



## Chairman's report 2017

As this is my first report as chairman, I would like to record my thanks to Ian Allred for his efforts as Chairman over the past three years and I am grateful for his continuing support to me.

Looking ahead, our most pressing concerns follow the resignations of Barbara & David Crompton. The work load they have both handled is phenomenal and they have worked tirelessly since Barbara took over the General Secretary's role in 2009 with David as Chairman and latterly Membership Secretary, in addition to their responsibilities as Regional Secretaries. They will be a very hard act to follow and their decision to stay in position until the 2018 AGM, to allow as smooth a transition as possible, is much appreciated.

We consequently will have vacancies for a new General Secretary and Membership Secretary, as well as regional secretaries for the northern areas. Executive Committee member Elisabeth Hill, decided not to stand for re-election. We thank her for her commitment and she will continue to prison visit and support her branch at HMP Bure. We welcome Malcolm Goldring and Ben Benest to the committee and we are looking to strengthen further. If any members would like to contribute that little bit extra, please respond to the advertisement in this newsletter.

The MoJ Prison Population Projections for England & Wales, from 2017 to 2022, were published in August and stated that the prison population was 86,388. It is projected to remain stable to June 2019, but then increase to 88,000 by March 2022. This population growth is expected to be concentrated on offenders serving longer sentences. The remand population has grown more than expected. Over 50, 60 & 70 year old populations are also expected to rise substantially.

All high security prisons were scheduled to be completely smoke free by 31st August, with lower category prisons following suit. As approximately 80% of the prison population

smoke, nicotine patches etc. have been issued. Despite concerns that this change could lead to increased tension amongst prisoners and violence and self harm, pilot schemes suggest most prisoners will accept the change without too much complaint.

Many of you have experienced difficulties receiving travel expenses since the MoJ introduced the SOP (Single Operating Platform) system. Although there are still teething problems, many prisons are now paying OPVs travel expenses thanks to the support of the Liaison Officers. If you are still experiencing problems, contact your branch chairman or regional secretary.

We were recently privileged to enjoy a visit by our patron HRH the Princess Royal to HMP Manchester. (See p4 of the newsletter for details).

Whilst we undoubtedly have some challenges ahead, I thank you all for your time and commitment in prison visiting and hope to meet as many of you as possible.

**Roy Hanley**

## AGM report

A lot has happened since we last met. We have been able to fill two regional secretary's posts this year one of which has been vacant for a long time. I want to welcome Ben Benest and Malcolm Goldring as regional secretaries for the Home Counties and the East Midlands



**Ian Allred (right) handing over to new NAOPV chairman Roy Hanley at this year's AGM**

respectively. We look forward to a long association with you gentlemen!

Also we have been extremely fortunate to find a replacement for our former Treasurer Jo - Richard Hemsley. Welcome to our first AGM and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

This year the National Offender Management Service has been reorganised into Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). NAOPV has had to sign a completely new agreement with them covering our grant. We met William Simpson to discuss important changes for the future, assuming that our grant continues. We also met Simon Greenwood to discuss issues arising from changes to prison regimes. As a result, with the co-operation of HMPPS, we will be updating the handbook to clarify some matters.

Your executive committee has held four meetings this year, one more than usual due to the volume of work. Our new publicity has been well received. We are preparing a new reference booklet to assist new OPV recruits through the induction process as well as serving as a reference document for established OPVs. We are also doing some important work on constitutional matters.

On the Prison estate, HMPPS is continuing its policy of either complete closure, or temporary closure for refurbishment, of some old prisons as well as opening a brand new prison in North Wales. All this means more work for us in attempting to set up or revise prison visiting schemes.

As this is my last report to you as chairman I want to thank the Committee for all their support over the last three years, especially my vice chairman.

**Ian Allred**

### Visit the website

Log in at [www.naopv.com](http://www.naopv.com) to keep in touch with the latest information about official prison visiting.

### Koestler Trust

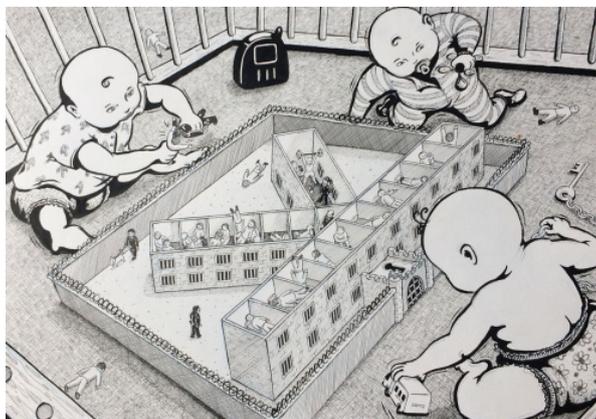
Paintings from the 2017 Koestler Trust Art by Offenders exhibition – held at the Royal Festival Hall, London – are featured in this newsletter.

