

The Retired Prison Governors Newsletter

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PADDY SCRIVEN O.B.E. 1948 - 2018

It is with great sorrow that I report the premature death of Paddy Scriven, founder member, first Finance Officer, and former General Secretary of the Prison Governors Association. Paddy Scriven was one of a small group of brave iconic figures who ensured that the Prison Governors' Association first of all survived, before it then thrived. Beginning in 1987, Paddy served on the National Executive Committee of the PGA continuously until her retirement at the 2014 Conference. She was truly the most distinguished of our

distinguished life members. It was my privilege to serve alongside her on the NEC for three years. I witnessed at first hand her humanity and compassion. There was also no greater repository of knowledge, precedent and procedure than Paddy, who was truly the complete national Trade Union Official. Paddy was also a front rank in-charge Governor, governing HMP Foston Hall from 1997-2007 with real distinction. A full obituary appears on pages 4-7 in this newsletter.

As regards this issue I also draw your attention to two reviews of the book written by former in-charge Governor, Harry Crew. Veronica Bird's autobiography will be reviewed in the next newsletter.

The big forthcoming change is the gradual handover of the "Your Letters" column, the mainstay of this periodical, from Bob Duncan to Roger Outram. Without this column the Newsletter would be just another magazine and I urge you to give Roger the backing you gave Bob, who will also be stepping down from the Committee in June. We can't thank him enough for the service he has given to the Retired Branch. The date and venue of the AGM/Reunion are advertised in the Newsletter and we hope you will give it your support. Old friends will be delighted to see you.

Speaking of Roger, he will be setting up a dedicated Retired Prison Governors Association website. All back editions of the newsletter that are available in PDF will form an archive, and be available to a wider readership, something you may wish to bear in mind when submitting contributions. However, given the high standards of literacy and professionalism of our members I'm sure that anyone from outside the Service would be suitably impressed. I look forward to your continued support of the Newsletter. Some of the pieces I receive are very long, sometimes unavoidably so, but if you are submitting a longer item it would be helpful not to exceed 2,500 words, which equates to around four pages in the Newsletter.

Finally an appeal: if there is a cartoonist out there, please make yourself known. Sometimes a picture can say so much more than words.

I conclude by letting you know that the Autumn Newsletter will be out at the end of October, a little later than usual, so as to fit better with the cycle of Committee meetings.

PAUL LAXTON, EDITOR

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RPGA: E-MAIL REGISTER

The E-Mail register has been operating for around 13 years and has proved itself to be an effective means of rapid communication between members. It offers updates on current prison service developments and allows members to keep in touch with each other.

Joining the RPGA does not automatically place you on the register. If you would like to join the register then please send an E-Mail from the address you wish to have registered to Harry Brett at harry_brett@sky.com

E-Mail addresses may not be passed to third parties without permission from the person(s) registered to that specific E-Mail address.

Please remember that if you change your E-Mail address you must inform Harry Brett, otherwise you will cease to receive further updates.

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From the chair

I write with a view from my window of the Pennines and snow falling, although light, is persistent and with a forecast of -8 degrees tonight it will be a good idea to be by the fire and relax in the warmth of our winter fuel allowance - lovely! Not to be though as tonight is choir practice and with a big concert looming headlined by no other than Lesley Garratt on the 10th March it's crucial that we get it right on the night. Unfortunately it will have come and gone by the time you read this but I make the point because any of you that may sing in a choir will know of how the benefit of singing with others enriches your lives. I recommend you at least give it a go, but of course you can't sing can you? That's what they all say!!

Talking of enriching things can I remind you that our new attempt to encourage members to attend our reunion and AGM come into play 6th June 2018 at Stratford -on Avon and further information on how you might attend and have a couple of days in this historic town are in this edition. We thank Jenny Adams Young for researching and negotiating the venue and facilities in the hope that we attract a few more new faces as we did last year at Hinckley. It would be good to see you.

There is sad news today of the death of Paddy Scriven, someone well known to many of us who have been in the Service for many years, a true icon and irreplaceable. I met Paddy when she went to Moor Court from Holloway in the early 70s and again when we both delivered Post-Fresh Start training at the Staff College at Love Lane Wakefield in the late 80s. Her work and enthusiasm in the PGA is of course is legendary. There will be many tributes to Paddy, all deserved, but unable to capture the essence of someone you would always want on your side. Rest in Peace.

Finally we are progressing with our formal link with the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance [CSPA] and we are exchanging formal letters establishing the link and also putting forward 2 liaison representatives, Paul Laxton and Harry Brett, to work on joint recruiting and special joint projects in the future. I am also writing an article for the CSPA magazine "The Pensioner." There is already a reciprocal item in this RPGA newsletter. I am confident that the benefits of the link will give the RPGA a voice on important issues affecting our members.

Graham Smith RPGA Chairman



Patricia Grace Steel (nee Scriven) OBE
14th February 1948 – 6th February
2018

One amazing lady – that is how anyone who met Paddy Scriven, as we all knew her, would describe her. In fact, there are very few people who make a lasting impression on us to the extent that we truly never forget them: Paddy Scriven was definitely one of those people. Within the Prison Service there were few people who had not heard of her in one way or another, and if you were a Manager or Governor Grade you would almost certainly have heard of her. She was simply that sort of person. She was certainly one of those people that the phrase, “Once met, never forgotten” was not only accurate, but also highly appropriate.

Paddy had a reputation of being a larger-than-life character, and having met her you were left with the impression that her reputation somewhat undersold just how complex a person she really was and how passionate she was in everything that she did. Paddy had many sides to her character – she had been a model in her younger days, she loved her garden, flower arranging, her dinner parties and entertaining were thoroughly enjoyed by close friends, she designed and made wedding and Christening gowns, intricate sewing was her trade mark, she collected fine china and could often be found browsing auction catalogues and placing telephone bids for rare pieces of her beloved Pinxton, she was an accomplished horsewoman and a fount of knowledge on local history and stately homes. Paddy loved to maintain traditions and whilst at Foston Hall she resurrected the making of nosegays for the various officials to carry at the High Sheriff’s Service at Derby Cathedral – every nosegay was meticulously researched and contained the correct herbs and spices according to the position of the bearer. Paddy had a very individual way of being able to talk to anyone about almost everything. She never failed to amaze with her skills: one day she carried a brace of pheasants from Rugby on the train (first class of course), on the Underground and up to the 7th floor, where she set about showing colleagues how to draw and pluck the birds. We never did find out what the cleaners thought of the bin contents that evening! Colleagues will have many such stories of Paddy – one amazing lady!

Paddy’s career in the Prison Service started as a bet, which saw her joining Holloway as an Officer in 1972. Instead of only lasting the expected few months Paddy went from strength to strength with a wide-ranging career in HMPS and as Paddy described, “remained there perfectly contentedly” until her retirement. She was promoted to Governor Grade in 1976, with her first posting as an AG to Leyhill, where regularly she was ably assisted by a ventriloquist’s dummy called Gerald. Whilst taking prisoner

applications Gerald would sit on Paddy's filing cabinet. Upon hearing the request Paddy would look over her shoulder and say "What do you think Gerald?" She would then tell the prisoner what Gerald had decided.

During her Service Paddy worked with both male and female prisoners and served in all categories and types of establishments as well as leading a Security Audit Team, tutoring at Newbold Revel and a secondment to Lifer Section at Headquarters, which was based on the 7th floor at Cleland House. Many will never forget Paddy climbing the stairs to the 7th floor, always in her high heels, as she wouldn't use the lifts! During 1996-1997 she relished the challenge of re-opening the mothballed Foston Hall as a women's prison. Paddy told the story of walking out of Cleland House one day with Richard Tilt, the then Director General, and by the time they reached Strutton Ground she had secured her first in-charge position. Such was her enthusiasm and passion for creating the right environment for female prisoners. The years working in a training capacity brought her into contact with many of the people who would later go on to become senior, or very senior figures in the Service, including several Director Generals, Area and Regional Managers. This would prove to be advantageous to her later in her roles with the PGA as dealing with senior managers at all levels held no fear for her, and indeed she would often tell the Committee before a meeting with the DG, that, "He will not be a problem, remember I knew him when he was wet behind the ears". In later years Paddy would allude to having some interesting photographs in her top desk drawer in case someone needed reminding of their past – there is no evidence these were ever used as a bargaining tool to acquire funding or to achieve the latest scheme for the benefit of the prisoners and staff but they were often mentioned.

It is well known, and well documented, that Paddy was a founder member of the PGA and was instrumental in the break away from the Civil Service Union that at the time represented, or as Paddy was always keen to point out, failed to represent the interests of Prison Governors. From the time of these events in 1987, until her retirement in 2014, she was always involved in anything and everything that the PGA did. She was passionate, almost to the point of fanatical, about the role, values and the relevance of the PGA in not only in representing the interests of Governor Grades within the Service, but also in representing the standards and principles by which the Service was run, and how the Service treated the prisoners whose care with which it was entrusted. Her attention to detail was second to none. This in turn led to her holding the very ardent view that the introduction of privately run prisons was "morally wrong", as she believed that as it was the State that sent people to prison, it should be the State's responsibility to directly operate the prisons in which people were held, and not a "for profit company".

In her role as PGA Finance Officer Paddy ensured that the organisation remained solvent, whilst at the same time providing a level of support to members that meant that even Governor grades who were not particularly motivated with regard to Trade Union membership were happy to join the PGA because of the support and protection it provided. Many of these support services were established by Paddy who worked hard to

ensure that whilst the Association provided this, the subscription levels remained reasonable and affordable. In addition, she also made sure that the Association was in a position to provide a sane and professional voice on those occasions when things went wrong for the Service. As Finance Officer, through the implementation of a one-off levy, she made sure that the Association was in a position to be able to respond, and fully engage with the huge and wide-ranging enquiry that followed the events of April 1990 when serious disruption at Strangeways, and several other establishments, almost brought the Service to its knees. Many are of the view that this was indeed the “coming of age” of the PGA and, as always, Paddy was there at the forefront.

In 2013 Paddy was awarded the OBE in the New Year’s Honours List for services to HM Prison Service. The award was well deserved, but as always Paddy was very modest about her achievements, side-stepping recognition and praise with comments like, “I was just doing my job”. However, we all knew that Paddy was very proud of what she had achieved during her working life, but really would have loved to have been Lady Patricia Scriven! There is no doubt that during her time as Governor of Foston Hall Paddy was truly “in her element”. This is a unique prison establishment, was governed by a unique woman, and although not completely unheard of, it was certainly unusual for anyone to govern an establishment for 10 years unbroken. Foston Hall and Paddy suited each other. Her passion for ensuring that female prisoners were treated with dignity and care was renowned and she became an advocate for what she sometimes saw as the “poor relative of the Service”. Paddy maintained her own personal style but was never afraid to “get her hands dirty”, responding to an alarm bell alongside the best of them. Her calming influence and presence will be remembered by all that served their time at Foston Hall – both staff and prisoners. Paddy knew every member of staff by name, as well as their families, and always took the time to ask how they were and took an interest in what they were doing. It cannot be overstated that she had an encyclopaedic knowledge of everyone in the Service, as well as those who had left, and an incredible memory for detail.

Foston Hall is based around a 17th century former Hunting Lodge which is a Grade 1 listed building. Paddy was a Governor who cared not only about the staff and prisoners in her care, but about the establishment as well. It was important for her that whilst the establishment expanded, developed and offered a wide range of employment and training opportunities for prisoners, the history of the place was not forgotten. As a result, the “Main House”, as it was known, and in particular the Governor’s office, had no equal within the Service with regard to space, view and grandeur. The Works staff, in particular, will have many a story to tell about the “To Do” list which never diminished, and the Regional Works Manager, who was expected to always produce the funding to make “To Do” “done”.

Paddy “retired” from Foston Hall in 2007 to take up the position of General Secretary of the Association. In fact, she was the last person to hold this position, as a complete overhaul to the Facilities Time Agreement saw major changes introduced, resulting in the

Prison Service no longer funding the General Secretary role. In order to see in these changes Paddy worked beyond her retirement age and was instrumental in ensuring that the transition went as smoothly as possible, and that the Association remained in a position to not only be able to provide support to members, but to be able to continue to provide a voice of reason and common sense, as the Service seemed to enter a period of extreme difficulty as staff numbers reduced and day-to-day problems mounted. Paddy fully retired from the PGA and the Service in 2014, looking forward to being able to spend time in her garden, travelling and doing more of the things she didn't have time for whilst working.

