

50th
EDITION

The Retired Prison Governors NEWSLETTER

50th
EDITION

Founded in 1980 by Arthur Williamson - twenty-four years of publication - 50 editions not out!

No 2.
Edition



NEWS LETTER

Retired Governors Newsletter

In co-operation with
The Prison Governors
Association

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EDITION 17
SPRING 1988

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our new look newsletter. Following the setting up of the Prison Governors Association to represent the interests of the senior staff in prisons, the Newsletter has been funded by the PGA to produce the first fully printed edition using the Warrington printers who produce the PGA's own Newsletter.

Mailings List: We now have over 200 on our mailing list and the number of new members is likely to rise quickly with many more senior staff due to retire in 1988. We welcome John Morrison who retired early as a G4 from Wormwood Scrubs to become a priest; Bill Keast (G3 Haslar); Colin Hoold (G1 Midland Region); Bernard Marshall (G1 Pentonville); Les Davies (G3 Haslar - retired about eight years); Harry Flatschmann (G4 at HC); John Richardson (G1 Liverpool); Arthur Ravenhill (G4 Garret); and John Hughes (G5 Bedford).

Can we remind our older readers that following grade amalgamation, the new Governor 5 Grade covers the former Assistant Governor and Chief Officer II grades; the new Governor 4 covers the former Governor 4 (Assistant Governor Class 1) and the Chief Officer Class One Grades. The Newsletter aims to serve all who have served in the Grades of Governor 5 and above.

Honours: We are particularly pleased to record that our long serving Treasurer Bill Martin received the O.B.E. Information Required: Can anyone help with the address of Alan Robertson? His last Newsletter was returned from his Devon address. Information to the Editor please.

Deaths of Retired Governors: I regret to report the deaths of George Birds, Mrs Mary Coombes (widow of Michael Coombes) Mrs Marjorie Bartock (widow of J.R.Grenville Bartock) and Colin Lannon. May they rest in peace.

Senior Officers Representational Board: I am grateful to David Waddilove for the following information about the SORB and the decision to join the SCS.

"The reason for the Prison Governors joining the Society of Civil Servants in 1948 was dissatisfaction with the continuing failure of the SORB in obtaining better pay and working conditions for their members. The Governors decided that this was due to the fact that to get any success in their dealings with Home Office and Treasury Officials, proper professional negotiators were required. Under the SORB, the Governors who had to meet the official side were quite inexperienced in this sort of work and were also handicapped by having to argue with their own bosses.

When we joined the Society of Civil Servants, our branch was immediately allocated the highly trained and excellent Sheila Roberts who fought our battles most effectively. We never regretted putting ourselves into the hands of the Society.

I do not know the reason why the Governors have now returned to the pattern of earlier times, but I can only hope that the new Prison Governors Association will be more successful than the old SORB in their negotiations with the official side."

Trade Union Developments: Our readers will be interested to know that the Prison Governors Association the new independent Union for both Chief Officer Class continues to make great progress. Over 70% of the potential membership have joined the new organisation. The PGA was recognised by the Home Office for consultation and negotiation in March 1988. It has followed an important campaign organised by the PGA, including Parliamentary Questions and other necessary pressure. The PGA has now begun the task of representing the interests of senior staff with the Home Office as well as developing policy on professional issues.

Future of the Retired Governors Newsletter: In order to put the Newsletter onto a secure future looking the Newsletter Production Team are recommending to our readers that retired members become Associate Members of the PGA. The PGA has constitutional provision for such a development. We have in mind an annual subscription in the region of £2.05, sufficient to produce a quality newsletter two or three times a year. We also believe that we may be able to develop occasional social activities, perhaps linked with the growing area groups of the PGA. With over 200 subscribers and the possibility this will grow substantially over the next year or two, it would be difficult to finance the Newsletter through financial arrangements. We are asking for reaction to this proposal. If the proposal is successful, we will be able to continue to produce the Newsletter for many years to come.

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association

NEWSLETTER

Issue 21

June 1990



Editor:
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EDITORIAL

THIS IS a celebration issue. Not only is the Newsletter 10 years old, but this is also the 21st Edition. To celebrate, we have attempted to produce a bumper Edition using the Magazine format of the Prison Governors Association - complete with photos courtesy of Keith Gibson, Editor of the PGA's own Magazine. This issue is subsidised by the PGA as a special Edition should be.



Terry Bates - First Chairman of the PGA

New Readers

Among new subscribers we welcome George Shaw and Derrick Dean who have been retired a little while; Garry Walker (G5 Sudley Hall); Ruth Wilkinson (G4 Manchester); Bill Driscoll (RD North); Muriel Allan (G3 Kingston) and Alex Crulokshank (G2 Stoke Heath), all recently retired.

New Years Honours 1990

Readers will be interested to know that the Monsignor Richard Atherton was awarded the OBE, Mike Murphy (P8) the ISO and John Wheeler MP - former Assistant Governor - is now Sir John Wheeler.

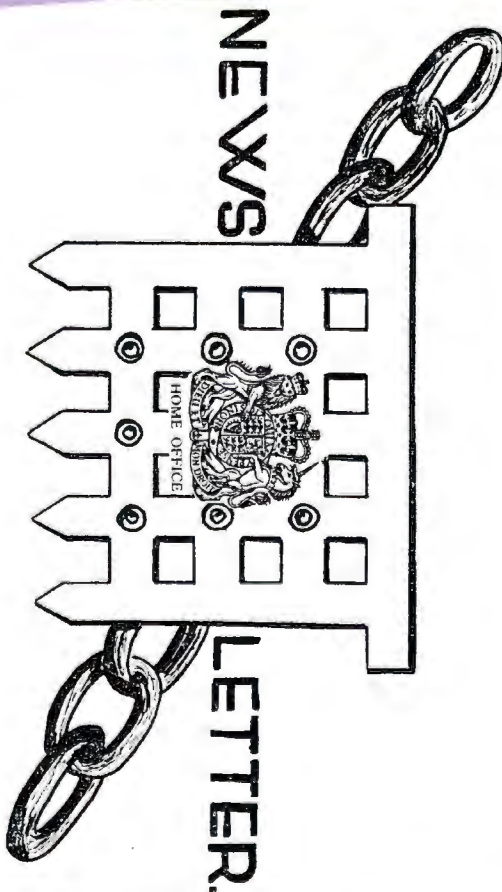
Perrie Lectures 1990

Alan Jenkins writes: "You kindly advertised last year's Lectures for us in your March Newsletter and we would appreciate a similar 'spot'. Our advertising will begin in the March PGJ but this may not appear early enough for you to copy. This year's subject is 'Mentally Disordered Offenders in Prison' and the speakers are Dr B D Cooper, Principal Medical Officer at Parkhurst Prison and Dr Adrian Grounds of the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge. The event will again be at the Prison Service College, Newbold Revel, RUGBY; the date is 18 October and the cost £20 (including coffee, lunch and tea). Further details from Trevor Williams, Head of Custody, Rudgegate Prison, WETHERBY, West Yorkshire, LS23 7AZ."

Strangeways and other Disturbances

Many thanks for the very many letters I received during the Strangeways Incident. I think almost every Governor who had had a riot since 1968 kindly dropped me a supporting letter. The damage is heavy in the six Wings of the Main Prison but we have every intention of seeing a renewed Strangeways emerging from the experience. In the meantime we are still open and operational and intend to stay so. Arthur Coombes will be interested to know I am back in the Governor's Office he used; F Wing needs to dry out for

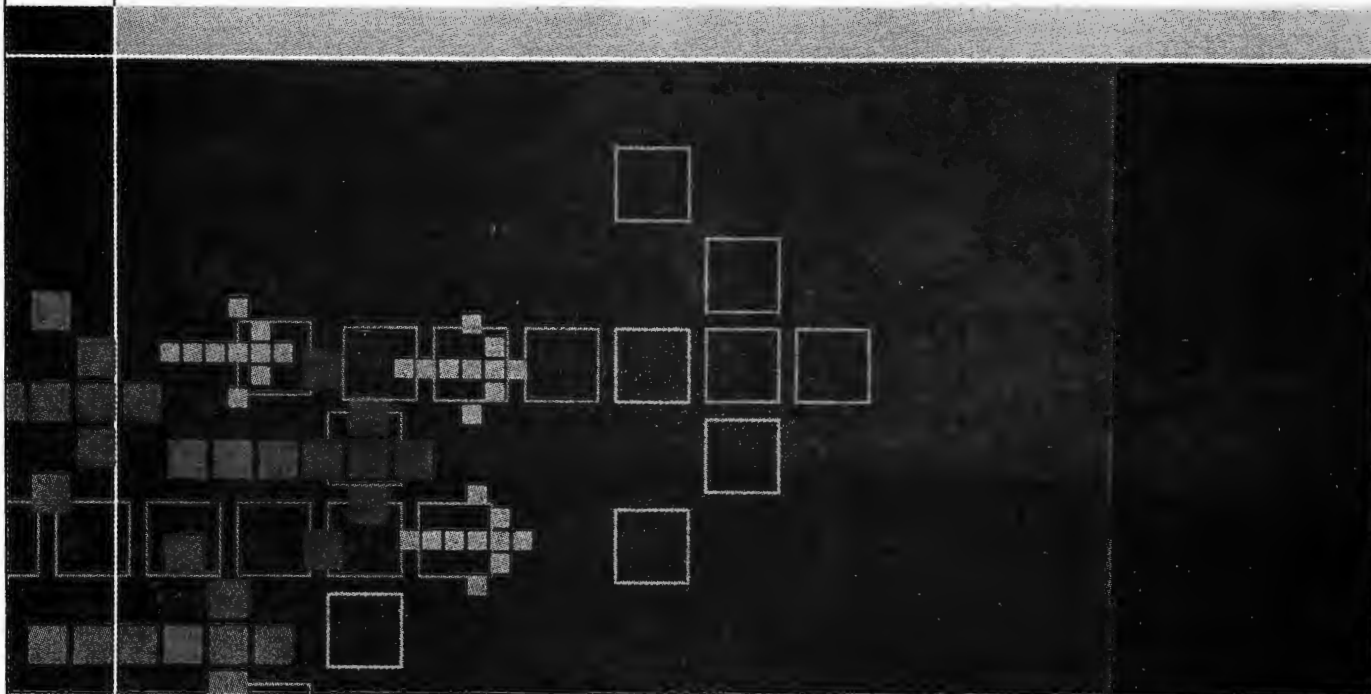
NEWS



LETTER.

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The Retired Prison Governors

In co-operation with: The Prison Governors Association

NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1980 by Arthur Williamson – twenty-four years of publication



PERENNIS

Issue 50 Spring 2004

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

"IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be able to congratulate the Retired Governors' Newsletter on reaching its 50th edition and to wish it many, many happy returns.

