



NAOPV

National Association of
Official Prison Visitors

Annual NEWSLETTER 2022

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Date for your Diary

AGM & Conference 2023

Tuesday 16th May

Resource for London
356 Holloway Road
London N7 6PA

*Details and invitations will be
issued early in 2023.*

Chairman's Column

by John Kennett



Dear OPVs & Associates,

I was honoured to be elected as Chairman of the NAOPV in succession to Roy Hanley, who is going to be a hard act to follow. Roy spent the last two years of his five year term as chairman during the pandemic when visiting was suspended and most prisoners throughout the country were locked in their cells for twenty-three hours a day. Our executive committee meetings had to be held via Zoom and the AGM and conference were cancelled in 2020 and 2021. As a charity we were obliged to hold a formal AGM last year and this was done in October partly in person and partly via Zoom.

One positive development of the pandemic has been the introduction of video visiting which might well continue and it may be that prison visiting can be done by people at opposite ends of the country.



We also meet quarterly with the Ministry of Justice in Birmingham and the first of these meetings was shortly before the first lockdown and was held by telephone. Subsequently we used Microsoft Teams. These meetings are to provide key performance indicators (KPIs) to justify our grant which in a normal year is £11,000 - a tiny amount in the scheme of things

but we still have to jump through the same hoops as charities with grants a great deal larger than ours.

I hope that in the next two or three years leading up, incidentally, to the centenary of the NAOPV, I will settle into the role of chairman but for some time I will rely on advice and support from Roy, his predecessor Ian Allred and our general secretary, Jenny Haigh who does a fantastic job. I expect that in the next few months prison visiting will be back to normal, **long may it continue.**



Chairman's AGM Report

AGM Tuesday 17th May 2022. By Roy Hanley



This past year has seen further changes to officialdom within the criminal justice system. In September, the Rt Hon Dominic Raab was appointed Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and thereby became our ex officio new president. Also in September, Victoria Atkins was appointed as Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice, and Minister for Afghan resettlement, leading the Ministry of Justice's work on prison operations and policy. In addition to Jo Farrar's role as CEO of HMPPS, the position of Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice was added to her portfolio in March.

Following the sad losses of Gerard Noel and Brian Lawrence, a working group is appraising a number of possible external new appointments as vice presidents, including individuals with experience in politics, academia, education, as well as in the criminal justice sector. It is hoped that suitable engagements can be fulfilled during the year.

The equality and diversity monitoring project enjoyed a good response from OPVs and although the results were hardly surprising, it did especially highlight a need for recruitment from a younger age demographic, in addition to persons from minority ethnic groups. The trustees will continue to ensure that the NAOPV fulfils its obligations under its Equality & Diversity policy.

A working group has met regularly during the year, by video conference, developing our GDPR data protection obligation, which includes data mapping whilst ensuring compliance with the regulations, that will lead to updating and sharing the new privacy policy with OPVs. We are fortunate in having talented individuals on our committee, and within our OPV ranks when specific services and skills are required, and we are particularly grateful to a fellow NAOPV member with manifest GDPR knowledge and experience in guiding us on this project.

The charity indemnity insurance taken out for the NAOPV some years ago and reviewed on an annual basis had been regarded as sufficient for our needs, with HMPPS being responsible for OPV training, self-indemnifying and having a duty of care toward OPVs whilst on prison premises. The NAOPV provides advice and guidance to all OPVs, whether members or not, on the role of an OPV, as well as on such issues as conditions of appointment by way of the Handbook etc. Nick Holroyd has been leading a renewed effort evaluating and clarifying possible grey areas of understanding or interpretation with our Insurer and broker, that may not have been fully addressed in the past, in particular to ensure that the trustees have adequate protection. Any developments and benefits will be communicated to members during the year.

A draft Health and Wellbeing policy is being developed taking account of guidelines should any OPVs feel a need for emotional support.

