QUAKERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

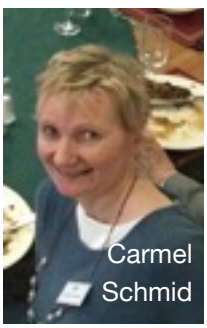
EDITORIAL - CARMEL SCHMID

The forthcoming conference in Leeds next February promises to be a very worthwhile event indeed. Judy Kessler from Leeds Area Meeting has been a key organiser of the widely acclaimed Saturday Seminars for some years. Judy has worked tirelessly on the organisation of these events, attracting eminent speakers on an eclectic range of topics, she has



elicited interesting discussions by attracting a wide audience base of area meeting friends, professionals, academics and students from nearby Leeds Universities. This year, Judy is undertaking a lead role in organising the QICJ conference and offers us the possibility of benefiting from her excellent track record of hosting the Saturday Seminars. For the first time, the QICJ conference will be held in Leeds, at Hinsley Hall close to the university and the conference will be open to day visitors so be prepared for some lively, well informed discussions. There will be a distinctive Leeds and Northern flavour to the event with former Leeds MP John Battle, a community team from Chapeltown, and David Whyte, Professor of Sociology from Liverpool University. I very much look forward to seeing you there! Carmel





Carmel Schmid

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VISION FOR A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

A VIEW FROM THE QUAKER PEACE & SOCIAL WITNESS CRIME, COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE

As Quakers we believe in that of God in everyone, no matter what they have done.

> "We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party nor against the other ... but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation, and that goodness, righteousness, meekness, temperance, peace and unity with God, and with one another, that these things may abound." Edward Burrough, 1659. Quaker faith & practicei 23.11

Quakers have a long tradition of concern with crime, community and justice and we believe this gives our voice particular value which may fruitfully be added to others saying similar things. Arising from a long and careful process of discernment we, the Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) Crime, Community and Justice Sub-committee (CCJS) have encapsulated our own view of a criminal justice system in these two sentences:

> "Justice should be compassionate, forgiving and healing – restorative, not retributive. We want to change attitudes and encourage the criminal justice system to move towards this vision of justice" QPSW Crime, Community and Justice Sub-committee, 2009

Following the example of Edward Burrough, we now articulate for ourselves what we 'are for' and what we 'are against' in the British criminal justice system for adults as measured against this vision.

Victims

We are for giving care and support to the victims of crime, making sure their needs are met so that their equilibrium can be restored. We are for helping the people around both victims and offenders to support them so that healthy relationships can be restored.



Offenders

We are against the simplistic concept of good victims and bad criminals.

We are for treating offenders as people who need help to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. We are for helping offenders understand their actions and move into a useful, happy and constructive life. We are for recognising that many offenders are also victims.

'Vulnerable' adults

We are against provisions and practices that act as a barrier to vulnerable adults being properly heard. We are against attitudes and behaviour towards people with mental illness, emotional disturbance, Specific Learning Difficulties, physical disabilities or addictive behaviour which prejudice their right to fair and

respectful treatment.

We are for appropriate professional assessment and diagnosis of the mental and emotional state of people caught up in the criminal justice system. We are for appropriate support being available to all vulnerable people in the criminal justice system whether as victim, offender, witness, or family member. We are for both the assessment and the support being initiated as early as possible in the process.

We are for good quality training to make police, courts and judiciary aware of the variety of ways in which a person can be 'vulnerable' and how their specific needs can be met.

Punishment
We are against punishment for its own sake: Jesus taught us to forgive and try to help the wrongdoer. We are against a criminal justice system based primarily on deterrence and retribution. We are against an assumption that only a punitive outcome matters. We are against criminal sentences which disengage people further from the society which imposes them.

We are for holding offenders accountable for their actions and for balancing wrongdoing by reparation. We are for a response to crime based on making things better for the victim and the offender, and thus for society. Punishment alone disengages people further from the society that imposes it. We are for offenders attaining reintegration and acceptance.

Sentencing
We are against sentencing being based on the principles of retribution or reflection of public anger. We are against the assumption that further crime is prevented through punishment. A criminal sentence should have a positive purpose, and is more likely to be effective if the expected outcome is clearly identified.

We are for measures to help sentencers be aware of the effect of their decisions upon everyone affected: the offender, their family (particularly any dependent children or others for whom the offender is the primary carer), the victim and their family, and the wider community. We are for all sentencing saying clearly what its purpose is and the actions needed to achieve that purpose.

We are for a criminal justice system that allows for a variety of ways of responding to criminal behaviour to be considered. We are for measures which aim to persuade and enable offenders to reflect on their acts and change their future behaviour. We are for the availability of restorative justice processes throughout our criminal justice system.

Use of prison
We are against the use of prison as a default response to offending when other penalties have not been adequately explored and properly rejected. We are against a prison system that seeks to detain people for longer than necessary, whether this be for profit or political expediency: either motive is morally repugnant.

"We are against punishment for its own sake: Jesus taught us to forgive and try to help the wrongdoer."

We are for the use of prison only when there is no reasonable alternative. Only offenders who pose a genuine, immediate and/or violent threat to society need to be incarcerated. When prison is truly the only reasonable response, it should be compassionate and rehabilitative. We are for non-custodial measures wherever possible.

Prison experience
Being sent to prison is itself the punishment. The deprivation of liberty and all that goes with it should not be exacerbated by bad treatment inside prison. We are against punitive

regimes and degrading conditions. We are against long periods of incarceration without meaningful activity.

We are for the provision of education, training and useful work whilst in prison. We are for the provision of activities which will nurture mind and spirit as well as physical well-being. We are for the provision of health care, addiction treatments and nutritious food that will lead to the good physical and mental health of the offender. We are for these things being provided for all prisoners regardless of the length of their sentence.

Prisoners
We are against practices and behaviour in prison which undermine the dignity of prisoners. We are against a prison service that uses a profit motive or public expenditure cuts to treat prisoners in any way that fails to meet their basic needs as human beings.

We are for supporting prisoners and treating them with respect, whilst holding them accountable for their behaviour. We are for a prison service which treats people with respect and humanity.

Prisoners' families
We are against treatment of prisoners' families that undermines their dignity and shows indifference to their needs.

We are for helping to keep prisoners' families together. We are for prisoners being held as close to their families and friends as possible. We are for the provision of visitors' centres where information, practical support and pastoral care are available and which include visiting facilities for the children of prisoners.

