

Reminder - 10th Annual National Miscarriage of Justice Day

Saturday 8 October 2011, Arches Project, Adderley Street, Birmingham, B9 4EE

With out fail, make sure that a family member or friend attends this meeting

United against Injustice will hold its annual National Miscarriage of Justice Day on 8 October 2011 in Birmingham. Keynote speaker will be Paddy Joe Hill, of the Birmingham 6, wrongly convicted of the IRA Birmingham pub bombing. Paddy and the rest of the Birmingham 6 were released 20 years ago, since when he has tirelessly campaigned to support innocent people in prison and following their release. Paddy will argue that there are now more miscarriages of justice than there were 20 years ago.

Doors open 10.00 am, with workshops for families and supporters of innocent people in prison. Public from 2:00 pm, chaired by Ange Drozdowski, introduced by Kevin McMahon.

Speakers will include

- Michael Naughton, Bristol University Innocence Project and the Innocence Network UK
- Michelle Diskin, sister of Barry George (wrongly convicted of the murder of Jill Dando)
- Sam Raincock, Cell Site Analysis expert
- Janet Cunliffe on the campaign to abolish the Joint Enterprise Law
- Corinne Mitchell, mother of Luke Mitchell, on the need for support campaigns

The event is hosted by West Midlands Against Injustice, and admission is free. There is no need to book.

Contacts for more information

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<http://www.unitedagainstinjustice.org.uk/> > www.unitedagainstinjustice.org.uk

<http://www.innocent.org.uk/> > [www.innocent.org.uk/](http://www.innocent.org.uk)

<http://westmidlandsagainstinjustice.webs.com/>

UAI is a federation of 8 UK campaign and support organisations for the families and supporters of people who are innocent of the crimes of which they have been convicted. It was founded in Liverpool 2001 by Merseyside Against Injustice and INNOCENT.

Each year it holds a public meeting, attracting a large and growing number of people, including friends and families of the wrongly convicted, students, academics, and interested members of the public.

Due to the increasing numbers of miscarriages of justice, UAI and its member organisations are currently expanding rapidly.

Hostages: Hyrone Hart, Glen Cameron, Warren Slaney, Melvyn 'Adie' McLellan, Lyndon Coles, Robert Bradley, Sam Hallam, John Twomey, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, Talha Ahsan, George Romero Coleman, Gary Critchley, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Peter Hakala, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Frank Wilkinson, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Simon Hall, Paul Higginson, Thomas Petch, Vincent and Sean Bradish, John Allen, Frank Wilkinson, Stephen A Young, Jeremy Bamber, Kevin Lane, Michael Brown, Robert Knapp, William Kenealy, Glyn Razzell, Willie Gage, Kate Keaveney, Michael Stone, Michael Attwooll, John Roden, Nick Tucker, Karl Watson, Terry Allen, Richard Southern, Jamil Chowdhary, Jake & Keith Mawhinney, Peter Hannigan, Ihsan Ulhaque, Richard Roy Allan, Sam Cole, Carl Kenute Gowe, Eddie Hampton, Tony Hyland, Timothy Caines, Ray Gilbert, Ishtiaq Ahmed.

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MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 339 (02/10/2011)

Behind Bars - Men with faces

By Jeannie Mackie. 19 September 2011

London has had its fair share of serious rioting over the past 1,000 years and public authorities have responded in different ways, but, when it comes to last month's social disturbances, judicial wisdom seems to have gone out the window, says Jeannie Mackie

Well, that was some August. Rebellion in Libya, eurozone financial collapse, famine and despair in the Horn of Africa, monsoon weather in temperate old UK, and riots spreading like the fires they caused from city to city. There can be few more terrifying events than a full-blown city riot: the images were bad enough for those safely ensconced in foreign parts or Scottish huts – the pictures of London streets in flames were distressing beyond belief for any Londoner. And what it must have been like for the people living and working in those streets is unimaginable.

