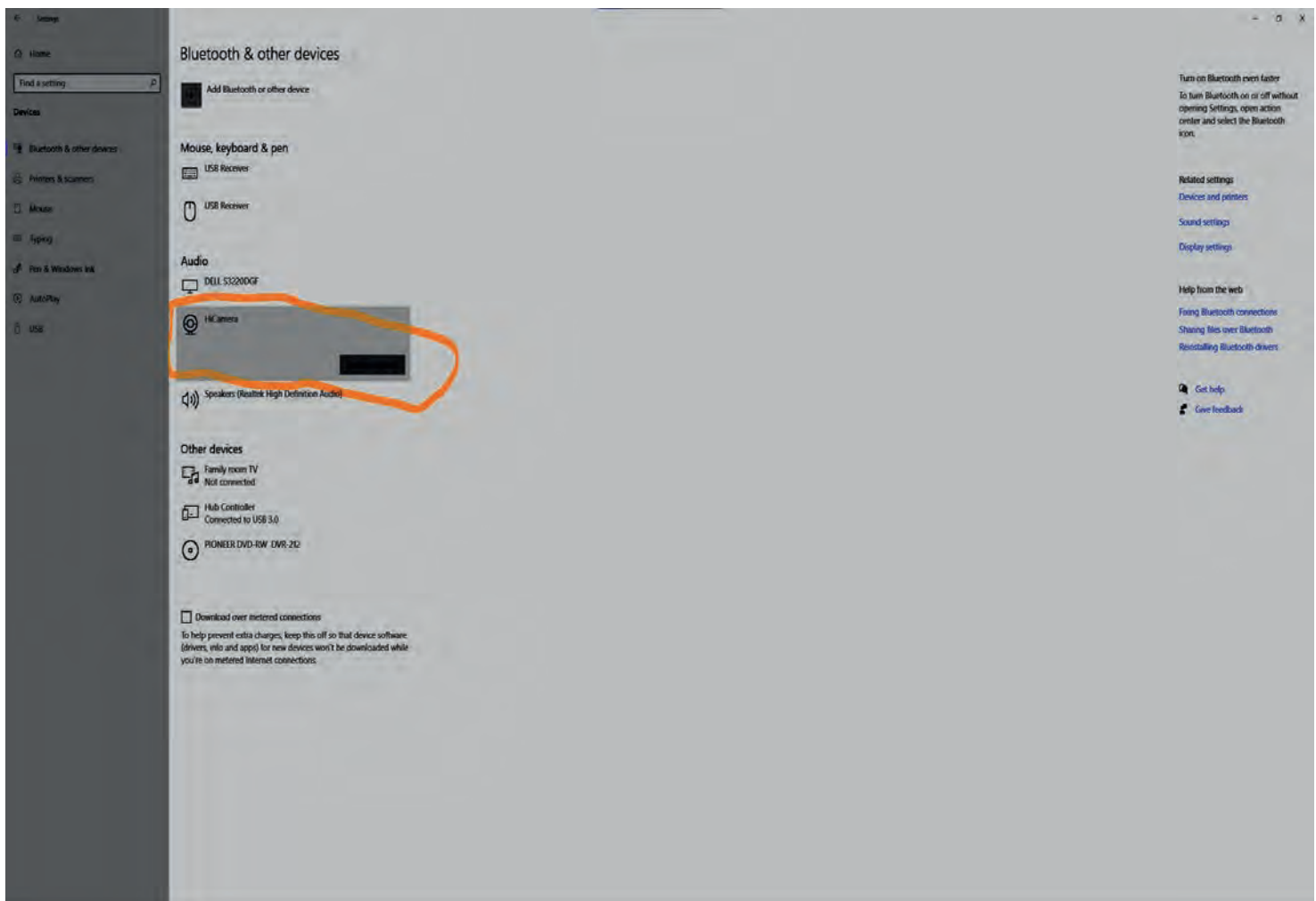
You do not actually need to download the Zoom application to be able to join in a Zoom meeting, but it is useful to download the application as it will allow you to test your camera and communications without the pressure of being in ,or trying to join a meeting.

The next requirement is that your device needs a camera and microphone in order to be able to communicate. Mobile phones, tablets and pads will normally have a built in camera and microphone, as will most laptops, but you will

need to add a Webcam to your PC in order for you to be able to take part in any Zoom meeting. If you do not already have a Webcam then you will need to purchase one. There are hundreds of models available but you may find that some are now more difficult than others to buy at the moment. This is because online meetings have grown so much, and so fast, that there has been a shortage of many IT components, webcams included.

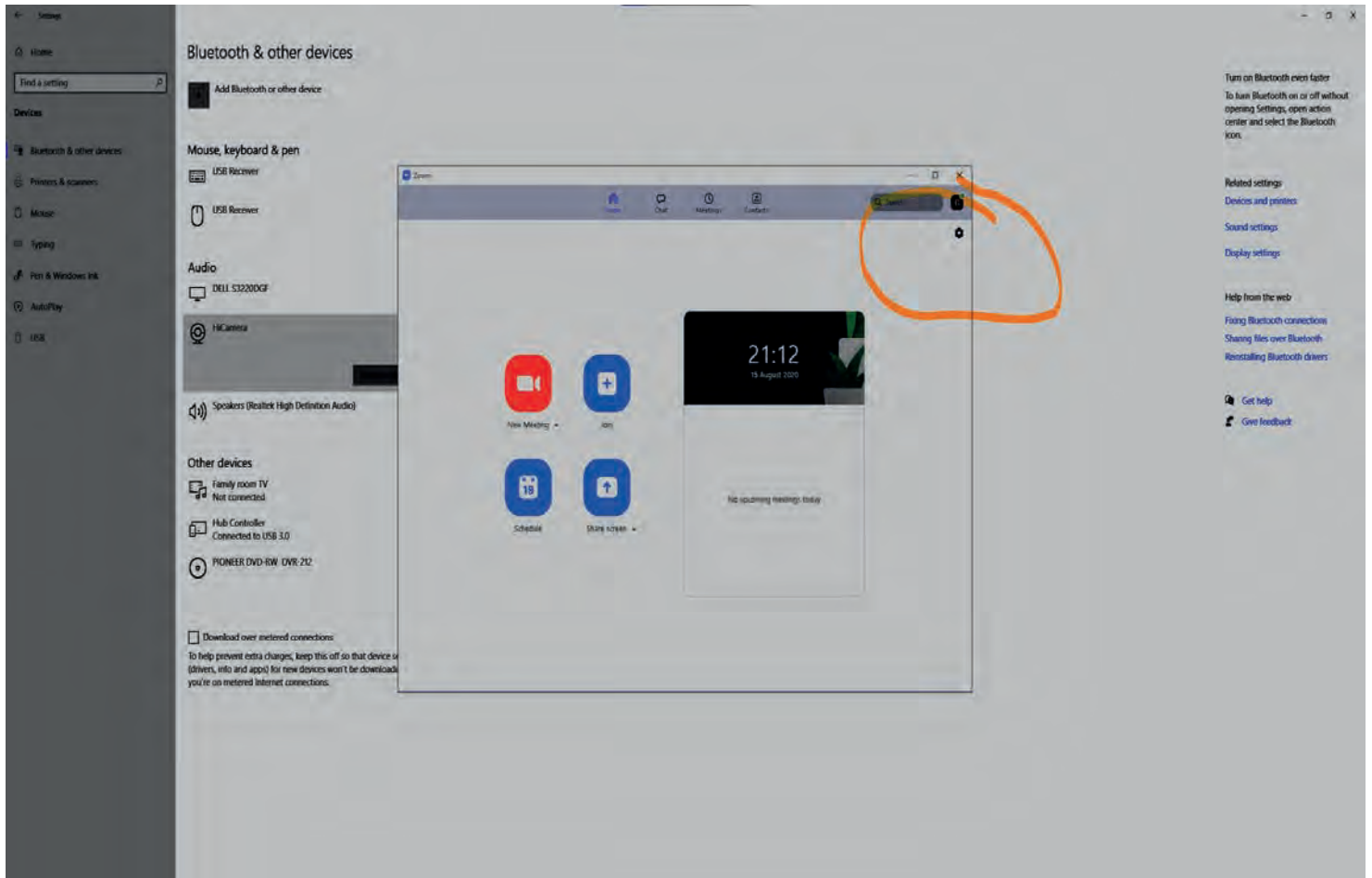
If you have, or need to obtain a webcam these will connect to you computer via a USB socket and most cameras are Plug and Play, which effectively means that once you plug them into your USB socket they will automatically connect, and download the required drivers to make it all work. You will not normally have to download any other software to make this work, but refer to your cameras documentarian to check.

Staying with PC for a moment, if, having plugged in your camera you cannot get it to work, you may need to check that both camera and microphone are enabled on your computer system. If you are



## Computer Corner *continued...*

using Windows 10 you need to go to “Settings” which can be found either by left clicking on the Start symbol (Window) on the bottom left, or by clicking on the “Notifications” symbol on the bottom far right. On the Settings Home Screen click on “Devices” and then “Bluetooth and Other Devices”. Your camera should be listed here.



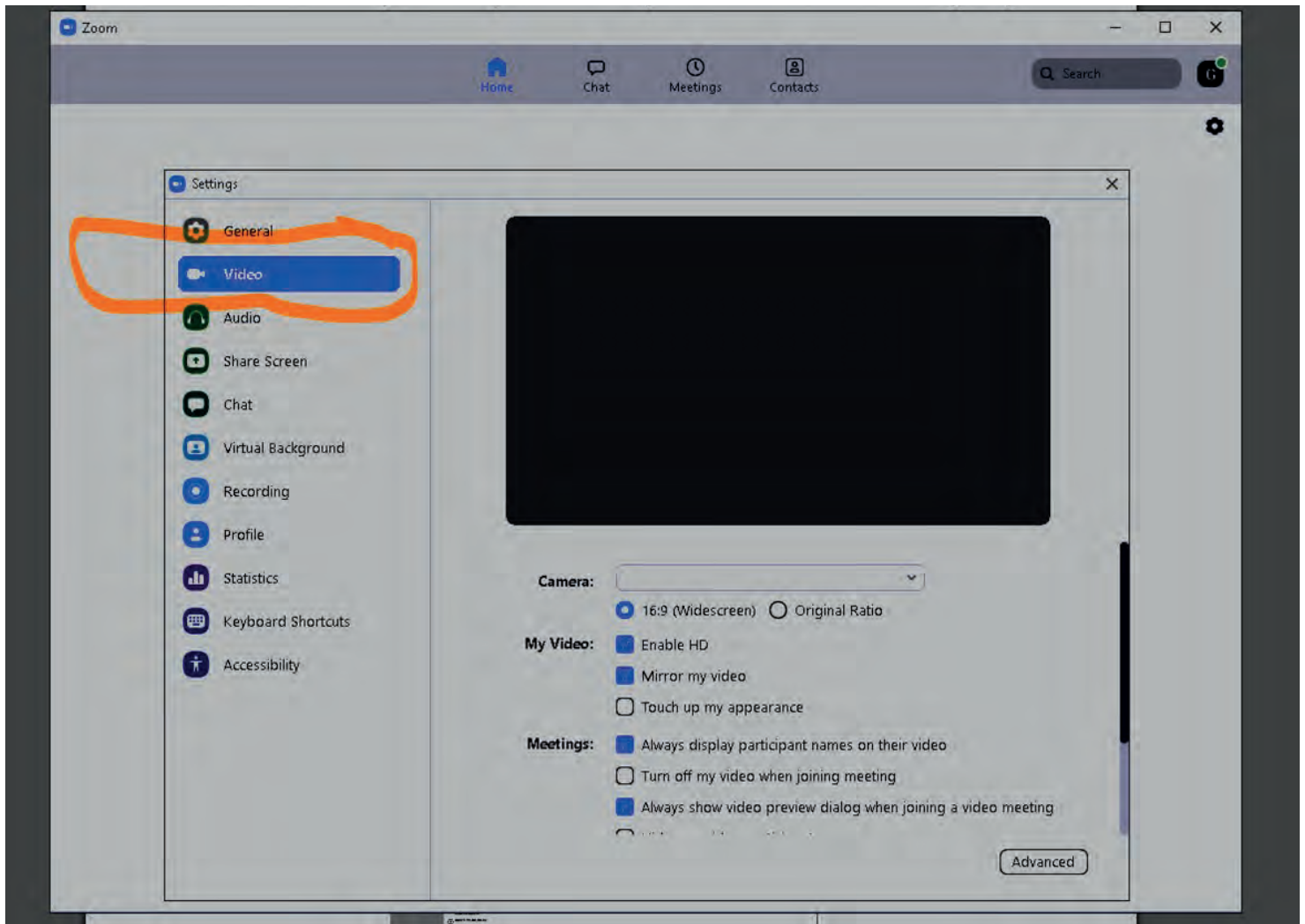
If you have downloaded the Zoom application you can open this and on the “Home” screen you can click on the “Settings” button, A cog wheel in the top right hand corner and this will take you into the settings where you can test and adjust you video and sound as well as add background images to give you location a more exotic look. (See screenshots).

If you possess all the equipment required to take part in the Zoom version of the AGM and do not wish to download the Zoom programme you will still be able to join the meeting by following the link to the Zoom site, that will take you directly into the meeting, without the need to download anything. This applies equally if you are looking to join the meeting from your phone, tablet, laptop or PC. In addition to the link to the site you will need a reference number for the meeting, and a password.

Sadly it is possible, and does happen that Webcams and microphones can be hacked into allowing someone to have access to control one, or both of these. I would advise that when you are not using your webcam, particularly on a PC or laptop it is a wise precaution to disable them. If your camera is separate, and



## Computer Corner *continued...*



plugged into a USB port then the simple answer is to unplug it. On a laptop you can disable the camera and microphone through the operating system such as windows. Follow the same procedure I described above to check your camera in SETTINGS but this time disable the camera and microphone.

I strongly advise you to download the ZOOM application in advance and have a practice with the Video and Sound setting to make sure you webcam works properly.

If you wish to join this year's AGM being held on ZOOM then this is the information you need to be able to take part. If you already have it, open the ZOOM application and click on Join A meeting. If you have not downloaded the ZOOM application this link will take you directly to the ZOOM site. Type it, or copy and paste it into the address bar of you Browser and click Go.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7105430365?pwd=cUxZUWd1Y1E4RkV1YmYrRVVoczZ6dz09>**

## **Computer Corner** *continued...*

Whether you have gone into the application from your computer, or via the link, once you are connected to the site you will be asked for a meeting ID which is:

**710 543 0365**

You will then be asked to enter a Passcode, which is:

**0mphV2**

You should then be connected to the waiting room for the meeting, and the host will be informed, and admit you to the meeting.

If you do not have an internet connection you can still join the meeting by telephone. You can do this by dialling one of the numbers shown below. Please be aware that these are NOT free numbers and you will be charged for the call by your service provider, however they are NOT PREMIUM RATE numbers.

**0131 460 1196**

**0203 051 2874**

**0203 481 5237**

**0203 481 5240**

**0203 901 7895**

You will be asked to enter the meeting ID on your phone keypad followed by #

**The Meeting ID is still 710543365 #**

Press # again and you will be asked for a Passcode, ***this is a different number than for entering via a video link.***  
The Passcode is:

**086713**

You will then enter the waiting room and the meeting host will admit you to the meeting where you will be able to hear all that is being said, and to speak yourself.

# **Annual General Meeting 2020 Agenda**

## **Virtual Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**14:00hrs**

**Welcome to those attending by the Chairman, Graham Smith**

- 1 Attendees**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- 4 Matters Arising**
- 5 Treasurer's Report**
- 6 Membership Report**
- 7 Civil Service Pensioners Alliance**
- 8 Newsletter**
- 9 Website Update and email Register**
- 10 Election of Officers**  
Graham Smith, Ray London and Jan Thompson are due for re-election
- 11 Date of next Annual General Meeting**



# Minutes of the 2019 AGM

## Retired Prison Governors Association

*A section of The Prison Governors Association*

Chairman: **Graham Smith** graham.smith646@hotmail.co.uk  
Secretary: **Ray London** raymond\_london@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: **Graham Mumby-Croft** graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 13.30hrs.

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed members to this years' Annual General Meeting.

### 1. Present: (10 in total)

Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman), Ray London (Secretary), Harry Brett, Jan Thompson (Minutes), Paul Laxton, Graham Mumby-Croft, Dave Taylor

Members:

John Berry, Chris Duffin, Flo Herbert

### 2. Apologies:

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Roger Outram, John Rumball, Lynn Bowles

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

These were distributed to attendees at the meeting and were agreed unanimously as a true record.

Proposed by: Harry Brett

Seconded by: Paul Laxton

### 4. Matters arising

#### Reference Action Responsibility Progress

7.6.18 Agenda Item: 'Social Events' to be taken off future AGM agendas

Ray London - Completed.

8.6.18 Harry Brett to contact James Bryant (PGA) with a view to the CSPA having a stand at the PGA Conference.

Harry Brett - Completed.

10(i).6.18 To produce an article in the newsletter explaining how to access the website and the benefits of it.

Roger Outram - Completed

10(ii).6.18 A small committee to convene to determine the content of the website.

Roger Outram/Paul Laxton/Graham Smith - Completed

12.6.18 GDPR to be sent to members.

Harry Brett - Completed

## **Minutes of the 2019 AGM** *continued...*

### **5. Treasurers' Report, including Benevolent Fund**

The main points that were highlighted from the 2018 accounts were as follows:

**Total Income** for the year was £5712.00 (a decrease of £483.00 from the previous year) which was all made up of membership subscriptions.

**Total Expenditure** was £4834.36 (a decrease of £730.95 from the previous year)

**Surplus of Income over Expenditure** was £877.64 (an increase of £101.26 from the previous year)

**Cash Balance at the end of 2018** was £10,775.25 (an increase of £877.63 from the previous year). This figure includes the transfer of £2050.43 from the closure of the Lloyds current account. In a breakdown of the main costs, the newsletter for 2017 cost a total of £2546.62 which represents 52.7% of the total expenditure of the RPGA. Travel and Subsistence amounted to £743.50; Room Hire and Catering was £557.50 and Donations amounted to £175.

At the end of 2018, **The Benevolent Fund** account stood at £5653.36 (a £75 increase on the previous year). The Treasurer informed the AGM that, as of the 2nd September 2019, the current Account stands at a total of **£13,611.62**

Graham Mumby-Croft addressed the members about his wish to transfer the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA, although this would require an amendment to the PGA Rules and Regulations (Rule 30, Para H), and sought the memberships' permission to open discussions with the PGA Treasurer to this effect. The Benevolent Fund Trustee, Terry Bone, is to be informed.

Proposed by: Graham Mumby-Croft

Seconded by: Ray London

This motion was carried.

**(Action Point: i)** Graham Mumby-Croft to communicate with the PGA Treasurer with a view to transferring the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA. A discussion took place on a proposal to ask members whether they would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email or post. During the discussion it was pointed out that newer members would probably opt for an email version whereas older members would probably still prefer a hard copy. It was noted that if more members preferred the email option the costs would not initially be reduced due to the higher cost of printing a lower number of copies.

Proposed by: Ray London

Seconded by Dave Taylor;

**(Action point ii)** Paul Laxton to write an article for the next newsletter reference the digitisation of future Newsletters on the web page and to invite comments on what members think of this proposal, prior to further discussion.

### **6. Membership Report**

Harry Brett distributed a current membership report to the members. The breakdown of the membership was as follows:

At the AGM in June 2018 there were 416 members.

At the AGM in October 2019 there are 416 members.

There have been 15 new members joined in this time, three resignations and three members who have been untraceable.

Unfortunately there have been 9 members who have died during this period and the Chairman led a one minute silence for our deceased members.

Deceased members:

Brian Baldwin, J R Penson, Brian Hayday, Peter Leonard, Cyril Jones, Denis Marsden, Kenneth Debenham, Roland Adams, Gary Dadds

## **Minutes of the 2019 AGM** *continued...*

### **7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.**

A discussion took place on what topics were currently in vogue in respect of today's pensioners. These include the removal of the free TV licence for over 75's; the Triple Lock for State Pensions (which will remain in place until the end of 2019); Social Care and Intergenerational Fairness.

In respect of the CSPA, the AGM is to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Harry Brett and Paul Laxton will be attending on behalf of their respective branches and will pass on any items of interest to Graham Smith and other committee members.

### **8. Newsletter**

The editor mentioned that the timing of the newsletter has been altered slightly due to a draft copy being forwarded to committee members before its publication. Newsletters are now due around April and October, the latter to include the PGA Presidents' Conference address.

(Action Point: iii) Paul Laxton to contact James Bryant from the PGA to enquire if they have access to an archive of RPGA Newsletters.

(Action point iv) Paul Laxton to contact RPGA members to ask the same question.

### **9. Website Update and email Register.**

Unfortunately Roger Outram was unable to attend this AGM although he did send an update to the effect that his only input regarding the website was that it is in good order and working well and the next Newsletter will contain instructions on how to access the website.

### **10. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

To be discussed with the PGA President with a view to holding the next AGM at the same time and venue as the PGA Conference.

Finally, the Chairman thanked those who attended and the meeting closed at 14.45hrs.



HMP Wakefield - Front Gate



## Your Letters

### Dear All

You might have thought that with all this newfound time locked away at home, courtesy of Covid-19, with little to occupy our time someone would have found time to write to me but it's not to be it seems. I do understand that writing to someone who is essentially unknown to you is probably not the most exciting thing, but I assure you, together we have trod the hallways and landings of many HMPs, and getting news of and from people whose names we know is interesting to all of us. There are many regular contributors to the newsletter who pen really good and lengthy tomes about their various experiences, but these are not for the letters page. I know that the letters page interests you because you are here reading this so go get your pen or keyboard and drop me a line about what you are doing now. Meanwhile, my pal **Bob** has sent his usual note for which I am extremely grateful, please see below:

**ROGER OUTRAM**

//

The Virus would appear to have caused communications to dry up, together with the fact that fewer old stalwarts remain with us as each year goes by. This, unfortunately, includes Margery Marchant, who I have known for over 50 years. We were all at Dover Borstal, together with John and Jean Childs, and Alan Rawson, all of us kept in touch; as did the McGowan's but their association was from Guys Marsh. Bernard Marchant could appear a little distant at times, but there was no disputing his commitment, neither his dedication nor his genuine concern for those in his charge. Margery was also very able in her own right, and along with the Governor's wife and my wife to be, all taught at the local Grammar School.

Margery and Bernard were devoted to each other and Margery totally supported Bernard in all he did both in the Service and retirement. They were also devoted to their children and their development. Bernard had also served as Governor of Pentonville and the Governor's quarter then backed on to the prison, so Margery was well informed of all that went on. Margery would probably phone me every other month, either to enquire why the Newsletter was late, or just for a chat. She never tired of reminiscing about 'the Service in its heyday'. She nursed Bernard at home until he passed away, and then later moved to the Care Home. She always said how happy she was there and that she was well looked after. One always sensed that life was never the same for her after Bernard died, and some of her old spirit declined. I will miss her dearly; she just loved to talk about the Service and the wonderful people with whom we all worked.

I have been in touch with Tim Newell, he sees John Dring each week; he is getting weaker but remains remarkably positive and has arranged to be able to meet people, enjoy family and friends and keep in touch with his beloved opera. We even shared a bottle of beer recently. Tim also often thinks about Alan Rawson, and agrees that he would have challenged all the limitations of the lockdown, and would have been most upset about the closing of pubs! A letter from John is reproduced at the foot of this piece.

It reminded me how much I also miss opera, when in London I could go to Covent Garden, and in Yorkshire, Opera North was brilliant and was based at The Grand Theatre, Leeds, where they put on splendid productions at a very good price. Kent is not so good, but the Marlow does have a number of productions, but more infrequent.

//

## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

On my 80th Birthday, I received a good number of best wishes from colleagues, all of whom I thank. I had meant to keep them all so I could refer to them. Alas at my age you do not want to be reminded too much of the passing years. The one that stood out, as it was not expected, was from the French residing geriatric hairy biker himself, Kevin Brewer.

I do not really understand Facebook, but receive quite a lot of communications for which I am grateful, as it means a colleague is still amongst us. Walter MacGowan places quite a lot on it including some lovely countryside scenes, as well as the number of places he visits. I was touched to see his shots of the Menin Gate scenes from Ypres in Belgium on Remembrance Day. It is both a fitting memorial and a wonderful service on the day, for all those who gave so much. It is a place that touches your heart deeply. It must never be lost or forgotten. It is very comforting to have some else who feels as deeply about as I do. Thanks Walter. He also shares a good number of his drinks and his meals; I could almost tell you a whole month's menu! He travels a lot and clearly lives life to the full, and remarkably looks very well on it. The last time I saw him was at Bernard Marchants' funeral. Deep down Walter is a very kind and deeply caring person.

Good to hear that Paul Wailen has completed his series of chemotherapy sessions and the initial results are very positive. He is awaiting the consultant's final analysis of the scans they took, but all looks well. He has booked a holiday in Greece for October, so let's hope it remains off the list of the quarantine on return countries.

Turning to myself for once, we had a holiday booked for Croatia in October, but Shearings went into liquidation during the lockdown, and anyway it now joined the quarantine list. I will have to live to next year. We have been anxious about my grandson's A level results. Great relief, he gained all A's even before all the fuss over the downgrading spectacle. So he is now on his way so I understand it, to Cambridge to study Psychology, following in the footsteps of his parents, but father studied Arabic, and his mother Arabic and Law.

Bob

”



**ROGER OUTRAM**

## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

Dear Bob

Thank you for writing, it is very good to hear from you.  
You asked me for news of my health for the magazine

In summary:

In 2017 I was diagnosed with motor neurone disease which started when I lost the use of my arms. I am taking a drug proven to slow it down a few months and three years later I am still managing to walk a few hundred metres with lots of rest on my walker. I now have carers arranged but more significantly I have got married and my wonderful wife, Midori, has said that she is standing by me whatever happens. Also, my kids have been brilliant and most supportive as have my Stepdaughters and many other friends like Tim Newell, Mike O’Sullivan, Bryan Payling, Richard Tilt, Tony Pearson, John Cann and Alasdair Munro.

I am still managing to play bridge online twice a week and eat a little porridge. I can talk at the moment but I can feel the speech is going. However, with the help of the excellent Motor Neurone Disease Association, I have banked my voice for when I become like professor Stephen Hawking.

Overall I think I am very privileged to have such wonderful support and comparatively comfortable life compared with many of the 5000 other people in this country who have this awful disease.

Please give my good wishes to all my other good friends in the service, I still watch developments very closely.

With very best wishes

Still bugging on!

John Dring

”

Please send your letters to:

**Roger Outram  
12 Grove Park  
Magazine Lane  
Wisbech  
PE13 1LF**

or

**roger@rsoutram.co.uk**

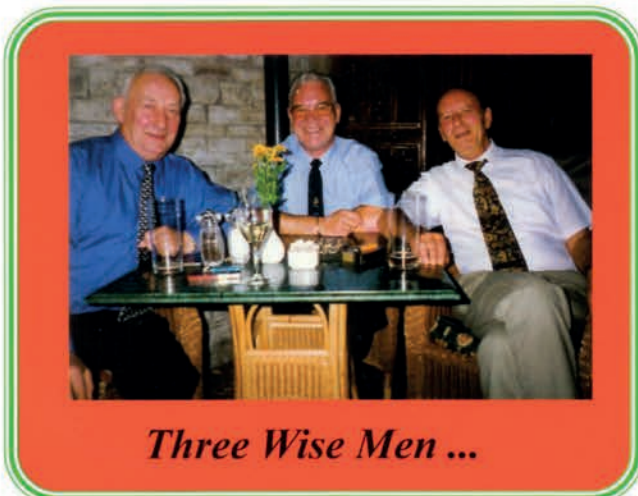
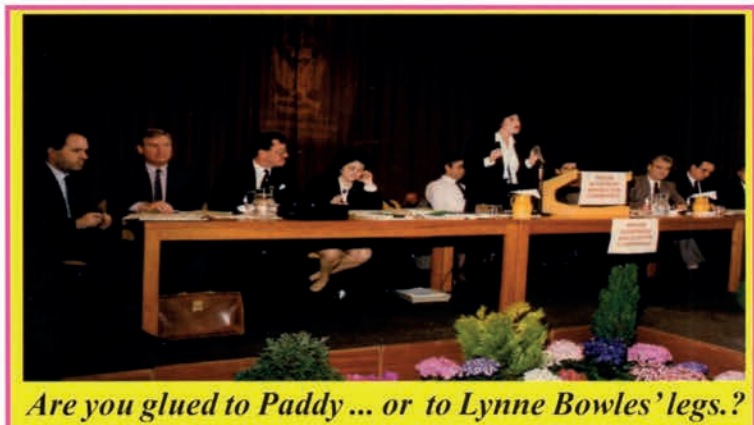
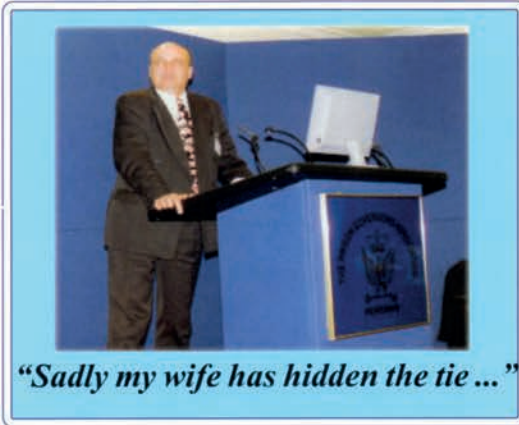


## Rogues Gallery

# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
Edition

### *Rogues Gallery*



## Rogues Gallery

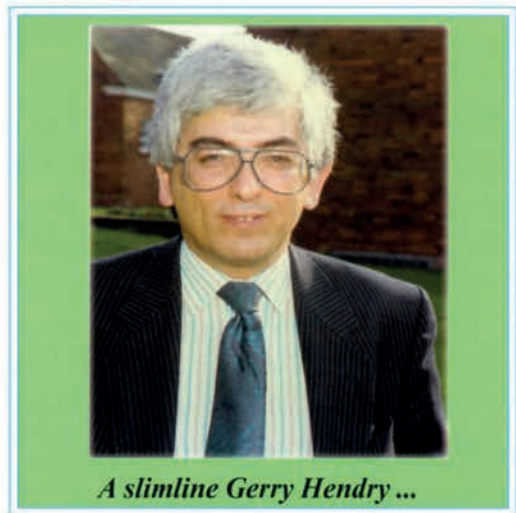
# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Edition

## Rogues Gallery



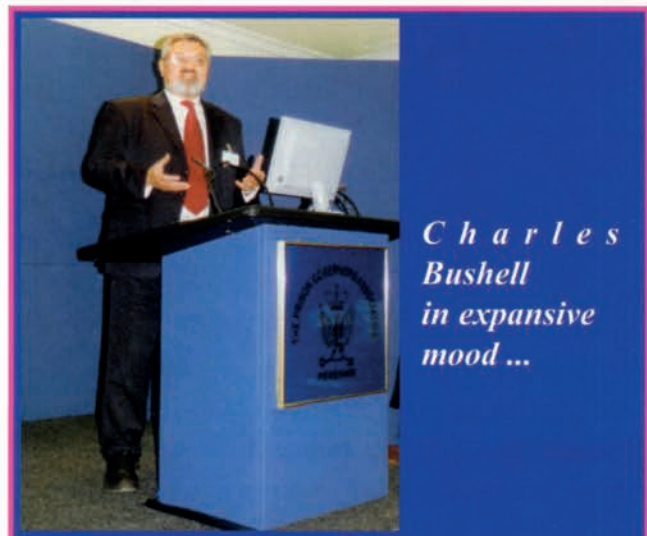
*Graham Smith laying it on the line ...*



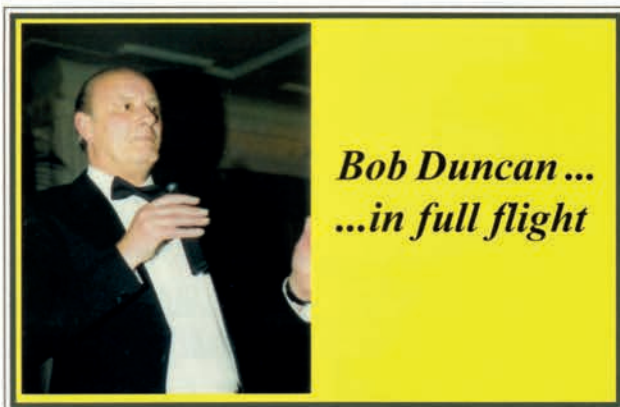
*A slimline Gerry Hendry ...*



*1997 Conference.  
Before Ann Widdecombe was blond!*



*Charles Bushell  
in expansive mood ...*



*Bob Duncan ...  
...in full flight*



*Harry Brett ...  
still going strong.*



## **Busman's Holiday and House Swap - a story**

**W**hile I was serving at Woodhill in 1996 and living in a village called Steeple Claydon in Bucks, I had the idea of planning to have a cheap holiday and trying out a house swap with the USA. The way that these schemes work is that you join a club and after paying a fee you then received a book with contacts advertising their houses for a holiday swap. You then picked any that you fancied and wrote letters (really) and waited for replies. We eventually made contact with a couple in California who lived near to Bakersfield on a farm and duly arranged to swap our house and car for a month. As it happened they came over first and we met for one day before we flew out. My car was a Ford Sierra and I duly took Gene out for a test drive and found that as he changed gear, with that darned manual shift and wrong side steering wheel, he looked down and not where he was going. After a few hairy aims at the ditch I left him to it.

When we arrived, after picking up their car from LAX, it was indeed a farm situated along a dirt track with brothers and in-laws all along the track. You could walk out of the front door and pick a grapefruit off a tree. One of those brothers had a contact in the California prison service and hey-ho it was arranged that as both myself and Jackie at that time worked in our prison service, we could go as honoured guests to Tehachapi Prison.

Tehachapi Prison is a huge supermax establishment situated in Southern California, and has 5 separate units (really prisons) which you need transport to move between. We were met by what would be the Deputy Governor, who had a quad bike on the back of his pickup truck as he was going hunting later, as we all do. I was trying to act cool at this point as both of us were escorted into one of the lower category units. The CNA of Tehachapi was 2700 but the OP CAP was 3350 so they were using the gym as accommodation and it was full of bunk beds three high, and when we went in hundreds of pairs of mainly Hispanic eyes turned to look at us. The officers said that we had better leave as they were expecting trouble.

We moved onto the high security unit (prison) and we were taken into the control hub of one of the wings which was similar to the CSU system at Woodhill, but the floor and walls were bulletproof glass with sally ports in them. In the office was a rack with a number of Armalite rifles in it and I noticed that it was not locked and the rifles had magazines in them. I asked the officer who would give permission to use the weapons and he just pointed at himself. The hub would give clear line of sight to three single level wings.

Outside I saw officers going into a building with flak jackets on and asked what they were doing. I was told that was the segregation unit and the staff had to wear the protection to prevent them being stabbed through the bars. I said that we would not need to go in there. We then were taken up to what was a sniper position that overlooked the exercise yard with an armed officer there at all times. On their SSU unit the exercise yard was one officer with one prisoner. The rule was that if the prisoner stepped closer than 6 feet to the officer, or the officer put his arm up, the overwatch would shoot to kill the prisoner. They had shot a number of prisoners in the first ten years but I was told that recently they had not had to shoot anyone, so in their opinion, the message had got through. Crikey, keep cool.

Before we left we were both invited to their security dept to look at their home made weapon display (yawn) and then, by the way, did we want to look at their book of prisoner assaults. Not sure what that would be but we said yes and we were both given a photo album to look through of prisoners that had been murdered by other prisoners. These photos were scene of crime photos and I had seen nothing to compare with what we were shown. The staff were not trying to shock us, they told me that the police never investigated any crime within the prisons as they had no authority, and the security department did all of that in house. I was still trying to act cool at that point but probably failing as we sat in our borrowed Cadillac to drive back to the farm after a long hot day.

One thing that happened from so many experiences on a very memorable trip was that I hit a kerb and lost a very posh hubcap from the Cadillac. I tried everywhere to get a replacement, and one day we were driving in a desert area and I spotted some hubcaps lining the road in the sand. This led to a warehouse with a sign on it 'The hubcap capital of the world'. Yes I thought, this was going to be a good day. There were two people sitting outside the unit in rocking chairs and when I looked inside there were thousands of hubcaps piled up everywhere. I said 'do you have a hubcap for a 69 Cadillac deVille?' 'Nope, ain't got one of those sunny'. I swear he had a spittoon and it went ping as I walked away. I offered to pay for the hubcap but Gene fessed up that he had made a dint in my old Sierra so all's well that ends well. Just one dint was a bonus as far as I was concerned.

We did three house swaps altogether and the last one was to Canada and lo and behold the people that we swapped with had a contact in the Canadian Probation service. Did we want to visit any prisons? Yes please we said. Kent max security prison and a rehabilitation prison that trained dogs but that will be another story.

**BRIAN PENFOLD**

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# LOOKING BACK

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RETIRED GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER OF YEARS PAST

### From 15 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 1*

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

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

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

### 10 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 9*

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

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

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

### 5 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 22*

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

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

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

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

### What of the Future?

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

*Arthur Williamson*

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**The Retired Prison Governors**  
NEWSLETTER • Issue 32  
Autumn 1995



## COLIN HONEY'S ADDRESS AT RAY CAMPBELL'S FUNERAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*26 June 1995*



## ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

### – the RPGN's first editor reflects on 50 editions

**"We were delighted to receive the latest edition of 'Newsletter' as I was starting to wonder if it was running out of steam or perhaps was past its 'sell by date'. It is clear this is not so. You started off by seeking contributions from those who have been with it from the start. Well I think I can claim to belong to that small group. The problem is not what to write, but where to start and when to stop. So much has happened in the intervening years. So why and how did 'Newsletter' start?"**

Sometime in early 1980 HO issued a circular stating the pensionable value of quarters had been increased and backdated. Doubting, if recently retired Governor grade members would have been informed I contacted my trusted friend Lionel Steinhausen. As suspected, he knew nothing about it, but wasted no time in contacting HO. It would take a brave man to 'cross pens' with Lionel at anytime and he soon received backpay. I am still waiting for my commission.

Realising one joined the 'League of Forgotten Governors' upon leaving the service; I collected addresses of 48 members of the Governor grades and wrote them seeking opinions on starting a 'Newsheet'. Twenty four replied and all but 3 stated they supported the idea. From then it

was a one-man show and I started to write, publish and post off the first actual copy in May 1980.

Within a few days I had financial contributions from Dermot Grubb at Bristol, Arnie Stapleton at Kirklevington, Jack Smith at Latchmere House and Jim Blakey at Highpoint

The response was very encouraging indeed and I was able to send out No 2 edition two months later. This contained no fewer than 33 pages, plus an article from the Governors branch of the Civil and Public Servants Association.

In April 1980 the 'Thatcher' government appointed Mr Derek Rainer (previously Managing Director of Marks & Spencer) to review wasteful spending within the Civil Service and to bring about a scheme to trim the 'Whitehall Army' by 65,000. This was to include pay and pension payments.

Understandably the main concern of our retired colleagues at that time was the future of their index-linked pensions. Clearly if the Government was able, such payments would vanish. To try to justify their intention they set up an independent enquiry to look into the question. This was to be known as the 'SCOTT REPORT'.

Instead of supporting the Government plan, the report stated: "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected. In other European countries the benefits enjoyed by pensioners are superior to those in this country and the benefits of index-linking are extended alike to both public and private sectors" The remainder of the report went on to completely rebuff the Government, with the result that index linking was safeguarded and we continue to be paid to what we are justifiably entitled.

Obviously I cannot list the hundreds of articles we have published over the last twenty-two years, in addition to countless numbers of letters from our readers, but the idea of a regular Newsletter was greatly appreciated. It is interesting to note that the first 5 editions contained 120 pages, 42 articles and 114 letters, all printed in full. So why the decline in contributions? Sadly far too many of our former colleagues are no longer with us. But one asks the question, "is there the same spirit in today's service as that enjoyed by our own generation". I fear this may not be so. However, there is still room for improvement, so if you have not written recently to the editor with all you own news, might I ask you to do so

#### From John Powls (ex RGN Editor 1982-84)

Edition 50! That lends some perspective. I was very much a sprog Assistant Governor at Manchester when Arthur got me involved in the process of organising and producing the first editions. I was very pleased to do so and made some new old friends – if you see what I mean – in the process. It was like being inducted into the history and traditions of the Service and if you liked a yarn or two – and I do, well....

I've been pleased to see editions over the years too and made contacts again because of that. After I gave up honest work – governing prisons – I spent some time in various jobs at Prison Service HQ before an interesting 3 years as a senior civil servant in the Home Office working on criminal policy. One of the jobs I led on was the Prisons/Probation review, which in turn proposed the setting up of the new National Probation Service. When the new Service was set up I was hankering after a big operational job again and was lucky enough in 2001 to become the first Chief Officer of the new London Probation Area former by amalgamating the former services in London. That brought me back into close partnership with Bill Duff, Area manager for London prisons – we joined the Prison Service together in 1978.

In closing I'd just like to say many congratulations on reaching your 50th and I hope you don't mind me having just a little personal share in your success. I reached my 50th last year so your next milestone is to be around long enough for me to get my sunsubscription – another 15 years as they keep us lashed to the mast for longer in Probation...



## BILL MARTIN

– our first Treasurer writes

**I recently read an article in a Sunday newspaper by Charles Murray entitled “Simple Justice”, in which the writer made reference to the prison population, offending rates, crime ratios and the like that existed in this country in 1954; I remember that year very well. I had joined the Prison Service at Walton Gaol in Liverpool in 1950 as an auxiliary officer when the pay was 118 shillings per week and a governor class 1 received the grand sum of £1,900 per annum.**

I worked an 84 hour, 12 day fortnight, usually working a full day shift from 7am to 5.30pm. The prison held over twelve hundred men, the staff numbered around 120 officers, 80 of which were auxiliaries - the lowest of the low. At that time the prison population of England and Wales stood at twenty two thousand, women and borstal boys included. Hangings and even floggings took place. Breakfast for a prisoner was a pint of tea and a pint of porridge. No 'Full Public Enquiries' in those days. I suppose it was almost as far removed from contemporary prison conditions as is the Navy now from that of Nelson's day.

In 1954 I had been transferred to Dartmoor, which in those days was a dumping ground for recidivist long termers, although they called it a 'central prison'. The Commissioners were intent on reintroducing the pre-war shift system there (the Norwich system) with a view to gaining greater continuity in terms of inmate/staff contact, since having two long shifts, am. and pm. with a one o'clock parade change-over resulted in the same officers supervising the same prisoners week in, week out for months on end. With four year's service I qualified to be officer i/c of one the farm parties during the day and 'bathhouse officer' in the evenings. I enjoyed working this system and the understanding of prisoners' attitudes and behaviour I gained during this period stood me in good stead in the years to come. The system. broke down. eventually - the POA saw to that!

The abiding memory I have of that time was when, having fallen ill with what then we called gastric 'flu', I found myself being fed with bread and milk for my Christmas dinner by a prisoner

in the bachelor quarters. We called him 'Piebald' and he was a real Norman Stanley Fletcher type. "Come on Mr Martin - another marfull".

I saw a good many changes during my 39 years in the Prison Service, ranging from the Norwich system, prison hostels, the Blake Escape and its repercussions, the introduction of parole right through to 'Fresh Start'. I saw four different designs of uniform and wore two of them myself before being promoted into the governor grades.

It was about that time that Arthur Williamson produced the first 'Newsletter'. He had been saying for years that there was a need for something of the sort to keep in touch with retired governors, and in the end decided the only way it would happen would be to 'do it himself'. It was a simple thing, just a couple of cyclostyled sheets stapled together, but it served its purpose well and was seized upon eagerly by the recipients. Arthur asked me to act as the treasurer of this venture, a task which I continued to undertake for a further seventeen years.

The production and finances were at first somewhat arcane. One item in the accounts in the early days being '1 box chocs. Mrs Jones (Typist)', I recall. The funds were generated a little bit here, a little bit there. An occasional donation, a fee from an appearance on TV, the residual funds from the stillborn BAPG, things like that. Also we worked on the principle that if the POA could have it for free, so could we and no one gainsaid us on this. Eventually we got ourselves onto a more formal footing with an annual subscription and in due course were invited to come under the aegis of the newly formed yet highly successful PGA and assumed the current format and now I find myself writing this article for inclusion in the 50th Edition.

By 1981 I had become governor of Leeds Prison, the dreaded 'Armley' that has featured in various television programmes and a few 'soaps'. It was interesting to see that the Wolfe Report on prison riots actually devoted a section to explaining why the prison had not gone up in flames as everyone expected it to do, and then the Sunday Times did a full two page spread about me as 'The Governor of the Powderkeg Gaol'. I very much enjoyed the seven years I served there and was once much amused to have my spies report after the POA general meeting that someone had stood up and declared "the trouble with this governor, Mr Chairman, is he knows too much!"

One final recollection; a few weeks before I retired in 1989 we were honoured with a visit by HRH the Duchess of Kent. All went well but as she was driving out through the main gate I turned to watch the royal standard being lowered from the flagpole on the central tower and as I did so I saw a prisoner's hand thrust out of a cell window waving a home-made Union Jack - pure 'Porridge'.





## **AN EXPLOSION OF EVIL**

**1st APRIL 1990 will be written into the history books of the Prison Service, as it was on that day that 'all hell was let loose' at HMP Manchester, and we all witnessed the scenes on our television screens. For days the rioting inmates sat on the roof of the wing after having destroyed much of the external fabric. What they had accomplished inside the prison we are not to know, but we can only assume that it is in a terrible state. The Press and Media of course had a 'field day' and one feels certain they enjoyed it all. It enabled them to print rumour after rumour, without any facts at all and, whilst a large section of the Public no doubt believed what they were told, those of us who have dealt with journalists would have recognised much of their efforts as simple *muck stirring* - the art of which they are masters.**

Eventually the truth will be found by the enquiry due to be carried out by Lord Justice Woolf, but it remains to be seen if the Public will be given all the facts. It will I suppose depend upon who is found to be at fault. Should it be political misjudgement it is doubtful indeed if all the facts will be made public.

However, whatever the findings are, we can be certain that the Governor and his staff will come out blameless. I watched almost every news report throughout the terrible ordeal and felt nothing but admiration for Brendan O'Friel and his entire staff. His own personal 'performance' on the screen showed him to be a man of courage, intelligence and patience. His ability to control the situation and, at the same time, 'tame' the Media was in the best traditions of the Service and he must have been admired throughout the land as a professional who knows what prisons and prisoners are all about. He was, of course, backed up by a first class team of assistants and uniformed staff and, whilst I am in no position to judge, I know from my own time at Manchester that the Strangeways staff would have backed him 'to the hilt' and would have carried out their duties with courage and, yes, a certain amount of humour.

We must await his lordship's report, but I know you will all wish to join me in congratulating Brendan and his entire staff on the way they handled their terrifying experience. I only hope this will be appreciated by those in 'seats of power' when they deliberate upon the future administration of our penal establishments. All I can say on this point is that it will be 'God help us' should they ever be sold off to private enterprise and administered from afar by people with no practical experience. **AND THIS COULD HAPPEN.**

Congratulations Brendan and our thanks to you and all the lads at Strangeways for the way you all dealt with the troubles. I ask your forgiveness for using your own description of the riot as the title of this article.

*Arthur Williamson*



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# PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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## Annual Conference 1990

In March I was honoured when invited to be a dinner guest at the PGA conference held at the new Staff College at Newbold Revel. I was not however prepared for what was to follow. At the end of the excellent dinner I was introduced to the delegates by Brendan O'Friel who then presented me with a magnificent cut glass decanter, suitably inscribed to commemorate my contribution to the newsletter during its first decade. Having left the Service eight years ago one can imagine the pleasure this gave me and I shall treasure it very much indeed.

However, I must make it perfectly clear that the newsletter could not have been started - nor would it have gone on for ten years - without the generous assistance that I have received from many colleagues. These include Norman Brown and his secretary, the late Mrs Eileen Fox, for their advice and practical help in the initial stages; the first recipients of our early editions for their contributions, both written and financial; the

young John Powls for carrying on publication when I retired; to my old pal Ted Cowper-Johnson and later Syd Powell for helping with the distribution, and, last but certainly not least, to Bill Martin for looking after our somewhat limited cash and ensuring that we did not land up 'in the red'. This has never been a 'one man show' and to each and every one all I can say is 'Thank you'.

*Prison Governors Association Conference  
working session March 1990*



*Prison Governors Association Conference Dinner 1990: Arthur Williamson, Brendan O'Friel and John Jones*



Returning to the PGA conference I must say how very impressed I was by, and how much I enjoyed being, a member of the Service again. There were approximately 100 delegates there - out of a total of around 900 Governor grades with the Service, and I was astounded at the professionalism and standard of debate within the conference hall. It made our old Domestic Sessions look somewhat pathetic.

To most of those present I was a stranger - and an old one at that - yet without exception I was made to feel welcome and I was regarded as an old friend and colleague. I felt that I still belonged to the Prison Service (I have never felt otherwise), and the conference proved what an excellent set of young men are carrying on where we left off. I wish them well in the future.

Speaking of the future, it seems clear that 'storm clouds' are ahead. In the first place plans are already in being for the Home Office to scrap the four regions and the regional directors, and to replace them with ten area committees headed and run by either 'Whitehall Warriors' or civilian administrators from outside. Thus the scene would be set for hiving the prisons off to the private sector - for no other reason than private profit. This in itself in my opinion is immoral, and which idiots will invest money into penal establishments I cannot imagine. The Manchester Prison riot was a tragedy of the highest order, but we can all imagine what it would do to dividends. I mention all this quite deliberately because I know that a certain Member of Parliament (and a very powerful one

as well) is on our mailing list. As an ex-member of the Governor grade we do of course cherish his membership, but I do hope that when the time comes he will help the Government to come to its senses and stop the rot. For our part I feel certain you will all do your part in keeping the traditions and loyal service of Her Majesty's Prison Service before the Public as much as possible. We have protected the State since the year 1878 and I make no apology for stating that it is still the finest Service in the world. Should this be doubted I would simply ask, 'Why do other countries still send their senior staff here for us to educate, and why are they continually asking us to send members abroad to teach them how penal establishments should be run.' Even in this current issue you will note some of our colleagues are now in Singapore and I know of others serving further afield. In addition, several ex-members of our Service were recruited by overseas governments and are now at the head of their services. Would this be the case if we were run by private investors - I will leave you and the Public to judge. One thing I am certain about - they would not get the loyalty of the POA, and without them they may just as well 'shut up shop'.

At the commencement of our newsletter I decided it should be just that - an exchange of news amongst retired colleagues, but events compel me to do all I can for the Service for which I still have a very strong affection.

*Arthur Williamson*

## STOP PRESS

- Strangeways is to be extensively refurbished at a cost of £60m
  - The PGA plan to produce a special tie for Retired members - a variation on our present tie with a modified PGA Crest. This should be available in September 1990. It will be the same price as the standard PGA tie - see your PGA diary.
- Advice on preferred colours, please, to the editor ASAP.**



## Arthur Williamson... A Tribute

I first met Arthur in early 1979 when I arrived at HMP Manchester - my first posting - as an Assistant Governor Under Training and he was the Dep. My early impressions were that if the dictionary definition of 'avuncular' needed an example Arthur could have been properly referenced. But there was so much more to the man than that and lots to learn from. Most importantly for someone in my then position and with aspirations to move up in my career, Arthur proved a very good role model in how to be a deputy governor. He dovetailed seamlessly with the Governor in that loyal, true but realistic 'bridge and shield' way that hallmarks the best of those working relationships. If you add in the then Chief Officer you had as effective a leadership triumvirate as I experienced in my career, all very different as personalities and in their leadership and management styles but all knew their roles inside out and how to work together to get the job done in a challenging environment through the rest of their staff. All three also knew that it was actually the matronly Governor's secretary who really ruled their roost!

That said, things could be a bit 'old school' at times but that was then..... and it didn't mean that newer ideas didn't get listened to - or even acted on if you were prepared to argue your corner and back your judgment with action and results. There was other stuff to learn from Arthur too - not the least about being at the other end of his career from where I was in mine. His oft-stated ambition was to collect as many years pension as he'd served which, with a career spanning a prison works background to the higher echelons of governing was a very decent span.