On becoming chairman, I introduced a structure review which has led to clearer individual responsibilities of Executive Committee members and the establishment of small but effective working groups to deal with specific issues. New challenges will however, invariably present themselves and the past two years have proved no exception, in particular with the effects of the covid pandemic. Whilst lock-down conditions have undeniably eased in the UK, individual prisons have been taking a more pragmatic approach to the easing of restrictions in their establishments, depending on such issues as location and local infection rates. Social visits have been possible for some time in most prisons, albeit with limited numbers, together with a strict admission regime requiring appropriate PPE and social distancing measures. Official Prison



Chairman's AGM Report /continued

Visiting has recommenced to varying degrees, but we still do not have an accurate feel for how many OPVs will continue to visit in person.

Video conferencing, via the Purple Visits scheme (shortly to change to 'Prison Video'), is deemed to have been an adequate, if not ideal, alternative means of communication with prisoners, especially if they are on long term sentences and their OPVs have developed an established rapport. The scheme is likely to be retained, in particular for prisoners' family and friends, and so OPVs who are reticent to return to 'in prison' visits may also use the scheme.

The NAOPV is grateful for having been a beneficiary of grant monies from the Ministry of Justice/HMPPS for some years. The latter's grants team is however, under increasing pressure to justify any grant extended to a service provider and so the NAOPV has been requested to address such issues as: how to measure the impact of the service we provide and quantify outcomes. With the type of service we provide as unpaid volunteers and considering the relatively modest sum involved, some may regard such requirements as overly fastidious.

However, as I mentioned in my report to the AGM in October 2021, future grant awards are not guaranteed, although I am pleased to report that HMPPS have given assurance that we will continue to receive a grant until April 2023. Thereafter, a bidding process is expected to be initiated.

Such additional challenges are already being addressed by the executive committee and an additional meeting was held in December specifically to address and discuss future funding, together with the need, or otherwise, to widen our brief in order to accommodate future expectations of the prison service on charitable associations operating within the justice system. We are very fortunate in having been offered the services of Dr Erin McFee as an Independent Consultant, to assist in such matters. Erin is a political anthropologist having researched individuals and institutions that make and unmake war, focusing on ex-combatant integration into civilian populations. Much of her work has been in South America, where she has more recently been involved with guiding those involved with drug cartels away from criminal activity.

Her experience and wide-ranging skills will be of benefit in such areas as future fund raising; constructive use of social media; developing impact statements; enabling an involvement with academia and raising the profile of the NAOPV, whilst maintaining our position as being a non-faith-based association not a political pressure group.

Having completed five years as Chair of the NAOPV, I am stepping down at this AGM for John Kennett to take over the mantle and wish him all the best in his future role. Despite the challenges of the past years, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed my time served and that this was only possible thanks to the full support of the Executive Committee. I have always held the firm view that good teamwork is a basic tenet for success and enjoyment, and that that factor is particularly relevant in a committee where all the members are giving their time freely.

So many OPVs and members from the branches and the committee, in addition to prison liaison officers and staff, have been supportive and so it would be unfair to single out individuals. It would be remiss of me however, to not reserve special thanks to our General Secretary Jenny Haigh, who works tirelessly and harder than anyone else and who has given me tremendous support over the years.

With thanks and best wishes to all OPVs in giving your invaluable time and energy freely, to ensure that our invariably grateful prisoners continue to be visited.



Equality and Diversity Statement



The National Association of Official Prison Visitors (“NAOPV”) is committed to promoting and valuing diversity in every aspect of the work it carries out and will strive to ensure that:

- All individuals are treated fairly, with dignity and respect.
- Opportunities provided are open to all eligible individuals.
- Benefit is gained from the skills, talents and experience offered by a diverse membership reflecting all sections of our communities.
- The volunteering environment is based on and built on inclusiveness and merit.