Paddy was notorious for her poor timekeeping, and for being late for everything. On one occasion an Area Meeting was being held and at 10:30 in the morning everyone was present and ready to start, including Paddy. At this point the Area Manager made a point of saying to her how pleased he was that on this one occasion she was on time, to which she responded without hesitation, or embarrassment, "It is only because I thought you were starting at 10". On many occasions Paddy would walk through her office door saying she had either been stuck behind a JCB, her hairdryer had broken, the shower wouldn't work, she had been horse riding earlier or she had seen a ladder in her tights and had to go back and change. She was amazing; she never missed a breath and went straight into the meeting or whatever was taking place. This was a lady with real style and confidence. She used to say to those closest to her, "One day the late Miss Scriven will really be the late Miss Scriven!"

Anyone who knew Paddy will have their own story or anecdote to tell about her, and there can be no better way for people to remember her, and to keep her memory alive than to continue telling those stories. As with any larger-than-life character some stories may have become myths and others, although true in origin, actually only tell half the story. Whatever category your memory of Paddy falls into I am sure that you will continue to share those stories and memories for years to come. She was a great one for anecdotes herself, and often meetings would be side-tracked when a particular name or event was mentioned, and this brought a story to her mind that then had to be shared, irrespective of relevance to the meeting, or timing. PGA Committee meetings often ran far longer than required simply because of these "excursions". As soon as Paddy launched into one of these tales from the past, one Committee member would make the sound of a klaxon and issue the warning "anecdote alert", although this never once stopped her.

Paddy Scriven was unique, kind-hearted, strong, generous, supportive, honest, eloquent, straight-talking and intelligent with real vision and insight, but in many respects a very private person who valued her privacy. May she **Rest in Peace** and her memory live on with all of us who will remember her forever, and truly miss her.

Compiled by Graham Mumby-Croft and Carole Jones, with heartfelt thanks to those who contributed to this fitting tribute

YOUR LETTERS

You thought I had retired: so did I. I have from the Committee but remain committed to the Newsletter and working with my replacement, my friend and colleague **Roger Outram**. We have agreed to share this edition and Roger will gradually stamp his own style on future editions. Firstly though, I wish to thank you all for your contributions and positive comments over the years. I cannot believe I have been at it for 18 years, so it is clearly time to move on, but it has been a real thrill and joy to hear from so many, and I will miss that. Also too many of my contemporaries have now passed on. I would also wish to thank the current Committee for their splendid gift of a beautiful garden bench in recognition of my efforts; I was rather overwhelmed by their generosity. Its' timing was also significant as it arrived just as I had received news of the death my long-standing friend, **Alan Rawson**: its' arrival really did help cheer my spirits.

It also gives me chance to say a formal farewell to Alan whose funeral I attended on 2nd of January at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Shelf. Alan was born in 1938, and grew up in Little Horton where he was a member of All Saints Church choir. He was also the only boy in Bradford in the 1950s to win a free scholarship to Bradford Grammar School. It was a great honour for Alan and his Headmaster. He had a younger twin brother and sister and they all adored each other. The family took their summer holidays in either Scarborough or Bridlington, and one year his mother persuaded the 14-year-old Alan to take part in a talent competition on the pier. He played the piano brilliantly and won first prize.

Alan was eligible for National Service, and enquired of his older school mates what his best option was. As Alan was good with languages, and liked his food, they suggested the intense Chinese Course in the RAF which was held at a country house and served up very good food. So Alan was selected, trained and passed out as proficient. The rationale behind the whole exercise was that those who qualified would be based in Hong Kong and listen in to the Chinese radio transmissions to pick up what they were planning or plotting. The final hurdle was the medical, which the RAF left to the very end having invested time and effort in the training, and Alan was deemed 'unfit' to serve abroad. So he never left England let alone seeing Hong Kong, which he would have adored. He never lost his love of the language.

Alan initially worked in a bank, and then tried being a librarian. Suddenly, applied, to his families' surprise, in 1962 he applied to become a trainee Governor in the Prison Service. Nobody can recall what motivated this, but it was the Service's gain. He was initially posted to Usk Borstal, where he received the Secretary of State's commendation for bravery in apprehending two armed absconders.

He transferred to Dover Borstal where we first met. We both gave up our Saturdays off to play rugby with the lads' team, mostly away matches and we never lost a lad. We had a lot in common, and the rugby probably cemented the relationship. Alan moved to Wetherby and I to Pollington, so we were near enough to keep in touch, but still played rugby but for our respective Borstals, so against each other now. At this point Alan was seeing a most attractive and personable young lady, but due to the interference of somebody who had no right, it came to an end, and Alan remained a bachelor all his life.

When I married and had children, Alan became part of the family and came on holiday with us, often to Salzburg which Alan adored as there was music everywhere. Then later we ventured further afoot and drove to Croatia, a country which we all loved and continued to go until Alan was no longer able to travel.

Alan also served at Manchester, Albany, and then as Deputy Governor at Wakefield when **Brian Emes** was the Governor. I had been posted to the Staff College in Love Lane and soon after my arrival Alan popped in to alert me that one of my house officers from Dover, **Freddy Fearon**, had gone to Leeds on Promotion

but had got into some trouble there and been demoted and posted to Wakefield, so that if I bumped into him, to be a bit sensitive. I bore it in mind, and few days later set off to go into town at lunch time: coming up Love lane were several officers. Suddenly from 100 yards away a voice boomed, 'Hi Mr. Duncan, it's me Freddy. I got into trouble at Leeds so they demoted me and sent me here'. So much for sensitivity!

Alan also served in Headquarters in the Young Offenders' Division where he felt he could make a real contribution. With his wealth of knowledge he was respected by the career civil servants, and his approach was to support and encourage the Governors and staff of the establishments within his remit. He was also Governor of Cardiff during the period when the Service was facing a spate of riots, and he handled the one at Cardiff well. He was at this point very popular with many colleague rugby fans, as they all wished to know if they could park at the prison for the matches at Cardiff Arms Park. He was then asked to take charge of the opening and management of the new prison Holme House near Stockton-on Tees, which he did very successfully, and that was how he came to live in Ingleby Arncliffe.

You never knew what to expect when you visited Alan except that you would be made comfortable and well looked after. On one visit he said, 'Be careful when you go into the kitchen, there is a bit of a problem with the floor.' That was an understatement: there was no floor, just a long plank from one side to the other which bent when you reached the middle. He had the habit of running the kitchen tap for the washing up and then wandering and being distracted by something else that caught his attention. Who sorted it all out? - His brother-in-law Robin. They were a very close-knit family and would do anything for each other.

Alan was also President of his local cricket club, and served on the local council. I can recall when he came down to visit me in Cambridgeshire and we went to Spalding for Alan to buy sacks of daffodil bulbs. He had all the hedgerows and grass borders planted with them. So if you are ever driving through Ingleby Arncliffe in the Spring, and see a host of golden daffodils, think of Alan.

He was a kind and generous man, a fine musician, a good cook and a proficient knitter of jumpers and toys, well-read and with a zest for life which he lived to the full. He was also a character and a free spirit never short of ideas on how he wished to live his life. He sadly entered a nursing home for the last few years of his life, where he was very well looked after (all the female residents adored him) and he never complained. It was sad to see him so incapacitated but he retained his dry wit to the end and loved recounting some of the laughs we had on our various adventures abroad. Farewell dear friend, there is always a place in my heart for you.

It was good to meet up with some other dear colleagues at the funeral: **Mike Newell, Tim Newell, Bill Martin, Walter MacGowan, and Veronica Bird**, all looking well for their age. I had been in touch with **Brian Emes**, as he and **Al Papps** used to meet up every so often for lunch until Alan had to give up driving. Brian (84) said he would have liked to have attended the funeral but age and the weather meant it was impossible, which applies to many of our colleagues now. Brian said he was well for his age, but was only now really in contact with **Al** and **Joe Pilling**.

Some who came to the funeral depended on others to get them there. **David Neal** who knew Alan from the time he was in Headquarters and had kept in touch, believed in the advert 'to let the train take the strain.' Unfortunately his particular train from London was feeling the 'strain' and broke down and got him there 3 hours late! So alternative travel arrangements do not always turn out as expected! He formally retired from the Prison Service in 2002, many will remember him from when he worked in

Suicide Prevention and he made many visits to establishments. David also undertook some work with the Health Service, and has also been involved with voluntary work. He remains in touch with **Brian Caffery**, and they meet up every so often. Like others mentioned above, he is not able to drive long distances anymore, but does still drive locally. He is re-learning to play the violin and learning more foreign languages, currently Russian! He is a keen bird watcher and has trip planned to Armenia and Georgia, hence the Russian. He clearly lives a varied and versatile life in retirement. He wishes to send his good wishes to all those who remember him.

Pentonville Prison celebrated 175 years of its' opening on the 21st December 2017. I was privileged to be involved in some of the preparation, so knew that they planned to invite back as many ex-Governors as they could contact. **Bill Abbott** was the only other one to make it; he has fully retired now from all the other work he took up on retirement. **Kevin Brewer** was contacted, he now lives in France and stated he was not interested in anything to do with Prison Service (not surprising as he did not take much interest when he was in it !) The only other Governor still around that I knew was **Rowland Adams**, but at over 90 he was not up to the travel. My contact at Pentonville had told me he had traced relations and descendents of former Governors; one name he mentioned was **Gareth Davies**. On the celebration day I was at the Gate booking in when another invited guest arrived, and introduced himself as **Gareth Davies**. I responded by stating that I knew Governor Davies. He replied that he doubted it, as the Davies he was related to was the 9th Governor (1905-1919). Even I am not that old!

It was a fascinating event as they had traced a direct descendent of the of the first Governor **Robert Hoskings** and of the famous architect **Joshua Jebb**. Neither had been in a prison before but were proud of their ancestor and wanted to talk about what they had achieved. There were also descendants of the original Board of Commissioners. Pentonville was unique in that it was established by its' own Act of Parliament, given Royal Assent by Queen Victoria on 18th June 1842, and instead of the normal Committee of Visiting Justices, it had a Board of Commissioners personally appointed by the Queen on advice from her Privy Council. The original Board were an impressive lot and included: Lord Wharnccliffe, Duke of Richmond, Earl of Devon, Earl of Chichester, Lord John Russell, the Speaker of the House of Commons, Major Joshua Jebb, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Bart, and Rev Whitworth Russell.

What was of interest talking to the variety of invited guests was firstly their slight anxiety on the thought of entering a prison, but secondly how impressed they all were with the staff they had met and with the cleanliness and range of facilities available in the prison, so do not believe all you read in the media. Having mentioned the media, allow me to set out how fickle a lot of it is. If you have good news they are not interested, as demonstrated by a very positive Press Release from Elmley Prison last year. This year The Independent Monitoring Board Report (composed in October/November 2017), but not released by the Secretariat until 18th January 2018) had quite a lot to say about Carillion which was of course very topical at the moment of the Report's release. Just to give a flavor of what was written:

'The works services which are provided by Carillion have been a total disaster. The Board reported last year on the inefficiency of the service and despite re-assurances by the Minister that it would improve, the Board are unable to detect any such improvement. When it takes 3 months to attend to a major leak, with thousands of cubic metres of water being wasted, let alone the cost to the establishment; when it takes 3 months to replace 3 plastic bolts on the toilet doors in the Ladies in the Visitors' Centre; when basic maintenance to equipment in the kitchen is not undertaken, when damage to cells has not been attended to for long periods; it is a serious situation. The works' staff are themselves willing; it is the

mountain of bureaucracy that is the problem.

Prisons have had their own internal workforce since 1842 when Pentonville was opened, and it has worked well to everyone's satisfaction. It has been known that someone in the upper echelons of power has desired to contract out Works Services for over 20 years, so it was not a rushed job planned on the back of a cigarette packet. Allegedly detailed financial analysis was undertaken which revealed that £125 million would be saved. What was surprising from the outcome was the selection of Carillion, as the firm was known to be heavily in debt prior to the contract being agreed. The Board had to assume that the same level of performance would continue and with a saving of £125 million it was difficult to see any objection. In fact it was subsequently revealed that neither condition had been met. Repairs to prisoner accommodation were not attended to amongst other deficiencies and the saving of £125 million completely disappeared because someone had not understood the financial implications and used the wrong figures! The Board has to ask how you can miscalculate to the tune of £125 million.

This has been a catastrophic blunder: Carillion has just reported a £1.2 billion pre-tax loss for the last trading year and has a huge pension deficit. The Board would recommend and urge the Minister to restore works services to an "in-house works department."

This generated quite a lot of local media interest, and particularly with live radio interviews, if you plan you can dictate to some extent other news you wish to get across such as some of the positive developments at the establishment. So to get media attention it is often just a stroke of luck according to what is 'topical' at the time.