History is meant to be a comfort in times like these: a reminder that not only is there nothing new under the sun, but that cities and their inhabitants are nothing if not resilient. Our tattered old capital has seen it all before – from Jack Straw and the poll tax riot (the 1381 one that is, otherwise known as the Peasants Revolt) London has experienced riots, mayhem and civil disorder time after time. And the history of the London 'mob' – now perhaps called the feral underclass? – is one of civil disobedience terrifying the authorities who dished out draconian repression as a result.

But of course riots are not just a London habit: the Luton 'Peace Day' riots of 1919 resulted in the Town Hall being burnt to the ground. That riot was triggered by unemployed ex-service men and women unhappy, as well they might be, that after a long and savage war they were left high and dry. And they looted too – not trainers and tellies, but pianos, which were dragged out of a music shop and played in the street, to dance to...

Both worthy and repellent causes have triggered London riots: Spitalfield weavers were a highly riotous lot, taking to the streets regularly with economic grievances. In 1719, 4,000 of them invaded the City, protesting about the growing fashion for printed Indian calicos and cottons rather than home-manufactured goods. They targeted women wearing the despised materials, sousing them with ink and other less pleasant liquids, or ripping clothes of their backs. The troops were ordered in, and shots were fired: three weavers were injured.

The Bawdy House riots of 1668 involved 40,000 Londoners at its height, all highly organised into military-type regiments or bands. They attacked brothels as a protest against the moral laxity of Charles II court and had a revolutionary agenda – one of their slogans was: "We have been servants but we are the masters now!" When the order came to arrest some of their number, they attacked the jail and freed them.

Over and above actual riots, the London apprentices have caused endless trouble over the centuries: belligerent and xenophobic, they hung about street corners looking for trouble – despite the fact they were, formally, in a trade. A comment perhaps on the soothing effects of education, employment and training? In 1517, a thousand of them banded together to attack foreigners in London, which they did, nastily, looting their houses and again storming the jails to free prisoners previously arrested for racist assaults. Five thousand troops were brought into the City to quell the disorder, an extraordinary number when the population of

London at that time was only 60,000. Unusually for pre-20th century riots, where the authorities tended to limit arrest to the ring leaders, 300 apprentices were nicked. No trials though – no late-night sittings of magistrates to dispense justice. Instead they were given an audience with King Henry and pardoned for the sake of their mothers and families. But the Tudor equivalent of ‘hug a hoodie’ stopped there. Thirteen of their leaders came to a less happy end – hung, drawn and quartered.

The hundreds, possibly thousands, of defendants from our own turbulent August will not suffer quite that fate, although a four-year stretch for unsuccessful rabble rousing on a social media site looks ferocious enough. Another ferocious aspect of the lengthy sentences passed so far is that they take such account of the circumstances in which the offences took place, upping the prison terms beyond any existing guidelines. If the courts want to impose riot sentences, defendants should be charged with riot rather than burglary, theft or criminal damage: alternatively, the ‘circumstances’ should be considered in all the ways in which they clearly affected behaviour.

The 17th and 18th century policy makers talked about ‘the mob’, a term which is actually useful in understanding what happens in crowds. Individuality, and the specificity of moral behaviour which pertains to an individual, is readily lost in groups. Impulse control is damaged by group behaviour – in other words, people behave in crowds in ways that they shudder at the next day. When they plead guilty and shudder in the dock, it is a wise judiciary who sentences them as the individual they have become again. It is an unwise judge who sentences them as a faceless representative of social breakdown.