Prison staff
We are against prisons being understaffed or staffed by people who are not properly paid, trained and supported. We are against either profit motive or public expenditure cuts being the rationale for decisions that adversely affect maintaining high standards of service in the prison estate.

We are for treating prison staff with respect and supporting them in their difficult role. We are for adequate staffing in all prisons, with appropriate recruitment, training, pay, supervision and professional support. We are for holding prison staff at all levels accountable for the way in which they carry out their responsibilities.

Women offenders
We are against women being sent to prison for reasons other than would be applied to male offenders, such as 'for their own good' or 'to teach them a lesson or for 'their own safety'. We are against women being sentenced more harshly than men in similar circumstances.



Where prison is necessary for a woman, we are for provision which takes account of the fact that women prisoners' physical, mental and emotional needs differ from those of men. We are for the promotion of integration between the various government departments responsible for meeting the needs of women who offend or are at risk of offending.

Treatment of drug users
In the same way as it is inappropriate to imprison some people who have a mental illness, it is counter-productive to use imprisonment as a means of rehabilitating drug abusers. Diversion to treatment recognises the dangers of drug use and mis-use as primarily a public health issue.

Where drug dependency is a factor in other criminal behaviour we are for properly resourced and voluntary drug treatment being provided as an alternative to criminal justice sanctions.

Rehabilitation
Rehabilitation services need to be well planned, resourced and integrated. This will necessarily be expensive, but the saving in the long term will pay back dividends and the benefit to society will be beyond measure.

We are for measures which will help offenders avoid further reoffending and aid their reintegration into the community. We are for open-hearted, non-judgmental mentoring which dispassionately examines the circumstances that led to offending. We are for help to find work and accommodation in a suitable location upon release. We are for continuing support from probation, family, one-on-one mentoring and other 'services' like Circles of Support & Accountability for as long as the individual needs it.

Restorative justice
The restorative process is challenging and a satisfactory outcome depends on good practice leading to dialogue, understanding and appropriate reparation. It can be much more demanding and difficult for both victims and offenders, and more effective than punishment and prison.



We are for the use of restorative justice being available to everyone who wants it, victims and offenders, and at all stages of the criminal justice process. We are for giving both the offender and victim the chance to understand what happened. It is often helpful to be able to put the events into perspective, preventing what might be painful events from dominating the lives of those affected. Forgiveness can help to heal both parties: we are for providing this opportunity for it to happen.

We are for the right of victims to participate in restorative justice if they wish because it can help them to express their feelings and put a face to the crime. It can lead to their receiving an apology and reparation. We are for enabling offenders to respond to victims and offer apology and reparation. This helps offenders understand the harm which has been done and gives them a chance of putting things right.

Community justice
Communities play an essential role in reducing criminal behaviour. We are against the acceptance of a 'them' and 'us' divide, and the fostering of a blame culture. We are against the use of force as the default response for dealing with violence.

We are for helping people to understand conflict and to find ways of resolving it without resorting to violence. We are for understanding and addressing the root causes of violence and criminal behaviour and putting resources into addressing them.

We are for supporting local initiatives and partnerships in activities to achieve this. We are for involving local communities and voluntary organisations in working with prisoners, with victims of crime, and in the criminal justice system. We are for giving prisoners the right to vote and encouraging their sense of belonging to society. We are for reconciliation.

Ethics of privatisation
Dealing with an offender is a public responsibility that should be the direct duty of the state: a private provider of services is responsible to its clients and its shareholders rather than to society. Thus an ethical conundrum arises over the degree of public accountability when prisons and probation services are delegated to private companies. We are against a delivery of these state responsibilities that is not fully transparent and publicly accountable. We are against creating circumstances in which financial profit can be made by regarding people as commodities.

We are for the state taking direct responsibility for its prisons and prisoners, as it takes responsibility for all of its criminal justice system. We are for transparency and the provision of prisons and probation services. We are for measures to ensure that high standards of probity are maintained.

Summary

We believe there is that of God in everyone: if I hurt another, I hurt myself and I have a responsibility with others to repair the harm. We see the criminal justice system as society's response to a breakdown in relationships which has brought about harm. We believe that restoring relationships to meet the needs of those affected by crime and sustain safer communities is done better through restorative justice than through punishment.

We are for a compassionate, positive, caring and non-judgemental society which helps it's weaker citizens. Only a society like that has real moral strength and can offer all its citizens a contented life with less crime and less social division.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Crime, Community and Justice Sub-committee September 2015

Quaker Peace & Social Witness is part of the central organisation of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. It's Crime, Community and Justice Sub-Committee supports and represents Quakers in the area of crime and community justice.

i Quaker faith & practice: the book of Christian discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. http://qfp.quaker.org.uk



QUAKERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2016

Hinsley Hall, Leeds, February 26 – 28 2016

Plans are well in hand for our 2016 Conference and AGM, which for the first time is being held at Hinsley Hall in Leeds. Our theme for the conference is “Poverty and Power - where is our responsibility?” and we will have a packed programme with some very knowledgeable speakers: Charles Prince, a Quaker and former Senior Police Officer, will speak on Friday evening about “Principles in Public Life”, Professor David White and John Battle (ex-MP for Leeds South) will be looking at “Crimes of the Powerful” and “The Injustice of Poverty” respectively on Saturday morning, and a group of three Leeds residents will be telling us on Sunday morning about “A Community takes Responsibility: the response of Leeds to possible rioting”. There will also be workshops on related topics.

As usual, free time will be built into the programme for networking with Friends old and new, or taking a walk round Leeds; there will be an area where Friends can 'showcase' and share information about their particular contributions to the CJ system at times during the conference. There will also be two interesting exhibitions on show - “The Light that Pushes Me: stories of African Peacebuilders” and also Koestler exhibition photographs of prisoner art work, and we plan to have a social get-together on the Saturday evening.

In order to make sure of a place, put the date in your next year's diary and book your place NOW on the application form enclosed with this Newsletter.

This is also to give formal notification that the QICJ Annual General Meeting will be held during our conference, on the evening of Saturday, February 27th commencing at 19.50 and ending at 20.35.

Ann Jacob, Clerk
Alan Russell

JOHN HARRIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

It was a great privilege to represent QICJ at the Police Foundation’s annual John Harris Memorial Lecture. I travelled fromCornwall to London on 20th July, not knowing quite what to expect; Drapers Hall was an illustrious setting for the event, which had an equally illustrious guest list. I learned from the notes circulated that in April 2015 Sarah Thornton became the first Chair of the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC). This has replaced the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and brings together police leadership expertise to co-ordinate and agree policing approaches in the public interest.