DISCRIMINATION The NAOPV is opposed to all forms of discrimination on the grounds of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief. The NAOPV has a zero tolerance towards any acts of discrimination or harassment by or against volunteers, other stakeholders and the public at large. The NAOPV is committed to monitoring its recruitment and membership processes and will address any issues related to equality and diversity to eliminate any potentially discriminatory practices.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION The NAOPV will use its best endeavours to ensure that all recruitment processes are designed to attract applications from all sections of society and to ensure fair and nondiscriminatory treatment throughout the recruitment and selection process. In particular it will:

- Where practicable carry out diversity monitoring of all applicants for volunteering roles and remunerated posts.
- Carry out regular reviews to identify any diversity issues that should be addressed.
- Where practicable check that volunteer role and any remunerated job descriptions are relevant and non-discriminatory.
- Ensure that the wording and imagery used in recruitment and other literature generated by the NAOPV, reflect and appeal to all sections of society.
- Ensure that volunteering opportunities are advertised without appearing to disadvantage or exclude any sections of society. However, an OPV can only be appointed by the governor of the prison to which the OPV has been assigned and security screened, and that appointment is limited to OPV visits to that prison. Only the Governor of that prison may discharge an OPV from that position.

TRUSTEE AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES The Trustees of the Association are responsible for ensuring that the NAOPV meets its obligations under this policy. The NAOPV will be responsible for putting in place mechanisms and procedures to achieve and maintain a culture and environment that accords with its statutory and other obligations, in addition to its commitment to diversity and equality. It is the individual responsibility of all members who carry out paid or unpaid work on behalf of the NAOPV to:

- Comply with the letter and spirit of this policy.
- Be sensitive to the potential impact of their own behaviour on colleagues, service users, prison staff and applicants for posts.
- Challenge any discriminatory practice that they may witness and cooperate in the elimination of any discriminatory practices which may be identified.



In memoriam: Malcolm Goldring, Gerard Noel and Brian Lawrence

by Roy Hanley, NAOPV Chairman 2018-2022

Malcolm Goldring (1949-2021) was a valued member of the NAOPV Executive Committee. He was a conductor and musical director. In his illustrious career he conducted most of the great British orchestras. We have also lost two Vice Presidents in recent times, Gerard Noel (1927-2020) and Brian Lawrence MBE (1934-2022), both of whom were active OPVs for many years in HMP Exeter and HMP Wakefield respectively. Gerard had served as a regional secretary and executive committee member, whilst Brian was national chairman from 1978-80 (for which he was awarded the MBE).



Brian Lawrence's daughter Penny Peters said of her father "He felt strongly that prison visiting helped bring part of the wider community into prisons and so had an important role to play."

Treasurer's Report

for year ending 31st December 2021. By Richard Hemsley

I must first of all apologise that I was unable to attend this year's Annual General Meeting. I am however grateful to Roy Hanley for presenting this report on my behalf.



The Association's activities in 2021, and as a result its finances were once again impacted by the Covid pandemic particularly in the first half of the year. As Covid restrictions were lifted in the second half of the year, The Association was able, in October, to hold its Annual General Meeting which had had to be postponed from May 2020. The Cost of the AGM was £2189. The Association also undertook in Autumn 2021 at the request of HMPPS a membership survey which cost £961. These two items, together with other recurring expenditure, made up a total amount of £5305 which qualified for HMPPS grant this year- a sum considerably less than the annual grant of £11,000 to which the Association was nominally entitled, again a reduction as the result of the pandemic.

Membership subscriptions amounted to £4759, very close to last year's total and this was supplemented by Gift Aid recoveries of £635 and further donations of £947. Including a small amount of Building Society interest, total membership income amounted to £6351. From this figure there must be deducted the Association's own housekeeping expenses which are not covered by Grant which amounted to £1254, including £379 for a second laptop computer. This left a surplus of £5097 which has been added to the Association's reserves.

As at 31 December 2021 these reserves amounted to £40700, represented principally by Bank and Building Society balances. This is a relatively high figure compared to earlier years but necessary given the uncertainty as to the future of the Association's grant from HMPPS which at present has only been confirmed until 2023.

If there are any questions that the Chairman cannot deal with, I am happy to respond to these in writing. Meanwhile I recommend the 2021 accounts (which have as usual been subjected to independent examination) and they have been approved at the Annual General meeting.