Samaritans prison listeners service threatened by public sector cuts

Scheme introduced to prevent jail suicides celebrates 20th anniversary, but some fear it will soon be under threat. The Samaritans' prison listening scheme is made harder by overcrowding and possible cuts in officer numbers. Tracy McVeigh, guardian.co.uk, 24/09/11

Raj thinks he has "probably saved about four lives". Taylor isn't sure but has certainly seen rewards in helping some deeply distressed people as well as having the chance to think about his own mistakes. Both men are serving prison sentences at HMP Swansea for violent crimes and both are utterly convinced that their lives will be very different when they are released. They are among some 1,540 prisoners in British jails who are running the most extensive rehabilitation scheme in the criminal justice system, as prison listeners. They go into cells for face-to-face sessions with fellow prisoners and reassure new inmates, talking them through their first few days inside, a real danger time for those in despair at long sentences or fearful at the reality of being inside the tough environment of a prison.

The Samaritans first tested the project in HMP Swansea 20 years ago this month. After a series of high-profile cell suicides and a rise in self-harm among inmates that began in the late 1980s with a rash of incidents in young offender institutions, the scheme has since been rolled out into 126 prisons and has seen suicide rates drop as for the first time desperate people had someone to talk to. It is a cost-free, voluntary approach that provoked strong resistance at first among those who believed it was the "namby-pambying" of convicted criminals and who worried that allowing convicts to talk in each other's cells was a security risk. But as the anniversary is being quietly celebrated and its success heralded by prison governors and inmates, many are worried that the cuts in the public sector and a rising prison population – it hit new record levels on Friday – will put the scheme in jeopardy.

Jane Van Eyl, head of operations at the Samaritans, says less prison staff is a big con-

Report on an unannounced short follow up inspection of HMP Askham Grange, 30

Report compiled July 2011, published Friday 30th Sept 2011. Askham Grange managed by G4S

Inspectors had some concerns: - more work needs to be done to improve day to day communication and planning between health care and other departments; - more could be done to improve the mother and baby unit and create a more child-friendly environment, such as more child care training for discipline officers, and discipline officers not wearing uniforms; - the reducing reoffending strategy would benefit from addressing the needs of short-sentenced women more clearly.

Introduction from the report: Askham Grange is an open resettlement prison, which at the time of inspection held 124 adult and young women. It also held 10 mothers and their babies. Prison governor manages both Askham Grange/New Hall, this did not create any problems for Askham Grange.

Our previous inspection in 2008 described Askham Grange as outstanding and found that outcomes for prisoners were good in every area. This short follow-up inspection focussed on the relatively minor areas where we did identify room for improvement at our last inspection. Women continued to tell us they felt very safe and did not raise any significant concerns with us. However, we were disappointed that the prison had not made more progress in implementing the small number of recommendations we made last time – most of which would have been straightforward to do so. In particular, more work needs to be done to improve day to day communication and planning between health care and other departments.

Women were well treated and relationships with staff were good. We were pleased to see that child care professionals were now involved in running the mother and baby unit, but more could still be done to improve the unit – a more child-friendly environment would be created if discipline staff did not wear uniforms and discipline staff needed more child care training. There was no opportunity for mothers to cook meals for their children. Work on diversity issues was generally sound. There was good work done with women who had problems with drugs and women were very positive about the health care they received. Although women could access counselling support in the community, we were disappointed to see that the prison no longer employed a counsellor to support those with legacies of bereavement and abuse for whom primary mental health services were not suitable.

The prison continued to provide a good range and quality of education, training and work and women were positive about the opportunities offered. We were pleased to see that the ‘virtual campus’ was soon to be introduced into the prison, which would give women controlled access to the internet for education purposes. There was still no suitable outdoor physical education facility.

Resettlement outcomes were good at our last inspection and the prison was making progress in implementing our recommendations to improve them further. However, although the prison was alert to the needs of the different needs of the women it held, the reducing reoffending strategy would benefit from addressing the needs of short-sentenced women more clearly. There was good support for women with alcohol-only problems. Women appreciated the opportunities they had to maintain contact with their families but there were insufficient telephones for the number of women held.

Askham Grange continues to be an impressive prison and for the most part it had improved or maintained the high standards we found at our last inspection. However, the prison should not rest on its laurels. There is still room for improvement and in some areas we were disappointed that more progress had not been made. Nevertheless, the improvements that are required start from a very high base and this should not detract from what are, once again, very positive inspection findings.