Her lecture was titled 'Reimagining Policing' and opened with news of two flagship Police Foundation Projects: the first focused on violence and burglary and the second on organised crime, defined as online fraud and sexual exploitation, both of children and adults, which often has a digitised element. One shocking statistic was that there has been an 88% increase in investigations of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) since 2012. Our speaker was clear that policing requiring knowledge of digitisation cannot be a specialist role.



Public Value Theory was cited as one of the criteria by which the effectiveness of Police activity should be assessed. There was deliberate breadth of language in terms of including Special Constables and PCSOs with sworn Officers, and a sense that where possible these should all be seen as 'staff'. The reduction in Police staff numbers by 36,000 between 2010 and 2014 is likely to be replicated in the coming years. There was a recognition of ambiguity and complexity: this reimagining was not a set of principles which could be easily shoe-horned into a static diagram or flowchart.

Most interesting to me, as a Restorative Justice proponent, was the explicit commitment to working more closely with others. This went beyond collaboration, giving integration a higher value. It would be very interesting to explore the meanings of those words and of a transition between them. The Police need partners for the prevention of harm, to reduce the opportunity for harm and for early intervention when it does occur. The 'Troubled Families' initiative was commended, as was Sherman's research showing that over half of all crime takes place in 5% of locations (hotspots as they have become known). 'Sharing', such a simple word, was also commended, and devolution was recognised as an opportunity for sharing and for 'better joining up'.

Afterwards there was a reception: as a newcomer and outsider I was made welcome when people saw my badge and I had a long talk with a minister about the joys of his work. I also spoke at length with a member of the Children's Commissioner's team which was extremely interesting. I am left with a wish to learn more about the ways that the Police are responding to the current challenges. I hope to connect any future understandings that I acquire about Police work to this experience, and to continue to share the learning.

The Police Foundation's sixth Annual Conference will take place in London on 5th November. It is titled 'Policing and protecting vulnerable people: improving the police response to harm and risk'. Partners are welcomed, especially those supporting victims and those working in the fields of mental health and domestic violence.

Deborah Mitchell

LISTEN TO THE LECTURE IN FULL AT

http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/uploads/holding/johnharris/jhml_2015.mp3

PEAKS AND TROUGHS

Four of the topics that involved the FWCC Quaker team attending the thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Qatar included: children of prisoners, building the city of restorative justice, restorative justice in practice, force and firearms by law enforcement officers.

The peaks for the Quaker team at the Congress were the support for work on the needs of children of incarcerated parents and the problems of women prisoners. The troughs concerned the way that restorative justice was sliding off the agenda, and how NGOs struggled to get their voices heard.



Children of incarcerated parents

Laurel Townhead and Rachel Brett ran an ancillary event on 'Children of Incarcerated Parents'. They shared the findings of the COPING report, a video on children of parents sentenced to death and a briefing paper on applicable international standards and guidance. The formal programme of the Congress included a workshop on 'Role of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, especially women and children, and treatment and social reintegration of offenders'. We were pleased by the degree to which 'children of the incarcerated' was woven through the twenty presentations. Following Laurel's recommendation, the report of the workshop recommended that guidance be developed on assessing the best interests of the child in decisions about whether a child should reside in prison with a parent, and if so for how long.

This workshop also included a video on the Bangkok Rules featuring interviews with Kimmett Edgar, the head of the FWCC team for the UN Criminal Justice programme, and Rachel, among others. The FWCC team had worked hard at the previous UN Crime Congress in Salvador to get a reference to children of incarcerated parents into the Salvador Declaration. Therefore, it was surprising and pleasing to see the extent to which this issue is now on the agenda of diplomats, criminal justice professionals, policy makers and other NGOs.

The work on the children of prisoners stems from the efforts of Quakers to highlight the specific problems of women prisoners. These were initially raised by FWCC representatives at the UN Criminal Justice Commission in Vienna in 2003. Seven years later, the Bangkok Rules were adopted by the UN. And now needs of these women for better treatment is a matter being featured in the official workshops and many ancillary events. The role that Quakers have played in getting to this stage is warmly recognized by all.

Restorative Justice

Quakers had been asked to contribute to the formal programme's Workshop, 'Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice – experiences and lessons learned'. Nick McGeorge presented three projects in which he is involved "Restorative Justice – Circles of Support & Accountability, pre-trial mediation and community mediation."

Restorative justice was mentioned in the report and the conclusions on this workshop. This was the only mention in the main programme for restorative justice. Nick does have the opportunity to expand the topic in a book to be published by the workshop organisers, the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Marian Liebmann and Nick presented an ancillary event on 'Building the Restorative City'. Despite low attendance (being the last in the last full day of ancillary events), it was well received. People from Australia, Belgium, Estonia, Mexico, Nigeria and the US were present.



Apart from the Quaker input and two events on juvenile justice, there were very few mentions of restorative justice – it seems to be seen as 'icing on the cake' for a few juvenile offenders rather than an inclusive approach.

As the result of interventions by Nick, the Civil Society Declaration presented to the Congress did have three mentions of restorative justice.

Quakers will need to work to get restorative justice as visible as it was in the declaration of the UN Congress in 2005.

Death penalty

An intervention by Rachel ensured that abolition of the death penalty was included in the Civil Society Declaration, which was important given that this was not covered in the Doha Declaration from the Congress.

The UN principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officers

A handbook on the application of the principles is being prepared for publication later in the year. Nick was involved in drafting the principles because of the QCEA report (1985) on the policing of non-violent demonstrations in Europe. The Quaker interest in the text is in stopping the use of violence to control peaceful demonstration, restricting the use of firearms, screening the psychological competence of the individual police officer, and in training the police in non-violent conflict resolution and mediation. Nick hopes to be involved in the handbook process.

Rachel Brett
Marian Liebmann
Nicholas McGeorge
Laurel Townhead

UPDATE FROM CCJS

The 'position statement' CCJS issued in February 2015 has been revised and now re-issued as a "Vision for a criminal justice system: a view from QPSW CCJS". Copies are available from Paula Harvey and are included within the physical copy of this newsletter.

At their recent annual work review, CCJS adopted two new pieces of emerging work over the next couple of years:

a. Researching and then informing Friends about inequalities of treatment of offenders within the criminal justice system with particular but not exclusive reference to women and BME people.
b. Addressing areas in which non-nationals in the UK are criminalised by legislation both existing and forthcoming.