Simon Marshall, HMPPS

Simon Marshall kindly spoke in place of Michelle Jarman-Howe, Chief Operating Officer for Prisons, who was otherwise engaged. Simon is Head of Rehabilitation Services Group, Her Majesties Prison and Probation Service. He is also responsible for overseeing both current delivery and reform of adult rehabilitation services in custody, the community and through the prison gate. This includes providing services and support to front-line prison and probation leaders around areas such as health, social care, education, employment and supporting relationships with families and significant others. He began his talk with praise of OPVs and acknowledged their importance in reducing reoffending and regenerative crime.



Covid-19 has clearly had severe negative effects on the entire justice system – from the police, the courts, probation, through to prisoners, staff and the volunteers – perhaps unexpectedly however it has created the opportunity to accelerate the drive to examine regime models and develop improvements.

Video calling was extended at speed in the early days of the pandemic, Purple Visits is now being replaced by Prison Video. Considerable technical and practical difficulties are being tackled to ensure that the evident benefits are maintained. Examples include enabling contact with distant relatives in the UK and abroad; and prisoners being able to share family occasions such as children opening birthday presents. It has also allowed families with young children to avoid difficult journeys and the hustle and bustle of visits halls. New prisons are being designed to be less austere: HMP Five Wells, opened recently, presents a more normal “airport terminal” feel to the visitor, inmate accommodation is less oppressive, with a focus on good facilities for education and fitness.

A member of the audience had experienced a knock-on effect of Covid where security had changed long-established procedures, exposing a lack of knowledge and understanding by staff of the role of OPVs. Simon agreed that staff losses and high staff turnover had exacerbated problems, but if a local scheme was causing serious problems then he would be happy to review and discuss with the establishment. In finishing he suggested that his team is regularly faced with the fact that “no one size fits all”!

Riana Taylor, CEO Circles UK

Circles UK is the national organisation which oversees Circles of Support and Accountability (Circles). This innovative model uses trained and supported volunteers in the community who work alongside criminal justice agencies to help perpetrators of sexual abuse with the sole purpose of preventing further victims. Circles provide a social network for someone who has committed sexual offences or engaged in harmful sexual behaviour, whilst also requiring them to take responsibility for their own ongoing risk management. Circles provide practical guidance in things such as developing social skills and finding suitable accommodation thus reducing social exclusion. Abusers gain awareness of their behaviour, take ownership and desist from committing further sexual abuse.



Riana talked about the clear research evidence that Circles reduce risk of harm to others and social isolation as by aiding reintegration into the community and improving emotional well being they reduce the factors that research has shown enable desistance from sexual abuse. She also pointed out the difficulties of raising funds, the support Circle members are given and how to access the service. You can find out more about Circles UK's vital work in this video report by Sky News www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8Hdcz_fXQk



Erwin James, Editor in Chief of Inside Times



Erwin spoke about his early years with his parents, his directionless way of life as a child following the death of his mother and spending his early adult years drifting, culminating in many a brush with the law. This led ultimately to a conviction for murder in 1984 with a life sentence from which he was released after serving 20 years in 2004.

He said that he went into prison as an inarticulate and ill-educated man and after some encouragement from the prison psychologist, he embarked on a programme of part-time education and 6 years later he graduated from the Open University with an arts degree, majoring in history. He developed an interest in writing, assisting fellow prisoners with letter writing and realised that writing was what he wanted to do, but never thought that he would become a writer!

After submitting a letter to the *Independent* newspaper, which was never published, he was encouraged to write an article which was published in 1994 and in 1998 he became a regular columnist for the *Guardian* newspaper, with a fortnightly column entitled 'A Life Inside' which continued until his release. He has since become an author, columnist, writer and supporter & trustee of many organisations involved with prisoners including being the Editor in Chief at *Inside Times*, the newspaper for prisoners.