Helen Richardson said, within the sight of police officers.

Sentencing for offences of dishonesty had been "disproportionately enhanced", she told the court. "The premium added for offences of dishonesty [as opposed to violence] was too high in the circumstances."

Another appellant, David Beswick, 31, a coach driver from Eccles, is appealing against his 18-month sentence. He had been caught with a TV in his car. He told the police at the time that if his vehicle had not run out of petrol it "might have been a different story".

David Perry QC, for the crown, acknowledged that it was not the function of a crown court judge to formulate guidelines but said: "Underlying [Judge Gilbert's] concerns was consistency. The problem facing the judges was extremely difficult. It wasn't an easy sentencing exercise ... There was a structural problem. There's a tension between consistency at the time of sentencing and afterwards when the court of appeal first has an opportunity to see what is the right approach."

According to figures released by the ministry of justice, three-quarters of those appearing for riot-related offences had criminal records. Judgment on the 10 appeals is expected next week.

Inmates complain over lack of TV sports channels By Benjamin Wright, Independent, 27/09/11

Inmates at a jail in South Wales have lodged a formal complaint with the prison authorities - because they want more sports channels on TV. Prisoners at the Category B HMP Parc currently have access to Sky Sports 1 as a reward for "sustained good behaviour". But the perk is not enough, criminals are unhappy that they do not get Sky Sports 2 and 3 - which meant they missed out on Brighton's game against Liverpool in the Carling Cup last Wednesday.

The inmates' complaint to officials has been branded ridiculous by Conservative MP David Davies - who stressed that many people outside of prison could not afford the channels. Mr Davies, MP for Monmouth, said: "I am aghast we are paying for prisoners to watch Sky TV. What next? Will prisoners be given a box at the Millennium Stadium for rugby matches? People should not be put in prison to spend their days watching expensive satellite packages. They should be educated and learn skills for their rehabilitation when they come out. It beggars belief they are complaining about this - I haven't even got Sky Sports myself."

Sky charges premises such as prisons around £100 a month for the Sky Sports One package - with an upgrade to the full choice of channels costing a further £78 a month. For a private house which already has Sky TV, adding the Sky Sports Pack with all channels costs £20 extra a month.

HMP Parc is Wales's only privately-run prison. Operated by security firm G4S, it houses more than 1,000 convicted male adult prisoners as well as those on remand and convicted young offenders. The prison is described by its owners as a "secure but modern environment", with a strong emphasis on reducing re-offending and "enabling individuals to fulfil their potential back in their local communities". Its facilities include two floodlit all-weather five-a-side football pitches and a modern gym, as well as regular coaching sessions from Cardiff City Football Club. A statement on HMP Parc's website reads: "We have one of the best prison sporting facilities in the country and it is widely used by both prisoners and staff."

Officials at the prison defended its rewards scheme - saying similar methods were widely used in jails across the UK. A spokesman said: "The system used is designed to encourage good behaviour among inmates. Rewards are only offered where sustained good behaviour has been demonstrated. What we are doing at Parc is not different from methods used in prisons in the private and public sector. Some prisoners may complain about their lot, but that can happen when a person has a lot of spare time on their hands."

cern: officers act as go-betweens in the scheme, escorting listeners to cells and looking out for warning signs in people who might be in distress or suicidal. "Of course we can't prove that the listeners have reduced suicides or rates of self-harm," said van Eyle. "but I think we very much can say that they reduced distress. The prison service take it very seriously and we know anecdotally that ex-listeners do not seem to be re-offending - many go on to become Samaritan volunteers."