The other interesting issue is how badly briefed a number of these local radio personalities are, and it is not too difficult to correct them, which gives you the upper hand. I thank those early days on the PGA committee when we all learnt to deal regularly with the media. Such fun when you pull it off!

I last saw **John and Jean Childs** at Bernard's funeral; they had kept in touch over the years visiting each other. John states they spent Christmas at their daughter as 'they spoil us rotten.' Always good to hear of the elderly being cared for! They still have one son living and working in Hong Kong, and another in Singapore. They have 4 grandsons all doing degrees at British universities, though one is in care work whilst also studying. John and Jean do not travel abroad now as they used to, but they do get out for a walk every day.

I managed to fit in a visit to **Danny and Joan Ozanne**: as ever they remain cheerful, although Joan has difficulty walking and Danny has regular checkups at the hospital. He will be 90 later this year, and is looking very good for his age. We indulged in several trips down 'memory lane' of times we shared in the Service. It makes so much difference when you can share such happy memories.

Paul Wailen sends brief news that he is well and continues to lead a busy life with his circle of friends and with his frequent travelling abroad. We have by co-incidence both recently been to Lake Bled in Slovenia: it is a delightful country with magnificent scenery of beautiful valleys and high mountains. The lake itself is so serene.

Ron and Sue Curtis who are themselves well, but like so many of us now, it has been a year of too many funerals. Their passion for Scotland remains and they were off to Orkney again, this time to see the archaeological site at the Ness of Brodgar which is only active for a few weeks in the summer. So far they have found remains going back to 5,000BC. Ron also went with his two sons backpacking on the Orkney island of Hoy in late September. It was wet, windy but wonderful. They have also been to visit their son in

Eindhoven where he lives and works. Ron says it is a city that is constantly developing, not least on the site of the old Philips factories, once the major industry in the city.

I have had a fascinating letter from **Rowland Adams**, who claims to be one of the oldest of the retired Governors at 94, who can still put pen to paper and I can read it. He joined the Prison and Borstal Service at Portland in 1947, firstly as a House Master, renamed Gov 5, then A.G.2. (It goes on: now you would be a band E!) He writes, 'I retired from Pentonville in 1983 after 6 years as a Governor 1, which gives me 36 years' service and so far 34 years' pension. I wanted to add my thanks to you for all the hard work you have put in with the RPGA. Over the years the Newsletter has developed considerably and is an excellent way of keeping in touch with old friends.

I am delighted to note that strong criticism is being made of the current state of prisons. As Governor of Pentonville I worked hard to keep it clean and efficient and, despite Headquarters, I think I achieved that. I was proud to be Governor of Pentonville and was shocked to read that in 2013- 2015 it had been considered 'unfit for purpose'. The Prison Service had once been a proud and close-knit service. I regret that it is no longer so. Of course there are many reasons for this but Headquarters must be mainly at fault. Apart from osteoporosis, which makes walking any distance painful, I am in good shape. I still drive, but only short distances. I have an excellent team of helpers who keep the garden, the cottage and me up to scratch. Thank goodness for a pension.

Every best wishes. Rowland.'

How lovely to receive such an inspirational letter. We all hope your pension will last longer than your service.

I have recently met up with **Chris Scott** now that he has moved to Kent. He is missing the Midlands where he grew up and where he retired. He says it was a round table decision by his family, which he lost! He now lives in a delightful village in north Kent with a good library, excellent medical practice and essential shops all in walking distance, and members of his family nearby. He has the onset of Alzheimer's but it is being contained at the moment. We were able to talk 'prisons' for several hours nonstop, but Chris says he was sent to buy some meat at the local butcher/vegetable store with even a list, but could not recall what he was suppose to buy, so returned with a cabbage! He misses meeting up with **John Aldridge** which he used to do regularly, but keeps in touch by phone. He says John is very well and goes to the gym regularly and follows a healthy lifestyle. I can still remember the magnificent buffet lunches John used to serve up when we had Regional Meetings at Stoke Heath.

Chris is also in touch with **Mike Lewis** by phone. Mike is still involved in his coin collection and is well known for it locally. He had a bad spate of 'flu over Christmas, but is now fully recovered. Unfortunately, like so many now, driving any distance is no longer an option.

News from **Abi Sheik** that it has been a difficult year as his wife Zarina has continuous back pain and cannot walk far nor do any household chores, except she insists on doing the cooking. She is only prescribed pain killers, which have little effect, as any other possible treatment would be very expensive. Abi still looks after the gardens at the community centre, but finds it more difficult now to do as much as is required. The difficult part is the large pond: keeping that clean and the fountain running takes a lot of effort. At the end of the day when I see people taking photographs and I hear their comments, he feels gratified. he reflects whether in these times of financial restraint, we ought to revert back to the old 'Stars and Ordinaries' system, and concentrate education and training on the Stars (first offenders) as

they have a much higher success rate.

Dave and Ann Simons have been through a rough patch health wise: last year Dave had heart problems requiring him to be in hospital for a period, and Ann had to go in for kidney stone removal. When that was all over they both went down with 'flu. Then Dave slipped and pulled all the muscles in his back so was receiving treatment from a physiotherapist Ann then had a bad fall and broke the ball of the ball and socket joint in her left shoulder in five pieces and also fractured the left side of her pelvis. Ann is now recovering, albeit slowly, so Dave has been busy on the domestic front, and says he is 'confined to barracks'. Despite all that he still remains cheerful and wishes to send his best regards to all his colleagues.

Sheila and Jim Blakey have also been facing health problems; Sheila with her ongoing problems with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Jim being ill last year, so that Sheila had problems coming down the stairs and Jim going up – sounds like 'Jack and Jill went up the hill and Jack fell down and Jill came tumbling after' - but no longer: they decided it was time to buy a bungalow. That turned into a bit of a nightmare, they wished to move to Long Buckby but found there was a severe shortage of bungalows. Their first attempt at a nice property in the grounds of the oldest house in the village had to be aborted when they discovered they would have to take out a policy for £75,000 to cover a joint responsibility for an extensive stone wall surrounding both properties. Also some very large trees very close to the bungalow had a Preservation Order and could not be removed. A second property became available; they initially felt it was too small, but took advice and decided they could have it adapted as they wanted. They had to be quick as there were 6 other parties interested in it and then they brought in the experts to re- design it as they wanted, followed by 12 stressful weeks of builders on site, finishing just before Christmas. Jim says it is in a very quiet spot and they are finding it much easier than the house. Their son, Paul and Lynn live only 5 minutes walk away and walk their dog round regularly. Well done, let's hope life will be hassle-free now! They send their best wishes to everyone.

The Rev Tom Johns (he was the new chaplain at Wellingborough Borstal when I was there in the seventies) has sent a lovely little missive about one of his inmate orderlies who in September became a member of the Monastic Order at Mirfield. He writes, 'I packed my life in a basement room and was allowed to take a few things to my small bedroom/study, a rather dramatic downsize from my flat. Monastic life has begun, and it is good. Here each morning our day of prayer starts at 7.30 with Matins, followed by breakfast then lectures until midday Eucharist. We live in common life: that means we dress the same, eat the same and prefer the needs of others over ourselves. That is not as easy as it sounds: I do tend to speak my mind, which keeps things a little realistic.'

On the 30th January I attended the book launch at Pentonville Prison of **Veronica Bird's** book, 'Veronica's Bird'. The prison staff could not have been more helpful, and Veronica spoke regularly in her many interviews of the quality of staff in the Service. The book received a full review in the Sunday Times colour supplement and in the Northern Echo. More will now follow, as well as television, and book launches.

It was a privilege for me to be back at Pentonville and to be greeted by so many staff who still remembered me. It is still a 'great prison': it just needs those in 'power' to recognize that and allocate finance to its' upkeep. We do not need to waste millions on badly-designed, badly-located, and overpriced privately financed deals likely to need major refurbishment within a short space of time. Prisoners and their families are happy with the location of London prisons, and do not wish to have to travel miles to some desolate outpost.

Harry Crew has also been busy on the computer and has published a book entitled 'Prisons I have Known', the two central establishments are Gloucester and Askam Grange.

Mike Selby, who is only just back from another trip to New Zealand, has provided excellent reviews of both books; and they are included separately. Readers will note that in both cases some of the finance raised will be going to charities associated with the Prison Service. So there you are, spoilt for choice!

Now it is time to hand over to Roger.

Bob Duncan

Feb 2018

Dear Reader,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Roger Outram and I find myself the new, if not improved, "Your Letters" Editor of this prestigious publication. I have recently become a Committee member and this position was bestowed on me by my very good friend Bob Duncan who has been editing this section of the magazine for many years.

My prison journey commenced in 1974 as an Officer at HMP Leeds where I was promoted to SO in 1982 and remained at Leeds until 1988 when I was seconded into the PSITG group to install LIDS in the North Region. I was promoted to PO in 1991 and joined the commissioning team at HMP Belmarsh, where I spent two years as PO i/c the Special Secure Unit. I was subsequently promoted to GV and Head of Security (Operations) leaving Belmarsh in 1999 to become the Deputy Controller at HMP Wolds where I was promoted to 'E' grade (GIV in old money and Band 8 in new). After 2 years there I transferred to HMP Doncaster as Deputy Controller, where I had a succession of Controllers who were simply transitioning into Governing Governor roles. As a result I spent most of the time I was at Doncaster temporarily promoted to D grade (GIII, now band 9) from where I retired the Service in 2004.

I suspect that my approach to the task will, needs must, be very different to that of Bob's because many of the members are so well known to Bob personally and thus he was able to personalise much of his letters section content. While I recognise many names in the membership I am never going to have the depth of knowledge brought to the task as Bob. All I can promise is that I will faithfully represent all the contributions made by you, the readers, and hope that you continue to keep us informed of your doings over the next years.

Please correspond with me as you did with Bob and we will soon be well acquainted

My contact details are:

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Prisons I Have Known (An unexpected life Inside) by Harry Crew.

Published by Eebygumbooks

Distributed by Amazon

Long ago, when I was working at Huntercombe Borstal , in charge of sport, amongst other duties, I arranged a day out for the staff of Borstal Aftercare with a cricket match: our "lads" against their staff. That is how Harry and I first met, as he was a young clerical assistant in that curious organization. Now we meet again, 60 years later in this excellent autobiography.

Harry sensitively traces his family origin and influences that brought him to apply to join the Prison Service as an Assistant Governor. His description of the staff course emphasizes the wide variation of backgrounds of the trainees. This diversity was always strength of the Governor grades. Significantly, he recalls a lecturer who emphasized a choice he had in his career, either to be a functionary of the system OR to try to change and improve it. This was a guiding principle.

The accounts of his work and the anecdotes reveal a person who was decent and caring. So far so good, though why is this work being strongly recommended?

There are two sections of particular value.

The first describes his period as deputy governor of Gloucester prison. In 1985 cuts in the budget were enforced and the process resulted in the staff refusing to obey instructions--in effect-- Mutiny. This is fascinating and his description of the events and his own harrowing involvement is vivid. So what was the result? It was all an evasion. Worth studying by a PhD Criminology student, but as Gloucester prison suffered from the Grayling Cull, presumably all records and those concerned are dispersed beyond recall.

The second is Chapter 6 "Governing". This describes his 9 years as Governor of Askham Grange. He claims that his lifetime experience culminated in this achievement. In addition is the essence to successful governing, encapsulated in Proverbs "Without Vision the people perish" and the vision of 'Prison I Have Known' by Mary Size, who opened Askham in 1947, was crucial. He describes the grotty circumstances of his inheritance--"drifting and without direction in the absence of the Governor who had been covered by a succession of temporary reliefs". He had to overcome the staff expectation that he would be yet another transitory person or that he had been sent to close it down. Unexpected support came from that underrated Director General Derek Lewis, who showed far more interest and concern for women prisoners than any other Director. Alas, that his intentions were lost when he was sacked.

Harry's conclusions on his retirement were that Governors increasingly had to concentrate on contract management rather than governing, as he knew it. Certainly the Ministry of Justice, with its rapid change of politicians in charge, has no perception of the task. It is significant that the legacy if his work at Askham was to enable his successors to fight off the proposals for closure.

My advice would be that when- and if - there is to be training for staff members actually to govern an establishment, this excellent book should provide a case study on what it is all about. And a copy sent to the Justice Minister.

Meanwhile you are recommended to read it. You can purchase through Amazon at £4.99 (plus postage) and the royalty goes to the charity 'Women in Prison'.