The Newsletter, in my view, performs a very valuable service for retired Governors, both by keeping them informed of developments in the Service and by providing them with news of old friends. We owe a great debt to Arthur Williamson, who brought the RGN to life and tended it lovingly through its infancy, not only for the hard work he put into the project but also for his insight in perceiving that there was a need for some publication which would maintain in retirement the bonds which were formed during our working lives. He brought his own inimitable style to the editing of the letters pages. We must also thank Brendan O'Friel, Bob Duncan and all the others who give so much of their time to the Newsletter's production. We who sit and read, and do not serve, are properly grateful.

This Special Edition comes out at a time when the Service is on the brink of yet another change, perhaps more momentous than any other in its history. In my lifetime I have seen it move from Prison Commission to Home Office Prison Department to Prison Service Agency and now to Management of Offenders Service. What this will mean for serving Governors I do not know. When, many years ago, I visited the British Columbia Correctional Service, at a time when our own "Rocky" Smith was

its Director, the Prison and Probation Services were combined at headquarters level and remained separate in the field. That worked quite well. I am not at all sure how a more complete merger would work out - but then, I would say that, wouldn't I, conditioned as I was in a totally different Service which was proud to be described as "sui generis"? I am pretty confident, however, that many of the new generation of Governors, or Offender Managers, or whatever they are called, will be bitten by the same Service bug as we were and will, on their retirement, need a newsletter to keep them in touch. Long may it flourish."

Bill Brister

"AS A PRISON GOVERNOR within sight of retirement (4 years to go), I regard the work of the Retired Prison Governors Association as important. I am a regular reader of the newsletter – yes it does reach me and always gets read. I find it reassuring there there is life after retirement and that ex-Governors can still meet and keep up to date with news about each other and the Service. After all, for all of us the relationships and camaraderie of the service are one of the key rewards of our work. Best of luck with the future and congratulations on the 50th Edition"

Phil Wheatley
Director General
HM Prison Service

Thank You

This special edition of the RGN marks an important milestone for Retired Governors. To reach 50 Editions in some 24 years is an achievement for any Magazine. For those of us who know how difficult it was to get the Newsletter started, established, financed and developed, Edition 50 is a source of some considerable satisfaction.

My grateful thanks to all our regular contributors as well as those who have added something extra for this special edition. I hope that our readers agree that this is a worthy special edition with something for everyone.

Coming Up

We have a number of "firsts" in this edition. We hope that the quality of the Newsletter is the best yet, especially the pictures. Try our first Crossword – answers in RGN 51. Rod Jacques contributed cartoons on "The Newly Retired Governor" and we have a real "scoop" with an extract from Lyn Davies's unpublished book "Time Spent" reflecting on life in the Service in 1947. A reminder of the social side of the Prison Service in 1936 is included – the retirement dinner of Chief Officer Wilkinson. We also invite readers to identify the "Mystery photographs" and to take the chance to add a caption.

We have our first extensive collection of photos – largely of past events but a few current - which we hope will bring back memories for many readers. And for the first time one of these photographs has reached us via the internet from Australia . . . We include our regular columns, cartoons and information.

Also included are extracts from previous newsletters to demonstrate the progress the RGN has made from 1980 to 2004.

Editor's wish list

Your Editor will be delighted if this edition prompts more of you to

contribute in future in whatever way you feel appropriate. The Newsletter will only flourish if we go on changing and developing to meet the current interests of our readers. So who else might have an unpublished book, an old photograph or a story which would be of interest to our readers? After all, the Editor needs to be thinking of Edition 51 . . .

This edition also provides an extra opportunity to encourage other retired folk who do not currently subscribe to take the RGN. Make sure you mention the RGN to those who you are in contact with . . . there is nothing like a personal recommendation.

Reunion 2004

Please see separate sheet for full details of this event.

Prison Service Museum

Phil Wheatley writes to say that the transfer of the collection to the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham is on track. The Galleries are awaiting final confirmation of funding from the City Council and East Midlands Development Agency. It is expected that the collection will be moved in April 2004. Additionally Nottingham Trent University and Oxford Brooks University are discussing a joint funding bid to document the collection once it has been relocated.

Advertisers

We very much value the support of our advertisers and we ask members to consider the services offered. We welcome an advertisement from the Yorkshire Bank for the first time. Members who follow up advertisements by inquiring for further information should always mention the RGN when they contact our advertisers. Any reader who knows of Organisations or individuals who might like to advertise in the RGN, please contact the Editor

Brendan O'Friel

MILESTONES

from 50 editions of the Retired Governors Newsletter

FOUNDATIONS – Arthur Williamson put together the first Edition in May 1980 – followed by 4 more. Early editions included cartoons, readers letters and editorials and were all assembled and distributed at Strangeways.

On Arthur's retirement, **John Powls** produced editions 5 - 7 in 1982 and 1983 from Frankland prison.

Brendan O'Friel took over as Editor and produced Edition 8 in autumn 1984, followed by 8 more from Midland Regional Office and then from Strangeways.

All these early editions were duplicated, circulated with help from establishments (envelopes and postage) and volunteers (Governors' Secretaries and Sid Powell) and funded on a very ad hoc basis.

Extracts from Prison Service News first appeared in Edition 13.

PRINTING – From Edition 17 all RGNs were printed rather than duplicated.

Subscription of £6 a year was introduced by standing order in 1988.

Edition 21 in 1990 carried photographs for the first time.

Quality improvement was only possible because of a subsidy from the recently formed (1987) Prison Governors Association.

SOCIAL EVENTS – From 1992 an annual social gathering was arranged at the Prison Service College at Newbold Revel and Edition 25 carried a cover photograph of this first social event. A golf tournament was also organised for a few years.

In 1995, a social weekend was introduced, well supported and continues. All of these events were advertised through and reported in the RGN.

RETIRED PRISON GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION – Financial pressures on the PGA proved the catalyst for the setting up of the RPGA in 1998 and the raising of annual subscriptions to their present levels allowing the RPGA and the Newsletter to become entirely self supporting.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RGN – From 1998, the RGN included adverts, book reviews, financial advice and pensions information, together with regular columns on "Your Letters", "People" "Network" and "Extracts from the Prison Service News". The RGN also reported the RPGA's Annual Meetings and something of the work of the Public Service Pensioners Council. But the main thrust of the RGN continued to be news of colleagues, especially through the "Your letters" column.

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 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 marffull”.

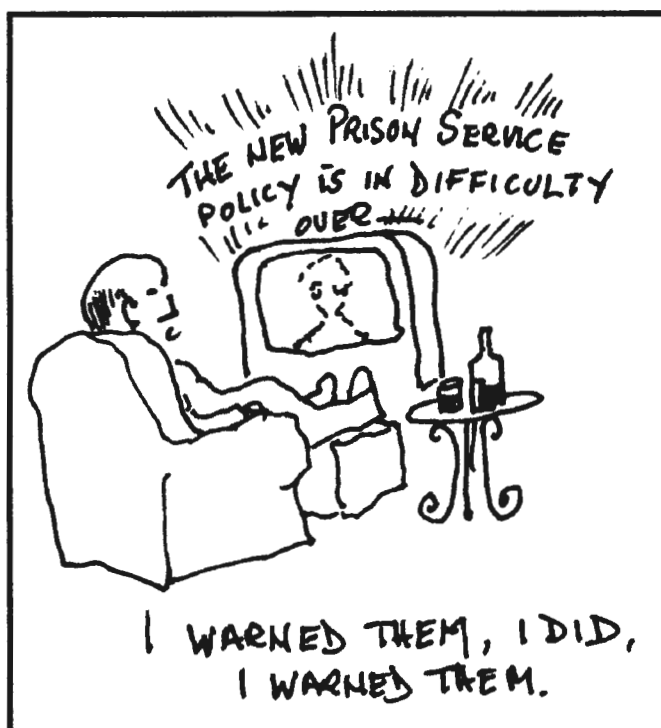
I saw a good many changes during my 39 years in the Prison Service, ranging from the Norwich system, prison hostels, the Blake Escape and its repercussions, the introduction of parole right through to ‘Fresh Start’. I saw four different designs of uniform and wore two of them myself before being promoted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



THEN . . .

NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED PRISON AND BORSTAL GOVERNORS

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 1ST AUGUST 1981

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	£210.30	Mrs Fox - Chocolates	2.08
		Mrs Fox - Advocat	3.85
		Donation to SCS	20.00
		Donation to SCS	20.00
		Repaired typewriter	5.00
		Postage: Edition 1	1.00
		" 2	2.10
		" 3	3.00
		" 4	4.02½
		General	12.54
		Cash at bank	110.00
		Cash in hand	26.70½
	<u>£210.30</u>		<u>£210.30</u>

N.B. PLEASE SEE NOTE
ON PAGE 19.
W.A.W.

Brown
13-8-81

. . . and **NOW**

TREASURER'S REPORT 2004

Reports on the state of the finances of organisations make pretty boring reading and there is no way I can think to, as they say, "sex" this report up. What makes this report different to the reports produced by the Financial Directors of many organisations in recent years is that I can report a significant growth in funds over the past four years. My aim as Treasurer however has been to ensure the association has had sufficient funds to ensure the financial needs of members could be met and not to create a wealthy association. Committee members have worked hard to ensure this is the case.

The following shows the rate of growth we have enjoyed in recent years:

Carried Forward 1 January, 2000	£6170.79
Carried Forward 1 January, 2001	£6749.44 (+ £578.65)
Carried Forward 1 January, 2002	£7749.80 (+ £800.36)
Carried Forward 1 January, 2003	£8269.35 (+ £719.55)
Carried Forward 1 January, 2004	£7999.53 (- £269.82)

Lay's Laughs!



He let his RPN membership lapse

The financial statement produced for the 2003 financial year shows the first drop in funds for the past four years.

We received donations of £100 during 2003 compared to £600 in 2002. Donations by and large come from advertisements in the Newsletter. We were clearly less successful attracting advertisers in 2003. (Could members help us here)?

Monies gained through subscriptions increased by £64 in 2003 due to a continuous campaign to recruit new members by Harry Brett.

By taking the decision to move the Reunion from the Prison Service College to the Hilton Hotel, Bromsgrove we reduced the subsidy of

the Reunion from £754.61 in 2002 to £189.00 in 2003.

By moving funds in to a Guaranteed Reserve Account for a year we increased interest paid to us from £5.49 in 2002 to £152.80 in 2003.

A number of areas of expenditure showed significant increases over the year:

Printing/Copying increased by	...	£ 419.97
Stationery increased by	...	£ 18.72
Postage/Phone increased by	...	£ 95.89
Travel increased by	...	£ 516.78
Diaries increased by	...	£ 162.00
Miscellaneous increased by	...	£ 89.98

The increase in Printing/Copying was due to the larger Autumn 2003 Newsletter. This also accounted for some of the increased Postage/Phone costs although most of this increase was due to the requirement to pay the postage costs for diaries this year.