# Regional Secretaries' reports

## West Midlands

Ian Allred

This year we have been trying to increase the number of prisons we visit by introducing a scheme where there is no current one. We are starting schemes at four prisons and there has been interest from potential visitors, which we are pursuing. That is good news!



## Play Time, Camden and Islington Probation

However security clearances can take time so that potential visitors lose interest - and we lose them.

Once these schemes are up and running, I am hopeful that they may be extended to other prisons. But in some of our prisons it can be difficult for staff to devote time to starting schemes, as they may have more urgent priorities.

I want to thank all our prison visitors for the time they give to this valuable service. We may never know how much the visit from an ordinary member of the public is valued.

## East Midlands Malcolm Goldring

There are 11 prisons in the region - HMPs Gartree, Leicester, Lincoln, Lowdham Grange, Nottingham, North Sea Camp, Onley, Ranby, Rye Hill, Stocken and Whatton. HMP/YOI Glen Parva (Leicester) was included but closed earlier this summer.

I have visited each at least once, with the exception of North Sea Camp where new staff have recently been appointed. Glen Parva's closure caused considerable anxiety amongst staff and prisoners, but all prisoners have now transferred and staff relocated, some within the region. The estate will be flattened, with a new 'super prison' planned on the site for the early 2020s.

The most significant issue facing nearly all the region's prisons is the recruitment of Official Prison Visitors.

Some establishments have had vacancies for years, and I have been encouraging relevant prison staff to seek new recruits. This is proving successful at HMP Gartree, and we have a small number of potential OPVs awaiting final clearance. I used to visit at HMP/YOI Glen Parva, and on its closure I began visiting at HMP Leicester, which opened

in 1828. The prison has just refurbished the Visits Hall to create a café, through collaboration between the prison authorities and a student at De Montfort University.

Administrative staff and officers are extremely supportive, despite the pressures they face. They recognise the valuable role of OPVs.

I want to express my gratitude to Managing Chaplains and Liaison

Officers for their interest. Sadly, Paula Oxley at HMP Onley is retiring this autumn; her support has been invaluable and we wish her well in the future. I look forward to working with her successor, Sarah Gillard-Faulkner.

Finally, my thanks to all the region's OPVs for their invaluable support to those in prison who badly need their interest and encouragement.

## Northern 1 David Crompton

In my region of nine prisons (HMP Kennet recently closed), six have OPV teams. Unfortunately, not one of them is an NAOPV Branch. In common with most of my Regional Secretary colleagues, I am also frustrated by difficulties in making contact with the Liaison Officers in some of my prisons, due the pressure of their workload. I have lost count of the number of phone calls I have made to HMP Liverpool - but thank Rev Philip Tyers for his perseverance and hope that the appointment process for the three recent OPV applicants is going ahead successfully.

I am disappointed in the lack of OPV enquiries for this region. Several of the prisons are difficult to reach without one's own transport. They are either in dense urban areas, or in truly rural locations in the Lancashire countryside. Two adjacent prisons in this latter category are HMPs Garth and Wymott. We have a small OPV team at Wymott but are still waiting to appoint people at Garth - my thanks to Liaison Officer Mohammed Ganu for his patience!

I have always maintained that the NAOPV cannot exist without the intervention and support of HM Prison Service. Under current pressures, it is increasingly difficult to expect the OPV appointment process to proceed as if on a smooth-running conveyor belt. We face challenges and need to believe, more than ever, in what we do.

## Northern 2 Barbara Crompton

Regional Secretaries continue to work against the odds and my area is no exception. There are OPV teams in nine of my 12 prisons, and the lack of OPVs in the remaining three is not for the want of trying. The OPV Liaison Officers are in a demanding role. I am grateful to the Liaison Officers in my area for their support, and encourage those who have not contacted me to do so.

Since my 2016 report, new OPVs have been appointed at Manchester, New Hall, Styal and Wakefield. Long delays in security clearance have deterred some candidates, who have withdrawn their applications. It is difficult for the NAOPV to promote the OPV scheme when those who heed our call can't begin visiting because of these delays.

The NAOPV is striving to maintain branches and encourages more OPV teams to form a branch. There are only three NAOPV Branches remaining in my area - Leeds, Manchester and Wakefield. We lost our branch at HMP/YOI Styal this year, as my colleague, Ann Cannon sadly died a few months ago. Ann gave years of amazing support to the NAOPV and to prison visiting and my condolences go to her family.