With his retirement not far off, Arthur often lamented how many retired governor grades seemed to pass away all too soon after they retired even if their pension arrangements left them financially comfortable. Above the tool of the taxing demands of the job, he put that

down to three things - losing the framework of the role and its authority; not preparing properly for replacing those with other satisfying things to be and do; and, losing touch with the working community that provided comradeship and context. He reasoned that the first issue was just a fact but needed thinking about and adjusting to in advance and that could be helped by proper planning with things put in place to address the second which involved family, finances, where you were going to live and what you were going to do. Even in my late twenties, these seemed eminently sensible and over thirty years later I attended Civil Service pre-retirement seminars that said much the same thing in a PowerPoint slidestorm!

Arthur was assiduously doing what he needed to do for himself on the first two but with the last of the three, he thought there was something he could do to help more widely. He'd had the idea of setting up a newsletter for retired governors to support those that wished to keep in touch with former colleagues, developments in the service and with retirement issues generally. By that stage Arthur new I was a published author - albeit in very different genres - and asked if I'd give him a hand to get the newsletter off the ground. I was pleased to help and the rest, as they say, is history - but history still being made, thankfully!

And me? Well, I'm still trying my best to follow Arthur's example of claiming at least as many years pension as the 35 years service I put in and enjoying my home life and the new grandchildren. I'm a writer full time now - my website [www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk](http://www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk) covers my writing career and current projects. My latest book, 'North Sea To The East' which is inspired by the landscapes and seascapes of my native North Yorkshire is planned for publication later this year.



**JOHN POWLS**

## Money for nothing from the MoJ

Sounds too good to be true, like some email offering a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, if only it can be lodged in your bank account for a while? And ps. please will you send your bank details to some overseas phishing address. No, it's not like that at all. Honest.

Like most of us, I hope, I have made a Will. This was drawn up by a solicitor to avoid unforeseen consequences like my estate ending up with my second cousin's aunt's mother by mistake. Simultaneously I raised two lasting powers of attorney so that, should I eventually get even more gaga than I am now, my son and daughter would have the power to make both financial and health and care decisions on my behalf. It's important to do this before going gaga, since otherwise a court might doubt one's mental capacity to enter such an arrangement. The only drawback was that fees paid to the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) for the purpose were, I felt, rather extortionate. The OPG is an agency of the Ministry of Justice.

I was correct. A chance reading of a financial column in the Sunday Times alerted me that the OPG had routinely been overcharging for this service for some years. They were making repayments to those who claimed, but the initiative lay with the claimant. There seemed no mechanism whereby overpayments would be automatically refunded.

Google 'Claim a power of attorney refund – GOV.UK' and there are the full details including claim forms to submit online. There is a sliding scale of repayments depending on the date of applying to register a power of attorney which must have been between April 2013 and March 2017. Interest is added since the date of overpayment and the window to claim closes on 1st February 2021. In my case I ended up £111.72 better off. Not a fortune, I agree but better off in my pocket than in that of the MoJ.

Apply now if you qualify. You have nothing to lose. And if you want me to send you a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, you need only send me your bank details c/o my Cayman Islands office!

**PETER QUINN**

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## Paul Dixon 04/02/1950 ~ 09/05/2020

I am sad to report that Paul passed away in May 2020 following a protracted MS illness that he endured for many years following his early retirement in 2000. He leaves his wife Maggie and son Phillip at their home near Wakefield. His wife noted that Paul never complained about his illness and the impact it had on his life. He coped with it.

Paul was born and lived in Sunderland, and was a teacher at a school in Sedgfield until joining HMPS at Durham as Assistant Governor. He was posted to Barnard Castle then Winchester and Frankland and was at PSC Love Lane Wakefield when I met him when we were delivering "Post Fresh Start Implementation Training" in 1987. I recall that as the training was high profile, at the time expensive consultants were contracted to assist us, and as an ex PO from Strangeways most of it went over my head, but Paul was always supportive and could make sense of all the new structures and strategies with ease and helped me and others greatly at what was a difficult time for us.



He then went on to Full Sutton and ended his career, due to his illness, as Governor at Reading. A professional and company man to the end, sadly missed.

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman

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## **Your attention is drawn to PSJ No.249**

I have just seen the latest **Prison Service Journal - Number 249 May 2020**. I think some colleagues may be interested in a couple of items. It is a Special Edition headed "Understanding the Past".

One item is a study of Major Robert Hickey who was Governor of Dartmoor from January 1870 to October 1872. He had been at Dartmoor as Deputy Governor since December 1867 and had previously served at Portland from November 1864. I found the account fascinating, even making use of extracts from the Governors Journal. Hickey describes the sole purpose of the Governors Journal as being to record what he did for "the information of the visiting Director". The account gives an account about what the Governor's activities were; what his - quite limited - powers were and something of his relationship with the "Directors" i.e. Head Office! There are some interesting contrasts and similarities with the world our generation of Governors experienced.

The second item is titled "Revisiting the Borstal Experiment " by Professor Heather Shaw of Manchester Metropolitan University. This is a broad brush account of the period 1902-82 when the Borstal System was developed to when it was changed to Youth Custody. The account of the number of Borstal Boys who died in the First War was something I was at best dimly aware of; her account of the inter war years lacks perhaps the detail I would expect about the experimental nature of the open borstal developments with the marches to Lowdham and to North Sea Camp. Professor Shaw ends with a plea for further research, something many of us would warmly endorse.

Prison Service Journal is available on line for those who wish to read it.

Kind Regards,

**BRENDAN O' FRIEL**

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## **Head Office was on your back... even in the 1860's**

The message about Major Hickey rang a bell with me and others may find this interesting...

In 1968 I was an Assistant Governor under the redoubtable Governor Herbert Horatio Harrison at Portland Borstal. During a period of refurbishing accommodation he gave me the task of overseeing the emptying of a storeroom and disposing of all 'rubbish' contained therein. On checking a borstal handcart heading for the incinerator I discovered a few interesting old documents, including a 'foolscap' sized lined notebook, which I still have and which turned out to be titled on the first page: "Major Hickey's Journal while Acting Governor of Portland Prison 1867."

There follows orthodox Governor's Journal entries by the Major [acting up to the Senior Deputy Governor, who was sick, in the Governor's absence.] The journal is clearly temporary, being less than a quarter of the normal thickness of an official journal and obviously initiated by the Major for his own use. The periods covered are 9 to 12 January 1867, 15 to 22 January and 29 January to 1 February, all inclusive. Curiously the last entries from 31 May to 6 June 1867 are in the different hand of the Chief Warder and the 'journal' ends abruptly there with a countersigned note in the margin to the following authoritative effect: "One journal only to be in use in the prison in future - Governor's Journal to be handed over to acting governor for day's record of Events". [One assumes that gaps relating to these dates must exist in the official Journal.] Clearly our Major was getting a minor rap on the knuckles; interestingly and maybe connected with this he writes in pencil at the bottom of the page containing the events of 1 February, one of which refers to a Warder being reported to the Director the following terse note: "Visiting Director did not sign."

During this period Portland Prison was unlocking 1400 prisoners plus and there are many references to individual 'Fenian Prisoners', which I forwarded a few years ago to the staff at the Kilmainham Gaol Museum in Dublin.

There are many fascinating anecdotes and situations in these pages and I was struck not just by the similar structure and format of the daily journal entries to my own experience but by the unchanging activity of prison life such as watching the men go out to labour, night visits, daily Governor's rounds etc .

**DEREK ARAM, Portland 1968-72**

## Membership Report - October 2020

The membership total is down to 404, a loss of 7 since the last report, and a loss of 12 since the last AGM. We welcome new members Catherine Hayden, Les Dacombe, Helen Dickinson and Merle Cadman (widow of Tom).

We have had a resignation from Nigel Foote and lost touch with Mrs Bryan, Peter Garrard and Mrs B Spencer, so if there is anyone in touch with them, and they would like to re-join then please let me know.

### The following have passed away since the Last AGM:

#### MEMBERS

Brian Thulborn	Brian Coatsworth	James Edwards BEM ISM	Geoff Lister
Bernard Wilson MBE	Harold Prior	Mrs Low	Eddie Healy
Malcolm Manning	Ingrid Claydon	Olwen Spiers	Marjorie Marchant
Pat Nolan			

#### NON-MEMBERS

Judith Matthews	William Rose-Quirie OBE	Colin Baker	Mel Constantine
Malcolm Lewis		Ruth Mann	Paul Dixon

Our Condolences go out to friends and relatives.

Members will be aware that we work closely with the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, in fact many are members of both organisations. Currently the CSPA is heavily involved in attempting to ensure some CSPA members, whose pensions it claims have been overpaid due to departmental calculation errors, do not have to pay the full amount of arrears. Some overpayments are quoted in their thousands. The CSPA have taken legal advice regarding the Limitations Act and are in discussions with the Cabinet Office. Another area of great concern is that widows and widowers be allowed to retain their pensions if they chose to re-marry. This affects those whose deceased spouses were members of the classic scheme who retired before October 2002. It is intended to seek the support of MP's and lobby Parliament for support for the retention of life-time pensions later this year. Other areas of concern are affordable social care, with the CSPA seeking a switch to it being financed from general taxation rather than personal contribution.

Anyone is interested in joining the CSPA (£2 per month) then please let me know at [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com) and I will send you the joining forms

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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.

**HARRY BRETT**



## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P.**

“It’s a great life if you don’t weaken” was a familiar refrain from Olwen and a maxim to guide her life. A life well lived. A life of service, a life of adventure. A life of compassion, a life of fun. We are here today to join in sadness at Olwen’s passing but also to celebrate her life and remember some of the great things about her and the long life she lived. I have a fair bit to say but Olwen herself was loquacious, so hopefully she would have approved.



Olwen was born in Manchester in February 1932 to Amy and Arthur Parry, a younger sister to Joyce. Her Dad was a prison officer and had met her Mum whilst she also was working as a prison officer. Consequently, much of Olwen’s young life was steeped in the prison service environment and this clearly influenced her future career choices although that didn’t become apparent until many years later.

Olwen was seven years old when the Second World War broke out and the family moved from Manchester to London. In September 1940, the Germans commenced nightly bombing raids on London and so began several years of evacuations from the city for Olwen and Joyce, which must have been very disconcerting for such young girls. The first evacuation took Olwen and Joyce

to family friends in rural Lancashire but they soon returned to London. For the next evacuation, the sisters went with the other children from their school on a long journey to a location which was not told to their parents. The destination turned out to be Somerset where the children arrived in a town square to be confronted by the local prospective foster parents who proceeded to inspect the children and choose the ones they would take to their homes. Fortunately, Olwen’s Mum had instilled in Olwen and Joyce the importance of sticking with one another, and so they insisted on being housed together, and eventually a newly married couple took them in. Olwen and Joyce spent nearly a year in Somerset before returning to London and being reunited with their parents.

It wasn’t long before they were evacuated again, this time to Surrey and a particular memory of Olwen’s from this time was when the house next door suffered a direct hit and the windows and roof of their foster home were blown out. Olwen and Joyce were carted off to a children’s home which Olwen remembered as being rather unpleasant and from which they were rescued by their mother, only after managing to write and tell her of their plight. Another short stay in London followed before again being evacuated to Surrey, this time to be billeted with a wealthy family where a maid named Bertha was assigned to look after them. Bertha often took the girls for long walks in the woods and then bribed them with sweets to play for an hour or so while she had a rendezvous with her Canadian soldier friend.

Eventually, the girls returned to London on a more permanent basis but those war years coloured Olwen’s approach to life and made her appreciate that there was so much joy to be had in life and that what mattered most were people, not material wealth and possessions. From around 1943, Olwen’s childhood returned to a more normal trajectory and she spent 3 years at St Martin-in-the-Field High School for Girls in Tulse Hill, London and then completed her school education at Wakefield Girls’ High School where she gained her School Certificate in eight subjects and her High School Certificate in three subjects. Joyce reminded me the other day that Olwen was quite precocious as a youngster, always wanting to do everything her sister did, despite being



## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

younger than Joyce by more than two years. Olwen also showed signs of her high intellect, scoring so well in her "11 plus" exams, which all children in England took at that time as a prelude to commencing high school, that she could have had the pick of the best schools had her parents wished.

On leaving school, Olwen went to study at the West End Hospital Speech Therapy Training School in London. Looking back, we are not sure what prompted Olwen to take her career in this direction but Joyce suspects that it may have been because several older girls had taken that path and it seemed to be quite a well-regarded route to follow at that time. On completing her two year course and qualifying as a speech therapist, Olwen secured her first job as a speech therapist with the Wakefield Education Authority working single-handed with a range of patients from very young babies to the elderly and including many patients with disabilities. At some point during her time working as a speech therapist, Olwen took the decision to change direction and pursue a career in the prison service. Obviously, with Olwen living with her parents during her years working as a speech therapist, her family may have had some influence on this move, but knowing the independent thinking person Olwen clearly was, we must presume she was charting the course which made sense to her.

In 1961, after seven years working as a speech therapist Olwen embarked on the Assistant Governor Training Course at the Prison Service Staff Training College and so commenced her 20 year career as a civil servant with the Prison Department of the Home Office. Olwen progressed through the ranks from Assistant Governor to Governor to Deputy Regional Director for the north region based in Manchester and then for the final few years of her service she was Operational Controller for all custodial establishments for female offenders. The latter role was located at Head Office in Central London and Olwen became a commuter, choosing to endure a long daily train journey from and to Leicestershire because of the stage she had reached in her personal life, which we will come to in a moment.

On retirement from the Prison Service in 1981, Olwen pursued various roles in the Leicestershire

area, mainly working with and for people with disabilities. Part of the reason for Olwen seeking this work is that she had been involved with many people with various disabilities over the previous 30 years and wanted to put that experience to good use. Also, particularly, during her last five years with the Prison Service she had been assigned a personal secretary who was a registered blind person which made Olwen acutely aware, not just of the difficulties such people faced in their everyday lives, but also the great potential for them to live active lives and contribute fully to society.

Whilst Olwen was working as Governor of Bulwood Hall Women's Borstal in Essex in the late 1960s she first became acquainted with Dr Stan Spiers who, along with working locally in general practice, was also the GP for the borstal. The two became friends over the years, aided by Stan's friendship with Olwen's Dad Arthur, by then a widower and spending a lot of time with his younger daughter. After moving up from her role as Governor at Bulwood Hall, Olwen was in a position of more choice about where to live and relocated with her Dad to a small village in rural Leicestershire. Sometime prior, Stan had accepted a role as GP at the Medical Centre of Loughborough University and Olwen's move allowed the two to develop their blossoming friendship. Arthur passed away in 1976 and later that year, September 23rd to be precise, Olwen and Stan were married in the Quaker Meeting Hall in North London. And so began a wonderful period for the two of them as they enjoyed a thirty year marriage only cut short when Stan sadly lost his battle with cancer in 2007.

The pairing of Olwen and Stan was very nicely balanced, both of them having great wit and formidable intellect; they complemented each other and somehow together they became something that was greater than the sum of the parts. Enduring happy relationships are rare and require hard work and sacrifice, but Olwen and Stan had a great thing going. Happy couples often have the knack of interacting with each other through what might be termed 'affectionate teasing', and Olwen and Stan were masters of this. Olwen also became a much-loved step-Mum to Stan's four children who were in their teens and early adult years when Olwen and Stan married. This was a difficult challenge

## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

which Olwen handled with her customary astute reading of people and understanding of what she might be able to do to help develop successful relationships.

Throughout their years together Olwen and Stan were keen travellers. They had numerous adventures with campervan trips in Europe (and I remember Stan was particularly insistent that the vehicle was fitted with an Oz-style Roo-bar). They preferred the less travelled roads and the opportunity to meet local people whenever they could. They also travelled to various continents which included visiting family and friends in Australia on several occasions, visiting my brother Iain and his wife Kirstie when they were living in New Zealand as well as going to exotic places like Cuba. Closer to home they made full use of the narrow boat moored at the foot of the drive of their house on the banks of the River Soar. Their central England location gave great access to the inland waterways of England and Olwen and Stan were always very generous with allowing family members to experience the leisurely thrill of a weekend or short holiday on the narrow boat. And then there was the villa in Spain, located at Benidoleig, a rural area comfortably inland from the bright lights of Benidorm where they spent many happy holidays and again especially enjoyed meeting and interacting with the local people.

Before we move on, I should just add an interesting little side note about Olwen's romantic life. The other day I asked my Mum whether there had been any boyfriends in the years prior to Stan. She said "Oh yes, there were a few obviously, as she was a bright and vivacious young woman." "But Mum were there any serious relationships, any significant exes?" "Well," said Mum "there was some ghastly middle aged man who was a really smarmy git!" So it probably wasn't too much of a challenge for Stan to trump that but I certainly think it ended up being a fine match for both of them.

In the photo tribute which follows there is a picture of Olwen as a little girl dressed in a nurse's uniform. Mum told me that Olwen always said she would marry a doctor. It took her a while to find him but she did eventually get there – and well worth the wait.

When Stan passed away in 2007 Olwen quickly made the decision that she wanted to join her sister and other family in Perth. We sponsored her emigration and by 2009 she was living in Perth, initially with Joyce but before long she moved to the retirement village at Ocean Gardens in the suburb of City Beach. At Ocean Gardens Olwen had a lovely little unit with views out over the ocean and quickly made many friends and acquaintances, something she was always very good at. There was also a bit of family life which she became part of, with my wife Christine's extended family being particularly welcoming. In her retirement Olwen continued to fight for some local causes often involving sticking up for the individual against various bureaucracies including the local council, many times locking horns with the mayor, who was a pompous twit she frequently brought to account.

Sadly, there eventually came the day when her health deteriorated to the extent that she needed a higher and more regular level of care and she moved to the Wearne Hostel nursing home in Cottesloe. Again she had a room with ocean views, again she made friends with several other residents and even became popular with the staff who frequently commented to me what a lovely lady she was, despite often giving those carers a bit of a hard time.

I think I have just about come to the end of this potted version of Olwen's life story. I apologise if I have left out any important episodes or anecdotes but obviously there is a lot to tell.

In closing I would just like to draw out a couple of themes. Olwen was a compassionate person. In my mind this goes beyond mere empathy – it is empathy plus the intent to do whatever she could to make the situation better. This compassion was reflected, not just in a life of service, but also in her many interactions with family and friends. Olwen was a fun person. I know this very well from personal experience as I couldn't imagine having a better Auntie, but also from hearing tales of her various adventures and interactions with all those she came across. It's a great life if you don't weaken, and she didn't. A life well lived indeed.

**STUART MOORE**

## Foreign Times

In 2010 I was recruited by the UN to be the Commanding Officer of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY) Detention Unit (UNDU) in The Hague. The ICTY was created following the Yugoslav conflict because the International community did not have faith in the local justice systems to deal with the crimes allegedly committed by those in power during the conflict. The detainees held by the ICTY were those accused of being in command and control of those who had committed the atrocities. The UNDU is in a purpose-built unit inside a Dutch prison in The Hague (P.I. Haaglanden). The building has its own perimeter and is considered to be UN territory and holds all the "foreign" tribunals based in Holland. When I arrived, the UNDU held about 65 detainees and they were those suspected, under trial, or convicted and awaiting transfer to a state for enforcement of sentence. These residents were some of the more difficult cases of the Tribunal and included those who were at the very top of Yugoslav government during the conflict, i.e. Presidents, Chiefs of police and Generals. In a lot of cases they are still held to be heroes by those of their own ethnic background and some still have political careers in the region. One of the issues for management of these detainees was the psychological conflict between being heroes at home, but war criminals in the international community, add into this their age, lifestyle and health problems from the conflict and they were an interesting group to deal with. The other major management issue was the length of time the detainees spent in custody before disposal of their case. This would have been an unacceptable period in a national justice system and caused problems to the detainees we are aware uncertainty causes in a remand population. Most of the charges however, involved thousands of victims and hundreds of perpetrators and witnesses, meaning a speedy resolution was impossible without a guilty plea.

As a stand-alone unit inside the perimeter of a national prison, good liaison with the Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (DJI) and local management was crucial. The Rules of Detention

were broadly similar and all complied with UN minimum rules, however there were some differences between each of the Tribunals and the Host States prison rules. One of the areas where there were rubbing points was what detainees were allowed in possession, and could receive through visits or have delivered by post/courier. With three different agencies involved (the establishment front gate was staffed with Dutch prison officers then the unit entry point was staffed by detention officers from the tribunals) and with different screening equipment, cooperation was important.

Discipline staff had their salaries paid by the UN and were managed by 4 senior managers employed directly by the UN. Despite attempts to broaden the recruitment pool to represent more member states, most of the Officers, Shift managers and Principal Officers were recruited from the Dutch prison service and at the end of their tour returned to the National service. Whilst employed by the Tribunals they wore a distinct uniform and operated under their respective tribunals Rules of Detention and Operating Procedures.

Other matters were managed via an agreement negotiated between the UN and the Dutch Justice Ministry, these included building maintenance, detainee's food and other services. The issues surrounding maintenance and cleaning of the building having to be negotiated with a prison works department suffering from a budget shortfall, took up a good portion of the working week. Translation of the agreement appeared to change each month as the various managers tried to cut costs. As some organisations have discovered, allowing crucial services such as maintenance to be managed outside of those committed to delivery can lead to higher costs and a deterioration in conditions.

During my time in the UNDU, detainee access to IT became a hot issue. This had followed a decision by the President of the Tribunal that the Self representing accused (SRA's) must have a "level playing field" with the Prosecution. As almost every piece of evidence was held



## Foreign Times *continued...*

electronically in drives that were physically separate from the UNDU, a secure method of access was required. Secure links had to be created between the UNDU and the Tribunal building, and training provided to detainees with little or no IT skills. As with visits, all of the new IT policy needed to be negotiated with the Host prison (whose prisoners did not have access to IT). Methods of getting PC's, drives and other multimedia through the front gate had to be negotiated, ensuring none of the content could create a security breach. Any delay was exploited in court, and in the best case delayed the hearing, but could in the worst circumstances be used as grounds for appeal.

Despite enjoying my time as part of the UN, sadly due to family illnesses I had to return to the UK. A couple of months after separation the UN contacted me and asked if I would be available, on short term contracts, to assess some prison establishments in Africa. Never having visited the continent I agreed and

initially went to inspect the UN prisons in Mali and Benin holding those sentenced by the Rwandan tribunal. After reporting on the conditions in these two prisons I was then asked to inspect some prisons in Tanzania and Senegal as the UN needed to expand its detention operations in Africa.

Conditions in Africa were a shock. Mali for instance was at the start of the current conflict in the Sahel and combined with a very low GDP, committing more funds to prison was impossible. Even without a lack of funds there are some serious problems in balancing the conditions of an impoverished population with the conditions of a prison population and then further complications created by prisoners being held under UN minimum rules. Prisons and prisoners are not high on the list for African politics and their budgets suffer from this. In the prison in Mali the overcrowding suffered by the local prisoner population was awful, (40 in a room with a stand pipe and a hole in the corner with temperatures of around 40 degrees



## Foreign Times *continued...*

at midday and two meals of porridge a day) this was exacerbated by the presence of a TB active prisoner requiring quarantine and therefore needing one of the 4 available dormitories to himself. Prisoners were restricted to 30 minutes a day fresh air as the exercise yard was small. There was no work apart from a couple of trustees. Treatment for the TB prisoner was going to cost around \$50 but even this could not be funded locally. The UN detainees were living in single cells with in cell electricity and had a significant disposable income making up for the aspects of minimum rules the host prison couldn't deliver. The difference in conditions was stark, and although from outside the reasons were understandable, one can only wonder how it looked for a prisoner who had stolen money or some food and was being held in these abysmal conditions, as he looked across the yard at a detainee who had been convicted for genocide and was living in comparative luxury. The poor conditions also put pressure on already struggling families of prisoners to supplement their relative's food and other requirements.

In my report I made a number of recommendations concentrating on the UN detainees, as per my brief, but by arguing that the poor health of the local prisoners could be detrimental to the health of the UN detainees I proposed that improvements in the conditions of the local prisoners was in the best interests of the UN. Despite all my recommendations being implemented, I was most pleased with the implementation of the simplest. I had recommended that a couple of prisoners were to be employed raising chickens bought from the local market, I was told since that this has improved the life and health of the local prisoners, and the chicken "farm" is now employing 6 prisoners and providing meat and eggs to supplement the diet of the general population, all for a tiny initial outlay. I also used the same argument to get the TB active prisoner seen by a nurse and treatment started before I left allowing the overcrowding to be eased a little.

The discussions around the difference in conditions inside and outside prison we have in the UK, is amplified in Africa by the conditions normal people suffer. This was then further complicated for my inspections because the UN prisoners were serving their sentences in the comparatively luxurious conditions dictated by UN minimum rules of detention and this was the subject of local media criticism. As bringing those responsible for the Rwandan atrocities to justice was the primary aim of the tribunal, any criticism that justice was not being served was felt keenly.

In the, admittedly small, number of prisons I assessed it appeared a semi-military model of management with a hierarchy obvious to all provided the best and healthiest conditions for the prisoners. Benin and Senegal operate on a military model and the atmosphere and feel in those prisons was much better than in the civil models I witnessed. In Benin, some military officers are required to run a prison for a tour of duty (2-3 years) as part of their career plan. These prisons had staff who were more concerned with the welfare of their charges, and the establishments appeared healthier on most of the measurements familiar to us from healthy prison inspections. I think that some people can be uncomfortable with a military type model without realising that along with concentrating on the structure and the objective a concern for the welfare of those below you is, generally, the foundation of this model.

Following publication of the Marty report into atrocities allegedly committed in Kosovo at the end of the Yugoslav conflict the EU committed to creating a court, the Kosovo Specialist Court (KSC). The process to create the court began in November 2014. The EU contacted me shortly after and asked if I would be interested in opening a new establishment, as the family illnesses had now sadly resolved themselves, I agreed. I spent the next 3 years in Brussels and then a further 2 years in The Hague writing operating procedures for the new establishment and negotiating with the Dutch Justice Ministry for accommodation, staff



## Foreign Times *continued...*



and the facilities required. These negotiations are still ongoing as the unit has yet to open as no arrests have yet been made. During the period in Brussels I inspected and assessed 3 Dutch prisons (including a private prison) for the location of a new Detention Unit for the Kosovan court.

During my time with the international community, apart from running my own unit, I inspected and assessed 9 prisons in 4 different countries and noted a couple of common themes. It felt to me that prisons with a well-structured hierarchy appeared to provide the healthiest conditions for prisoners. It was also evident that functions supplied by contract delivery are extremely difficult to manage and take up an inordinate amount of management time. Without encouragement from me, it became plain that every establishment with

contracted services suffers the same issues and they are the main bugbear of almost every Governor or Directeur I met. I made a lot of friends in Holland both professionally and socially but well remember a comment made by a Dutch operational manager who had been headhunted from the Dutch Prison Service to deliver services to a cluster of prisons under contract by a private supplier. One evening after work we were discussing his new situation and he explained to me (with some regret) that it had been made clear to him by his superior that his job was to deliver "gebakte luft" (baked or fried air) to his prison cluster. I told him that I had attended lots of meetings where gebakte luft or its English equivalent had seemed to be the main item on the agenda.

**DAVID KENNEDY**

## Treasurer's Report

**In your reading of this edition of the Newsletter you will now be in possession of the information that this years AGM has been cancelled as a "live event" and will instead be held as a "virtual meeting" via the wizardry that is ZOOM.**

Please refer to my Computer Corner article for further details of exactly what "Zoom" is.

The result of this is that where I would have presented my financial report as part of the AGM I am doing so in advance so that they can be published to you, the members in this edition of the Newsletter.



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

As you are probably aware, the financial year for the RPGA mirrors that of the main PGA in that it runs from 1st January to 31st December. Therefore my annual routine is that at sometime in early February I look to balance off the books, and send them off to the PGA Auditors for checking and certification. This is because the RPGA is an associated part of the PGA under their constitution, and our accounts, and any funds we hold, are an integral part of their financial structure.

I was lucky enough to get the books off to the auditors in advance of the Coronavirus restrictions coming into force, especially as when the lockdown came, the auditors, along with many other companies, were forced to close down their offices, and to furlough their staff. Whilst this situation did cause some delay, it was related to getting the books back to me, rather than the auditing process itself, and I did manage to get the books back in late April.

I am therefore in a position to confirm that the figures for the RPGA accounts for the 2019 financial year are audited and certified. They are published below for the information of members, and full copies of the certified accounts are available from me at **graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com** In addition, if you have any questions or queries regarding the accounts then contact me through the same email address.

As far as the accounts for 2019 are concerned I am happy to report that it has been another steady year, where, although income from subscriptions has reduced from 2018 by £54, this has been more than offset by a reduction in our expenditure for the year leading to an increased surplus of income over expenditure of £1668.94. The main decrease in expenditure has mostly come from a reduction in committee costs where, by not replacing committee members who have retired/resigned, we have saved money on travel expenses. In addition, the generous offer from the PGA to allow us to share the venue and facilities used for their Annual Conference as the location for our AGM, has saved us a considerable outlay on room hire and catering.

One of the results of this reduction in our costs has been that I have been able to advise the committee that our finances are strong enough for us to be able to ensure that we are not constrained by costs when it comes to producing the Newsletter. The result of this is that, as editor, Paul does not have to trim the content in order to meet a predetermined cost, and you will note as you are reading this, the 40th anniversary edition, we have really pushed the boat out for a bumper colour edition. We hope that you enjoy it.

The other benefit of our healthy finances is that, at the moment, I do not envisage a need to increase subscription rates for the foreseeable future. Whilst our income has reduced year on year, the amount is not significant, and as long as we manage to control our outgoings, then we should be in a position of being able to maintain the subscription rates at their current levels, with only the cost of PGA diaries to be adjusted for, should costs increase.

At the 2019 AGM a resolution was proposed, and passed, that the RPGA would open discussions with the PGA regarding the handing back of the Benevolent Fund to them to administer. There were several reasons



## **Treasurer's Report *continued...***

behind this proposal, not least of which was the fact that the fund had originally belonged to the PGA, as a Charity Fund before being passed to the RPGA. Additional reasons for passing this back to the PGA were that in the time the RPGA had been responsible for this fund, very few grants for aid had been made, and indeed very few qualifying applications had been made. The Treasurer and President of the PGA agreed in January 2020 that the PGA would indeed accept these funds back onto their books on the basis that they would be in a better position to make use of the funds than we were.

With this in mind, once the RPGA accounts had been checked and certified by the accountants, I transferred the whole of the amount in the Benevolent Fund Account over to the PGA and as a result we, The RPGA, no longer hold a Benevolent Fund. However, this does not mean that the situation regarding aid and financial assistance has changed. As part of the agreement in transferring the funds, the PGA have given an undertaking that should an RPGA member find themselves in the unfortunate position at a time of dire need or emergency, of requiring financial assistance, a request for a Grant of Aid would be considered, under the same criteria that were applied by the RPGA.

### **Retired Prison Governors Association Treasurers Report Financial Year 01/01/19 to 31/12/19 Current Accounts and Benevolent Fund Account**

<b><u>Barclays Community Account (Current)</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Carried Forward on 1/1/19	10,775	25
<b><u>Income from 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>		
Subscriptions	5,658	00
Donations	0	00
Interest	0	00
Other	0	00
Other	0	00
Sub Total	5,658	00
<b><u>Expenditure From 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Printing	1,545	00
Stationery	132	00
Post/Phone	765	12
Travel/Subs	383	30
Refunds	17	00
Diaries	0	00
PCPS	0	00
Donations	125	00
Miscellaneous	198	00
Room Hire/Catering	0	00
Total Expenditure 2019	3,165	42
<b><u>Totals</u></b>		
<u>Carried Forward on 1/1/19</u>	10,775	25
Income 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	5,658	00
Sub Total	16,433	25
Expenditure 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	3,165	42
Sub Total	13,267	83
Statement Balance at 31/12/19	13,267	83
Minus uncleared cheques	0	00
Surplus/Deficit for financial year 2019	2,492	58
<u>Outstanding cheques</u>	0	00
Total	0	00
Miscellaneous expenditure 2019		
Insertion fee for Spring Newsletter.	45	00

## Treasurer's Report *continued...*

Insertion fee for Autumn Newsletter	45	00
Purchase of RPGA advertising banner for use at meetings/conferences	108	00
Total	198	00

### **Total Income 01/01/19 to 31/12/19**

Barclays Acc	5,658	00
Total Income for year ended 31/12/19	5,658	00

### **Cash Balance @ 31/12/19**

Barclays Account	13,267	83
Total Current Account Cash Balance	13,267	83

### **Lloyds Benevolent Fund Account**

Carried Forward on 1/1/19	5,653	36
Grant as approved by Committee.	0	00
Total	5,653	36
Income-Donation in Memory of Brian Thurlborn	25	00
Income-Donation in Memory of Harold Prior	25	00
Total Income 2019	50	00
Balance on account on 31/12/2019	5,703	36

### **Breakdown of Costs and Year on Year Comparison.      2019                      2018                      Variation**

#### **Annual Income**

Barclays Acc	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Total Income for year ended 31/12/18</u>	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00

#### **Annual Expenditure**

	2019	2018	Variation
Printing	£1,545.00	£1,419.00	£126.00
Stationary	£132.00	£170.29	-£38.29
Post/Phone	£765.12	£1,164.87	-£399.75
Travel/Subs	£383.30	£743.50	-£360.20
Refunds	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00
Diaries	£0.00	£505.20	-£505.20
Donations	£125.00	£175.00	-£50.00
Miscellaneous	£198.00	£99.00	£99.00
Room Hire/Catering	£0.00	£557.50	-£557.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,165.42</b>	<b>£4,834.36</b>	<b>-£1,668.94</b>
Balance Income/Expenditure	£1,668.94	£877.64	£791.30

	2019	2018	Variation
Year End Cash Balance			
Barclays Account	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58
Other	£0.00	£0.00	
Total Cash Balance	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58

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

Signed **G.S. Mumby-Croft** Treasurer Retired Prison Governors Association

Date **26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**



## Young Criminals on the March through the East Midlands

**\*\*\* BREAKING NEWS \*\*\***

**The good people of Northampton, Market Harborough, Leicester, Broughton Lodge, Gunthorpe and Lowdham have been put at risk by the irresponsible prison authorities as a barely supervised column of young criminals pass through our towns and villages where they are housed overnight in insecure church halls. Their destination is to be an open Borstal at Lowdham Grange, a Nottinghamshire country estate within easy walking distance of vulnerable local villages and of Nottingham itself. Why should we be put at risk by importing criminals from London in such a way. Criminals who are then to be placed in an institution from which they can easily walk away.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Had they known then the above could have been the leading story in a number of local newspapers in May 1930 as forty Borstal lads, aged between sixteen and twenty one, marched with ten officers from Feltham Borstal in Middlesex to a country estate which nestled on a hillside between the villages of Lowdham, Lambley, Epperstone and Woodborough, some eight miles east of Nottingham. At the time the prison authorities were relieved that after much misrepresentation of the reform aspect of their work, the press were blissfully unaware of their plans and of the march itself. Tom Iremonger MP said in 1962 that this was an epic journey that was still talked about by prison officers. Academic Victor Bailey wrote in 1997 that the March rapidly entered into the folklore of the prison service.

Also to be considered is that the secure Borstal experiment had commenced less than thirty years earlier, when a group of lads from London arrived at Feltham - in chains and under armed guard!

So how did it all start? In 1895 a reform minded Home Office Committee chaired by Herbert Gladstone, son of the prime minister William Ewart Gladstone, envisaged a juvenile-offender establishment that was:

**“a halfway house between the prison and reformatory ..... situated in the country with ample space for agriculture and land reclamation work ... with ... penal and**

**coercive sides according to the merits of particular cases ... amply provided with staff capable of giving sound education, able to train inmates in various kinds of industrial work, and qualified generally to exercise the best and healthiest kind of moral influence”.**

Reform was slow and it was not until 1930 with the opening of the Lowdham Grange Borstal Institution, that this aspect of the committee's work was realised.

Borstals had been developing through a cautious programme with the conversion of prison wings and reform schools since 1902. And although a few Borstal lads were allowed, usually supervised, out into the community, they were locked up at night in secure cells within secure establishments. This was not to be the case at Lowdham Grange, where they could literally climb out of a window or walk through an unlocked door, for as Tom Iremonger MP wrote some thirty years later, the open Borstal system placed a great strain and responsibility on its charges through the trust placed upon them. He concluded: 'What, after all was their training for?'

But what of the March itself; an ultimate test of trust and responsibility – did it succeed or fail? The Prison Commissioners had avoided the initial disaster of the hostile press, but what was to befall the marchers, their trusting escorts and their unwitting East Midlands guests?

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Harold Scott, a Civil Servant; future Prison Commissioner and future Commissioner of Scotland Yard, said in his biography

**'one day in May 1930 Alec Paterson [a prison commissioner who championed, reform of the prison system and the Borstal approach] walked into my room and issued one of his usual abrupt and excited invitations ... we are starting a new Borstal at Lowdham Grange in Nottinghamshire, and we are going to begin with a little experiment. Bill Llewellyn [the Deputy Governor of Feltham] who is going to be the Governor, will lead a party of forty boys on a route march from Feltham to Lowdham. They will spend six days on the road and will sleep in halls and other places arranged by friends. Would you like to join them? .... I accepted the offer on the spot.'**

Paterson personally interviewed the staff chosen to participate on the march and they set off with the chosen lads on 4th May 1930. After a church service, photographs and speeches, they left Feltham at 9.15 am accompanied by Mr Paterson, and arrived at Harrow at 5pm where they were hosted by the local ToCH ..... *[ToCH is an international Christian charity which was formed as a soldiers friendship club just behind the British lines in Belgium in 1915 – Alec Paterson was a friend of its founder 'Tubby' Clayton].*

After an uneventful night they left Harrow at 9.30 the following day arriving at St. Albans, again to be hosted by ToCH. The lads were treated to a tour of the town and were then entertained by ToCH and local scouts before sleeping on the floor, under tables and in a lorry - having a good night's rest at 'close quarters'.

On 6th May they washed by the river, cooked breakfast and left St. Albans at 10.30 to arrive at Dunstable at 4.15 where they were entertained and hosted by ToCH in the Wesleyan Church Institute. So far, so good. They left the next morning to arrive at Newport Pagnell, again to

be hosted by ToCH in the congregational church schoolroom and entertained by the local scout commissioner. The 8th May saw them leave for Northampton 'through beautiful countryside' where according to one lad:

**'much courtesy was shown us by passing folk and motorists who always had a friendly nod, or friendly word for us, boy scouts saluted us taking us for fellow scouts and even a policeman on point duty held up traffic for us to pass..... everybody seemed to have a ready smile.'**

A thus far uneventful journey saw them arrive at Northampton at 4.15 where they were joined by Harold Scott. They went swimming and had 'a lovely tea of teas' at Valentines café. They were again hosted by ToCH and were entertained by a conjuror, jazz band and ventriloquist.

They left the next morning and spent the night of 4th May in Market Harborough, again hosted by 'a warm hearted ToCH group'. On 10th May they left for Leicester, and were joined by Mr and Mrs Paterson 'who handed out bananas... which they had bought especially for us'. They arrived in Leicester at 5pm to be entertained by ToCH at Granby Hall after which they went to Aylestone public baths for a wash, swim, change and an inspection. Harold Scott tells the Lord Mayor raised a titter when after reviewing the party he cheerfully declared, "if I was a bit younger I would like to be in your place". They spent the Sunday in Leicester attending church and sightseeing. The next morning they were again visited by the Lord Mayor and left to complete their walk. They spent the night of 12th at Broughton Lodge, sleeping in a refreshment hut and to quote one of the lads:

**'... we had dancing and jazzing ... lovely feed of feeds spread out on the table .... anyone stepping in would have mistaken us not for Borstal boys but for a party of boys on a world tour, happy as sandboys were everyone.'**



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

On 13th May 1930 they marched along the Fosse Way in rain and drizzle to have lunch at Gunthorpe. Then the sun came out, as did many of the villagers and the vicar as they entered Lowdham village.

**'It seems like all of Lowdham had turned out to see us.'**

At the gates to Lowdham Grange [on Epperstone Road] they were met by the Bishop of Southwell and other dignitaries. They proudly marched up the hill in good order craning their necks to see the country house and tents that were to be their new home.

W.W. Llewellyn wrote

**'...so ended a wonderful ten days [one hundred and sixty two miles]; it has been a happy and inspiring experience for all have shared a common life, entirely out of common for Borstal officers and lads ... a petty round of irritating concerns and the jarring contacts of one with another inevitable in a small and closed-penned community. The staff pulled together in an admirable way; a better spirit could not have been wished for. The lads, in conduct, in good manners, in willingness, in unselfishness at all times were ideal; unpleasant incidents, even of a petty nature, were almost entirely absent.'**

Victor Bailey also noted that the preparation for the march and the enterprise was as important as the move itself, as it involved a change in the relationship between staff and boys from the although well intentioned, arid strict discipline and punitive regime of existing Borstal training. It involved risks for staff who had to;

**'... look again at the boys with a scrutiny, a hope and an anxiety which could not have been called forth while the staff themselves were not, in a sense, in jeopardy and dependent on the boys loyalty to them.'**

Furthermore, the staff on the march would be the first to take the blame for any untoward incidents or inappropriate actions of their charges. He also considered that

**'at once the boys and their gaolers became, in however elementary and superficial way, on the same side.'**

Alexander Paterson wrote, later in the 1930s, that:

**'it is strange thing as the English Lad is a cussed animal, easily led, but driven with much soreness on both sides.'**

Harold Scott wrote in his memoirs:

**'... the Borstal boys felt proud in the trust we placed in them, and felt themselves to be, for as indeed they were, the pioneers of a great new adventure.'**

He also wrote that he 'never regretted' accepting Alexander Paterson's invitation to join the march.

Like Lowdham Grange Borstal, the March was a great innovation and success and should be remembered not only for the risk that many in authority and their supporters took; but also for how the young criminals responded to the trust that was placed upon them.

Officers on the March were:

W. W. Llewellyn (Governor)  
C. T. Cape (Housemaster)  
H. J. Taylor (Assistant Housemaster)  
H. H. Holmes (Senior Officer)  
S. G. Smithson (Officer)  
A. T. Perry (Officer)  
C. Burns (Officer)  
J. H. Marsden (Officer)  
E. Young (Driver)  
T. W. H Quick (Hospital Officer)

The officers and lads were to spend the first few years at Lowdham Grange living in tents and wooden huts whilst the lads under the supervision of local tradesmen were to build a

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Borstal Institution that was finally demolished in the 1990s to make way for a modern, secure prison. They also built the housing estate for Officers and their families, which still stands and is now in private hands. Lowdham Grange Borstal was an internationally famous innovation in penal history. It received many visits from dignitaries and study groups from across the world and was still spoken about by academics and others at conferences decades later.

During research for the book the author contacted local history societies and newspapers along the route of the march none of whom had any knowledge of its existence.



**JEREMY LODGE**

The second reprint of Jeremy's book **'Lowdham Grange. Borstal!'** will be available from the end of October. It can be purchased from the author or 'The Bookcase' in Lowdham **[www.thebookcase.co.uk](http://www.thebookcase.co.uk)** **[janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk](mailto:janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk)**

Jeremy has also been awarded a grant by the Thoroton Society to enable him to undertake further research on the origins, people and work of Lowdham Grange Borstal. He would be grateful for any photographs, information or stories that you may have. Jeremy can be contacted through the editor or by writing to: Jeremy Lodge, 15 Satterley Close, Witham St Hughs South, Lincoln LN6 9QB or **[jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk)**



Photograph taken at Feltham before at the start of the march. 1930.

*Photographer unknown.*



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Tented Camp. The first home of Officers and Lads of Lowdham Grange. May 1930.  
*Photographer unknown.*



Parade outside Grange House with farm in background. Circa 1930  
*Photograph Edmund Bird, courtesy of his daughter*

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Arriving at Lowdham 13th May 1930  
*Courtesy of Nottingham Evening Post*



HMP Borstal Lowdham Grange Staff 1960.  
*Photographer unknown.*



## APPLICATION FORM : RETIRED GOVERNORS GROUP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the retired Governors group of the PGA

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **Harry Brett - h\_brett@sky.com**

---

### BANKERS STANDING ORDER

TO: The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank PLC

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account No \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS DETAILED BELOW and DEBIT MY ACCOUNT

Name of Payee **RETIRED PRISON GOVERNORS**

Payments to be made to **Barclays Bank PLC  
PO Box 11, North Street, RUGBY,  
Warwickshire, CV21 2AN**

Account Number **50125113**

Sort Code **20: 73: 48**

Please Pay **£20 (twenty pounds) ~~Delete which does not~~  
£13 (thirteen pounds) **apply****

Each **YEAR** commencing on \_\_\_\_\_ until further notice.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## From the Chair

### Life Goes on.

**D**ear members, will life ever be the same again? The past few months have been a testing time for us all, whether you are a retired Governor or in an operational setting, which I'm sure we all appreciate has challenged even HMPPS staff daily. Key workers indeed! In incident training we used to try to define "When is an incident over?" this incident may take some time yet. I hope you are all as safe and well as can be expected and avoiding the virus as much as you can. I seem to have 2 wardrobes of stuff I do not need. Email your stories, how have you managed in self isolation?

This edition celebrates 40 years of the RPGA newsletter so we thought a colour publication would mark this special event. Our thanks to Paul Laxton, our editor for the extra work he has put into this edition. Our AGM this year will not go ahead at the PGA conference as it is cancelled. We have made alternative arrangements for the AGM to be hosted 10th November. Details are outlined in this edition. The AGM will see the departure from our committee of David Taylor who has contributed common sense, humour and cricket stories for the past few years and we shall be sad to see him go. Thank you David! Would you like to join the RPGA committee? Let us know if you would, you will be welcome.



*This is me in colour on the Tarka cycle trail in Barnstaple, North Devon in late June 2020.*

Are you one of those folk now using the "ZOOM" application to communicate virtually with friends, committees and others? Your committee have met twice on ZOOM so far, to discuss how to improve the website which we would encourage you to visit, and give us your ideas on how we can improve it. (rpga.org.uk)

ZOOM has enabled us to run the association business as smoothly as we can and our treasurer has been pleased as it has saved us travel costs too! You will note from his section in this newsletter that we continue to be in a stable financial position. Thanks to Graham Mumby-Croft for keeping us in the black.

I make the annual appeal for items of interest for the newsletter, past experiences in your career, things you have done in retirement, great places to visit, with photos if possible. Our editor will welcome your contributions, as will Roger Outram, our letters and email coordinator. Contact information is in this edition.

I place on record my thanks to the RPGA committee for their work during the last 12 months. Next year will be a challenge for us to improve two way communications with members and increase membership. The world may seem to be on hold but we will go on!

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman

## HELP, PLEASE

### PETER LEONARD'S MEMORABILIA

Peter Leonard worked at Wormwood Scrubs from 1971-74. His widow, Christine, has asked me to dispose of various pieces of his prison memorabilia. She has agreed that I should pass his large collection of Scrubs photographs to an academic legal historian, Richard Ireland, who has a special interest in prisons. Richard will digitize them and, subject to copyright permission, will make them available on the Open University's Prison History UK website.

Many photographs are of Victorian/Edwardian days though others are from the 1960s/1970s era. Though I never worked at Scrubs, I visited many times and have found it relatively easy to identify most of the latter. I cannot identify the people in the photographs reproduced here. If any member of the RPGA can assist, I should be most grateful to hear from you at [pmq1@outlook.com](mailto:pmq1@outlook.com)

**PETER QUINN**





## Computer Corner incorporating a 'Zoom' special

Well, we do indeed live in interesting times, and as I write this in August we are now into the sixth month of lockdown and restrictions on social gatherings and meetings that the Coronavirus Pandemic has brought upon us.

I, and all the members of the Committee do hope that this copy of the Newsletter, and my Computer Corner, find you in good health physically, but much more importantly, mentally as well.

A great deal has been said about the impact of the current restrictions on peoples mental well-being, and in particular the impact on people who are having to be very careful, because they are in the group of people most vulnerable to the effects of catching the virus. Unfortunately, many members of the RPGA fall into this category either because of our ages, or because of underlying health issues, or maybe, like me, both.

There is help available through a variety of sources, and if you are a computer user, and have an internet connection there are plenty of places online where you can seek help and advice and therefore I would urge you to go online and search for help, guidance or support-you will be amazed at just what is out there.

One of the things that we are doing as an association is looking to improve, and expand the RPGA Website, and we have set up a small working group to look at what we can do to improve the site in order to provide a better, and more immediate service to members. This work is being lead by Roger Outram who looks after the website. To make access easier we have now removed the need for a password to enter the site, and Roger has started to place links on the site to other websites that members might find useful or interesting. Initially he has placed a link to the CSPA site and Age UK, both of which contain information that you may find of use. Further links will follow.

The easiest way to find the site is via this link:  
**<https://rpga.homestead.com/Newsletter.html>**

We would really like you to have a look at the site and to let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for making it better, including any links to sites that that you may have found, and think that other members might find useful. We



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

will test all links in advance of publishing them to members to ensure that we are directing you to a safe site.

That leads me nicely into the subject of safety on the internet.

Having said that there are lots of sites offering help and advice to people, about a whole range of subjects, you should always apply a liberal dose of caution before you blindly click on a link to a site. It is also important that you do not simply follow links found as a result of a Google search, and in particular by clicking on the first result that looks as if it matches what you are searching for. Not always the best, or safest option.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of Google, there are still sites that appear high in Google search results that are not 100% genuine. For example there are still sites that offer a service to fill in, and submit, official applications for services such a EHIC health cards for European travel, driving licences and passports. The application process for all of these is free, even though there is a charge for the item itself, such as a passports or driving licences, but some sites also charge a fee for actually submitting the application on your behalf. This is of course not illegal, but many of these sites do not point out that they are charging you for something you can do yourself directly, for free.

As an example, some time ago a friend went online to renew his European Health cards prior to going on holiday. He searched for EHIC on Google, and clicked on the first site that came up at the top of the results list. He filled in the online form, and paid the £15 fee, job done. Except of course, had he gone onto the official Government Website (GOV.UK) he would have been able to renew these for free.

## Computer Corner *continued...*

I would recommend that if you want to find out anything about any service provided through Central Government then GOV.UK is the “go-to” site. It is the official government website for nearly everything from Income Tax to advice on the Pandemic, Pensions, Driving Licence, and everything in between. You can use it to gain access to the Customs and Revenue site where you can deal with all matters to do with taxation, including filing your Tax Return, and you can use it to check on any travel restrictions or advice when going on holiday.

To be able to use the site securely for personal matters like tax or pensions, you will be directed to go through **The Government Gateway** which is the security portal that offers password protection to all your transactions. Before you can go through this Gateway you will be required to provide your details and will be issued with a reference code and a password. Your password will be sent to you by post as an added security measure, so joining up takes a little while, as you need to wait for your password to arrive before you can proceed. However this is well worth the effort, as once you have access through the Gateway there is so much you can do directly on the site, and all securely.

Your Local and County councils all have their own websites that provide a wealth of information on local services, and allow applications online for things such as Bus Passes, and of course in these changed times, to be able to book a slot at the Recycling Centre to get rid of your rubbish.. To ensure you are on a genuine site, all official central and local government sites have **@gov.uk** at the end of their web address.

As I have said, many people use Google to search for the sites to visit, and often people will automatically go to Google to find a website, even if they have visited the site before. One way to increase your security online is to use websites that you have used before, and know to be safe. To do this once you have found a site, and are happy that it is secure, save it to either your **FAVOURITES** or **BOOKMARKS** on your browser. In this way if you want to visit the site again enter it via the already saved address and you know that the site is safe.

To check that a site is secure **before you send personal or financial information over the internet**, ensure that the web address has the symbol of a closed padlock at the start of it, and that the web address begins with https: The “s” is the important bit here, as it means the site is secure. This does not always mean that the site is genuine, but what it does mean is that any information sent between the site, and you, is encrypted, and therefore cannot be intercepted and used by a third party.

If you are carrying out any financial transaction online, **NEVER do so on a site that does not have the closed padlock symbol, or an address that starts https//**. You will be at risk.