A branch of the society of civil and public servants representing the governor grades of the prison service in England and Wales

RETIRED GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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Bill Martin

EDITION 12 February 1986



The increase in Travel costs was down to me. Until recently committee members covered their own costs to travel to committee meetings. I considered this inappropriate and requested they either claim mileage (at 20p per mile) or the cost of travel by rail. My position was approved by the A.G.M. Not all members claim.

The increase in Miscellaneous expenditure was due to two payments being made to the Public Service Pensioners Council during the 2003 financial year and the purchase of flowers for a funeral.

Despite the increased spending shown above however we ended the financial year with only £269.82 less than the previous year.

The committee has approved a significantly increased expenditure on the printing costs of the current Newsletter. Members can rest assured however that the Treasurer will continue to treat the funds as if he was releasing money from his own Wallet!



Midland Regional Conference (1985)



Alan Bainton at Newbold Revel



Bill and Doreen Driscoll in Australia



South East Regional Conference (1988-ish)

Extracts from Prison Service News

**A selection of items which have appeared
in Prison Service News since the last issue of the Newsletter**

It has to be admitted that this is not the 50th appearance of the Extracts - even Arthur Williamson had not planned that far ahead when the first number (of which I still have a copy) appeared. But they burst on the scene in Edition 13 and since then have continued to appear to meet the inexorable demands of the editor. (Never become a regular feature!). They have never been pretentious enough to aim at broadening the horizons of our newsletter readers but it is hoped that they have been able to draw attention to the fascinating (and sometimes puzzling) developments from the "good old days" in which Christmas cards from former colleagues assure me that we served. One point on which I can comment is the enormous improvement - both in style and content - of Prison Service News, which has now attained its 226th issue. Compared with its earlier rather parochial cover it is now a highly professional magazine, not neglecting local issues and successes but looking across the board. Recent issues have, for example, provided a six page cover of prison industries, and of resettlement developments up and down the service. I have mentioned before PSN's introduction of reports by the Treasury Solicitors on legal claims they have handled and the lessons which they provide for staff and the monthly article by the Ombudsman. As we are celebrating anniversaries, he commented in a recent article that it is nearly 25 years since he first visited a prison and that prisons are now cleaner, healthier and more active places. Staff prisoner relationships are generally much stronger. There is a genuine commitment now to resettlement and to helping prisoners lead crime free lives. A happy note on which to launch the present survey.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- The prison population was 73,661 on 26 September; rose to 74,182 by 28 November 2003 but had steadied at 73,668 by the end of January 2004. It rose steeply to a new record of 74,543 during February 2004. (Editor)
- The service has had to achieve a £15m efficiency cut in its 2003-4 budget which may rise to £27m in 2004-5.
- Cases of prison officers' absence due to stress related conditions increased from 1,894 in 1999/2000 to 2,164 in 2002/3.

- A new alcohol and drugs policy for staff is being developed.
- A central global e-mail directory is currently being produced to enable prison staff to communicate securely with the wider criminal justice system (e.g. defence lawyers, victim and witness organizations and NACRO).
- The launch of Prison Online enables members of the public to make visual tours of prisons from arrival to release.
- No decision has yet been taken about the relocation of Prison Service Headquarters when the Home Office moves to the new building in Marsham Street.
- A report by the National Audit Office has found that the use of Private Finance Initiative is neither a guarantee of success nor the cause of inevitable failure but that competition has helped to drive up standards and improve efficiency across the system as a whole.
- Five establishments have been awarded high performing prison status - Altcourse, Frankland, Lancaster, Usk/Prescoed and Whatton.
- 10,000 prisoners are employed in prison industries each day in 298 workshops.
- Fifty establishments are operating a housing and advice support service using prison staff, partners from voluntary organizations and trained volunteer prisoners.
- Between February and September 2003, DNA samples were taken from nearly 4,000 prisoners and added, after analysis, to the national DNA database. To date 64 unsolved crimes have been detected as a result.
- Plans have been announced for the release 4 months early of foreign prisoners who are liable to deportation, subject to the same risk assessment procedures as for home curfew.
- As the result of co-operation between the UK and Jamaican relevant services the number of women drug couriers has been reduced by 75%.
- The Maori people make up 13% of the NZ population but 50% of their prison population.
- 100 Prison Service staff were invited to meet the Prime Minister at a reception at No.10, followed by a tour of the house.

ROUND THE ESTABLISHMENTS

- All prisoners on induction at **Birmingham** are

interviewed by a local housing representative to identify their needs.

- To make surplus land available for disposal the warehousing operations at **Branston** are to be consolidated into a purpose built modern facility occupying half the existing site.
- **Coldingley's** sign shop continues to have a full order book.
- Five pedigree saddlebacks from **East Sutton Park** were included in a British Pedigree Association shipment to the Sultan of Brunei. (They went under prison service escort to their departure airport)
- For nearly three years Jobcentre Plus have provided a full-time member of staff, paired with a prison officer, to see every prisoner in induction at **Durham**. One result has been that some prisoners were found to be entitled to benefit which they had not claimed and this could be added to their prison spending money. (But it also disclosed fraudulent claims which saved Jobcentre Plus £500,000 in the first year!) The first of four purpose-built units for prisoners with dangerous and severe personality disorders (psychopaths to you and me) was due to start construction at Frankland in February.
- **Hatfield Woodhouse** training centre has opened a working-at-heights training facility for Control and Restraint teams.
- **Highpoint North** has changed its name to **HMP Edmunds Hill** to make a clearer distinction from Highpoint South.

- The incoming governor of **Hull** was welcomed by the gift of a grandmother clock for his office made by an inmate in parallel with his similar entry for the Koestler Awards.
- **Kirkham** won three awards in the Southport Flower Show.
- There was a disturbance in the remand wing at Lewes in October involving violence to staff as well as damage by flooding. Order was restored in 18 minutes.
- A new state-of-the-art conference facility has been opened at **Newbold Revel**.
- The 139 acre forest at **Prescoed** is being used by Usk College for its forestry course on which prisoners can take up any places undersubscribed and qualify for the Forestry Stewardship Council's certificate in timber conversion.
- **Ranby** has for over a year been operating a night-shift in its injection moulding workshop to meet the increasing requirements of the prison service.
- Officers at **Wetherby** braved a blazing fire and collapsing building to bring a wing of young offenders into safety.

TROPHIES

- **Deerbolt**, twice previous runners-up, have won the Windlesham trophy for gardens.
- **High Down** won the 2003 Elton trophy for prison industries for their industrial cleaners vocational training courses.



"When we were very young" – 20th Staff Course (1963)

- Officer Liggins and Hadji from Frankland were the grand champions at the 33rd national dog trial.

SPORT

- The Prison Service volleyball squads won both the womens and mens competitions in the annual CSS competition. The womens squad, competing against the RAF, Army, Navy and Police womens teams also came through as Crown Services Champions.
- At the 2003 World Police and Fire Service Games at Barcelona Officer Devlin Spensley from New Hall won a gold in boxing. The rugby tournament at the Games was in two sections - open and veterans. The veterans secured gold medals defeating Hong Kong police in the finals. Our team in the open section won silver medals after a hard-fought battle against South Africa.
- Manchester won the fourth annual rugby league sevens.
- David Hough of Ranby won the 2003 golf association championship. His, and the other trophies, were presented by Bill Ritson - whose name PSN managed to misspell!
- The Prison Service soccer team drew 2-2 with the Scots.
- Swinfen Hall's prisoners soccer team achieved the Lichfield Sunday morning league championship - and their cup.

FAREWELL SUPPER PARTY FOR CHIEF OFFICER W. W. WILKINSON

March 26th 1936

I AM INDEBTED to Alan Rayfield for obtaining a copy for us of the programme for this event from the grand daughter of Chief Officer WW Wilkinson. Mr Wilkinson joined at Parkhurst in 1902 and spent most of his service with young offenders. He served in Borstal (Rochester), Feltham and Camp Hill where he retired in 1936. The RO is the Representative Officer from the days before the POA when staff were represented by the "Prison Officers Representative Board". Governors, Medical Officers and Chaplains were represented by the "superior Officers Representative Board". Note the "top brass" in attendance. RL Bradley, for example, retired as Director of Borstal administration and WW (Bill) Llewellyn led the march from Feltham to Lowdham in 1930.

Farewell Supper Party to C. O. W. W. Wilkinson,
Thursday, March 26th., 1936.

■ ■ ■ ■

Tables 8-30 p. m.

The Toast of H. M. The King.

The Governor will speak.

So will the R. O. ²

Perhaps the Steward will make a speech.

Will the Engineer second it ?

"W. W., C. O." will receive a gift, "weather" he likes or no. ³

Just to give the Show a twist,

A word on bowls from Mr. Grist, (*He Wood!*) ⁴

The following, having received this, the only intimation, will speak for not more than two minutes.

Dr. J. C. Methven, R. L. Bradley, Esq., H. Scott, Esq.,
W. W. Llewellyn, Esq., T. P. Owens, Esq., and
A. N. Other, & Co., ⁵

ALEXANDER PATERSON, Esq., M.C.

Toast: The Chief Officer, W. W. Wilkinson, Esq.,
M. B. E.

Presentation of the Staff's token of appreciation.

THE CHIEF

(Having received a watch, may take up a few minutes)

NOTE: The following gentlemen have sworn to interrupt the programme as often as they can (and dare!) in order to sing and play.

During these items especially the Guests are requested to drink quietly and no soup will be served.

■ ■ ■ ■

CONCERT PROGRAMME.

Messrs. G. F. Turner, A. Davies, K. Oldrieve
S. Leonard and W. W. Brooks.

Piano: Mr. W. James.

■ ■ ■ ■

If time permits the toasts of "Our Guests" will be formally proposed. (If not, they will know we wish them good health and happiness just the same.)

Your Letters

Edited by Bob Duncan



BOB DUNCAN INTRODUCES MORE OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

THANK GOODNESS for Christmas as news reached me of some of you, otherwise it has been a rather lean period on the correspondence front. The last few months have been dominated, sadly, by the deaths of a number of a number of eminent colleagues; to which must be added unfortunately, belated news (as it arrived as the last Newsletter was at print) of that of Fred Youngman, retired Chief from Huntercombe. The news came from Peter Barker, ex Scrubs and Head Office, and now retired to Portland. He keeps in touch with colleagues locally and through the Newsletter. He is also involved in the Retired Medical Officers Association. I am sure many of you remember him, and he sends his regards to all who do. He also enclosed the following obituary on Fred:

' I recently attended the funeral of Fred Youngman who died on 2 October. The service was well attended and there were many faces from the distant past. They were there to pay their last respects to a man who had not only served the Prison Service well, but was also known for his community work on Portland. Fred volunteered to join the RAF in the last war and served for 3 and half years in India. After being demobed in 1946 he joined the Service in March 1947 and was posted to Norwich and from there to Hollesley Bay. He married his wife Claire in 1948 and they remained at HBC until 1956 when he was posted to Latchmere House. In February 1962 he was posted to Portland Borstal as Principal Officer and remained there until May 1972 when he was promoted to Chief Officer and transferred to Huntercombe. Claire tells me they spent 8 happy years there until his retirement aged 57, and they returned to Portland. Fred and Claire had always been very active, and began to find retirement a bit of a drag. Seeing an advert in the local press they joined the WRVS and for 7 years managed the 'Meals on Wheels' Service for Weymouth and Portland. They carried on delivering meals until July 2003. In September they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. Fred and Claire were to receive Long Service Medals

from the WRVS on 13th October. Claire received hers and Fred's daughter was presented with his. Having retired to Portland myself I would often meet Fred in the village and as you would expect we reminisced about our experiences in the Service. He had a rye sense of humour and I am sure on occasions, ears were burning. Claire is coping with her sad loss supported by her family and friends in the community.' Peter is happy to pass on any messages from colleagues.