I am delighted that HMP Manchester hosted a visit from our patron, HRH The Princess Royal, at the invitation of the NAOPV. I received a lot of help and support from the prison governor and staff, from Ann Ford, Branch Chair at Manchester for many years (and an OPV for even longer) and Stephen Hall, Clerk to the Greater Manchester Lieutenancy.

## Kent, Sussex and SE London Roy Hanley

Rochester was due to close at the end of this year, as part of the £1.3bn investment strategy to modernise the prison estate, with a view to it being redeveloped and subsequently reopened by May 2020. As a result of the prison population increasing by around 800 in the two months May-July, this decision has been deferred and Rochester will now stay open until at least 2019. The Managing Chaplain and

our Liaison Officer Revd Dr Geoffrey Burn is to take up the same position at HMP Maidstone and so we will enjoy his continued support there.

Cookham Wood is classed as a 'Juveniles' establishment, as opposed to a 'Young Offenders Institution', with the inmates being 15 to 18 yrs of age. All OPVs are required to have DBS clearance. Cookham Wood is one of four YOIs that comprise the Youth Justice Board, providing specialist places for this age group. Others are Feltham, Wetherby & Werrington. With the support of Managing Chaplain Kamal Mammoun, we are looking to introduce an OPV scheme. The regime can be quite different from an adult prison, so we are evaluating how best to implement a scheme.

A small team of three OPVs is regularly visiting at Swaleside. They plan to form a new branch, thanks to the excellent support of Liaison Officer Revd Liz Cox.

At Elmley there is good support for an OPV scheme, but the prison's location has made it difficult to find recruits.

At Maidstone, Managing Chaplain Revd Alisoun Francis and Liaison Officer Paul Philpott have retired. Christopher Hayward (Free Church) is our Acting Liaison officer until Revd Dr Geoffrey Burn assumes the MC's role. This prison houses 100% foreign nationals. The short average turnaround time and language problems can make it difficult to establish a rapport with prisoners.

We plan to set up a new scheme at Thameside, a privately run prison by Serco, with the full support of Director Craig Thomson, but changes in the chaplaincy have caused delays.

At Lewes, Managing Chaplain and our Liaison Officer Revd Dr Dale Kendrick has retired. We thank him for support in regenerating the OPV scheme with our coordinator Stuart Bishop. The OPV team is looking to recruit.

### **London/Greater London (exc. SE), Surrey and Middlesex John Kennett**

I contacted the NAOPV liaison officers at all the prisons in my area a few months ago in the hope of visiting them and finding out what they need from me or the NAOPV. I got very little response because prison staff including chaplains - often our point of contact - are under pressure with a growing inmate population and not enough officers. However Anna Warren, the NAOPV chairman at Feltham Young Offenders Institution, organised a most interesting visit. She is a very committed OPV and from the young men that I met I

discovered that they very much enjoyed her visits. I have introduced a few volunteers to her and she is always enthusiastic about getting more.

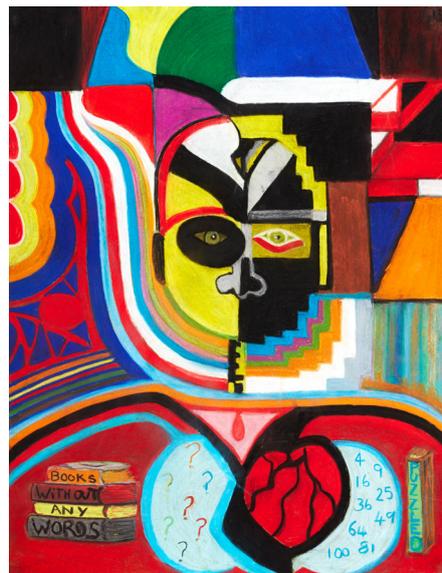
Inner London prisons are not actively recruiting official prison visitors at the moment. However, candidates with language skills, particularly Eastern European and Asian languages, would be welcomed at several prisons - not just in London.

I met NAOPV members from my area at our AGM in June and Wormwood Scrubs branch chairman Simon Wethered and secretary Roland Jaquarello invited me to their half yearly meeting later in the year.

### **Oxon/Bucks Ben Benest**

At Aylesbury, I met up with OPVs and the Chaplaincy manager (Imam Abdul Dayan). All seem keen but there are too few members to form a branch.

I had a useful meeting with chaplaincy at Bullingdon, NAOPV branch chair and other volunteers. They have a good number of OPVs, not all are members of the NAOPV. It is a busy prison with



### **Explaining my Acquired Brain Injury, St Andrew's Healthcare Northampton (secure mental health unit), Pastel**

changes to prisoner categories in progress. The staff are unsure of the impact. There is no requirement for more OPVs.

At Grendon/Springhill, the number of OPVs is down to five with another possible retirement imminent. More OPVs are needed and one potential candidate has been identified. The security clearance problem has finally been resolved but the problem with failure to pay OPV expenses persists.