At HMP Swansea, one of the most overcrowded prisons in the UK, governor Neil Lavis sees enormous benefits to the listener scheme. "I am quite proud it all started here at Swansea," he said. "The listeners do fantastic work. Prison staff today have to be multi-skilled, its not just lock, unlock, feed, get them to workshops, hand out the medications, as it used to be. Its a big change and massively demanding. We have a lot of very vulnerable people, a lot of mental health and drug problems and a listener can go and talk to someone and say 'I know what you are feeling', so they have a lot of credibility. Listeners are not mental health workers, nor are prison officers, and to some extent you can't measure what they are doing but it wouldn't be doing the scheme justice to say its not making a difference. We have had deaths in custody here, two last year, and the impact is massive. Because staff do care and when someone takes their own life it is devastating."

Lavis said he accepted listeners was no substitute for professional counselling or medical help but said: "We can only do what we can with what we have. Its not so long ago that a suicidal person would come in and you'd stick a letter F on the card outside their door and that was it, there was no action or interaction - I don't know what the F actually even stood for. My staff's first duty is to protect the public but they are expected to do that with humanity and treat the men with decency. Their safety is part of that."

HMP Swansea listeners Raj and Taylor admit their work can be hugely challenging. "But its good for us and for others. My family will benefit from how I've changed when I get out," said Taylor, 33.

Raj, 26, agrees. "I will be on the straight when I get out for sure. I don't want to make mistakes again. I've had a lot of time to think but listening to others helps you really break the barriers, and see your own offending behaviour. The experience for me has been about realising how everyone is unique. Some weeks you'll see no-one, other weeks it will be 15. When you get the call to someone you go and sometimes they don't even talk, they just sit there and cry.

"Sometimes its just the rattling of the keys can drive someone to despair, that really get into people's heads and they think they can't make it through. People are most vulnerable just before and just after they get sentenced."

Eoin Lawrence, head of safer custody at HMP Swansea, remembers only too well the dark days of high death-in-custody rates and is proud of the prison's seven listeners and of Swansea's approach to looking after vulnerable people. He lives locally and knows the pressures of unemployment and drugs out in this deprived part of Wales. "We reflect the current state of society out there, so we get a lot coming in with drug problems and alcoholism seems to be on the increase."

Walking through the bleak Victorian prison wings, walls painted in cold institutional cream and lined with low metal doors to the small dark cells, Lawrence, his vast keys jangling through metal gate after metal gate, greets many of the prisoners in their blue T-shirts and grey track-suit bottoms by first name. "Some of them will have been in and out for years," he says. "Some of them I know their dads. Its a poor community out there and you know there's not much waiting for them in way of a job or a house when they get out. For some of them they'll deliberately break their bail conditions when they get out just so they can be sent back in again."

Lawrence admits the demands on his staff are high: Swansea has 435 inmates in a prison designed for half that number. New prisoners will be dropped off straight from courts with often nothing but a thin file of the most basic information. It will be as they are processed, strip-searched and issued with their worn prison uniform and much-used orange blankets, that officers will get the first inklings of drug use or self-harming by the marks on their bodies. And prison officers are limited in what they can do in rehabilitation or even self-harm prevention.

"We do what we can with what we've got but yes its only a sticking plaster. That's why the listeners are so important. We have one on each wing and one in the reception wing where you really get a lot of frightened people if its their first time locked up. It can be a fine balancing act between what we are able to do and what people might need. We do have limited resources in officers whose first priority is to protect the public and who are dealing with large numbers of prisoners.

"Officers can't put people they are worried might be suicidal on constant watch so having the listeners means they can go in and sit with them, all night if the need be. Self harm can be a very impulsive act and even though we try hard unless you put someone in a secure body belt 24 hours a day people will always find a way. Prisons have a lot of people inside who really shouldn't be here and we don't have mental health training. "Listeners have to be quite strong characters and we vet those who apply closely before they get training from the Samaritans. The training can be tough so they have to be committed."

He also has the problem of constantly recruiting new listeners, so good is the scheme at rehabilitating men who get involved. "Our listeners tend to become such good prisoners that they get re-categorised out! We don't see them back in here again either."