Colleagues will also be saddened to hear that Mrs. Ivy Gilder is not in good health, and that Jonathan Uzzell suffered a heart attack, but is back home now in rural North Yorkshire, and is recovering well. On the other hand I spoke to Lionel Steinhausen recently, now in his 80's, and he appeared to be in rude health and still enjoying smoking. Bob Dixon, ex Liverpool and Bristol and then the private sector, retired in December. He had a serious back problem at one stage, but is now reasonably fit and started to grow his own vegetables again. Getting the spuds in should test his back! Michael Peacock and his wife now live in Lincolnshire, they too are into gardening and are members of the Hardy Plant Society – a term that could be applied to some of our members. To quote Michael, ' We love this alternative lifestyle in the country. We live by the seasons, marveling at the wonderful skyscapes and watching the birds, bats and hares that inhabit this landscape.' As I also live in the Fens I can acclaim that we are blessed with a whole number of stupendous sunsets.

The Bristers' had to have the British Gas service engineer in, he declared ' Very old model madam', no he was not talking about Bill, but the boiler. In the end Mary succumbed, kept Bill and said goodbye to their 27 year old boiler and now they have a 21st century state of the art heating system. Bill had a fall headlong down a ramp at the Middle Temple – pools of blood, ambulance, St. Thomas's Accident and Emergency where they glued the skin back onto his

nose and told him not to wash for a week. Mary writes 'When the bruises came out, he really looked quite sinister in his dark glasses, but is now fortunately restored to his good looks!'

Alan Rawson and I have fallen in love with a little village called Tucepi in the Croatian Makaska Riviera. Bill and Mary and Anne-Marie went in August to a nearby village, Brela, a few miles up the coast. Their description of their visit is so vivid and typical of our experience, I could not resist including it. 'Brela, just over an hour from south of Split, it was absolutely delightful, nothing to do, no historic monuments to visit, but a blue, blue sky, translucent



water and a pebble beach backed by pine trees. If we really felt adventurous we would walk to the left down the promenade or perhaps we would turn right. We spent civilized evenings, sitting on the hotel terrace, which we had to ourselves, watching life go on below and admiring the delicious babies, all of them well behaved. It really was a family resort and in the entire week we did not hear a cross word or see any bad behaviour. The sun shone, we had lunch in delightful fish restaurants, and ventured out one day to Split, which Bill and I had seen fleetingly on a silver wedding cruise in 1974. Since then they have unearthed far more of Diocletian's Palace. It was a truly relaxing holiday, and three cheers, I was able to swim again for the first time in three years.'

Brief news of Katie Lomax (nee Warburton) ex Holloway and Styal many years ago, she is well and keeping busy and has just been made vice-chairperson of Onley BOV. Her daughter is studying at Lancaster University. Abbi Sheihk, ex Pentonville, had a

marvelous 7-week holiday in the Far East, and fell in love with Malaysia and its people and the cleanliness of the place. Unfortunately, on his return his wife had a mild stroke but appears to be making a reasonable recovery. He also mentions he undertook some investigation work for the Prison Department, but it took them 9 months to pay him. I know the feeling Abbi!

From Scotland news of John Morrison, who believed he possessed a charitable regard towards the delinquent, that was until when setting out with a school trip to Paris, he had his purse with £300 in it, stolen. He found himself exhorting execution for the individual if caught, or at least 20 years in a top security prison. He also managed a trip to Amsterdam. 'City of Horticulturalists and Social Environmentalists. That is the place for cannabis growers and a red light voyeur's paradise. Despite warnings from my sister, less than an hour after my arrival, I found myself in a cannabis den. It appears 'coffee shop' does not mean the same to the Dutch as it does to ourselves. These are drug department stores, should you be visiting Amsterdam, be cautioned. It took a few days before I had the courage to venture into other areas of interest, and only escorted by fellow tourists. It could be said I was a modern Gladstone (seeking to rescue these unfortunate souls from their waywardness.)

I was slightly surprised to bump into Kevin Brewer and his partner at the Longford Lecture, this year given by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Kevin was looking more hippy than ever and informs me that he now has 4 motorbikes, not sure really why as you can only ride one at a time. They are of to France to live, but are retaining a small flat in London. Looking much more elegant were Mike Selby and his wife, both in very good health and sparkling form. Mike is involved in Victim Support and a whole range of historical things. I was partly there as the founder of the Shannon Trust, Christopher Morgan, was receiving the Lord Longford prize. The Trust is about using prisoners to teach illiterate prisoners to read by use of the teaching manual 'Toe by Toe'. It is well established in many establishments, but there is a lot more that can be done. Veronica Bird, Ron Curtis and myself are all volunteers helping the Trust, and Mike is likely to join us. If any colleague is interested in lending a hand please let me know.

For those who have not caught up with the news yet, Tony Frith has moved from Uppingham to near Sleaford in Lincolnshire. Belatedly he heard that he had won second place in the Uppingham front garden competition for last year. Well-done Tony. Tony's



brother-in-law, with whom they regularly traveled on holiday to Europe's sunspots, sadly was diagnosed on Christmas Eve with terminal cancer, and died on 17th January. Our condolences to you and your family. He too, brings news of distant colleagues in the colonies. Roy Frost, now resident in Australia (I am not sure what is happening, we used to send the convicts there, now we regularly send retired Prison staff) is well and enjoying the climate out there. He is a keen gardener and golfer, but his wife Joan says he is naff at both! Tony has also heard from Ken Dyson and Chris Pearson who are both well. Tony also writes, 'We visited Boston recently and it brought memories flooding back of my old friend, Jack Hanson and his wife Dorothy. Jack you may recall was a larger than life figure who, incidentally was also a Male Voice Choir fan and sang in the Bass section of Retford Male Voice Choir when we served at Ranby together in the early 70's. Rumour had it that Jack inspected the rambling North Sea Camp estate on a horse, whether true I do not know, but it sounds about right.' I served with Jack at Liverpool, and knowing his girth, it is the horse I feel sorry for.

Two letters received just as we were going to print,

but squeezed in. One from John Wyatt, who now lives in France and speaks volumes for the French health service. He was diagnosed with cancer of the bowel, but had an operation and regular scans since show no trace of any new development. He goes on to say, that in the 10 years since retirement, I have had a heart attack, a stroke, a serious accident that broke half the bones in my body and required 12 weeks in hospital. My experience of the local hospitals is second to none. At the moment I am feeling great and intend to go on for many years yet. He also mentioned how much he enjoyed the Newsletter.

A lovely letter and photo of Les Portch, looking extremely well. Leslie writes that when he went to Wandsworth in 1976, there was an excellent Senior Officer, Phil Gristock. He was a leading light in the Wandsworth rugby team as well as playing in the National side. He got a well-deserved promotion to Governor grade and went to Bristol prison, and initially played for Tor rugby team. He was then instrumental in forming a new team called Butleigh Amateurs. Unfortunately he developed cancer and was medically retired and died at home, leaving his widow, Sandra and 2 children. The rugby team was devoted to him and erected a garden seat on their ground with a plaque engraved:



PLAYING ON IN MEMORY OF PHIL GRISTOCK
LOVED, ADMIRER AND GREATLY MISSED BY
HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FELLOW
SPORTSMEN
1947 - 2002

Les visited recently and had his photo taken on the seat in the beloved rugby ground.

Well colleagues, lots of memories to dwell upon. It would be good to hear your thoughts on them.

Bob Duncan

Letters from Australia and New Zealand

Congratulations to the "Retired Prison Governor's Newsletter" 50th Edition.

Seems a lifetime ago since I left H.M.P. Service College, Aberford Road Wakefield to start a new life down under. But despite having been in Australia nearly 20 years friends such as Mick Roebuck and George Shore, both retired Governors, have from time to time kept me in touch with events in a changing Prison Service. Events that have engendered views, opinions and points of view expressed in your magazine. I am pleased I left the service when I did. Subsequent developments appear to have killed the central training organization and many developmental training aspects of the prison service that were to me it's saving grace.

Why would an ex Principal Officer such as myself write to your magazine? Well from reading it as an occasional copy reached me in Australia, I have managed to keep touch with the fortunes of many of your contributors, who I worked with, or for, or assisted in through selection procedures and training at Love Lane College, Wakefield I count many of you as friends to this day although we have not met for years. Friendship does not die easily!

I am so sorry to read of the demise of some of those friends or their respective partners.

While I try not to live in the past or bore people to tears with my anecdotes and memories I nevertheless take great pride in the fact that I knew and served with many of you who are still in the Prison Service or on its periphery through other involvement's.

I have not retired. I qualified as a Clinical

Hypnotherapist some 11 years ago and have been counseling clients and teaching life skills classes from home for as long.

Congratulations again. Your magazine has a more worldwide readership than you may imagine. I for one wanted you to know, through it, I still know you.

Thank you

David Percival

Minchinbury NSW. 2770

Dear R P G

Please note new address Katikati Bay of Plenty. New Zealand.

E Mail hgevans@xtra.co.nz

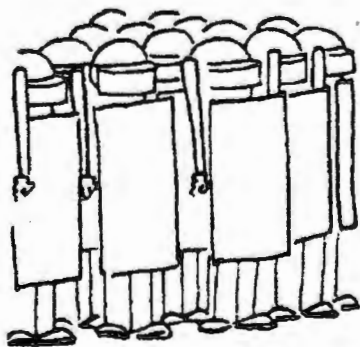
It would be interesting to hear from any members in this or indeed any other part of the world.

We have been here for a few months now and have not regretted the move. The reason we decided on this part of the globe, is because my eldest son and his family live in Tauranga and the second son one lives a mere 2000 odd miles away in Queensland.