Michael Selby

Prisons I Have Known (An unexpected Life Inside) by Harry Crew

The notion of developing and publishing the book arose when Harry attended a presentation by Brian Lewis at a Yorkshire Arts charity event. Brian's topic was "A Book In A Day", which encourages communities to recognise their values by putting their achievements in writing. He thought not enough governors had written about their experiences of what, to most people, is a hidden world. Harry took up his suggestion.

Primarily he wanted to give his children more insight into what his work had entailed while they were growing up and also to get across to them that to develop and pursue a purpose in life might ultimately bring, as he had found, real satisfaction. He also wanted to make the point of the differences between working in male and female environments and the worse impact prison has on women.

His book, "Prisons I Have Known (An Unexpected Life Inside)" is aimed at anyone who is interested in a practitioner's view of working in prison: the unpleasant, amusing and the satisfying. It does not try in any way to explain the purpose or justification for imprisonment. Perhaps, for the reader without any knowledge of the prison system, it might have helped to have explained the reasoning behind the provision of Mother and Baby Units.

His historical references to his family work traditions put a very personal touch to his book. I had not appreciated how similar our childhood had been despite him being born "within the sound of Bow bells" and I being born in the North East.

I enjoyed the snippets of prison humour. They brought to mind many, many similar episodes throughout my own career. Much of that humour and banter, which helped staff form relationships and get through the day would, sadly, now be considered "politically incorrect". We were able to manage some really damaged people with a laugh and a joke while maintaining that essential barrier.

Like Harry I remember the self examination, prior to taking up my first 'in charge' post, as to whether I would be able to put into practice what I hoped to achieve and his description of the events at Gloucester provided a sad reminder of the very traumatic period of industrial relations suffered by the Service at the time.

Harry comments towards the end of his book "Do I regret my time? No. I am pleased to haveparticipated at a time when there was a tacit agreement between Home Secretaries of whatever hue that the Prison Service was a Public Service and that Governors were given wide discretion and were expected to lead as well as manage their prisons". We were fortunate in that we were allowed to use discretion, make decisions and occasionally take chances. I do not believe those currently governing prisons have the same level of freedom.

An enjoyable read.

Jim Blakey

The Royalties from this book will be directed to the "Women in Prison" charity.

From The Treasurer.

You will all no doubt be aware of the work that has been ongoing to bring the subscription system up to date, with the aim of ensuring that the association remains solvent for the foreseeable future. I am therefore pleased to be able to confirm that it is beginning to look as if the exercise was worth undertaking, as my preliminary work on preparing the books for audit indicates that in 2017 the accounts show a slight surplus of income over expenditure for the first time in 4 years.

This is of course subject to confirmation through audit: however, the headline figures are that income from subscriptions in 2017 was £5882.00p against £5534.00p in 2016 and expenditure was £5290.31p for 2017 against a figure of £6232.21 for 2016. While income each year is relatively static, the expenditure figures always contain a number of variables that I may pay in one year but not in another, (e.g. diaries) or where the cost varies, for example the Newsletter where each edition costs a different amount because of the number of pages produced. Taking all this into account, the bottom line is that the cash balance for the Association's current accounts improved by the sum of £629.70p in 2017. Full details of the audited accounts will be available at the AGM in June, and will be published in the Autumn Newsletter.

One changeable figure is the overall amount that we pay as donations in memory of colleagues who have passed away, or occasionally to a colleague who has served on the Committee and is stepping down from those duties. One such recent occasion has been the retirement from the committee of Bob Duncan who for many years has been the bastion of the "Your Letters" section of the Newsletter. Bob will officially step down from this position at the 2018 AGM but, in anticipation of this, the Committee decided it was only fitting that we mark Bob's retirement, recognise the enormous contribution he has made to the association, and demonstrate the high regard in which he is held, by presenting him with a suitable gift. To this end we purchased a hardwood garden bench, (our inside resources had assured us this would be well received), and this was delivered to Bob just before Christmas. The cost of this was a combination of personal contributions from everyone on the Committee, plus a contribution from an individual member, and the sum of £64.99 from RPGA funds. I hope you will all agree that this was money well spent, and join me in wishing Bob many more happy years to come. A big 'Thank You' to Bob for all that he has done to keep this Association and its' membership informed and in contact with one another.

As indicated in my piece in the Autumn Newsletter, I have now closed the old Lloyds Current Account, which means that from January 1st 2018 The Association has a single current account into which all subscriptions are paid. An additional benefit of this is that it eventually brings to an end the situation where we were receiving payments from the accounts of people where all attempts to make contact with them had failed, and some of whom we feel sure are no longer with us. At this point it is always useful to remind members that because we collect subscriptions through Standing Orders, we are unable to instruct your bank to either make a payment, or to stop one. With this in mind if you activate a new Standing Order, for instance to change the rate at which you pay your subscriptions, then please remember that **you** need to cancel the old standing order instruction, otherwise you will pay twice, and I cannot stop this happening.

As always I am happy to answer any questions members may have regarding the finances and with this in mind please feel free to email me at graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com

Graham Mumby-Croft

Treasurer

THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL CARE - THE GREAT QUESTION OF OUR AGE

I think I can safely say that if you are a person of a certain age, as we all are, is that the burning question of our age is not the exit from the EU, it is in fact social care. Those who voted Conservative could probably have done without their party's manifesto stumble over social care, but I would like to think that we were all glad that for once it reached the top of the political agenda. The downside was that on balance more heat than light was generated. The phrase "dementia tax" which was trumpeted by the Labour Party lowered the tone of the debate considerably, but fairness demands that I point out that the Labour had come up with proposals unfairly dubbed a "death tax" by their Conservative opponents during the previous parliament. It would help immensely if somehow this issued became depoliticised, but at times I think we are more likely to see flying pigs.

Contrary to what some journalists would have you believe, most social care is actually provided by families. The National Audit Office estimates that the value of informal social care for the elderly is around £34 billion. Local Authorities spend around £10 billion on social care for the elderly, the NHS another £3 billion, and recipients self-fund to the tune of around £7 billion. The cost of social care can only escalate with increased life expectancy, and with older people forming a growing percentage of the population, the ratio of workers to pensioners can only decline. This demographic time bomb is no secret, but the response of successive governments has been to file it in the "too difficult" tray. Many of our members will have already experienced the system, either with their parents or their spouses (or both). They will have watched helplessly as the relative declines and their resources decline with them. Anyone requiring residential social care will not receive any state support until their assets decline to £23,500, including the value of the family home, the sale of which can be forced unless there is a relative over 60 years of age living on the premises. There is the option to defer payments until after death, but this will mean a charge being placed on the family home and penal interest rates will accrue.

There is considerable anger amongst families that hard earned capital, which has already been taxed, can be confiscated in this way, particularly when other residents who had no savings and did not own a home, receive their care free. Another anomaly arises when care is provided in the recipient's own home via direct payments. In these cases the value of the home is not included in the calculation. It was this loophole that the Conservatives sought to close, and they paid for it in votes at the recent General Election. A further injustice arises in that self-funders are forced to pay a higher rate to cover the shortfall in income to the private care companies, caused by the Local Authorities being unable or unwilling to pay what the companies claim is the rate needed to cover their costs and make a profit. The contra-argument is that it is only right that the better-off contribute to their own care when there are so many competing demands on public expenditure. Secondly it is argued, why should children enjoy an inheritance they done have nothing to earn?

A different line of argument is that the care of the old should be a matter for the family, and that the neglect of our elderly by families is a national disgrace. I have already indicated that families do rather more than their critics would credit, but families are constrained in a number of ways: lack of room in their own home for an elderly relative, the demands of work, and the fact the families have been scattered far and wide by social mobility. It should also be stressed that advanced dementia is well beyond the coping ability of most untrained people.

This brings me to a critical point. Senile dementia is no less a disease than cancer, but the former will be

treated as a means-tested social care case, and the latter offered free expensive treatment in the hope of remission. There is no tenable philosophical distinction between social care and health care, and therefore no logical justification for different funding approaches and different providers.

I am active in the West Yorkshire branch of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance. Our group is firmly of the view that there needs to be radical reform of the system starting with the premise that the NHS must take primary responsibility for social care. We argue that for those whose needs are assessed as substantial or critical, social care should be free at the point of use, in the same way as NHS treatment, thus protecting the recipient's assets in their entirety. Those who choose to go to the private sector would free to do so in the same way as people access private hospital beds or independent school places. The big question obviously is how this would be funded. There are three main ways of funding this policy which can be used singly or in combination: from taxation, from clamping down on the £42 billion annual shortfall to the exchequer from tax avoidance, and realigning government priorities within the £650 billion or so per annum of taxpayers' money it spends annually across the piece. It cannot be beyond the wit of government to slash tax dodging by at least one quarter. Voters could swiftly come up with ideas to realign priorities. According to whether you dress to the left or the right, Trident on the one hand and Overseas Aid on the other would be appealing targets. The income tax system works on the basis of the biggest burdens falling on broadest backs.

There are radical ideas out there which the government should at least consider. For example should people within twenty (or perhaps more) years of state pension age pay a higher rate of income tax, or alternatively a national insurance surcharge with the revenue hypothecated? These are ideas well worth considering and ones that would reinforce the concept of an intergenerational contract. However, government would need to ensure that middle aged people were not at the same time paying off student debt. An additional possibility is a levy on net estates above a nominal value, say £10,000. Any proposals will have winners and losers. If you use the tax and national insurance system, those fortunate enough to live to a ripe old age without needing care, will get nothing for their investment. However, you may ask, is the principal any different than insuring your car and your home? At least with social care your premium will not rise if you make a claim on the state. A levy on all estates protects the poorest in the same way as direct taxation. It also acknowledges the principal that property taxes which are a tax on capital, have a legitimate place in a fair revenue-raising system.

These are just some of the ideas that are around. They are much more radical than Dilnot and dispose of arguments about caps and floors. Unlike small change proposals such as means testing certain universal pensioner benefits, there is the scope to raise the kind of revenue needed to back up the money already allocated from taxation and bring about far-reaching reform. It will take time and money, but social care will need not only to be under the umbrella of the NHS, but provided almost entirely by the NHS. Back in 1979 64% of social care was provided by local authorities, that figure is now down to 6%. Outsourcing is a failed idea on which time should be called. Recipients of care suffer from poor standards and staff suffer from terms and conditions that have no place in a Britain that works for all. It is a national scandal that over 50% of staff in the social care industry are on zero hours contracts, and that some are not paid for the travelling time between patients. Will our political parties rise to the challenge? We shall see, but you can be assured that the various organisations that campaign on behalf of older people will continue to apply the pressure.

PAUL LAXTON

RPGA AGM 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Retired Prison Governors Association will be held on **6th June 2018** at **The Stratford Hotel, Arden Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6QQ.**

The day will start at 10.30 and end about 15.45. Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be provided, as well as a two-course lunch in the hotel's Quills Restaurant.

This venue was chosen because of its' central geographical position and its' accessibility, having good road and rail links. It was also thought that for members wishing to have a short break, Stratford provides a varied environment with plenty to see and do and, for those with their own transport, the surrounding areas are rich in interesting places to visit.

This hotel itself, which is located near the town centre, has 102 rooms of equal size. For anyone wishing to stay overnight or longer, rooms may be booked individually either on line or by telephone, 01789 271000.

This is something of a new departure for the RPGA brought about by consistent problems in dealing with the PSC at Newbold Revel and as such is a considerably more costly option, therefore those members bringing spouses, partners or friends to the event will be asked to pay £45 per head for each guest directly to cover the cost to the Association.

We will need to confirm numbers to the hotel 6 weeks before 6th June (i.e. by 25th April 2018) at which point the Association will have made the financial commitment and the hotel will not refund us, so we will be unable to refund you if you have booked for a spouse/partner/guest.

We hope that this event will be successful and that those attending will have an enjoyable day.

If you wish to join us, will you please complete the tear-off slip below and send it, along with a cheque made payable to the 'RPGA' for any guests, to Ray London (who is kindly collating the numbers) 14 James Court, Eynesbury, St. Neots, PE19 2QQ.

I/we will be attending the RPGA Reunion and AGM on 6th June 2018 at the Stratford Hotel, Arden Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6QQ

I/we will be bringing ___ guests for which a cheque is enclosed in the sum of £_____

Signed _____ Date _____

Ray London, 14 James Court, Eynesbury, St. Neots, PE19 2QQ

raymond_london@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

Provision of a free initial legal advice service. If a lawyer is then required to act on behalf of a member, the legal advisers discuss how they can help and likely costs.

Our **financial advisors** provide financial guidance and regulated advice to manage investment planning

BC Technologies provides a free service to CSPA members answering **computer problems** and gives advice on computer purchases.