Contact is proving elusive at Huntercombe, where I may have to

contact the governor if my efforts to meet up with the chaplaincy manager are not successful soon.

At The Mount, it took six months including a long wait for a "security training course" before a new OPV could start. The next step is to persuade the four OPVs to become a branch. It is a very busy prison, with prisoner unrest problems. Staff changes have made contact more difficult recently.

Good meetings with chaplaincy staff at Woodhill, which is seeking more OPVs.

I attended an event, "Prison Hope", in Aylesbury in October. Christian and Muslim speakers highlighted the need for ex-offenders to have more support from the faith organisations to facilitate rehabilitation. My stall raised awareness of NAOPV, and a number of attendees expressed interest in becoming OPVs.

### **South West and Wales Diana Turner**

All 13 prisons in the South West have either a Branch or Team of OPVs and I keep in regular contact with them.

OPV recruitment at Bristol and Ashfield has improved. Both prisons have OPV teams and there is a regular stream of enquiries. I hope that within the year both prisons will form NAOPV Branches. I plan to visit Isle of Wight and Long Lartin in the spring of 2018.

I recently surveyed all prisons in the region due to a report that one was encountering difficulties getting potential OPVs through the vetting process. I was pleasantly surprised with the result. Two prisons completed within six weeks and most of the others within 10 weeks.

In Wales, at Usk/ Prescoed, a year ago there was one OPV but now there is a team. The scheme is very popular with the prisoners and more OPVs are needed. This shows what can be achieved with the support of the prison chaplain and security. Hopefully a Branch can be formed next year.

Parc has an OPV team of five and Cardiff has a strong NAOPV Branch. Unfortunately there is only one OPV at Swansea and I am disappointed that enquiries are not coming forward despite great effort.

Berwyn opened this year. There is a very experienced OPV here and other applicants are now in the vetting process.

We make a tremendous difference to those we visit and I would like to thank all Governors, OPV Liaison Officers, Branch Chairmen/ co-ordinators and OPVs in both regions for their hard work and dedication.

# Princess Royal visits HMP Manchester

The NAOPV are grateful to the Governor and staff of HMP Manchester for hosting a visit from our patron, HRH The Princess Royal on 5 October, at the invitation of the NAOPV Branch. Due to appalling weather conditions, she arrived late and was greeted by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester, Paul Griffiths. At the prison Mr Griffiths then introduced the welcome party, led by Acting Governor Dave Horridge on behalf of the governing Governor, Rob Young who was on leave. Gov Horridge introduced HRH to Gov John Hodgkinson, Head of Security & Intelligence, and to the NAOPV national chairman, Roy Hanley.

Gov Horridge escorted the party through a tour of The Croft, which houses HMP Manchester's workshops. They visited the laundry, the original print shop, the book-binding room and the bakery, where much of the prison's 'daily bread' is baked. HRH met the Specialist Instructional Officers and signed a copy of 'Her Majesty's Prison Manchester – Visitors' Guide & History' which had been produced in the Book Binding Shop to mark her visit. Copies of this book were also available for all those attending on behalf of the NAOPV.

## New Branches needed - please apply

When I took over the role of General Secretary in 2009, there were 45 NAOPV Branches. We have currently only 25 Branches. We have more NAOPV members than ever, with a possibility of a dozen prisons with sufficient NAOPV members to form a Branch. I would like to ask those of you who are fully paid up NAOPV members but visiting at a prison where there is no NAOPV Branch to consider giving a little more of your time to set up a Branch to support our charity.

I appreciate that those of us who became Prison Visitors (OPVs) did so because we believe in the simple, genuine, non-judgemental support our friendship with prisoners can provide. Many would ask 'What is the use of forming an NAOPV Branch? Why can't we just visit prisoners?'

NAOPV Branches are essential to maintain the NAOPV Executive Committee. If there were no Branches, there would be no NAOPV. A bank would not have a Head Office if there were no branches in towns and cities around the country. The NAOPV charity is the same. A NAOPV Branch has the opportunity to be involved with the Executive Committee; to have a say in

On leaving the Croft, the Royal party's route led them outside (where it continued to rain with determination), past the Staff Memorial Garden, to the main part of the prison where Gov Brendan Burke, Head of Residence & Drug Strategy, and Ann Ford, NAOPV Branch Chairman, were waiting to greet the Royal party.

In HMP Manchester, the centre is not used as a thoroughfare for prisoners and staff, so HRH was able to see the lay-out of this Victorian prison. It has six wings leading off from the centre, built in the Panopticon (radial) design, completed in 1869. Gov Burke explained the function of the prison, then and now, and Mrs Ford talked to HRH about the NAOPV Branch and how prison visiting had changed at Manchester over the years.