When I retired from Reading, after helping the place to recover and improve from the Boxing day riot, we made our home on the South Coast, from where we attempted to recapture some of our fast receding youth by backpacking for a few months at a time to the more remote parts of Thailand, Malaysia and the Indonesia Islands, with a short trip to Burma by the back door. A few trips to NZ and OZ convinced us that this land has much to offer. So here we are half way up a mountain where the only services we have are electricity and the telephone. A far cry from the rush hour in London, Gloucester, and Reading. But the views from our windows are a treat every day.

Fond regards to all. It was a privilege to serve with people whose integrity and dedication never failed.

Graham Evans



From RGN 5
[see page 27]





The column with news of those retired and serving

- Trevor Gadd's daughter is working at Feltham as – what we would have called – a Governor Grade.
- The Pudneys are no longer afloat but have come ashore in Henley in Arden.
- Among our new readers are Duncan McLaughlan, Mick Donne, David Boyton, Malcolm O'Brien, John Cloughton, John Hall and Clive Clifford.
- We have a growing band of readers on the other side of the world as Australia and New Zealand appear to be attractive retirement spots for retired prison service people. We know the RGN reaches John Lee, Mike Pepper and Graham Evans in New Zealand and Roy Frost, Bill Driscoll and David Percival in Australia – see the letters columns.
- Robin Halwood is currently on long term sickness absence with a recurrence of cancer. He is having treatment from Christie's and is based in Manchester.
- Keen eyed readers will have spotted that Sir John Chilcott, one time Director of Personnel and Finance in the Prison Service, has been appointed to the "Butler Team" investigating the intelligence that led to the war against Iraq.
- Congratulations to Mike Shann, Governor of Birmingham Prison and

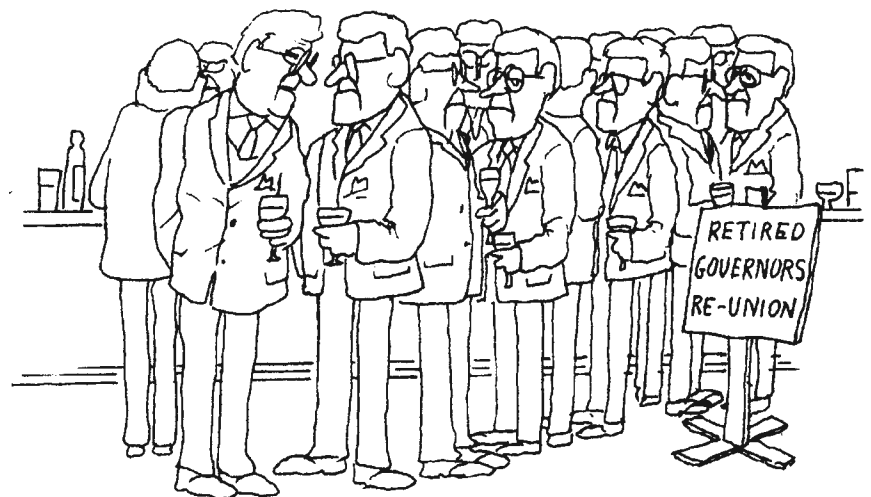
Chairman of the 2003 PGA Annual Conference who was awarded the OBE in the 2004 New Year's Honours List.

- Cathy James was appointed Governor of Liverpool Prison towards the end of 2003, the vacancy being caused by the departure of John Smith to Premier PLC.
- Martin Narey is currently (February 2004) being described again as the Head of the Prison Service. Readers will recall that he was appointed Commissioner for both Prison and Probation a year ago and Phil Wheatley was appointed Director General of the Prison Service. Following yet another review – the "Carter Review" both Prison and

Probation Services are to become the "National Offender Management Service" (NOMS). Martin Narey is appointed Chief Executive of the new combined service which is scheduled to come into existence in the summer of 2004. We understand that the Prison Service will cease to be a "First Steps Agency".

- Charles Bushell, General Secretary of the PGA writes : " It looks as though our retirement age is likely to rise to 65 over the coming years. The information is patchy and with my 1947 vintage, I'm likely to be safe. But spare a thought for some of our younger colleagues. The upside is that all those who

Lay's Laughs! 2004



" TO BE HONEST WITH YOU JIM - I THINK OUR STRENGTH LIES IN OUR DIFFERENCES "

DON'T FORGET TO NOTIFY THE RGN OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

are keen to soldier on will find it easier to do so. On behalf of all of us in the PGA may I offer you and the readers of the RGN our very best wishes for the year ahead. I feel that the momentous events upon which our service is about to embark will best be viewed from a safe distance, tucked up with a pension. I'm just planning ahead! "

- We regret to report the deaths of Fred Youngman (see letters column) Lyn Davies, John McCarthy, Trevor Gadd, John Richardson, John Keeling, Tom Wilkinson (see below), Charlie McPhilips (Ex Liverpool and Risley) and Don Long,
- Arthur Williamson writes about Tom Wilkninson who

died from a sudden heart attack in November 2003. "He and Margaret, his wife, had apparently been for a short walk near their home in Gosport, near Portsmouth when he simply sat down on the bed and keeled over. Tom was an A.G. at Manchester all the time I was there with Norman Brown. He later went to H.M.P. Kingston where he served under the command of Margaret Allen. He retired from there and took up work as a Court Usher in Kingston for a number of years. In addition I understand he did a great deal of voluntary work in the area. Before coming into the Prison Service he was an R.C. Priest in Barrow ".
● Times Obits on Lyn Davies and John McCarthy were

published in early December; one for John McCarthy by Michael Selby appeared in the Guardian. A Times Obit on Trevor Gadd appeared in mid January 2004.

- Terry Weiler spotted the Times announcement of the death of Rev John Williams, formerly Assistant Chaplain General with the Prison Department. John died on 16th December and Terry attended the funeral at Ealing.
- Readers will be sad to hear of the death of Stephen Tumin, Chief Inspector of Prisons 1987-1995. He died suddenly on 8th December while on a cruise. Michael Selby wrote the Guardian Obit which appeared on 10th December.

OBITUARY

John Richardson OBE

John died at the end of January 2004. He was widowed and lived quietly in Market Drayton

John Dring writes:

"I worked for John Richardson for one year, as his Deputy at Leicester in 1981-2 until he was promoted to Liverpool, his home town, as G1. He was Governor of Leicester when the POA were particularly active and went to the Gate on quite a few occasions. John was hard working, clear thinking and very steady when provoked. He did much to improve Leicester in very difficult circumstances

Leicester also had the SSW then in parallel with Parkhurst and we held many senior and challenging IRA members (Balcombe Street Gang) Skingle and Harry Roberts (both Police killers and still in prison to this day) so life was never dull.

John was a private man, tall and distinguished, a bit reserved but with a marvellous dry sense of

humour. Normally we did not see that much of each other as we were on opposite weekends but one Bank Holiday Monday, by mistake, we were both on duty together. John had me in stitches most of the afternoon with his tales of his life in the ranks in the Army, possibly during the war. One tale he told, complete with sound effects and accents, was when, for some reason I forget, he was ordered by his Warrant Officer on parade to pull the trigger on his rifle. He protested as much as he could on a disciplined parade ground but the NCO insisted. Unfortunately what the NCO did not know, but John did, was that he had a bullet in the chamber, having just returned from active guard duty. So eventually he resigned himself to fate and obeyed the last order which sent a shot over the Officer's head.

I liked and respected him, always called him "Sir" and reckoned that I was lucky to have such an honest, sober, intelligent and caring boss. I learnt a lot from him about effective Governing and will never forget those times. "

NETWORK

■ One of the objectives of this column is to encourage exchange of information about work opportunities post retirement with a special emphasis on keeping in touch via email. Please note my email address which is:- brendan@ofriel.fsnet.co.uk

PGA OFFICE

■ The PGA Office has moved to
Room 405 Horseferry House
London SW1P 2AW.
Their email address is
office@prisongovernors.org.uk
The PGA website is www.prisongovernors.org.uk
Telephone 020 7217 8591
Fax 020 7217 8923
Voicebank 0762 695 2576

Web Site Information

■ We welcome exchange of helpful website information from readers . . . so let us know if you have an interesting site.

■ The International Centre for Prison Studies has a new address:-

The International Centre for Prison Studies
King's College London
School of Law
26-29 Drury Lane
London WC2B 5RL
Telephone 020 7848 1922
Website www.prisonstudies.org
Email icps@kcl.ac.uk

■ Mick Roebuck advises :

"For my sins I have been acting as a volunteer with the Inland Revenue in testing out this web site for them. Its gone live on the web today. As some of you are self employed I thought you might like the link."
<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/home>

■ Harry Brett advises

■ In this months edition of the Magistrate it gives information re a free weekly e-mail titled Prison News, giving news stories relating to prisons and prisons policy, statistics etc. Website address is www.prison.org.uk. If you wish to subscribe to the e-mail bulletin simply send a blank e-mail to subscribe@prison.org.uk. Assurances are given that e-mail details are not passed on or sold to any third party.

Job Information

Members may be interested to read of this unusual opportunity

Duncan McLaughlan writes:-

"I am in The Hague working as a consultant to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on detention matters, principally on the opening of a detention unit for the Court. Part of my task is to help recruit a Governor, currently known as the Chief Custody Officer but that will probably change. The post was advertised last year but the response was disappointing and the job is to be re-advertised. Part of the problem was that the original advertisement appeared as an internal United Nations memo and was not made available to a wider audience. There is an obvious need to approach a wider field. Do you know of a list of governors associations throughout the world or similar Brendan, circulation lists to which the advertisement can be sent? The retired prisoners governors association is an obvious channel for anyone who took early retirement.

The task for the appointee is initially to set up systems and procedures and then run what I think will be a very small remand unit – sentenced prisoners will serve their sentence in member states. I doubt if there will ever be more than a dozen prisoners and from that point of view the task should not be particularly challenging. The incumbent will need to be as much politically aware as he/she is professionally competent and I think that a more 'mature' person would be suited to the task, with an upper age limit of 62 – the pension scheme does not allow an older person. "

A copy of the advertisement is very likely to appear on the web-site of the International Criminal Court in the next few days. Anyone interested should of course check the web-site for the official version. Of minor interest – to those of us who have a vocation for prisons – is that I believe the salary is tax-free, that too should be checked out.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the information. The web-site is www.icc-cpi.int

Step 1 is click on the name of the court as it appear in English

Step 2 go to the left hand side of the page and click on 'job opportunities'

Step 3 go to the right hand side of the page and click on current professional vacancies'

If anyone wants to contact me try both duncan.mclaughlan@virgin.net and at the e-mail address below with a telephone number and I will 'phone them

duncan.mclaughlan@icc-cpi.int
Telephone 00 31 70 515 8528



Further contributions are very welcome to this column. Please note my email address which is:- brendan@ofriel.fsnet.co.uk

"So back to Newport for a few weeks then a letter came directing me to attend Cardiff prison for a medical. This in itself was an amusing event as the MO when he had examined me said "dear God as you are going to borstal, I will have you psycho-analysed". Despite not being in really good health at that time I covered up my frailties and was passed fit. Some week later I was directed to report to the governor of Portland Borstal for duty as an assistant

between the new boys and the "old guard". I felt this quite keenly when allocated to a house to be instructed by an AG who, although a willing character, had been found unfit for service and his two senior staff, one a fit man only a year or so older than me who had been "reserved" and the other an ex-naval regular Chief Petty Officer who had spent the whole of the war as a POW. I had a distinct feeling of not being welcomed. However, having experienced the same syndrome in the Army as a brand new Second Lieutenant I knew that the only way through this common situation was to just flog on and work it through. On reflection the situation was not greatly helped by the arrival that year of five other new AGs and two more in 1948. No doubt we made a very close-knit little band and probably demonstrated that we were a bit superior to those who had not served. Ex-servicemen have their own brand of arrogance!