Men like Akiel Chinelo, 43, are the success stories on the other side of the wall. He became a listener during his time in HMP Parkhurst and HMP Strangeways after a cellmate tried to kill himself. Now released from his 11-year sentence for drug offences, he has become a mentor, life coach and arts worker. "For me it helped my personal development. I don't know if I saved lives but you could certainly see that people would feel better after talking to you," he said. "Society benefits when criminals are rehabilitated and if prisoners can do that work for each other then everyone is benefitting. It's quite challenging and can be intense. Sometimes you have people who moan a lot and self-harm to get attention and other times you get the person who seems bright at lock-up and comes out in the morning in a body bag. Everyone is in their own individual jail, some deteriorate and some develop."

Police to explain broken CCTV after station death

By Nina Lakhani, The Independent, Saturday, 24 September 2011

Serious concerns have emerged about faulty CCTV at one of Britain's most notorious police stations which was at the centre of the summer riots and a death in custody scandal.

Brixton police chiefs must explain another broken camera in the busy station – three years after vital evidence about a death in custody was missed because of broken CCTV.

Sean Rigg, 40, died after being placed in a metal cage in the yard at Brixton police station in August 2008. Information from the minutes before his death is missing because CCTV in the yard was allegedly not working. This led to strong criticisms from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in 2009 which recommended the out-of-date system be replaced as soon as possible.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) recommended a review of the station's CCTV. But earlier this month a memorial to Mr Rigg was desecrated outside the station and the CCTV camera pointing in that direction was not working. This incident occurred

Appeal court criticises judge's approach to riot sentencing

Lord chief justice says if other crown courts had circulated alternative tariffs it would have been a 'recipe for chaos' Owen Bowcott, guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 27 September 2011

A Manchester judge who made influential comments on sentencing offenders in the immediate aftermath of the August riots has been criticised by the appeal court.

If other crown courts had circulated alternative tariffs for various crimes it would have been a "recipe for chaos" in the judicial system, the lord chief justice, Lord Judge, warned. Disapproval of the comments by Judge Andrew Gilbart QC, the recorder of Manchester, came from all three judges sitting in the appeal court on Tuesday as they began considering the first cases to come before them from the summer disturbances.

The hearing follows concerns expressed last month by senior legal figures that some prison terms imposed on rioters were unduly harsh. The former director of public prosecutions, Lord Macdonald, cautioned that the courts risked being swept up in a "collective loss of proportion".

Opening the appeal cases, the judges - Lords Judge, Justice Thomas and Justice Leveson – said they would view BBC television news coverage of the riots before they decided whether any of the sentences handed down were disproportionate. They would only watch material already broadcast.

Nine men and one woman are appealing against what their lawyers allege was the "manifestly excessive" length of their custodial sentences. None are challenging their convictions.

Three of the appellants appeared in court: Lorriane McGrane, a 19-year-old Territorial Army soldier from Peckham, south-east London; Enrico Vanasco, a 25-year-old chef from Manchester; and Hassan Koyuncu, an 18-year-old from north London. Two of the appellants, Jordan Blackshaw, 20, from Northwich, Cheshire, and Perry Sutcliffe-Keenan, 22, from Warrington, Cheshire, had posted notices on Facebook inviting people to participate in riots in their home towns. Both received four years in prison. Their lawyers told the court that what their clients had done was "monumentally foolish", "hugely stupid" and "hugely shortsighted".

Gareth Roberts, representing Blackshaw, said the judge imposing the sentence "had failed to consider the leading authorities in relation to riot sentences [set] following the Bradford riots [in 2001] where sentences of four years were given to those carrying crossbows and wielding scaffolding poles".

But the lord chief justice implied that the appeal court viewed this summer's disturbances as more serious because they were far more widespread. "[The Bradford cases] are not guideline cases," he said. "The Bradford riots were confined to Bradford. One of our concerns is that these were nationwide. At the moment we are inclined to consider that we should take that into consideration." Addressing the "guidelines" formulated by Gilbart in Manchester as the courts began to process offenders, the appeal court justices were equally dismissive.