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

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

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

We have entered into a charitable partnership with Hearing Star providing an **audiology/hearing aid service** available to members and their families.

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

**Mike Duggan, General Secretary,
CSPA Head Office, Grosvenor House,
125 High Street, Croydon,
Surrey CR0 9XP
Tel: 020 8688 8418**

Email: enquiries@cspa.co.uk – Website: www.cspa.co.uk

(Quote reference RPGA on applications)

A HISTORY of **GARTREE PRISON** **from 1961 (part two** **1992 - 2014)**

Chapter 3

POST DISPERSAL DAYS

6-4-1992

Gartree leaves the Dispersal system, replaced by the newly- built prison, Whitemoor, near March, Cambridgeshire.

29-5-1992

First pin phones introduced on D Wing.

1-10-1992

New Criminal Justice Act introduces current sentencing.

1-1-1993

Gartree's roll: 249 prisoners.

21-1-1993

New Visitors' Centre opened outside the Main Gate.

24-2-1993

Prolonged rooftop protest on Chapel Roof.

1-4-1993

Agency status introduced to Prison Service. Derek Lewis appointed as Director General introducing significant changes, including the "Decency Agenda", which controversially required staff to address prisoners as "Mister".

8-11-1993

Gartree's Therapeutic Centre (GTC) opened in F Wing.

1-1-1994

Gartree's roll: 270 prisoners.

6-6-1994

New sports hall / gymnasium opened, with the old one in A /D corridor, being used as a weights room.

15-8-1994

First visit by children from Chernobyl, as part of Lifer Days, organised by Officer Bob Gibson.

9-9-1994

6 Prisoners escape from Whitemoor Prison, including John Russell, who hijacked the helicopter used in the 1987 Gartree escape.

1-1-1995

Gartree's roll: 272 prisoners.

3-1-1995

Keith Rose, Andrew Rodgers (ex-Gartree prisoners) and Matthew Williams escape from Parkhurst Prison, on the Isle of Wight

16-10-1995

Director General Derek Lewis resigns following publication of the Learmont Report into the Whitemoor escapes in 1994 and pressure from the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.



Sir RICHARD TILT

Governor of Gartree 1985-87 who became the first former Governor to become Head of the Prison Service when he succeeded Derek Lewis as Director General

1996

Slopping out officially ended.

Gartree's roll on 1-1-1996 was 340 prisoners.

13-2-1996

Mandatory Drug Testing of prisoners introduced.

21-2-1997

Jimmy Robinson and Michael Hickey (Carl Bridgewater case) released by Appeal Court.

1997

Secretary of State Ken Clarke introduces "Next Steps" for the Prison Service.

Gartree's roll on 1-1-1997 was 359 prisoners.

19-7-1997

Pre-booked visits for prisoners introduced.

1-1-1998

Gartree's roll: 360 prisoners.

9-10-1998

Stephen Rimmer appointed as the 12th Governor.

27-11-1998

"In-cell" televisions introduced at Gartree.

1-1-1999

Gartree's roll: 365 prisoners.

28-1-1999

Home Detention Curfew (tagging) introduced by Prison Service.

6-4-1999

Group 4 start escorting prisoners to other establishments and the courts

Chapter 4

INTO THE MILLENNIUM

1-1-2000

Gartree's roll: 342 prisoners.

2-5-2000

Sue McAllister appointed as the 13th Governor and first female Governor of Gartree. She was later appointed as Director General of Northern Ireland Prison Service.

29-8-2000

Drug detector dogs become operational in prisons. Prisoners issued with their own cell courtesy keys, which could be over-ridden by officers' master keys.

2-10-2000

Human Rights Act introduced and applied in all Prisons.

1-1-2001

Gartree's roll: 310 prisoners.

21-5-2001

A Wing refurbishment commences.

1-1-2002

Gartree's roll: 279 prisoners.

20-5-2002

Joined the Senior Management Team at Gartree, as Head of Residence, where Phil Taylor was Acting Governor, following Sue McAllister's transfer to Onley Prison.

6-6-2002

Rannoch Daly appointed as the 14th Governor. He was the son of Lawrence Daly, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers.

13-8-2002

ECHR rules that the Parole Board decide post-tariff release dates for life sentenced prisoners, not the Secretary of State.

23-10-2002

Lincoln Prison riot.

25-11-2002

High Court rules that mandatory life sentences for murder are compatible with ECHR.

1-1-2003

Gartree's roll 280 prisoners and during the year the National Health Service assumes the role for health care in Prisons.

24-4-2003

Paul Gibson dies in the Health Care Centre, following years of self harm, including acts of swallowing various articles.

5-5-2003

My review of cooking facilities at Gartree, results in the removal of wing cookers and the introduction of microwave ovens instead. Wall-mounted toasting grills were allowed to remain on each wing.

17-10-2003

C Wing refurbishment completed.

5-11-2003

Staff respond to trouble at Category C Ashwell Prison, as part of "Tornado" team.

25-11-2003

House of Lords rule that Ministers will no longer set life tariffs.

1-1-2004

Gartree's roll: 390 prisoners.

6-2-2004

Prisoner Grimwood takes Senior Officer Thomasson hostage in C Wing office before evening lock up and the situation was later resolved by the intervention of Principal Officer Padley.

1-1-2005

Gartree's roll: 395 prisoners.

4-4-2005

New Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) sentences introduced for prisoners convicted of a second serious offence. These replaced the automatic life sentences.

11-4-2005

Peterborough Prison opens.

9-5-2005

C Wing reopens after refurbishment and the newly built G Wing is opened.

6-6-2005

Julia Morgan appointed as the 15th Governor.

July 2005

Benchmarking of prisons introduced, awarding performance status for each prison, as well as performance testing and performance improvement plans.

9-8-2005

H Wing opened after Gartree population is enlarged, providing Gartree with 6 main wings.

6-11-2006

Offender Management launched.

By now, Gartree is the largest Main Centre Lifer establishment in Europe, holding 680 prisoners.

9-5-2007

Ministry of Justice introduced, replacing the Home Office in overseeing Prisons.

29-6-2007

New Early Release Scheme introduced by Prison Service easing the overcrowding problems.

29-8-2007

Prison Officers go on a national strike, for the first time.

1-4-2008

National Offender Management Service put in place.

Neil Richards was Governor from 2008 to 2010.

8-6-2012 Gartree's Operational capacity is 707 . Ian Telfer is now Governor

July 2014 Gartree's prisoner roll is 703

NOTORIOUS GARTREE PRISONERS

Ronnie Bender: (Kray gang member) Tea boy !
Arthur Hussain: Murdered Muriel McKay in 1969, wife of News of the World editor.
Harry Roberts: Police killer in 1966
Ian Brady: Moors murderer 1963-1965.
Winston Silcott: Convicted of murdering Police Officer in Tottenham riots on 6-10-1985, conviction later overturned.

John Cheeseman: Murdered another patient during 11 hour hostage incident in Broadmoor Hospital.

Keith Rose: Later escaped from Parkhurst Prison in 1995.
Tony Martin: Farmer who killed intruder in his farmhouse in 1999.
Michael Hickey: Convicted of murdering paperboy Carl Bridgewater in 1978, later overturned on appeal.
Jimmy Robinson: (as above)

Ronnie McCartney: IRA member who attempted to blow up the QE2 Liner in the early 1970s.
Reggie Kray: London Gangster.
Paddy Armstrong: Convicted of Guildford Pub bombings on 5-10-1974, later overturned by Appeal Court.

Paul Hill: (as above)

Gerry Conlan: (as above)
Paddy Hill: Convicted with 5 others of the Birmingham pub bombings on 21-11-1974, later overturned by the Appeal Court.
Gerry Hunter: (one of the Birmingham 6)
Billy Power: (one of the Birmingham 6)
Hugh Callaghan: (one of the Birmingham 6)
Johnny Walker: (one of the Birmingham 6)
Richard McIlkenny: (one of the Birmingham 6)
Charles Bronson (Mickey Peterson) Reputedly Britain's toughest prisoner.

John Kendall: Helicopter escapee 10-12-1987.

Syd Draper: Helicopter escapee 10-12-1987.

Fred Low: Murdered another prisoner in Gartree in 1986.

Alan Lord: Following his transfer to HMP Manchester, he became a ringleader in the riot and rooftop protest at Strangeways, the longest ever in a British prison

The Principles Of The Borstal System

Introduction to The Borstal System

- For the idle lad in his later teens the corner of a street is even more dangerous than the middle of the street for the aged and preoccupied. Here, in a hundred cities of England and Wales gather daily the men and lads who are already unemployed and in danger of becoming unemployable.
- Education quickly fades, lodging houses beckon and standards of conduct grow daily less distinct. Such is the soil from which spring the great majority of young criminals.
- Many, by luck or cunning, somehow contrive to avoid the law and drift without actual disaster to the weary end of an uncontributing life.
- Some escape and fall into honest work. But others overstep that narrow limit...and instead of being merely non-contributive citizens they become, by breach of the law, the enemies of society.
- In 1931, 897 young men were sentenced to Borstal Training.
- Aim of the training is to turn them into decent men. A fascinating task but only to be attempted by an optimist. Desires must be balanced and controlled, and inhibition must be strengthened.
- The good must be developed to beat the bad and a clear and effective knowledge of right and wrong must be introduced.
- Nearly every vice is represented in this straggling army. Yet strangely, every virtue can also be found among them. One is loyal albeit dishonest, another is truthful though of ungoverned temper, a third picks pockets but loves music, a fourth maintains his honesty untarnished though he behaves like a beast.
- In the great majority there is a social sense which enables them to follow a lead, to respond to the appeal to support their small community, particularly if it engages in friendly competition with another small community.
- Borstal Training is based on the double assumption that there is individual good in each, and among nearly all an innate corporate spirit.
- In the moral training of an institution, the individual virtue is discovered and developed, while the discipline of the institution is founded on the esprit de corp it has evoked.

The Stages of Borstal

- Some wear clothes of brown and others of blue and there is a huge gulf between them. The lad in brown is still in his first year of training, learning to play the game. The lad in Blue has passed through four stages and is in his second year. He is comparatively a free agent, moving at his own will with some authority over the lads in Brown, enjoying a little world of privileges which he has won laboriously as he passed through each stage. Last stage of all he has earned the right to have one cigarette or pipe each evening and perhaps to go to camp for a week in the summer.
- Every privilege serves a double purpose – it acts as an incentive and, once attained it is a potential punishment. For if a lad is mischievous, he can lose his cigarette that evening, a simple punishment, innocuous and instant.

• **House System**

- Through Houses, corporate pride is nurtured. The smaller the unit, the stouter the allegiance of the lad. He becomes proud of his House. He can be induced sometimes so to change his habits as to conform to its traditions.
- Colours break the scene, for the tops of the stockings are red, green or yellow depending on the House.
- The Housemaster and his staff set the standard, the boys catch the spirit and on it rolls to successive generations.
- The group is the smallest unit of all, led by a group leader, one of the bluest blooded of those in blue. This division into smaller entities releases the two great weapons of moral training – personal influence and the corporate spirit.

Daily Routine and Health

- The first impression a visitor receives is that of rude health. Most of these lads were born in the darkest homes and broke every law of health until they came here.
- Now they traverse with cheery faces and robust bodies a daily programme from 6am to 9pm.
- Four simple but abundant meals. Regular hours. Hard work. Physical exercise. All fitting them for manhood.
- Every day they work in a shop or kitchen, on the farm or at unskilled labour, for eight hours, broken only by dinner time.
- It is impossible to teach a trade in two years, but lads become used to a full working day and grow handy with tools.
- There is physical training every day. Self-control is learned in the gymnasium rather than on parade.
- After this follow two hours in evening school, where a bewildering variety of subjects is taught, their sole object being to train the brain to think, stir the imagination, extend their interests, to develop individuality which can save itself.
- Work and exercise and education nearly fill the day. There follows a short interval for recreation, where the intelligentsia play chess and the proletariat argue about the Arsenal.
- Then each to his dormitory, which he has not seen since he left it early that morning.
- 1922 it was agreed that, save in the most serious cases, the practice of administering cellular confinement and a diet of bread and water to difficult lads. They chose to rely instead on other methods of discipline indicated in House and Group system. They have appealed to what was decent and sporting in the lads and have not appealed in vain.

Trust

- The purpose of Borstal Institution is to teach wayward lads to be self-contained men, to train them to be fit for freedom. It is impossible to train men for freedom in a condition of captivity.
- There have ensued therefore, certain practices by which lads have been given greater freedom. They go outside by themselves to church, join technical classes in town, they attend concerts and walk in fields.