Within a few months my mentor under whom I had been working was promoted and went away to a camp attached to Maidstone Prison and I am given command of my house, known as Benbow House, containing about eighty young men all rather mature in their early twenties. Of course some of them were ex-service drop-outs and at one time I had three ex-guardsmen on my roll. I also had a very interesting young chap named Sargent who had been a corporal (Corporal Sargent?) in the KSLI Battalion in my division. He had landed on D-Day and had gone through all the same battles as I had. Often at night I would unlock his cell and we would have a good gossip over shared memories. It must have been a most unusual friendship between prisoner and AG.

Despite early problems Portland was a happy station for us as a family. 1947 was a glorious summer, the children were fit and happy, life seemed to be one long holiday. The sun seemed to shine every day and really for the first time I was enjoying settled married life. There were still many post-war problems of course. Rationing was still very much in force and my wife had many problems in feeding a very hungry husband and three healthy and hungry boys. The local village school was very good and the two older lads

TIME SPENT

by Lyn Davies

(1916 – 2003)

In 1995, Lyn Davies completed an 86 page account of his life under the above title. He doubted whether it would be of interest to anyone but the RGN has been given permission by Lyn's family to publish extracts. What follows is Lyn's account of joining the service at Portland in 1947 after passing the selection Board at Horseferry House....

governor. I duly reported on May 15th 1947.

The Prison and Borstal Service had suffered badly during the war years, many of its buildings had been damaged including Portland which had had major damage with staff and inmates killed. It had also been badly denuded of staff as the great majority of personnel in those days were ex-Army and many still with reserve commitments. The quality of men recruited during the war years was not very high as all the young and fit men had been called up.

Therefore with the influx of fresh staff coming straight from the forces there was inevitably a gap both in age and ability

seemed to settle well with the local Portlanders who by nature are a very clannish lot.

I struggled on with slowly diminishing opposition from my house staff. One major problem was my house matron who had a son in the service also as an AG. He had joined just before the war and so Mrs W did not go too much on the new boys. There also seemed a shared opinion among the old staff that these new boys ought to find things very difficult and should rely a great deal more than they did on the advice and direction of the "old guard". In fact we all shared the opinion that running a borstal house was not all that difficult compared to commanding an infantry company or an artillery battery as we all had. Certainly I didn't consider Benbow House any great burden after commanding some two hundred Geordies. There was also the difference of opinion concerning the standards demanded from the "boys" and

Dennis . . . did have this "upper deck" syndrome which didn't allow him to see what was going on "below decks"

the standard of care, discipline and administration shown by the old staff. In the forces we had all been used to far higher

standards and didn't think much of the standards we had inherited. On reflection there is little doubt that we made our feelings known too often and too bluntly. The food for instance was appalling, clothing was terrible and the equipment and furnishing in the wings was sparse and badly maintained. These deficiencies were bad enough but the complaints by the new boys became more strident when we discovered that most of the equipment we so badly lacked was in fact held in plenty in the main stores where it had been carefully hoarded during the war years. Of these problems the awful food was easily the worst. The government was providing good enough raw materials, in fact most of our victualling came from the Portland Naval dockyard and in our opinion the bad food was sheer bloody disinterest and incompetence by the kitchen staff. On more than one occasion there were almost head-on clashes between the young AGs and the kitchen. Fortunately in 1947 the

commission appointed a catering adviser direct from the RAF. He shared our disgust at the prevailing standards and between us we slowly got things improved over the next few years. It is nice to reflect that in the following thirty years the food improved out of all recognition and became really first class, as it should always be.

Our first governor at Portland was a very fine man named Captain Ransley MC RFC, which dated him very accurately to France pre-1915 before the RAF was formed. He was a great chap to work under but later during 1947 he was promoted and in his place we had Lt Commander Dennis Venables DSC, a very charming man who had spent all his life either in the Prison Service or the Royal Navy. We all liked and admired Dennis very much but he did have this "upper deck" syndrome which often didn't allow him to see what was going on, or not going on, "below decks". RN officers certainly did not share the same philosophy as Army officers, ie men have to be looked after.

Sport took a very prominent part in borstal training and the institution was very well equipped. Not only did the prisoners have adequate football fields, including a magnificent sports stadium made from one of the old convict quarries, but also a good gym, cricket pitches and even a swimming bath. As all AGs were young and presumably fit we were expected to take a leading part in the encouragement of sporting activities. Most of the AGs were excellent at games, we had three who were at least minor county standard at cricket and also excellent at hockey, tennis, rugby and in my case swimming.

One of our major objects was to keep our charges busy at all times and this we did even on pouring wet winter afternoons when football was out, we would take thirty or forty men out on a cross-country run, or something of the sort. We certainly earned our salaries, which in my case was £420 pa plus free housing and medical attention for self and family. It doesn't sound much looking back when AGs now earn that much each week but it was the going rate in those days and we were all very happy as a band of good friends."

The Prison Service Life

the Footer family 1953 - 1973

IT IS ONLY RECENTLY that I have realised that it is rather strange that I chart my early and teenage life in terms of the penal establishments my father was posted to and that I did not have a pat answer to those who asked where my roots were.

I was born at the start of my Dad's prison career at Leyhill, Glos. Dad had come into the Prison Service after leaving the army, doing a one year course at St Cuthbert's Durham University and then working in an approved school. When I was two we moved to the Verne on Portland. I remember my parents later reminiscing about the sound of the sea moving over the pebbles on Chesil Beach and the very windy weather which could twizzle out overnight any plant or crop that they tried to establish. Two years later on to Wormwood Scrubs – we lived in flats on Du Cane Road and I went to school for the first time

In the very late 50s Dad was posted to Wandsworth as Deputy Governor and our quarters comprised a very nice modern semi-detached about 20 yards from the prison – Mum and Dad's fourth child was born in this house. In '63 Dad became Governor of Nottingham Prison – I think that of them all, this posting was the most satisfying for him. Nottingham was very much a local prison, there were recidivists but also prisoners serving very long sentences and there was more scope with these inmates for rehabilitation. We had several 'redband' men assigned to do our garden and they were very patient with us kids (we clearly remember one of them playing long jump in our sand pit and another presenting us with exquisitely made stuffed toys – we remember their names to this day!).

The quarters at Nottingham were a dream come true for us children (all under 10 on arrival). It was huge Victorian house with a large garden and there was the luxury of a bedroom each and even a first and second best guest room!! (I think that now it is divided into flats for prison officers). It was not properly heated having only a two-bar fire in the bedrooms and water regularly froze inside. What an adventure for us to live there and to play cricket on the huge back lawn. I remember one lunchtime where Mum and Dad entertained the Home Secretary, Lord Brooke and like a good politician he asked to bid me (age 11)

goodbye personally on leaving. Visitors to the prison included such diverse names as Harry Worth and Gladys Aylward!

The prison staff at Nottingham were very proactive in the way of events for the families generally. I remember Guy competitions and firework displays on 5 November and sports days for us youngsters – there was also a very active Ladies Club.

In 1968 we came to Stoke Heath Borstal in Shropshire. The quarters were in the middle of nowhere, five miles from the nearest town, Market Drayton – we had to be taken by coach to school. The young people in the quarters really had to make their own entertainment in the form of clubs and dances because we were so far away from civilisation. Dad organised a choir at Stoke Heath, which sang for every Sunday service in the chapel. Music was a passion with him and he was never happier than when conducting I was co-opted to join the choir for one Christmas service.

Barely two years later the next move – Dad was appointed Deputy Director Operations for the South West Region. This job was not ideally suited to Dad because it gave him no prison of his own and it also involved a lot of paper work and report writing (never his forte!). He also had to find a house for us all which was also not part of his life experiences!! He was away a lot, which was not conducive to good family life, and left my mother on her own too much with (by now) 5 children.

I think Dad was relieved and pleased to be appointed Governor Class 1 to HMP Albany on the Isle of Wight although it meant the third move in about three years for us children and at the worst moments educationally for me particularly. We moved to the island in 1971 – Albany was at that time a brand new, state of the art, prison – very computerised but also top security. Dad had a very difficult time there from the outset, culminating in a summer of rioting. It was a period when the prison officers were very militant and the prisoners were also 'unionised' to a certain extent. At one time food was thrown in the dining room, on another occasion the prisoners were confined to their cells for very long periods while a search was undertaken and some later burnt their bedding and

rioted in certain wings. A very stressful, tense situation was created for all concerned.

My father was just beginning to turn the corner at the prison when it was announced that he would be posted to Risley – news that he did not greet with great relish. We were preparing for moving to Warrington when he had a massive heart attack and died in November 1973.