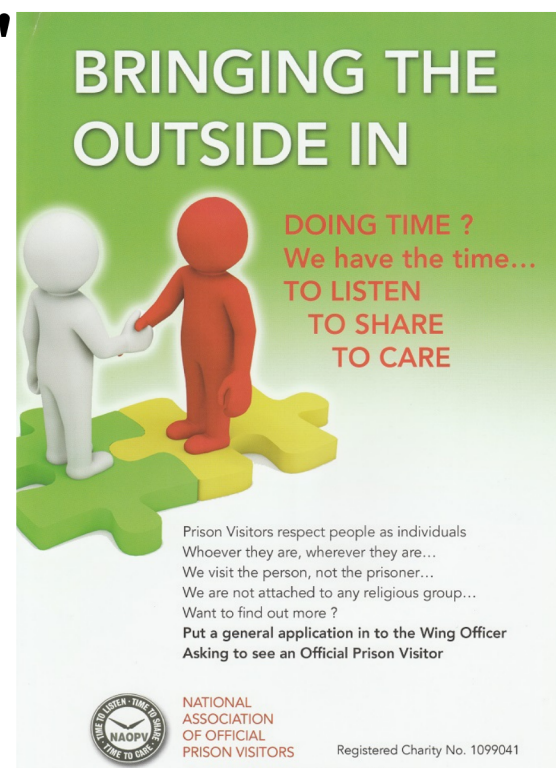
His life without purpose had become a life with purpose thanks in no small way to the help and support he had received from staff and volunteers within the prison environment and in particular, from a prison visitor who gave him a challenging book on Greek philosophers and with whom he kept in touch until his death. He thanked the audience of OPVs and prison personnel for their continuing commitment to prisoners and stressed how important this role continues to be for their well-being, self-respect and future reintegration back into the community.

"Bringing the Outside In"

You will all have seen the NAOPV handbook and the A3 and A4 posters and A5 leaflets for use inside prisons. These are designed for display on the wings, in the chaplaincy and communal areas to advise prisoners of their entitlement to request to meet with an OPV - "Bringing the outside in" A5 leaflets can also be included in prisoner reception packs.

To aid in the recruitment of new OPVs, a trifold leaflet is available for use externally to publicise the service we offer and to encourage people to become OPVs.

Periodically our Handbook requires review and this exercise is currently under way with the respective working group, with the intention of issuing a revised version this year.



BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN

DOING TIME ?
We have the time...
TO LISTEN
TO SHARE
TO CARE

Prison Visitors respect people as individuals
Whoever they are, wherever they are...
We visit the person, not the prisoner...
We are not attached to any religious group...
Want to find out more ?
Put a general application in to the Wing Officer
Asking to see an Official Prison Visitor

NAOPV
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL PRISON VISITORS
Registered Charity No. 1099041

The NAOPV acknowledges the support of HMPSS in the publication of this document

Free copies of this publicity material are available. Contact your Regional Secretary or Shirley Clegg via info@naopv.com

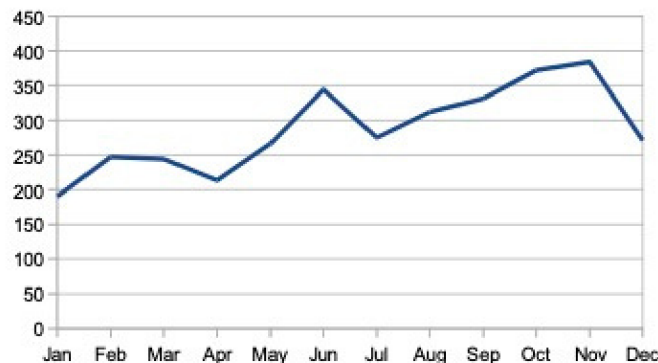


NAOPV Website



Our website www.naopv.com has gone from strength to strength in 2021. From its launch in late 2019, the number of visitors has grown steadily. In 2021 visitors have increased by a further 50% from the first quarter to the last, with a monthly average of 300 for the year, far in excess of the old website.