- Some abuse this liberty, others learn to use it. Each year the lads who have won their blue clothes giving their word of honour to play the game in the freedom of hut or tent. A few may fail but vast majority of the worst boys in England show they can be trusted.

The Fundamental Principle

- There have always been bad lads and the supply will never cease.
- Once upon a time the method to deal with them was the use of force. The lad was regarded as a hard lump of material, yielding only to the hammer and was beaten into shape. Sometimes there were internal injuries and the spirit of the lad grew into a wrong shape, for sometimes the use of force produces a reaction more antisocial than the original condition.
- There ensued a second method...the method of pressure. The lad is a lump of putty and an effort is made to reduce him to a certain uniform shape by the gentle and continuous pressure of authority.
- In course of time, by perpetual repetition, he forms a habit of moving smartly, keeping himself clean, obeying orders and behaving with all decorum in the presence of his betters.
- Most difficult way of training a lad is to treat him as a living organism. Borstal looks at a lad as many mixtures, with a life and character of his own. The task is not to break or knead him into shape, but to stimulate some power within to regulate conduct aright, to insinuate a preference for the good and the clean and to make him want to live his life well. This requires that each lad shall be dealt with as an individual and shall not be treated as being the same as any other lad.
- To do this then men and women training him have to know him inside and out, learning a little more about him each day. They will learn what he likes and dislikes. He will have his heroes and other type of men who are anathema to him. On some points he is unduly sensitive, on others he is impenetrably callous. Perhaps he has ambitions for himself, seldom voiced save in moments of confidence to those he trusts.
- From such a study they will come to form a shrewd estimate of the lad's reactions from different experiences, and will understand how different forms of treatment have affected him.
- At this point they begin to see how the lad should be rightly handled, which method will win loyalty and which will provoke defiance.
- Some would think every member of the service is a psychologist. But this is not the case. The knowledge is obtained by sympathy, shrewd judgement and experience.
- The long Borstal day passes. Physical exercises, chapel services, workshop hours, classes and recreation all play their part in the scheme of training, and without any one of them it would be sadly incomplete.
- Of the 9000 lads who have passed through the Borstal training in the first 20 years, only about 35% have come into conflict with the law again.
- Though unsupported by actual figures and relying only on long experience it may be stated that three out of every four Borstal lads are reclaimed and continue to live as honest citizens. When it is remembered that the great majority of these lads had committed many offences before they came to Borstal and were on their way to becoming permanent and professional criminals, it will be seen how real a turnover has been effected.

- But of these successes the world hears nothing. Such lads pass into the merciful obscurity of the average honest citizen. Those who fail however are vociferous at whatever court they appear. But we shall judge the Borstal system by its hosts of silent successes rather than by its scores of noisy failures.

Staff Ethos

- The Borstal system has no merit apart from the Borstal staff. It is men and not buildings who will change the hearts and ways of misguided lads. Better an institution that consists of two log huts in swamp or desert, with a staff devoted to their task, than a model block of buildings...whose staff is solely concerned with thoughts of pay and promotion.
- Declared policy of the service that we get hold of the best men possible, from whatever source they may be found, and then give them a scope as wide as possible.
- Regulations decrease in number, while the margin of discretion grows, more and more being left, as the System develops, to the judgement of the individual officer.
- A service governed by exact rules tends to attract second rate men.
- The foundations of the Borstal system are first the recruitment of the right men, then their proper training, and finally their full co-operation with one another in an atmosphere of freedom and mutual understanding.
- The good Borstal officer is the man who enjoys his work, believes in it, and finds it so suited to his higher instincts, that an offer of a little more pay for less interesting work would scarcely tempt him.
- He receives a living wage, but his real reward is the nature of his work.
- Measure of success is the progress of his lads.
- Staff specialise virtues chiefly lacking in the lads. Firm and steady character, a just and even temper, no favourites, no jealousies, no fads, the same each day of the week, meeting each difficulty with unchanged demeanour, speaking always in the same pitch and at the same pace, bridging awkward situations with an unflinching sense of humour – this is the temperament that wins the confidence of a lad and achieves a high standard of discipline.
- The staff will review the forces they have to change the boy from crooked into straight. But the change must proceed from within the lad.
- Personal character of the officers will have its effect, for the lad is going to admire someone who is straight and strong whom he sees every day, and will unconsciously or consciously grow to be like him.
- Having done their best to arouse the right forces in the lad, the staff will rally to their aid the corporate spirit of the other lads.
- This is done through the House System. Spirit of community will have the greatest effect in most lads.
- The spirit of a good house catches hold of what is best in the worst of lads, and he will do for the group of his comrades what he would never do for a master imposed upon him.
- The Housemaster and his colleagues must ensure the spirit of the house is good. They must think of it as a family, always be in and out of the house, being there at meals and recreation because they do not want to leave it.
- It is they who make the spirit of the House, and it is that spirit, in addition to their own efforts, which

will bring out the good in a lad and help him to save himself.

- The task facing the staff is so difficult that the only hope of its achievement lies in a full measure of comradeship between all ranks.
- The abolition of the distinction between 'superior and subordinate' was a recognition of this need.
- Difference of rank must always exist in an organised community. Some must give orders, others must obey. But the structure of discipline is made all the stronger by a free interchange of views and a real friendship between every different rank.

Staff Roles

- The Governor will govern and all will support him.
- The Housemasters, each striving to make his House second to none, will see that rivalry stops short of partisanship. They will not exalt their house at the expense of the Institution.
- The Chief Officer, at the head of the discipline staff, is conversant with every detail of the long day, and his watchful eye sees every weak spot and every rough patch. Here he stiffens or braces a slack section, there he pours a little oil, sometimes he wins new effort by a word of praise. The Chief Officer sees more of the Officers than anyone else. To them he is an example of what a Borstal Officer should be. For ever he urges them to a higher standard of efficiency and a sterner sense of duty.
- The Matrons have a sphere of their own, not merely 'seeing to things' but learning from the lads much they are too shy to say to men. Many lads, in their presence, come for the first time into the atmosphere of a clean and healthy Englishwoman.
- There is no place in the Borstal system for a man who thinks he is more important than the job in hand

Admission

- On arrival at the institution...the ideal impression we should seek to convey would be something of this nature: *'This is a good place where you will find friends and be happy. It is a serious place where you will work hard. There will be many to help you, and you will help others. There are three or four hundred others. You are not the most important one. Show that you can do your share and a bit more and you will be fit for the harder life outside.'*
- There are two types of method of dealing with a newcomer in any organisation. One is to show no nonsense from the start and let him see what sort of a man he has to deal with straight away. This involves some sort of punishment for any slight or fancied irregularity in the first few hours, in consequence of which the lad realises the standard expected of him, and nerves himself to attain it. There is a method totally opposed to this, whereby a newcomer is recognised as such and an allowance is made. He is not expected to conform to the same standard but is led gradually to its attainment.
- The second system is more suitable for our use...it is unwise to expect much in the first few weeks and a gradual lifting of the standard required is better than a rigid insistence of perfection in the first weeks of training.
- It is however, easy to make too liberal an allowance for the new lad. He may be 'trying it on' and a sharp jerk on the string may be required before 48 hours is elapsed.
- The greatest unkindness may lie in allowing him to take things too slackly in his first weeks and form

habits of indifference, craft or defiance which may lead him into more serious trouble.

- The truth, as ever, lies in the fact that no two lads are the same and no golden rule exists for the proper training of them.
- The Officer looking after the lad needs to work out as quickly as possible the state of mind of the lad entering Borstal.
- What does he expect? What does he hope and fear? What early impression is Borstal making on him? What effect is the sight of walls and shorts and work and Officers having upon him?
- Lad must realise that after two years of board and lodgings and being top dog that he is back to the bottom on the outside etc etc

Classification

- Thought should be given to House allocation – it's important to put a lad in a place where there is something or someone who will stimulate the better side of him.
- And need to avoid putting lads together who may form a clique which will contaminate the others.
- Transfer and reclassification (moving a lad from house to house in our case) are at hand to prevent this and should be employed without hesitation. The community must be protected even at the cost of disturbance to the individual.
- As a lad progresses through the grades: steps must be repeatedly taken to ensure the difficulty of ascent, so that the minimum of promotion may reward a maximum of effort.
- This can be done by emphasising the responsibilities rather than the privileges associated with each grade, and by a merciless reduction when these responsibilities are not fulfilled. Each grade carries a lad a little closer towards freedom. He is practising his wings, developing his power of choice between right and wrong.
- This is a more difficult life than that of confinement and repression. He must show that he justifies the trust and is indeed growing more fit for freedom. If he fails he must return to the lower order where it is easy to be good, and wait a little while before taking a step forward again towards liberty.
- We must scrutinise very closely the claim of the lad for promotion. Let it not come to him. Lay rather the onus on him to show that he has stretched himself to reach it.

Food and Cleanliness

- The training will provide each lad with an arduous day of fifteen hours, during all of which his mind and body will be busy. There should be no idle moments in a Borstal day.
- Such a programme exacted from a growing lad in his teens assure a hunger for food. It must be nourishing and plentiful. He must be accumulating a reserve of strength, building a frame that should continue to stretch for another five or ten years.
- Hunger serves no purpose in dealing with lads, save as a punishment, and even here its influence is not always for the good.
- A plentiful supply of wholesome food is key but it must be as plain as it is plentiful.
- Habits of daintiness should be discouraged and the lad should know that hunger is the only alternative

the only alternative to a dish he does not fancy. The lads go to a hard life and none must grow soft while they are with us.

- The exact amount of importance that should be attached to cleanliness of room and person, the brushing of clothes and the minding of table manners, is not easily determined.
- Once outside a lad wouldn't be expected to keep a spotless room, or have exacting table manners.
- But it should not be underrated either. Slackness in cleanliness can lead to slackness in mind and speech. Untidiness of dress has something to do with unpunctuality, a messy room often accompanies a messy mind.
- Bad manners at meals on a dirty table have their effect on the level of conversation.
- The house that has many dirty rooms and where meals are untidy will probably be found on enquiry to be a bad house.
- Cleanliness does not rank as one of the most important virtues, but in the selfdiscipline they teach and the patient attention to detail they require, they play a valuable part in the training of a careless lad.

Employment

- Every Borstal lad on discharge must be ready and able to earn his living, or he will probably revert to crime.
- The majority have not been, in the past, very successful as wage earners and a large part of the training must be devoted to transforming idlers into workers.
- The habit of industry is not easily acquired by the lively lad in his teens, who has for some years watched the swift current of life from his street corner.
- Eight hours of labour is dreary monotony. He wants to break away after the first hour and have a smoke, yearns for something to happen so he can watch, it's better than work. He will raise his eyes to everything that passes and raise his ears to every sound.
- By the end of his training he must have become so industrious that he will be able to keep any sort of job, however laborious and monotonous.
- This is a very wonderful transformation that is to be accomplished. Borstal institutions cannot claim that they teach a lad more than the rudiments of a trade, but they should be able to claim that they teach him to work.
- Because this is such a difficult task, and so much hangs on its accomplishment, party officer use every means at their disposal to keep the lad at his job for an honest eight-hour day.
- They work with him, teach him team spirit, they may try humour; if all of these fail, as a last resort they must report the lad for idleness.
- This is a real 'crime' which cannot be overlooked, for if allowed to continue it spells disaster for the lad.
- The great majority of the lads are going out to unskilled labour. Many were born to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, and it is idle to spend the money of the state in seeking to transform them into incompetent tradesmen. For them, labouring work, arduous and continuous, is the best preparation for the life that ensues.

- We cannot disguise the fact that the great majority of men in the twentieth century have to labour all their lives on tasks so monotonous that there can be no interest in them. We cannot, therefore, allow a lad to expect that all work he is called upon to do will be interesting and we must not rely upon this as a stimulus to industry.
- When a lad wants to change his party simply for the honest reason he is 'fed up' with the job, this is a sign that he has still to learn the first lesson of industry.
- Those who show aptitude receive technical training, practical and theoretical, in wood and metal workshops.
- It is of vital importance that all lads should know the direct relation work bears to the possession of the necessaries of life. At present he receives the same board and lodging, simple but sufficient, whatever his job in the Borstal, and however hard he may work. But outside the walls, the amount he can spend depends on the amount he can earn.
- It is the duty of every Borstal Officer to preach the gospel of work, not because it is easy or healthy or interesting, but because it is the condition of honest life.