One of the major changes that has taken place as a result of the lockdown has been a huge increase in people working from home, and a major increase in the use of Video communications as a way of communication both for business meetings, and for friends and family as a means of keeping in touch with loved ones.

The use of video conferencing has been around for some time now but since the lockdown its use has grown beyond all expectations, and some of the programmes used in this process such as WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, Skype and Zoom have come into everyday use, and indeed have become so common that “To Zoom” as a verb has changed from meaning to move quickly and instead has become, to meet with others in a video chat or conference.

As long in the tooth as we are, the RPGA committee has itself embraced the new technology of Zoom and in the past few weeks have held a full committee meeting, and two sub-group meetings using this technology, and now, due to the fact that we will be unable to hold an AGM this year as a “live event” at which members can attend in person, we are looking to attempt to hold it as a Zoom meeting instead. I mentioned earlier that there are several video conferencing applications available, but from here on, because it is the platform the RPGA has chosen to use, I will only refer to Zoom.

## Computer Corner *continued...*

So, if you wish to join in at this years AGM then what will you need in order to take part?

Firstly you will need a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, this can be a Personal Computer, (PC), a Laptop, an iPad or Android Tablet or a mobile phone. For mobile devices, pads, tablets and phones it is best if they are connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. Laptops can either be connected via Wi-Fi or hard wired to your modem/router. PC's should be hard wired to your modem/router.

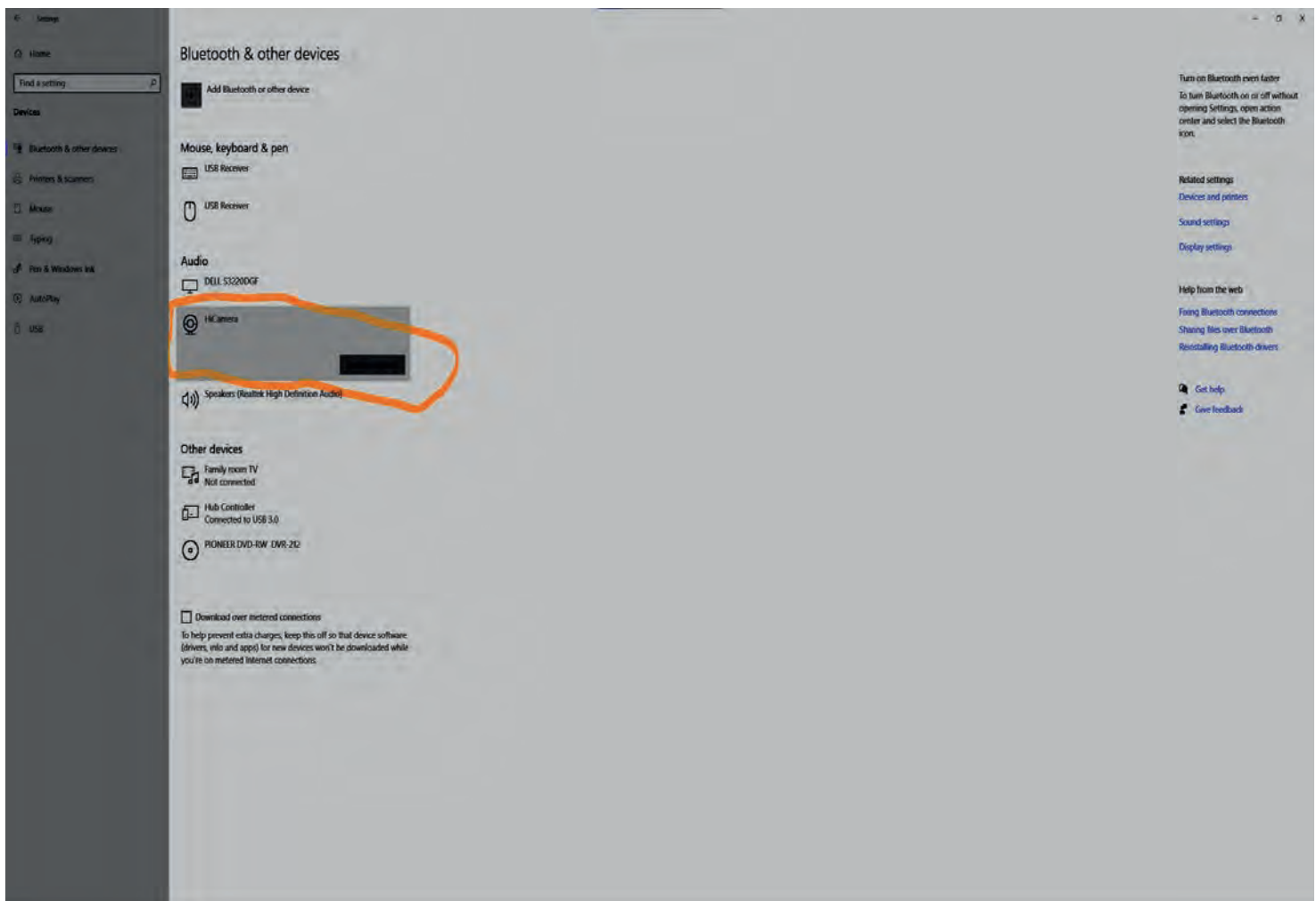
You do not actually need to download the Zoom application to be able to join in a Zoom meeting, but it is useful to download the application as it will allow you to test your camera and communications without the pressure of being in ,or trying to join a meeting.

The next requirement is that your device needs a camera and microphone in order to be able to communicate. Mobile phones, tablets and pads will normally have a built in camera and microphone, as will most laptops, but you will

need to add a Webcam to your PC in order for you to be able to take part in any Zoom meeting. If you do not already have a Webcam then you will need to purchase one. There are hundreds of models available but you may find that some are now more difficult than others to buy at the moment. This is because online meetings have grown so much, and so fast, that there has been a shortage of many IT components, webcams included.

If you have, or need to obtain a webcam these will connect to you computer via a USB socket and most cameras are Plug and Play, which effectively means that once you plug them into your USB socket they will automatically connect, and download the required drivers to make it all work. You will not normally have to download any other software to make this work, but refer to your cameras documentarian to check.

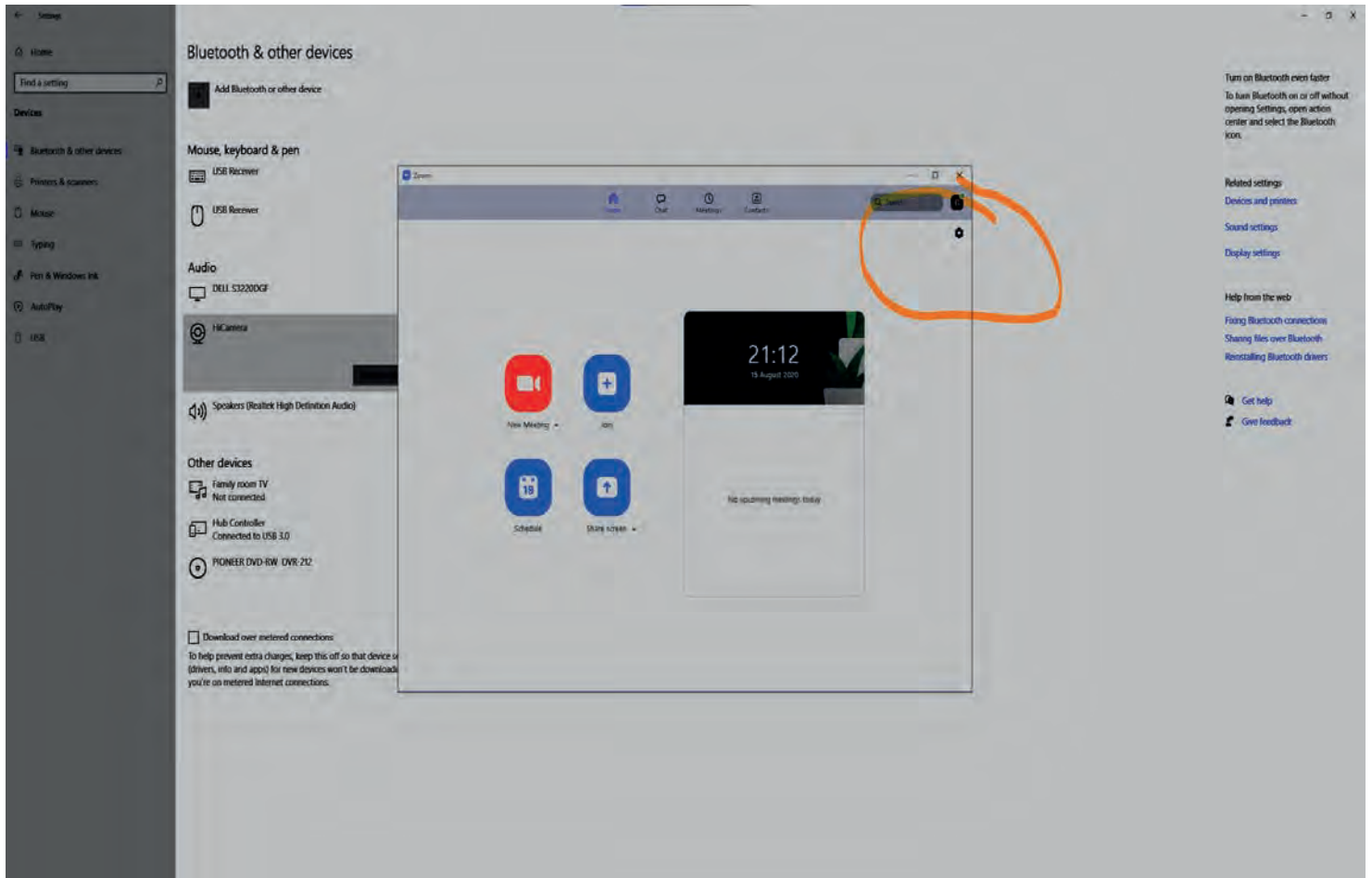
Staying with PC for a moment, if, having plugged in your camera you cannot get it to work, you may need to check that both camera and microphone are enabled on your computer system. If you are





## Computer Corner *continued...*

using Windows 10 you need to go to “Settings” which can be found either by left clicking on the Start symbol (Window) on the bottom left, or by clicking on the “Notifications” symbol on the bottom far right. On the Settings Home Screen click on “Devices” and then “Bluetooth and Other Devices”. Your camera should be listed here.

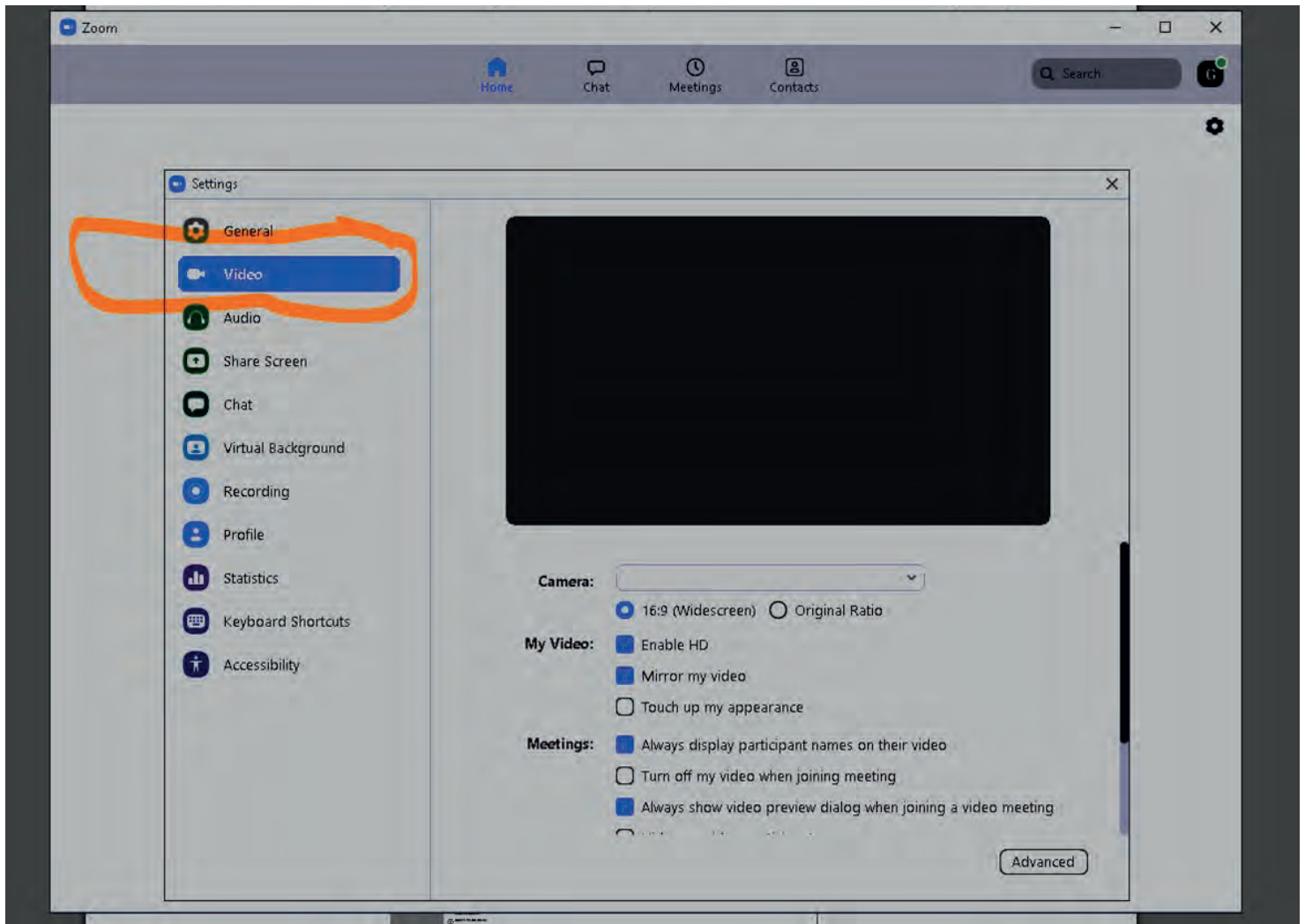


If you have downloaded the Zoom application you can open this and on the “Home” screen you can click on the “Settings” button, A cog wheel in the top right hand corner and this will take you into the settings where you can test and adjust you video and sound as well as add background images to give you location a more exotic look. (See screenshots).

If you possess all the equipment required to take part in the Zoom version of the AGM and do not wish to download the Zoom programme you will still be able to join the meeting by following the link to the Zoom site, that will take you directly into the meeting, without the need to download anything. This applies equally if you are looking to join the meeting from your phone, tablet, laptop or PC. In addition to the link to the site you will need a reference number for the meeting, and a password.

Sadly it is possible, and does happen that Webcams and microphones can be hacked into allowing someone to have access to control one, or both of these. I would advise that when you are not using your webcam, particularly on a PC or laptop it is a wise precaution to disable them. If your camera is separate, and

## Computer Corner *continued...*



plugged into a USB port then the simple answer is to unplug it. On a laptop you can disable the camera and microphone through the operating system such as windows. Follow the same procedure I described above to check your camera in SETTINGS but this time disable the camera and microphone.

I strongly advise you to download the ZOOM application in advance and have a practice with the Video and Sound setting to make sure you webcam works properly.

If you wish to join this year's AGM being held on ZOOM then this is the information you need to be able to take part. If you already have it, open the ZOOM application and click on Join A meeting. If you have not downloaded the ZOOM application this link will take you directly to the ZOOM site. Type it, or copy and paste it into the address bar of you Browser and click Go.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7105430365?pwd=cUxZUWd1Y1E4RkV1YmYrRVVoczZ6dz09>**

## **Computer Corner** *continued...*

Whether you have gone into the application from your computer, or via the link, once you are connected to the site you will be asked for a meeting ID which is:

**710 543 0365**

You will then be asked to enter a Passcode, which is:

**0mphV2**

You should then be connected to the waiting room for the meeting, and the host will be informed, and admit you to the meeting.

If you do not have an internet connection you can still join the meeting by telephone. You can do this by dialling one of the numbers shown below. Please be aware that these are NOT free numbers and you will be charged for the call by your service provider, however they are NOT PREMIUM RATE numbers.

**0131 460 1196**

**0203 051 2874**

**0203 481 5237**

**0203 481 5240**

**0203 901 7895**

You will be asked to enter the meeting ID on your phone keypad followed by #

**The Meeting ID is still 710543365 #**

Press # again and you will be asked for a Passcode, *this is a different number than for entering via a video link.*  
The Passcode is:

**086713**

You will then enter the waiting room and the meeting host will admit you to the meeting where you will be able to hear all that is being said, and to speak yourself.



# **Annual General Meeting 2020 Agenda**

## **Virtual Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**14:00hrs**

**Welcome to those attending by the Chairman, Graham Smith**

- 1 Attendees**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- 4 Matters Arising**
- 5 Treasurer's Report**
- 6 Membership Report**
- 7 Civil Service Pensioners Alliance**
- 8 Newsletter**
- 9 Website Update and email Register**
- 10 Election of Officers**  
Graham Smith, Ray London and Jan Thompson are due for re-election
- 11 Date of next Annual General Meeting**

# Minutes of the 2019 AGM

## Retired Prison Governors Association

*A section of The Prison Governors Association*

Chairman: **Graham Smith** graham.smith646@hotmail.co.uk  
Secretary: **Ray London** raymond\_london@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: **Graham Mumby-Croft** graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 13.30hrs.

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed members to this years' Annual General Meeting.

### 1. Present: (10 in total)

Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman), Ray London (Secretary), Harry Brett, Jan Thompson (Minutes), Paul Laxton, Graham Mumby-Croft, Dave Taylor

Members:

John Berry, Chris Duffin, Flo Herbert

### 2. Apologies:

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Roger Outram, John Rumball, Lynn Bowles

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

These were distributed to attendees at the meeting and were agreed unanimously as a true record.

Proposed by: Harry Brett

Seconded by: Paul Laxton

### 4. Matters arising

#### Reference Action Responsibility Progress

7.6.18 Agenda Item: 'Social Events' to be taken off future AGM agendas

Ray London - Completed.

8.6.18 Harry Brett to contact James Bryant (PGA) with a view to the CSPA having a stand at the PGA Conference.

Harry Brett - Completed.

10(i).6.18 To produce an article in the newsletter explaining how to access the website and the benefits of it.

Roger Outram - Completed

10(ii).6.18 A small committee to convene to determine the content of the website.

Roger Outram/Paul Laxton/Graham Smith - Completed

12.6.18 GDPR to be sent to members.

Harry Brett - Completed

## Minutes of the 2019 AGM *continued...*

### 5. Treasurers' Report, including Benevolent Fund

The main points that were highlighted from the 2018 accounts were as follows:

**Total Income** for the year was £5712.00 (a decrease of £483.00 from the previous year) which was all made up of membership subscriptions.

**Total Expenditure** was £4834.36 (a decrease of £730.95 from the previous year)

**Surplus of Income over Expenditure** was £877.64 (an increase of £101.26 from the previous year)

**Cash Balance at the end of 2018** was £10,775.25 (an increase of £877.63 from the previous year). This figure includes the transfer of £2050.43 from the closure of the Lloyds current account. In a breakdown of the main costs, the newsletter for 2017 cost a total of £2546.62 which represents 52.7% of the total expenditure of the RPGA. Travel and Subsistence amounted to £743.50; Room Hire and Catering was £557.50 and Donations amounted to £175.

At the end of 2018, **The Benevolent Fund** account stood at £5653.36 (a £75 increase on the previous year). The Treasurer informed the AGM that, as of the 2nd September 2019, the current Account stands at a total of **£13,611.62**

Graham Mumby-Croft addressed the members about his wish to transfer the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA, although this would require an amendment to the PGA Rules and Regulations (Rule 30, Para H), and sought the memberships' permission to open discussions with the PGA Treasurer to this effect. The Benevolent Fund Trustee, Terry Bone, is to be informed.

Proposed by: Graham Mumby-Croft

Seconded by: Ray London

This motion was carried.

**(Action Point: i)** Graham Mumby-Croft to communicate with the PGA Treasurer with a view to transferring the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA. A discussion took place on a proposal to ask members whether they would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email or post. During the discussion it was pointed out that newer members would probably opt for an email version whereas older members would probably still prefer a hard copy. It was noted that if more members preferred the email option the costs would not initially be reduced due to the higher cost of printing a lower number of copies.

Proposed by: Ray London

Seconded by Dave Taylor;

**(Action point ii)** Paul Laxton to write an article for the next newsletter reference the digitisation of future Newsletters on the web page and to invite comments on what members think of this proposal, prior to further discussion.

### 6. Membership Report

Harry Brett distributed a current membership report to the members. The breakdown of the membership was as follows:

At the AGM in June 2018 there were 416 members.

At the AGM in October 2019 there are 416 members.

There have been 15 new members joined in this time, three resignations and three members who have been untraceable.

Unfortunately there have been 9 members who have died during this period and the Chairman led a one minute silence for our deceased members.

Deceased members:

Brian Baldwin, J R Penson, Brian Hayday, Peter Leonard, Cyril Jones, Denis Marsden, Kenneth Debenham, Roland Adams, Gary Dadds



## **Minutes of the 2019 AGM** *continued...*

### **7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.**

A discussion took place on what topics were currently in vogue in respect of today's pensioners. These include the removal of the free TV licence for over 75's; the Triple Lock for State Pensions (which will remain in place until the end of 2019); Social Care and Intergenerational Fairness.

In respect of the CSPA, the AGM is to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Harry Brett and Paul Laxton will be attending on behalf of their respective branches and will pass on any items of interest to Graham Smith and other committee members.

### **8. Newsletter**

The editor mentioned that the timing of the newsletter has been altered slightly due to a draft copy being forwarded to committee members before its publication. Newsletters are now due around April and October, the latter to include the PGA Presidents' Conference address.

(Action Point: iii) Paul Laxton to contact James Bryant from the PGA to enquire if they have access to an archive of RPGA Newsletters.

(Action point iv) Paul Laxton to contact RPGA members to ask the same question.

### **9. Website Update and email Register.**

Unfortunately Roger Outram was unable to attend this AGM although he did send an update to the effect that his only input regarding the website was that it is in good order and working well and the next Newsletter will contain instructions on how to access the website.

### **10. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

To be discussed with the PGA President with a view to holding the next AGM at the same time and venue as the PGA Conference.

Finally, the Chairman thanked those who attended and the meeting closed at 14.45hrs.



HMP Wakefield - Front Gate

## Your Letters

### Dear All

You might have thought that with all this newfound time locked away at home, courtesy of Covid-19, with little to occupy our time someone would have found time to write to me but it's not to be it seems. I do understand that writing to someone who is essentially unknown to you is probably not the most exciting thing, but I assure you, together we have trod the hallways and landings of many HMPs, and getting news of and from people whose names we know is interesting to all of us. There are many regular contributors to the newsletter who pen really good and lengthy tomes about their various experiences, but these are not for the letters page. I know that the letters page interests you because you are here reading this so go get your pen or keyboard and drop me a line about what you are doing now. Meanwhile, my pal **Bob** has sent his usual note for which I am extremely grateful, please see below:

**ROGER OUTRAM**

//

The Virus would appear to have caused communications to dry up, together with the fact that fewer old stalwarts remain with us as each year goes by. This, unfortunately, includes Margery Marchant, who I have known for over 50 years. We were all at Dover Borstal, together with John and Jean Childs, and Alan Rawson, all of us kept in touch; as did the McGowan's but their association was from Guys Marsh. Bernard Marchant could appear a little distant at times, but there was no disputing his commitment, neither his dedication nor his genuine concern for those in his charge. Margery was also very able in her own right, and along with the Governor's wife and my wife to be, all taught at the local Grammar School.

Margery and Bernard were devoted to each other and Margery totally supported Bernard in all he did both in the Service and retirement. They were also devoted to their children and their development. Bernard had also served as Governor of Pentonville and the Governor's quarter then backed on to the prison, so Margery was well informed of all that went on. Margery would probably phone me every other month, either to enquire why the Newsletter was late, or just for a chat. She never tired of reminiscing about 'the Service in its heyday'. She nursed Bernard at home until he passed away, and then later moved to the Care Home. She always said how happy she was there and that she was well looked after. One always sensed that life was never the same for her after Bernard died, and some of her old spirit declined. I will miss her dearly; she just loved to talk about the Service and the wonderful people with whom we all worked.

I have been in touch with Tim Newell, he sees John Dring each week; he is getting weaker but remains remarkably positive and has arranged to be able to meet people, enjoy family and friends and keep in touch with his beloved opera. We even shared a bottle of beer recently. Tim also often thinks about Alan Rawson, and agrees that he would have challenged all the limitations of the lockdown, and would have been most upset about the closing of pubs! A letter from John is reproduced at the foot of this piece.

It reminded me how much I also miss opera, when in London I could go to Covent Garden, and in Yorkshire, Opera North was brilliant and was based at The Grand Theatre, Leeds, where they put on splendid productions at a very good price. Kent is not so good, but the Marlow does have a number of productions, but more infrequent.

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## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

On my 80th Birthday, I received a good number of best wishes from colleagues, all of whom I thank. I had meant to keep them all so I could refer to them. Alas at my age you do not want to be reminded too much of the passing years. The one that stood out, as it was not expected, was from the French residing geriatric hairy biker himself, Kevin Brewer.

I do not really understand Facebook, but receive quite a lot of communications for which I am grateful, as it means a colleague is still amongst us. Walter MacGowan places quite a lot on it including some lovely countryside scenes, as well as the number of places he visits. I was touched to see his shots of the Menin Gate scenes from Ypres in Belgium on Remembrance Day. It is both a fitting memorial and a wonderful service on the day, for all those who gave so much. It is a place that touches your heart deeply. It must never be lost or forgotten. It is very comforting to have some else who feels as deeply about as I do. Thanks Walter. He also shares a good number of his drinks and his meals; I could almost tell you a whole month's menu! He travels a lot and clearly lives life to the full, and remarkably looks very well on it. The last time I saw him was at Bernard Marchants' funeral. Deep down Walter is a very kind and deeply caring person.

Good to hear that Paul Wailen has completed his series of chemotherapy sessions and the initial results are very positive. He is awaiting the consultant's final analysis of the scans they took, but all looks well. He has booked a holiday in Greece for October, so let's hope it remains off the list of the quarantine on return countries.

Turning to myself for once, we had a holiday booked for Croatia in October, but Shearings went into liquidation during the lockdown, and anyway it now joined the quarantine list. I will have to live to next year. We have been anxious about my grandson's A level results. Great relief, he gained all A's even before all the fuss over the downgrading spectacle. So he is now on his way so I understand it, to Cambridge to study Psychology, following in the footsteps of his parents, but father studied Arabic, and his mother Arabic and Law.

Bob

”



**ROGER OUTRAM**



## **Your Letters** *continued...*

//

Dear Bob

Thank you for writing, it is very good to hear from you.  
You asked me for news of my health for the magazine

In summary:

In 2017 I was diagnosed with motor neurone disease which started when I lost the use of my arms. I am taking a drug proven to slow it down a few months and three years later I am still managing to walk a few hundred metres with lots of rest on my walker. I now have carers arranged but more significantly I have got married and my wonderful wife, Midori, has said that she is standing by me whatever happens. Also, my kids have been brilliant and most supportive as have my Stepdaughters and many other friends like Tim Newell, Mike O'Sullivan, Bryan Payling, Richard Tilt, Tony Pearson, John Cann and Alasdair Munro.

I am still managing to play bridge online twice a week and eat a little porridge. I can talk at the moment but I can feel the speech is going. However, with the help of the excellent Motor Neurone Disease Association, I have banked my voice for when I become like professor Stephen Hawking.

Overall I think I am very privileged to have such wonderful support and comparatively comfortable life compared with many of the 5000 other people in this country who have this awful disease.

Please give my good wishes to all my other good friends in the service, I still watch developments very closely.

With very best wishes

Still bugging on!

John Dring

//

Please send your letters to:

**Roger Outram  
12 Grove Park  
Magazine Lane  
Wisbech  
PE13 1LF**

or

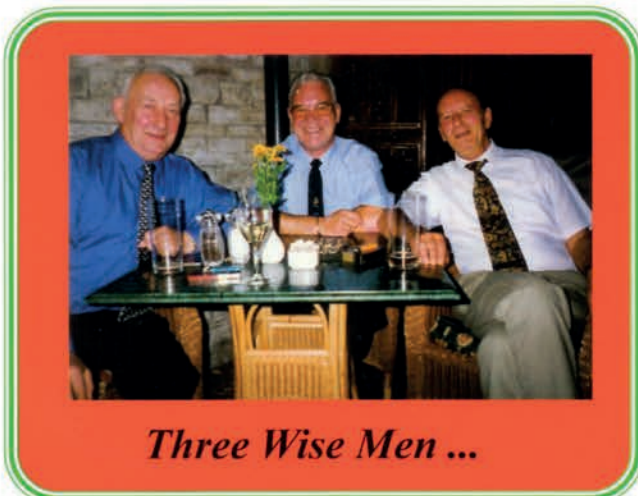
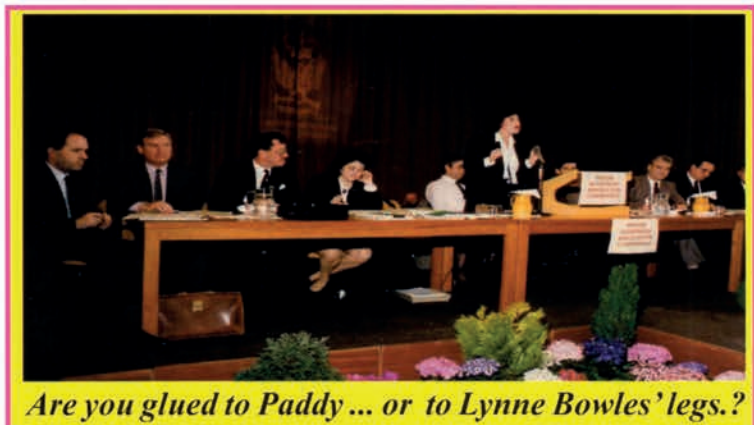
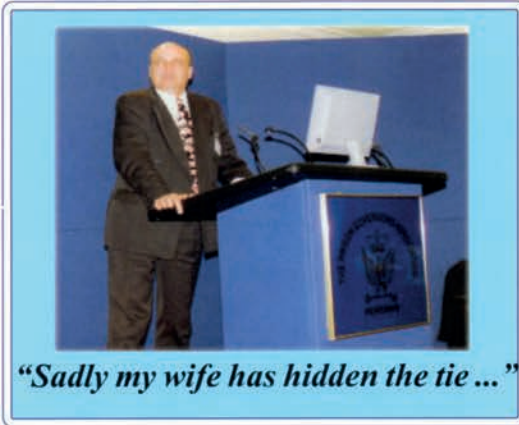
**roger@rsoutram.co.uk**

## Rogues Gallery

# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
Edition

### *Rogues Gallery*





## Rogues Gallery

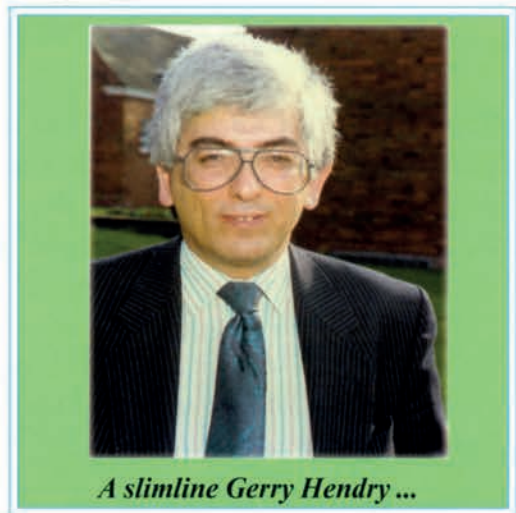
# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Edition

## Rogues Gallery



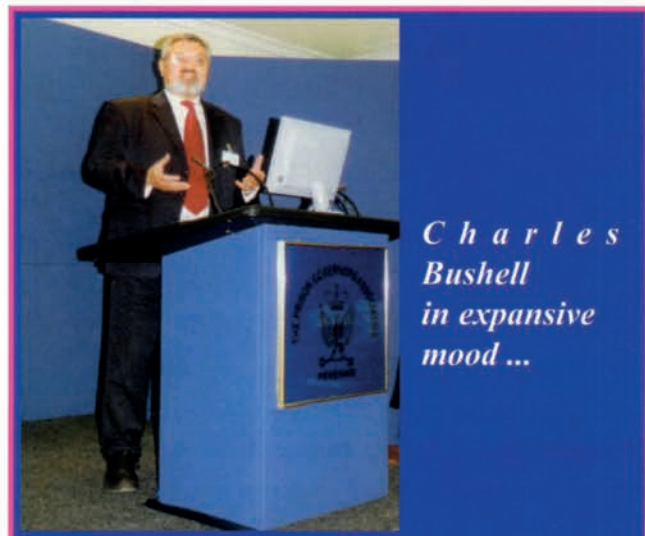
*Graham Smith laying it on the line ...*



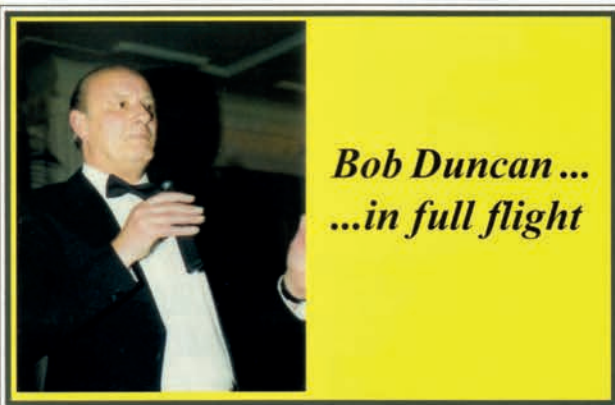
*A slimline Gerry Hendry ...*



*1997 Conference.  
Before Ann Widdecombe was blond!*



*Charles Bushell  
in expansive mood ...*



*Bob Duncan ...  
...in full flight*



*Harry Brett ...  
still going strong.*



## **Busman's Holiday and House Swap - a story**

**W**hile I was serving at Woodhill in 1996 and living in a village called Steeple Claydon in Bucks, I had the idea of planning to have a cheap holiday and trying out a house swap with the USA. The way that these schemes work is that you join a club and after paying a fee you then received a book with contacts advertising their houses for a holiday swap. You then picked any that you fancied and wrote letters (really) and waited for replies. We eventually made contact with a couple in California who lived near to Bakersfield on a farm and duly arranged to swap our house and car for a month. As it happened they came over first and we met for one day before we flew out. My car was a Ford Sierra and I duly took Gene out for a test drive and found that as he changed gear, with that darned manual shift and wrong side steering wheel, he looked down and not where he was going. After a few hairy aims at the ditch I left him to it.

When we arrived, after picking up their car from LAX, it was indeed a farm situated along a dirt track with brothers and in-laws all along the track. You could walk out of the front door and pick a grapefruit off a tree. One of those brothers had a contact in the California prison service and hey-ho it was arranged that as both myself and Jackie at that time worked in our prison service, we could go as honoured guests to Tehachapi Prison.

Tehachapi Prison is a huge supermax establishment situated in Southern California, and has 5 separate units (really prisons) which you need transport to move between. We were met by what would be the Deputy Governor, who had a quad bike on the back of his pickup truck as he was going hunting later, as we all do. I was trying to act cool at this point as both of us were escorted into one of the lower category units. The CNA of Tehachapi was 2700 but the OP CAP was 3350 so they were using the gym as accommodation and it was full of bunk beds three high, and when we went in hundreds of pairs of mainly Hispanic eyes turned to look at us. The officers said that we had better leave as they were expecting trouble.

We moved onto the high security unit (prison) and we were taken into the control hub of one of the wings which was similar to the CSU system at Woodhill, but the floor and walls were bulletproof glass with sally ports in them. In the office was a rack with a number of Armalite rifles in it and I noticed that it was not locked and the rifles had magazines in them. I asked the officer who would give permission to use the weapons and he just pointed at himself. The hub would give clear line of sight to three single level wings.

Outside I saw officers going into a building with flak jackets on and asked what they were doing. I was told that was the segregation unit and the staff had to wear the protection to prevent them being stabbed through the bars. I said that we would not need to go in there. We then were taken up to what was a sniper position that overlooked the exercise yard with an armed officer there at all times. On their SSU unit the exercise yard was one officer with one prisoner. The rule was that if the prisoner stepped closer than 6 feet to the officer, or the officer put his arm up, the overwatch would shoot to kill the prisoner. They had shot a number of prisoners in the first ten years but I was told that recently they had not had to shoot anyone, so in their opinion, the message had got through. Crikey, keep cool.

Before we left we were both invited to their security dept to look at their home made weapon display (yawn) and then, by the way, did we want to look at their book of prisoner assaults. Not sure what that would be but we said yes and we were both given a photo album to look through of prisoners that had been murdered by other prisoners. These photos were scene of crime photos and I had seen nothing to compare with what we were shown. The staff were not trying to shock us, they told me that the police never investigated any crime within the prisons as they had no authority, and the security department did all of that in house. I was still trying to act cool at that point but probably failing as we sat in our borrowed Cadillac to drive back to the farm after a long hot day.

One thing that happened from so many experiences on a very memorable trip was that I hit a kerb and lost a very posh hubcap from the Cadillac. I tried everywhere to get a replacement, and one day we were driving in a desert area and I spotted some hubcaps lining the road in the sand. This led to a warehouse with a sign on it 'The hubcap capital of the world'. Yes I thought, this was going to be a good day. There were two people sitting outside the unit in rocking chairs and when I looked inside there were thousands of hubcaps piled up everywhere. I said 'do you have a hubcap for a 69 Cadillac deVille?' 'Nope, ain't got one of those sunny'. I swear he had a spittoon and it went ping as I walked away. I offered to pay for the hubcap but Gene fessed up that he had made a dint in my old Sierra so all's well that ends well. Just one dint was a bonus as far as I was concerned.

We did three house swaps altogether and the last one was to Canada and lo and behold the people that we swapped with had a contact in the Canadian Probation service. Did we want to visit any prisons? Yes please we said. Kent max security prison and a rehabilitation prison that trained dogs but that will be another story.

**BRIAN PENFOLD**

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# LOOKING BACK

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RETIRED GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER OF YEARS PAST

### From 15 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 1*

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

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

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

### 10 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 9*

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

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

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

### 5 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 22*

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

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

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

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

### What of the Future?

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

*Arthur Williamson*

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**The Retired Prison Governors**  
NEWSLETTER • Issue 32  
Autumn 1995



## COLIN HONEY'S ADDRESS AT RAY CAMPBELL'S FUNERAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*26 June 1995*



## ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

### – the RPGN's first editor reflects on 50 editions

**"We were delighted to receive the latest edition of 'Newsletter' as I was starting to wonder if it was running out of steam or perhaps was past its 'sell by date'. It is clear this is not so. You started off by seeking contributions from those who have been with it from the start. Well I think I can claim to belong to that small group. The problem is not what to write, but where to start and when to stop. So much has happened in the intervening years. So why and how did 'Newsletter' start?"**

Sometime in early 1980 HO issued a circular stating the pensionable value of quarters had been increased and backdated. Doubting, if recently retired Governor grade members would have been informed I contacted my trusted friend Lionel Steinhausen. As suspected, he knew nothing about it, but wasted no time in contacting HO. It would take a brave man to 'cross pens' with Lionel at anytime and he soon received backpay. I am still waiting for my commission.

Realising one joined the 'League of Forgotten Governors' upon leaving the service; I collected addresses of 48 members of the Governor grades and wrote them seeking opinions on starting a 'Newsheet'. Twenty four replied and all but 3 stated they supported the idea. From then it

was a one-man show and I started to write, publish and post off the first actual copy in May 1980.

Within a few days I had financial contributions from Dermot Grubb at Bristol, Arnie Stapleton at Kirklevington, Jack Smith at Latchmere House and Jim Blakey at Highpoint

The response was very encouraging indeed and I was able to send out No 2 edition two months later. This contained no fewer than 33 pages, plus an article from the Governors branch of the Civil and Public Servants Association.

In April 1980 the 'Thatcher' government appointed Mr Derek Rainer (previously Managing Director of Marks & Spencer) to review wasteful spending within the Civil Service and to bring about a scheme to trim the 'Whitehall Army' by 65,000. This was to include pay and pension payments.

Understandably the main concern of our retired colleagues at that time was the future of their index-linked pensions. Clearly if the Government was able, such payments would vanish. To try to justify their intention they set up an independent enquiry to look into the question. This was to be known as the 'SCOTT REPORT'.

Instead of supporting the Government plan, the report stated: "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected. In other European countries the benefits enjoyed by pensioners are superior to those in this country and the benefits of index-linking are extended alike to both public and private sectors" The remainder of the report went on to completely rebuff the Government, with the result that index linking was safeguarded and we continue to be paid to what we are justifiably entitled.

Obviously I cannot list the hundreds of articles we have published over the last twenty-two years, in addition to countless numbers of letters from our readers, but the idea of a regular Newsletter was greatly appreciated. It is interesting to note that the first 5 editions contained 120 pages, 42 articles and 114 letters, all printed in full. So why the decline in contributions? Sadly far too many of our former colleagues are no longer with us. But one asks the question, "is there the same spirit in today's service as that enjoyed by our own generation". I fear this may not be so. However, there is still room for improvement, so if you have not written recently to the editor with all you own news, might I ask you to do so

#### From John Powls (ex RGN Editor 1982-84)

Edition 50! That lends some perspective. I was very much a sprog Assistant Governor at Manchester when Arthur got me involved in the process of organising and producing the first editions. I was very pleased to do so and made some new old friends – if you see what I mean – in the process. It was like being inducted into the history and traditions of the Service and if you liked a yarn or two – and I do, well....

I've been pleased to see editions over the years too and made contacts again because of that. After I gave up honest work – governing prisons – I spent some time in various jobs at Prison Service HQ before an interesting 3 years as a senior civil servant in the Home Office working on criminal policy. One of the jobs I led on was the Prisons/Probation review, which in turn proposed the setting up of the new National Probation Service. When the new Service was set up I was hankering after a big operational job again and was lucky enough in 2001 to become the first Chief Officer of the new London Probation Area former by amalgamating the former services in London. That brought me back into close partnership with Bill Duff, Area manager for London prisons – we joined the Prison Service together in 1978.

In closing I'd just like to say many congratulations on reaching your 50th and I hope you don't mind me having just a little personal share in your success. I reached my 50th last year so your next milestone is to be around long enough for me to get my sunsubscription – another 15 years as they keep us lashed to the mast for longer in Probation...



## BILL MARTIN

– our first Treasurer writes

**I recently read an article in a Sunday newspaper by Charles Murray entitled “Simple Justice”, in which the writer made reference to the prison population, offending rates, crime ratios and the like that existed in this country in 1954; I remember that year very well. I had joined the Prison Service at Walton Gaol in Liverpool in 1950 as an auxiliary officer when the pay was 118 shillings per week and a governor class 1 received the grand sum of £1,900 per annum.**

I worked an 84 hour, 12 day fortnight, usually working a full day shift from 7am to 5.30pm. The prison held over twelve hundred men, the staff numbered around 120 officers, 80 of which were auxiliaries - the lowest of the low. At that time the prison population of England and Wales stood at twenty two thousand, women and borstal boys included. Hangings and even floggings took place. Breakfast for a prisoner was a pint of tea and a pint of porridge. No 'Full Public Enquiries' in those days. I suppose it was almost as far removed from contemporary prison conditions as is the Navy now from that of Nelson's day.

In 1954 I had been transferred to Dartmoor, which in those days was a dumping ground for recidivist long termers, although they called it a 'central prison'. The Commissioners were intent on reintroducing the pre-war shift system there (the Norwich system) with a view to gaining greater continuity in terms of inmate/staff contact, since having two long shifts, am. and pm. with a one o'clock parade change-over resulted in the same officers supervising the same prisoners week in, week out for months on end. With four year's service I qualified to be officer i/c of one the farm parties during the day and 'bathhouse officer' in the evenings. I enjoyed working this system and the understanding of prisoners' attitudes and behaviour I gained during this period stood me in good stead in the years to come. The system. broke down. eventually - the POA saw to that!

The abiding memory I have of that time was when, having fallen ill with what then we called gastric 'flu', I found myself being fed with bread and milk for my Christmas dinner by a prisoner

in the bachelor quarters. We called him 'Piebald' and he was a real Norman Stanley Fletcher type. "Come on Mr Martin - another marfull".

I saw a good many changes during my 39 years in the Prison Service, ranging from the Norwich system, prison hostels, the Blake Escape and its repercussions, the introduction of parole right through to 'Fresh Start'. I saw four different designs of uniform and wore two of them myself before being promoted into the governor grades.

It was about that time that Arthur Williamson produced the first 'Newsletter'. He had been saying for years that there was a need for something of the sort to keep in touch with retired governors, and in the end decided the only way it would happen would be to 'do it himself'. It was a simple thing, just a couple of cyclostyled sheets stapled together, but it served its purpose well and was seized upon eagerly by the recipients. Arthur asked me to act as the treasurer of this venture, a task which I continued to undertake for a further seventeen years.

The production and finances were at first somewhat arcane. One item in the accounts in the early days being '1 box chocs. Mrs Jones (Typist)', I recall. The funds were generated a little bit here, a little bit there. An occasional donation, a fee from an appearance on TV, the residual funds from the stillborn BAPG, things like that. Also we worked on the principle that if the POA could have it for free, so could we and no one gainsaid us on this. Eventually we got ourselves onto a more formal footing with an annual subscription and in due course were invited to come under the aegis of the newly formed yet highly successful PGA and assumed the current format and now I find myself writing this article for inclusion in the 50th Edition.

By 1981 I had become governor of Leeds Prison, the dreaded 'Armley' that has featured in various television programmes and a few 'soaps'. It was interesting to see that the Wolfe Report on prison riots actually devoted a section to explaining why the prison had not gone up in flames as everyone expected it to do, and then the Sunday Times did a full two page spread about me as 'The Governor of the Powderkeg Gaol'. I very much enjoyed the seven years I served there and was once much amused to have my spies report after the POA general meeting that someone had stood up and declared "the trouble with this governor, Mr Chairman, is he knows too much!"

One final recollection; a few weeks before I retired in 1989 we were honoured with a visit by HRH the Duchess of Kent. All went well but as she was driving out through the main gate I turned to watch the royal standard being lowered from the flagpole on the central tower and as I did so I saw a prisoner's hand thrust out of a cell window waving a home-made Union Jack - pure 'Porridge'.





## **AN EXPLOSION OF EVIL**

**1st APRIL 1990 will be written into the history books of the Prison Service, as it was on that day that 'all hell was let loose' at HMP Manchester, and we all witnessed the scenes on our television screens. For days the rioting inmates sat on the roof of the wing after having destroyed much of the external fabric. What they had accomplished inside the prison we are not to know, but we can only assume that it is in a terrible state. The Press and Media of course had a 'field day' and one feels certain they enjoyed it all. It enabled them to print rumour after rumour, without any facts at all and, whilst a large section of the Public no doubt believed what they were told, those of us who have dealt with journalists would have recognised much of their efforts as simple *muck stirring* - the art of which they are masters.**

Eventually the truth will be found by the enquiry due to be carried out by Lord Justice Woolf, but it remains to be seen if the Public will be given all the facts. It will I suppose depend upon who is found to be at fault. Should it be political misjudgement it is doubtful indeed if all the facts will be made public.

However, whatever the findings are, we can be certain that the Governor and his staff will come out blameless. I watched almost every news report throughout the terrible ordeal and felt nothing but admiration for Brendan O'Friel and his entire staff. His own personal 'performance' on the screen showed him to be a man of courage, intelligence and patience. His ability to control the situation and, at the same time, 'tame' the Media was in the best traditions of the Service and he must have been admired throughout the land as a professional who knows what prisons and prisoners are all about. He was, of course, backed up by a first class team of assistants and uniformed staff and, whilst I am in no position to judge, I know from my own time at Manchester that the Strangeways staff would have backed him 'to the hilt' and would have carried out their duties with courage and, yes, a certain amount of humour.

We must await his lordship's report, but I know you will all wish to join me in congratulating Brendan and his entire staff on the way they handled their terrifying experience. I only hope this will be appreciated by those in 'seats of power' when they deliberate upon the future administration of our penal establishments. All I can say on this point is that it will be 'God help us' should they ever be sold off to private enterprise and administered from afar by people with no practical experience. **AND THIS COULD HAPPEN.**

Congratulations Brendan and our thanks to you and all the lads at Strangeways for the way you all dealt with the troubles. I ask your forgiveness for using your own description of the riot as the title of this article.

*Arthur Williamson*



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# PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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## Annual Conference 1990

In March I was honoured when invited to be a dinner guest at the PGA conference held at the new Staff College at Newbold Revel. I was not however prepared for what was to follow. At the end of the excellent dinner I was introduced to the delegates by Brendan O'Friel who then presented me with a magnificent cut glass decanter, suitably inscribed to commemorate my contribution to the newsletter during its first decade. Having left the Service eight years ago one can imagine the pleasure this gave me and I shall treasure it very much indeed.

However, I must make it perfectly clear that the newsletter could not have been started - nor would it have gone on for ten years - without the generous assistance that I have received from many colleagues. These include Norman Brown and his secretary, the late Mrs Eileen Fox, for their advice and practical help in the initial stages; the first recipients of our early editions for their contributions, both written and financial; the

young John Powls for carrying on publication when I retired; to my old pal Ted Cowper-Johnson and later Syd Powell for helping with the distribution, and, last but certainly not least, to Bill Martin for looking after our somewhat limited cash and ensuring that we did not land up 'in the red'. This has never been a 'one man show' and to each and every one all I can say is 'Thank you'.

*Prison Governors Association Conference  
working session March 1990*



*Prison Governors Association Conference Dinner 1990: Arthur Williamson, Brendan O'Friel and John Jones*



Returning to the PGA conference I must say how very impressed I was by, and how much I enjoyed being, a member of the Service again. There were approximately 100 delegates there - out of a total of around 900 Governor grades with the Service, and I was astounded at the professionalism and standard of debate within the conference hall. It made our old Domestic Sessions look somewhat pathetic.

To most of those present I was a stranger - and an old one at that - yet without exception I was made to feel welcome and I was regarded as an old friend and colleague. I felt that I still belonged to the Prison Service (I have never felt otherwise), and the conference proved what an excellent set of young men are carrying on where we left off. I wish them well in the future.

Speaking of the future, it seems clear that 'storm clouds' are ahead. In the first place plans are already in being for the Home Office to scrap the four regions and the regional directors, and to replace them with ten area committees headed and run by either 'Whitehall Warriors' or civilian administrators from outside. Thus the scene would be set for hiving the prisons off to the private sector - for no other reason than private profit. This in itself in my opinion is immoral, and which idiots will invest money into penal establishments I cannot imagine. The Manchester Prison riot was a tragedy of the highest order, but we can all imagine what it would do to dividends. I mention all this quite deliberately because I know that a certain Member of Parliament (and a very powerful one

as well) is on our mailing list. As an ex-member of the Governor grade we do of course cherish his membership, but I do hope that when the time comes he will help the Government to come to its senses and stop the rot. For our part I feel certain you will all do your part in keeping the traditions and loyal service of Her Majesty's Prison Service before the Public as much as possible. We have protected the State since the year 1878 and I make no apology for stating that it is still the finest Service in the world. Should this be doubted I would simply ask, 'Why do other countries still send their senior staff here for us to educate, and why are they continually asking us to send members abroad to teach them how penal establishments should be run.' Even in this current issue you will note some of our colleagues are now in Singapore and I know of others serving further afield. In addition, several ex-members of our Service were recruited by overseas governments and are now at the head of their services. Would this be the case if we were run by private investors - I will leave you and the Public to judge. One thing I am certain about - they would not get the loyalty of the POA, and without them they may just as well 'shut up shop'.

At the commencement of our newsletter I decided it should be just that - an exchange of news amongst retired colleagues, but events compel me to do all I can for the Service for which I still have a very strong affection.

*Arthur Williamson*

## STOP PRESS

- Strangeways is to be extensively refurbished at a cost of £60m
  - The PGA plan to produce a special tie for Retired members - a variation on our present tie with a modified PGA Crest. This should be available in September 1990. It will be the same price as the standard PGA tie - see your PGA diary.
- Advice on preferred colours, please, to the editor ASAP.