NAOPV Website visitors in 2021

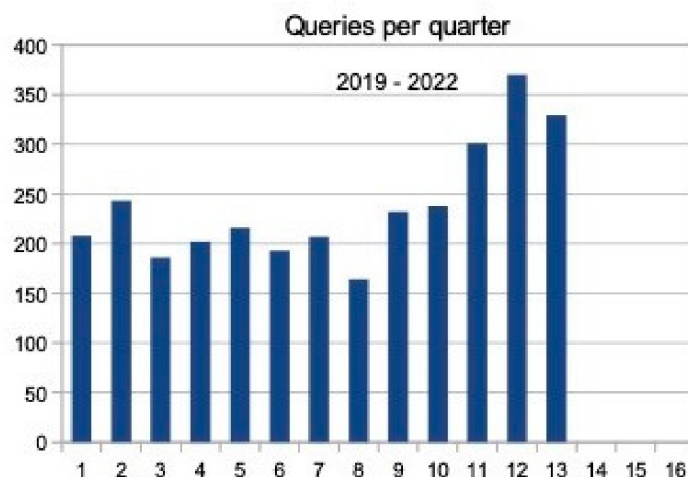


In addition to the original basic informative facets of the site (what is an OPV, where do we operate, how to become an OPV, etc) the contents now include book reviews, articles of interest, links to relevant government sites, recent AGM minutes, ebulletins, the Association’s constitution. Some of these are available to the world at large and some only to paid-up members. We aim to continue to expand the site to provide more benefits to OPVs as well as to attract new OPVs.

The website also attracts a stream of contacts – welcome and unwelcome – with over 100 emails a month. Months vary of course but roughly 30% of these are enquiries from potential OPVs, another 30% are businesses seeking to sell products or services, 20% are from organisations relevant to prisons and prisoners and a further 20% are spam and scams.

Queries per quarter **Info @ naopv.com**

2019				2020				2021				2022			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
208	243	186	202	216	193	207	164	232	238	301	370	329			
Average = 210				Average = 195				Average = 257				Average = 329			



You said... We did

by Jenny Haigh



You said:: HMP Pentonville AGM 2021 Resolution: *'Given the NAOPV's duty of care to its volunteers, what provisions will it put in place to safeguard and support OPVs with any effects of visiting on their mental health'.*

Following a general discussion on peer support, internal counselling and the need for emotional support if events whilst visiting have an adverse impact on the mental and or physical health of OPVs, the Chair confirmed that the Executive Committee (EC) were already in the process of producing a procedure for support/guidance.

We did:

- Development of a Health & Welfare policy started in November 2021 which required clarification on indemnity from the current NAOPV insurance policy and consideration of emotional support. This will be reviewed for adoption by the Trustees in July 2022.
- A review of the official Handbook and Guide for new recruits is currently being undertaken and will include the new procedure for support & guidance.

You said: HMP Full Sutton AGM 2021 Resolution: *'That an emphasis be put on getting more early retired people interested in becoming a prison visitor, so working towards getting some younger people involved at all levels as OPVs'.*

The Chair explained the EC policy on recruitment which included regular communication via ebulletin and website but also asked for recommendations/ideas from branches. A diverse mix of OPVs with a cross section matching the prison population is the ultimate objective.

Suggestions from the members suggested active recruitment through Branches and individual prison visitors, evening visits for working people, a promotional video for the website, positive Liaison Officer support. Branches were asked to send ideas to support this to the General Secretary.

We did:

- As the pandemic took hold once more, the prisons continued with the closed door policy and in February 2022 Stage 3 of the National Framework regime was once again in place.
- Although we received many enquiries through the information section of the website from people interested in becoming prison visitors, we could only respond with general information on the role and keep their details until the situation changed.
- Active recruitment was not advised, as both domestic and prison visitors were not visiting in person. The on-line Purple Visits video conferencing system was actively encouraged in e-bulletins and on the website.
- As visiting returns to normal, active recruitment will resume with suggestions from members taken on board.

You said: HMP Hull AGM 2022 Resolution: *'That the NAOPV clarified the indemnity arrangements for OPVs and this as soon as possible'.*

The Resolution was passed at the AGM.

We did:

- The clarification on indemnity from the current NAOPV insurance policy is currently being undertaken by the Trustees and the outcome will be discussed at the EC meeting in July 2022.