The party then visited the Chapel, which is used as a Multi-Faith Centre. Members of the NAOPV Executive Committee and OPVs from the NAOPV Manchester Branch were waiting in the Chapel, unaware, at first, of the delay caused by the weather conditions. We were later joined by members of the Chaplaincy and Education teams at Manchester. Displays had been set

what's going on. Branch members can nominate a member of the National Executive. Branches can submit resolutions for the AGM agenda and they can send a delegate to the AGM; the delegates have voting rights at the AGM and can claim travel expenses.

If you have four or more fully paid up members of the NAOPV on your current OPV team you are eligible to form an NAOPV Branch, providing that one of you is willing to be the Chairman. Even if you have a small team of 3 OPVs, if you are all members, you can form a Branch. If you are interested, but have any queries, please contact me.

Barbara Crompton  
NAOPV General Secretary  
Tel: 01274 583417  
E mail: info@naopv.com

## Honorary Life Membership

The following members were awarded honorary life membership in 2017:

Ian Allred - HMP Stafford  
Marjorie Boothby MBE - HMP Stafford  
Jennifer Cuddeford - HMP Bedford  
Richard Gardner - HMP Maidstone  
Tony Hillam - HMP Leeds  
Valerie Wade - HMP Leeds

up by the Bakery and the Print and Book-binding Shop, Education Dept. A delicious finger-buffet was provided, prepared by the prison.

Despite a delayed start and a further engagement in the West Midlands,



HM Prison Manchester

HRH gave very special time to each one of us, chatting with us individually. Roy Hanley thanked her for honouring the NAOPV with her presence at HMP Manchester and thanked everyone for the tremendous support they had given to this occasion. Everyone joined in a round of applause – well-deserved!

Barbara Crompton

## Vacancies

### NAOPV General Secretary NAOPV Membership Secretary

Following the resignations of our General Secretary, Barbara Crompton and Past Chairman and Membership Secretary, David Crompton, effective from the 2018 AGM next June, we will have vacancies for these two positions and for Regional Secretaries.

If any fully paid up NAOPV branch members with secretarial or administration experience would like to be considered for these posts, please contact the Chairman at: info@naopv.com with a brief resume of your experience. All essential expenses are payable.

### Executive Committee Members

Our Executive Committee would welcome additional members with good organizational abilities, who enjoy being part of a team. If you have the requisite skills and would like to contribute, please contact the Chairman Roy Hanley on the above email address.

### Regional Secretaries

We have vacancies for Northern Areas 1 & 2 and Cambs/E. Anglia. Applicants must be NAOPV members but not necessarily Branch members. Contact :info@naopv.com

# NAOPV Report and Financial Statements 2017

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL PRISON VISITORS

National Association of Official Prison Visitors  
Independent Examiner's Report  
For the Year Ended 31st December 2016

Report and Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended

31st December 2016

Charity Registration Number

1099041

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL PRISON VISITORS  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31ST DECEMBER 2016

## INCOME

The Association has continued to receive a government grant of £11,000, which, as a restricted fund, is used as a contribution towards the costs of the Association (mainly AGM and Executive Meeting costs) during the year in which the grant is received. The Association has been notified that this grant will continue in 2017.

In addition to the Government grant, the Association receives subscription income from members which, in 2016, amounted to £5,021, a 27% increase over the comparative figure for 2015, reflecting the first full year of the increase in subscriptions from £7.50 to £10.

The Association is also grateful for the continuing voluntary contributions towards AGM costs which, in 2016, amounted to £735.

In addition, the Association received further donations of £1,185 during the year, including a legacy of £1000 from Mr J P Humphreys.

Investing the Association's surplus funds with the Nationwide Building Society produced interest income of £152, and, with Gift Aid receipts of £491, the total income of the Association from all sources in 2016 amounted to £18,584, compared to £16,336 for the nine months to December 2015.

## EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £17,204, very similar to the total for the nine months to December 2015, of £17,002. Within that total there were increases in Executive Committee costs (2,641 compared to £965) due to an increase in the number of meetings held. Postage costs also increased £1,754 as against £1,281 but this was counteracted by a fall in the costs of printing and publication.

## CONCLUSION

Overall income for the year exceeded expenditure by £1,380 and this surplus has been added to the Association's general funds which, at 31 of December 2016, stood at £34,605, represented by bank and Building Society balances. This figure represents approximately 2 years' operating expenses for the Association - in my experience, a reasonable but not excessive level of reserves and ensuring a measure of continuity for the Association.