## Arthur Williamson... A Tribute

I first met Arthur in early 1979 when I arrived at HMP Manchester - my first posting - as an Assistant Governor Under Training and he was the Dep. My early impressions were that if the dictionary definition of 'avuncular' needed an example Arthur could have been properly referenced. But there was so much more to the man than that and lots to learn from. Most importantly for someone in my then position and with aspirations to move up in my career, Arthur proved a very good role model in how to be a deputy governor. He dovetailed seamlessly with the Governor in that loyal, true but realistic 'bridge and shield' way that hallmarks the best of those working relationships. If you add in the then Chief Officer you had as effective a leadership triumvirate as I experienced in my career, all very different as personalities and in their leadership and management styles but all knew their roles inside out and how to work together to get the job done in a challenging environment through the rest of their staff. All three also knew that it was actually the matronly Governor's secretary who really ruled their roost!

That said, things could be a bit 'old school' at times but that was then..... and it didn't mean that newer ideas didn't get listened to - or even acted on if you were prepared to argue your corner and back your judgment with action and results. There was other stuff to learn from Arthur too - not the least about being at the other end of his career from where I was in mine. His oft-stated ambition was to collect as many years pension as he'd served which, with a career spanning a prison works background to the higher echelons of governing was a very decent span.

With his retirement not far off, Arthur often lamented how many retired governor grades seemed to pass away all too soon after they retired even if their pension arrangements left them financially comfortable. Above the tool of the taxing demands of the job, he put that

down to three things - losing the framework of the role and its authority; not preparing properly for replacing those with other satisfying things to be and do; and, losing touch with the working community that provided comradeship and context. He reasoned that the first issue was just a fact but needed thinking about and adjusting to in advance and that could be helped by proper planning with things put in place to address the second which involved family, finances, where you were going to live and what you were going to do. Even in my late twenties, these seemed eminently sensible and over thirty years later I attended Civil Service pre-retirement seminars that said much the same thing in a PowerPoint slidestorm!

Arthur was assiduously doing what he needed to do for himself on the first two but with the last of the three, he thought there was something he could do to help more widely. He'd had the idea of setting up a newsletter for retired governors to support those that wished to keep in touch with former colleagues, developments in the service and with retirement issues generally. By that stage Arthur new I was a published author - albeit in very different genres - and asked if I'd give him a hand to get the newsletter off the ground. I was pleased to help and the rest, as they say, is history - but history still being made, thankfully!

And me? Well, I'm still trying my best to follow Arthur's example of claiming at least as many years pension as the 35 years service I put in and enjoying my home life and the new grandchildren. I'm a writer full time now - my website [www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk](http://www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk) covers my writing career and current projects. My latest book, 'North Sea To The East' which is inspired by the landscapes and seascapes of my native North Yorkshire is planned for publication later this year.



**JOHN POWLS**

## Money for nothing from the MoJ

Sounds too good to be true, like some email offering a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, if only it can be lodged in your bank account for a while? And ps. please will you send your bank details to some overseas phishing address. No, it's not like that at all. Honest.

Like most of us, I hope, I have made a Will. This was drawn up by a solicitor to avoid unforeseen consequences like my estate ending up with my second cousin's aunt's mother by mistake. Simultaneously I raised two lasting powers of attorney so that, should I eventually get even more gaga than I am now, my son and daughter would have the power to make both financial and health and care decisions on my behalf. It's important to do this before going gaga, since otherwise a court might doubt one's mental capacity to enter such an arrangement. The only drawback was that fees paid to the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) for the purpose were, I felt, rather extortionate. The OPG is an agency of the Ministry of Justice.

I was correct. A chance reading of a financial column in the Sunday Times alerted me that the OPG had routinely been overcharging for this service for some years. They were making repayments to those who claimed, but the initiative lay with the claimant. There seemed no mechanism whereby overpayments would be automatically refunded.

Google 'Claim a power of attorney refund – GOV.UK' and there are the full details including claim forms to submit online. There is a sliding scale of repayments depending on the date of applying to register a power of attorney which must have been between April 2013 and March 2017. Interest is added since the date of overpayment and the window to claim closes on 1st February 2021. In my case I ended up £111.72 better off. Not a fortune, I agree but better off in my pocket than in that of the MoJ.

Apply now if you qualify. You have nothing to lose. And if you want me to send you a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, you need only send me your bank details c/o my Cayman Islands office!

**PETER QUINN**

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## Paul Dixon 04/02/1950 ~ 09/05/2020

I am sad to report that Paul passed away in May 2020 following a protracted MS illness that he endured for many years following his early retirement in 2000. He leaves his wife Maggie and son Phillip at their home near Wakefield. His wife noted that Paul never complained about his illness and the impact it had on his life. He coped with it.

Paul was born and lived in Sunderland, and was a teacher at a school in Sedgfield until joining HMPS at Durham as Assistant Governor. He was posted to Barnard Castle then Winchester and Frankland and was at PSC Love Lane Wakefield when I met him when we were delivering "Post Fresh Start Implementation Training" in 1987. I recall that as the training was high profile, at the time expensive consultants were contracted to assist us, and as an ex PO from Strangeways most of it went over my head, but Paul was always supportive and could make sense of all the new structures and strategies with ease and helped me and others greatly at what was a difficult time for us.



He then went on to Full Sutton and ended his career, due to his illness, as Governor at Reading. A professional and company man to the end, sadly missed.

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman

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## **Your attention is drawn to PSJ No.249**

I have just seen the latest **Prison Service Journal - Number 249 May 2020**. I think some colleagues may be interested in a couple of items. It is a Special Edition headed "Understanding the Past".

One item is a study of Major Robert Hickey who was Governor of Dartmoor from January 1870 to October 1872. He had been at Dartmoor as Deputy Governor since December 1867 and had previously served at Portland from November 1864. I found the account fascinating, even making use of extracts from the Governors Journal. Hickey describes the sole purpose of the Governors Journal as being to record what he did for "the information of the visiting Director". The account gives an account about what the Governor's activities were; what his - quite limited - powers were and something of his relationship with the "Directors" i.e. Head Office! There are some interesting contrasts and similarities with the world our generation of Governors experienced.

The second item is titled "Revisiting the Borstal Experiment " by Professor Heather Shaw of Manchester Metropolitan University. This is a broad brush account of the period 1902-82 when the Borstal System was developed to when it was changed to Youth Custody. The account of the number of Borstal Boys who died in the First War was something I was at best dimly aware of; her account of the inter war years lacks perhaps the detail I would expect about the experimental nature of the open borstal developments with the marches to Lowdham and to North Sea Camp. Professor Shaw ends with a plea for further research, something many of us would warmly endorse.

Prison Service Journal is available on line for those who wish to read it.

Kind Regards,

**BRENDAN O' FRIEL**

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## **Head Office was on your back... even in the 1860's**

The message about Major Hickey rang a bell with me and others may find this interesting...

In 1968 I was an Assistant Governor under the redoubtable Governor Herbert Horatio Harrison at Portland Borstal. During a period of refurbishing accommodation he gave me the task of overseeing the emptying of a storeroom and disposing of all 'rubbish' contained therein. On checking a borstal handcart heading for the incinerator I discovered a few interesting old documents, including a 'foolscap' sized lined notebook, which I still have and which turned out to be titled on the first page: "Major Hickey's Journal while Acting Governor of Portland Prison 1867."

There follows orthodox Governor's Journal entries by the Major [acting up to the Senior Deputy Governor, who was sick, in the Governor's absence.] The journal is clearly temporary, being less than a quarter of the normal thickness of an official journal and obviously initiated by the Major for his own use. The periods covered are 9 to 12 January 1867, 15 to 22 January and 29 January to 1 February, all inclusive. Curiously the last entries from 31 May to 6 June 1867 are in the different hand of the Chief Warder and the 'journal' ends abruptly there with a countersigned note in the margin to the following authoritative effect: "One journal only to be in use in the prison in future - Governor's Journal to be handed over to acting governor for day's record of Events". [One assumes that gaps relating to these dates must exist in the official Journal.] Clearly our Major was getting a minor rap on the knuckles; interestingly and maybe connected with this he writes in pencil at the bottom of the page containing the events of 1 February, one of which refers to a Warder being reported to the Director the following terse note: "Visiting Director did not sign."

During this period Portland Prison was unlocking 1400 prisoners plus and there are many references to individual 'Fenian Prisoners', which I forwarded a few years ago to the staff at the Kilmainham Gaol Museum in Dublin.

There are many fascinating anecdotes and situations in these pages and I was struck not just by the similar structure and format of the daily journal entries to my own experience but by the unchanging activity of prison life such as watching the men go out to labour, night visits, daily Governor's rounds etc .

**DEREK ARAM**, Portland 1968-72

## Membership Report - October 2020

The membership total is down to 404, a loss of 7 since the last report, and a loss of 12 since the last AGM. We welcome new members Catherine Hayden, Les Dacombe, Helen Dickinson and Merle Cadman (widow of Tom).

We have had a resignation from Nigel Foote and lost touch with Mrs Bryan, Peter Garrard and Mrs B Spencer, so if there is anyone in touch with them, and they would like to re-join then please let me know.

### The following have passed away since the Last AGM:

#### MEMBERS

Brian Thulborn	Brian Coatsworth	James Edwards BEM ISM	Geoff Lister
Bernard Wilson MBE	Harold Prior	Mrs Low	Eddie Healy
Malcolm Manning	Ingrid Claydon	Olwen Spiers	Marjorie Marchant
Pat Nolan			

#### NON-MEMBERS

Judith Matthews	William Rose-Quirie OBE	Colin Baker	Mel Constantine
Malcolm Lewis		Ruth Mann	Paul Dixon

Our Condolences go out to friends and relatives.

Members will be aware that we work closely with the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, in fact many are members of both organisations. Currently the CSPA is heavily involved in attempting to ensure some CSPA members, whose pensions it claims have been overpaid due to departmental calculation errors, do not have to pay the full amount of arrears. Some overpayments are quoted in their thousands. The CSPA have taken legal advice regarding the Limitations Act and are in discussions with the Cabinet Office. Another area of great concern is that widows and widowers be allowed to retain their pensions if they chose to re-marry. This affects those whose deceased spouses were members of the classic scheme who retired before October 2002. It is intended to seek the support of MP's and lobby Parliament for support for the retention of life-time pensions later this year. Other areas of concern are affordable social care, with the CSPA seeking a switch to it being financed from general taxation rather than personal contribution.

Anyone is interested in joining the CSPA (£2 per month) then please let me know at [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com) and I will send you the joining forms

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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.

**HARRY BRETT**



## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P.**

“It’s a great life if you don’t weaken” was a familiar refrain from Olwen and a maxim to guide her life. A life well lived. A life of service, a life of adventure. A life of compassion, a life of fun. We are here today to join in sadness at Olwen’s passing but also to celebrate her life and remember some of the great things about her and the long life she lived. I have a fair bit to say but Olwen herself was loquacious, so hopefully she would have approved.



Olwen was born in Manchester in February 1932 to Amy and Arthur Parry, a younger sister to Joyce. Her Dad was a prison officer and had met her Mum whilst she also was working as a prison officer. Consequently, much of Olwen’s young life was steeped in the prison service environment and this clearly influenced her future career choices although that didn’t become apparent until many years later.

Olwen was seven years old when the Second World War broke out and the family moved from Manchester to London. In September 1940, the Germans commenced nightly bombing raids on London and so began several years of evacuations from the city for Olwen and Joyce, which must have been very disconcerting for such young girls. The first evacuation took Olwen and Joyce

to family friends in rural Lancashire but they soon returned to London. For the next evacuation, the sisters went with the other children from their school on a long journey to a location which was not told to their parents. The destination turned out to be Somerset where the children arrived in a town square to be confronted by the local prospective foster parents who proceeded to inspect the children and choose the ones they would take to their homes. Fortunately, Olwen’s Mum had instilled in Olwen and Joyce the importance of sticking with one another, and so they insisted on being housed together, and eventually a newly married couple took them in. Olwen and Joyce spent nearly a year in Somerset before returning to London and being reunited with their parents.

It wasn’t long before they were evacuated again, this time to Surrey and a particular memory of Olwen’s from this time was when the house next door suffered a direct hit and the windows and roof of their foster home were blown out. Olwen and Joyce were carted off to a children’s home which Olwen remembered as being rather unpleasant and from which they were rescued by their mother, only after managing to write and tell her of their plight. Another short stay in London followed before again being evacuated to Surrey, this time to be billeted with a wealthy family where a maid named Bertha was assigned to look after them. Bertha often took the girls for long walks in the woods and then bribed them with sweets to play for an hour or so while she had a rendezvous with her Canadian soldier friend.

Eventually, the girls returned to London on a more permanent basis but those war years coloured Olwen’s approach to life and made her appreciate that there was so much joy to be had in life and that what mattered most were people, not material wealth and possessions. From around 1943, Olwen’s childhood returned to a more normal trajectory and she spent 3 years at St Martin-in-the-Field High School for Girls in Tulse Hill, London and then completed her school education at Wakefield Girls’ High School where she gained her School Certificate in eight subjects and her High School Certificate in three subjects. Joyce reminded me the other day that Olwen was quite precocious as a youngster, always wanting to do everything her sister did, despite being

## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

younger than Joyce by more than two years. Olwen also showed signs of her high intellect, scoring so well in her "11 plus" exams, which all children in England took at that time as a prelude to commencing high school, that she could have had the pick of the best schools had her parents wished.

On leaving school, Olwen went to study at the West End Hospital Speech Therapy Training School in London. Looking back, we are not sure what prompted Olwen to take her career in this direction but Joyce suspects that it may have been because several older girls had taken that path and it seemed to be quite a well-regarded route to follow at that time. On completing her two year course and qualifying as a speech therapist, Olwen secured her first job as a speech therapist with the Wakefield Education Authority working single-handed with a range of patients from very young babies to the elderly and including many patients with disabilities. At some point during her time working as a speech therapist, Olwen took the decision to change direction and pursue a career in the prison service. Obviously, with Olwen living with her parents during her years working as a speech therapist, her family may have had some influence on this move, but knowing the independent thinking person Olwen clearly was, we must presume she was charting the course which made sense to her.

In 1961, after seven years working as a speech therapist Olwen embarked on the Assistant Governor Training Course at the Prison Service Staff Training College and so commenced her 20 year career as a civil servant with the Prison Department of the Home Office. Olwen progressed through the ranks from Assistant Governor to Governor to Deputy Regional Director for the north region based in Manchester and then for the final few years of her service she was Operational Controller for all custodial establishments for female offenders. The latter role was located at Head Office in Central London and Olwen became a commuter, choosing to endure a long daily train journey from and to Leicestershire because of the stage she had reached in her personal life, which we will come to in a moment.

On retirement from the Prison Service in 1981, Olwen pursued various roles in the Leicestershire

area, mainly working with and for people with disabilities. Part of the reason for Olwen seeking this work is that she had been involved with many people with various disabilities over the previous 30 years and wanted to put that experience to good use. Also, particularly, during her last five years with the Prison Service she had been assigned a personal secretary who was a registered blind person which made Olwen acutely aware, not just of the difficulties such people faced in their everyday lives, but also the great potential for them to live active lives and contribute fully to society.

Whilst Olwen was working as Governor of Bulwood Hall Women's Borstal in Essex in the late 1960s she first became acquainted with Dr Stan Spiers who, along with working locally in general practice, was also the GP for the borstal. The two became friends over the years, aided by Stan's friendship with Olwen's Dad Arthur, by then a widower and spending a lot of time with his younger daughter. After moving up from her role as Governor at Bulwood Hall, Olwen was in a position of more choice about where to live and relocated with her Dad to a small village in rural Leicestershire. Sometime prior, Stan had accepted a role as GP at the Medical Centre of Loughborough University and Olwen's move allowed the two to develop their blossoming friendship. Arthur passed away in 1976 and later that year, September 23rd to be precise, Olwen and Stan were married in the Quaker Meeting Hall in North London. And so began a wonderful period for the two of them as they enjoyed a thirty year marriage only cut short when Stan sadly lost his battle with cancer in 2007.

The pairing of Olwen and Stan was very nicely balanced, both of them having great wit and formidable intellect; they complemented each other and somehow together they became something that was greater than the sum of the parts. Enduring happy relationships are rare and require hard work and sacrifice, but Olwen and Stan had a great thing going. Happy couples often have the knack of interacting with each other through what might be termed 'affectionate teasing', and Olwen and Stan were masters of this. Olwen also became a much-loved step-Mum to Stan's four children who were in their teens and early adult years when Olwen and Stan married. This was a difficult challenge



## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

which Olwen handled with her customary astute reading of people and understanding of what she might be able to do to help develop successful relationships.

Throughout their years together Olwen and Stan were keen travellers. They had numerous adventures with campervan trips in Europe (and I remember Stan was particularly insistent that the vehicle was fitted with an Oz-style Roo-bar). They preferred the less travelled roads and the opportunity to meet local people whenever they could. They also travelled to various continents which included visiting family and friends in Australia on several occasions, visiting my brother Iain and his wife Kirstie when they were living in New Zealand as well as going to exotic places like Cuba. Closer to home they made full use of the narrow boat moored at the foot of the drive of their house on the banks of the River Soar. Their central England location gave great access to the inland waterways of England and Olwen and Stan were always very generous with allowing family members to experience the leisurely thrill of a weekend or short holiday on the narrow boat. And then there was the villa in Spain, located at Benidoleig, a rural area comfortably inland from the bright lights of Benidorm where they spent many happy holidays and again especially enjoyed meeting and interacting with the local people.

Before we move on, I should just add an interesting little side note about Olwen's romantic life. The other day I asked my Mum whether there had been any boyfriends in the years prior to Stan. She said "Oh yes, there were a few obviously, as she was a bright and vivacious young woman." "But Mum were there any serious relationships, any significant exes?" "Well," said Mum "there was some ghastly middle aged man who was a really smarmy git!" So it probably wasn't too much of a challenge for Stan to trump that but I certainly think it ended up being a fine match for both of them.

In the photo tribute which follows there is a picture of Olwen as a little girl dressed in a nurse's uniform. Mum told me that Olwen always said she would marry a doctor. It took her a while to find him but she did eventually get there – and well worth the wait.

When Stan passed away in 2007 Olwen quickly made the decision that she wanted to join her sister and other family in Perth. We sponsored her emigration and by 2009 she was living in Perth, initially with Joyce but before long she moved to the retirement village at Ocean Gardens in the suburb of City Beach. At Ocean Gardens Olwen had a lovely little unit with views out over the ocean and quickly made many friends and acquaintances, something she was always very good at. There was also a bit of family life which she became part of, with my wife Christine's extended family being particularly welcoming. In her retirement Olwen continued to fight for some local causes often involving sticking up for the individual against various bureaucracies including the local council, many times locking horns with the mayor, who was a pompous twit she frequently brought to account.

Sadly, there eventually came the day when her health deteriorated to the extent that she needed a higher and more regular level of care and she moved to the Wearne Hostel nursing home in Cottesloe. Again she had a room with ocean views, again she made friends with several other residents and even became popular with the staff who frequently commented to me what a lovely lady she was, despite often giving those carers a bit of a hard time.

I think I have just about come to the end of this potted version of Olwen's life story. I apologise if I have left out any important episodes or anecdotes but obviously there is a lot to tell.

In closing I would just like to draw out a couple of themes. Olwen was a compassionate person. In my mind this goes beyond mere empathy – it is empathy plus the intent to do whatever she could to make the situation better. This compassion was reflected, not just in a life of service, but also in her many interactions with family and friends. Olwen was a fun person. I know this very well from personal experience as I couldn't imagine having a better Auntie, but also from hearing tales of her various adventures and interactions with all those she came across. It's a great life if you don't weaken, and she didn't. A life well lived indeed.

**STUART MOORE**

## Foreign Times

In 2010 I was recruited by the UN to be the Commanding Officer of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY) Detention Unit (UNDU) in The Hague. The ICTY was created following the Yugoslav conflict because the International community did not have faith in the local justice systems to deal with the crimes allegedly committed by those in power during the conflict. The detainees held by the ICTY were those accused of being in command and control of those who had committed the atrocities. The UNDU is in a purpose-built unit inside a Dutch prison in The Hague (P.I. Haaglanden). The building has its own perimeter and is considered to be UN territory and holds all the "foreign" tribunals based in Holland. When I arrived, the UNDU held about 65 detainees and they were those suspected, under trial, or convicted and awaiting transfer to a state for enforcement of sentence. These residents were some of the more difficult cases of the Tribunal and included those who were at the very top of Yugoslav government during the conflict, i.e. Presidents, Chiefs of police and Generals. In a lot of cases they are still held to be heroes by those of their own ethnic background and some still have political careers in the region. One of the issues for management of these detainees was the psychological conflict between being heroes at home, but war criminals in the international community, add into this their age, lifestyle and health problems from the conflict and they were an interesting group to deal with. The other major management issue was the length of time the detainees spent in custody before disposal of their case. This would have been an unacceptable period in a national justice system and caused problems to the detainees we are aware uncertainty causes in a remand population. Most of the charges however, involved thousands of victims and hundreds of perpetrators and witnesses, meaning a speedy resolution was impossible without a guilty plea.

As a stand-alone unit inside the perimeter of a national prison, good liaison with the Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (DJI) and local management was crucial. The Rules of Detention

were broadly similar and all complied with UN minimum rules, however there were some differences between each of the Tribunals and the Host States prison rules. One of the areas where there were rubbing points was what detainees were allowed in possession, and could receive through visits or have delivered by post/courier. With three different agencies involved (the establishment front gate was staffed with Dutch prison officers then the unit entry point was staffed by detention officers from the tribunals) and with different screening equipment, cooperation was important.

Discipline staff had their salaries paid by the UN and were managed by 4 senior managers employed directly by the UN. Despite attempts to broaden the recruitment pool to represent more member states, most of the Officers, Shift managers and Principal Officers were recruited from the Dutch prison service and at the end of their tour returned to the National service. Whilst employed by the Tribunals they wore a distinct uniform and operated under their respective tribunals Rules of Detention and Operating Procedures.

Other matters were managed via an agreement negotiated between the UN and the Dutch Justice Ministry, these included building maintenance, detainee's food and other services. The issues surrounding maintenance and cleaning of the building having to be negotiated with a prison works department suffering from a budget shortfall, took up a good portion of the working week. Translation of the agreement appeared to change each month as the various managers tried to cut costs. As some organisations have discovered, allowing crucial services such as maintenance to be managed outside of those committed to delivery can lead to higher costs and a deterioration in conditions.

During my time in the UNDU, detainee access to IT became a hot issue. This had followed a decision by the President of the Tribunal that the Self representing accused (SRA's) must have a "level playing field" with the Prosecution. As almost every piece of evidence was held



## Foreign Times *continued...*

electronically in drives that were physically separate from the UNDU, a secure method of access was required. Secure links had to be created between the UNDU and the Tribunal building, and training provided to detainees with little or no IT skills. As with visits, all of the new IT policy needed to be negotiated with the Host prison (whose prisoners did not have access to IT). Methods of getting PC's, drives and other multimedia through the front gate had to be negotiated, ensuring none of the content could create a security breach. Any delay was exploited in court, and in the best case delayed the hearing, but could in the worst circumstances be used as grounds for appeal.

Despite enjoying my time as part of the UN, sadly due to family illnesses I had to return to the UK. A couple of months after separation the UN contacted me and asked if I would be available, on short term contracts, to assess some prison establishments in Africa. Never having visited the continent I agreed and

initially went to inspect the UN prisons in Mali and Benin holding those sentenced by the Rwandan tribunal. After reporting on the conditions in these two prisons I was then asked to inspect some prisons in Tanzania and Senegal as the UN needed to expand its detention operations in Africa.

Conditions in Africa were a shock. Mali for instance was at the start of the current conflict in the Sahel and combined with a very low GDP, committing more funds to prison was impossible. Even without a lack of funds there are some serious problems in balancing the conditions of an impoverished population with the conditions of a prison population and then further complications created by prisoners being held under UN minimum rules. Prisons and prisoners are not high on the list for African politics and their budgets suffer from this. In the prison in Mali the overcrowding suffered by the local prisoner population was awful, (40 in a room with a stand pipe and a hole in the corner with temperatures of around 40 degrees



## Foreign Times *continued...*

at midday and two meals of porridge a day) this was exacerbated by the presence of a TB active prisoner requiring quarantine and therefore needing one of the 4 available dormitories to himself. Prisoners were restricted to 30 minutes a day fresh air as the exercise yard was small. There was no work apart from a couple of trustees. Treatment for the TB prisoner was going to cost around \$50 but even this could not be funded locally. The UN detainees were living in single cells with in cell electricity and had a significant disposable income making up for the aspects of minimum rules the host prison couldn't deliver. The difference in conditions was stark, and although from outside the reasons were understandable, one can only wonder how it looked for a prisoner who had stolen money or some food and was being held in these abysmal conditions, as he looked across the yard at a detainee who had been convicted for genocide and was living in comparative luxury. The poor conditions also put pressure on already struggling families of prisoners to supplement their relative's food and other requirements.

In my report I made a number of recommendations concentrating on the UN detainees, as per my brief, but by arguing that the poor health of the local prisoners could be detrimental to the health of the UN detainees I proposed that improvements in the conditions of the local prisoners was in the best interests of the UN. Despite all my recommendations being implemented, I was most pleased with the implementation of the simplest. I had recommended that a couple of prisoners were to be employed raising chickens bought from the local market, I was told since that this has improved the life and health of the local prisoners, and the chicken "farm" is now employing 6 prisoners and providing meat and eggs to supplement the diet of the general population, all for a tiny initial outlay. I also used the same argument to get the TB active prisoner seen by a nurse and treatment started before I left allowing the overcrowding to be eased a little.

The discussions around the difference in conditions inside and outside prison we have in the UK, is amplified in Africa by the conditions normal people suffer. This was then further complicated for my inspections because the UN prisoners were serving their sentences in the comparatively luxurious conditions dictated by UN minimum rules of detention and this was the subject of local media criticism. As bringing those responsible for the Rwandan atrocities to justice was the primary aim of the tribunal, any criticism that justice was not being served was felt keenly.

In the, admittedly small, number of prisons I assessed it appeared a semi-military model of management with a hierarchy obvious to all provided the best and healthiest conditions for the prisoners. Benin and Senegal operate on a military model and the atmosphere and feel in those prisons was much better than in the civil models I witnessed. In Benin, some military officers are required to run a prison for a tour of duty (2-3 years) as part of their career plan. These prisons had staff who were more concerned with the welfare of their charges, and the establishments appeared healthier on most of the measurements familiar to us from healthy prison inspections. I think that some people can be uncomfortable with a military type model without realising that along with concentrating on the structure and the objective a concern for the welfare of those below you is, generally, the foundation of this model.

Following publication of the Marty report into atrocities allegedly committed in Kosovo at the end of the Yugoslav conflict the EU committed to creating a court, the Kosovo Specialist Court (KSC). The process to create the court began in November 2014. The EU contacted me shortly after and asked if I would be interested in opening a new establishment, as the family illnesses had now sadly resolved themselves, I agreed. I spent the next 3 years in Brussels and then a further 2 years in The Hague writing operating procedures for the new establishment and negotiating with the Dutch Justice Ministry for accommodation, staff



## Foreign Times *continued...*



and the facilities required. These negotiations are still ongoing as the unit has yet to open as no arrests have yet been made. During the period in Brussels I inspected and assessed 3 Dutch prisons (including a private prison) for the location of a new Detention Unit for the Kosovan court.

During my time with the international community, apart from running my own unit, I inspected and assessed 9 prisons in 4 different countries and noted a couple of common themes. It felt to me that prisons with a well-structured hierarchy appeared to provide the healthiest conditions for prisoners. It was also evident that functions supplied by contract delivery are extremely difficult to manage and take up an inordinate amount of management time. Without encouragement from me, it became plain that every establishment with

contracted services suffers the same issues and they are the main bugbear of almost every Governor or Directeur I met. I made a lot of friends in Holland both professionally and socially but well remember a comment made by a Dutch operational manager who had been headhunted from the Dutch Prison Service to deliver services to a cluster of prisons under contract by a private supplier. One evening after work we were discussing his new situation and he explained to me (with some regret) that it had been made clear to him by his superior that his job was to deliver "gebakte luft" (baked or fried air) to his prison cluster. I told him that I had attended lots of meetings where gebakte luft or its English equivalent had seemed to be the main item on the agenda.

**DAVID KENNEDY**

## Treasurer's Report

**In your reading of this edition of the Newsletter you will now be in possession of the information that this years AGM has been cancelled as a "live event" and will instead be held as a "virtual meeting" via the wizardry that is ZOOM.**

Please refer to my Computer Corner article for further details of exactly what "Zoom" is.

The result of this is that where I would have presented my financial report as part of the AGM I am doing so in advance so that they can be published to you, the members in this edition of the Newsletter.



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

As you are probably aware, the financial year for the RPGA mirrors that of the main PGA in that it runs from 1st January to 31st December. Therefore my annual routine is that at sometime in early February I look to balance off the books, and send them off to the PGA Auditors for checking and certification. This is because the RPGA is an associated part of the PGA under their constitution, and our accounts, and any funds we hold, are an integral part of their financial structure.

I was lucky enough to get the books off to the auditors in advance of the Coronavirus restrictions coming into force, especially as when the lockdown came, the auditors, along with many other companies, were forced to close down their offices, and to furlough their staff. Whilst this situation did cause some delay, it was related to getting the books back to me, rather than the auditing process itself, and I did manage to get the books back in late April.

I am therefore in a position to confirm that the figures for the RPGA accounts for the 2019 financial year are audited and certified. They are published below for the information of members, and full copies of the certified accounts are available from me at **graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com** In addition, if you have any questions or queries regarding the accounts then contact me through the same email address.

As far as the accounts for 2019 are concerned I am happy to report that it has been another steady year, where, although income from subscriptions has reduced from 2018 by £54, this has been more than offset by a reduction in our expenditure for the year leading to an increased surplus of income over expenditure of £1668.94. The main decrease in expenditure has mostly come from a reduction in committee costs where, by not replacing committee members who have retired/resigned, we have saved money on travel expenses. In addition, the generous offer from the PGA to allow us to share the venue and facilities used for their Annual Conference as the location for our AGM, has saved us a considerable outlay on room hire and catering.

One of the results of this reduction in our costs has been that I have been able to advise the committee that our finances are strong enough for us to be able to ensure that we are not constrained by costs when it comes to producing the Newsletter. The result of this is that, as editor, Paul does not have to trim the content in order to meet a predetermined cost, and you will note as you are reading this, the 40th anniversary edition, we have really pushed the boat out for a bumper colour edition. We hope that you enjoy it.

The other benefit of our healthy finances is that, at the moment, I do not envisage a need to increase subscription rates for the foreseeable future. Whilst our income has reduced year on year, the amount is not significant, and as long as we manage to control our outgoings, then we should be in a position of being able to maintain the subscription rates at their current levels, with only the cost of PGA diaries to be adjusted for, should costs increase.

At the 2019 AGM a resolution was proposed, and passed, that the RPGA would open discussions with the PGA regarding the handing back of the Benevolent Fund to them to administer. There were several reasons



## **Treasurer's Report *continued...***

behind this proposal, not least of which was the fact that the fund had originally belonged to the PGA, as a Charity Fund before being passed to the RPGA. Additional reasons for passing this back to the PGA were that in the time the RPGA had been responsible for this fund, very few grants for aid had been made, and indeed very few qualifying applications had been made. The Treasurer and President of the PGA agreed in January 2020 that the PGA would indeed accept these funds back onto their books on the basis that they would be in a better position to make use of the funds than we were.

With this in mind, once the RPGA accounts had been checked and certified by the accountants, I transferred the whole of the amount in the Benevolent Fund Account over to the PGA and as a result we, The RPGA, no longer hold a Benevolent Fund. However, this does not mean that the situation regarding aid and financial assistance has changed. As part of the agreement in transferring the funds, the PGA have given an undertaking that should an RPGA member find themselves in the unfortunate position at a time of dire need or emergency, of requiring financial assistance, a request for a Grant of Aid would be considered, under the same criteria that were applied by the RPGA.

### **Retired Prison Governors Association Treasurers Report Financial Year 01/01/19 to 31/12/19 Current Accounts and Benevolent Fund Account**

<b><u>Barclays Community Account (Current)</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Carried Forward on 1/1/19	10,775	25
<b><u>Income from 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>		
Subscriptions	5,658	00
Donations	0	00
Interest	0	00
Other	0	00
Other	0	00
Sub Total	5,658	00
<b><u>Expenditure From 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Printing	1,545	00
Stationery	132	00
Post/Phone	765	12
Travel/Subs	383	30
Refunds	17	00
Diaries	0	00
PCPS	0	00
Donations	125	00
Miscellaneous	198	00
Room Hire/Catering	0	00
Total Expenditure 2019	3,165	42
<b><u>Totals</u></b>		
<u>Carried Forward on 1/1/19</u>	10,775	25
Income 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	5,658	00
Sub Total	16,433	25
Expenditure 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	3,165	42
Sub Total	13,267	83
Statement Balance at 31/12/19	13,267	83
Minus uncleared cheques	0	00
Surplus/Deficit for financial year 2019	2,492	58
<u>Outstanding cheques</u>	0	00
Total	0	00
Miscellaneous expenditure 2019		
Insertion fee for Spring Newsletter.	45	00

## Treasurer's Report *continued...*

Insertion fee for Autumn Newsletter	45	00
Purchase of RPGA advertising banner for use at meetings/conferences	108	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>00</b>

### **Total Income 01/01/19 to 31/12/19**

Barclays Acc	5,658	00
<b>Total Income for year ended 31/12/19</b>	<b>5,658</b>	<b>00</b>

### **Cash Balance @ 31/12/19**

Barclays Account	13,267	83
<b>Total Current Account Cash Balance</b>	<b>13,267</b>	<b>83</b>

### **Lloyds Benevolent Fund Account**

Carried Forward on 1/1/19	5,653	36
Grant as approved by Committee.	0	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>36</b>
Income-Donation in Memory of Brian Thurlborn	25	00
Income-Donation in Memory of Harold Prior	25	00
<b>Total Income 2019</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>00</b>
<b>Balance on account on 31/12/2019</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>36</b>

### **Breakdown of Costs and Year on Year Comparison.      2019                      2018                      Variation**

#### **Annual Income**

Barclays Acc	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b><u>Total Income for year ended 31/12/18</u></b>	<b>5658.00</b>	<b>5712.00</b>	<b>-54.00</b>

#### **Annual Expenditure**

	2019	2018	Variation
Printing	£1,545.00	£1,419.00	£126.00
Stationary	£132.00	£170.29	-£38.29
Post/Phone	£765.12	£1,164.87	-£399.75
Travel/Subs	£383.30	£743.50	-£360.20
Refunds	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00
Diaries	£0.00	£505.20	-£505.20
Donations	£125.00	£175.00	-£50.00
Miscellaneous	£198.00	£99.00	£99.00
Room Hire/Catering	£0.00	£557.50	-£557.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,165.42</b>	<b>£4,834.36</b>	<b>-£1,668.94</b>
Balance Income/Expenditure	£1,668.94	£877.64	£791.30

	2019	2018	Variation
Year End Cash Balance			
Barclays Account	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58
Other	£0.00	£0.00	
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>£13,267.83</b>	<b>£10,775.25</b>	<b>£2,492.58</b>

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

Signed **G.S. Mumby-Croft** Treasurer Retired Prison Governors Association

Date **26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**



## Young Criminals on the March through the East Midlands

**\*\*\* BREAKING NEWS \*\*\***

**The good people of Northampton, Market Harborough, Leicester, Broughton Lodge, Gunthorpe and Lowdham have been put at risk by the irresponsible prison authorities as a barely supervised column of young criminals pass through our towns and villages where they are housed overnight in insecure church halls. Their destination is to be an open Borstal at Lowdham Grange, a Nottinghamshire country estate within easy walking distance of vulnerable local villages and of Nottingham itself. Why should we be put at risk by importing criminals from London in such a way. Criminals who are then to be placed in an institution from which they can easily walk away.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Had they known then the above could have been the leading story in a number of local newspapers in May 1930 as forty Borstal lads, aged between sixteen and twenty one, marched with ten officers from Feltham Borstal in Middlesex to a country estate which nestled on a hillside between the villages of Lowdham, Lambley, Epperstone and Woodborough, some eight miles east of Nottingham. At the time the prison authorities were relieved that after much misrepresentation of the reform aspect of their work, the press were blissfully unaware of their plans and of the march itself. Tom Iremonger MP said in 1962 that this was an epic journey that was still talked about by prison officers. Academic Victor Bailey wrote in 1997 that the March rapidly entered into the folklore of the prison service.

Also to be considered is that the secure Borstal experiment had commenced less than thirty years earlier, when a group of lads from London arrived at Feltham - in chains and under armed guard!

So how did it all start? In 1895 a reform minded Home Office Committee chaired by Herbert Gladstone, son of the prime minister William Ewart Gladstone, envisaged a juvenile-offender establishment that was:

**“a halfway house between the prison and reformatory ..... situated in the country with ample space for agriculture and land reclamation work ... with ... penal and**

**coercive sides according to the merits of particular cases ... amply provided with staff capable of giving sound education, able to train inmates in various kinds of industrial work, and qualified generally to exercise the best and healthiest kind of moral influence”.**

Reform was slow and it was not until 1930 with the opening of the Lowdham Grange Borstal Institution, that this aspect of the committee's work was realised.

Borstals had been developing through a cautious programme with the conversion of prison wings and reform schools since 1902. And although a few Borstal lads were allowed, usually supervised, out into the community, they were locked up at night in secure cells within secure establishments. This was not to be the case at Lowdham Grange, where they could literally climb out of a window or walk through an unlocked door, for as Tom Iremonger MP wrote some thirty years later, the open Borstal system placed a great strain and responsibility on its charges through the trust placed upon them. He concluded: 'What, after all was their training for?'

But what of the March itself; an ultimate test of trust and responsibility – did it succeed or fail? The Prison Commissioners had avoided the initial disaster of the hostile press, but what was to befall the marchers, their trusting escorts and their unwitting East Midlands guests?

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Harold Scott, a Civil Servant; future Prison Commissioner and future Commissioner of Scotland Yard, said in his biography

**'one day in May 1930 Alec Paterson [a prison commissioner who championed, reform of the prison system and the Borstal approach] walked into my room and issued one of his usual abrupt and excited invitations ... we are starting a new Borstal at Lowdham Grange in Nottinghamshire, and we are going to begin with a little experiment. Bill Llewellyn [the Deputy Governor of Feltham] who is going to be the Governor, will lead a party of forty boys on a route march from Feltham to Lowdham. They will spend six days on the road and will sleep in halls and other places arranged by friends. Would you like to join them? .... I accepted the offer on the spot.'**

Paterson personally interviewed the staff chosen to participate on the march and they set off with the chosen lads on 4th May 1930. After a church service, photographs and speeches, they left Feltham at 9.15 am accompanied by Mr Paterson, and arrived at Harrow at 5pm where they were hosted by the local ToCH ..... *[ToCH is an international Christian charity which was formed as a soldiers friendship club just behind the British lines in Belgium in 1915 – Alec Paterson was a friend of its founder 'Tubby' Clayton].*

After an uneventful night they left Harrow at 9.30 the following day arriving at St. Albans, again to be hosted by ToCH. The lads were treated to a tour of the town and were then entertained by ToCH and local scouts before sleeping on the floor, under tables and in a lorry - having a good night's rest at 'close quarters'.

On 6th May they washed by the river, cooked breakfast and left St. Albans at 10.30 to arrive at Dunstable at 4.15 where they were entertained and hosted by ToCH in the Wesleyan Church Institute. So far, so good. They left the next morning to arrive at Newport Pagnell, again to

be hosted by ToCH in the congregational church schoolroom and entertained by the local scout commissioner. The 8th May saw them leave for Northampton 'through beautiful countryside' where according to one lad:

**'much courtesy was shown us by passing folk and motorists who always had a friendly nod, or friendly word for us, boy scouts saluted us taking us for fellow scouts and even a policeman on point duty held up traffic for us to pass..... everybody seemed to have a ready smile.'**

A thus far uneventful journey saw them arrive at Northampton at 4.15 where they were joined by Harold Scott. They went swimming and had 'a lovely tea of teas' at Valentines café. They were again hosted by ToCH and were entertained by a conjuror, jazz band and ventriloquist.

They left the next morning and spent the night of 4th May in Market Harborough, again hosted by 'a warm hearted ToCH group'. On 10th May they left for Leicester, and were joined by Mr and Mrs Paterson 'who handed out bananas... which they had bought especially for us'. They arrived in Leicester at 5pm to be entertained by ToCH at Granby Hall after which they went to Aylestone public baths for a wash, swim, change and an inspection. Harold Scott tells the Lord Mayor raised a titter when after reviewing the party he cheerfully declared, "if I was a bit younger I would like to be in your place". They spent the Sunday in Leicester attending church and sightseeing. The next morning they were again visited by the Lord Mayor and left to complete their walk. They spent the night of 12th at Broughton Lodge, sleeping in a refreshment hut and to quote one of the lads:

**'... we had dancing and jazzing ... lovely feed of feeds spread out on the table .... anyone stepping in would have mistaken us not for Borstal boys but for a party of boys on a world tour, happy as sandboys were everyone.'**



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

On 13th May 1930 they marched along the Fosse Way in rain and drizzle to have lunch at Gunthorpe. Then the sun came out, as did many of the villagers and the vicar as they entered Lowdham village.

**'It seems like all of Lowdham had turned out to see us.'**

At the gates to Lowdham Grange [on Epperstone Road] they were met by the Bishop of Southwell and other dignitaries. They proudly marched up the hill in good order craning their necks to see the country house and tents that were to be their new home.

W.W. Llewellyn wrote

**'...so ended a wonderful ten days [one hundred and sixty two miles]; it has been a happy and inspiring experience for all have shared a common life, entirely out of common for Borstal officers and lads ... a petty round of irritating concerns and the jarring contacts of one with another inevitable in a small and closed-penned community. The staff pulled together in an admirable way; a better spirit could not have been wished for. The lads, in conduct, in good manners, in willingness, in unselfishness at all times were ideal; unpleasant incidents, even of a petty nature, were almost entirely absent.'**

Victor Bailey also noted that the preparation for the march and the enterprise was as important as the move itself, as it involved a change in the relationship between staff and boys from the although well intentioned, arid strict discipline and punitive regime of existing Borstal training. It involved risks for staff who had to;

**'... look again at the boys with a scrutiny, a hope and an anxiety which could not have been called forth while the staff themselves were not, in a sense, in jeopardy and dependent on the boys loyalty to them.'**

Furthermore, the staff on the march would be the first to take the blame for any untoward incidents or inappropriate actions of their charges. He also considered that

**'at once the boys and their gaolers became, in however elementary and superficial way, on the same side.'**

Alexander Paterson wrote, later in the 1930s, that:

**'it is strange thing as the English Lad is a cussed animal, easily led, but driven with much soreness on both sides.'**

Harold Scott wrote in his memoirs:

**'... the Borstal boys felt proud in the trust we placed in them, and felt themselves to be, for as indeed they were, the pioneers of a great new adventure.'**

He also wrote that he 'never regretted' accepting Alexander Paterson's invitation to join the march.

Like Lowdham Grange Borstal, the March was a great innovation and success and should be remembered not only for the risk that many in authority and their supporters took; but also for how the young criminals responded to the trust that was placed upon them.

Officers on the March were:

W. W. Llewellyn (Governor)  
C. T. Cape (Housemaster)  
H. J. Taylor (Assistant Housemaster)  
H. H. Holmes (Senior Officer)  
S. G. Smithson (Officer)  
A. T. Perry (Officer)  
C. Burns (Officer)  
J. H. Marsden (Officer)  
E. Young (Driver)  
T. W. H Quick (Hospital Officer)

The officers and lads were to spend the first few years at Lowdham Grange living in tents and wooden huts whilst the lads under the supervision of local tradesmen were to build a

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Borstal Institution that was finally demolished in the 1990s to make way for a modern, secure prison. They also built the housing estate for Officers and their families, which still stands and is now in private hands. Lowdham Grange Borstal was an internationally famous innovation in penal history. It received many visits from dignitaries and study groups from across the world and was still spoken about by academics and others at conferences decades later.

During research for the book the author contacted local history societies and newspapers along the route of the march none of whom had any knowledge of its existence.



**JEREMY LODGE**

The second reprint of Jeremy's book **'Lowdham Grange. Borstal!'** will be available from the end of October. It can be purchased from the author or 'The Bookcase' in Lowdham **[www.thebookcase.co.uk](http://www.thebookcase.co.uk)** **[janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk](mailto:janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk)**

Jeremy has also been awarded a grant by the Thoroton Society to enable him to undertake further research on the origins, people and work of Lowdham Grange Borstal. He would be grateful for any photographs, information or stories that you may have. Jeremy can be contacted through the editor or by writing to: Jeremy Lodge, 15 Satterley Close, Witham St Hughs South, Lincoln LN6 9QB or **[jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk)**



Photograph taken at Feltham before at the start of the march. 1930.

*Photographer unknown.*



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Tented Camp. The first home of Officers and Lads of Lowdham Grange. May 1930.  
*Photographer unknown.*



Parade outside Grange House with farm in background. Circa 1930  
*Photograph Edmund Bird, courtesy of his daughter*

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Arriving at Lowdham 13th May 1930  
*Courtesy of Nottingham Evening Post*



HMP Borstal Lowdham Grange Staff 1960.  
*Photographer unknown.*



## APPLICATION FORM : RETIRED GOVERNORS GROUP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the retired Governors group of the PGA

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **Harry Brett - h\_brett@sky.com**

---

### BANKERS STANDING ORDER

TO: The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank PLC

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account No \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS DETAILED BELOW and DEBIT MY ACCOUNT

Name of Payee **RETIRED PRISON GOVERNORS**

Payments to be made to **Barclays Bank PLC  
PO Box 11, North Street, RUGBY,  
Warwickshire, CV21 2AN**

Account Number **50125113**

Sort Code **20: 73: 48**

Please Pay **£20 (twenty pounds) ~~Delete which does not~~  
£13 (thirteen pounds) **apply****

Each **YEAR** commencing on \_\_\_\_\_ until further notice.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<https://rpga.homestead.com/Newsletter.html>

# The Retired Prison Governors Newsletter

Founded by Arthur Williamson in 1980 - 40 years of continuous publication.



ISSUE No. 83 | 40th Anniversary Edition



## REMEMBERING ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

Your Committee decided late last year to mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of the RPGA newsletter with a special colour edition. My big concern as editor was not being able to source sufficient material that would justify the additional cost. Thankfully my appeal for archive material did not go unheeded, and former editor, Brendan O’Friel, delved into his cupboards and produced a treasure trove, which has allowed me to select pieces for an 8 page retro section in this newsletter. The material provided by Brendan has allowed me to ensure that the founder of the RPGA Newsletter, Arthur Williamson, is properly celebrated. Inside you will find his reflections which describe how the Newsletter began. I have also included in full two other contributions from Mr Williamson both from 1990, one reflecting on the Strangeways riot, the other ruminating on the future. I cannot thank Brendan enough for his assistance in ensuring that the 40th anniversary is properly marked.

I’m also obliged to Neil Johnson who also responded to my appeal and gave me a lead to follow to track down John Powls, happily still with us, who was involved from the beginning with the production of the Newsletter, and was editor

from 1982 to 1984. I am grateful to John for his contribution to this edition, and for the insight he gives into the character of Arthur Williamson. It’s interesting to note that for the first sixteen years of its existence, the Newsletter was actually edited by a serving Governor. The roll call of editors is quite short. Arthur Williamson who edited the first five editions, John Powls, Brendan O’Friel, Mick Roebuck, and myself. By far the majority of editions were edited by Brendan, who took over as editor in 1984, continuing as sole editor beyond his retirement in 1996, through to 2005 from whence he alternated with Mick Roebuck until 2011, after which Mick took over as sole editor until giving way to me in 2015. Arthur Williamson did not just perform a stint as editor, he also performed the role of Letters Editor for thirty-three editions. Speaking of 40th anniversaries, this will be the 40th issue in which Bob Duncan has edited ‘Your Letters.’ Long may he continue. Thanks again to Brendan for the potted history.

I will keep my reflections on the Covid 19 epidemic short, not least because the full ramifications are still to play out. My condolences go out to those of you who had the misfortune to lose friends and relatives. If anything good is to emerge from the pandemic, let us hope that it is the long overdue root and branch reform that is needed of the broken social care system.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to those still in harness whose magnificent efforts to keep our prisons safe, decent and secure at great risk to themselves during the pandemic, have gone largely unacknowledged in the media. Their task was made all the more difficult by the failure of ministers to recognise that numbers needed to be reduced drastically and cell sharing completely banned. The retired branch salutes you.



PAUL LAXTON, Editor



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## From the Chair

### Life Goes on.

**D**ear members, will life ever be the same again? The past few months have been a testing time for us all, whether you are a retired Governor or in an operational setting, which I'm sure we all appreciate has challenged even HMPPS staff daily. Key workers indeed! In incident training we used to try to define "When is an incident over?" this incident may take some time yet. I hope you are all as safe and well as can be expected and avoiding the virus as much as you can. I seem to have 2 wardrobes of stuff I do not need. Email your stories, how have you managed in self isolation?

This edition celebrates 40 years of the RPGA newsletter so we thought a colour publication would mark this special event. Our thanks to Paul Laxton, our editor for the extra work he has put into this edition. Our AGM this year will not go ahead at the PGA conference as it is cancelled. We have made alternative arrangements for the AGM to be hosted 10th November. Details are outlined in this edition. The AGM will see the departure from our committee of David Taylor who has contributed common sense, humour and cricket stories for the past few years and we shall be sad to see him go. Thank you David! Would you like to join the RPGA committee? Let us know if you would, you will be welcome.



*This is me in colour on the Tarka cycle trail in Barnstaple, North Devon in late June 2020.*

Are you one of those folk now using the "ZOOM" application to communicate virtually with friends, committees and others? Your committee have met twice on ZOOM so far, to discuss how to improve the website which we would encourage you to visit, and give us your ideas on how we can improve it. (rpga.org.uk)

ZOOM has enabled us to run the association business as smoothly as we can and our treasurer has been pleased as it has saved us travel costs too! You will note from his section in this newsletter that we continue to be in a stable financial position. Thanks to Graham Mumby-Croft for keeping us in the black.

I make the annual appeal for items of interest for the newsletter, past experiences in your career, things you have done in retirement, great places to visit, with photos if possible. Our editor will welcome your contributions, as will Roger Outram, our letters and email coordinator. Contact information is in this edition.

I place on record my thanks to the RPGA committee for their work during the last 12 months. Next year will be a challenge for us to improve two way communications with members and increase membership. The world may seem to be on hold but we will go on!

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman



## HELP, PLEASE

### PETER LEONARD'S MEMORABILIA

Peter Leonard worked at Wormwood Scrubs from 1971-74. His widow, Christine, has asked me to dispose of various pieces of his prison memorabilia. She has agreed that I should pass his large collection of Scrubs photographs to an academic legal historian, Richard Ireland, who has a special interest in prisons. Richard will digitize them and, subject to copyright permission, will make them available on the Open University's Prison History UK website.

Many photographs are of Victorian/Edwardian days though others are from the 1960s/1970s era. Though I never worked at Scrubs, I visited many times and have found it relatively easy to identify most of the latter. I cannot identify the people in the photographs reproduced here. If any member of the RPGA can assist, I should be most grateful to hear from you at [pmq1@outlook.com](mailto:pmq1@outlook.com)

**PETER QUINN**



## Computer Corner incorporating a 'Zoom' special

Well, we do indeed live in interesting times, and as I write this in August we are now into the sixth month of lockdown and restrictions on social gatherings and meetings that the Coronavirus Pandemic has brought upon us.

I, and all the members of the Committee do hope that this copy of the Newsletter, and my Computer Corner, find you in good health physically, but much more importantly, mentally as well.