Koestler Arts Annual Exhibition



Southbank Centre, 27th October - 18th December

Celebrating their 60th anniversary this year, the Koestler Awards have played a unique, national role in motivating prisoners, secure hospital patients and immigration detainees to take part in the arts. Each year over 3,500 people in custody and in the community share their creative work by taking part.

This year, Koestler's annual UK exhibition, at London's Southbank Centre, will be curated by renowned contemporary artist Ai Weiwei who will be selecting the featured works from the winning entrants. He will be choosing from select works of music, writing, fine art, film and design from entries, on the theme of 'Taste', to the 2022 Koestler Awards for arts in criminal justice.

The exhibition programme will include talks, performances, a pop-up shop, tours and open days for the families of exhibited artists.

The exhibition will run from 27th October - 18th December at Exhibition Space, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre and you can read more about it at www.koestlerarts.org.uk

Fine Cell Work

A charity which makes beautiful handmade products in British prisons

This Spring, Fine Cell Work, celebrated 25 years of working with prisoners and ex-prisoners to see and embroider absolutely beautiful works - cushions, tapestries and more. For prisoners, the making and selling of high quality needlework boosts self-worth, instils self-discipline and fosters hope. Their aim is to allow prisoners to finish their sentences with work skills, money earned and saved, and the self-belief to not re-offend. They also guide prisoners towards training and support on release. At the Fine Works Hub, a London based workshop, they run Open the Gate - a programme which provides work experience, formal training and employment to ex-prisoners.

They sell through their website www.finecellwork.co.uk and at various UK shops and outlets and items run from £10 for a pincushion to more expensive personal commissions.





National Association of Official Prison Visitors

Registered Charity No: 1099041

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GDPR Statement

The National Association of Official Prison Visitors hereby clarifies the situation regarding the data we hold on all Official Prison Visitors, both NAOPV members and non-members.

Our Grant Agreement with HMPPS/Ministry of Justice requires the NAOPV to keep an updated record of ALL OPVs who are registered at prisons in England & Wales. The information kept on our database comprises:

- name of OPV
- address
- telephone and email address
- prison at which OPV visits

Our database also includes, where relevant, an NAOPV membership number and it records payment of annual subscriptions in the case of OPVs who are NAOPV members.

The NAOPV database does NOT include personal information, such as may be given on the OPV application form, nor does it hold bank details.

The Ministry of Justice has limited access to this information and as stated above, we keep this information on their behalf. The only information the MoJ ever require of the NAOPV is the name of the OPV and the prison which s/he visits.

This is to facilitate the requirements of the Grant Agreement between HMPPS and the NAOPV in relation to Key Performance Indicators. This information will, henceforth, be required by the MoJ on a quarterly basis.

None of the information stored on our database is ever passed to any outside agencies, nor to any commercial enterprise, nor to any other group or individual.

If, as an OPV, you have any concerns regarding the NAOPV holding the above data on behalf of HMPPS, please contact us at info@naopv.com

Who's Who

Patron:

HRH The Princess Royal

President:

The Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice

Vice Presidents:

Lord Ramsbotham of Kensington GCB CBE

Prof. Andrew Coyle CMG

Anne Pigott OBE

Officers:

John Kennett - Chairman

Jenny Haigh - Vice Chairman

Ian Allred - Vice Chairman

Roy Hanley - Past Chairman

General Secretary:

Jenny Haigh

Membership Secretary:

Margaret Henderson

Treasurer:

Richard Hemsley FCA

Executive Committee (All Officers & Regional Secretaries plus):

Margaret Henderson – Elected member

Kathy Govett – Elected member

John Carroll - Elected member

Ruth Marsden - Elected member

Emma Dogliani – Elected member

Regional Secretaries:

North East – Ingelise McNulty

North West - Vacant

Yorkshire & Humberside – Shirley Clegg

East Midlands – Vacant (temporary cover - Nick Holroyd)

West Midlands & North Wales – Ian Allred

East of England – Nick Holroyd

Home Counties North – Ben Benest

Kent, Sussex, Essex & SE London – Roy Hanley

Surrey, Middlesex & Greater London – John Kennett

South West & South Wales – Diana Turner