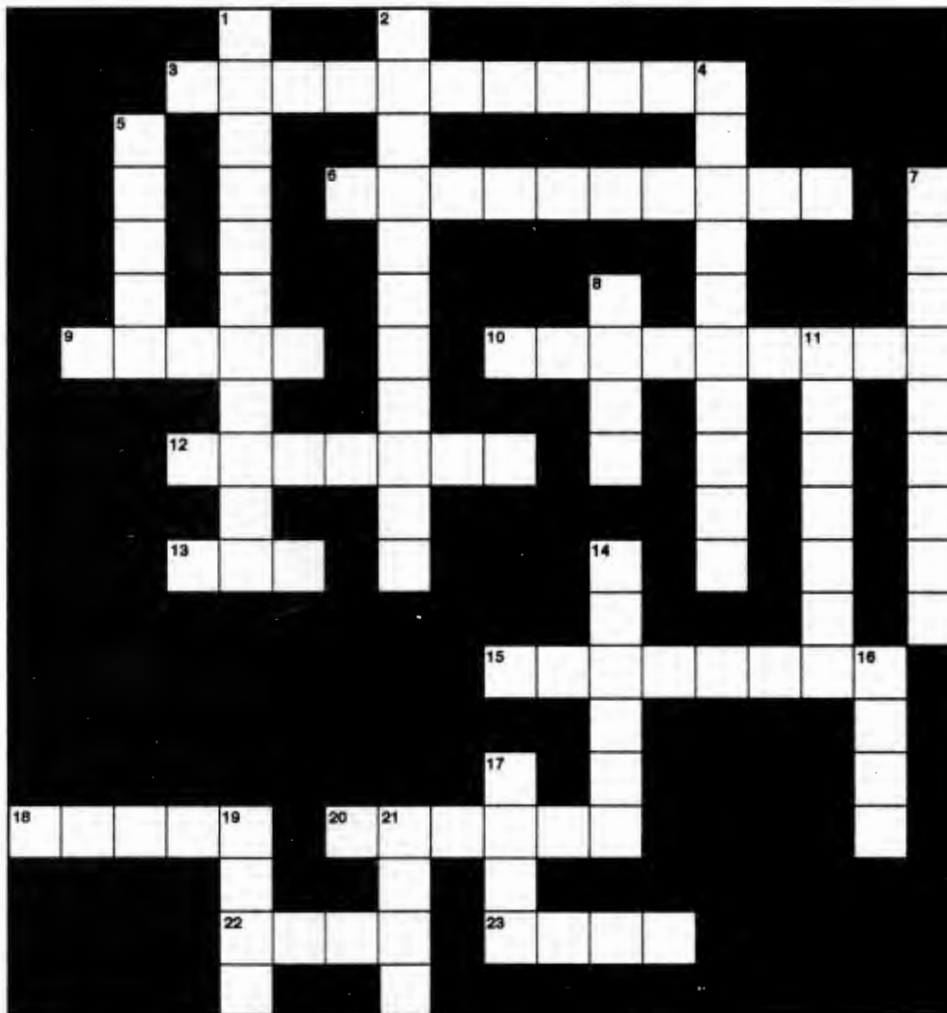
I enjoyed my life as a child of the prison service in the

halcyon 50s and 60s even if my educational progress was slightly hindered at key times. It enabled me to discover many parts of the UK, make many school friends (who I still see 35+ years later) and long after my parents deaths to correspond with Mum and Dad's prison contemporaries with whom it gives me much pleasure to keep in touch.

Hilary Footer
23 February 2004

The Anniversary Crossword

Ah yes . . . I remember them well!



Across

- 3 The ones on the ones (6 & 5)
- 6 The value of a magician's stick (10)
- 9 Out in front? (5)
- 10 Sounds like the voice of a servant (9)
- 12 A sign that could be rebranded in another trusted way (7)
- 13 Just in Wales (3)
- 15 Even, level (7)
- 18 Sounds as though one went straight past it (5)
- 20 They came in ones and twos (6)
- 22 Bread, forward and drum (4)
- 23 - - - - , stock and barrel (4)

Down

- 1 Sound as though they could be touching our four legged friends (11)
- 2 Funny methods (11)
- 4 What happens when you inter a small animal (10)
- 5 Norman Stanley's place of incarceration (5)
- 7 In our environment it's not the place for a wedding party (9)
- 8 Ours would not fly but parts of some can get off the ground (4)
- 11 get off ice rink and you may find one inside (7)
- 14 Yet another form of numbers check (6)
- 16 Find this establishment in Hampton Court (4)
- 17 Bottoms, tower, diving (4)
- 19 Not all establishments had thirty six to make one (4)
- 21 Find this establishment on HMP The Weare (4)



Above: North Regional Conference

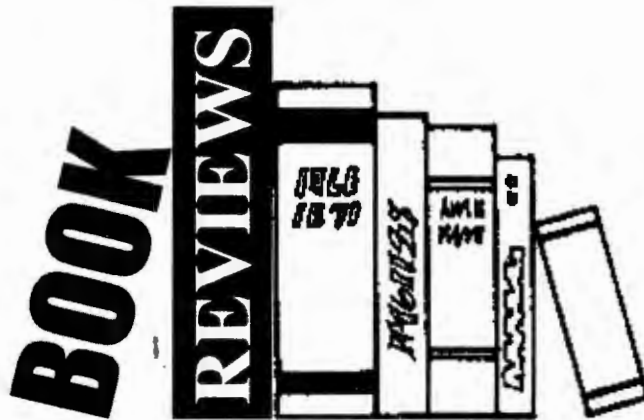
Below: Enjoying retirement!



Gordon Fowler and John Dring



Retired Governors Social at Newbold Revel



Reviews organised by Alan Rayfield



PRISONGATE

David Ramsbotham

Publisher: The Free Press 2003

£20

The Press Release states; 'During his time as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, David Ramsbotham was a thorn in Jack Straw's side. The government imagined he would be submissive; instead, shocked at what he found inside our prisons, he advocated radical reform but his suggestions were barely acknowledged by ministers and officials. In PRISONGATE, for the first time, the appalling truth is revealed to the nation'.

On the jacket cover John Mortimer QC says, 'Winston Churchill said a country should be judged by the way it treats its prisoners. David Ramsbotham's important and well-informed account should awaken our consciences to insist on a prison system which has a chance of reforming its inmates and reducing the crime rate'.

Is the press release and Mortimer's aspirations borne out in the book? Well, the opening chapter is a no holds barred account of his baptism by shock at what he found on his first inspection of Holloway in 1995. A Holloway midwife sets the scene in the first chapter with an opening statement; 'I have never seen anything so inhuman and disgusting as the way they treat women in Holloway'. If first impressions stay with you, the experience which he himself states, while distressing, had been invaluable, because he had been able to see at first hand, that there were a number of very serious problems with the way that imprisonment was run. The situation posed far and deep searching questions not just of the Governor but how had Holloway been allowed to degenerate into such a state? Who was responsible for women prisoners? Why had Michael Howard done nothing? What could the inspection team do about it?

This, his first inspection became a comparative low

bench mark against which all subsequent women's prisons were inspected and subsequently gave rise to two Thematic Reviews (1997 & 2001) with recommendations for improving the treatment and conditions in women's prisons. If women's imprisonment was regarded as the Cinderella of the service, his analysis goes some way to redressing the balance with two chapters devoted to highlighting the inadequacies.

Sir David was not a complete stranger to prisons as we get an insight into his life and career in a potted autobiography. Whilst on operational command in Belfast he was responsible for security of the perimeter of HMP Crumlin in the late 70s and during a period of industrial unrest he was in charge of troops at Rolleston Camp and Alma Dettingen when they provided external guards, catering and works.

His fierce independence comes through chapter by chapter with interminable 'fights' with 'those up there' who listened with one ear and let it go out the other. In seeking to be objective multi-disciplinary team building was a strategic facet of his leadership drawing in experts from many fields, with the aim to help establishments improve their operational efficiency not as inquisitions but as 'free consultancies'. Uum! He is scathing about slavish attention to targets and compliance with regulations as opposed to treatment of and conditions for prisoners. He goes on to identify the enemy of successful imprisonment as, ministers, Home Office officials and the hierarchy of the Prison Service because they were the barrier to progress. He identifies particularly the lack of ministerial support who neither gave the Service direction nor the resources needed to protect the public by preventing further crimes by those released from custody. The POA also comes under close scrutiny particularly the militant wing both at local and NEC level when far too much of Governor's time was taken up with the lamentable quality of industrial relations.

Local and Resettlement Prisons, regimes for prisoners

who have committed sex offences, Werrington YOI are extensively covered. At Winson Green he found treatment and conditions totally unacceptable despite the pleas of the Governor who incidentally was also chairman of the Prison Governor's Association. 'The dreadful subterranean Health Care Centre was described by medical inspectors as the dirtiest they had ever seen, containing too many seriously mentally ill prisoners' —. Suffice to say on his reinspection of Winson Green after 2 years, he reports nothing had changed beyond what the governor had been able to achieve. 'I had listened to his despair at being unable to persuade Prison Service HQ to listen, let alone respond, to what he was saying, or to see that this was making him ill. No action plan was drawn up; no extra money was made available'. What happened? 'Instead the Deputy Director General, Phil Wheatley sent in the same management services team that had recommended a reduction in health care at Wormwood Scrubs. At Winson Green they recommended a large budget cut!' The Home Secretary Jack Straw comes in for much criticism, whether he 'actually wanted Winson Green to be improved'.

I found the book riveting and couldn't put it down, reading it at one go. Then dipping in and out to reflect I agree it is an important document which would do well to set a new agenda for the future. However at the end I wondered whether Sir John Mortimer's quote would actually be fully realized? One could ask for example, 'If they (Officialdom at whatever level) didn't listen when Sir David was in post why should they listen now.' They had effectively sidelined him. Anne Owers his successor and a Human Rights analyst has a hard act to follow, but will they listen to her? Secondly is the public or those at the decision levels of public life interested enough to form lobby groups and insist on reform? That maxim, 'There are no votes in penal policy!' rings in my ears. I recall something I had read years ago that 'Public opinion in penal matters was the aggregate of folly'. (Bacon). For those of us who are interested it poses many questions but maybe our energies are now focused elsewhere. Compulsive reading and highly recommended.

Gordon Hutchinson



DOUGLAS HURD: MEMOIRS

Publisher: Little Brown. Hardback

£20

ISBN 0-316-86147-2

I had the rare opportunity to read in a few days such a substantial book, running to over 500 pages. That I took the opportunity is a reflection of how absorbing

I found it. Douglas Hurd was in the public service as Civil Servant, politician and Minister from 1952 to 1995, giving him a length and breadth of perspective on major events which few can match.

The closest most of us former governors will have come to Hurd was during his period as Home Secretary between 1985 and 1989, though a few may have had contact the year before that when he was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Hurd was not without experience of institutions, albeit of a rather different sort, having been to boarding school and done a spell of National Service. Also valuable must have been wrestling with industrial relations issues as the political secretary to Ted Heath when he was Prime Minister. Experienced as he was in the ways of the Civil Service and of Government when he became Home Secretary, he still struggled to come to terms with the range, scale and complexity of the issues with which he had to deal. I can relate to that, having on two occasions travelled the much shorter distance from the prisons world to the core Home Office.

So long after Hurd's time as Home Secretary, the things that stick in my mind from that period are population pressures (which necessitated the use of police cells and army camps), industrial relations and Fresh Start. That these are the prisons issues on which Hurd concentrates are reassuring reminders that to a large extent the issues which concern the Secretary of State in the prisons world are the same ones as concern governors.

But this is not a book for those primarily interested in detailed accounts of prisons business, to which just five pages are devoted. There are three features which for me make the book compelling reading.

First, it sets the prisons world very much in its context, competing for attention not just within the Home Office but within wider domestic and even international events and priorities. It is very easy for us practitioners, confined within our own institutions, to forget that for most of the time we are but a tiny detail on a huge canvas. Having said that, Hurd is another illustration of the extent to which prisons have a lasting fascination for many of those who come into contact with them: after leaving the Government he became involved in the Prison Reform Trust.