A great deal has been said about the impact of the current restrictions on peoples mental well-being, and in particular the impact on people who are having to be very careful, because they are in the group of people most vulnerable to the effects of catching the virus. Unfortunately, many members of the RPGA fall into this category either because of our ages, or because of underlying health issues, or maybe, like me, both.

There is help available through a variety of sources, and if you are a computer user, and have an internet connection there are plenty of places online where you can seek help and advice and therefore I would urge you to go online and search for help, guidance or support-you will be amazed at just what is out there.

One of the things that we are doing as an association is looking to improve, and expand the RPGA Website, and we have set up a small working group to look at what we can do to improve the site in order to provide a better, and more immediate service to members. This work is being lead by Roger Outram who looks after the website. To make access easier we have now removed the need for a password to enter the site, and Roger has started to place links on the site to other websites that members might find useful or interesting. Initially he has placed a link to the CSPA site and Age UK, both of which contain information that you may find of use. Further links will follow.

The easiest way to find the site is via this link:  
**<https://rpga.homestead.com/Newsletter.html>**

We would really like you to have a look at the site and to let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for making it better, including any links to sites that that you may have found, and think that other members might find useful. We



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

will test all links in advance of publishing them to members to ensure that we are directing you to a safe site.

That leads me nicely into the subject of safety on the internet.

Having said that there are lots of sites offering help and advice to people, about a whole range of subjects, you should always apply a liberal dose of caution before you blindly click on a link to a site. It is also important that you do not simply follow links found as a result of a Google search, and in particular by clicking on the first result that looks as if it matches what you are searching for. Not always the best, or safest option.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of Google, there are still sites that appear high in Google search results that are not 100% genuine. For example there are still sites that offer a service to fill in, and submit, official applications for services such a EHIC health cards for European travel, driving licences and passports. The application process for all of these is free, even though there is a charge for the item itself, such as a passports or driving licences, but some sites also charge a fee for actually submitting the application on your behalf. This is of course not illegal, but many of these sites do not point out that they are charging you for something you can do yourself directly, for free.

As an example, some time ago a friend went online to renew his European Health cards prior to going on holiday. He searched for EHIC on Google, and clicked on the first site that came up at the top of the results list. He filled in the online form, and paid the £15 fee, job done. Except of course, had he gone onto the official Government Website (GOV.UK) he would have been able to renew these for free.

## Computer Corner *continued...*

I would recommend that if you want to find out anything about any service provided through Central Government then GOV.UK is the "go-to" site. It is the official government website for nearly everything from Income Tax to advice on the Pandemic, Pensions, Driving Licence, and everything in between. You can use it to gain access to the Customs and Revenue site where you can deal with all matters to do with taxation, including filing your Tax Return, and you can use it to check on any travel restrictions or advice when going on holiday.

To be able to use the site securely for personal matters like tax or pensions, you will be directed to go through **The Government Gateway** which is the security portal that offers password protection to all your transactions. Before you can go through this Gateway you will be required to provide your details and will be issued with a reference code and a password. Your password will be sent to you by post as an added security measure, so joining up takes a little while, as you need to wait for your password to arrive before you can proceed. However this is well worth the effort, as once you have access through the Gateway there is so much you can do directly on the site, and all securely.

Your Local and County councils all have their own websites that provide a wealth of information on local services, and allow applications online for things such as Bus Passes, and of course in these changed times, to be able to book a slot at the Recycling Centre to get rid of your rubbish.. To ensure you are on a genuine site, all official central and local government sites have **@gov.uk** at the end of their web address.

As I have said, many people use Google to search for the sites to visit, and often people will automatically go to Google to find a website, even if they have visited the site before. One way to increase your security online is to use websites that you have used before, and know to be safe. To do this once you have found a site, and are happy that it is secure, save it to either your **FAVOURITES** or **BOOKMARKS** on your browser. In this way if you want to visit the site again enter it via the already saved address and you know that the site is safe.

To check that a site is secure **before you send personal or financial information over the internet**, ensure that the web address has the symbol of a closed padlock at the start of it, and that the web address begins with https: The "s" is the important bit here, as it means the site is secure. This does not always mean that the site is genuine, but what it does mean is that any information sent between the site, and you, is encrypted, and therefore cannot be intercepted and used by a third party.

If you are carrying out any financial transaction online, **NEVER do so on a site that does not have the closed padlock symbol, or an address that starts https//**. You will be at risk.

One of the major changes that has taken place as a result of the lockdown has been a huge increase in people working from home, and a major increase in the use of Video communications as a way of communication both for business meetings, and for friends and family as a means of keeping in touch with loved ones.

The use of video conferencing has been around for some time now but since the lockdown its use has grown beyond all expectations, and some of the programmes used in this process such as WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, Skype and Zoom have come into everyday use, and indeed have become so common that "To Zoom" as a verb has changed from meaning to move quickly and instead has become, to meet with others in a video chat or conference.

As long in the tooth as we are, the RPGA committee has itself embraced the new technology of Zoom and in the past few weeks have held a full committee meeting, and two sub-group meetings using this technology, and now, due to the fact that we will be unable to hold an AGM this year as a "live event" at which members can attend in person, we are looking to attempt to hold it as a Zoom meeting instead. I mentioned earlier that there are several video conferencing applications available, but from here on, because it is the platform the RPGA has chosen to use, I will only refer to Zoom.



## Computer Corner *continued...*

So, if you wish to join in at this years AGM then what will you need in order to take part?

Firstly you will need a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, this can be a Personal Computer, (PC), a Laptop, an iPad or Android Tablet or a mobile phone. For mobile devices, pads, tablets and phones it is best if they are connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. Laptops can either be connected via Wi-Fi or hard wired to your modem/router. PC's should be hard wired to your modem/router.

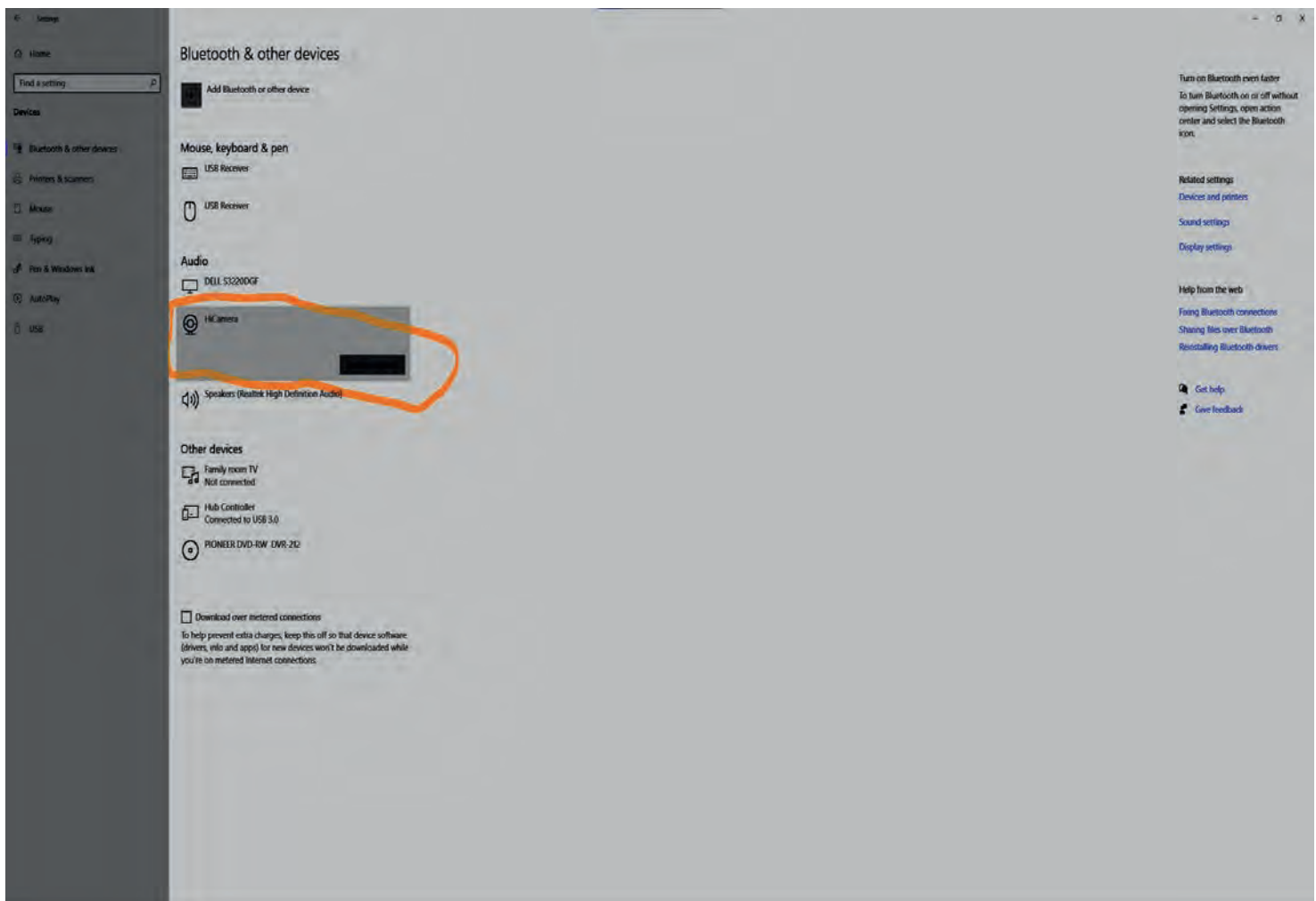
You do not actually need to download the Zoom application to be able to join in a Zoom meeting, but it is useful to download the application as it will allow you to test your camera and communications without the pressure of being in ,or trying to join a meeting.

The next requirement is that your device needs a camera and microphone in order to be able to communicate. Mobile phones, tablets and pads will normally have a built in camera and microphone, as will most laptops, but you will

need to add a Webcam to your PC in order for you to be able to take part in any Zoom meeting. If you do not already have a Webcam then you will need to purchase one. There are hundreds of models available but you may find that some are now more difficult than others to buy at the moment. This is because online meetings have grown so much, and so fast, that there has been a shortage of many IT components, webcams included.

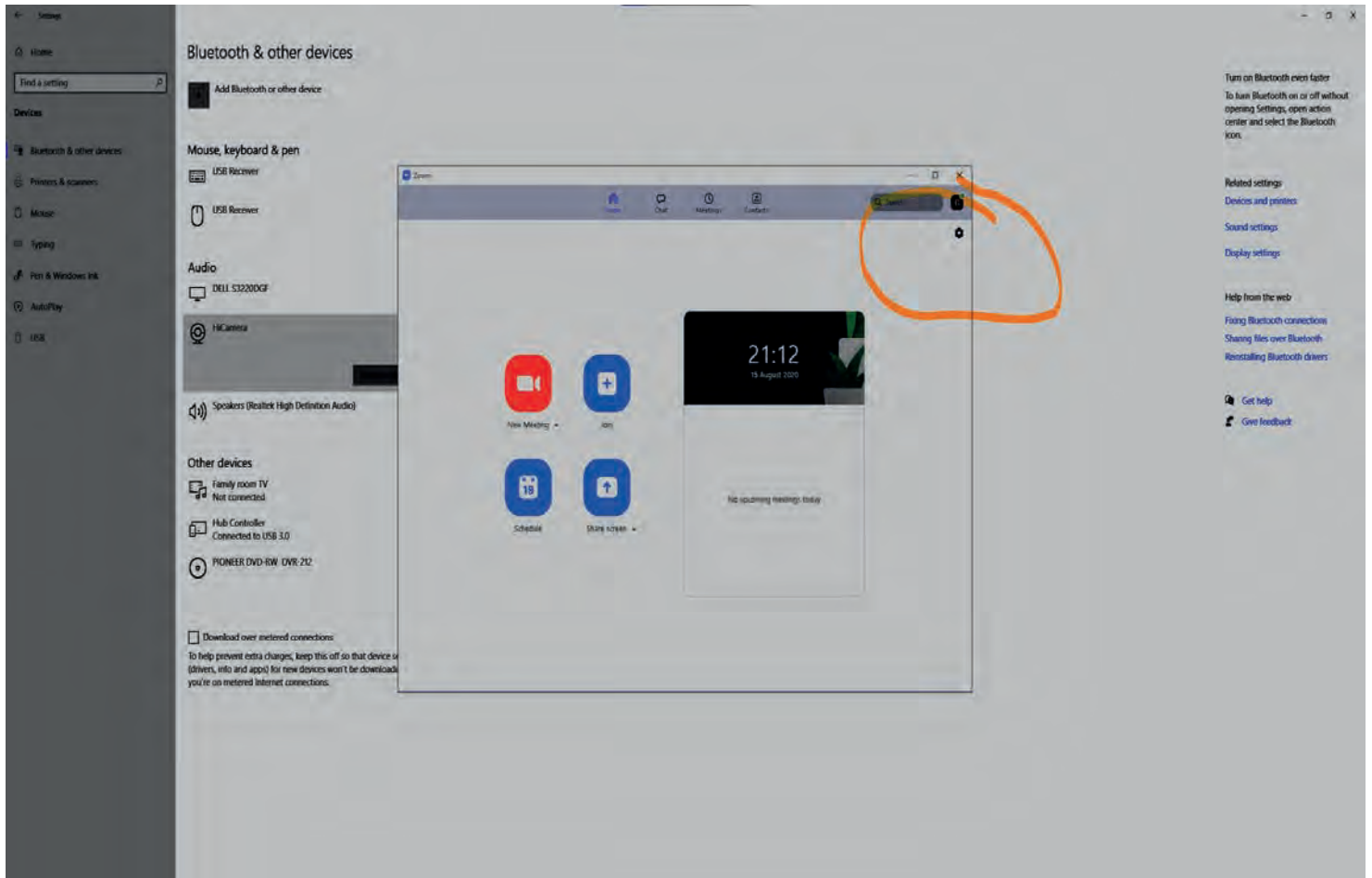
If you have, or need to obtain a webcam these will connect to you computer via a USB socket and most cameras are Plug and Play, which effectively means that once you plug them into your USB socket they will automatically connect, and download the required drivers to make it all work. You will not normally have to download any other software to make this work, but refer to your cameras documentarian to check.

Staying with PC for a moment, if, having plugged in your camera you cannot get it to work, you may need to check that both camera and microphone are enabled on your computer system. If you are



## Computer Corner *continued...*

using Windows 10 you need to go to “Settings” which can be found either by left clicking on the Start symbol (Window) on the bottom left, or by clicking on the “Notifications” symbol on the bottom far right. On the Settings Home Screen click on “Devices” and then “Bluetooth and Other Devices”. Your camera should be listed here.

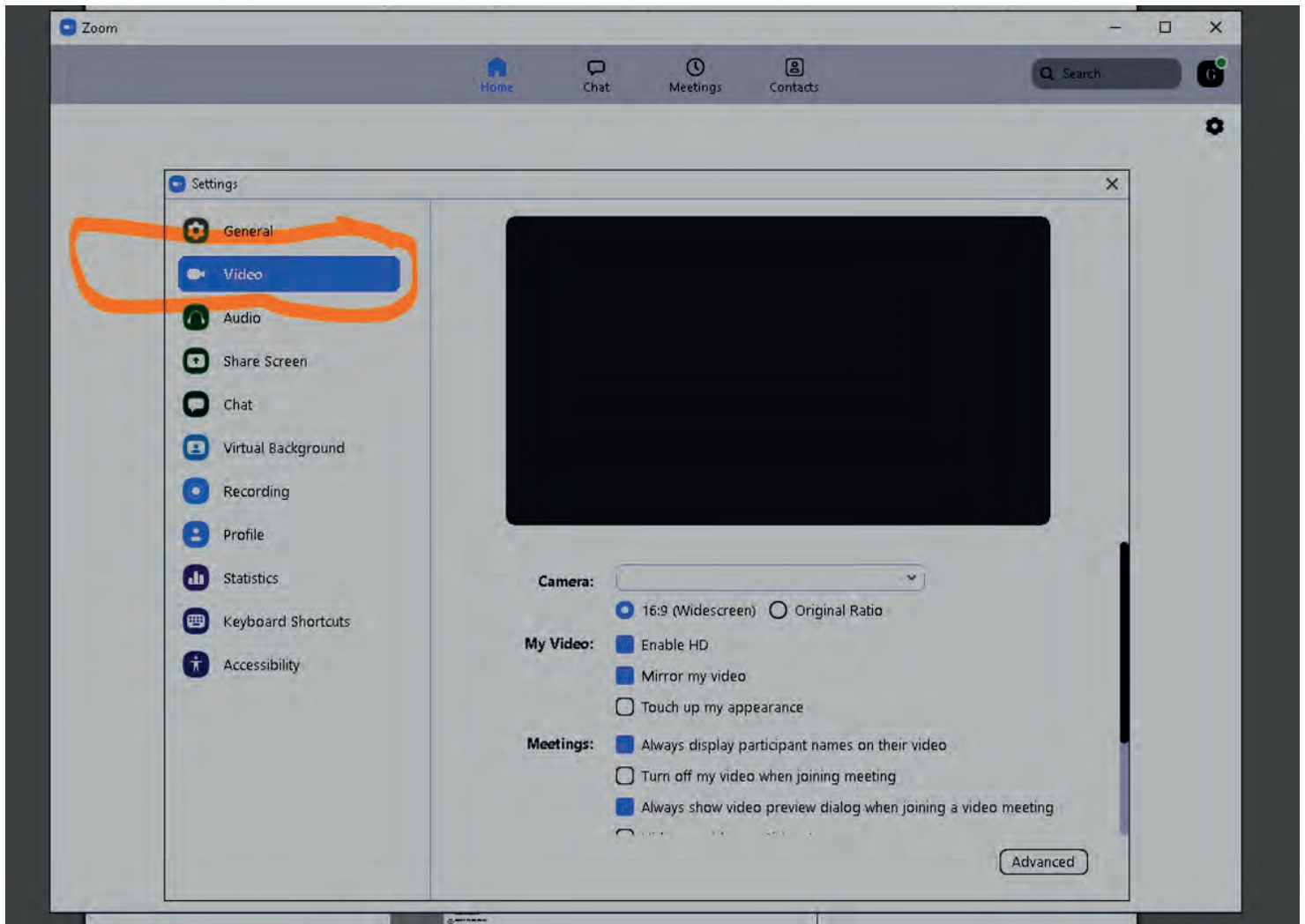


If you have downloaded the Zoom application you can open this and on the “Home” screen you can click on the “Settings” button, A cog wheel in the top right hand corner and this will take you into the settings where you can test and adjust you video and sound as well as add background images to give you location a more exotic look. (See screenshots).

If you possess all the equipment required to take part in the Zoom version of the AGM and do not wish to download the Zoom programme you will still be able to join the meeting by following the link to the Zoom site, that will take you directly into the meeting, without the need to download anything. This applies equally if you are looking to join the meeting from your phone, tablet, laptop or PC. In addition to the link to the site you will need a reference number for the meeting, and a password.

Sadly it is possible, and does happen that Webcams and microphones can be hacked into allowing someone to have access to control one, or both of these. I would advise that when you are not using your webcam, particularly on a PC or laptop it is a wise precaution to disable them. If your camera is separate, and

## Computer Corner *continued...*



plugged into a USB port then the simple answer is to unplug it. On a laptop you can disable the camera and microphone through the operating system such as windows. Follow the same procedure I described above to check your camera in SETTINGS but this time disable the camera and microphone.

I strongly advise you to download the ZOOM application in advance and have a practice with the Video and Sound setting to make sure you webcam works properly.

If you wish to join this year's AGM being held on ZOOM then this is the information you need to be able to take part. If you already have it, open the ZOOM application and click on Join A meeting. If you have not downloaded the ZOOM application this link will take you directly to the ZOOM site. Type it, or copy and paste it into the address bar of you Browser and click Go.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7105430365?pwd=cUxZUWd1Y1E4RkV1YmYrRVVoczZ6dz09>**



## **Computer Corner** *continued...*

Whether you have gone into the application from your computer, or via the link, once you are connected to the site you will be asked for a meeting ID which is:

**710 543 0365**

You will then be asked to enter a Passcode, which is:

**0mphV2**

You should then be connected to the waiting room for the meeting, and the host will be informed, and admit you to the meeting.

If you do not have an internet connection you can still join the meeting by telephone. You can do this by dialling one of the numbers shown below. Please be aware that these are NOT free numbers and you will be charged for the call by your service provider, however they are NOT PREMIUM RATE numbers.

**0131 460 1196**

**0203 051 2874**

**0203 481 5237**

**0203 481 5240**

**0203 901 7895**

You will be asked to enter the meeting ID on your phone keypad followed by #

**The Meeting ID is still 710543365 #**

Press # again and you will be asked for a Passcode, *this is a different number than for entering via a video link.*  
The Passcode is:

**086713**

You will then enter the waiting room and the meeting host will admit you to the meeting where you will be able to hear all that is being said, and to speak yourself.

# **Annual General Meeting 2020 Agenda**

## **Virtual Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**14:00hrs**

**Welcome to those attending by the Chairman, Graham Smith**

- 1 Attendees**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- 4 Matters Arising**
- 5 Treasurer's Report**
- 6 Membership Report**
- 7 Civil Service Pensioners Alliance**
- 8 Newsletter**
- 9 Website Update and email Register**
- 10 Election of Officers**  
Graham Smith, Ray London and Jan Thompson are due for re-election
- 11 Date of next Annual General Meeting**

# Minutes of the 2019 AGM

## Retired Prison Governors Association

*A section of The Prison Governors Association*

Chairman: **Graham Smith** graham.smith646@hotmail.co.uk  
Secretary: **Ray London** raymond\_london@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: **Graham Mumby-Croft** graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 13.30hrs.

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed members to this years' Annual General Meeting.

### 1. Present: (10 in total)

Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman), Ray London (Secretary), Harry Brett, Jan Thompson (Minutes), Paul Laxton, Graham Mumby-Croft, Dave Taylor

Members:

John Berry, Chris Duffin, Flo Herbert

### 2. Apologies:

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Roger Outram, John Rumball, Lynn Bowles

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

These were distributed to attendees at the meeting and were agreed unanimously as a true record.

Proposed by: Harry Brett

Seconded by: Paul Laxton

### 4. Matters arising

#### Reference Action Responsibility Progress

7.6.18 Agenda Item: 'Social Events' to be taken off future AGM agendas

Ray London - Completed.

8.6.18 Harry Brett to contact James Bryant (PGA) with a view to the CSPA having a stand at the PGA Conference.

Harry Brett - Completed.

10(i).6.18 To produce an article in the newsletter explaining how to access the website and the benefits of it.

Roger Outram - Completed

10(ii).6.18 A small committee to convene to determine the content of the website.

Roger Outram/Paul Laxton/Graham Smith - Completed

12.6.18 GDPR to be sent to members.

Harry Brett - Completed



## Minutes of the 2019 AGM *continued...*

### 5. Treasurers' Report, including Benevolent Fund

The main points that were highlighted from the 2018 accounts were as follows:

**Total Income** for the year was £5712.00 (a decrease of £483.00 from the previous year) which was all made up of membership subscriptions.

**Total Expenditure** was £4834.36 (a decrease of £730.95 from the previous year)

**Surplus of Income over Expenditure** was £877.64 (an increase of £101.26 from the previous year)

**Cash Balance at the end of 2018** was £10,775.25 (an increase of £877.63 from the previous year). This figure includes the transfer of £2050.43 from the closure of the Lloyds current account. In a breakdown of the main costs, the newsletter for 2017 cost a total of £2546.62 which represents 52.7% of the total expenditure of the RPGA. Travel and Subsistence amounted to £743.50; Room Hire and Catering was £557.50 and Donations amounted to £175.

At the end of 2018, **The Benevolent Fund** account stood at £5653.36 (a £75 increase on the previous year). The Treasurer informed the AGM that, as of the 2nd September 2019, the current Account stands at a total of **£13,611.62**

Graham Mumby-Croft addressed the members about his wish to transfer the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA, although this would require an amendment to the PGA Rules and Regulations (Rule 30, Para H), and sought the memberships' permission to open discussions with the PGA Treasurer to this effect. The Benevolent Fund Trustee, Terry Bone, is to be informed.

Proposed by: Graham Mumby-Croft

Seconded by: Ray London

This motion was carried.

**(Action Point: i)** Graham Mumby-Croft to communicate with the PGA Treasurer with a view to transferring the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA. A discussion took place on a proposal to ask members whether they would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email or post. During the discussion it was pointed out that newer members would probably opt for an email version whereas older members would probably still prefer a hard copy. It was noted that if more members preferred the email option the costs would not initially be reduced due to the higher cost of printing a lower number of copies.

Proposed by: Ray London

Seconded by Dave Taylor;

**(Action point ii)** Paul Laxton to write an article for the next newsletter reference the digitisation of future Newsletters on the web page and to invite comments on what members think of this proposal, prior to further discussion.

### 6. Membership Report

Harry Brett distributed a current membership report to the members. The breakdown of the membership was as follows:

At the AGM in June 2018 there were 416 members.

At the AGM in October 2019 there are 416 members.

There have been 15 new members joined in this time, three resignations and three members who have been untraceable.

Unfortunately there have been 9 members who have died during this period and the Chairman led a one minute silence for our deceased members.

Deceased members:

Brian Baldwin, J R Penson, Brian Hayday, Peter Leonard, Cyril Jones, Denis Marsden, Kenneth Debenham, Roland Adams, Gary Dadds

## **Minutes of the 2019 AGM** *continued...*

### **7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.**

A discussion took place on what topics were currently in vogue in respect of today's pensioners. These include the removal of the free TV licence for over 75's; the Triple Lock for State Pensions (which will remain in place until the end of 2019); Social Care and Intergenerational Fairness.

In respect of the CSPA, the AGM is to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Harry Brett and Paul Laxton will be attending on behalf of their respective branches and will pass on any items of interest to Graham Smith and other committee members.

### **8. Newsletter**

The editor mentioned that the timing of the newsletter has been altered slightly due to a draft copy being forwarded to committee members before its publication. Newsletters are now due around April and October, the latter to include the PGA Presidents' Conference address.

(Action Point: iii) Paul Laxton to contact James Bryant from the PGA to enquire if they have access to an archive of RPGA Newsletters.

(Action point iv) Paul Laxton to contact RPGA members to ask the same question.

### **9. Website Update and email Register.**

Unfortunately Roger Outram was unable to attend this AGM although he did send an update to the effect that his only input regarding the website was that it is in good order and working well and the next Newsletter will contain instructions on how to access the website.

### **10. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

To be discussed with the PGA President with a view to holding the next AGM at the same time and venue as the PGA Conference.

Finally, the Chairman thanked those who attended and the meeting closed at 14.45hrs.



HMP Wakefield - Front Gate

## Your Letters

### Dear All

You might have thought that with all this newfound time locked away at home, courtesy of Covid-19, with little to occupy our time someone would have found time to write to me but it's not to be it seems. I do understand that writing to someone who is essentially unknown to you is probably not the most exciting thing, but I assure you, together we have trod the hallways and landings of many HMPs, and getting news of and from people whose names we know is interesting to all of us. There are many regular contributors to the newsletter who pen really good and lengthy tomes about their various experiences, but these are not for the letters page. I know that the letters page interests you because you are here reading this so go get your pen or keyboard and drop me a line about what you are doing now. Meanwhile, my pal **Bob** has sent his usual note for which I am extremely grateful, please see below:

**ROGER OUTRAM**

//

The Virus would appear to have caused communications to dry up, together with the fact that fewer old stalwarts remain with us as each year goes by. This, unfortunately, includes Margery Marchant, who I have known for over 50 years. We were all at Dover Borstal, together with John and Jean Childs, and Alan Rawson, all of us kept in touch; as did the McGowan's but their association was from Guys Marsh. Bernard Marchant could appear a little distant at times, but there was no disputing his commitment, neither his dedication nor his genuine concern for those in his charge. Margery was also very able in her own right, and along with the Governor's wife and my wife to be, all taught at the local Grammar School.

Margery and Bernard were devoted to each other and Margery totally supported Bernard in all he did both in the Service and retirement. They were also devoted to their children and their development. Bernard had also served as Governor of Pentonville and the Governor's quarter then backed on to the prison, so Margery was well informed of all that went on. Margery would probably phone me every other month, either to enquire why the Newsletter was late, or just for a chat. She never tired of reminiscing about 'the Service in its heyday'. She nursed Bernard at home until he passed away, and then later moved to the Care Home. She always said how happy she was there and that she was well looked after. One always sensed that life was never the same for her after Bernard died, and some of her old spirit declined. I will miss her dearly; she just loved to talk about the Service and the wonderful people with whom we all worked.

I have been in touch with Tim Newell, he sees John Dring each week; he is getting weaker but remains remarkably positive and has arranged to be able to meet people, enjoy family and friends and keep in touch with his beloved opera. We even shared a bottle of beer recently. Tim also often thinks about Alan Rawson, and agrees that he would have challenged all the limitations of the lockdown, and would have been most upset about the closing of pubs! A letter from John is reproduced at the foot of this piece.

It reminded me how much I also miss opera, when in London I could go to Covent Garden, and in Yorkshire, Opera North was brilliant and was based at The Grand Theatre, Leeds, where they put on splendid productions at a very good price. Kent is not so good, but the Marlow does have a number of productions, but more infrequent.

//



## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

On my 80th Birthday, I received a good number of best wishes from colleagues, all of whom I thank. I had meant to keep them all so I could refer to them. Alas at my age you do not want to be reminded too much of the passing years. The one that stood out, as it was not expected, was from the French residing geriatric hairy biker himself, Kevin Brewer.

I do not really understand Facebook, but receive quite a lot of communications for which I am grateful, as it means a colleague is still amongst us. Walter MacGowan places quite a lot on it including some lovely countryside scenes, as well as the number of places he visits. I was touched to see his shots of the Menin Gate scenes from Ypres in Belgium on Remembrance Day. It is both a fitting memorial and a wonderful service on the day, for all those who gave so much. It is a place that touches your heart deeply. It must never be lost or forgotten. It is very comforting to have some else who feels as deeply about as I do. Thanks Walter. He also shares a good number of his drinks and his meals; I could almost tell you a whole month's menu! He travels a lot and clearly lives life to the full, and remarkably looks very well on it. The last time I saw him was at Bernard Marchants' funeral. Deep down Walter is a very kind and deeply caring person.

Good to hear that Paul Wailen has completed his series of chemotherapy sessions and the initial results are very positive. He is awaiting the consultant's final analysis of the scans they took, but all looks well. He has booked a holiday in Greece for October, so let's hope it remains off the list of the quarantine on return countries.

Turning to myself for once, we had a holiday booked for Croatia in October, but Shearings went into liquidation during the lockdown, and anyway it now joined the quarantine list. I will have to live to next year. We have been anxious about my grandson's A level results. Great relief, he gained all A's even before all the fuss over the downgrading spectacle. So he is now on his way so I understand it, to Cambridge to study Psychology, following in the footsteps of his parents, but father studied Arabic, and his mother Arabic and Law.

Bob

”



**ROGER OUTRAM**

## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

Dear Bob

Thank you for writing, it is very good to hear from you.  
You asked me for news of my health for the magazine

In summary:

In 2017 I was diagnosed with motor neurone disease which started when I lost the use of my arms. I am taking a drug proven to slow it down a few months and three years later I am still managing to walk a few hundred metres with lots of rest on my walker. I now have carers arranged but more significantly I have got married and my wonderful wife, Midori, has said that she is standing by me whatever happens. Also, my kids have been brilliant and most supportive as have my Stepdaughters and many other friends like Tim Newell, Mike O’Sullivan, Bryan Payling, Richard Tilt, Tony Pearson, John Cann and Alasdair Munro.

I am still managing to play bridge online twice a week and eat a little porridge. I can talk at the moment but I can feel the speech is going. However, with the help of the excellent Motor Neurone Disease Association, I have banked my voice for when I become like professor Stephen Hawking.

Overall I think I am very privileged to have such wonderful support and comparatively comfortable life compared with many of the 5000 other people in this country who have this awful disease.

Please give my good wishes to all my other good friends in the service, I still watch developments very closely.

With very best wishes

Still bugging on!

John Dring

”

Please send your letters to:

**Roger Outram  
12 Grove Park  
Magazine Lane  
Wisbech  
PE13 1LF**

or

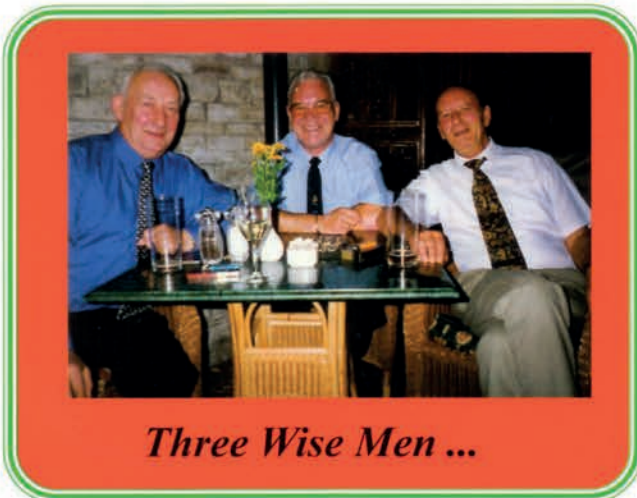
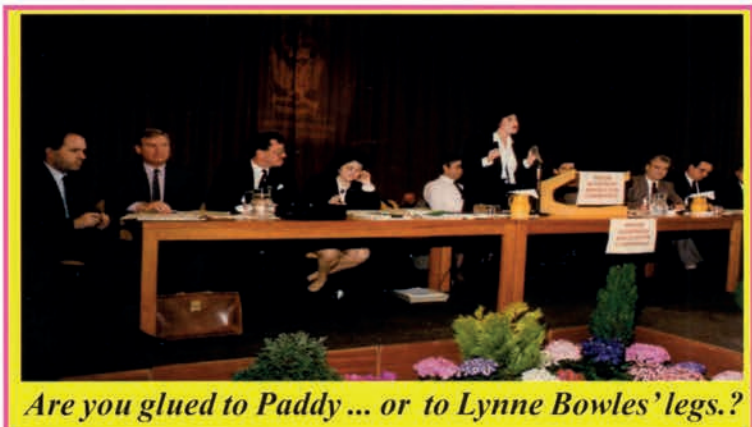
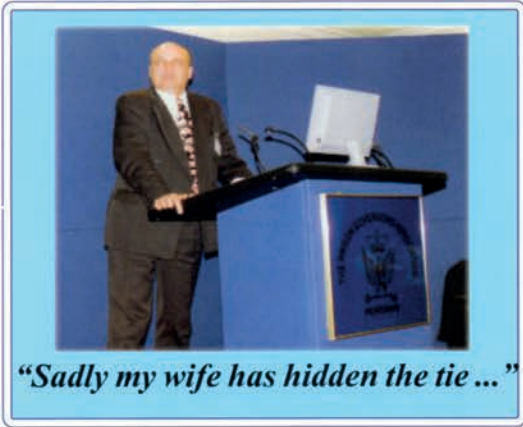
**roger@rsoutram.co.uk**

## Rogues Gallery

# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Edition

### Rogues Gallery





## Rogues Gallery

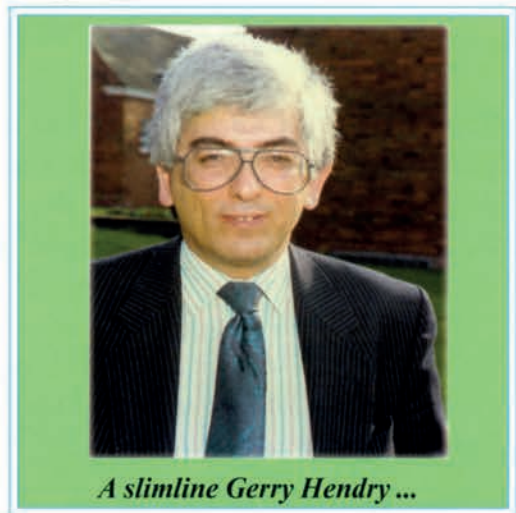
# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Edition

## Rogues Gallery



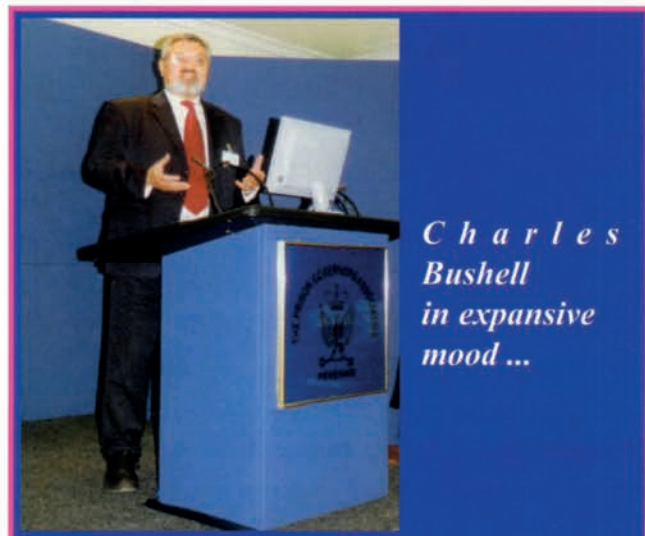
*Graham Smith laying it on the line ...*



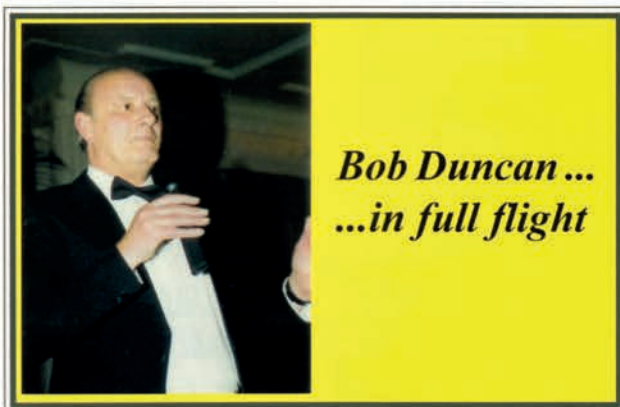
*A slimline Gerry Hendry ...*



*1997 Conference.  
Before Ann Widdecombe was blond!*



*Charles Bushell  
in expansive mood ...*



*Bob Duncan ...  
...in full flight*



*Harry Brett ...  
still going strong.*

## **Busman's Holiday and House Swap - a story**

**W**hile I was serving at Woodhill in 1996 and living in a village called Steeple Claydon in Bucks, I had the idea of planning to have a cheap holiday and trying out a house swap with the USA. The way that these schemes work is that you join a club and after paying a fee you then received a book with contacts advertising their houses for a holiday swap. You then picked any that you fancied and wrote letters (really) and waited for replies. We eventually made contact with a couple in California who lived near to Bakersfield on a farm and duly arranged to swap our house and car for a month. As it happened they came over first and we met for one day before we flew out. My car was a Ford Sierra and I duly took Gene out for a test drive and found that as he changed gear, with that darned manual shift and wrong side steering wheel, he looked down and not where he was going. After a few hairy aims at the ditch I left him to it.

When we arrived, after picking up their car from LAX, it was indeed a farm situated along a dirt track with brothers and in-laws all along the track. You could walk out of the front door and pick a grapefruit off a tree. One of those brothers had a contact in the California prison service and hey-ho it was arranged that as both myself and Jackie at that time worked in our prison service, we could go as honoured guests to Tehachapi Prison.

Tehachapi Prison is a huge supermax establishment situated in Southern California, and has 5 separate units (really prisons) which you need transport to move between. We were met by what would be the Deputy Governor, who had a quad bike on the back of his pickup truck as he was going hunting later, as we all do. I was trying to act cool at this point as both of us were escorted into one of the lower category units. The CNA of Tehachapi was 2700 but the OP CAP was 3350 so they were using the gym as accommodation and it was full of bunk beds three high, and when we went in hundreds of pairs of mainly Hispanic eyes turned to look at us. The officers said that we had better leave as they were expecting trouble.

We moved onto the high security unit (prison) and we were taken into the control hub of one of the wings which was similar to the CSU system at Woodhill, but the floor and walls were bulletproof glass with sally ports in them. In the office was a rack with a number of Armalite rifles in it and I noticed that it was not locked and the rifles had magazines in them. I asked the officer who would give permission to use the weapons and he just pointed at himself. The hub would give clear line of sight to three single level wings.

Outside I saw officers going into a building with flak jackets on and asked what they were doing. I was told that was the segregation unit and the staff had to wear the protection to prevent them being stabbed through the bars. I said that we would not need to go in there. We then were taken up to what was a sniper position that overlooked the exercise yard with an armed officer there at all times. On their SSU unit the exercise yard was one officer with one prisoner. The rule was that if the prisoner stepped closer than 6 feet to the officer, or the officer put his arm up, the overwatch would shoot to kill the prisoner. They had shot a number of prisoners in the first ten years but I was told that recently they had not had to shoot anyone, so in their opinion, the message had got through. Crikey, keep cool.

Before we left we were both invited to their security dept to look at their home made weapon display (yawn) and then, by the way, did we want to look at their book of prisoner assaults. Not sure what that would be but we said yes and we were both given a photo album to look through of prisoners that had been murdered by other prisoners. These photos were scene of crime photos and I had seen nothing to compare with what we were shown. The staff were not trying to shock us, they told me that the police never investigated any crime within the prisons as they had no authority, and the security department did all of that in house. I was still trying to act cool at that point but probably failing as we sat in our borrowed Cadillac to drive back to the farm after a long hot day.

One thing that happened from so many experiences on a very memorable trip was that I hit a kerb and lost a very posh hubcap from the Cadillac. I tried everywhere to get a replacement, and one day we were driving in a desert area and I spotted some hubcaps lining the road in the sand. This led to a warehouse with a sign on it 'The hubcap capital of the world'. Yes I thought, this was going to be a good day. There were two people sitting outside the unit in rocking chairs and when I looked inside there were thousands of hubcaps piled up everywhere. I said 'do you have a hubcap for a 69 Cadillac deVille?' 'Nope, ain't got one of those sunny'. I swear he had a spittoon and it went ping as I walked away. I offered to pay for the hubcap but Gene fessed up that he had made a dint in my old Sierra so all's well that ends well. Just one dint was a bonus as far as I was concerned.

We did three house swaps altogether and the last one was to Canada and lo and behold the people that we swapped with had a contact in the Canadian Probation service. Did we want to visit any prisons? Yes please we said. Kent max security prison and a rehabilitation prison that trained dogs but that will be another story.

**BRIAN PENFOLD**



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# LOOKING BACK

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RETIRED GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER OF YEARS PAST

### From 15 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 1*

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

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

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

### 10 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 9*

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

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

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

### 5 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 22*

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

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

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

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

### What of the Future?

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

*Arthur Williamson*

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**The Retired Prison Governors**  
NEWSLETTER • Issue 32  
Autumn 1995



## COLIN HONEY'S ADDRESS AT RAY CAMPBELL'S FUNERAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*26 June 1995*



## ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

### – the RPGN's first editor reflects on 50 editions

**"We were delighted to receive the latest edition of 'Newsletter' as I was starting to wonder if it was running out of steam or perhaps was past its 'sell by date'. It is clear this is not so. You started off by seeking contributions from those who have been with it from the start. Well I think I can claim to belong to that small group. The problem is not what to write, but where to start and when to stop. So much has happened in the intervening years. So why and how did 'Newsletter' start?"**

Sometime in early 1980 HO issued a circular stating the pensionable value of quarters had been increased and backdated. Doubting, if recently retired Governor grade members would have been informed I contacted my trusted friend Lionel Steinhausen. As suspected, he knew nothing about it, but wasted no time in contacting HO. It would take a brave man to 'cross pens' with Lionel at anytime and he soon received backpay. I am still waiting for my commission.

Realising one joined the 'League of Forgotten Governors' upon leaving the service; I collected addresses of 48 members of the Governor grades and wrote them seeking opinions on starting a 'Newsheet'. Twenty four replied and all but 3 stated they supported the idea. From then it

was a one-man show and I started to write, publish and post off the first actual copy in May 1980.

Within a few days I had financial contributions from Dermot Grubb at Bristol, Arnie Stapleton at Kirklevington, Jack Smith at Latchmere House and Jim Blakey at Highpoint

The response was very encouraging indeed and I was able to send out No 2 edition two months later. This contained no fewer than 33 pages, plus an article from the Governors branch of the Civil and Public Servants Association.

In April 1980 the 'Thatcher' government appointed Mr Derek Rainer (previously Managing Director of Marks & Spencer) to review wasteful spending within the Civil Service and to bring about a scheme to trim the 'Whitehall Army' by 65,000. This was to include pay and pension payments.

Understandably the main concern of our retired colleagues at that time was the future of their index-linked pensions. Clearly if the Government was able, such payments would vanish. To try to justify their intention they set up an independent enquiry to look into the question. This was to be known as the 'SCOTT REPORT'.

Instead of supporting the Government plan, the report stated: "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected. In other European countries the benefits enjoyed by pensioners are superior to those in this country and the benefits of index-linking are extended alike to both public and private sectors" The remainder of the report went on to completely rebuff the Government, with the result that index linking was safeguarded and we continue to be paid to what we are justifiably entitled.

Obviously I cannot list the hundreds of articles we have published over the last twenty-two years, in addition to countless numbers of letters from our readers, but the idea of a regular Newsletter was greatly appreciated. It is interesting to note that the first 5 editions contained 120 pages, 42 articles and 114 letters, all printed in full. So why the decline in contributions? Sadly far too many of our former colleagues are no longer with us. But one asks the question, "is there the same spirit in today's service as that enjoyed by our own generation". I fear this may not be so. However, there is still room for improvement, so if you have not written recently to the editor with all you own news, might I ask you to do so

#### From John Powls (ex RGN Editor 1982-84)

Edition 50! That lends some perspective. I was very much a sprog Assistant Governor at Manchester when Arthur got me involved in the process of organising and producing the first editions. I was very pleased to do so and made some new old friends – if you see what I mean – in the process. It was like being inducted into the history and traditions of the Service and if you liked a yarn or two – and I do, well....

I've been pleased to see editions over the years too and made contacts again because of that. After I gave up honest work – governing prisons – I spent some time in various jobs at Prison Service HQ before an interesting 3 years as a senior civil servant in the Home Office working on criminal policy. One of the jobs I led on was the Prisons/Probation review, which in turn proposed the setting up of the new National Probation Service. When the new Service was set up I was hankering after a big operational job again and was lucky enough in 2001 to become the first Chief Officer of the new London Probation Area former by amalgamating the former services in London. That brought me back into close partnership with Bill Duff, Area manager for London prisons – we joined the Prison Service together in 1978.

In closing I'd just like to say many congratulations on reaching your 50th and I hope you don't mind me having just a little personal share in your success. I reached my 50th last year so your next milestone is to be around long enough for me to get my sunsubscription – another 15 years as they keep us lashed to the mast for longer in Probation...



## BILL MARTIN

– our first Treasurer writes

**I recently read an article in a Sunday newspaper by Charles Murray entitled “Simple Justice”, in which the writer made reference to the prison population, offending rates, crime ratios and the like that existed in this country in 1954; I remember that year very well. I had joined the Prison Service at Walton Gaol in Liverpool in 1950 as an auxiliary officer when the pay was 118 shillings per week and a governor class 1 received the grand sum of £1,900 per annum.**

I worked an 84 hour, 12 day fortnight, usually working a full day shift from 7am to 5.30pm. The prison held over twelve hundred men, the staff numbered around 120 officers, 80 of which were auxiliaries - the lowest of the low. At that time the prison population of England and Wales stood at twenty two thousand, women and borstal boys included. Hangings and even floggings took place. Breakfast for a prisoner was a pint of tea and a pint of porridge. No 'Full Public Enquiries' in those days. I suppose it was almost as far removed from contemporary prison conditions as is the Navy now from that of Nelson's day.

In 1954 I had been transferred to Dartmoor, which in those days was a dumping ground for recidivist long termers, although they called it a 'central prison'. The Commissioners were intent on reintroducing the pre-war shift system there (the Norwich system) with a view to gaining greater continuity in terms of inmate/staff contact, since having two long shifts, am. and pm. with a one o'clock parade change-over resulted in the same officers supervising the same prisoners week in, week out for months on end. With four year's service I qualified to be officer i/c of one the farm parties during the day and 'bathhouse officer' in the evenings. I enjoyed working this system and the understanding of prisoners' attitudes and behaviour I gained during this period stood me in good stead in the years to come. The system. broke down. eventually - the POA saw to that!

The abiding memory I have of that time was when, having fallen ill with what then we called gastric 'flu', I found myself being fed with bread and milk for my Christmas dinner by a prisoner

in the bachelor quarters. We called him 'Piebald' and he was a real Norman Stanley Fletcher type. "Come on Mr Martin - another marfull".

I saw a good many changes during my 39 years in the Prison Service, ranging from the Norwich system, prison hostels, the Blake Escape and its repercussions, the introduction of parole right through to 'Fresh Start'. I saw four different designs of uniform and wore two of them myself before being promoted into the governor grades.

It was about that time that Arthur Williamson produced the first 'Newsletter'. He had been saying for years that there was a need for something of the sort to keep in touch with retired governors, and in the end decided the only way it would happen would be to 'do it himself'. It was a simple thing, just a couple of cyclostyled sheets stapled together, but it served its purpose well and was seized upon eagerly by the recipients. Arthur asked me to act as the treasurer of this venture, a task which I continued to undertake for a further seventeen years.

The production and finances were at first somewhat arcane. One item in the accounts in the early days being '1 box chocs. Mrs Jones (Typist)', I recall. The funds were generated a little bit here, a little bit there. An occasional donation, a fee from an appearance on TV, the residual funds from the stillborn BAPG, things like that. Also we worked on the principle that if the POA could have it for free, so could we and no one gainsaid us on this. Eventually we got ourselves onto a more formal footing with an annual subscription and in due course were invited to come under the aegis of the newly formed yet highly successful PGA and assumed the current format and now I find myself writing this article for inclusion in the 50th Edition.

By 1981 I had become governor of Leeds Prison, the dreaded 'Armley' that has featured in various television programmes and a few 'soaps'. It was interesting to see that the Wolfe Report on prison riots actually devoted a section to explaining why the prison had not gone up in flames as everyone expected it to do, and then the Sunday Times did a full two page spread about me as 'The Governor of the Powderkeg Gaol'. I very much enjoyed the seven years I served there and was once much amused to have my spies report after the POA general meeting that someone had stood up and declared "the trouble with this governor, Mr Chairman, is he knows too much!"

One final recollection; a few weeks before I retired in 1989 we were honoured with a visit by HRH the Duchess of Kent. All went well but as she was driving out through the main gate I turned to watch the royal standard being lowered from the flagpole on the central tower and as I did so I saw a prisoner's hand thrust out of a cell window waving a home-made Union Jack - pure 'Porridge'.





## **AN EXPLOSION OF EVIL**

**1st APRIL 1990 will be written into the history books of the Prison Service, as it was on that day that 'all hell was let loose' at HMP Manchester, and we all witnessed the scenes on our television screens. For days the rioting inmates sat on the roof of the wing after having destroyed much of the external fabric. What they had accomplished inside the prison we are not to know, but we can only assume that it is in a terrible state. The Press and Media of course had a 'field day' and one feels certain they enjoyed it all. It enabled them to print rumour after rumour, without any facts at all and, whilst a large section of the Public no doubt believed what they were told, those of us who have dealt with journalists would have recognised much of their efforts as simple *muck stirring* - the art of which they are masters.**

Eventually the truth will be found by the enquiry due to be carried out by Lord Justice Woolf, but it remains to be seen if the Public will be given all the facts. It will I suppose depend upon who is found to be at fault. Should it be political misjudgement it is doubtful indeed if all the facts will be made public.

However, whatever the findings are, we can be certain that the Governor and his staff will come out blameless. I watched almost every news report throughout the terrible ordeal and felt nothing but admiration for Brendan O'Friel and his entire staff. His own personal 'performance' on the screen showed him to be a man of courage, intelligence and patience. His ability to control the situation and, at the same time, 'tame' the Media was in the best traditions of the Service and he must have been admired throughout the land as a professional who knows what prisons and prisoners are all about. He was, of course, backed up by a first class team of assistants and uniformed staff and, whilst I am in no position to judge, I know from my own time at Manchester that the Strangeways staff would have backed him 'to the hilt' and would have carried out their duties with courage and, yes, a certain amount of humour.