Health

- There was a time when considerations of health extended only to the care of the body.
- The Medical Staff is now concerned at least as much with observation and treatment of the mind as the body.
- There are many causes of crime, but rarely does a single cause account for any one criminal.
- Every lad, after sentence is examined psychologically at the Collecting Centre.
- His intelligence is tested and an attempt is made, by those best qualified to do so, to estimate the deeper causes which have brought him into our care.
- Throughout the period of training, a lad is changing every week and it is part of the Officer's duty to report to a housemaster what changes he observes in a lad.
- Inter-relation of mind and body are more clearly established, and the importance of physical wellbeing as an agent of mental health cannot be underestimated.
- It is certain that a fit lad is not only happier and easier to handle, but he is also more likely to respond to training and become an honest man.
- Officers, in caring for their lads' health, will not fall into the category of making them soft. The best way to make a lad healthy is to make him hard: he should not be afraid of blisters and cold winds and the hacking of shins: the fewer clothes he wears for work or exercise the harder he will work, the hardier he will become.
- An experienced officer can often tell when a lad is really ill. But the lad who is always nursing some minor ailment is a fit object for the shafts of humour.
- Cleanliness is a necessity. Dust and dirt bring flies, and flies bring disease. No excuse can be accepted. The laws of health are imperative.

Religious Instruction

- Lads are remarkably vague in their knowledge when they first come and in matters affecting their faith are sometimes ignorant of the first beginnings.
- Instruction is needed here, regular and systematic, and this is a matter for the Chaplains of the different faiths.
- All teaching must relate the great truths to the little details of life, so that faith becomes pivotal, the unconscious basis of every act.
- It should be awarded first place of all character training.
- The Chaplains and all the visiting Priests, Ministers and Rabbis will be colleagues not merely welcome, but indispensable.
- Officers of every rank should also be encouraged to take an active part in the services.
- Religion is so deep and personal a thing that no rules can compass it, and no order of service can entirely meet the need of the individual.
- At the beginning and end of each day, there is a minutes silence in each Institution. We cannot know for certain what passes then in two thousand hearts, and we must be slow to insist that only this or some other way of teaching can help the lad to know His maker and to serve His purpose.

Education

- It has been stated that the Borstal System has to find the capacity for good in the lad, and extend it to its full. For some this may be done in the gymnasium, for others in the workshop, but the hours devoted to Education provide, perhaps, the best chance of all.
- These evening classes are not organised merely for the purpose of imparting information, or making the lads better qualified to earn a living. It is sometimes thought that it would be better to spend the few hours available in teaching a lad to perfect his reading, writing and arithmetic. This is a rather superficial judgement.
- The Borstal Lad is not, as a rule, going to be more than an unskilled labourer who can sign his name and read his newspaper, but will rarely be called on to essay any literacy task more advanced.
- To plunge hobbledehoys of 18 and 20 into desks to learn multiplication tables will be trying, as a rule, to make use of certain avenues of education which many other teacher have previously found in their case to be inappropriate.
- Many of our lads are 'poor scholars' who won't learn with a book and pen and no amount of teaching in the orthodox elementary subjects will change that.
- Other avenues of approach must be found. The whole purpose of continued education at Borstal is not to impart information or make dullards into scholars, but to get rusty and ill-controlled brains to work, to enlarge the sphere of interest, and to discover the point of contact with each lad.
- It does not matter what subjects may be chosen, so long as they catch the mental eye of the lad and make him think.
- To discover and develop a love for music or letters, an interest in flowers and animals or stamps,

Which may foster the growth of something good, which will occupy the stage of interest in a lad's life and oust the idle and unclean things that formerly held possession.

- For some whose intelligence is normal but whose school days have been interrupted, a few months of elementary re-education may be worthwhile.
- There will be a few with intelligence beyond the average who can pursue literary subjects to a comparatively high standard.
- Others will gain more from handiwork.
- The syllabus must be varied, and everyone who can teach a subject that will arouse the interest of the lads and enlarge their mental capacity must be given a class.
- But a teacher is not there to amuse the class. He must not stand in front of them and deliver an interesting lecture for half an hour, during which he is working hard and the class is contributing nothing save passive attention. The class must work at least as hard as the teacher. By question and answer, they must contribute to the discovery of the truth. It must exact as much effort from their minds as half an hour in the gymnasium does from their bodies.
- Classes are not the only form of collective study. In some subjects, such as music and nature study, it may be better to form societies rather than classes. In this way, team spirit comes uppermost and the learning becomes a pursuit, in which the initiative is with the learner rather than the leader.
- There is also the method of lecture, with or without illustrations. There is some value in lecture but delivered by someone from the outside to the institution en masse has distinct limitations. A lecture represents a single thrust, deep or superficial into a whole realm of knowledge and does not give a lad any continuous grip on the subject.
- It is far less valuable in the training than class work which demands action and output on the part of the learner.
- Concerts and plays have their place in any scheme of education. They cultivate a taste in amusement, and an appreciation of the finer arts.
- The proper use of a well-chosen library is an integral part of any educational programme. Essential that a lad should have enough to read and that when he finishes a book he need not wait until tomorrow to exchange it.
- A lad whose attention has never been captured by anything better than the romances of Sexton Blake should be introduced to Sherlock Holmes. It is but a step from Conan Doyle to Seton Merriman and in a little while he will bridge another little gulf and reach Stevenson. Here we can leave him securely entrenched in the field of good English literature. He will not easily return to the drivel that once enslaved him.

Sport

- A fit and balanced body supple and not easily tired, acting quickly and surely at the bidding of the brain, is a valuable agent of moral recovery.
- Every day there must be physical exercises, framed not for the purpose of making strong men or smart soldiers, but rather for the correlation of mind and body.

- A set of exercises which improves the muscle but does not make the lad think, deserves no place in the syllabus.
- The hour in the gymnasium should similarly be a lesson in self-control, by bringing the impulsive body under the domination of the mind.
- Out in the playing field lies an extended opportunity for that self-control which is fundamental to good sportsmanship.
- It will take time to become a true sportsman – playing for his side and not for popularity, accepting defeat cheerfully and success with generosity.
- Every game must have a referee and this is not practicable unless there are many who will give their time when the weeks work is done.
- The referee sees all and favours none. Rebuking lack of sportsmanship as sternly as any actual breach of the rules.
- House games should be arranged so every lad gets an equal chance.
- If matches are arranged for an Institution team, they should only be an occasional occurrence and should not rob the House Games of their importance so the best grounds and games are not reserved for the few experts.
- Winning of individual prizes should be discouraged, the emphasis thrown everywhere on the achievement of the group.

Camp

- Classes and sports are features of the training, introduced not only for the pleasure they give, but for what they exact from the lads.
- Similarly, a week in camp, glorious holiday as it is, yet takes its place in the general scheme. It should be a stern test of the officers, house and lads alike.
- The freedom of life in common, where deception is so much more difficult, and masks fall to the ground with the rubbing of shoulders, establishes a relation between officer and lad which, on return to the Institution, so far from endangering the discipline, does much to strengthen it. The mutual knowledge gained is invaluable.
- Though camp is so free, there must never be any doubt that in the background control is just as real as within the walls. An order is obeyed as cheerfully and swiftly: a jerk on the string and all are at attention.
- Housemasters in charge of camp, while avoiding the dangers of over-organisation, should see that every minute of the week is well used.
- Let there be work each morning, real work faithfully done, and in the afternoon and evenings games and expeditions.
- As much freedom will be given to the lads as is reasonable, for constant roll-taking in camp is irritating, and defeats the object of the gesture of confidence.
- At the same time, a too-greatly relaxed supervision may make for idleness and this means boredom and mischief, bringing grave discredit on a fine adventure. The right course is as ever, mid-way between the two extremes.

Visits, Letters and Petitions

- The degree of contact that a lad should be allowed with the outside world is one of the most difficult matters on which to lay down fixed rules.
- Some lads have hardly any friends or relatives so these slender links should be maintained as much as possible during training.
- For others the influence can be adverse. Here it may be necessary to scrutinise correspondence carefully.
- Sometimes visitors must be closely watched and the lad searched afterwards, or the visit may do more harm than good.
- General rule however will be to encourage the maintenance of contact, by letters and visits, by invitation to annual sports.
- All parents...will serve a welcome at the institution. The Governor or housemaster will see them.

Discipline

- There can be few words so frequently used but in so many different senses as the word 'discipline'. There is a form of discipline in the army, another in the navy, a third in school a fourth in the factory and so on. Each section of the community has its own form of discipline and it is frequently under a dangerous illusion that this is discipline, and that any other form is an inferior imitation. In our Borstal institutions we must have our own brand of discipline appropriate to our needs.
- In its simplest form, discipline is a mere obedience to orders. That is where it starts, and unless the basis is secure, every order given by those in authority is obeyed...without question, no super structure can be built.
- But the higher manifestations of discipline advance far from this simple beginning. The most highly disciplined form of society is where every man is free and his every act, free and unbidden, contributes to the good of the community.
- At one time it was possible to see a number of Officers in a House armed with staves, each standing at his post, ensuring silence and order among the lads. This is a superficial appearance of discipline.
- Today, a single, unarmed officer is on duty in that house. Order is kept not by the mere weight of authority, but by the use of control, a far more difficult power to acquire than mere authority. If the Institution is to train the lads for freedom, it cannot train them in an atmosphere of captivity and repression.
- We must have a form of discipline which exacts something from the lads. Fostering the will to do well, putting it up to him to choose right.
- Hence the necessity for encouraging among the lads some form of leadership, and allowing a considerable measure of freedom to those who have shown a capacity to be worthy of it.
- The fact that forty lads can go to camp and return intact with a good record, reflects a far higher standard of discipline than the sight of not so long ago of 300 lads, faultless in uniform, moving with the precision of trained soldiers on a parade ground with a host of Officers around them.

- The senior Officer on duty in the House is in control. Let there never be any doubt about that. He knows the lads and the limits that must be set to freedom. At any moment he makes a sign or says a word and it is obeyed. This control...is the necessary and most remarkable possession of all Borstal Officers.
- Borstal Officer should think of himself as running a boys club, where the lads are not much different from any others. If he is constantly thinking of them as young criminals they will so think of themselves.
- There is no telepathy more sure and rapid than the perception of attitude.
- The best Officer is often discouraged because he proceeds on the system, trusts the lad, only to find the lad 'lets him down'. This is unfortunate but bound to happen. But it's better than trusting the lad too little.
- Punishment is regulated not by an exact tariff according to the offence, but by an intelligent knowledge of each offender and a perception of the condition that is revealed by this particular act. Two lads might commit the same offence but be treated differently. This should be explained to the lads for where there is understanding, law and justice are more respected.
- The Governor will deal with offences very often in ways other than actual punishment. He may transfer from one House to another. He may arrange for extra time in the gymnasium, or a variation of programme in the evenings or at the weekends. He may put a lad on probation for a month, bidding he report himself once a week.
- The institution of small courts among the lads themselves is still so experimental, that it cannot yet be reduced to rule. It is good that the lads should learn the difference between right and wrong from the bench as well as the dock. The Governor will ensure they are not learning this at the risk of injustice to the others. Such minor tribunals can become an agency for bullying and terrorism unless their powers are clearly defined and this should be closely watched by the Governor and Staff.
- Borstal Officer has a very difficult decision when faced with whether or not to report a lad. He too will distinguish between his lads and give some more rope than others. Some of the feebler specimens he will father, with others he will stand no nonsense, others again he will call aside and speak to.

Thanks to Gerry Hendry for digging out this historical gem from the archives...

“I have just received the sad news that Hannah Sisson (Aspinall) has passed away.

Hannah was a Governor 4 at HMP Bristol, from where she eventually retired, when I arrived at Bristol as a newly promoted Governor 5. I had the pleasure of working with Hannah for the 6 years that I spent at Bristol. Despite the fact that Hannah’s husband was severely incapacitated following a major stroke, and requiring full time care, Hannah still managed to cope with the demands of the job and attend to the needs of her husband when she returned home to relieve the carers. Her life at that time was a very difficult one of trying to cope with these competing demands but it was testament to her ability and fortitude that she managed this most demanding situation until the death of her husband (Billy).

Hannah and Billy had always planned to live in Spain when they finally retired and following Billy’s death Hannah decided to make the move to Spain alone on her retirement.

After living in Spain for many years Hannah met and married John Aspinall. Hannah and John remained in Spain until Hannah suffered a severe health problem which led to the amputation of her left leg. As a consequence of this they decided that a move back to the UK was in their best interests. On their return to the UK they purchased a house in Cornwall but Hannah’s condition was now adversely affecting her quality of life. In constant pain and unable to walk, this once proud and determined lady, in the words of her husband, just gave in and passed away peacefully in a Cornish Hospital.

Her husband says he was deeply moved by the many tributes he received from Prison Service staff, whom he never knew, but who certainly remembered Hannah.