Richard Hemsley FCA  
NAOPV Treasurer

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2016 which are set out on pages 1-4

## Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees & Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charity's Act 2011 and that an independent review is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in any audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Wriglesworth

18 Main Street  
Burley-in -Wharfedale  
Ilkley  
LS29 7DT

Signed:



Date: 13-5-2017

## National Association of Official Prison Visitors Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

	Year ended 31 December 2016		Nine months ended 31 December 2015	
<u>Income and Expenditure Account</u>	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions		5,021		2,957
Government grants	11,000	-	11,000	-
Contribution to AGM costs		735		1,125
Building Society interest		152		-
Gift Aid		491		1,154
legacy and donations		1,185		100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>7,584</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>5,336</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
AGM costs	7,223	-	6,794	-
Exec Meeting Costs	2,641	-	965	-
European Links	154	-	-	-
Insurance	466	-	451	-
NAOPV Publications	1,280	-	1,600	-
Independent Examiner Fees	-	-	-	-
Book Keeping Fees	558	-	285	-
Book Keeping Meetings	416	-	175	-
Travel Costs - Prison Visiting	-	1,077	730	1,890
Books/Stationery	-	845	-	662
Postage	-	1,754	-	1,281
Printing	-	408	-	1,806
Office Equipment Repairs & Renewals	-	-	-	164
Website	-	247	-	129
Subscription Refunds	-	135	-	70
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,738</b>	<b>4,466</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>6,001</b>
<b>Movement in Funds for the Year</b>	- 1,738	3,118		666
<b>Net deficit/surplus for the year</b>	<b>- 1,738</b>	<b>3,118</b>		<b>666</b>
<b>transfer from unrestricted funds</b>	1,738	- 1,738		
<b>Fund Balances as at 31 December 2015</b>		33,225		33,891
<b>Fund Balances as at 31 December 2016</b>		<b>34,605</b>		<b>33,225</b>

## National Association of Official Prison Visitors Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

### Statement of Financial Position

	31.12.16 £	31.12.15 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	14,453	33,225
Building Society deposit	20,152	-
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>34,605</b>	<b>33,225</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
General fund b/f	33,225	33,891
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	1,380	666
	<b>34,605</b>	<b>33,225</b>

Approved by the Trustees

I Allred  
Chairman & Trustee

Signed:



Date: 13/5/2017

# 2017 AGM

Around 83 people attended the NAOPV AGM at Resource for London on 20 June. Guest speakers talked about prison safety, resettlement of ex offenders and prison governors' priorities.

## Peter Clarke

Peter is Chief Inspector of Prisons. He was appointed in February 2016, succeeding Nick Hardwick, following a successful career in London's Metropolitan Police, in which he served for more than 30 years.



### Peter Clarke

Peter's role is to ask whether prisons can be made safer. "I have no doubt that there is a problem with prison safety – and I have strong views about it," he said. Education and rehabilitation are not happening at the moment, because prisons are not safe enough. Peter would like to see the powers of the inspectorate strengthened, through giving it statutory status. This was proposed in a recent Prisons Bill, which was put on hold when the General Election was called in June. The bill had wide cross parliamentary support.

Peter explained that the prisons inspector is not a regulator and can't close down jails. "Because we are independent we make recommendations that are politically inconvenient, irrespective of which government is in power," he said. "Our particular focus is on trying to increase the impact of the inspectorate."

The inspectorate's remit covers children and young people, immigration, detention, police, military courts and cell detention. "We produce evidence based reports. We do not take a position on policy - for example how many people should be in prison. But I do care that

those held should be held in decent conditions and should return to make a contribution to their communities."

He added that there are some uncomfortable truths. "For example we are on our third secretary of state in 11 months. We have produced a report that says we cannot certify a single institution holding children or young people that the inspectorate can say is safe. It is astonishing and I have already alerted the Minister."

"I hope we can give policymakers the objective truth - officials do not always give them the unvarnished truth. Safety is reduced because of the dilapidated estate, understaffing, overcrowding and we are becoming injured. Staff and prisoners alike do not seem to think there is anything wrong."

It is important to remember that there is not a crisis in every prison, Peter noted. In his view it is the local prisons and youth offender institutions that are not providing a good service for the people that they are holding there.

Safety needs to be tackled through a reform programme, Peter said. Violence is increasing. Assaults on staff and prisoners are all rising, along with self harm and self inflicted deaths. "All this means more work for the emergency services."

Far too many people with mental health problems are in jail, Peter added. An ageing population is also making difficult demands on prisons. "Some prisons do tremendous work with palliative care but the prison population is ageing at a huge rate, partly because of historic sex offenders. Prisons are not equipped to deal with them. If there was residential care for elderly prisoners it would free up resources for other things," Peter suggested.