We must await his lordship's report, but I know you will all wish to join me in congratulating Brendan and his entire staff on the way they handled their terrifying experience. I only hope this will be appreciated by those in 'seats of power' when they deliberate upon the future administration of our penal establishments. All I can say on this point is that it will be 'God help us' should they ever be sold off to private enterprise and administered from afar by people with no practical experience. **AND THIS COULD HAPPEN.**

Congratulations Brendan and our thanks to you and all the lads at Strangeways for the way you all dealt with the troubles. I ask your forgiveness for using your own description of the riot as the title of this article.

*Arthur Williamson*



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# PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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## Annual Conference 1990

In March I was honoured when invited to be a dinner guest at the PGA conference held at the new Staff College at Newbold Revel. I was not however prepared for what was to follow. At the end of the excellent dinner I was introduced to the delegates by Brendan O'Friel who then presented me with a magnificent cut glass decanter, suitably inscribed to commemorate my contribution to the newsletter during its first decade. Having left the Service eight years ago one can imagine the pleasure this gave me and I shall treasure it very much indeed.

However, I must make it perfectly clear that the newsletter could not have been started - nor would it have gone on for ten years - without the generous assistance that I have received from many colleagues. These include Norman Brown and his secretary, the late Mrs Eileen Fox, for their advice and practical help in the initial stages; the first recipients of our early editions for their contributions, both written and financial; the

young John Powls for carrying on publication when I retired; to my old pal Ted Cowper-Johnson and later Syd Powell for helping with the distribution, and, last but certainly not least, to Bill Martin for looking after our somewhat limited cash and ensuring that we did not land up 'in the red'. This has never been a 'one man show' and to each and every one all I can say is 'Thank you'.

*Prison Governors Association Conference  
working session March 1990*



*Prison Governors Association Conference Dinner 1990: Arthur Williamson, Brendan O'Friel and John Jones*



Returning to the PGA conference I must say how very impressed I was by, and how much I enjoyed being, a member of the Service again. There were approximately 100 delegates there - out of a total of around 900 Governor grades with the Service, and I was astounded at the professionalism and standard of debate within the conference hall. It made our old Domestic Sessions look somewhat pathetic.

To most of those present I was a stranger - and an old one at that - yet without exception I was made to feel welcome and I was regarded as an old friend and colleague. I felt that I still belonged to the Prison Service (I have never felt otherwise), and the conference proved what an excellent set of young men are carrying on where we left off. I wish them well in the future.

Speaking of the future, it seems clear that 'storm clouds' are ahead. In the first place plans are already in being for the Home Office to scrap the four regions and the regional directors, and to replace them with ten area committees headed and run by either 'Whitehall Warriors' or civilian administrators from outside. Thus the scene would be set for hiving the prisons off to the private sector - for no other reason than private profit. This in itself in my opinion is immoral, and which idiots will invest money into penal establishments I cannot imagine. The Manchester Prison riot was a tragedy of the highest order, but we can all imagine what it would do to dividends. I mention all this quite deliberately because I know that a certain Member of Parliament (and a very powerful one

as well) is on our mailing list. As an ex-member of the Governor grade we do of course cherish his membership, but I do hope that when the time comes he will help the Government to come to its senses and stop the rot. For our part I feel certain you will all do your part in keeping the traditions and loyal service of Her Majesty's Prison Service before the Public as much as possible. We have protected the State since the year 1878 and I make no apology for stating that it is still the finest Service in the world. Should this be doubted I would simply ask, 'Why do other countries still send their senior staff here for us to educate, and why are they continually asking us to send members abroad to teach them how penal establishments should be run.' Even in this current issue you will note some of our colleagues are now in Singapore and I know of others serving further afield. In addition, several ex-members of our Service were recruited by overseas governments and are now at the head of their services. Would this be the case if we were run by private investors - I will leave you and the Public to judge. One thing I am certain about - they would not get the loyalty of the POA, and without them they may just as well 'shut up shop'.

At the commencement of our newsletter I decided it should be just that - an exchange of news amongst retired colleagues, but events compel me to do all I can for the Service for which I still have a very strong affection.

*Arthur Williamson*

## STOP PRESS

- Strangeways is to be extensively refurbished at a cost of £60m
  - The PGA plan to produce a special tie for Retired members - a variation on our present tie with a modified PGA Crest. This should be available in September 1990. It will be the same price as the standard PGA tie - see your PGA diary.
- Advice on preferred colours, please, to the editor ASAP.**



## Arthur Williamson... A Tribute

I first met Arthur in early 1979 when I arrived at HMP Manchester - my first posting - as an Assistant Governor Under Training and he was the Dep. My early impressions were that if the dictionary definition of 'avuncular' needed an example Arthur could have been properly referenced. But there was so much more to the man than that and lots to learn from. Most importantly for someone in my then position and with aspirations to move up in my career, Arthur proved a very good role model in how to be a deputy governor. He dovetailed seamlessly with the Governor in that loyal, true but realistic 'bridge and shield' way that hallmarks the best of those working relationships. If you add in the then Chief Officer you had as effective a leadership triumvirate as I experienced in my career, all very different as personalities and in their leadership and management styles but all knew their roles inside out and how to work together to get the job done in a challenging environment through the rest of their staff. All three also knew that it was actually the matronly Governor's secretary who really ruled their roost!

That said, things could be a bit 'old school' at times but that was then..... and it didn't mean that newer ideas didn't get listened to - or even acted on if you were prepared to argue your corner and back your judgment with action and results. There was other stuff to learn from Arthur too - not the least about being at the other end of his career from where I was in mine. His oft-stated ambition was to collect as many years pension as he'd served which, with a career spanning a prison works background to the higher echelons of governing was a very decent span.

With his retirement not far off, Arthur often lamented how many retired governor grades seemed to pass away all too soon after they retired even if their pension arrangements left them financially comfortable. Above the tool of the taxing demands of the job, he put that

down to three things - losing the framework of the role and its authority; not preparing properly for replacing those with other satisfying things to be and do; and, losing touch with the working community that provided comradeship and context. He reasoned that the first issue was just a fact but needed thinking about and adjusting to in advance and that could be helped by proper planning with things put in place to address the second which involved family, finances, where you were going to live and what you were going to do. Even in my late twenties, these seemed eminently sensible and over thirty years later I attended Civil Service pre-retirement seminars that said much the same thing in a PowerPoint slidestorm!

Arthur was assiduously doing what he needed to do for himself on the first two but with the last of the three, he thought there was something he could do to help more widely. He'd had the idea of setting up a newsletter for retired governors to support those that wished to keep in touch with former colleagues, developments in the service and with retirement issues generally. By that stage Arthur new I was a published author - albeit in very different genres - and asked if I'd give him a hand to get the newsletter off the ground. I was pleased to help and the rest, as they say, is history - but history still being made, thankfully!

And me? Well, I'm still trying my best to follow Arthur's example of claiming at least as many years pension as the 35 years service I put in and enjoying my home life and the new grandchildren. I'm a writer full time now - my website [www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk](http://www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk) covers my writing career and current projects. My latest book, 'North Sea To The East' which is inspired by the landscapes and seascapes of my native North Yorkshire is planned for publication later this year.



**JOHN POWLS**



## Money for nothing from the MoJ

Sounds too good to be true, like some email offering a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, if only it can be lodged in your bank account for a while? And ps. please will you send your bank details to some overseas phishing address. No, it's not like that at all. Honest.

Like most of us, I hope, I have made a Will. This was drawn up by a solicitor to avoid unforeseen consequences like my estate ending up with my second cousin's aunt's mother by mistake. Simultaneously I raised two lasting powers of attorney so that, should I eventually get even more gaga than I am now, my son and daughter would have the power to make both financial and health and care decisions on my behalf. It's important to do this before going gaga, since otherwise a court might doubt one's mental capacity to enter such an arrangement. The only drawback was that fees paid to the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) for the purpose were, I felt, rather extortionate. The OPG is an agency of the Ministry of Justice.

I was correct. A chance reading of a financial column in the Sunday Times alerted me that the OPG had routinely been overcharging for this service for some years. They were making repayments to those who claimed, but the initiative lay with the claimant. There seemed no mechanism whereby overpayments would be automatically refunded.

Google 'Claim a power of attorney refund – GOV.UK' and there are the full details including claim forms to submit online. There is a sliding scale of repayments depending on the date of applying to register a power of attorney which must have been between April 2013 and March 2017. Interest is added since the date of overpayment and the window to claim closes on 1st February 2021. In my case I ended up £111.72 better off. Not a fortune, I agree but better off in my pocket than in that of the MoJ.

Apply now if you qualify. You have nothing to lose. And if you want me to send you a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, you need only send me your bank details c/o my Cayman Islands office!

**PETER QUINN**

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## Paul Dixon 04/02/1950 ~ 09/05/2020

I am sad to report that Paul passed away in May 2020 following a protracted MS illness that he endured for many years following his early retirement in 2000. He leaves his wife Maggie and son Phillip at their home near Wakefield. His wife noted that Paul never complained about his illness and the impact it had on his life. He coped with it.

Paul was born and lived in Sunderland, and was a teacher at a school in Sedgfield until joining HMPS at Durham as Assistant Governor. He was posted to Barnard Castle then Winchester and Frankland and was at PSC Love Lane Wakefield when I met him when we were delivering "Post Fresh Start Implementation Training" in 1987. I recall that as the training was high profile, at the time expensive consultants were contracted to assist us, and as an ex PO from Strangeways most of it went over my head, but Paul was always supportive and could make sense of all the new structures and strategies with ease and helped me and others greatly at what was a difficult time for us.



He then went on to Full Sutton and ended his career, due to his illness, as Governor at Reading. A professional and company man to the end, sadly missed.

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman

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## **Your attention is drawn to PSJ No.249**

I have just seen the latest **Prison Service Journal - Number 249 May 2020**. I think some colleagues may be interested in a couple of items. It is a Special Edition headed "Understanding the Past".

One item is a study of Major Robert Hickey who was Governor of Dartmoor from January 1870 to October 1872. He had been at Dartmoor as Deputy Governor since December 1867 and had previously served at Portland from November 1864. I found the account fascinating, even making use of extracts from the Governors Journal. Hickey describes the sole purpose of the Governors Journal as being to record what he did for "the information of the visiting Director". The account gives an account about what the Governor's activities were; what his - quite limited - powers were and something of his relationship with the "Directors" i.e. Head Office! There are some interesting contrasts and similarities with the world our generation of Governors experienced.

The second item is titled "Revisiting the Borstal Experiment " by Professor Heather Shaw of Manchester Metropolitan University. This is a broad brush account of the period 1902-82 when the Borstal System was developed to when it was changed to Youth Custody. The account of the number of Borstal Boys who died in the First War was something I was at best dimly aware of; her account of the inter war years lacks perhaps the detail I would expect about the experimental nature of the open borstal developments with the marches to Lowdham and to North Sea Camp. Professor Shaw ends with a plea for further research, something many of us would warmly endorse.

Prison Service Journal is available on line for those who wish to read it.

Kind Regards,

**BRENDAN O' FRIEL**

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## **Head Office was on your back... even in the 1860's**

The message about Major Hickey rang a bell with me and others may find this interesting...

In 1968 I was an Assistant Governor under the redoubtable Governor Herbert Horatio Harrison at Portland Borstal. During a period of refurbishing accommodation he gave me the task of overseeing the emptying of a storeroom and disposing of all 'rubbish' contained therein. On checking a borstal handcart heading for the incinerator I discovered a few interesting old documents, including a 'foolscap' sized lined notebook, which I still have and which turned out to be titled on the first page: "Major Hickey's Journal while Acting Governor of Portland Prison 1867."

There follows orthodox Governor's Journal entries by the Major [acting up to the Senior Deputy Governor, who was sick, in the Governor's absence.] The journal is clearly temporary, being less than a quarter of the normal thickness of an official journal and obviously initiated by the Major for his own use. The periods covered are 9 to 12 January 1867, 15 to 22 January and 29 January to 1 February, all inclusive. Curiously the last entries from 31 May to 6 June 1867 are in the different hand of the Chief Warder and the 'journal' ends abruptly there with a countersigned note in the margin to the following authoritative effect: "One journal only to be in use in the prison in future - Governor's Journal to be handed over to acting governor for day's record of Events". [One assumes that gaps relating to these dates must exist in the official Journal.] Clearly our Major was getting a minor rap on the knuckles; interestingly and maybe connected with this he writes in pencil at the bottom of the page containing the events of 1 February, one of which refers to a Warder being reported to the Director the following terse note: "Visiting Director did not sign."

During this period Portland Prison was unlocking 1400 prisoners plus and there are many references to individual 'Fenian Prisoners', which I forwarded a few years ago to the staff at the Kilmainham Gaol Museum in Dublin.

There are many fascinating anecdotes and situations in these pages and I was struck not just by the similar structure and format of the daily journal entries to my own experience but by the unchanging activity of prison life such as watching the men go out to labour, night visits, daily Governor's rounds etc .

**DEREK ARAM**, Portland 1968-72



## Membership Report - October 2020

The membership total is down to 404, a loss of 7 since the last report, and a loss of 12 since the last AGM. We welcome new members Catherine Hayden, Les Dacombe, Helen Dickinson and Merle Cadman (widow of Tom).

We have had a resignation from Nigel Foote and lost touch with Mrs Bryan, Peter Garrard and Mrs B Spencer, so if there is anyone in touch with them, and they would like to re-join then please let me know.

### The following have passed away since the Last AGM:

#### MEMBERS

Brian Thulborn	Brian Coatsworth	James Edwards BEM ISM	Geoff Lister
Bernard Wilson MBE	Harold Prior	Mrs Low	Eddie Healy
Malcolm Manning	Ingrid Claydon	Olwen Spiers	Marjorie Marchant
Pat Nolan			

#### NON-MEMBERS

Judith Matthews	William Rose-Quirie OBE	Colin Baker	Mel Constantine
Malcolm Lewis		Ruth Mann	Paul Dixon

Our Condolences go out to friends and relatives.

Members will be aware that we work closely with the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, in fact many are members of both organisations. Currently the CSPA is heavily involved in attempting to ensure some CSPA members, whose pensions it claims have been overpaid due to departmental calculation errors, do not have to pay the full amount of arrears. Some overpayments are quoted in their thousands. The CSPA have taken legal advice regarding the Limitations Act and are in discussions with the Cabinet Office. Another area of great concern is that widows and widowers be allowed to retain their pensions if they chose to re-marry. This affects those whose deceased spouses were members of the classic scheme who retired before October 2002. It is intended to seek the support of MP's and lobby Parliament for support for the retention of life-time pensions later this year. Other areas of concern are affordable social care, with the CSPA seeking a switch to it being financed from general taxation rather than personal contribution.

Anyone is interested in joining the CSPA (£2 per month) then please let me know at [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com) and I will send you the joining forms

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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.

**HARRY BRETT**

## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P.**

“It’s a great life if you don’t weaken” was a familiar refrain from Olwen and a maxim to guide her life. A life well lived. A life of service, a life of adventure. A life of compassion, a life of fun. We are here today to join in sadness at Olwen’s passing but also to celebrate her life and remember some of the great things about her and the long life she lived. I have a fair bit to say but Olwen herself was loquacious, so hopefully she would have approved.



Olwen was born in Manchester in February 1932 to Amy and Arthur Parry, a younger sister to Joyce. Her Dad was a prison officer and had met her Mum whilst she also was working as a prison officer. Consequently, much of Olwen’s young life was steeped in the prison service environment and this clearly influenced her future career choices although that didn’t become apparent until many years later.

Olwen was seven years old when the Second World War broke out and the family moved from Manchester to London. In September 1940, the Germans commenced nightly bombing raids on London and so began several years of evacuations from the city for Olwen and Joyce, which must have been very disconcerting for such young girls. The first evacuation took Olwen and Joyce

to family friends in rural Lancashire but they soon returned to London. For the next evacuation, the sisters went with the other children from their school on a long journey to a location which was not told to their parents. The destination turned out to be Somerset where the children arrived in a town square to be confronted by the local prospective foster parents who proceeded to inspect the children and choose the ones they would take to their homes. Fortunately, Olwen’s Mum had instilled in Olwen and Joyce the importance of sticking with one another, and so they insisted on being housed together, and eventually a newly married couple took them in. Olwen and Joyce spent nearly a year in Somerset before returning to London and being reunited with their parents.

It wasn’t long before they were evacuated again, this time to Surrey and a particular memory of Olwen’s from this time was when the house next door suffered a direct hit and the windows and roof of their foster home were blown out. Olwen and Joyce were carted off to a children’s home which Olwen remembered as being rather unpleasant and from which they were rescued by their mother, only after managing to write and tell her of their plight. Another short stay in London followed before again being evacuated to Surrey, this time to be billeted with a wealthy family where a maid named Bertha was assigned to look after them. Bertha often took the girls for long walks in the woods and then bribed them with sweets to play for an hour or so while she had a rendezvous with her Canadian soldier friend.

Eventually, the girls returned to London on a more permanent basis but those war years coloured Olwen’s approach to life and made her appreciate that there was so much joy to be had in life and that what mattered most were people, not material wealth and possessions. From around 1943, Olwen’s childhood returned to a more normal trajectory and she spent 3 years at St Martin-in-the-Field High School for Girls in Tulse Hill, London and then completed her school education at Wakefield Girls’ High School where she gained her School Certificate in eight subjects and her High School Certificate in three subjects. Joyce reminded me the other day that Olwen was quite precocious as a youngster, always wanting to do everything her sister did, despite being



## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

younger than Joyce by more than two years. Olwen also showed signs of her high intellect, scoring so well in her "11 plus" exams, which all children in England took at that time as a prelude to commencing high school, that she could have had the pick of the best schools had her parents wished.

On leaving school, Olwen went to study at the West End Hospital Speech Therapy Training School in London. Looking back, we are not sure what prompted Olwen to take her career in this direction but Joyce suspects that it may have been because several older girls had taken that path and it seemed to be quite a well-regarded route to follow at that time. On completing her two year course and qualifying as a speech therapist, Olwen secured her first job as a speech therapist with the Wakefield Education Authority working single-handed with a range of patients from very young babies to the elderly and including many patients with disabilities. At some point during her time working as a speech therapist, Olwen took the decision to change direction and pursue a career in the prison service. Obviously, with Olwen living with her parents during her years working as a speech therapist, her family may have had some influence on this move, but knowing the independent thinking person Olwen clearly was, we must presume she was charting the course which made sense to her.

In 1961, after seven years working as a speech therapist Olwen embarked on the Assistant Governor Training Course at the Prison Service Staff Training College and so commenced her 20 year career as a civil servant with the Prison Department of the Home Office. Olwen progressed through the ranks from Assistant Governor to Governor to Deputy Regional Director for the north region based in Manchester and then for the final few years of her service she was Operational Controller for all custodial establishments for female offenders. The latter role was located at Head Office in Central London and Olwen became a commuter, choosing to endure a long daily train journey from and to Leicestershire because of the stage she had reached in her personal life, which we will come to in a moment.

On retirement from the Prison Service in 1981, Olwen pursued various roles in the Leicestershire

area, mainly working with and for people with disabilities. Part of the reason for Olwen seeking this work is that she had been involved with many people with various disabilities over the previous 30 years and wanted to put that experience to good use. Also, particularly, during her last five years with the Prison Service she had been assigned a personal secretary who was a registered blind person which made Olwen acutely aware, not just of the difficulties such people faced in their everyday lives, but also the great potential for them to live active lives and contribute fully to society.

Whilst Olwen was working as Governor of Bulwood Hall Women's Borstal in Essex in the late 1960s she first became acquainted with Dr Stan Spiers who, along with working locally in general practice, was also the GP for the borstal. The two became friends over the years, aided by Stan's friendship with Olwen's Dad Arthur, by then a widower and spending a lot of time with his younger daughter. After moving up from her role as Governor at Bulwood Hall, Olwen was in a position of more choice about where to live and relocated with her Dad to a small village in rural Leicestershire. Sometime prior, Stan had accepted a role as GP at the Medical Centre of Loughborough University and Olwen's move allowed the two to develop their blossoming friendship. Arthur passed away in 1976 and later that year, September 23rd to be precise, Olwen and Stan were married in the Quaker Meeting Hall in North London. And so began a wonderful period for the two of them as they enjoyed a thirty year marriage only cut short when Stan sadly lost his battle with cancer in 2007.

The pairing of Olwen and Stan was very nicely balanced, both of them having great wit and formidable intellect; they complemented each other and somehow together they became something that was greater than the sum of the parts. Enduring happy relationships are rare and require hard work and sacrifice, but Olwen and Stan had a great thing going. Happy couples often have the knack of interacting with each other through what might be termed 'affectionate teasing', and Olwen and Stan were masters of this. Olwen also became a much-loved step-Mum to Stan's four children who were in their teens and early adult years when Olwen and Stan married. This was a difficult challenge

## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

which Olwen handled with her customary astute reading of people and understanding of what she might be able to do to help develop successful relationships.

Throughout their years together Olwen and Stan were keen travellers. They had numerous adventures with campervan trips in Europe (and I remember Stan was particularly insistent that the vehicle was fitted with an Oz-style Roo-bar). They preferred the less travelled roads and the opportunity to meet local people whenever they could. They also travelled to various continents which included visiting family and friends in Australia on several occasions, visiting my brother Iain and his wife Kirstie when they were living in New Zealand as well as going to exotic places like Cuba. Closer to home they made full use of the narrow boat moored at the foot of the drive of their house on the banks of the River Soar. Their central England location gave great access to the inland waterways of England and Olwen and Stan were always very generous with allowing family members to experience the leisurely thrill of a weekend or short holiday on the narrow boat. And then there was the villa in Spain, located at Benidoleig, a rural area comfortably inland from the bright lights of Benidorm where they spent many happy holidays and again especially enjoyed meeting and interacting with the local people.

Before we move on, I should just add an interesting little side note about Olwen's romantic life. The other day I asked my Mum whether there had been any boyfriends in the years prior to Stan. She said "Oh yes, there were a few obviously, as she was a bright and vivacious young woman." "But Mum were there any serious relationships, any significant exes?" "Well," said Mum "there was some ghastly middle aged man who was a really smarmy git!" So it probably wasn't too much of a challenge for Stan to trump that but I certainly think it ended up being a fine match for both of them.

In the photo tribute which follows there is a picture of Olwen as a little girl dressed in a nurse's uniform. Mum told me that Olwen always said she would marry a doctor. It took her a while to find him but she did eventually get there – and well worth the wait.

When Stan passed away in 2007 Olwen quickly made the decision that she wanted to join her sister and other family in Perth. We sponsored her emigration and by 2009 she was living in Perth, initially with Joyce but before long she moved to the retirement village at Ocean Gardens in the suburb of City Beach. At Ocean Gardens Olwen had a lovely little unit with views out over the ocean and quickly made many friends and acquaintances, something she was always very good at. There was also a bit of family life which she became part of, with my wife Christine's extended family being particularly welcoming. In her retirement Olwen continued to fight for some local causes often involving sticking up for the individual against various bureaucracies including the local council, many times locking horns with the mayor, who was a pompous twit she frequently brought to account.

Sadly, there eventually came the day when her health deteriorated to the extent that she needed a higher and more regular level of care and she moved to the Wearne Hostel nursing home in Cottesloe. Again she had a room with ocean views, again she made friends with several other residents and even became popular with the staff who frequently commented to me what a lovely lady she was, despite often giving those carers a bit of a hard time.

I think I have just about come to the end of this potted version of Olwen's life story. I apologise if I have left out any important episodes or anecdotes but obviously there is a lot to tell.

In closing I would just like to draw out a couple of themes. Olwen was a compassionate person. In my mind this goes beyond mere empathy – it is empathy plus the intent to do whatever she could to make the situation better. This compassion was reflected, not just in a life of service, but also in her many interactions with family and friends. Olwen was a fun person. I know this very well from personal experience as I couldn't imagine having a better Auntie, but also from hearing tales of her various adventures and interactions with all those she came across. It's a great life if you don't weaken, and she didn't. A life well lived indeed.

**STUART MOORE**



## Foreign Times

In 2010 I was recruited by the UN to be the Commanding Officer of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY) Detention Unit (UNDU) in The Hague. The ICTY was created following the Yugoslav conflict because the International community did not have faith in the local justice systems to deal with the crimes allegedly committed by those in power during the conflict. The detainees held by the ICTY were those accused of being in command and control of those who had committed the atrocities. The UNDU is in a purpose-built unit inside a Dutch prison in The Hague (P.I. Haaglanden). The building has its own perimeter and is considered to be UN territory and holds all the "foreign" tribunals based in Holland. When I arrived, the UNDU held about 65 detainees and they were those suspected, under trial, or convicted and awaiting transfer to a state for enforcement of sentence. These residents were some of the more difficult cases of the Tribunal and included those who were at the very top of Yugoslav government during the conflict, i.e. Presidents, Chiefs of police and Generals. In a lot of cases they are still held to be heroes by those of their own ethnic background and some still have political careers in the region. One of the issues for management of these detainees was the psychological conflict between being heroes at home, but war criminals in the international community, add into this their age, lifestyle and health problems from the conflict and they were an interesting group to deal with. The other major management issue was the length of time the detainees spent in custody before disposal of their case. This would have been an unacceptable period in a national justice system and caused problems to the detainees we are aware uncertainty causes in a remand population. Most of the charges however, involved thousands of victims and hundreds of perpetrators and witnesses, meaning a speedy resolution was impossible without a guilty plea.

As a stand-alone unit inside the perimeter of a national prison, good liaison with the Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (DJI) and local management was crucial. The Rules of Detention

were broadly similar and all complied with UN minimum rules, however there were some differences between each of the Tribunals and the Host States prison rules. One of the areas where there were rubbing points was what detainees were allowed in possession, and could receive through visits or have delivered by post/courier. With three different agencies involved (the establishment front gate was staffed with Dutch prison officers then the unit entry point was staffed by detention officers from the tribunals) and with different screening equipment, cooperation was important.

Discipline staff had their salaries paid by the UN and were managed by 4 senior managers employed directly by the UN. Despite attempts to broaden the recruitment pool to represent more member states, most of the Officers, Shift managers and Principal Officers were recruited from the Dutch prison service and at the end of their tour returned to the National service. Whilst employed by the Tribunals they wore a distinct uniform and operated under their respective tribunals Rules of Detention and Operating Procedures.

Other matters were managed via an agreement negotiated between the UN and the Dutch Justice Ministry, these included building maintenance, detainee's food and other services. The issues surrounding maintenance and cleaning of the building having to be negotiated with a prison works department suffering from a budget shortfall, took up a good portion of the working week. Translation of the agreement appeared to change each month as the various managers tried to cut costs. As some organisations have discovered, allowing crucial services such as maintenance to be managed outside of those committed to delivery can lead to higher costs and a deterioration in conditions.

During my time in the UNDU, detainee access to IT became a hot issue. This had followed a decision by the President of the Tribunal that the Self representing accused (SRA's) must have a "level playing field" with the Prosecution. As almost every piece of evidence was held

## Foreign Times *continued...*

electronically in drives that were physically separate from the UNDU, a secure method of access was required. Secure links had to be created between the UNDU and the Tribunal building, and training provided to detainees with little or no IT skills. As with visits, all of the new IT policy needed to be negotiated with the Host prison (whose prisoners did not have access to IT). Methods of getting PC's, drives and other multimedia through the front gate had to be negotiated, ensuring none of the content could create a security breach. Any delay was exploited in court, and in the best case delayed the hearing, but could in the worst circumstances be used as grounds for appeal.

Despite enjoying my time as part of the UN, sadly due to family illnesses I had to return to the UK. A couple of months after separation the UN contacted me and asked if I would be available, on short term contracts, to assess some prison establishments in Africa. Never having visited the continent I agreed and

initially went to inspect the UN prisons in Mali and Benin holding those sentenced by the Rwandan tribunal. After reporting on the conditions in these two prisons I was then asked to inspect some prisons in Tanzania and Senegal as the UN needed to expand its detention operations in Africa.

Conditions in Africa were a shock. Mali for instance was at the start of the current conflict in the Sahel and combined with a very low GDP, committing more funds to prison was impossible. Even without a lack of funds there are some serious problems in balancing the conditions of an impoverished population with the conditions of a prison population and then further complications created by prisoners being held under UN minimum rules. Prisons and prisoners are not high on the list for African politics and their budgets suffer from this. In the prison in Mali the overcrowding suffered by the local prisoner population was awful, (40 in a room with a stand pipe and a hole in the corner with temperatures of around 40 degrees





## Foreign Times *continued...*

at midday and two meals of porridge a day) this was exacerbated by the presence of a TB active prisoner requiring quarantine and therefore needing one of the 4 available dormitories to himself. Prisoners were restricted to 30 minutes a day fresh air as the exercise yard was small. There was no work apart from a couple of trustees. Treatment for the TB prisoner was going to cost around \$50 but even this could not be funded locally. The UN detainees were living in single cells with in cell electricity and had a significant disposable income making up for the aspects of minimum rules the host prison couldn't deliver. The difference in conditions was stark, and although from outside the reasons were understandable, one can only wonder how it looked for a prisoner who had stolen money or some food and was being held in these abysmal conditions, as he looked across the yard at a detainee who had been convicted for genocide and was living in comparative luxury. The poor conditions also put pressure on already struggling families of prisoners to supplement their relative's food and other requirements.

In my report I made a number of recommendations concentrating on the UN detainees, as per my brief, but by arguing that the poor health of the local prisoners could be detrimental to the health of the UN detainees I proposed that improvements in the conditions of the local prisoners was in the best interests of the UN. Despite all my recommendations being implemented, I was most pleased with the implementation of the simplest. I had recommended that a couple of prisoners were to be employed raising chickens bought from the local market, I was told since that this has improved the life and health of the local prisoners, and the chicken "farm" is now employing 6 prisoners and providing meat and eggs to supplement the diet of the general population, all for a tiny initial outlay. I also used the same argument to get the TB active prisoner seen by a nurse and treatment started before I left allowing the overcrowding to be eased a little.

The discussions around the difference in conditions inside and outside prison we have in the UK, is amplified in Africa by the conditions normal people suffer. This was then further complicated for my inspections because the UN prisoners were serving their sentences in the comparatively luxurious conditions dictated by UN minimum rules of detention and this was the subject of local media criticism. As bringing those responsible for the Rwandan atrocities to justice was the primary aim of the tribunal, any criticism that justice was not being served was felt keenly.

In the, admittedly small, number of prisons I assessed it appeared a semi-military model of management with a hierarchy obvious to all provided the best and healthiest conditions for the prisoners. Benin and Senegal operate on a military model and the atmosphere and feel in those prisons was much better than in the civil models I witnessed. In Benin, some military officers are required to run a prison for a tour of duty (2-3 years) as part of their career plan. These prisons had staff who were more concerned with the welfare of their charges, and the establishments appeared healthier on most of the measurements familiar to us from healthy prison inspections. I think that some people can be uncomfortable with a military type model without realising that along with concentrating on the structure and the objective a concern for the welfare of those below you is, generally, the foundation of this model.

Following publication of the Marty report into atrocities allegedly committed in Kosovo at the end of the Yugoslav conflict the EU committed to creating a court, the Kosovo Specialist Court (KSC). The process to create the court began in November 2014. The EU contacted me shortly after and asked if I would be interested in opening a new establishment, as the family illnesses had now sadly resolved themselves, I agreed. I spent the next 3 years in Brussels and then a further 2 years in The Hague writing operating procedures for the new establishment and negotiating with the Dutch Justice Ministry for accommodation, staff

## Foreign Times *continued...*



and the facilities required. These negotiations are still ongoing as the unit has yet to open as no arrests have yet been made. During the period in Brussels I inspected and assessed 3 Dutch prisons (including a private prison) for the location of a new Detention Unit for the Kosovan court.

During my time with the international community, apart from running my own unit, I inspected and assessed 9 prisons in 4 different countries and noted a couple of common themes. It felt to me that prisons with a well-structured hierarchy appeared to provide the healthiest conditions for prisoners. It was also evident that functions supplied by contract delivery are extremely difficult to manage and take up an inordinate amount of management time. Without encouragement from me, it became plain that every establishment with

contracted services suffers the same issues and they are the main bugbear of almost every Governor or Directeur I met. I made a lot of friends in Holland both professionally and socially but well remember a comment made by a Dutch operational manager who had been headhunted from the Dutch Prison Service to deliver services to a cluster of prisons under contract by a private supplier. One evening after work we were discussing his new situation and he explained to me (with some regret) that it had been made clear to him by his superior that his job was to deliver "gebakte luft" (baked or fried air) to his prison cluster. I told him that I had attended lots of meetings where gebakte luft or its English equivalent had seemed to be the main item on the agenda.

**DAVID KENNEDY**



## Treasurer's Report

**In your reading of this edition of the Newsletter you will now be in possession of the information that this years AGM has been cancelled as a "live event" and will instead be held as a "virtual meeting" via the wizardry that is ZOOM.**

Please refer to my Computer Corner article for further details of exactly what "Zoom" is.

The result of this is that where I would have presented my financial report as part of the AGM I am doing so in advance so that they can be published to you, the members in this edition of the Newsletter.



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

As you are probably aware, the financial year for the RPGA mirrors that of the main PGA in that it runs from 1st January to 31st December. Therefore my annual routine is that at sometime in early February I look to balance off the books, and send them off to the PGA Auditors for checking and certification. This is because the RPGA is an associated part of the PGA under their constitution, and our accounts, and any funds we hold, are an integral part of their financial structure.

I was lucky enough to get the books off to the auditors in advance of the Coronavirus restrictions coming into force, especially as when the lockdown came, the auditors, along with many other companies, were forced to close down their offices, and to furlough their staff. Whilst this situation did cause some delay, it was related to getting the books back to me, rather than the auditing process itself, and I did manage to get the books back in late April.

I am therefore in a position to confirm that the figures for the RPGA accounts for the 2019 financial year are audited and certified. They are published below for the information of members, and full copies of the certified accounts are available from me at **graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com** In addition, if you have any questions or queries regarding the accounts then contact me through the same email address.

As far as the accounts for 2019 are concerned I am happy to report that it has been another steady year, where, although income from subscriptions has reduced from 2018 by £54, this has been more than offset by a reduction in our expenditure for the year leading to an increased surplus of income over expenditure of £1668.94. The main decrease in expenditure has mostly come from a reduction in committee costs where, by not replacing committee members who have retired/resigned, we have saved money on travel expenses. In addition, the generous offer from the PGA to allow us to share the venue and facilities used for their Annual Conference as the location for our AGM, has saved us a considerable outlay on room hire and catering.

One of the results of this reduction in our costs has been that I have been able to advise the committee that our finances are strong enough for us to be able to ensure that we are not constrained by costs when it comes to producing the Newsletter. The result of this is that, as editor, Paul does not have to trim the content in order to meet a predetermined cost, and you will note as you are reading this, the 40th anniversary edition, we have really pushed the boat out for a bumper colour edition. We hope that you enjoy it.

The other benefit of our healthy finances is that, at the moment, I do not envisage a need to increase subscription rates for the foreseeable future. Whilst our income has reduced year on year, the amount is not significant, and as long as we manage to control our outgoings, then we should be in a position of being able to maintain the subscription rates at their current levels, with only the cost of PGA diaries to be adjusted for, should costs increase.

At the 2019 AGM a resolution was proposed, and passed, that the RPGA would open discussions with the PGA regarding the handing back of the Benevolent Fund to them to administer. There were several reasons

## **Treasurer's Report *continued...***

behind this proposal, not least of which was the fact that the fund had originally belonged to the PGA, as a Charity Fund before being passed to the RPGA. Additional reasons for passing this back to the PGA were that in the time the RPGA had been responsible for this fund, very few grants for aid had been made, and indeed very few qualifying applications had been made. The Treasurer and President of the PGA agreed in January 2020 that the PGA would indeed accept these funds back onto their books on the basis that they would be in a better position to make use of the funds than we were.

With this in mind, once the RPGA accounts had been checked and certified by the accountants, I transferred the whole of the amount in the Benevolent Fund Account over to the PGA and as a result we, The RPGA, no longer hold a Benevolent Fund. However, this does not mean that the situation regarding aid and financial assistance has changed. As part of the agreement in transferring the funds, the PGA have given an undertaking that should an RPGA member find themselves in the unfortunate position at a time of dire need or emergency, of requiring financial assistance, a request for a Grant of Aid would be considered, under the same criteria that were applied by the RPGA.

### **Retired Prison Governors Association Treasurers Report Financial Year 01/01/19 to 31/12/19 Current Accounts and Benevolent Fund Account**

<b><u>Barclays Community Account (Current)</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Carried Forward on 1/1/19	10,775	25
<b><u>Income from 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>		
Subscriptions	5,658	00
Donations	0	00
Interest	0	00
Other	0	00
Other	0	00
Sub Total	5,658	00
<b><u>Expenditure From 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Printing	1,545	00
Stationery	132	00
Post/Phone	765	12
Travel/Subs	383	30
Refunds	17	00
Diaries	0	00
PCPS	0	00
Donations	125	00
Miscellaneous	198	00
Room Hire/Catering	0	00
Total Expenditure 2019	3,165	42
<b><u>Totals</u></b>		
<u>Carried Forward on 1/1/19</u>	10,775	25
Income 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	5,658	00
Sub Total	16,433	25
Expenditure 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	3,165	42
Sub Total	13,267	83
Statement Balance at 31/12/19	13,267	83
Minus uncleared cheques	0	00
Surplus/Deficit for financial year 2019	2,492	58
<u>Outstanding cheques</u>	0	00
Total	0	00
Miscellaneous expenditure 2019		
Insertion fee for Spring Newsletter.	45	00



## Treasurer's Report *continued...*

Insertion fee for Autumn Newsletter	45	00
Purchase of RPGA advertising banner for use at meetings/conferences	108	00
Total	198	00

### **Total Income 01/01/19 to 31/12/19**

Barclays Acc	5,658	00
Total Income for year ended 31/12/19	5,658	00

### **Cash Balance @ 31/12/19**

Barclays Account	13,267	83
Total Current Account Cash Balance	13,267	83

### **Lloyds Benevolent Fund Account**

Carried Forward on 1/1/19	5,653	36
Grant as approved by Committee.	0	00
Total	5,653	36
Income-Donation in Memory of Brian Thurlborn	25	00
Income-Donation in Memory of Harold Prior	25	00
Total Income 2019	50	00
Balance on account on 31/12/2019	5,703	36

### **Breakdown of Costs and Year on Year Comparison.      2019                      2018                      Variation**

#### **Annual Income**

Barclays Acc	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Total Income for year ended 31/12/18</u>	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00

#### **Annual Expenditure**

	2019	2018	Variation
Printing	£1,545.00	£1,419.00	£126.00
Stationary	£132.00	£170.29	-£38.29
Post/Phone	£765.12	£1,164.87	-£399.75
Travel/Subs	£383.30	£743.50	-£360.20
Refunds	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00
Diaries	£0.00	£505.20	-£505.20
Donations	£125.00	£175.00	-£50.00
Miscellaneous	£198.00	£99.00	£99.00
Room Hire/Catering	£0.00	£557.50	-£557.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,165.42</b>	<b>£4,834.36</b>	<b>-£1,668.94</b>
Balance Income/Expenditure	£1,668.94	£877.64	£791.30

	2019	2018	Variation
Year End Cash Balance			
Barclays Account	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58
Other	£0.00	£0.00	
Total Cash Balance	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58

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

Signed **G.S. Mumby-Croft** Treasurer Retired Prison Governors Association

Date **26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

## Young Criminals on the March through the East Midlands

**\*\*\* BREAKING NEWS \*\*\***

**The good people of Northampton, Market Harborough, Leicester, Broughton Lodge, Gunthorpe and Lowdham have been put at risk by the irresponsible prison authorities as a barely supervised column of young criminals pass through our towns and villages where they are housed overnight in insecure church halls. Their destination is to be an open Borstal at Lowdham Grange, a Nottinghamshire country estate within easy walking distance of vulnerable local villages and of Nottingham itself. Why should we be put at risk by importing criminals from London in such a way. Criminals who are then to be placed in an institution from which they can easily walk away.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Had they known then the above could have been the leading story in a number of local newspapers in May 1930 as forty Borstal lads, aged between sixteen and twenty one, marched with ten officers from Feltham Borstal in Middlesex to a country estate which nestled on a hillside between the villages of Lowdham, Lambley, Epperstone and Woodborough, some eight miles east of Nottingham. At the time the prison authorities were relieved that after much misrepresentation of the reform aspect of their work, the press were blissfully unaware of their plans and of the march itself. Tom Iremonger MP said in 1962 that this was an epic journey that was still talked about by prison officers. Academic Victor Bailey wrote in 1997 that the March rapidly entered into the folklore of the prison service.

Also to be considered is that the secure Borstal experiment had commenced less than thirty years earlier, when a group of lads from London arrived at Feltham - in chains and under armed guard!

So how did it all start? In 1895 a reform minded Home Office Committee chaired by Herbert Gladstone, son of the prime minister William Ewart Gladstone, envisaged a juvenile-offender establishment that was:

**“a halfway house between the prison and reformatory ..... situated in the country with ample space for agriculture and land reclamation work ... with ... penal and**

**coercive sides according to the merits of particular cases ... amply provided with staff capable of giving sound education, able to train inmates in various kinds of industrial work, and qualified generally to exercise the best and healthiest kind of moral influence”.**

Reform was slow and it was not until 1930 with the opening of the Lowdham Grange Borstal Institution, that this aspect of the committee's work was realised.

Borstals had been developing through a cautious programme with the conversion of prison wings and reform schools since 1902. And although a few Borstal lads were allowed, usually supervised, out into the community, they were locked up at night in secure cells within secure establishments. This was not to be the case at Lowdham Grange, where they could literally climb out of a window or walk through an unlocked door, for as Tom Iremonger MP wrote some thirty years later, the open Borstal system placed a great strain and responsibility on its charges through the trust placed upon them. He concluded: 'What, after all was their training for?'

But what of the March itself; an ultimate test of trust and responsibility – did it succeed or fail? The Prison Commissioners had avoided the initial disaster of the hostile press, but what was to befall the marchers, their trusting escorts and their unwitting East Midlands guests?



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Harold Scott, a Civil Servant; future Prison Commissioner and future Commissioner of Scotland Yard, said in his biography

**'one day in May 1930 Alec Paterson [a prison commissioner who championed, reform of the prison system and the Borstal approach] walked into my room and issued one of his usual abrupt and excited invitations ... we are starting a new Borstal at Lowdham Grange in Nottinghamshire, and we are going to begin with a little experiment. Bill Llewellyn [the Deputy Governor of Feltham] who is going to be the Governor, will lead a party of forty boys on a route march from Feltham to Lowdham. They will spend six days on the road and will sleep in halls and other places arranged by friends. Would you like to join them? .... I accepted the offer on the spot.'**

Paterson personally interviewed the staff chosen to participate on the march and they set off with the chosen lads on 4th May 1930. After a church service, photographs and speeches, they left Feltham at 9.15 am accompanied by Mr Paterson, and arrived at Harrow at 5pm where they were hosted by the local ToCH ..... *[ToCH is an international Christian charity which was formed as a soldiers friendship club just behind the British lines in Belgium in 1915 – Alec Paterson was a friend of its founder 'Tubby' Clayton].*

After an uneventful night they left Harrow at 9.30 the following day arriving at St. Albans, again to be hosted by ToCH. The lads were treated to a tour of the town and were then entertained by ToCH and local scouts before sleeping on the floor, under tables and in a lorry - having a good night's rest at 'close quarters'.

On 6th May they washed by the river, cooked breakfast and left St. Albans at 10.30 to arrive at Dunstable at 4.15 where they were entertained and hosted by ToCH in the Wesleyan Church Institute. So far, so good. They left the next morning to arrive at Newport Pagnell, again to

be hosted by ToCH in the congregational church schoolroom and entertained by the local scout commissioner. The 8th May saw them leave for Northampton 'through beautiful countryside' where according to one lad:

**'much courtesy was shown us by passing folk and motorists who always had a friendly nod, or friendly word for us, boy scouts saluted us taking us for fellow scouts and even a policeman on point duty held up traffic for us to pass..... everybody seemed to have a ready smile.'**

A thus far uneventful journey saw them arrive at Northampton at 4.15 where they were joined by Harold Scott. They went swimming and had 'a lovely tea of teas' at Valentines café. They were again hosted by ToCH and were entertained by a conjuror, jazz band and ventriloquist.

They left the next morning and spent the night of 4th May in Market Harborough, again hosted by 'a warm hearted ToCH group'. On 10th May they left for Leicester, and were joined by Mr and Mrs Paterson 'who handed out bananas... which they had bought especially for us'. They arrived in Leicester at 5pm to be entertained by ToCH at Granby Hall after which they went to Aylestone public baths for a wash, swim, change and an inspection. Harold Scott tells the Lord Mayor raised a titter when after reviewing the party he cheerfully declared, "if I was a bit younger I would like to be in your place". They spent the Sunday in Leicester attending church and sightseeing. The next morning they were again visited by the Lord Mayor and left to complete their walk. They spent the night of 12th at Broughton Lodge, sleeping in a refreshment hut and to quote one of the lads:

**'... we had dancing and jazzing ... lovely feed of feeds spread out on the table .... anyone stepping in would have mistaken us not for Borstal boys but for a party of boys on a world tour, happy as sandboys were everyone.'**

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

On 13th May 1930 they marched along the Fosse Way in rain and drizzle to have lunch at Gunthorpe. Then the sun came out, as did many of the villagers and the vicar as they entered Lowdham village.

**‘It seems like all of Lowdham had turned out to see us.’**

At the gates to Lowdham Grange [on Epperstone Road] they were met by the Bishop of Southwell and other dignitaries. They proudly marched up the hill in good order craning their necks to see the country house and tents that were to be their new home.

W.W. Llewellyn wrote

**‘...so ended a wonderful ten days [one hundred and sixty two miles]; it has been a happy and inspiring experience for all have shared a common life, entirely out of common for Borstal officers and lads ... a petty round of irritating concerns and the jarring contacts of one with another inevitable in a small and closed-penned community. The staff pulled together in an admirable way; a better spirit could not have been wished for. The lads, in conduct, in good manners, in willingness, in unselfishness at all times were ideal; unpleasant incidents, even of a petty nature, were almost entirely absent.’**

Victor Bailey also noted that the preparation for the march and the enterprise was as important as the move itself, as it involved a change in the relationship between staff and boys from the although well intentioned, arid strict discipline and punitive regime of existing Borstal training. It involved risks for staff who had to;

**‘... look again at the boys with a scrutiny, a hope and an anxiety which could not have been called forth while the staff themselves were not, in a sense, in jeopardy and dependent on the boys loyalty to them.’**

Furthermore, the staff on the march would be the first to take the blame for any untoward incidents or inappropriate actions of their charges. He also considered that

**‘at once the boys and their gaolers became, in however elementary and superficial way, on the same side.’**

Alexander Paterson wrote, later in the 1930s, that:

**‘it is strange thing as the English Lad is a cussed animal, easily led, but driven with much soreness on both sides.’**

Harold Scott wrote in his memoirs:

**‘... the Borstal boys felt proud in the trust we placed in them, and felt themselves to be, for as indeed they were, the pioneers of a great new adventure.’**

He also wrote that he ‘never regretted’ accepting Alexander Paterson’s invitation to join the march.

Like Lowdham Grange Borstal, the March was a great innovation and success and should be remembered not only for the risk that many in authority and their supporters took; but also for how the young criminals responded to the trust that was placed upon them.

Officers on the March were:

W. W. Llewellyn (Governor)  
C. T. Cape (Housemaster)  
H. J. Taylor (Assistant Housemaster)  
H. H. Holmes (Senior Officer)  
S. G. Smithson (Officer)  
A. T. Perry (Officer)  
C. Burns (Officer)  
J. H. Marsden (Officer)  
E. Young (Driver)  
T. W. H Quick (Hospital Officer)

The officers and lads were to spend the first few years at Lowdham Grange living in tents and wooden huts whilst the lads under the supervision of local tradesmen were to build a



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Borstal Institution that was finally demolished in the 1990s to make way for a modern, secure prison. They also built the housing estate for Officers and their families, which still stands and is now in private hands. Lowdham Grange Borstal was an internationally famous innovation in penal history. It received many visits from dignitaries and study groups from across the world and was still spoken about by academics and others at conferences decades later.

During research for the book the author contacted local history societies and newspapers along the route of the march none of whom had any knowledge of its existence.



**JEREMY LODGE**

The second reprint of Jeremy's book **'Lowdham Grange. Borstal!'** will be available from the end of October. It can be purchased from the author or 'The Bookcase' in Lowdham **[www.thebookcase.co.uk](http://www.thebookcase.co.uk)** **[janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk](mailto:janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk)**

Jeremy has also been awarded a grant by the Thoroton Society to enable him to undertake further research on the origins, people and work of Lowdham Grange Borstal. He would be grateful for any photographs, information or stories that you may have. Jeremy can be contacted through the editor or by writing to: Jeremy Lodge, 15 Satterley Close, Witham St Hughs South, Lincoln LN6 9QB or **[jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk)**



Photograph taken at Feltham before at the start of the march. 1930.

*Photographer unknown.*

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Tented Camp. The first home of Officers and Lads of Lowdham Grange. May 1930.  
*Photographer unknown.*



Parade outside Grange House with farm in background. Circa 1930  
*Photograph Edmund Bird, courtesy of his daughter*



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Arriving at Lowdham 13th May 1930  
*Courtesy of Nottingham Evening Post*



HMP Borstal Lowdham Grange Staff 1960.  
*Photographer unknown.*

## APPLICATION FORM : RETIRED GOVERNORS GROUP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the retired Governors group of the PGA

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **Harry Brett - h\_brett@sky.com**

\_\_\_\_\_

### BANKERS STANDING ORDER

TO: The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank PLC

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account No \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS DETAILED BELOW and DEBIT MY ACCOUNT

Name of Payee **RETIRED PRISON GOVERNORS**

Payments to be made to **Barclays Bank PLC  
PO Box 11, North Street, RUGBY,  
Warwickshire, CV21 2AN**

Account Number **50125113**

Sort Code **20: 73: 48**

Please Pay **£20 (twenty pounds) ~~Delete which does not~~  
£13 (thirteen pounds) **apply****

Each **YEAR** commencing on \_\_\_\_\_ until further notice.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<https://rpga.homestead.com/Newsletter.html>



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## From the Chair

### Life Goes on.

**D**ear members, will life ever be the same again? The past few months have been a testing time for us all, whether you are a retired Governor or in an operational setting, which I'm sure we all appreciate has challenged even HMPPS staff daily. Key workers indeed! In incident training we used to try to define "When is an incident over?" this incident may take some time yet. I hope you are all as safe and well as can be expected and avoiding the virus as much as you can. I seem to have 2 wardrobes of stuff I do not need. Email your stories, how have you managed in self isolation?

This edition celebrates 40 years of the RPGA newsletter so we thought a colour publication would mark this special event. Our thanks to Paul Laxton, our editor for the extra work he has put into this edition. Our AGM this year will not go ahead at the PGA conference as it is cancelled. We have made alternative arrangements for the AGM to be hosted 10th November. Details are outlined in this edition. The AGM will see the departure from our committee of David Taylor who has contributed common sense, humour and cricket stories for the past few years and we shall be sad to see him go. Thank you David! Would you like to join the RPGA committee? Let us know if you would, you will be welcome.



*This is me in colour on the Tarka cycle trail in Barnstaple, North Devon in late June 2020.*

Are you one of those folk now using the "ZOOM" application to communicate virtually with friends, committees and others? Your committee have met twice on ZOOM so far, to discuss how to improve the website which we would encourage you to visit, and give us your ideas on how we can improve it. (rpga.org.uk)

ZOOM has enabled us to run the association business as smoothly as we can and our treasurer has been pleased as it has saved us travel costs too! You will note from his section in this newsletter that we continue to be in a stable financial position. Thanks to Graham Mumby-Croft for keeping us in the black.

I make the annual appeal for items of interest for the newsletter, past experiences in your career, things you have done in retirement, great places to visit, with photos if possible. Our editor will welcome your contributions, as will Roger Outram, our letters and email coordinator. Contact information is in this edition.

I place on record my thanks to the RPGA committee for their work during the last 12 months. Next year will be a challenge for us to improve two way communications with members and increase membership. The world may seem to be on hold but we will go on!