CCJS is continuing to promote use of the 'Why Prison?' discussion framework, and offers to facilitate workshops for Friends.

Quaker Prison Chaplains Committee has raised a concern about prisoners with bi-polar disorder. CCJS is awaiting further information from QPCC in order to see whether there is anything they can contribute.

Paula will be contributing to the materials being produced by Jessica Metheringham and Mairi Campbell-Jack for Friends to use in preparation for the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May 2016.

Paula Harvey

IMAGINING MORE THAN JUST A PRISONER

The work of Prisoner's Penfriends by Jacqueline Hodgson and Juliet Horne.

A report carried out by Warwick University bearing this title was sent to me some time ago and has sat in my QICJ tray since June 2015. What a pleasant surprise to find it so totally engaging that I read it cover to cover in a complete sitting. It is clear, succinct and to the point; for those correspondents that persist with a pen friendship 'a rich picture of genuine relationships of care and trust between friends' is evidenced. What is not so clear and maybe not so relevant is which party benefits more. By that I mean whether the volunteer or the offender actually gain most. I say not so relevant because "it is in giving we receive" and by receiving a volunteer enables an offender to give. It is this ability to offer something to others that is so utterly essential to life – and without this ability, people lose hope and die.

The Prisoner's Penfriends scheme offers a truly equitable basis for a relationship to develop. Both parties need to test each other, and that takes time. The report makes no apologies for the fact that many pen friendships can be very short term and a volunteer may take on a number of correspondences before developing a relationship that leads to "changes in self-perception,

improvements in social skills, engagement with the outside world and feelings of acceptance by 'normal'(!) people" for the offender.

It is noteworthy that many of the volunteers are highly educated and often experienced in the criminal justice system. I find this particularly telling as it points to a truth that professionals, while they play an essential role, can seldom match the special contribution of voluntary giving.

"Through the scheme, prisoners gain confidence, hope and a belief that they will be accepted in the outside world."

Through the scheme, prisoners gain confidence, hope and a belief that they will be accepted in the outside world. Being accepted by a penfriend enables a prisoner to see themselves as 'more than just a prisoner'. Being accepted enables a prisoner to accept others. They report feeling 'like a normal human being'. More than anything else, it appears that the stigma of incarceration seems to cause gravest harm to a person's self- image in prison. This is most stark among sex offenders, who are the most stigmatised on the inside and it follows them into the outside world. The report shows that the penfriend scheme offers a possibility of being accepted as 'normal', thereby possibly fulfilling the most basic human need.

The report concludes with an external reference to MacNeill (2010) on desistance, who talks of the "importance of someone believing in the offender; someone who perhaps carries hope and keeps it alive when the offender cannot do so for himself". This quote makes me think of a parental role in the life of a vulnerable child. And it is exactly this image that comes to mind too with the following quote from an offender penfriend: "He is very helpful and caring, makes me feel like I can achieve things in life, makes me want to be a better person and achieve my dreams if possible".

Carmel Schmid

"THIS LIGHT" POSTCARD MESSAGES



Stories of African Peacebuilders

The book, launched by Quakers in 2014, features more than twenty peacebuilders from sub-Saharan Africa; all are Quakers or involved with Quaker work and all have experienced violence. The stories were gathered and edited by Laura Shipler Chico, programme manager for Peacebuilding in East Africa for Quaker Peace & Social Witness. The book has been followed by an exhibition under the

same name. The exhibition and book trace the journeys that have transformed that suffering into a force for social change. The travelling exhibition has recently been hosted by Long Lartin prison. Some prisoners were moved to send messages back to particular people who contributed their testimonies. These five postcard-length messages are transcribed below and they are definitely worth a read.

Laura Shipler-Chico, the QPSW staff member responsible for the exhibition, will be passing the messages along to the individuals to whom they are addressed.

This exhibition will be on display at the QICJ conference in Leeds in February 2016, another good reason to plan for this event now. **Paula Harvey**

Dear Agona
Your testimony really touched me. The reason I am in prison is because of violence. I too share your vision for peace and non-violence because violence has ruined my life and the lives of my victim's family. With a little determination and God's help I truly believe we can reach our shared goal of peace, love and above all, non-violence. Thank you for sharing your story.
May the Lord be with you, LB



Dear Agona
Your words are simple, humble and without artifice, yet they are powerful enough to change the world around you. Peace is not won easily; it has to be striven for, actively sought everyday in our words, our actions and our belief. You possess all three in abundance. What jumps out at me from your testimony is that, by giving away your power, you became more powerful; you gained the power to change things, to forgive, to move forward, to see things another way. Most of all, you gained the power to re-shape the world as God intended it to be and not how man in his greed and lust for power tries to make it. If people follow your dynamic we will all live in a better world – a world of harmony, peace and love. You set a shining example; I will hold a wish in my heart that its light touches the hearts of all who read your words and that they prompt a desire to follow your example. May the Divine watch over you and its light guide you on your path. GO

Dear Agona, my brother in Christ,
Though we are many miles apart and have never seen or spoken to each other, we are brothers, and as such I share in your suffering. Your testimony spoke to my heart and brought back memories of my childhood in Zambia in the 70s. I find myself serving a life sentence for killing a man but the Lord has seen fit to use me in prison, which can be like a war zone. I find Paul's statement in Philippians 1:21 a great source of strength and peace. Isaiah 7:9 a way to live.God bless you,
Your brother in Christ, JI



Dear Cecile
Having read your story, your testimony and looked at your photograph, I am almost at a loss for words. Forgiveness is such a powerful thing, perhaps the greatest gift one person can give another. Its cost is often high but its value is priceless. As you say, healing comes first, then forgiveness and then love. I recently read a passage from Quaker Faith and Practice 23.57 and at the end of a sentence struck at the very heart of me; it was….for where love stops, power begins and intimidation and violence follow. It strikes me that your words and belief have the power to reverse the polemic that has led to hatred and conflict. The light shines through our words; may they bring hope to those still struggling with conflict and suffering around the world. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May the light give you strength and keep you safe. GO

Dear Mathias
I had the privilege to read out your testimony at our Meeting for worship celebrating the exhibition 'This light that pushes me'. After reading your story your words both humbled and inspired me. I have been struggling with the concepts of forgiveness and conflict for a while now, and whilst my need to forgive and to deal with conflict seems miniscule compared to yours, the example you set by your ethos fills my heart with hope. You are an extremely remarkable person – I want you to know that. Remember in your struggles, there are those of us around the world that keep you in our hearts and in our prayers. Stay strong and trust in God. GO