Second, the book provides a fascinating perspective on politics and Government. Hurd's father and grandfather were both Members of Parliament. In support of his grandfather Hurd first hit the campaign trail in 1935, at five years of age. He joined the

Foreign Office in 1952 and had postings to Peking, New York (a period which included the Suez crisis of 1956) and Rome, as well as time in London. He left in 1966 to work for the Conservative Party and was soon head of the private office of Ted Heath as leader of the Opposition, becoming his political secretary when Heath became Prime Minister in 1970. He was elected to Parliament himself in 1974 for the new constituency of Mid-Oxfordshire. In 1976 he became frontbench spokesman on Europe. When the Conservatives won the 1979 General Election he became a junior Foreign Office Minister and held Ministerial office continuously under Margaret Thatcher and then John Major until retiring as Foreign Secretary in 1995. Although the book inevitably has considerable emphasis on foreign affairs, because that is what Hurd spent most of his time doing, there is something on all the major issues of the time.

One of the factors which most of us ex-governors have in common is an intense interest in people and the relations between them. The third reason for reading this book is that it is packed with insights into people, including Hurd himself. During his campaign for the leadership of the Conservative party in succession to Margaret Thatcher, Hurd was described by some as a "toff", out of touch. The reality is much

more complicated. It is true that he had a relatively privileged upbringing in rural Wiltshire, reinforced by preparatory school, Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. But this was counterbalanced by a shortage of money at recurring intervals in his life, the knock-about of traditional face-to-face political campaigning, National Service and the tragic suicide of one of his younger brothers when Hurd was 21. Although we are all to a substantial extent the product of our experiences, the person each of us is and how each behaves defies any convincing explanation – as we have all at some stage learned to our cost in trying to predict the behaviour of those for whom we have had professional responsibility.

There are also numerous insights into others. Here the approach is one in tune with many of us, looking for the best in people. There are very few in whom Hurd cannot find at least some redeeming features.

In this book, as in a good team, the whole is more than the sum of the parts. Indeed, as all busy people know, the challenge is not any single task but having to do too many tasks at once while maintaining consistency and a sense of balance. This is as good an example as I have seen of how it can be done.

Robin Halward

Lay's Laughs!



"Move over mate . . . you're doing my trade in!"

PENSIONS

PENSIONS INCREASE PAYABLE WITH EFFECT FROM 12th APRIL 2004

Following confirmation from HM Treasury of the cost of living index figure for September 2003, we have calculated the increases in public service occupational pensions that will become due with effect from 12th April 2004. Those pensioners whose pensions were increased on 7th April 2003 and those pensioners whose pensions began on or before 27th April 2003 will receive an increase of 2.8 per cent. Those pensioners who have retired since 27th April 2003 will receive a proportionate increase.

The following table shows the pension increases payable. It should be noted that the dates shown are the dates the pension begins and not the date of retirement.

<i>Pensions Beginning Date</i>	<i>Percentage Increase</i>
On or before 27 April 2003	2.80%
28 April 2003 to 27 May 2003	2.57%
28 May 2003 to 27 June 2003	2.33%
28 June 2003 to 27 July 2003	2.10%
28 July 2003 to 27 August 2003	1.87%
28 August 2003 to 27 September 2003	1.63%
28 September 2003 to 27 October 2003	1.40%
28 October 2003 to 27 November 2003	1.17%
28 November 2003 to 27 December 2003	0.93%
28 December 2003 to 27 January 2004	0.70%
28 January 2004 to 27 February 2004	0.47%
28 February 2004 to 27 March 2004	0.23%
28 March 2004 onwards	NIL

STATE PENSIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

In April 2004, the single pension is to rise by £2.15 a week from £77.45 to £79.60; the married pension by £3.45 from £123.80 to £127.25.

The method of calculating the rise in index linked pensions is not to be changed. The present system will continue despite the adoption of a different Retail Prices Index by the Government.

The winter fuel payment of £200 per household – paid to everyone over 60 – is to continue for the rest of this Parliament

FREE GUIDE There is a free Guide available on the range of Government Services for people aged 60 and over. This is titled "Pensioners' Guide (PG1)" For your copy phone 0845 6065 065.

STATE RETIREMENT PENSION FORECASTS can be obtained by writing to: -

Retirement Pensions Forecasting Team
The Pensions Service, Whitley Road
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE98 1BA
Telephone 0845 3000168



They also provide a booklet entitled "Understanding your State Pension Forecast"

THE PENSION SERVICE also provide a new Booklet "A Guide to your Pension Options" – you can obtain a copy by phoning 0845 7 31 32 33.

THE PENSION SERVICE WEBSITE is at www.thepensionservice.gov.uk

THE GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER "Working and Saving for Retirement" was published in December 2002. It is available from Government Bookshops – free. Summary versions are available in Braille, large print, audiocassette and Welsh free of charge from:

Welfare Reform
Freepost(HA4441)
Hayes UB3 1BR

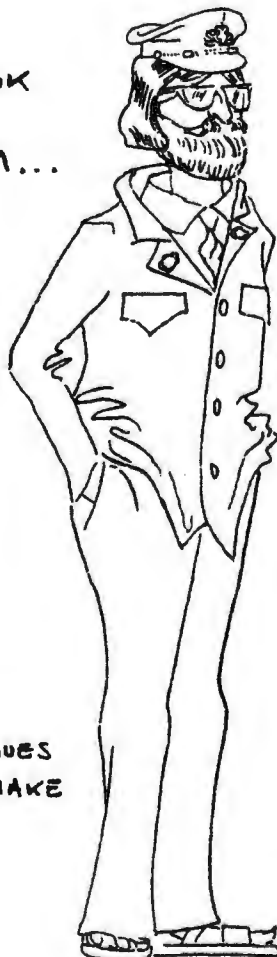
The Green Paper can also be accessed on the Internet at www.dwp.gov.uk/publications

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONERS COUNCIL

Readers may be interested to know that the PSPC is investigating the lack of a "low cost" – 0845 – number for some public service pensioners with pension inquiries. It appears that a low cost line is provided for those with teachers pensions but not for those with Civil Service or Armed Services pensions. We will report progress – if any – on this issue.

From RGN 5

PERHAPS WE CAN LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING
GOVERNORS IN UNIFORM...



... BUT SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES
ARE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE
SOME ADJUSTMENTS.

[See page 14 for the
follow-up cartoon]



The above cartoon has been 'sparked off by a recent suggestion from a high level that Governor Grades should commence to wear uniform.

The artist has obviously kept himself up to-date with current opinion.

I know many of our older colleagues thought uniform should be worn by all Governor Grades – what do you feel about it now?
WAW.



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or Telephone / Fax on No: _____

Name _____

Financial Matters

with GORDON LAW'S FINANCIAL COLUMN

**Many congratulations on your News Letter
reaching its 50th edition**

This is a great milestone for the editor and his staff

SPRING CLEANING

IT NOW SEEMS a very appropriate time for a thorough spring clean of your finances.

- 1 Take out and dustdown all those old PEPs and ISAs that are covered in cobwebs because they haven't been moving forward. Did you know that of the 2000 different funds available for investment how many that were in the top 50 five years ago are still in the top 50?

Answer – none.

The five funds that I recommended last year and their performance are as follows:

Credit Suisse Monthly Income	+19%
Invesco Perpetual High Income	+23%
Invesco Perpetual Income	+23%
Liontrust First Income	+34%
Aberdeen Property Share	+27%

The market has changed slightly and I am switching three of the funds to more appropriate funds.

- 2 Dust down all those old wills that no longer reflect your wishes fully. Ask yourself 'will your heirs be paying the voluntary tax?' I have mentioned inheritance tax before. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will take 40% of your estate above the nil rate band which currently is £255,000 without proper will and trust planning.

There are lies, there are damn lies and there are statistics.

In his pre budget report statement on the 10th December 2003 the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed that the UK inflation target is now based on the Harmonised Index of Consumer Price (HICP), which has been renamed the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The level of the new CPI inflation target has been set at 2%.

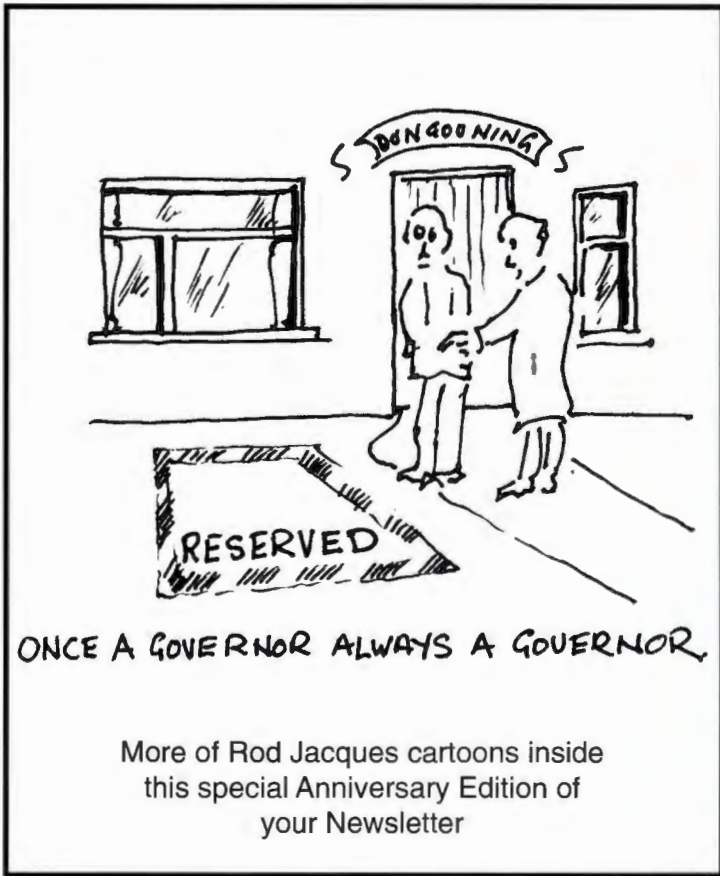
The new measure is used to make reliable comparisons of inflation rates across EU member states and excludes a number of items that were included in the RPI, mainly related to housing.

The current RPI annual rate exceeds the CPI by well over 1%.

The Chancellor has confirmed that pensions, benefits and index linked gilts will continue to be calculated on exactly the same basis as previously, that is with reference to the all-items retail prices index.

If pension benefits are calculated by the new CPI index what could that mean to your pension? Assuming you have a pension of £10,000 pa and the increase is linked to the CPI which is 2% then your increase will be £200. However if it had been linked to the RPI and the index was 3% then the increase would be £300. This is a full 50% more. Let's hope that we can trust our Chancellor to keep his word.

If you want any further details you will find them on www.statistics.gov.uk/cpi



EDITORS REFLECTING!

... MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC REFLECTIONS INSIDE



Mystery Photos!

Readers are invited to try and identify the retired member on each photograph and to add a caption or "speech bubble" to the photos.

The best ones will be printed in RGN 51