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman



## HELP, PLEASE

### PETER LEONARD'S MEMORABILIA

Peter Leonard worked at Wormwood Scrubs from 1971-74. His widow, Christine, has asked me to dispose of various pieces of his prison memorabilia. She has agreed that I should pass his large collection of Scrubs photographs to an academic legal historian, Richard Ireland, who has a special interest in prisons. Richard will digitize them and, subject to copyright permission, will make them available on the Open University's Prison History UK website.

Many photographs are of Victorian/Edwardian days though others are from the 1960s/1970s era. Though I never worked at Scrubs, I visited many times and have found it relatively easy to identify most of the latter. I cannot identify the people in the photographs reproduced here. If any member of the RPGA can assist, I should be most grateful to hear from you at [pmq1@outlook.com](mailto:pmq1@outlook.com)

**PETER QUINN**



## Computer Corner incorporating a 'Zoom' special

Well, we do indeed live in interesting times, and as I write this in August we are now into the sixth month of lockdown and restrictions on social gatherings and meetings that the Coronavirus Pandemic has brought upon us.

I, and all the members of the Committee do hope that this copy of the Newsletter, and my Computer Corner, find you in good health physically, but much more importantly, mentally as well.

A great deal has been said about the impact of the current restrictions on peoples mental well-being, and in particular the impact on people who are having to be very careful, because they are in the group of people most vulnerable to the effects of catching the virus. Unfortunately, many members of the RPGA fall into this category either because of our ages, or because of underlying health issues, or maybe, like me, both.

There is help available through a variety of sources, and if you are a computer user, and have an internet connection there are plenty of places online where you can seek help and advice and therefore I would urge you to go online and search for help, guidance or support-you will be amazed at just what is out there.

One of the things that we are doing as an association is looking to improve, and expand the RPGA Website, and we have set up a small working group to look at what we can do to improve the site in order to provide a better, and more immediate service to members. This work is being lead by Roger Outram who looks after the website. To make access easier we have now removed the need for a password to enter the site, and Roger has started to place links on the site to other websites that members might find useful or interesting. Initially he has placed a link to the CSPA site and Age UK, both of which contain information that you may find of use. Further links will follow.

The easiest way to find the site is via this link:  
**<https://rpga.homestead.com/Newsletter.html>**

We would really like you to have a look at the site and to let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for making it better, including any links to sites that that you may have found, and think that other members might find useful. We



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

will test all links in advance of publishing them to members to ensure that we are directing you to a safe site.

That leads me nicely into the subject of safety on the internet.

Having said that there are lots of sites offering help and advice to people, about a whole range of subjects, you should always apply a liberal dose of caution before you blindly click on a link to a site. It is also important that you do not simply follow links found as a result of a Google search, and in particular by clicking on the first result that looks as if it matches what you are searching for. Not always the best, or safest option.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of Google, there are still sites that appear high in Google search results that are not 100% genuine. For example there are still sites that offer a service to fill in, and submit, official applications for services such a EHIC health cards for European travel, driving licences and passports. The application process for all of these is free, even though there is a charge for the item itself, such as a passports or driving licences, but some sites also charge a fee for actually submitting the application on your behalf. This is of course not illegal, but many of these sites do not point out that they are charging you for something you can do yourself directly, for free.

As an example, some time ago a friend went online to renew his European Health cards prior to going on holiday. He searched for EHIC on Google, and clicked on the first site that came up at the top of the results list. He filled in the online form, and paid the £15 fee, job done. Except of course, had he gone onto the official Government Website (GOV.UK) he would have been able to renew these for free.

## Computer Corner *continued...*

I would recommend that if you want to find out anything about any service provided through Central Government then GOV.UK is the “go-to” site. It is the official government website for nearly everything from Income Tax to advice on the Pandemic, Pensions, Driving Licence, and everything in between. You can use it to gain access to the Customs and Revenue site where you can deal with all matters to do with taxation, including filing your Tax Return, and you can use it to check on any travel restrictions or advice when going on holiday.

To be able to use the site securely for personal matters like tax or pensions, you will be directed to go through **The Government Gateway** which is the security portal that offers password protection to all your transactions. Before you can go through this Gateway you will be required to provide your details and will be issued with a reference code and a password. Your password will be sent to you by post as an added security measure, so joining up takes a little while, as you need to wait for your password to arrive before you can proceed. However this is well worth the effort, as once you have access through the Gateway there is so much you can do directly on the site, and all securely.

Your Local and County councils all have their own websites that provide a wealth of information on local services, and allow applications online for things such as Bus Passes, and of course in these changed times, to be able to book a slot at the Recycling Centre to get rid of your rubbish.. To ensure you are on a genuine site, all official central and local government sites have **@gov.uk** at the end of their web address.

As I have said, many people use Google to search for the sites to visit, and often people will automatically go to Google to find a website, even if they have visited the site before. One way to increase your security online is to use websites that you have used before, and know to be safe. To do this once you have found a site, and are happy that it is secure, save it to either your **FAVOURITES** or **BOOKMARKS** on your browser. In this way if you want to visit the site again enter it via the already saved address and you know that the site is safe.

To check that a site is secure **before you send personal or financial information over the internet**, ensure that the web address has the symbol of a closed padlock at the start of it, and that the web address begins with https: The “s” is the important bit here, as it means the site is secure. This does not always mean that the site is genuine, but what it does mean is that any information sent between the site, and you, is encrypted, and therefore cannot be intercepted and used by a third party.

If you are carrying out any financial transaction online, **NEVER do so on a site that does not have the closed padlock symbol, or an address that starts https//**. You will be at risk.

One of the major changes that has taken place as a result of the lockdown has been a huge increase in people working from home, and a major increase in the use of Video communications as a way of communication both for business meetings, and for friends and family as a means of keeping in touch with loved ones.

The use of video conferencing has been around for some time now but since the lockdown its use has grown beyond all expectations, and some of the programmes used in this process such as WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, Skype and Zoom have come into everyday use, and indeed have become so common that “To Zoom” as a verb has changed from meaning to move quickly and instead has become, to meet with others in a video chat or conference.

As long in the tooth as we are, the RPGA committee has itself embraced the new technology of Zoom and in the past few weeks have held a full committee meeting, and two sub-group meetings using this technology, and now, due to the fact that we will be unable to hold an AGM this year as a “live event” at which members can attend in person, we are looking to attempt to hold it as a Zoom meeting instead. I mentioned earlier that there are several video conferencing applications available, but from here on, because it is the platform the RPGA has chosen to use, I will only refer to Zoom.



## Computer Corner *continued...*

So, if you wish to join in at this years AGM then what will you need in order to take part?

Firstly you will need a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, this can be a Personal Computer, (PC), a Laptop, an iPad or Android Tablet or a mobile phone. For mobile devices, pads, tablets and phones it is best if they are connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. Laptops can either be connected via Wi-Fi or hard wired to your modem/router. PC's should be hard wired to your modem/router.

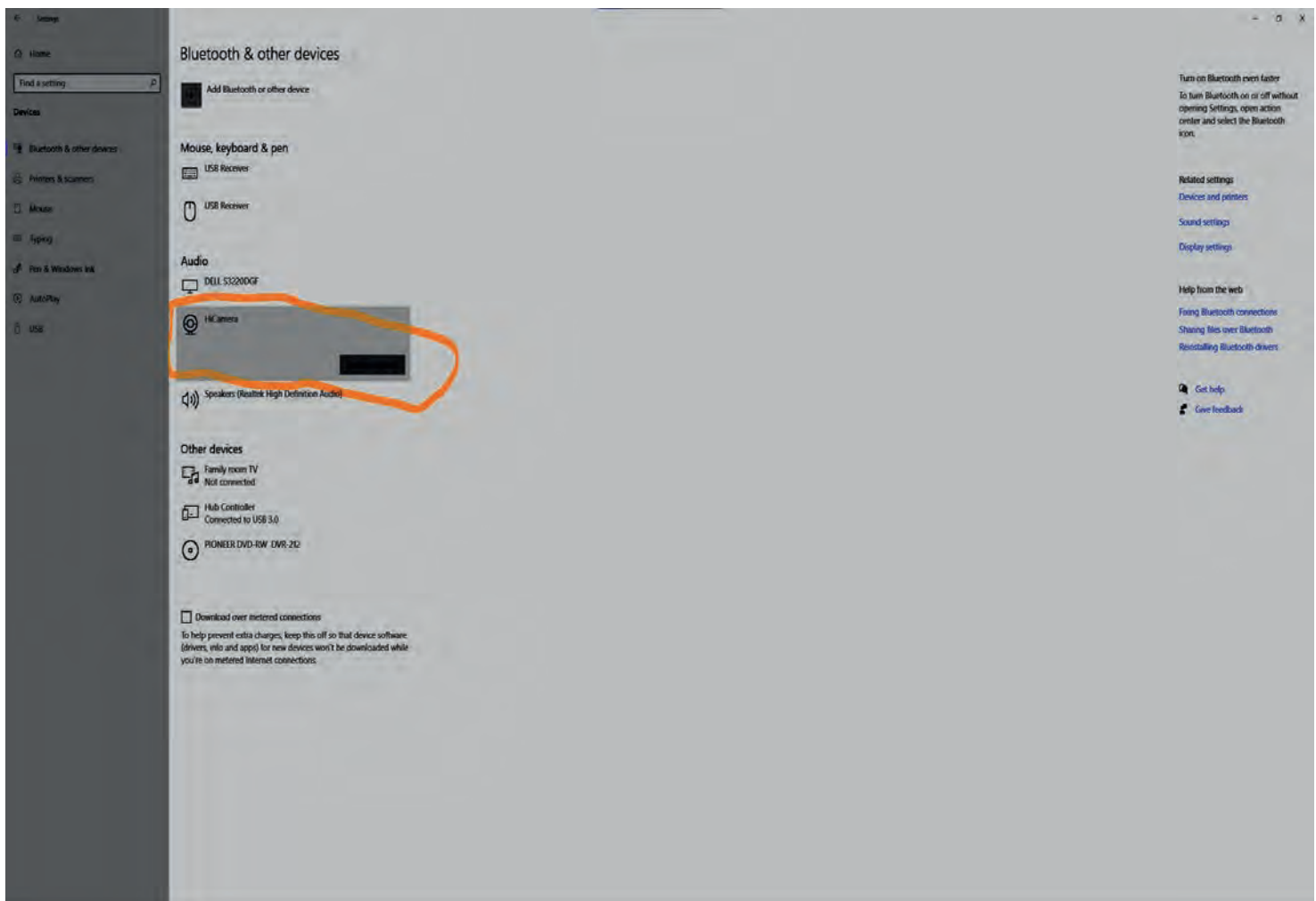
You do not actually need to download the Zoom application to be able to join in a Zoom meeting, but it is useful to download the application as it will allow you to test your camera and communications without the pressure of being in ,or trying to join a meeting.

The next requirement is that your device needs a camera and microphone in order to be able to communicate. Mobile phones, tablets and pads will normally have a built in camera and microphone, as will most laptops, but you will

need to add a Webcam to your PC in order for you to be able to take part in any Zoom meeting. If you do not already have a Webcam then you will need to purchase one. There are hundreds of models available but you may find that some are now more difficult than others to buy at the moment. This is because online meetings have grown so much, and so fast, that there has been a shortage of many IT components, webcams included.

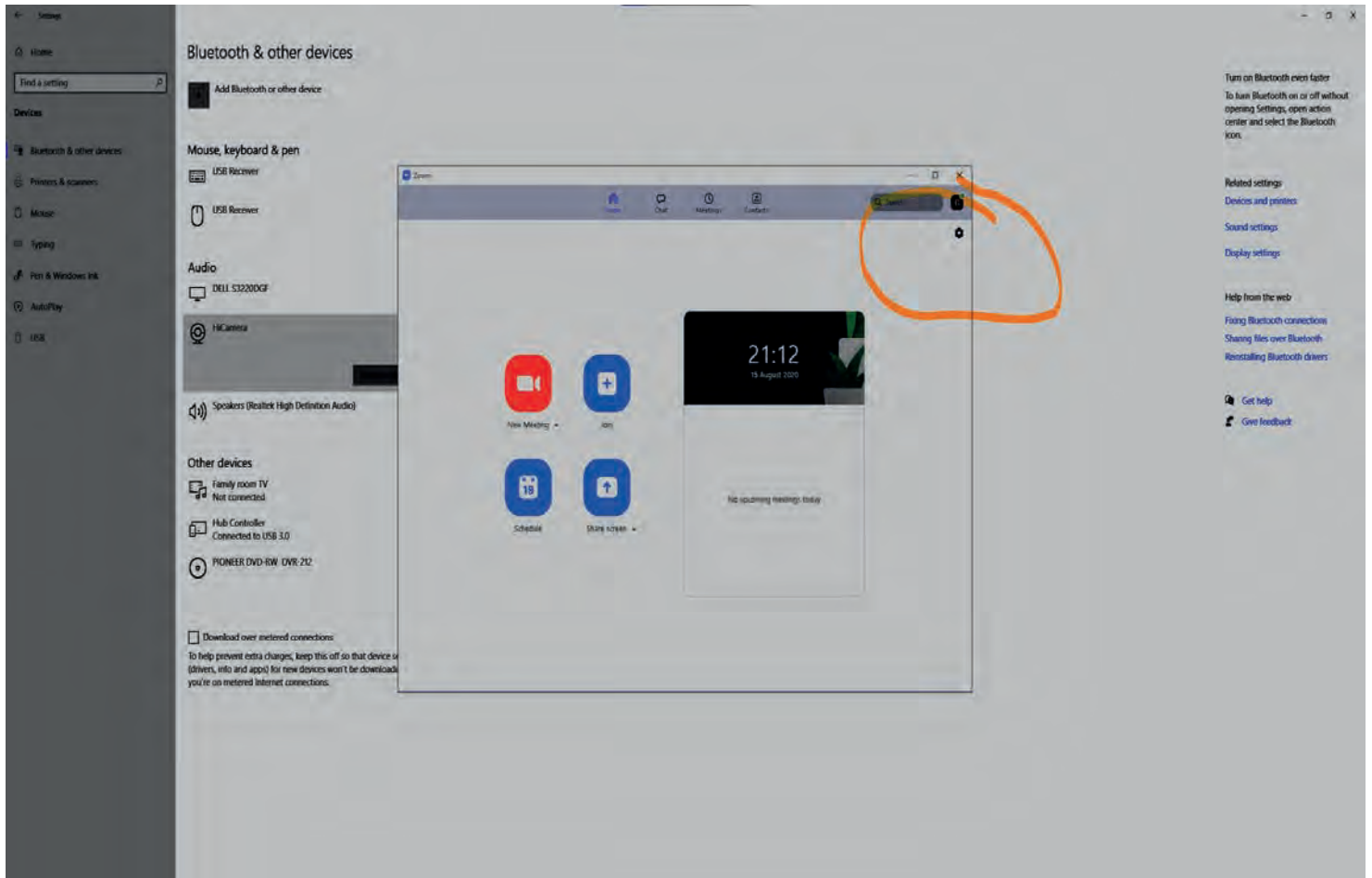
If you have, or need to obtain a webcam these will connect to you computer via a USB socket and most cameras are Plug and Play, which effectively means that once you plug them into your USB socket they will automatically connect, and download the required drivers to make it all work. You will not normally have to download any other software to make this work, but refer to your cameras documentarian to check.

Staying with PC for a moment, if, having plugged in your camera you cannot get it to work, you may need to check that both camera and microphone are enabled on your computer system. If you are



## Computer Corner *continued...*

using Windows 10 you need to go to “Settings” which can be found either by left clicking on the Start symbol (Window) on the bottom left, or by clicking on the “Notifications” symbol on the bottom far right. On the Settings Home Screen click on “Devices” and then “Bluetooth and Other Devices”. Your camera should be listed here.

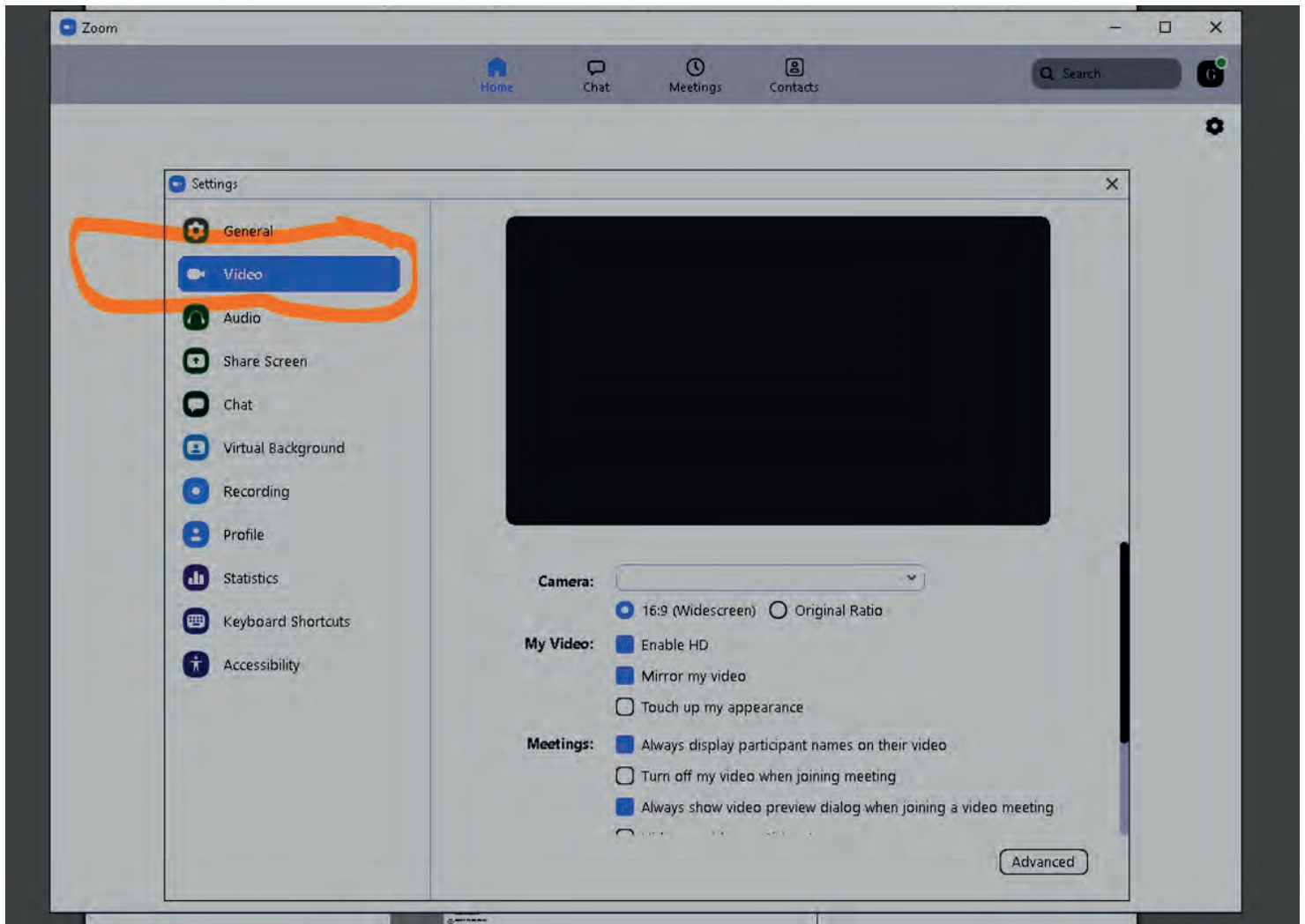


If you have downloaded the Zoom application you can open this and on the “Home” screen you can click on the “Settings” button, A cog wheel in the top right hand corner and this will take you into the settings where you can test and adjust you video and sound as well as add background images to give you location a more exotic look. (See screenshots).

If you possess all the equipment required to take part in the Zoom version of the AGM and do not wish to download the Zoom programme you will still be able to join the meeting by following the link to the Zoom site, that will take you directly into the meeting, without the need to download anything. This applies equally if you are looking to join the meeting from your phone, tablet, laptop or PC. In addition to the link to the site you will need a reference number for the meeting, and a password.

Sadly it is possible, and does happen that Webcams and microphones can be hacked into allowing someone to have access to control one, or both of these. I would advise that when you are not using your webcam, particularly on a PC or laptop it is a wise precaution to disable them. If your camera is separate, and

## Computer Corner *continued...*



plugged into a USB port then the simple answer is to unplug it. On a laptop you can disable the camera and microphone through the operating system such as windows. Follow the same procedure I described above to check your camera in SETTINGS but this time disable the camera and microphone.

I strongly advise you to download the ZOOM application in advance and have a practice with the Video and Sound setting to make sure you webcam works properly.

If you wish to join this year's AGM being held on ZOOM then this is the information you need to be able to take part. If you already have it, open the ZOOM application and click on Join A meeting. If you have not downloaded the ZOOM application this link will take you directly to the ZOOM site. Type it, or copy and paste it into the address bar of you Browser and click Go.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7105430365?pwd=cUxZUWd1Y1E4RkV1YmYrRVVoczD6dz09>**



## **Computer Corner** *continued...*

Whether you have gone into the application from your computer, or via the link, once you are connected to the site you will be asked for a meeting ID which is:

**710 543 0365**

You will then be asked to enter a Passcode, which is:

**0mphV2**

You should then be connected to the waiting room for the meeting, and the host will be informed, and admit you to the meeting.

If you do not have an internet connection you can still join the meeting by telephone. You can do this by dialling one of the numbers shown below. Please be aware that these are NOT free numbers and you will be charged for the call by your service provider, however they are NOT PREMIUM RATE numbers.

**0131 460 1196**

**0203 051 2874**

**0203 481 5237**

**0203 481 5240**

**0203 901 7895**

You will be asked to enter the meeting ID on your phone keypad followed by #

**The Meeting ID is still 710543365 #**

Press # again and you will be asked for a Passcode, *this is a different number than for entering via a video link.*  
The Passcode is:

**086713**

You will then enter the waiting room and the meeting host will admit you to the meeting where you will be able to hear all that is being said, and to speak yourself.

# **Annual General Meeting 2020 Agenda**

## **Virtual Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**14:00hrs**

**Welcome to those attending by the Chairman, Graham Smith**

- 1 Attendees**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**
- 4 Matters Arising**
- 5 Treasurer's Report**
- 6 Membership Report**
- 7 Civil Service Pensioners Alliance**
- 8 Newsletter**
- 9 Website Update and email Register**
- 10 Election of Officers**  
Graham Smith, Ray London and Jan Thompson are due for re-election
- 11 Date of next Annual General Meeting**

# Minutes of the 2019 AGM

## Retired Prison Governors Association

*A section of The Prison Governors Association*

Chairman: **Graham Smith** graham.smith646@hotmail.co.uk  
Secretary: **Ray London** raymond\_london@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: **Graham Mumby-Croft** graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 13.30hrs.

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed members to this years' Annual General Meeting.

### 1. Present: (10 in total)

Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman), Ray London (Secretary), Harry Brett, Jan Thompson (Minutes), Paul Laxton, Graham Mumby-Croft, Dave Taylor

Members:

John Berry, Chris Duffin, Flo Herbert

### 2. Apologies:

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Roger Outram, John Rumball, Lynn Bowles

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

These were distributed to attendees at the meeting and were agreed unanimously as a true record.

Proposed by: Harry Brett

Seconded by: Paul Laxton

### 4. Matters arising

#### Reference Action Responsibility Progress

7.6.18 Agenda Item: 'Social Events' to be taken off future AGM agendas

Ray London - Completed.

8.6.18 Harry Brett to contact James Bryant (PGA) with a view to the CSPA having a stand at the PGA Conference.

Harry Brett - Completed.

10(i).6.18 To produce an article in the newsletter explaining how to access the website and the benefits of it.

Roger Outram - Completed

10(ii).6.18 A small committee to convene to determine the content of the website.

Roger Outram/Paul Laxton/Graham Smith - Completed

12.6.18 GDPR to be sent to members.

Harry Brett - Completed



## Minutes of the 2019 AGM *continued...*

### 5. Treasurers' Report, including Benevolent Fund

The main points that were highlighted from the 2018 accounts were as follows:

**Total Income** for the year was £5712.00 (a decrease of £483.00 from the previous year) which was all made up of membership subscriptions.

**Total Expenditure** was £4834.36 (a decrease of £730.95 from the previous year)

**Surplus of Income over Expenditure** was £877.64 (an increase of £101.26 from the previous year)

**Cash Balance at the end of 2018** was £10,775.25 (an increase of £877.63 from the previous year). This figure includes the transfer of £2050.43 from the closure of the Lloyds current account. In a breakdown of the main costs, the newsletter for 2017 cost a total of £2546.62 which represents 52.7% of the total expenditure of the RPGA. Travel and Subsistence amounted to £743.50; Room Hire and Catering was £557.50 and Donations amounted to £175.

At the end of 2018, **The Benevolent Fund** account stood at £5653.36 (a £75 increase on the previous year). The Treasurer informed the AGM that, as of the 2nd September 2019, the current Account stands at a total of **£13,611.62**

Graham Mumby-Croft addressed the members about his wish to transfer the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA, although this would require an amendment to the PGA Rules and Regulations (Rule 30, Para H), and sought the memberships' permission to open discussions with the PGA Treasurer to this effect. The Benevolent Fund Trustee, Terry Bone, is to be informed.

Proposed by: Graham Mumby-Croft

Seconded by: Ray London

This motion was carried.

**(Action Point: i)** Graham Mumby-Croft to communicate with the PGA Treasurer with a view to transferring the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA. A discussion took place on a proposal to ask members whether they would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email or post. During the discussion it was pointed out that newer members would probably opt for an email version whereas older members would probably still prefer a hard copy. It was noted that if more members preferred the email option the costs would not initially be reduced due to the higher cost of printing a lower number of copies.

Proposed by: Ray London

Seconded by Dave Taylor;

**(Action point ii)** Paul Laxton to write an article for the next newsletter reference the digitisation of future Newsletters on the web page and to invite comments on what members think of this proposal, prior to further discussion.

### 6. Membership Report

Harry Brett distributed a current membership report to the members. The breakdown of the membership was as follows:

At the AGM in June 2018 there were 416 members.

At the AGM in October 2019 there are 416 members.

There have been 15 new members joined in this time, three resignations and three members who have been untraceable.

Unfortunately there have been 9 members who have died during this period and the Chairman led a one minute silence for our deceased members.

Deceased members:

Brian Baldwin, J R Penson, Brian Hayday, Peter Leonard, Cyril Jones, Denis Marsden, Kenneth Debenham, Roland Adams, Gary Dadds

## Minutes of the 2019 AGM *continued...*

### 7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.

A discussion took place on what topics were currently in vogue in respect of today's pensioners. These include the removal of the free TV licence for over 75's; the Triple Lock for State Pensions (which will remain in place until the end of 2019); Social Care and Intergenerational Fairness.

In respect of the CSPA, the AGM is to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Harry Brett and Paul Laxton will be attending on behalf of their respective branches and will pass on any items of interest to Graham Smith and other committee members.

### 8. Newsletter

The editor mentioned that the timing of the newsletter has been altered slightly due to a draft copy being forwarded to committee members before its publication. Newsletters are now due around April and October, the latter to include the PGA Presidents' Conference address.

(Action Point: iii) Paul Laxton to contact James Bryant from the PGA to enquire if they have access to an archive of RPGA Newsletters.

(Action point iv) Paul Laxton to contact RPGA members to ask the same question.

### 9. Website Update and email Register.

Unfortunately Roger Outram was unable to attend this AGM although he did send an update to the effect that his only input regarding the website was that it is in good order and working well and the next Newsletter will contain instructions on how to access the website.

### 10. Date of next Annual General Meeting

To be discussed with the PGA President with a view to holding the next AGM at the same time and venue as the PGA Conference.

Finally, the Chairman thanked those who attended and the meeting closed at 14.45hrs.



HMP Wakefield - Front Gate

## Your Letters

### Dear All

You might have thought that with all this newfound time locked away at home, courtesy of Covid-19, with little to occupy our time someone would have found time to write to me but it's not to be it seems. I do understand that writing to someone who is essentially unknown to you is probably not the most exciting thing, but I assure you, together we have trod the hallways and landings of many HMPs, and getting news of and from people whose names we know is interesting to all of us. There are many regular contributors to the newsletter who pen really good and lengthy tomes about their various experiences, but these are not for the letters page. I know that the letters page interests you because you are here reading this so go get your pen or keyboard and drop me a line about what you are doing now. Meanwhile, my pal **Bob** has sent his usual note for which I am extremely grateful, please see below:

**ROGER OUTRAM**

//

The Virus would appear to have caused communications to dry up, together with the fact that fewer old stalwarts remain with us as each year goes by. This, unfortunately, includes Margery Marchant, who I have known for over 50 years. We were all at Dover Borstal, together with John and Jean Childs, and Alan Rawson, all of us kept in touch; as did the McGowan's but their association was from Guys Marsh. Bernard Marchant could appear a little distant at times, but there was no disputing his commitment, neither his dedication nor his genuine concern for those in his charge. Margery was also very able in her own right, and along with the Governor's wife and my wife to be, all taught at the local Grammar School.

Margery and Bernard were devoted to each other and Margery totally supported Bernard in all he did both in the Service and retirement. They were also devoted to their children and their development. Bernard had also served as Governor of Pentonville and the Governor's quarter then backed on to the prison, so Margery was well informed of all that went on. Margery would probably phone me every other month, either to enquire why the Newsletter was late, or just for a chat. She never tired of reminiscing about 'the Service in its heyday'. She nursed Bernard at home until he passed away, and then later moved to the Care Home. She always said how happy she was there and that she was well looked after. One always sensed that life was never the same for her after Bernard died, and some of her old spirit declined. I will miss her dearly; she just loved to talk about the Service and the wonderful people with whom we all worked.

I have been in touch with Tim Newell, he sees John Dring each week; he is getting weaker but remains remarkably positive and has arranged to be able to meet people, enjoy family and friends and keep in touch with his beloved opera. We even shared a bottle of beer recently. Tim also often thinks about Alan Rawson, and agrees that he would have challenged all the limitations of the lockdown, and would have been most upset about the closing of pubs! A letter from John is reproduced at the foot of this piece.

It reminded me how much I also miss opera, when in London I could go to Covent Garden, and in Yorkshire, Opera North was brilliant and was based at The Grand Theatre, Leeds, where they put on splendid productions at a very good price. Kent is not so good, but the Marlow does have a number of productions, but more infrequent.

//



## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

On my 80th Birthday, I received a good number of best wishes from colleagues, all of whom I thank. I had meant to keep them all so I could refer to them. Alas at my age you do not want to be reminded too much of the passing years. The one that stood out, as it was not expected, was from the French residing geriatric hairy biker himself, Kevin Brewer.

I do not really understand Facebook, but receive quite a lot of communications for which I am grateful, as it means a colleague is still amongst us. Walter MacGowan places quite a lot on it including some lovely countryside scenes, as well as the number of places he visits. I was touched to see his shots of the Menin Gate scenes from Ypres in Belgium on Remembrance Day. It is both a fitting memorial and a wonderful service on the day, for all those who gave so much. It is a place that touches your heart deeply. It must never be lost or forgotten. It is very comforting to have some else who feels as deeply about as I do. Thanks Walter. He also shares a good number of his drinks and his meals; I could almost tell you a whole month's menu! He travels a lot and clearly lives life to the full, and remarkably looks very well on it. The last time I saw him was at Bernard Marchants' funeral. Deep down Walter is a very kind and deeply caring person.

Good to hear that Paul Wailen has completed his series of chemotherapy sessions and the initial results are very positive. He is awaiting the consultant's final analysis of the scans they took, but all looks well. He has booked a holiday in Greece for October, so let's hope it remains off the list of the quarantine on return countries.

Turning to myself for once, we had a holiday booked for Croatia in October, but Shearings went into liquidation during the lockdown, and anyway it now joined the quarantine list. I will have to live to next year. We have been anxious about my grandson's A level results. Great relief, he gained all A's even before all the fuss over the downgrading spectacle. So he is now on his way so I understand it, to Cambridge to study Psychology, following in the footsteps of his parents, but father studied Arabic, and his mother Arabic and Law.

Bob

”



**ROGER OUTRAM**

## **Your Letters** *continued...*

“

Dear Bob

Thank you for writing, it is very good to hear from you.  
You asked me for news of my health for the magazine

In summary:

In 2017 I was diagnosed with motor neurone disease which started when I lost the use of my arms. I am taking a drug proven to slow it down a few months and three years later I am still managing to walk a few hundred metres with lots of rest on my walker. I now have carers arranged but more significantly I have got married and my wonderful wife, Midori, has said that she is standing by me whatever happens. Also, my kids have been brilliant and most supportive as have my Stepdaughters and many other friends like Tim Newell, Mike O’Sullivan, Bryan Payling, Richard Tilt, Tony Pearson, John Cann and Alasdair Munro.

I am still managing to play bridge online twice a week and eat a little porridge. I can talk at the moment but I can feel the speech is going. However, with the help of the excellent Motor Neurone Disease Association, I have banked my voice for when I become like professor Stephen Hawking.

Overall I think I am very privileged to have such wonderful support and comparatively comfortable life compared with many of the 5000 other people in this country who have this awful disease.

Please give my good wishes to all my other good friends in the service, I still watch developments very closely.

With very best wishes

Still bugging on!

John Dring

”

Please send your letters to:

**Roger Outram  
12 Grove Park  
Magazine Lane  
Wisbech  
PE13 1LF**

or

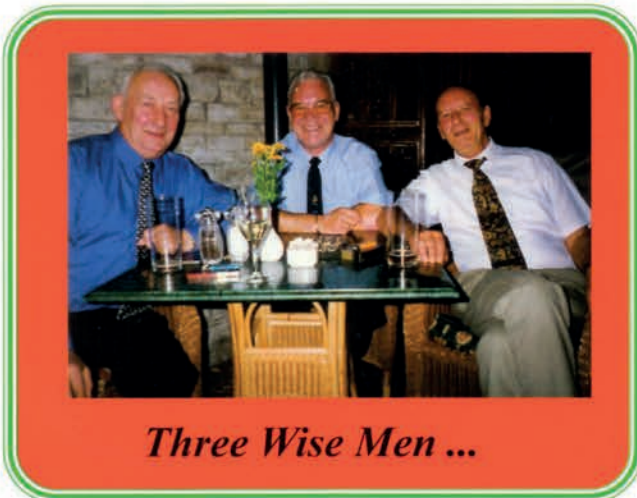
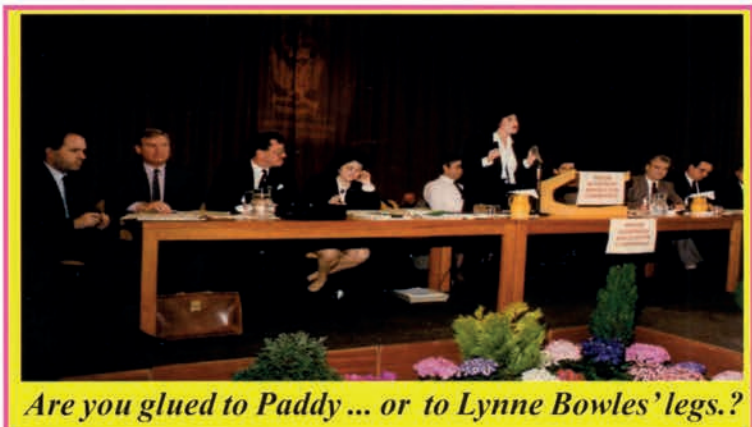
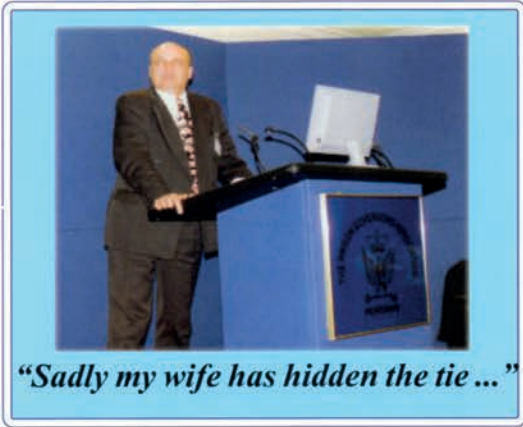
**roger@rsoutram.co.uk**

## Rogues Gallery

# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Edition

## Rogues Gallery





## Rogues Gallery

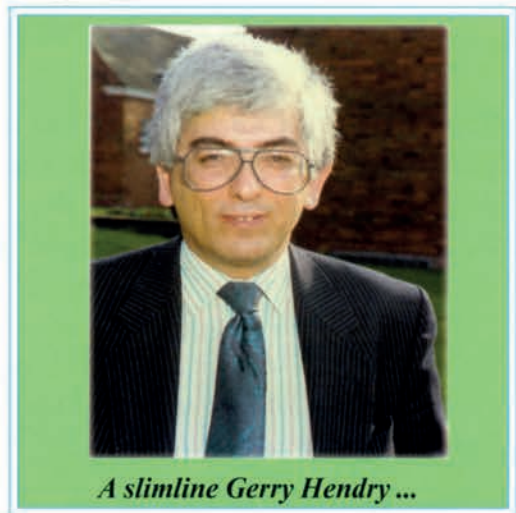
# Key

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Edition

### Rogues Gallery



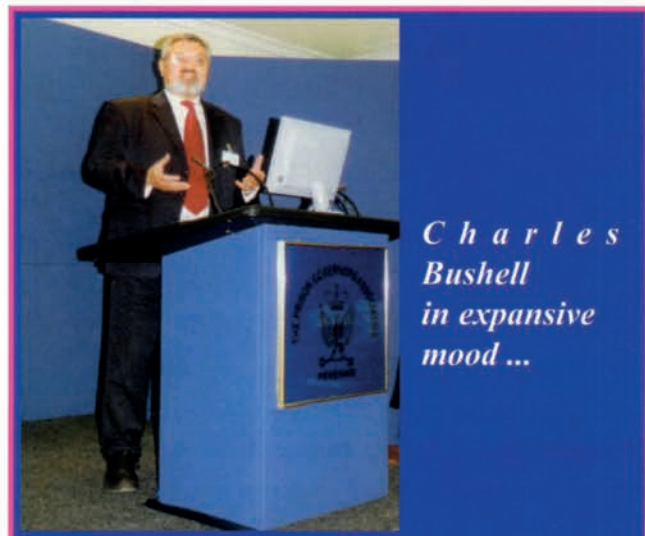
*Graham Smith laying it on the line ...*



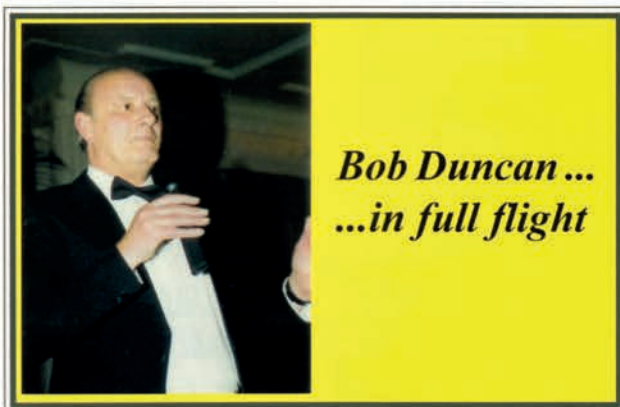
*A slimline Gerry Hendry ...*



*1997 Conference.  
Before Ann Widdecombe was blond!*



*Charles Bushell  
in expansive mood ...*



*Bob Duncan ...  
...in full flight*



*Harry Brett ...  
still going strong.*

## **Busman's Holiday and House Swap - a story**

**W**hile I was serving at Woodhill in 1996 and living in a village called Steeple Claydon in Bucks, I had the idea of planning to have a cheap holiday and trying out a house swap with the USA. The way that these schemes work is that you join a club and after paying a fee you then received a book with contacts advertising their houses for a holiday swap. You then picked any that you fancied and wrote letters (really) and waited for replies. We eventually made contact with a couple in California who lived near to Bakersfield on a farm and duly arranged to swap our house and car for a month. As it happened they came over first and we met for one day before we flew out. My car was a Ford Sierra and I duly took Gene out for a test drive and found that as he changed gear, with that darned manual shift and wrong side steering wheel, he looked down and not where he was going. After a few hairy aims at the ditch I left him to it.

When we arrived, after picking up their car from LAX, it was indeed a farm situated along a dirt track with brothers and in-laws all along the track. You could walk out of the front door and pick a grapefruit off a tree. One of those brothers had a contact in the California prison service and hey-ho it was arranged that as both myself and Jackie at that time worked in our prison service, we could go as honoured guests to Tehachapi Prison.

Tehachapi Prison is a huge supermax establishment situated in Southern California, and has 5 separate units (really prisons) which you need transport to move between. We were met by what would be the Deputy Governor, who had a quad bike on the back of his pickup truck as he was going hunting later, as we all do. I was trying to act cool at this point as both of us were escorted into one of the lower category units. The CNA of Tehachapi was 2700 but the OP CAP was 3350 so they were using the gym as accommodation and it was full of bunk beds three high, and when we went in hundreds of pairs of mainly Hispanic eyes turned to look at us. The officers said that we had better leave as they were expecting trouble.

We moved onto the high security unit (prison) and we were taken into the control hub of one of the wings which was similar to the CSU system at Woodhill, but the floor and walls were bulletproof glass with sally ports in them. In the office was a rack with a number of Armalite rifles in it and I noticed that it was not locked and the rifles had magazines in them. I asked the officer who would give permission to use the weapons and he just pointed at himself. The hub would give clear line of sight to three single level wings.

Outside I saw officers going into a building with flak jackets on and asked what they were doing. I was told that was the segregation unit and the staff had to wear the protection to prevent them being stabbed through the bars. I said that we would not need to go in there. We then were taken up to what was a sniper position that overlooked the exercise yard with an armed officer there at all times. On their SSU unit the exercise yard was one officer with one prisoner. The rule was that if the prisoner stepped closer than 6 feet to the officer, or the officer put his arm up, the overwatch would shoot to kill the prisoner. They had shot a number of prisoners in the first ten years but I was told that recently they had not had to shoot anyone, so in their opinion, the message had got through. Crikey, keep cool.

Before we left we were both invited to their security dept to look at their home made weapon display (yawn) and then, by the way, did we want to look at their book of prisoner assaults. Not sure what that would be but we said yes and we were both given a photo album to look through of prisoners that had been murdered by other prisoners. These photos were scene of crime photos and I had seen nothing to compare with what we were shown. The staff were not trying to shock us, they told me that the police never investigated any crime within the prisons as they had no authority, and the security department did all of that in house. I was still trying to act cool at that point but probably failing as we sat in our borrowed Cadillac to drive back to the farm after a long hot day.

One thing that happened from so many experiences on a very memorable trip was that I hit a kerb and lost a very posh hubcap from the Cadillac. I tried everywhere to get a replacement, and one day we were driving in a desert area and I spotted some hubcaps lining the road in the sand. This led to a warehouse with a sign on it 'The hubcap capital of the world'. Yes I thought, this was going to be a good day. There were two people sitting outside the unit in rocking chairs and when I looked inside there were thousands of hubcaps piled up everywhere. I said 'do you have a hubcap for a 69 Cadillac deVille?' 'Nope, ain't got one of those sunny'. I swear he had a spittoon and it went ping as I walked away. I offered to pay for the hubcap but Gene fessed up that he had made a dint in my old Sierra so all's well that ends well. Just one dint was a bonus as far as I was concerned.

We did three house swaps altogether and the last one was to Canada and lo and behold the people that we swapped with had a contact in the Canadian Probation service. Did we want to visit any prisons? Yes please we said. Kent max security prison and a rehabilitation prison that trained dogs but that will be another story.

**BRIAN PENFOLD**



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# LOOKING BACK

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RETIRED GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER OF YEARS PAST

### From 15 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 1*

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

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

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

### 10 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 9*

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

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

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

### 5 Years Ago

### *Newsletter Issue No. 22*

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

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

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

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

### What of the Future?

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

*Arthur Williamson*

---

**Prison Governors Association**  
Office: Room 409, Horseferry House,  
Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW

Telephone: 0171 217 8591  
Fax: 0171 217 8923

**The Retired Prison Governors**  
NEWSLETTER • Issue 32  
Autumn 1995



## COLIN HONEY'S ADDRESS AT RAY CAMPBELL'S FUNERAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*26 June 1995*



## ARTHUR WILLIAMSON

### – the RPGN's first editor reflects on 50 editions

**"We were delighted to receive the latest edition of 'Newsletter' as I was starting to wonder if it was running out of steam or perhaps was past its 'sell by date'. It is clear this is not so. You started off by seeking contributions from those who have been with it from the start. Well I think I can claim to belong to that small group. The problem is not what to write, but where to start and when to stop. So much has happened in the intervening years. So why and how did 'Newsletter' start?"**

Sometime in early 1980 HO issued a circular stating the pensionable value of quarters had been increased and backdated. Doubting, if recently retired Governor grade members would have been informed I contacted my trusted friend Lionel Steinhausen. As suspected, he knew nothing about it, but wasted no time in contacting HO. It would take a brave man to 'cross pens' with Lionel at anytime and he soon received backpay. I am still waiting for my commission.

Realising one joined the 'League of Forgotten Governors' upon leaving the service; I collected addresses of 48 members of the Governor grades and wrote them seeking opinions on starting a 'Newsheet'. Twenty four replied and all but 3 stated they supported the idea. From then it

was a one-man show and I started to write, publish and post off the first actual copy in May 1980.

Within a few days I had financial contributions from Dermot Grubb at Bristol, Arnie Stapleton at Kirklevington, Jack Smith at Latchmere House and Jim Blakey at Highpoint

The response was very encouraging indeed and I was able to send out No 2 edition two months later. This contained no fewer than 33 pages, plus an article from the Governors branch of the Civil and Public Servants Association.

In April 1980 the 'Thatcher' government appointed Mr Derek Rainer (previously Managing Director of Marks & Spencer) to review wasteful spending within the Civil Service and to bring about a scheme to trim the 'Whitehall Army' by 65,000. This was to include pay and pension payments.

Understandably the main concern of our retired colleagues at that time was the future of their index-linked pensions. Clearly if the Government was able, such payments would vanish. To try to justify their intention they set up an independent enquiry to look into the question. This was to be known as the 'SCOTT REPORT'.

Instead of supporting the Government plan, the report stated: "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected. In other European countries the benefits enjoyed by pensioners are superior to those in this country and the benefits of index-linking are extended alike to both public and private sectors" The remainder of the report went on to completely rebuff the Government, with the result that index linking was safeguarded and we continue to be paid to what we are justifiably entitled.

Obviously I cannot list the hundreds of articles we have published over the last twenty-two years, in addition to countless numbers of letters from our readers, but the idea of a regular Newsletter was greatly appreciated. It is interesting to note that the first 5 editions contained 120 pages, 42 articles and 114 letters, all printed in full. So why the decline in contributions? Sadly far too many of our former colleagues are no longer with us. But one asks the question, "is there the same spirit in today's service as that enjoyed by our own generation". I fear this may not be so. However, there is still room for improvement, so if you have not written recently to the editor with all you own news, might I ask you to do so

#### From John Powls (ex RGN Editor 1982-84)

Edition 50! That lends some perspective. I was very much a sprog Assistant Governor at Manchester when Arthur got me involved in the process of organising and producing the first editions. I was very pleased to do so and made some new old friends – if you see what I mean – in the process. It was like being inducted into the history and traditions of the Service and if you liked a yarn or two – and I do, well....

I've been pleased to see editions over the years too and made contacts again because of that. After I gave up honest work – governing prisons – I spent some time in various jobs at Prison Service HQ before an interesting 3 years as a senior civil servant in the Home Office working on criminal policy. One of the jobs I led on was the Prisons/Probation review, which in turn proposed the setting up of the new National Probation Service. When the new Service was set up I was hankering after a big operational job again and was lucky enough in 2001 to become the first Chief Officer of the new London Probation Area former by amalgamating the former services in London. That brought me back into close partnership with Bill Duff, Area manager for London prisons – we joined the Prison Service together in 1978.

In closing I'd just like to say many congratulations on reaching your 50th and I hope you don't mind me having just a little personal share in your success. I reached my 50th last year so your next milestone is to be around long enough for me to get my sunsubscription – another 15 years as they keep us lashed to the mast for longer in Probation...



## BILL MARTIN

– our first Treasurer writes

**I recently read an article in a Sunday newspaper by Charles Murray entitled “Simple Justice”, in which the writer made reference to the prison population, offending rates, crime ratios and the like that existed in this country in 1954; I remember that year very well. I had joined the Prison Service at Walton Gaol in Liverpool in 1950 as an auxiliary officer when the pay was 118 shillings per week and a governor class 1 received the grand sum of £1,900 per annum.**

I worked an 84 hour, 12 day fortnight, usually working a full day shift from 7am to 5.30pm. The prison held over twelve hundred men, the staff numbered around 120 officers, 80 of which were auxiliaries - the lowest of the low. At that time the prison population of England and Wales stood at twenty two thousand, women and borstal boys included. Hangings and even floggings took place. Breakfast for a prisoner was a pint of tea and a pint of porridge. No 'Full Public Enquiries' in those days. I suppose it was almost as far removed from contemporary prison conditions as is the Navy now from that of Nelson's day.

In 1954 I had been transferred to Dartmoor, which in those days was a dumping ground for recidivist long termers, although they called it a 'central prison'. The Commissioners were intent on reintroducing the pre-war shift system there (the Norwich system) with a view to gaining greater continuity in terms of inmate/staff contact, since having two long shifts, am. and pm. with a one o'clock parade change-over resulted in the same officers supervising the same prisoners week in, week out for months on end. With four year's service I qualified to be officer i/c of one the farm parties during the day and 'bathhouse officer' in the evenings. I enjoyed working this system and the understanding of prisoners' attitudes and behaviour I gained during this period stood me in good stead in the years to come. The system. broke down. eventually - the POA saw to that!

The abiding memory I have of that time was when, having fallen ill with what then we called gastric 'flu', I found myself being fed with bread and milk for my Christmas dinner by a prisoner

in the bachelor quarters. We called him 'Piebald' and he was a real Norman Stanley Fletcher type. "Come on Mr Martin - another marfull".

I saw a good many changes during my 39 years in the Prison Service, ranging from the Norwich system, prison hostels, the Blake Escape and its repercussions, the introduction of parole right through to 'Fresh Start'. I saw four different designs of uniform and wore two of them myself before being promoted into the governor grades.

It was about that time that Arthur Williamson produced the first 'Newsletter'. He had been saying for years that there was a need for something of the sort to keep in touch with retired governors, and in the end decided the only way it would happen would be to 'do it himself'. It was a simple thing, just a couple of cyclostyled sheets stapled together, but it served its purpose well and was seized upon eagerly by the recipients. Arthur asked me to act as the treasurer of this venture, a task which I continued to undertake for a further seventeen years.

The production and finances were at first somewhat arcane. One item in the accounts in the early days being '1 box chocs. Mrs Jones (Typist)', I recall. The funds were generated a little bit here, a little bit there. An occasional donation, a fee from an appearance on TV, the residual funds from the stillborn BAPG, things like that. Also we worked on the principle that if the POA could have it for free, so could we and no one gainsaid us on this. Eventually we got ourselves onto a more formal footing with an annual subscription and in due course were invited to come under the aegis of the newly formed yet highly successful PGA and assumed the current format and now I find myself writing this article for inclusion in the 50th Edition.

By 1981 I had become governor of Leeds Prison, the dreaded 'Armley' that has featured in various television programmes and a few 'soaps'. It was interesting to see that the Wolfe Report on prison riots actually devoted a section to explaining why the prison had not gone up in flames as everyone expected it to do, and then the Sunday Times did a full two page spread about me as 'The Governor of the Powderkeg Gaol'. I very much enjoyed the seven years I served there and was once much amused to have my spies report after the POA general meeting that someone had stood up and declared "the trouble with this governor, Mr Chairman, is he knows too much!"

One final recollection; a few weeks before I retired in 1989 we were honoured with a visit by HRH the Duchess of Kent. All went well but as she was driving out through the main gate I turned to watch the royal standard being lowered from the flagpole on the central tower and as I did so I saw a prisoner's hand thrust out of a cell window waving a home-made Union Jack - pure 'Porridge'.