Dear Joseph
I found your testimony not only moving but also helpful at a practical level because I can apply it directly to my own daily life. Although our society in the UK has been spared the terrible division and hatred that you have experienced, we nevertheless have conflicts (be they based on class, culture or race) in which groups or individuals demonise and dehumanise others so that they may feel superior to them and may hurt them without conscience. If we too could learn to see 'that of God in our perceived enemy', then we would above all see the bonds of our common humanity, and the chain of hatred and cruelty might be broken.
Best wishes for a brighter future,
CE



UNDERSTANDING SAVILLE

Understanding both sides of conflicting behaviour is what Friends are about and hence an article of this title attracted my attention. It was written by Vivien Broughton, a psychotherapist and advocate of Franz Ruppert's trauma theory and of constellation therapy. This is a therapy based on a theory of unresolved trauma being handed down through generations and manifesting itself in all manner of means from mental illnesses, disturbances of the mind and even criminal behaviour. In this article it is hypothesised that trauma and not genes is the principle cause of both personality disorders and psychosis. Furthermore, it insists that the trauma can lay dormant and be passed down through the attachment bonding process. It addresses the question of why some people become abusers.

So, what are the origins of abusive behaviour? Say Savile was the child of a traumatised bonding system – where parents because they themselves are traumatised are emotionally unavailable to the child. Because they have been victims themselves their natural response is to be the perpetrator to their victim child. "Perpetrators are victims who, because their trauma experiences are so awful, develop survival strategies to ensure they never feel these feelings, they perpetuate harm on those weaker than themselves. They do onto others what was done to them. By being a perpetrator, they make their victims feel the feelings that they deny." (Vivien Broughton)

The article goes on to describe a child's need for love and connection and if this need is not met the child suffers a symbiotic trauma. If a parent is traumatised, he or she will be emotionally unavailable and a traumatised bonding system exists – the bond is compromised by the existence of a split-off part – a traumatised part that is dissociated from the whole. The mother's love will stimulate the split-off feelings and love becomes enveloped in anxiety, fear and terror. The child needs to connect with the parent but at the same time is terrified. He compromises his behaviour but is wrapped up in the excruciating feelings of terror. This is the trauma of symbiosis and underlies everything in the child's life.

It isn't enough to understand Jimmy Savile or any other abuser without considering trauma. Behaviour and attitudes come from somewhere and traumatic behaviour stems from trauma. Unravelling trauma is the work that the Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) endeavour to tease out with parents who abuse their children. If the trauma is not solved in the parent it will continue to perpetuate itself. Removing a child from its traumatised parents without treating the trauma seldom resolves the issues and the statistics about children leaving care are testimony to this fact

Carmel Schmid

(adapted from Vivien Broughton)

ROYAL PATRONAGE AT NAOPV

The National Association of Official Prison Visitors held its 90th anniversary AGM and Conference in June this year. It was royally attended by longstanding and committed NAOPV patron, HRH The Princess Royal. She offered two themes for reflection: restorative justice (RJ) and the need for active rehabilitation of prisoners.

It is heartening that she recalled how RJ had been a mere hope on the horizon ten years previously when she last attended such an AGM whereas she identified it as now being widely available. I am aware that 'widely available' is still a far cry from 'universally embedded', as per QICJ ideals but nonetheless, we should appreciate progress made correct and HRH suggested that this deserved applause.

HRH appreciated that genuine rehabilitation of offenders and reduction in revolving door 're-admission' depended heavily upon attempts to improve 'in-house' education, preparation for employment alongside strengthening links with a wide spread of outside agencies.

She also pointed to women prisoners being twice as likely as men to request a prison visitor and HRH duly hoped that NAOPV's would be able to meet the overall demand and remain a force for good within prisons, with OPV's primarily offering friendship to those lacking such support from family and friends.



She also touched on the growing importance of fostering international links and 'best practice' between kindred organisations, specifically mentioning links between the NAOPV and France.

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The second speaker was the eminent former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Lord Ramsbotham. Although I was not in attendance at the conference and I relay to readers only from an NAOPV bulletin, it seems apparent that Lord Ramsbotham made a scathing attack on what he saw as Chris Grayling's disastrous mismanagement of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) whilst holding his post within the Ministry of Justice. He claimed that he injected no vision into the government's aims, did not nurture 'leaders of people in a system that is all about people' nor a common sense of
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purpose which could unite the probation and prison service with the same aim and underpin the rehabilitation revolution. He opined that the 'ghastly payment by results system has wrecked the probation system and undone years of work' and decried the overall impact of government-led cuts.

Lord Ramsbotham likened prisons to hospitals suggesting that if they harbour people who should not be there then they inhibit what can be done for people who need to be there. He stressed the absurdity of previous governments using the CJS to prevent crime when preventing re-conviction should be its true purpose. He gave support to Lord Justice Woolf's earlier plea for a thorough review of the penal system, especially emphasising the need to appoint directors for different prison types and ensure they were held to account; also supporting development of regional prison clusters much closer to prisoners' homes so as to facilitate re-integration into appropriate work.

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Juliet Lyon, Director of the Prison Reform Trust and Secretary General of Prison Reform International gave the final plenary identifying and praising the unique and special role of prison visitors in a system that needs friends. She made reference to the prison population which doubled in the last 25 years, the growth of large establishments as a move away from the vision of 'community prisons'. She highlighted the achievement of the 'Prison Reform Trust' in reducing youth crime and the number of young people in prison by almost 60% over the last seven years. However she lamented the appalling irony of children being put in care where they were at risk of suffereding abuse and neglect and that 60% of female care leavers and 31% of male care leavers end up in the CJS – how uncaring seems to be the care system? The Prison Reform Trust happened to launch a review of children in care on the very same day of the NAOPV AGM!

Ms Lyon spoke about her organisation's second aim of improving treatment and conditions for prisoners and their families. Her Trust praised the success of 'release of prisoners on temporary licence' albeit recognising the occurrence of just 'three tragic incidents'. Her speech as ever, was inspiring and she told of the success in bringing newspaper editors into prisons to rebalance the media and sway public opinion to community sentences and monitoring. And she felt that is exactly what the Prison Reform Trust is, in part, managing to achieve – also citing their initiative with the Women's Institute. This involved co-opting this noble body to promote an emphasis upon clinical treatment allied to community solutions for people with mental illness and drug and alcohol addictions. I am left wondering whether this is a similar initiative to the
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Family Drug and Alcohol Court (see article on FDAC). Juliet Lyon was truly spreading the word for more enlightened initiatives in recent times.