Living conditions pose another problem. "You lose respect in bad conditions such as prisoners doubled up in cells," Peter argued. "It is totally unacceptable for people to be locked up for 22 hours a day. I am no expert but young people in YOIs get no exercise or daylight and the amount of food they are given is totally inadequate."

"Overcrowding needs to be reduced. We need more staff and fewer prisoners. We need a decent space in which to hold people. At the moment the criterion is the capacity of a jail – there are no real guidelines. We need an effective drug reduction strategy. The amount of drugs getting into prisons is a real concern. Also, technology in jails is way

out of date."

"We need to reduce violence through a pro-active intelligence led strategy. Who is responsible for violence, when and why is it happening?"

We need staff to deal with the ageing population. We need to keep young people safe. Then we can get people into training and education. Prisons should take note of inspections. In some prisons for example only 12 out of 72 recommendations have been acted on. This means there is no improvement."

"We will wait to see if the bill is reintroduced into parliament," Peter concluded. "If it becomes a legal requirement for the Secretary of State to take responsibility, it will be a bold move. I hope the new Secretary of State will retain that recommendation."

## Jacob Tas

Jacob is Chief Executive the National Association for Resettlement and Care of Offenders (Nacro). Jacob was previously Director England at the Prince's Trust, which involved him in work with young offenders.

"You can't hide the fact that the majority of prisons are producing poor results for prisoners and for society because of the terrible reoffending rates," Jacob said. "The chief inspectorate is very articulate but struggles to find the words to say what is going wrong."

Nacro has around 1,500 temporary housing spaces and helps ex offenders



### Jacob Tas

– a large percentage who have mental health problems. The organisation also runs a further education college near Southampton. Nacro has a £50m annual turnover and delivers government contracts on payment by results.

"We are involved in private/third

sector partnerships for training and employment but are struggling to help people with a criminal record into employment,” Jacob said. “There are 11 million people in the country with a criminal record and government departments say they want to improve rehabilitation. But those departments ban ex offenders from working for them.”

Way too many people are in prison – more than 85,000, Jacob noted. “It’s a shocking statistic in a civilised society. There are more people on life sentences than the whole of the rest of Europe combined.” There are positive trends on the Continent. “The Netherlands is closing prisons and the crime rate is going down. It is not a pipe dream – other countries show how it can be done,” Jacob said.

Reoffending rates are 44.7% of prisoners within a year – 69.4% for young people. Probation is in crisis. Reports about these problems were put on hold due to the election, but are now coming through thick and fast. “Things need to be improved,” Jacob said.

He added that we now have the fourth Secretary of State in recent years. “David Liddington, the new justice secretary, has no background in the work, which means he is always in listening mode. The question is, should you have expertise to run this department?”

“The Prison and Courts Bill said rehabilitation is the purpose, but I say put your money where your mouth is. Give freedom to governors,” Jacob suggested.

Jacob listed some changes that are needed: “Stem the flow of people going into prisons – look at alternatives. There should be a relentless focus on rehabilitation. In education, funds are needed for work in small groups with people who are excluded. Youth offenders are very disadvantaged and we have the expertise to help. We have been told that it is a lifeline.”

## Sue Doolan

On 30 May 2017, Sue Doolan was appointed governor at HMP Littlehey at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. She previously worked at nine different prisons and on policy development.

“I know what a difference you make at a difficult time for the service,” she told the AGM, adding that her speech reflected her own views, not those of the prison service.

Sue explained that she has 36 years of experience and has seen enormous change. “At the moment it is one of the

most difficult periods in my entire career. Staff say it has never been so difficult, with more assaults, deaths in custody, self harm and more recalls to prison. How did we get here? It is a perfect storm.”



### Sue Doolan

Sue listed some of the problems. “There are two to a cell and overcrowding. Spice is a drug that started in the community and is now in prisons. It used to be a legal high and was undetectable. There is also a rise in extremist activity and headlines about radicalisation. There is a gang culture in the community that is replicated in prison. There is a rise in mentally ill prisoners. There is an increase in sexual offenders in prison. On top of all this there is immense pressure to reduce costs. A lot of experienced staff have left and officers who do not have experience to manage a prison at a difficult time have replaced them.”

“The question is: what are we going to do about it?” she asked. “We are introducing a new offender management programme where management will become mentors. It is crucial to rehabilitation. Staffing levels are increasing to help with this change.”

Better staff training will help prisoners plan for the future, Sue pointed out, adding that there will be more probation officers to work with high risk prisoners. There are already 10 pathfinders in prisons and the rest should be in place in the next two years.

Elsewhere, legislation to help tackle spice means prisoners and visitors who supply them can be prosecuted. Dogs have been retrained to detect it. “We are getting prisoners into treatment. We are reducing the use of illicit mobile phones. In pathfinder prisoners there is IT and telephones in individual cells. This is reducing the number of mobile phones

in prisons,” Sue revealed.”