## **AN EXPLOSION OF EVIL**

**1st APRIL 1990 will be written into the history books of the Prison Service, as it was on that day that 'all hell was let loose' at HMP Manchester, and we all witnessed the scenes on our television screens. For days the rioting inmates sat on the roof of the wing after having destroyed much of the external fabric. What they had accomplished inside the prison we are not to know, but we can only assume that it is in a terrible state. The Press and Media of course had a 'field day' and one feels certain they enjoyed it all. It enabled them to print rumour after rumour, without any facts at all and, whilst a large section of the Public no doubt believed what they were told, those of us who have dealt with journalists would have recognised much of their efforts as simple *muck stirring* - the art of which they are masters.**

Eventually the truth will be found by the enquiry due to be carried out by Lord Justice Woolf, but it remains to be seen if the Public will be given all the facts. It will I suppose depend upon who is found to be at fault. Should it be political misjudgement it is doubtful indeed if all the facts will be made public.

However, whatever the findings are, we can be certain that the Governor and his staff will come out blameless. I watched almost every news report throughout the terrible ordeal and felt nothing but admiration for Brendan O'Friel and his entire staff. His own personal 'performance' on the screen showed him to be a man of courage, intelligence and patience. His ability to control the situation and, at the same time, 'tame' the Media was in the best traditions of the Service and he must have been admired throughout the land as a professional who knows what prisons and prisoners are all about. He was, of course, backed up by a first class team of assistants and uniformed staff and, whilst I am in no position to judge, I know from my own time at Manchester that the Strangeways staff would have backed him 'to the hilt' and would have carried out their duties with courage and, yes, a certain amount of humour.

We must await his lordship's report, but I know you will all wish to join me in congratulating Brendan and his entire staff on the way they handled their terrifying experience. I only hope this will be appreciated by those in 'seats of power' when they deliberate upon the future administration of our penal establishments. All I can say on this point is that it will be 'God help us' should they ever be sold off to private enterprise and administered from afar by people with no practical experience. **AND THIS COULD HAPPEN.**

Congratulations Brendan and our thanks to you and all the lads at Strangeways for the way you all dealt with the troubles. I ask your forgiveness for using your own description of the riot as the title of this article.

*Arthur Williamson*



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# PRISON GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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## Annual Conference 1990

In March I was honoured when invited to be a dinner guest at the PGA conference held at the new Staff College at Newbold Revel. I was not however prepared for what was to follow. At the end of the excellent dinner I was introduced to the delegates by Brendan O'Friel who then presented me with a magnificent cut glass decanter, suitably inscribed to commemorate my contribution to the newsletter during its first decade. Having left the Service eight years ago one can imagine the pleasure this gave me and I shall treasure it very much indeed.

However, I must make it perfectly clear that the newsletter could not have been started - nor would it have gone on for ten years - without the generous assistance that I have received from many colleagues. These include Norman Brown and his secretary, the late Mrs Eileen Fox, for their advice and practical help in the initial stages; the first recipients of our early editions for their contributions, both written and financial; the

young John Powls for carrying on publication when I retired; to my old pal Ted Cowper-Johnson and later Syd Powell for helping with the distribution, and, last but certainly not least, to Bill Martin for looking after our somewhat limited cash and ensuring that we did not land up 'in the red'. This has never been a 'one man show' and to each and every one all I can say is 'Thank you'.

*Prison Governors Association Conference  
working session March 1990*



*Prison Governors Association Conference Dinner 1990: Arthur Williamson, Brendan O'Friel and John Jones*



Returning to the PGA conference I must say how very impressed I was by, and how much I enjoyed being, a member of the Service again. There were approximately 100 delegates there - out of a total of around 900 Governor grades with the Service, and I was astounded at the professionalism and standard of debate within the conference hall. It made our old Domestic Sessions look somewhat pathetic.

To most of those present I was a stranger - and an old one at that - yet without exception I was made to feel welcome and I was regarded as an old friend and colleague. I felt that I still belonged to the Prison Service (I have never felt otherwise), and the conference proved what an excellent set of young men are carrying on where we left off. I wish them well in the future.

Speaking of the future, it seems clear that 'storm clouds' are ahead. In the first place plans are already in being for the Home Office to scrap the four regions and the regional directors, and to replace them with ten area committees headed and run by either 'Whitehall Warriors' or civilian administrators from outside. Thus the scene would be set for hiving the prisons off to the private sector - for no other reason than private profit. This in itself in my opinion is immoral, and which idiots will invest money into penal establishments I cannot imagine. The Manchester Prison riot was a tragedy of the highest order, but we can all imagine what it would do to dividends. I mention all this quite deliberately because I know that a certain Member of Parliament (and a very powerful one

as well) is on our mailing list. As an ex-member of the Governor grade we do of course cherish his membership, but I do hope that when the time comes he will help the Government to come to its senses and stop the rot. For our part I feel certain you will all do your part in keeping the traditions and loyal service of Her Majesty's Prison Service before the Public as much as possible. We have protected the State since the year 1878 and I make no apology for stating that it is still the finest Service in the world. Should this be doubted I would simply ask, 'Why do other countries still send their senior staff here for us to educate, and why are they continually asking us to send members abroad to teach them how penal establishments should be run.' Even in this current issue you will note some of our colleagues are now in Singapore and I know of others serving further afield. In addition, several ex-members of our Service were recruited by overseas governments and are now at the head of their services. Would this be the case if we were run by private investors - I will leave you and the Public to judge. One thing I am certain about - they would not get the loyalty of the POA, and without them they may just as well 'shut up shop'.

At the commencement of our newsletter I decided it should be just that - an exchange of news amongst retired colleagues, but events compel me to do all I can for the Service for which I still have a very strong affection.

*Arthur Williamson*

## STOP PRESS

- Strangeways is to be extensively refurbished at a cost of £60m
  - The PGA plan to produce a special tie for Retired members - a variation on our present tie with a modified PGA Crest. This should be available in September 1990. It will be the same price as the standard PGA tie - see your PGA diary.
- Advice on preferred colours, please, to the editor ASAP.**



## Arthur Williamson... A Tribute

I first met Arthur in early 1979 when I arrived at HMP Manchester - my first posting - as an Assistant Governor Under Training and he was the Dep. My early impressions were that if the dictionary definition of 'avuncular' needed an example Arthur could have been properly referenced. But there was so much more to the man than that and lots to learn from. Most importantly for someone in my then position and with aspirations to move up in my career, Arthur proved a very good role model in how to be a deputy governor. He dovetailed seamlessly with the Governor in that loyal, true but realistic 'bridge and shield' way that hallmarks the best of those working relationships. If you add in the then Chief Officer you had as effective a leadership triumvirate as I experienced in my career, all very different as personalities and in their leadership and management styles but all knew their roles inside out and how to work together to get the job done in a challenging environment through the rest of their staff. All three also knew that it was actually the matronly Governor's secretary who really ruled their roost!

That said, things could be a bit 'old school' at times but that was then..... and it didn't mean that newer ideas didn't get listened to - or even acted on if you were prepared to argue your corner and back your judgment with action and results. There was other stuff to learn from Arthur too - not the least about being at the other end of his career from where I was in mine. His oft-stated ambition was to collect as many years pension as he'd served which, with a career spanning a prison works background to the higher echelons of governing was a very decent span.

With his retirement not far off, Arthur often lamented how many retired governor grades seemed to pass away all too soon after they retired even if their pension arrangements left them financially comfortable. Above the tool of the taxing demands of the job, he put that

down to three things - losing the framework of the role and its authority; not preparing properly for replacing those with other satisfying things to be and do; and, losing touch with the working community that provided comradeship and context. He reasoned that the first issue was just a fact but needed thinking about and adjusting to in advance and that could be helped by proper planning with things put in place to address the second which involved family, finances, where you were going to live and what you were going to do. Even in my late twenties, these seemed eminently sensible and over thirty years later I attended Civil Service pre-retirement seminars that said much the same thing in a PowerPoint slidestorm!

Arthur was assiduously doing what he needed to do for himself on the first two but with the last of the three, he thought there was something he could do to help more widely. He'd had the idea of setting up a newsletter for retired governors to support those that wished to keep in touch with former colleagues, developments in the service and with retirement issues generally. By that stage Arthur new I was a published author - albeit in very different genres - and asked if I'd give him a hand to get the newsletter off the ground. I was pleased to help and the rest, as they say, is history - but history still being made, thankfully!

And me? Well, I'm still trying my best to follow Arthur's example of claiming at least as many years pension as the 35 years service I put in and enjoying my home life and the new grandchildren. I'm a writer full time now - my website [www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk](http://www.promiselandpoetry.co.uk) covers my writing career and current projects. My latest book, 'North Sea To The East' which is inspired by the landscapes and seascapes of my native North Yorkshire is planned for publication later this year.



**JOHN POWLS**



## Money for nothing from the MoJ

Sounds too good to be true, like some email offering a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, if only it can be lodged in your bank account for a while? And ps. please will you send your bank details to some overseas phishing address. No, it's not like that at all. Honest.

Like most of us, I hope, I have made a Will. This was drawn up by a solicitor to avoid unforeseen consequences like my estate ending up with my second cousin's aunt's mother by mistake. Simultaneously I raised two lasting powers of attorney so that, should I eventually get even more gaga than I am now, my son and daughter would have the power to make both financial and health and care decisions on my behalf. It's important to do this before going gaga, since otherwise a court might doubt one's mental capacity to enter such an arrangement. The only drawback was that fees paid to the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) for the purpose were, I felt, rather extortionate. The OPG is an agency of the Ministry of Justice.

I was correct. A chance reading of a financial column in the Sunday Times alerted me that the OPG had routinely been overcharging for this service for some years. They were making repayments to those who claimed, but the initiative lay with the claimant. There seemed no mechanism whereby overpayments would be automatically refunded.

Google 'Claim a power of attorney refund – GOV.UK' and there are the full details including claim forms to submit online. There is a sliding scale of repayments depending on the date of applying to register a power of attorney which must have been between April 2013 and March 2017. Interest is added since the date of overpayment and the window to claim closes on 1st February 2021. In my case I ended up £111.72 better off. Not a fortune, I agree but better off in my pocket than in that of the MoJ.

Apply now if you qualify. You have nothing to lose. And if you want me to send you a chunk of a Nigerian prince's fortune, you need only send me your bank details c/o my Cayman Islands office!

**PETER QUINN**

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## Paul Dixon 04/02/1950 ~ 09/05/2020

I am sad to report that Paul passed away in May 2020 following a protracted MS illness that he endured for many years following his early retirement in 2000. He leaves his wife Maggie and son Phillip at their home near Wakefield. His wife noted that Paul never complained about his illness and the impact it had on his life. He coped with it.

Paul was born and lived in Sunderland, and was a teacher at a school in Sedgfield until joining HMPS at Durham as Assistant Governor. He was posted to Barnard Castle then Winchester and Frankland and was at PSC Love Lane Wakefield when I met him when we were delivering "Post Fresh Start Implementation Training" in 1987. I recall that as the training was high profile, at the time expensive consultants were contracted to assist us, and as an ex PO from Strangeways most of it went over my head, but Paul was always supportive and could make sense of all the new structures and strategies with ease and helped me and others greatly at what was a difficult time for us.



He then went on to Full Sutton and ended his career, due to his illness, as Governor at Reading. A professional and company man to the end, sadly missed.

**GRAHAM SMITH**, RPGA Chairman

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## **Your attention is drawn to PSJ No.249**

I have just seen the latest **Prison Service Journal - Number 249 May 2020**. I think some colleagues may be interested in a couple of items. It is a Special Edition headed "Understanding the Past".

One item is a study of Major Robert Hickey who was Governor of Dartmoor from January 1870 to October 1872. He had been at Dartmoor as Deputy Governor since December 1867 and had previously served at Portland from November 1864. I found the account fascinating, even making use of extracts from the Governors Journal. Hickey describes the sole purpose of the Governors Journal as being to record what he did for "the information of the visiting Director". The account gives an account about what the Governor's activities were; what his - quite limited - powers were and something of his relationship with the "Directors" i.e. Head Office! There are some interesting contrasts and similarities with the world our generation of Governors experienced.

The second item is titled "Revisiting the Borstal Experiment " by Professor Heather Shaw of Manchester Metropolitan University. This is a broad brush account of the period 1902-82 when the Borstal System was developed to when it was changed to Youth Custody. The account of the number of Borstal Boys who died in the First War was something I was at best dimly aware of; her account of the inter war years lacks perhaps the detail I would expect about the experimental nature of the open borstal developments with the marches to Lowdham and to North Sea Camp. Professor Shaw ends with a plea for further research, something many of us would warmly endorse.

Prison Service Journal is available on line for those who wish to read it.

Kind Regards,

**BRENDAN O' FRIEL**

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## **Head Office was on your back... even in the 1860's**

The message about Major Hickey rang a bell with me and others may find this interesting...

In 1968 I was an Assistant Governor under the redoubtable Governor Herbert Horatio Harrison at Portland Borstal. During a period of refurbishing accommodation he gave me the task of overseeing the emptying of a storeroom and disposing of all 'rubbish' contained therein. On checking a borstal handcart heading for the incinerator I discovered a few interesting old documents, including a 'foolscap' sized lined notebook, which I still have and which turned out to be titled on the first page: "Major Hickey's Journal while Acting Governor of Portland Prison 1867."

There follows orthodox Governor's Journal entries by the Major [acting up to the Senior Deputy Governor, who was sick, in the Governor's absence.] The journal is clearly temporary, being less than a quarter of the normal thickness of an official journal and obviously initiated by the Major for his own use. The periods covered are 9 to 12 January 1867, 15 to 22 January and 29 January to 1 February, all inclusive. Curiously the last entries from 31 May to 6 June 1867 are in the different hand of the Chief Warder and the 'journal' ends abruptly there with a countersigned note in the margin to the following authoritative effect: "One journal only to be in use in the prison in future - Governor's Journal to be handed over to acting governor for day's record of Events". [One assumes that gaps relating to these dates must exist in the official Journal.] Clearly our Major was getting a minor rap on the knuckles; interestingly and maybe connected with this he writes in pencil at the bottom of the page containing the events of 1 February, one of which refers to a Warder being reported to the Director the following terse note: "Visiting Director did not sign."

During this period Portland Prison was unlocking 1400 prisoners plus and there are many references to individual 'Fenian Prisoners', which I forwarded a few years ago to the staff at the Kilmainham Gaol Museum in Dublin.

There are many fascinating anecdotes and situations in these pages and I was struck not just by the similar structure and format of the daily journal entries to my own experience but by the unchanging activity of prison life such as watching the men go out to labour, night visits, daily Governor's rounds etc .

**DEREK ARAM**, Portland 1968-72



## Membership Report - October 2020

The membership total is down to 404, a loss of 7 since the last report, and a loss of 12 since the last AGM. We welcome new members Catherine Hayden, Les Dacombe, Helen Dickinson and Merle Cadman (widow of Tom).

We have had a resignation from Nigel Foote and lost touch with Mrs Bryan, Peter Garrard and Mrs B Spencer, so if there is anyone in touch with them, and they would like to re-join then please let me know.

### The following have passed away since the Last AGM:

#### MEMBERS

Brian Thulborn	Brian Coatsworth	James Edwards BEM ISM	Geoff Lister
Bernard Wilson MBE	Harold Prior	Mrs Low	Eddie Healy
Malcolm Manning	Ingrid Claydon	Olwen Spiers	Marjorie Marchant
Pat Nolan			

#### NON-MEMBERS

Judith Matthews	William Rose-Quirie OBE	Colin Baker	Mel Constantine
Malcolm Lewis		Ruth Mann	Paul Dixon

Our Condolences go out to friends and relatives.

Members will be aware that we work closely with the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, in fact many are members of both organisations. Currently the CSPA is heavily involved in attempting to ensure some CSPA members, whose pensions it claims have been overpaid due to departmental calculation errors, do not have to pay the full amount of arrears. Some overpayments are quoted in their thousands. The CSPA have taken legal advice regarding the Limitations Act and are in discussions with the Cabinet Office. Another area of great concern is that widows and widowers be allowed to retain their pensions if they chose to re-marry. This affects those whose deceased spouses were members of the classic scheme who retired before October 2002. It is intended to seek the support of MP's and lobby Parliament for support for the retention of life-time pensions later this year. Other areas of concern are affordable social care, with the CSPA seeking a switch to it being financed from general taxation rather than personal contribution.

Anyone is interested in joining the CSPA (£2 per month) then please let me know at [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com) and I will send you the joining forms

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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.

**HARRY BRETT**

## Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P.

“It’s a great life if you don’t weaken” was a familiar refrain from Olwen and a maxim to guide her life. A life well lived. A life of service, a life of adventure. A life of compassion, a life of fun. We are here today to join in sadness at Olwen’s passing but also to celebrate her life and remember some of the great things about her and the long life she lived. I have a fair bit to say but Olwen herself was loquacious, so hopefully she would have approved.



Olwen was born in Manchester in February 1932 to Amy and Arthur Parry, a younger sister to Joyce. Her Dad was a prison officer and had met her Mum whilst she also was working as a prison officer. Consequently, much of Olwen’s young life was steeped in the prison service environment and this clearly influenced her future career choices although that didn’t become apparent until many years later.

Olwen was seven years old when the Second World War broke out and the family moved from Manchester to London. In September 1940, the Germans commenced nightly bombing raids on London and so began several years of evacuations from the city for Olwen and Joyce, which must have been very disconcerting for such young girls. The first evacuation took Olwen and Joyce

to family friends in rural Lancashire but they soon returned to London. For the next evacuation, the sisters went with the other children from their school on a long journey to a location which was not told to their parents. The destination turned out to be Somerset where the children arrived in a town square to be confronted by the local prospective foster parents who proceeded to inspect the children and choose the ones they would take to their homes. Fortunately, Olwen’s Mum had instilled in Olwen and Joyce the importance of sticking with one another, and so they insisted on being housed together, and eventually a newly married couple took them in. Olwen and Joyce spent nearly a year in Somerset before returning to London and being reunited with their parents.

It wasn’t long before they were evacuated again, this time to Surrey and a particular memory of Olwen’s from this time was when the house next door suffered a direct hit and the windows and roof of their foster home were blown out. Olwen and Joyce were carted off to a children’s home which Olwen remembered as being rather unpleasant and from which they were rescued by their mother, only after managing to write and tell her of their plight. Another short stay in London followed before again being evacuated to Surrey, this time to be billeted with a wealthy family where a maid named Bertha was assigned to look after them. Bertha often took the girls for long walks in the woods and then bribed them with sweets to play for an hour or so while she had a rendezvous with her Canadian soldier friend.

Eventually, the girls returned to London on a more permanent basis but those war years coloured Olwen’s approach to life and made her appreciate that there was so much joy to be had in life and that what mattered most were people, not material wealth and possessions. From around 1943, Olwen’s childhood returned to a more normal trajectory and she spent 3 years at St Martin-in-the-Field High School for Girls in Tulse Hill, London and then completed her school education at Wakefield Girls’ High School where she gained her School Certificate in eight subjects and her High School Certificate in three subjects. Joyce reminded me the other day that Olwen was quite precocious as a youngster, always wanting to do everything her sister did, despite being



## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

younger than Joyce by more than two years. Olwen also showed signs of her high intellect, scoring so well in her "11 plus" exams, which all children in England took at that time as a prelude to commencing high school, that she could have had the pick of the best schools had her parents wished.

On leaving school, Olwen went to study at the West End Hospital Speech Therapy Training School in London. Looking back, we are not sure what prompted Olwen to take her career in this direction but Joyce suspects that it may have been because several older girls had taken that path and it seemed to be quite a well-regarded route to follow at that time. On completing her two year course and qualifying as a speech therapist, Olwen secured her first job as a speech therapist with the Wakefield Education Authority working single-handed with a range of patients from very young babies to the elderly and including many patients with disabilities. At some point during her time working as a speech therapist, Olwen took the decision to change direction and pursue a career in the prison service. Obviously, with Olwen living with her parents during her years working as a speech therapist, her family may have had some influence on this move, but knowing the independent thinking person Olwen clearly was, we must presume she was charting the course which made sense to her.

In 1961, after seven years working as a speech therapist Olwen embarked on the Assistant Governor Training Course at the Prison Service Staff Training College and so commenced her 20 year career as a civil servant with the Prison Department of the Home Office. Olwen progressed through the ranks from Assistant Governor to Governor to Deputy Regional Director for the north region based in Manchester and then for the final few years of her service she was Operational Controller for all custodial establishments for female offenders. The latter role was located at Head Office in Central London and Olwen became a commuter, choosing to endure a long daily train journey from and to Leicestershire because of the stage she had reached in her personal life, which we will come to in a moment.

On retirement from the Prison Service in 1981, Olwen pursued various roles in the Leicestershire

area, mainly working with and for people with disabilities. Part of the reason for Olwen seeking this work is that she had been involved with many people with various disabilities over the previous 30 years and wanted to put that experience to good use. Also, particularly, during her last five years with the Prison Service she had been assigned a personal secretary who was a registered blind person which made Olwen acutely aware, not just of the difficulties such people faced in their everyday lives, but also the great potential for them to live active lives and contribute fully to society.

Whilst Olwen was working as Governor of Bulwood Hall Women's Borstal in Essex in the late 1960s she first became acquainted with Dr Stan Spiers who, along with working locally in general practice, was also the GP for the borstal. The two became friends over the years, aided by Stan's friendship with Olwen's Dad Arthur, by then a widower and spending a lot of time with his younger daughter. After moving up from her role as Governor at Bulwood Hall, Olwen was in a position of more choice about where to live and relocated with her Dad to a small village in rural Leicestershire. Sometime prior, Stan had accepted a role as GP at the Medical Centre of Loughborough University and Olwen's move allowed the two to develop their blossoming friendship. Arthur passed away in 1976 and later that year, September 23rd to be precise, Olwen and Stan were married in the Quaker Meeting Hall in North London. And so began a wonderful period for the two of them as they enjoyed a thirty year marriage only cut short when Stan sadly lost his battle with cancer in 2007.

The pairing of Olwen and Stan was very nicely balanced, both of them having great wit and formidable intellect; they complemented each other and somehow together they became something that was greater than the sum of the parts. Enduring happy relationships are rare and require hard work and sacrifice, but Olwen and Stan had a great thing going. Happy couples often have the knack of interacting with each other through what might be termed 'affectionate teasing', and Olwen and Stan were masters of this. Olwen also became a much-loved step-Mum to Stan's four children who were in their teens and early adult years when Olwen and Stan married. This was a difficult challenge

## **Eulogy, Olwen Spiers R.I.P. *continued...***

which Olwen handled with her customary astute reading of people and understanding of what she might be able to do to help develop successful relationships.

Throughout their years together Olwen and Stan were keen travellers. They had numerous adventures with campervan trips in Europe (and I remember Stan was particularly insistent that the vehicle was fitted with an Oz-style Roo-bar). They preferred the less travelled roads and the opportunity to meet local people whenever they could. They also travelled to various continents which included visiting family and friends in Australia on several occasions, visiting my brother Iain and his wife Kirstie when they were living in New Zealand as well as going to exotic places like Cuba. Closer to home they made full use of the narrow boat moored at the foot of the drive of their house on the banks of the River Soar. Their central England location gave great access to the inland waterways of England and Olwen and Stan were always very generous with allowing family members to experience the leisurely thrill of a weekend or short holiday on the narrow boat. And then there was the villa in Spain, located at Benidoleig, a rural area comfortably inland from the bright lights of Benidorm where they spent many happy holidays and again especially enjoyed meeting and interacting with the local people.

Before we move on, I should just add an interesting little side note about Olwen's romantic life. The other day I asked my Mum whether there had been any boyfriends in the years prior to Stan. She said "Oh yes, there were a few obviously, as she was a bright and vivacious young woman." "But Mum were there any serious relationships, any significant exes?" "Well," said Mum "there was some ghastly middle aged man who was a really smarmy git!" So it probably wasn't too much of a challenge for Stan to trump that but I certainly think it ended up being a fine match for both of them.

In the photo tribute which follows there is a picture of Olwen as a little girl dressed in a nurse's uniform. Mum told me that Olwen always said she would marry a doctor. It took her a while to find him but she did eventually get there – and well worth the wait.

When Stan passed away in 2007 Olwen quickly made the decision that she wanted to join her sister and other family in Perth. We sponsored her emigration and by 2009 she was living in Perth, initially with Joyce but before long she moved to the retirement village at Ocean Gardens in the suburb of City Beach. At Ocean Gardens Olwen had a lovely little unit with views out over the ocean and quickly made many friends and acquaintances, something she was always very good at. There was also a bit of family life which she became part of, with my wife Christine's extended family being particularly welcoming. In her retirement Olwen continued to fight for some local causes often involving sticking up for the individual against various bureaucracies including the local council, many times locking horns with the mayor, who was a pompous twit she frequently brought to account.

Sadly, there eventually came the day when her health deteriorated to the extent that she needed a higher and more regular level of care and she moved to the Wearne Hostel nursing home in Cottesloe. Again she had a room with ocean views, again she made friends with several other residents and even became popular with the staff who frequently commented to me what a lovely lady she was, despite often giving those carers a bit of a hard time.

I think I have just about come to the end of this potted version of Olwen's life story. I apologise if I have left out any important episodes or anecdotes but obviously there is a lot to tell.

In closing I would just like to draw out a couple of themes. Olwen was a compassionate person. In my mind this goes beyond mere empathy – it is empathy plus the intent to do whatever she could to make the situation better. This compassion was reflected, not just in a life of service, but also in her many interactions with family and friends. Olwen was a fun person. I know this very well from personal experience as I couldn't imagine having a better Auntie, but also from hearing tales of her various adventures and interactions with all those she came across. It's a great life if you don't weaken, and she didn't. A life well lived indeed.

**STUART MOORE**



## Foreign Times

In 2010 I was recruited by the UN to be the Commanding Officer of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY) Detention Unit (UNDU) in The Hague. The ICTY was created following the Yugoslav conflict because the International community did not have faith in the local justice systems to deal with the crimes allegedly committed by those in power during the conflict. The detainees held by the ICTY were those accused of being in command and control of those who had committed the atrocities. The UNDU is in a purpose-built unit inside a Dutch prison in The Hague (P.I. Haaglanden). The building has its own perimeter and is considered to be UN territory and holds all the "foreign" tribunals based in Holland. When I arrived, the UNDU held about 65 detainees and they were those suspected, under trial, or convicted and awaiting transfer to a state for enforcement of sentence. These residents were some of the more difficult cases of the Tribunal and included those who were at the very top of Yugoslav government during the conflict, i.e. Presidents, Chiefs of police and Generals. In a lot of cases they are still held to be heroes by those of their own ethnic background and some still have political careers in the region. One of the issues for management of these detainees was the psychological conflict between being heroes at home, but war criminals in the international community, add into this their age, lifestyle and health problems from the conflict and they were an interesting group to deal with. The other major management issue was the length of time the detainees spent in custody before disposal of their case. This would have been an unacceptable period in a national justice system and caused problems to the detainees we are aware uncertainty causes in a remand population. Most of the charges however, involved thousands of victims and hundreds of perpetrators and witnesses, meaning a speedy resolution was impossible without a guilty plea.

As a stand-alone unit inside the perimeter of a national prison, good liaison with the Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (DJI) and local management was crucial. The Rules of Detention

were broadly similar and all complied with UN minimum rules, however there were some differences between each of the Tribunals and the Host States prison rules. One of the areas where there were rubbing points was what detainees were allowed in possession, and could receive through visits or have delivered by post/courier. With three different agencies involved (the establishment front gate was staffed with Dutch prison officers then the unit entry point was staffed by detention officers from the tribunals) and with different screening equipment, cooperation was important.

Discipline staff had their salaries paid by the UN and were managed by 4 senior managers employed directly by the UN. Despite attempts to broaden the recruitment pool to represent more member states, most of the Officers, Shift managers and Principal Officers were recruited from the Dutch prison service and at the end of their tour returned to the National service. Whilst employed by the Tribunals they wore a distinct uniform and operated under their respective tribunals Rules of Detention and Operating Procedures.

Other matters were managed via an agreement negotiated between the UN and the Dutch Justice Ministry, these included building maintenance, detainee's food and other services. The issues surrounding maintenance and cleaning of the building having to be negotiated with a prison works department suffering from a budget shortfall, took up a good portion of the working week. Translation of the agreement appeared to change each month as the various managers tried to cut costs. As some organisations have discovered, allowing crucial services such as maintenance to be managed outside of those committed to delivery can lead to higher costs and a deterioration in conditions.

During my time in the UNDU, detainee access to IT became a hot issue. This had followed a decision by the President of the Tribunal that the Self representing accused (SRA's) must have a "level playing field" with the Prosecution. As almost every piece of evidence was held

## Foreign Times *continued...*

electronically in drives that were physically separate from the UNDU, a secure method of access was required. Secure links had to be created between the UNDU and the Tribunal building, and training provided to detainees with little or no IT skills. As with visits, all of the new IT policy needed to be negotiated with the Host prison (whose prisoners did not have access to IT). Methods of getting PC's, drives and other multimedia through the front gate had to be negotiated, ensuring none of the content could create a security breach. Any delay was exploited in court, and in the best case delayed the hearing, but could in the worst circumstances be used as grounds for appeal.

Despite enjoying my time as part of the UN, sadly due to family illnesses I had to return to the UK. A couple of months after separation the UN contacted me and asked if I would be available, on short term contracts, to assess some prison establishments in Africa. Never having visited the continent I agreed and

initially went to inspect the UN prisons in Mali and Benin holding those sentenced by the Rwandan tribunal. After reporting on the conditions in these two prisons I was then asked to inspect some prisons in Tanzania and Senegal as the UN needed to expand its detention operations in Africa.

Conditions in Africa were a shock. Mali for instance was at the start of the current conflict in the Sahel and combined with a very low GDP, committing more funds to prison was impossible. Even without a lack of funds there are some serious problems in balancing the conditions of an impoverished population with the conditions of a prison population and then further complications created by prisoners being held under UN minimum rules. Prisons and prisoners are not high on the list for African politics and their budgets suffer from this. In the prison in Mali the overcrowding suffered by the local prisoner population was awful, (40 in a room with a stand pipe and a hole in the corner with temperatures of around 40 degrees





## Foreign Times *continued...*

at midday and two meals of porridge a day) this was exacerbated by the presence of a TB active prisoner requiring quarantine and therefore needing one of the 4 available dormitories to himself. Prisoners were restricted to 30 minutes a day fresh air as the exercise yard was small. There was no work apart from a couple of trustees. Treatment for the TB prisoner was going to cost around \$50 but even this could not be funded locally. The UN detainees were living in single cells with in cell electricity and had a significant disposable income making up for the aspects of minimum rules the host prison couldn't deliver. The difference in conditions was stark, and although from outside the reasons were understandable, one can only wonder how it looked for a prisoner who had stolen money or some food and was being held in these abysmal conditions, as he looked across the yard at a detainee who had been convicted for genocide and was living in comparative luxury. The poor conditions also put pressure on already struggling families of prisoners to supplement their relative's food and other requirements.

In my report I made a number of recommendations concentrating on the UN detainees, as per my brief, but by arguing that the poor health of the local prisoners could be detrimental to the health of the UN detainees I proposed that improvements in the conditions of the local prisoners was in the best interests of the UN. Despite all my recommendations being implemented, I was most pleased with the implementation of the simplest. I had recommended that a couple of prisoners were to be employed raising chickens bought from the local market, I was told since that this has improved the life and health of the local prisoners, and the chicken "farm" is now employing 6 prisoners and providing meat and eggs to supplement the diet of the general population, all for a tiny initial outlay. I also used the same argument to get the TB active prisoner seen by a nurse and treatment started before I left allowing the overcrowding to be eased a little.

The discussions around the difference in conditions inside and outside prison we have in the UK, is amplified in Africa by the conditions normal people suffer. This was then further complicated for my inspections because the UN prisoners were serving their sentences in the comparatively luxurious conditions dictated by UN minimum rules of detention and this was the subject of local media criticism. As bringing those responsible for the Rwandan atrocities to justice was the primary aim of the tribunal, any criticism that justice was not being served was felt keenly.

In the, admittedly small, number of prisons I assessed it appeared a semi-military model of management with a hierarchy obvious to all provided the best and healthiest conditions for the prisoners. Benin and Senegal operate on a military model and the atmosphere and feel in those prisons was much better than in the civil models I witnessed. In Benin, some military officers are required to run a prison for a tour of duty (2-3 years) as part of their career plan. These prisons had staff who were more concerned with the welfare of their charges, and the establishments appeared healthier on most of the measurements familiar to us from healthy prison inspections. I think that some people can be uncomfortable with a military type model without realising that along with concentrating on the structure and the objective a concern for the welfare of those below you is, generally, the foundation of this model.

Following publication of the Marty report into atrocities allegedly committed in Kosovo at the end of the Yugoslav conflict the EU committed to creating a court, the Kosovo Specialist Court (KSC). The process to create the court began in November 2014. The EU contacted me shortly after and asked if I would be interested in opening a new establishment, as the family illnesses had now sadly resolved themselves, I agreed. I spent the next 3 years in Brussels and then a further 2 years in The Hague writing operating procedures for the new establishment and negotiating with the Dutch Justice Ministry for accommodation, staff

## Foreign Times *continued...*



and the facilities required. These negotiations are still ongoing as the unit has yet to open as no arrests have yet been made. During the period in Brussels I inspected and assessed 3 Dutch prisons (including a private prison) for the location of a new Detention Unit for the Kosovan court.

During my time with the international community, apart from running my own unit, I inspected and assessed 9 prisons in 4 different countries and noted a couple of common themes. It felt to me that prisons with a well-structured hierarchy appeared to provide the healthiest conditions for prisoners. It was also evident that functions supplied by contract delivery are extremely difficult to manage and take up an inordinate amount of management time. Without encouragement from me, it became plain that every establishment with

contracted services suffers the same issues and they are the main bugbear of almost every Governor or Directeur I met. I made a lot of friends in Holland both professionally and socially but well remember a comment made by a Dutch operational manager who had been headhunted from the Dutch Prison Service to deliver services to a cluster of prisons under contract by a private supplier. One evening after work we were discussing his new situation and he explained to me (with some regret) that it had been made clear to him by his superior that his job was to deliver "gebakte luft" (baked or fried air) to his prison cluster. I told him that I had attended lots of meetings where gebakte luft or its English equivalent had seemed to be the main item on the agenda.

**DAVID KENNEDY**



## Treasurer's Report

**In your reading of this edition of the Newsletter you will now be in possession of the information that this years AGM has been cancelled as a "live event" and will instead be held as a "virtual meeting" via the wizardry that is ZOOM.**

Please refer to my Computer Corner article for further details of exactly what "Zoom" is.

The result of this is that where I would have presented my financial report as part of the AGM I am doing so in advance so that they can be published to you, the members in this edition of the Newsletter.



**GRAHAM MUMBY-CROFT**

As you are probably aware, the financial year for the RPGA mirrors that of the main PGA in that it runs from 1st January to 31st December. Therefore my annual routine is that at sometime in early February I look to balance off the books, and send them off to the PGA Auditors for checking and certification. This is because the RPGA is an associated part of the PGA under their constitution, and our accounts, and any funds we hold, are an integral part of their financial structure.

I was lucky enough to get the books off to the auditors in advance of the Coronavirus restrictions coming into force, especially as when the lockdown came, the auditors, along with many other companies, were forced to close down their offices, and to furlough their staff. Whilst this situation did cause some delay, it was related to getting the books back to me, rather than the auditing process itself, and I did manage to get the books back in late April.

I am therefore in a position to confirm that the figures for the RPGA accounts for the 2019 financial year are audited and certified. They are published below for the information of members, and full copies of the certified accounts are available from me at **graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com** In addition, if you have any questions or queries regarding the accounts then contact me through the same email address.

As far as the accounts for 2019 are concerned I am happy to report that it has been another steady year, where, although income from subscriptions has reduced from 2018 by £54, this has been more than offset by a reduction in our expenditure for the year leading to an increased surplus of income over expenditure of £1668.94. The main decrease in expenditure has mostly come from a reduction in committee costs where, by not replacing committee members who have retired/resigned, we have saved money on travel expenses. In addition, the generous offer from the PGA to allow us to share the venue and facilities used for their Annual Conference as the location for our AGM, has saved us a considerable outlay on room hire and catering.

One of the results of this reduction in our costs has been that I have been able to advise the committee that our finances are strong enough for us to be able to ensure that we are not constrained by costs when it comes to producing the Newsletter. The result of this is that, as editor, Paul does not have to trim the content in order to meet a predetermined cost, and you will note as you are reading this, the 40th anniversary edition, we have really pushed the boat out for a bumper colour edition. We hope that you enjoy it.

The other benefit of our healthy finances is that, at the moment, I do not envisage a need to increase subscription rates for the foreseeable future. Whilst our income has reduced year on year, the amount is not significant, and as long as we manage to control our outgoings, then we should be in a position of being able to maintain the subscription rates at their current levels, with only the cost of PGA diaries to be adjusted for, should costs increase.

At the 2019 AGM a resolution was proposed, and passed, that the RPGA would open discussions with the PGA regarding the handing back of the Benevolent Fund to them to administer. There were several reasons

## **Treasurer's Report *continued...***

behind this proposal, not least of which was the fact that the fund had originally belonged to the PGA, as a Charity Fund before being passed to the RPGA. Additional reasons for passing this back to the PGA were that in the time the RPGA had been responsible for this fund, very few grants for aid had been made, and indeed very few qualifying applications had been made. The Treasurer and President of the PGA agreed in January 2020 that the PGA would indeed accept these funds back onto their books on the basis that they would be in a better position to make use of the funds than we were.

With this in mind, once the RPGA accounts had been checked and certified by the accountants, I transferred the whole of the amount in the Benevolent Fund Account over to the PGA and as a result we, The RPGA, no longer hold a Benevolent Fund. However, this does not mean that the situation regarding aid and financial assistance has changed. As part of the agreement in transferring the funds, the PGA have given an undertaking that should an RPGA member find themselves in the unfortunate position at a time of dire need or emergency, of requiring financial assistance, a request for a Grant of Aid would be considered, under the same criteria that were applied by the RPGA.

### **Retired Prison Governors Association Treasurers Report Financial Year 01/01/19 to 31/12/19 Current Accounts and Benevolent Fund Account**

<b><u>Barclays Community Account (Current)</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Carried Forward on 1/1/19	10,775	25
<b><u>Income from 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>		
Subscriptions	5,658	00
Donations	0	00
Interest	0	00
Other	0	00
Other	0	00
Sub Total	5,658	00
<b><u>Expenditure From 1/1/19 to 31/12/19</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
Printing	1,545	00
Stationery	132	00
Post/Phone	765	12
Travel/Subs	383	30
Refunds	17	00
Diaries	0	00
PCPS	0	00
Donations	125	00
Miscellaneous	198	00
Room Hire/Catering	0	00
Total Expenditure 2019	3,165	42
<b><u>Totals</u></b>		
<u>Carried Forward on 1/1/19</u>	10,775	25
Income 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	5,658	00
Sub Total	16,433	25
Expenditure 1/1/19 to 31/12/19	3,165	42
Sub Total	13,267	83
Statement Balance at 31/12/19	13,267	83
Minus uncleared cheques	0	00
Surplus/Deficit for financial year 2019	2,492	58
<u>Outstanding cheques</u>	0	00
Total	0	00
Miscellaneous expenditure 2019		
Insertion fee for Spring Newsletter.	45	00



## Treasurer's Report *continued...*

Insertion fee for Autumn Newsletter	45	00
Purchase of RPGA advertising banner for use at meetings/conferences	108	00
Total	198	00

### **Total Income 01/01/19 to 31/12/19**

Barclays Acc	5,658	00
Total Income for year ended 31/12/19	5,658	00

### **Cash Balance @ 31/12/19**

Barclays Account	13,267	83
Total Current Account Cash Balance	13,267	83

### **Lloyds Benevolent Fund Account**

Carried Forward on 1/1/19	5,653	36
Grant as approved by Committee.	0	00
Total	5,653	36
Income-Donation in Memory of Brian Thurlborn	25	00
Income-Donation in Memory of Harold Prior	25	00
Total Income 2019	50	00
Balance on account on 31/12/2019	5,703	36

### **Breakdown of Costs and Year on Year Comparison.      2019                      2018                      Variation**

#### **Annual Income**

Barclays Acc	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Total Income for year ended 31/12/18</u>	5658.00	5712.00	-54.00

#### **Annual Expenditure**

	2019	2018	Variation
Printing	£1,545.00	£1,419.00	£126.00
Stationary	£132.00	£170.29	-£38.29
Post/Phone	£765.12	£1,164.87	-£399.75
Travel/Subs	£383.30	£743.50	-£360.20
Refunds	£17.00	£0.00	£17.00
Diaries	£0.00	£505.20	-£505.20
Donations	£125.00	£175.00	-£50.00
Miscellaneous	£198.00	£99.00	£99.00
Room Hire/Catering	£0.00	£557.50	-£557.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,165.42</b>	<b>£4,834.36</b>	<b>-£1,668.94</b>
Balance Income/Expenditure	£1,668.94	£877.64	£791.30

	2019	2018	Variation
Year End Cash Balance			
Barclays Account	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58
Other	£0.00	£0.00	
Total Cash Balance	£13,267.83	£10,775.25	£2,492.58

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

Signed **G.S. Mumby-Croft** Treasurer Retired Prison Governors Association

Date **26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

## Young Criminals on the March through the East Midlands

**\*\*\* BREAKING NEWS \*\*\***

**The good people of Northampton, Market Harborough, Leicester, Broughton Lodge, Gunthorpe and Lowdham have been put at risk by the irresponsible prison authorities as a barely supervised column of young criminals pass through our towns and villages where they are housed overnight in insecure church halls. Their destination is to be an open Borstal at Lowdham Grange, a Nottinghamshire country estate within easy walking distance of vulnerable local villages and of Nottingham itself. Why should we be put at risk by importing criminals from London in such a way. Criminals who are then to be placed in an institution from which they can easily walk away.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Had they known then the above could have been the leading story in a number of local newspapers in May 1930 as forty Borstal lads, aged between sixteen and twenty one, marched with ten officers from Feltham Borstal in Middlesex to a country estate which nestled on a hillside between the villages of Lowdham, Lambley, Epperstone and Woodborough, some eight miles east of Nottingham. At the time the prison authorities were relieved that after much misrepresentation of the reform aspect of their work, the press were blissfully unaware of their plans and of the march itself. Tom Iremonger MP said in 1962 that this was an epic journey that was still talked about by prison officers. Academic Victor Bailey wrote in 1997 that the March rapidly entered into the folklore of the prison service.

Also to be considered is that the secure Borstal experiment had commenced less than thirty years earlier, when a group of lads from London arrived at Feltham - in chains and under armed guard!

So how did it all start? In 1895 a reform minded Home Office Committee chaired by Herbert Gladstone, son of the prime minister William Ewart Gladstone, envisaged a juvenile-offender establishment that was:

**“a halfway house between the prison and reformatory ..... situated in the country with ample space for agriculture and land reclamation work ... with ... penal and**

**coercive sides according to the merits of particular cases ... amply provided with staff capable of giving sound education, able to train inmates in various kinds of industrial work, and qualified generally to exercise the best and healthiest kind of moral influence”.**

Reform was slow and it was not until 1930 with the opening of the Lowdham Grange Borstal Institution, that this aspect of the committee's work was realised.

Borstals had been developing through a cautious programme with the conversion of prison wings and reform schools since 1902. And although a few Borstal lads were allowed, usually supervised, out into the community, they were locked up at night in secure cells within secure establishments. This was not to be the case at Lowdham Grange, where they could literally climb out of a window or walk through an unlocked door, for as Tom Iremonger MP wrote some thirty years later, the open Borstal system placed a great strain and responsibility on its charges through the trust placed upon them. He concluded: 'What, after all was their training for?'

But what of the March itself; an ultimate test of trust and responsibility – did it succeed or fail? The Prison Commissioners had avoided the initial disaster of the hostile press, but what was to befall the marchers, their trusting escorts and their unwitting East Midlands guests?



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Harold Scott, a Civil Servant; future Prison Commissioner and future Commissioner of Scotland Yard, said in his biography

**'one day in May 1930 Alec Paterson [a prison commissioner who championed, reform of the prison system and the Borstal approach] walked into my room and issued one of his usual abrupt and excited invitations ... we are starting a new Borstal at Lowdham Grange in Nottinghamshire, and we are going to begin with a little experiment. Bill Llewellyn [the Deputy Governor of Feltham] who is going to be the Governor, will lead a party of forty boys on a route march from Feltham to Lowdham. They will spend six days on the road and will sleep in halls and other places arranged by friends. Would you like to join them? .... I accepted the offer on the spot.'**

Paterson personally interviewed the staff chosen to participate on the march and they set off with the chosen lads on 4th May 1930. After a church service, photographs and speeches, they left Feltham at 9.15 am accompanied by Mr Paterson, and arrived at Harrow at 5pm where they were hosted by the local ToCH ..... *[ToCH is an international Christian charity which was formed as a soldiers friendship club just behind the British lines in Belgium in 1915 – Alec Paterson was a friend of its founder 'Tubby' Clayton].*

After an uneventful night they left Harrow at 9.30 the following day arriving at St. Albans, again to be hosted by ToCH. The lads were treated to a tour of the town and were then entertained by ToCH and local scouts before sleeping on the floor, under tables and in a lorry - having a good night's rest at 'close quarters'.

On 6th May they washed by the river, cooked breakfast and left St. Albans at 10.30 to arrive at Dunstable at 4.15 where they were entertained and hosted by ToCH in the Wesleyan Church Institute. So far, so good. They left the next morning to arrive at Newport Pagnell, again to

be hosted by ToCH in the congregational church schoolroom and entertained by the local scout commissioner. The 8th May saw them leave for Northampton 'through beautiful countryside' where according to one lad:

**'much courtesy was shown us by passing folk and motorists who always had a friendly nod, or friendly word for us, boy scouts saluted us taking us for fellow scouts and even a policeman on point duty held up traffic for us to pass..... everybody seemed to have a ready smile.'**

A thus far uneventful journey saw them arrive at Northampton at 4.15 where they were joined by Harold Scott. They went swimming and had 'a lovely tea of teas' at Valentines café. They were again hosted by ToCH and were entertained by a conjuror, jazz band and ventriloquist.

They left the next morning and spent the night of 4th May in Market Harborough, again hosted by 'a warm hearted ToCH group'. On 10th May they left for Leicester, and were joined by Mr and Mrs Paterson 'who handed out bananas... which they had bought especially for us'. They arrived in Leicester at 5pm to be entertained by ToCH at Granby Hall after which they went to Aylestone public baths for a wash, swim, change and an inspection. Harold Scott tells the Lord Mayor raised a titter when after reviewing the party he cheerfully declared, "if I was a bit younger I would like to be in your place". They spent the Sunday in Leicester attending church and sightseeing. The next morning they were again visited by the Lord Mayor and left to complete their walk. They spent the night of 12th at Broughton Lodge, sleeping in a refreshment hut and to quote one of the lads:

**'... we had dancing and jazzing ... lovely feed of feeds spread out on the table .... anyone stepping in would have mistaken us not for Borstal boys but for a party of boys on a world tour, happy as sandboys were everyone.'**

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

On 13th May 1930 they marched along the Fosse Way in rain and drizzle to have lunch at Gunthorpe. Then the sun came out, as did many of the villagers and the vicar as they entered Lowdham village.

**'It seems like all of Lowdham had turned out to see us.'**

At the gates to Lowdham Grange [on Epperstone Road] they were met by the Bishop of Southwell and other dignitaries. They proudly marched up the hill in good order craning their necks to see the country house and tents that were to be their new home.

W.W. Llewellyn wrote

**'...so ended a wonderful ten days [one hundred and sixty two miles]; it has been a happy and inspiring experience for all have shared a common life, entirely out of common for Borstal officers and lads ... a petty round of irritating concerns and the jarring contacts of one with another inevitable in a small and closed-penned community. The staff pulled together in an admirable way; a better spirit could not have been wished for. The lads, in conduct, in good manners, in willingness, in unselfishness at all times were ideal; unpleasant incidents, even of a petty nature, were almost entirely absent.'**

Victor Bailey also noted that the preparation for the march and the enterprise was as important as the move itself, as it involved a change in the relationship between staff and boys from the although well intentioned, arid strict discipline and punitive regime of existing Borstal training. It involved risks for staff who had to;

**'... look again at the boys with a scrutiny, a hope and an anxiety which could not have been called forth while the staff themselves were not, in a sense, in jeopardy and dependent on the boys loyalty to them.'**

Furthermore, the staff on the march would be the first to take the blame for any untoward incidents or inappropriate actions of their charges. He also considered that

**'at once the boys and their gaolers became, in however elementary and superficial way, on the same side.'**

Alexander Paterson wrote, later in the 1930s, that:

**'it is strange thing as the English Lad is a cussed animal, easily led, but driven with much soreness on both sides.'**

Harold Scott wrote in his memoirs:

**'... the Borstal boys felt proud in the trust we placed in them, and felt themselves to be, for as indeed they were, the pioneers of a great new adventure.'**

He also wrote that he 'never regretted' accepting Alexander Paterson's invitation to join the march.

Like Lowdham Grange Borstal, the March was a great innovation and success and should be remembered not only for the risk that many in authority and their supporters took; but also for how the young criminals responded to the trust that was placed upon them.

Officers on the March were:

W. W. Llewellyn (Governor)  
C. T. Cape (Housemaster)  
H. J. Taylor (Assistant Housemaster)  
H. H. Holmes (Senior Officer)  
S. G. Smithson (Officer)  
A. T. Perry (Officer)  
C. Burns (Officer)  
J. H. Marsden (Officer)  
E. Young (Driver)  
T. W. H Quick (Hospital Officer)

The officers and lads were to spend the first few years at Lowdham Grange living in tents and wooden huts whilst the lads under the supervision of local tradesmen were to build a



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*

Borstal Institution that was finally demolished in the 1990s to make way for a modern, secure prison. They also built the housing estate for Officers and their families, which still stands and is now in private hands. Lowdham Grange Borstal was an internationally famous innovation in penal history. It received many visits from dignitaries and study groups from across the world and was still spoken about by academics and others at conferences decades later.

During research for the book the author contacted local history societies and newspapers along the route of the march none of whom had any knowledge of its existence.



**JEREMY LODGE**

The second reprint of Jeremy's book **'Lowdham Grange. Borstal!'** will be available from the end of October. It can be purchased from the author or 'The Bookcase' in Lowdham **[www.thebookcase.co.uk](http://www.thebookcase.co.uk)** **[janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk](mailto:janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk)**

Jeremy has also been awarded a grant by the Thoroton Society to enable him to undertake further research on the origins, people and work of Lowdham Grange Borstal. He would be grateful for any photographs, information or stories that you may have. Jeremy can be contacted through the editor or by writing to: Jeremy Lodge. 15 Satterley Close, Witham St Hughs South, Lincoln LN6 9QB or **[jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk)**



Photograph taken at Feltham before at the start of the march. 1930.

*Photographer unknown.*

## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Tented Camp. The first home of Officers and Lads of Lowdham Grange. May 1930.  
*Photographer unknown.*



Parade outside Grange House with farm in background. Circa 1930  
*Photograph Edmund Bird, courtesy of his daughter*



## The Lowdham Grange March *continued...*



Arriving at Lowdham 13th May 1930  
*Courtesy of Nottingham Evening Post*



HMP Borstal Lowdham Grange Staff 1960.  
*Photographer unknown.*

## APPLICATION FORM : RETIRED GOVERNORS GROUP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the retired Governors group of the PGA

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **Harry Brett - h\_brett@sky.com**

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### BANKERS STANDING ORDER

TO: The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank PLC

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account No \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS DETAILED BELOW and DEBIT MY ACCOUNT

Name of Payee **RETIRED PRISON GOVERNORS**

Payments to be made to **Barclays Bank PLC  
PO Box 11, North Street, RUGBY,  
Warwickshire, CV21 2AN**

Account Number **50125113**

Sort Code **20: 73: 48**

Please Pay **£20 (twenty pounds) ~~Delete which does not~~  
£13 (thirteen pounds) **apply****

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