Having emphasised her organisation's appreciation of the role of prison visitors from the outset, Juliet Lyon concluded with the quip 'one person visiting one person feels small, but never underestimate what that can do'.

Overall, it was clearly a well-attended and inspiring gathering in an interesting location.

Now, it is well known that the draconian disclosure process (especially in high security) is a serious deterrent to volunteers and that the shortage of admin support in prison chaplaincy exacerbates the difficulties faced by NAOPV but good nonetheless that royal patronage has aired the concern.

Carmel Schmid

POEM: GOING HOME



When I was walking home
Life might get better
When I go home

We hid our rings
Behind a stone in the wall
The rings of twisted flower stems
Teenage vows of love

I search for them
I am walking home
Life could start again
When I go home

But when I returned it was different
The sky is smaller now
The walk kicks up dust
Empty house, hungry road

We hid as children
The wall kinks, where the ditch flows
We could be soldiers in a fort
Injuns, Vikings, Romans

It's a long road going home
I'm your horse.

Bob Beck

SAD, MAD OR BAD?

I spent nearly 30 years working for the probation service, firstly for a county based service, then through the transformation into a national service. That was before everything was broken up again and the service became individual trusts. I would say that re-inventing the wheel was a significant part of my work experience!

"I would say that one of the most important bits of kit I had during all my time working in the prisons, and in the community, was a box of tissues."

My career started working for the BBC in London, on the production side of science documentaries, before following some guiding star into social work, working at first generically, then specializing in family and mental health. Those two specialisms were very helpful when I transferred to the probation service, where mental health was a bit of a poor cousin and not much understood. I worked in the community as a resettlement officer, which mostly meant dealing with men going through the revolving prison door. I also worked briefly as a court officer before being seconded to the NSPCC on the start up of one of the first community based sex offender treatment services. Later, I worked in prisons for ten years.



The prison was not a popular posting, partly because of its geographical location at the end of nowhere! For me it involved an hour and a quarter drive to the other end of the county, passing on the way my colleague from the other end of the county who had been posted to take up my position in the community where I lived.

For the purposes of this article I thought I would write a little of my experiences of working in prisons, and about the men who are locked up in them.

The first prison was a Category C prison, that specialized in drug importers, mostly Spanish speaking, and Lifers who had been released but were recalled back into the system. The lengthy journey enabled me to brush up on my school Spanish,

by way of audio tapes. Had you listened closely at the time, you would have heard me talking my familiar holiday Spanish but substituting the words sombrero and beach lounger, with the words 'drug importation' and 'future employment'.

The Mad

I would say that one of the most important bits of kit I had during all my time working in the prisons, and in the community, was a box of tissues. I got through boxes of them, and not surprisingly, they were not provided. Whilst working with the men serving a life sentence, part of my job was to winkle out what had really happened, and more importantly what had led up to it. Once the whole court process was over and they had had some time to think about things, a different light could be shone on events, and more often than not it was a question of moving from a position of "it wasn't my fault" to "well perhaps I didn't help a situation" to yes, it was my fault. My job at that point was to stand shoulder to shoulder with them to help them face what they had done, and to find a way to try to make amends. If nothing else, this would ensure the situation would never be repeated. As I heard the stories, time and time again, it seemed as if their stories were inescapably doomed. They were often young men with no close family ties, left to fend for themselves at far too early an age, influenced by an unhelpful peer group, and unable to cope with a girlfriend's rejection. With alcohol added to the mix – by far the most dangerous drug of the time, we ended up with ruined lives.

The Sad

Then, there was the case of a young man who had been in prison for about five years but nobody had really got to the bottom of what his sentence was about. On the face of it, he had a gambling problem, not serious enough for anyone to worry about too much. But there was something about him that caught my eye, and a bit of probing revealed perhaps the saddest childhood of all. Brought up by parents who both used alcohol and drugs, he was repeatedly raped by family members, and forced to perform sexual antics while being watched. No wonder his only safe refuge was the bookies where he was sent to place bets for his father. This warm, friendly place became home to his gambling addiction. Unable to enjoy a sexual relationship with his wife unless he was 'legless', the inevitable happened, and he lost all he had precariously gained, ending up serving a fairly lengthy sentence for a relatively minor offence. Thanks to good relationships with some of the prison staff, I was able to do some recovery work with him in a confidential space; not that easy to find in a place bursting with people.

"he lost all he had precariously gained, ending up serving a fairly lengthy sentence for a relatively minor offence."

Much has been said recently about the ills of Tony Blair's Labour Government, but what he did do, when he first came to power, was to invest in rehabilitation programs in the prisons. One of my jobs was to deliver and manage these programs, teaching offenders how to think through problems, rather than just to react to them, and how to manage their emotions. The buzz words at the time were "evidence based practice". These programs were good, well thought through and effective. I asked the chief psychologist at the time why we were not developing programs for men who had been sexually abused. It was anecdotally well known that a high percentage of the offenders in prisons were abused. I was told it was because there was insufficient research to evidence the effectiveness of any program for sexually damaged people, and therefore could not be justified on financial grounds. What a wasted opportunity. And now I believe that the programs I ran are no longer delivered, or are watered down so much that their effectiveness is much diminished.

The Bad?

I was told when I started that a third of the prison population was mad, a third sad, and a third bad. I have not talked here about the bad ones, and there are some who have done awful things. I discovered one such who, in a position of trust, had in fact left a trail of dead wives

behind him across the continent. Because his offending history only related to this country, his past was not known. It was only when I was presented with a parole file with virtually nothing in it, that I did some digging, and got more than I bargained for! Another prisoner was so incensed that I would not agree to him having parole, that he tried to hire a contract killer to have me done away with. Luckily for me the prison intercepted his mail, moved him to another prison, and my house was wired up like Fort Knox and linked by alarms to the local police station. What they forgot to tell me was that if there was a power failure the alarms would all go off ..... but that's another story!

Diana Harris

FAMILY DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT

A Problem-Solving Court

I had never heard the term problem-solving court until a university tutor suggested that I research the Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) as a mechanism of resolving issues within child protection: addiction, domestic violence and mental illness. Her comment was prompted by my despondency over the oppressive nature of child protection processes in social work.