Drones are another problem that needs to be tackled to make prisons safer. “The community will always run ahead on technology,” Sue noted. “We have clever prisoners, when it comes to IT, who know about things like the dark web. We have good work going on across the estate and it will get better but it will take time.”

On the issue of radicalisation in prisons, Sue said that prisons are working more closely with the police. There is more investment to recruit intelligence staff tracking this, and more investment in serious and organised crime to look at what is going on in prisons, she said.

Sue agreed with the other AGM speakers, that we need to develop a safe environment before we can look at rehabilitation. She believes that there are two strands: better trained and resourced staff and a prison estate that is fit for people.

The intention is to have less crowded, more fit for purpose accommodation. A new prison is being built in Wales for 2,000 prisoners. It will use methods and technology that is not available in other prisons.

Sue noted that £1.3bn has been made available for four new adult prisons and five new community prisons for women. “These are major changes and improvements will only be seen over a decade.”

Prison governors are also looking into combating widespread violence. A major change is the reintegration of the prison and probation service. More probation officers will work in prisons. But recruitment is difficult, especially in London and the southeast. “HMPPS is a very big ship and I have not doubt it will turn, but slowly. I am more hopeful that I have been for some years but at the moment some prisons are difficult and scary. Prison visitors are important, never more than now,” Sue concluded.

## AGM 2018

Tuesday 19 June  
Resource for London  
356 Holloway Road  
London  
N7 6PA

## New publicity material

If you would like publicity material and information about prison visiting we can supply posters sizes A3; A4; A5. We also have a tri-fold leaflet to help with prison recruitment.

**Contact:**  
[shirleycleggpannal@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shirleycleggpannal@hotmail.co.uk)

## Tribute to Susan MacDonald

It is an honour for me to have the opportunity to say a few words : the NAOPV wishes to express its gratitude for your long years of work for the benefit of prisoners.

For over 20 years, you have put your knowledge, experience, intelligence and kindness at the service of some of the most ignored in our society. In this, you have been following a long family tradition of service.

Circumstances have put too early an end to your prison visiting, and I know this is making you sad. But we all know you will overcome your disappointment and seize this as an opportunity to step back, reflect, maybe bear witness, one way or another.

You and I have worked together across borders for over 10 years. We have organized fruitful cross-border meetings on both sides of the Channel, with the participation of prison visitors from both countries, but also of English and French prison staff, prison governors, and representatives of NOMS, of the British Consulate in Lille and Paris, of Europris, of Prisoners Abroad, of Migrant Help, of numerous volunteer organizations in both countries.

All participants said the meetings were a great source of information, prompted reflection and broadened their horizons. It was hard work obtaining

I will not end without expressing my admiration - which I am sure is shared by all who know you - for your courage, your energy, your strength and positive attitude in the face of whatever hardships have come your way. You have not been spared, but you have built in your heart and mind an optimism that has helped you overcome obstacles in a remarkable way.

I want to thank you for your friendship and your inspiration. My warmest wishes will always accompany you.

**Maryvonne de Vitton, ANVP**

## Obituary: John Waddington-Feather

It is with sadness that we report the death of John Waddington-Feather. For many years he was an OPV at HMP Shrewsbury, and he will be remembered fondly by the many prisoners he befriended there.

I first met him in 1959 when he joined the staff of the Yorkshire Grammar School where I was a pupil, and he quickly acquired a reputation as a firm and fair teacher (English was his subject.) He was also a formidable Rugby Union player!

After leaving teaching, John worked abroad, including stints in some of the world's trouble spots. He took Holy Orders and commenced his prison work when he settled in Shropshire.

After leaving school in 1965, I heard nothing more of John until his name was mentioned at a NAOPV Executive Committee meeting in 2005. I thought surely, there's can't be TWO John J Waddington-Feathers? I made email contact, which continued until his death.

John spent his final years house-bound, but his remarkable spirit refused to be cowed. He developed a successful career as the author of a series of e-books, mainly crime mysteries, set in a fictional Yorkshire market town. John also had an

interest in church music and adapted a number of classical themes to well-known hymns.

We extend our condolences to John's family. He will be sadly missed by many, not least this former pupil.

**David Crompton**

## WHO'S WHO

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OPV website enquiries – Diana Turner

**Contact us**

Email: [info@naopv.com](mailto:info@naopv.com)  
Tel: 01274 583417



**Ian presents Sue with flowers after the tribute from Maryvonne (right) at the AGM**

the authorizations of our Ministries, but we managed and Michael Spurr, then Head of Prison Services in England and Wales, expressed his support for our work at your AGM last year - and so did the Princess Royal two years ago!