Rest in peace my dear friend and colleague.”

Hannah’s funeral was held on Thursday 1st. February at Bodmin Crematorium.

Malcolm O’Brien JP 16 January 2018

Veronica's Bird

Many of our readers will be aware that Veronica Bird O.B.E. has recently written her autobiography in conjunction with writer Richard Newman. As a result she has made several television appearances including on 'Look North'. This book has had very favourable reviews nationally. Mike Selby is our chosen reviewer, but owing to unforeseen circumstances he was unable to complete his submission prior to the print deadline. His review will now appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Membership Report – February 2018

Membership currently stands at 417, a drop from 424 when the October Newsletter was published. We welcome new members Kevin Lewis, Louise Cannon and Jill Ryan (widow of Kevin). We regret to have to report the deaths of the following members: Paddy Scriven, Brian Tyreman, Alan Rawson and Kevin Ryan, and non-members Stephen Davis, Norman Warwick and Hannah Sissons OBE. Our condolences go out to their family and friends. We have had a number of resignations – Tom Wright, Paul Dixon, Denis Chirgwin, Antoni Cain and Vicky Pails. Also we have had the Newsletter returned from the address we have for Mrs. A. J. Creek, so if anyone is aware of her new address then please advise me urgently. Graham Lawrence's Email address is continually bouncing back so Graham if you have a new Email address please advise me, which is another reminder if you want to be added to the Email list then you can contact me on h_brett@sky.com and I will add you to our mailing list.

At the end of each year Graham, our Treasurer, compares payments received from members against our records. There are only 2 levels of payments: either £13 if you are NOT receiving a diary and £20 if you are. All members receive 2 Newsletters per year, may join the Email register and are invited to the AGM. I have written to all members whose payments do not mirror those entitlements: one group who have paid nothing in 2017, one group who are receiving a diary but only paid either £13 or £17 in 2017 and the final group who are not receiving a diary but continue to pay £17. As all payments are taken by Standing Order we cannot change those payments: you must do it through your Bank. There may be members who do not want a PGA diary but have chosen to continue paying £17. I have written to them this year, but if the £17 payment is made again in 2018 then we will assume that you are willing to pay this enhanced payment. Of course widows and widowers do not pay anything, but continue to receive Newsletters if they have indicated that they wish to do so. If there is anyone who is not clear then you can contact me by Email on h_brett@sky.com or phone on 0161 980 8127. This year I have written a total of 58 letters, so you can see it is not an insignificant problem and has a cost to the Association.

A recent article in 'Which' concerned the number of copy cat web sites which have been set up in opposition to Government sites, the latter generally not charging for their service or are much cheaper than the copy cat service, for example, Blue Badges which should cost £12 were being sold for more than £50 on copy cat sites. 'Which' have very kindly produced a list of the official sites, all of which have copycat websites charging more than the official site. I have reproduced the sites below:

Citizens Advice – citizensadvice.org.uk

Congestion Charge – tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/congestion-charge

Disabled Parking (Blue Badge) – gov.uk/apply-blue-badge

DVLA – gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-licensing-agency

EHIC – ehic.org.uk

Esta (USA visa waiver) – esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta

HMRC – gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs

Land Registry title deeds – gov.uk/get-information-about-property-and-land

Money Advisory Service – moneyadvisoryservice.org.uk

Passport Renewal – gov.uk/renew-adult-passport/renew

Pensions Advisory Service – pensionsandadvisoryservice.org.uk

Pension Wise – pensionwise.gov.uk

Tax Return – gov.uk/self-assessment-tax-returns

Turkish Visa – evisa.gov.tr/en

Finally, could I please request that if you move house, or change your telephone number or email address, you notify me and/or the Treasurer. This will greatly assist us in keeping accurate and up-to-date records and save us time and expense.

HARRY BRETT, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE : THE RISKS THAT SHOULD WORRY US ALL

Most of us in our careers will have encountered someone entrusted to us for incarceration who was in fact completely innocent of the crime for which they had been imprisoned. I had three such prisoners on my wing at Wakefield between 1993 and 1995. The 1970's probably represented the high point of miscarriages of justice. Those wrongly convicted of IRA terrorism roll off the tongue; The Birmingham Six, The Guildford Four, The Maguire Seven, and Judith Ward. There were the petty criminals stitched up by the Police, most notably the men convicted of the murder of newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater. Sadly there were also the cases of intellectually challenged people who under duress confessed to crimes they had not committed, most notably Stefan Kiszko and Stephen Downing. For the criminal justice system it was a roll of dishonour and the conduct of the police led ultimately to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (P.A.C.E) which curbed most of the worst excesses carried out in our name in police stations.

The Birmingham pub bombings shocked the UK mainland to the core. The police were under enormous pressure to find the perpetrators, happily cutting corners, beating up the suspects, and then having the nerve to put prison officers on trial for doing the same as they did. Back in 1974 Irish Catholics were most definitely second class citizens in Ulster, and stereotyped on the mainland as thick, hard drinking paddies. The Monday after the pub bombings Irishmen were attacked in their workplaces in the West Midlands.

Young men of low intelligence had no means of coping in a police station isolated from lawyers with statements put in front of them to sign. Stephen Downing was convicted of what is known as "The Bakewell Tart" murder and spent 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, one that some crime journalists actually think may have been an early killing by the Yorkshire Ripper. Stefan Kiszko's case is probably the worst of the lot. The Birmingham Six conviction was at least buttressed by forensic evidence that at the time was not known to be flawed. In Kiszko's case he went to prison for the 1975 murder of Lesley Moleseed even though the Senior Investigating Officer knew that the semen sample recovered from the body of the dead girl could not have been the defendant's, as Kiszko was sterile. The real murderer was convicted in 2007. In 1995 after Stefan Kiszko's release and subsequent death, the now retired detective superintendent and two forensic scientists appeared in court on charges of perverting the course of justice. The presiding magistrate accepted a defence submission that the charges were an abuse of process given the passage of time. Government law officers did nothing to try and reinstate the case. One can only speculate but the presence of the late David Waddington on the government benches, who had been Kiszko's worse than useless Q.C. at the trial, may well have been a factor. Truly the establishment was a different beast even as recently as the 1990's.

My question is can we really allow ourselves to believe that the rights of innocent people are now wholly protected because we have P.A.C.E, because we have DNA sampling, and because in the final analysis we have the backstop of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). The answer is emphatically not. The attack on the rights of defendants began almost as the innocent people incarcerated in the 1970's walked through the prison gates to freedom. The 1994 Criminal Justice Act weakened the protection against inferences being drawn against defendants who exercised the right of silence. In 2002 the requirement for corroboration defined as two sources of evidence for each crucial fact, was abolished (although not in Scotland.) Furthermore, judges are banned from giving warnings about lack of corroboration on the grounds that this is discriminatory. This was a triumph for anti-rape campaigners. The third plank of the triple tree was erected in 2013 when there were not only major reductions in provision of legal aid, but also an end to the near automatic awarding of costs to acquitted defendants.

Generally speaking juries have done their job well. It is, however, very difficult for juries when their senses are assailed by emotional witnesses and loquacious barristers. We should be grateful for the efforts they make to protect the rights of defendants when clearly no-one else in the system will. There has been a series of acquittals of students in "he said, she said" rape cases which in most cases could not have been prosecuted before 2002.

Another huge problem is the recently revealed scandal of the failure of the police to disclose to the defence evidence that undermines the prosecution case as they are required to do by law, in a timely manner or not at all. Even the politically correct BBC was moved to feature this scandal as a lead news item in December 2017. In another case in which a defendant was originally convicted, the police failed to make a simple check on Facebook archive, which would have revealed immediately that the complainant had doctored Facebook messages.

The other group vulnerable to allegations of historic sexual offences are those who once held positions of authority and thus vulnerable to long festering grudges; in other words, people like us. With people being charged without the requirement for corroboration, it was inevitable there would eventually be a wrongful conviction, and it occurred in the case of a retired Dorset fire chief, on the wrong end of historic allegations that he and a long deceased colleague buggered a young man over a pool table sometime between 1976 and 1978. There were a catalogue of failings, chief amongst which were the failure of the police to ask for his medical records which spelt out in clear terms that the accuser was a chronic liar and fantasist. These only came to light when the accuser chanced his arm further and took out a civil action for damages. This was a truly shocking case. This particular elderly defendant will never get back the three years he spent in prison because a sick fantasist spied an opportunity to make money.

I have referred earlier to the dismal police culture of yesteryear. Many of us will have seen the highly revealing documentary back in the 1980's that revealed the highly judgemental, scornful and aggressive attitudes to those complaining of rape. It was truly dreadful and had to change. The problem is that the pendulum has swung totally the other way. The ABC mantra that all detectives were taught, "Accept nothing, believe nobody, check everything" has given way to a culture demanded by the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, one in which victims (note the absence of the word alleged) are always to be believed. The absence of healthy scepticism is just as toxic to a fair criminal justice system as one in which complaints of sexual offending are treated with contempt. Blackstone's formulation that "It is better that ten guilty persons escape rather than one innocent suffer," still holds good today if the criminal justice system is to be befitting of a civilised society. Rape is a dreadful crime condemned by all right thinking people, but we cannot allow prosecution policy to be dictated by the rape lobby, which seems to have both the CPS and the Police in its pocket, resulting in a waste of court time and public money on cases that are utterly lacking in merit.

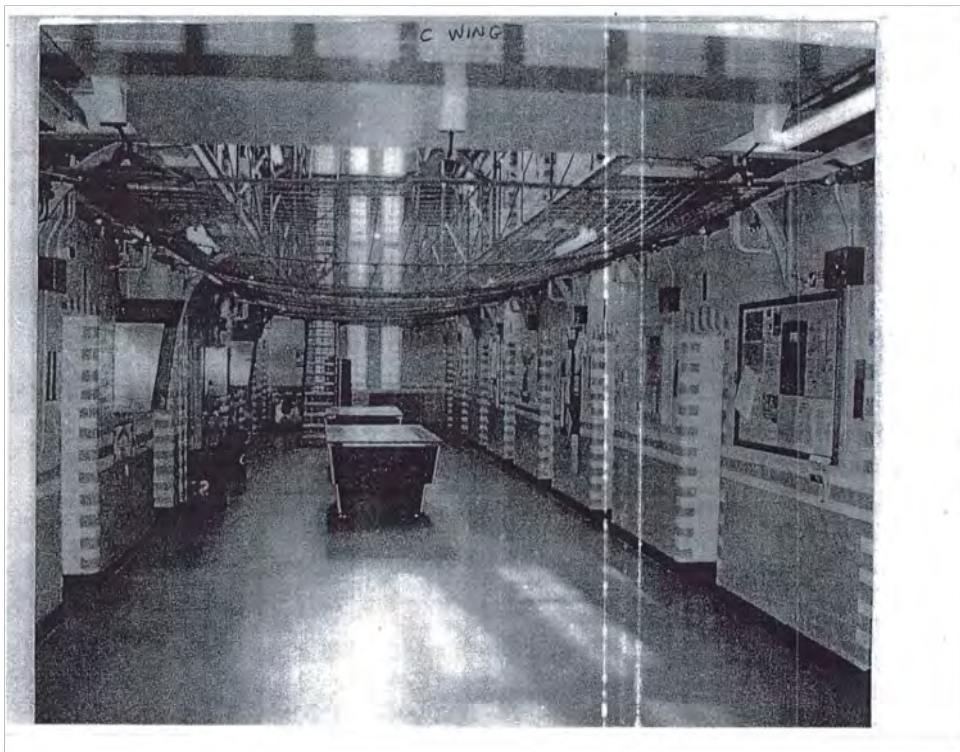
It is not sufficient to say that justice has been done when the jury gives its verdict. Acquitted defendants suffer an enormous amount of injustice despite a favourable outcome. They find themselves named in the press, and suffer the suspicion of relatives, neighbours, and friends who desert them, as they believe there is no smoke without fire. They also suffer humiliating police bail conditions, sometimes lose their jobs, and endure near unbearable stress on their finances, their marriages and their mental health. This happens even if the case never reaches trial. Truly the innocent defendant is every bit as much a victim as the poor souls who have suffered the trauma of sexual abuse.

PAUL LAXTON



The old gate lodge at HMP Bedford, now sealed off and used as offices. The new gate lodge was built in 1991. Prior to this prisoners were loaded and unloaded off the coaches parked outside on St Loyes Street, with officers lining the route through the main gate.

The building on the left as you looked at the picture housed the mess on the ground floor and the training department on the first floor.



C Wing ground floor 1982, showing safety netting above and pool tables in centre