And so I read an exciting report from the Nuffield Foundation and Brunel University: immediately I became interested. The FDAC concept was brought to London by Judge Creighton who saw it in operation in America. It started as a pilot in London in 2010 and was subsequently rolled out to six provincial towns thereafter. The Nuffield report mentioned Milton Keynes, my native town, as one of the privileged towns that hosted an FDAC for resolving instances of child abuse and neglect. I quickly made some enquiries and found myself being interviewed at FDAC for my social work placement. My interviewer (who did not know my persuasion) explained that the difference between FDAC and traditional family court was comparable to the difference between a Catholic service and a Quaker meeting! I gathered what he meant: the participants are there by choice, they are fully engaged, there is a sense of equality in that the participants (whether professional or parent) have an equal voice.

At an initial hearing, having had the process explained, the parents are asked whether they want to go through FDAC; most but not all agree. The judge explains that there are three



commitments required of parents: honesty, commitment and a willingness to work towards abstinence from drugs and alcohol. He further explains that no one expects them to be abstinent from the start, that the court understands that there are ups and downs in the recovery process.

Parents who sign up for the process are given a diary, a self-help folder, and are promised a hefty schedule of appointments including assessments, intervention planning meetings, child's needs meetings, weekly keyworker sessions, weekly testing and referrals to appropriate agencies. The FDAC team is multi-disciplinary and includes a child and an adult social workers, a child and an adult psychiatrists, a drug and alcohol specialist and a mental health nurse. It works as a true team around the family. Reports are written as a team collaboration and a team formulation session is carried out in order to achieve such a collaboration. The team in Milton Keynes is sponsored by the Tavistock Clinic and latest trends in social work such as 'solution-focussed practice' and 'signs of safety' are adhered to.

Parents are expected to attend a court hearing once a fortnight. These are usually non legal hearings. This means there are no solicitors, no barristers and are attended by the judge, the FDAC representative, the local authority social worker and guardian. The judge is therapeutically trained in motivational interviewing and the FDAC team brief the judge prior to hearings. In the event that a child is removed from the parents' care, the usual legal procedures do apply and the legal teams are engaged. The non legal hearings are intended to bring the seriousness of the situation into focus, enable the parents to have their say and from what I have witnessed, are very motivating sessions where parents' progress in recovery is acknowledged and validated.

The judge, the FDAC team and usually the social workers are very much behind the parents: it is constantly acknowledged that the best place for the children is with their parents. It is often an imperative from the judge that parents undergo various programmes such as perpetrator or victim domestic violence awareness. I have recently advocated that restorative conferencing be appropriate when there is ongoing conflict and trauma from past demeanours and luckily this is available locally through Thames Valley Partnership.

It is a truly restorative process and I am gladdened to be a first-hand witness of this innovative anti-oppressive practice. My only dismay is that it is not more widely used and rolled out to every family court in the country. Our small team are commissioned to take twenty six cases a year. The average case costs £13k – this amount seems significant and grave in that the money appears to have to be funded from nowhere.

However, in FDAC, the chances of the children staying with the parents is significantly greater than in traditional courts. The cost of maintaining a child in foster care is £40k per annum. Often, there are two or more children involved. The cost of a legal hearing is in the region of £12k of tax-payers' money. Hence, the consequences of not resolving parent's drug and alcohol problems in terms of child residency is a minimum of £200k for only two years of a two-child family. The unintended consequences in addition to this is that both parents may go on to have further children, have physical and mental health problems and often, due to drug addiction or domestic violence end up in the criminal justice system. Surely my dear Watson, funding this service is a 'no-brainer'!



Carmel Schmid

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership activity has been very quiet of late. However, we have recently had one new member and are therefore very pleased to welcome Russell Richards to our numbers, so please add him to your current list. His name will be included in the next updated issue of the Membership List. In the meantime, should you wish to contact him, please do so via myself. Also, in addition to those already shown in previous updates as having resigned or been otherwise deleted, the names of Susan Parker and Sue Norris should now be deleted from your list. Sadly, I also have to report the death of Sally Mason on 12th September (details in the Friend 9.10.15), so please remove her from your list also.

This leaves us now, allowing for resignations and deletions, a total membership of only 136, a worryingly low number and the lowest it has been for a long time. Of this number there are 34 members (i.e. a quarter of the membership) who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year. Friends, this is not a satisfactory state of affairs! It is important that subscriptions are kept up to date, as QICJ has no independent funding and depends for its financial resources on subscriptions and any small surplus we may make at conferences, plus some donated money (mainly through members who continue to pay at the higher rate when no longer waged, and to whom we are very grateful.)

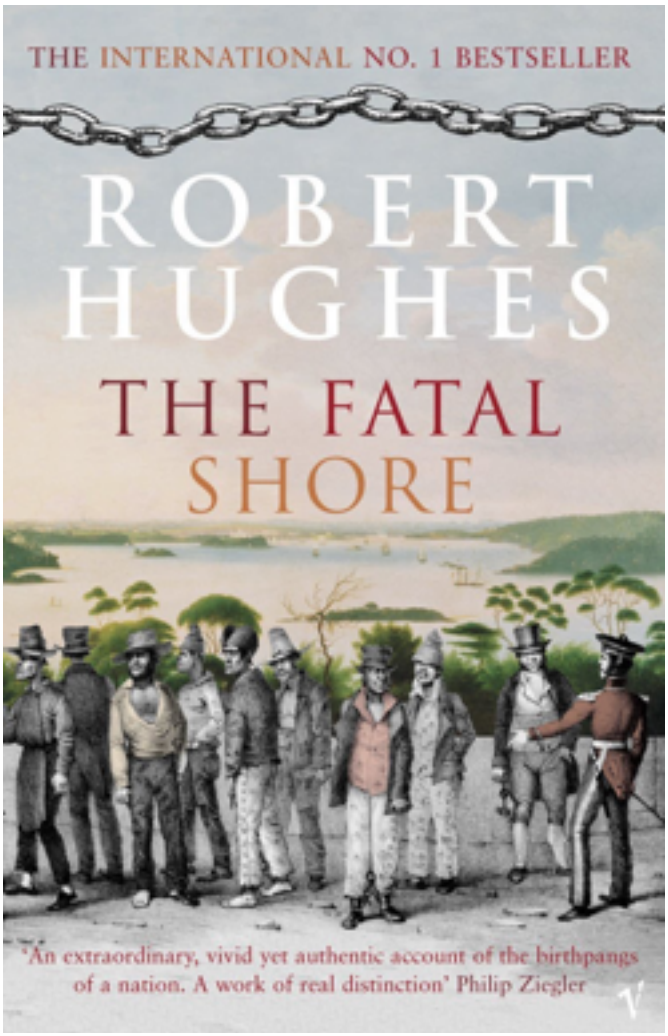


In relation to this, it is now time for me to remind you that subscriptions for 2016 are due at the beginning of January and you will find a subscription renewal form enclosed with this Newsletter, to which please attend with alacrity! Those who are in arrears and the few who have paid ahead and therefore do not need to send a subscription for 2016 will be contacted separately individually by me to inform them.

It is hoped to issue an updated Membership List with the Spring Newsletter, after the conference. Details of the conference will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter and an application form separately enclosed. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Ann Jacob

THE FATAL SHORE: BOOK REVIEW



It is no disrespect to the author to say that I have never read a book of such length (603 pages) with so little enjoyment. The story tells of the convict settlements in Australia, is carefully researched and is written up in a style that is both assured and readable. We are familiar with portrayals of the Australian landscape from films such as 'Walkabout' and 'Rabbit-Proof Fence'. The harshness of the landscape is matched by the account Robert Hughes gives of the persisting harshness with which human beings so readily treat each other.

Transportation had four aims. The first was the most attainable: to give overcrowded Britain relief from the depredations of the criminals. The threat of transportation was held to be a deterrent, a belief to which people clung as they still do now, in the face of all the evidence. The reformation of criminals in practice came as a much lower priority, as criminal traits are believed to be inherited: a belief which the history of Australian directly refutes, as many ex-cons and their descendants did well down under. Belief in transformation was opposed by those who wanted to exploit convict labour. This relates to the fourth aim, which was to build up the colony.

The oldest person transported was eighty-two, the youngest nine. The first to be hanged in the new colony was a lad of seventeen. These people were mostly not first offenders. 80% had previous convictions; three quarters were single men; their average age was twenty-six. One in seven were women, regarded as totally irredeemable. One in five were Irish, who formed a clan of their own, having a common grievance of English oppression of Ireland. Political prisoners were harshly treated as they were articulate men more likely to cause trouble. Conditions on the voyage were unspeakable, through overcrowding, and the fact the journey took so long in the days of sail. Forty-eight people died on the first transportation voyage. Free settlers, though glad to use convict labour, resented finding themselves as government auxiliaries. Few of the early Australian farms succeeded. The difficulties were exacerbated because no thought had

been given to the kinds of skills that would be needed in the new colony. Men with a trade found they could earn more in Australia than they could in Britain. What are now seen as typical Australian characteristics go back to these early days: homophobia, love of horses, contempt for bludgers (men who work with the brains rather than their hands). Before long a quarter of the population of New South Wales consisted of children running wild and illiterate, many of them of mixed race. Children of convicts were regarded as born free. Convicts were never quite slaves. Few successfully escaped: the outback saw to that. Some were speared by aborigines, who viewed the convicts as if they were members of a defeated tribe. Their tracking skills were employed to hunt down men who went AWOL. A group of Cornish prisoners in a boat made it to Timor, and another reached Chile. At least one went native and was adopted by an aboriginal tribe. Conflict with the originals was inevitable: they had no written title of their land, they did not recognise the concept of private property and they were of no economic value to the Europeans.

The story of the native Tasmanians amounted to genocide. Some were shot for sport. The attempt to round them up and confine them to a reserve failed. Their population steadily decreased and the very last Trucanini died in 1876.

Conditions on Tasmania, or Van Diemen's land as it was called in the days of transportation, were particularly grim. An isthmus connecting the penal peninsula with the rest of the island was guarded by a line of tethered mastiffs. The colony as a whole bristled with cruelty and injustice. I wearied of the endless references to flogging. After one violent episode, a group of mutineers asked to be executed, preferring the prospect of death to continuing oppression. The author gives vivid portraits of successive governors. Norfolk Island was established as a prison within a prison, an isolated place to which were sent criminals who committed further offences after being transported. The one bright star in the dreary recital of man's inhumanity to man was Alexander Maconochie, significantly the only governor who had served time himself as a prisoner of war during the French wars. He introduced a system whereby a prisoner moved up or down according to conduct and marks so acquired could be used to achieve remission, or to buy goods. His proposal to introduce group therapy a la Glebe House was not allowed. He was a hundred years ahead of his time.

Quakers would be interested in references to the visit of the British Friends to Australia in the years 1832 to 1838, James Backhouse and George Walker. Their stories are told in more detail in another book by William Nicolle Oates, published in 1981 and entitled just "Backhouse and Walker." By this time the colony was well established, and moving on from that early dependence on whales and seals to the



sheep farming economy which is characterised Australia ever since. Their visit reflects a growing uneasiness about transportation among Friends and others; the Molesworth committee reported around the same time. The British visitors met Friends who had been disowned on conviction, and were asked to bring back progress reports for Elizabeth Fry. Among other suggestions they made was one for prisoners to be given gardens to tend, but the gardens were soon discontinued as incompatible with the idea of punishment. Backhouse and Walker favoured a system of attainable rewards, but also advocated solitary confinement, and believed that if all could read the Bible, then crime would fade away.

Transportation to New South Wales ended in 1840, to Van Diemen's Land in 1853 and Western Australia not until 1868 - its ending there brought an economic crisis, as few free settlers chose to go and live in so desolate a region. What put the seal on the end of transportation was the discovery of gold in the 1850s. Nobody could pretend that it was a punishment to be sent to a land offering such opportunities.

Adrian Smith

Editor: This newsletter is being reproduced regularly by Jonathan Lamb in electronic format for those interested please send your email address to the editor.
Emendations: Alan Russell has recently taken on the task of carrying out emendations for the newsletter.
Criminal Justice Alliance : This organisation has been brought to my attention as a forum for people to explore. Membership details can be found : http://criminaljusticealliance.org/becoming-a-member/

Your Committee Members for 2015 are: Simon Ewart; Ann Jacob (Clerk and Membership Sec.); Judy Kessler; Andrew Lane; Janet Lynch (Treasurer); Marian Liebmann; Deborah Mitchell; Wendy Rose; Carmel Schmid (Newsletter Editor) and Paula Harvey (CCJS - co-opted member).

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