Leveson, who is also chairman of the Sentencing Council, said: "What concerns me is that the judge ... started to give sentence ranges ... for offences with which he was not concerned. That's not even something this court does." Gilbart has previously said that he did not disregard sentencing guidelines.

Thomas described the tariffs for offences set out as "wholly alien to the common law" and a new departure. The riots were not "unprecedented", the appeal court judges added, citing the 1981 Toxteth disturbances that sparked copycat riots in other English cities.

Among the 10 cases before the appeal court is that of Stephen Carter, 26, of Salford, who received 16 months for picking up a bag of clothes hidden in bushes during Manchester's riots. The clothes had been looted from nearby shops. He had committed the offence, his counsel,

Most prisoners were highly motivated to make progress but needed support to do so. I spoke to one newly-arrived, older man looking through the fence over the countryside to the Cleveland Hills in the distance. He told me it was the first time he had had a view of more than a few yards for many years and that while he looked forward to his release, he was anxious about it too.

Men moved through the prison from the older, more typical accommodation attached to the main building to new, higher standard, en-suite accommodation. In parallel, men progressed from the good quality training workshops inside the prison to unpaid community work outside the prison before, in most cases, concluding their sentence by doing paid work outside the prison and having the opportunity to re-establish home and community links through home leave and release on temporary licence.

The opportunity for prisoners to work or undertake activities outside the prison was subject to rigorous risk assessment. This caused some frustration among prisoners but we were satisfied it was a necessary, fair and proportionate process. All prisoners had the opportunity to participate in good quality education in day or evening classes.

The prison had impressive community links with a good focus on restorative justice principles. A 12-strong taskforce undertook local community project work and the prison offered 65 placements outside the prison with local community organisations. Prison facilities, such as the gym, were used to host community events, such as activities for young people with learning difficulties, in which prisoners participated. Some men who had been helped to address their own drug problems were training to become volunteer drugs workers.

The governor personally led the prison's resettlement strategy, of which employment, training and education were the central feature. Prisoners recorded their own progress in open 'green files' and the governor and offender management staff used the files to offer encouragement and advice. It was a good system that would have been improved further if personal officers had made better use of it. It was rare for a man to leave the prison without somewhere suitable to live. Other aspects of resettlement were also good but had been subject to some recent reorganisation. This needed monitoring to ensure there was no reduction in effectiveness. Kirklevington Grange performs its specialist role effectively. At a time when 'working prisons' and reparation to the community are under much discussion, ministers could do worse than look at how Kirklevington tackles these issues.

1 Kirklevington Grange was a pilot for some adjustments to the Inspectorate's Expectations, inspection methodology and report format. We hope the changes will make our Expectations more outcome- focused and the reports and recommendations easier to follow and a more effective tool to help establishments improve. Formal consultation on the revised Expectations will take place later in 2011.

Prison 'slopping out' case goes to high court

guardian.co.uk

The Prison Service is fighting a legal case that could force the government to spend millions of pounds upgrading old jails. Convicted paedophile Roger Gleaves claims the lack of an in-cell toilet was a breach of his human rights and has taken his case to the high court in London. Slopping out was officially abolished in the UK in 1996, but a watchdog warned last year that 2,000 cells across 10 prisons still had no in-cell sanitation, and the practice of using a bucket at night continues. Gleaves, who served time at what is now Isle of Wight prison, claims his human rights were violated by having to use a bucket as a toilet in his cell. A prison service spokeswoman said: "The National Offender Management Service is robustly defending the claims."

three weeks after London rioters caused considerable damage to Brixton businesses.

The Metropolitan Police last night said it "did not believe" the camera was working during the riots, but it had now been fixed. The CCTV is checked annually or if a fault is reported. This admission comes as the Metropolitan Police compelled media organisations to hand over footage from the riots.

The Labour MP John McDonnell, secretary of the National Union of Journalists' group in Parliament, said: "The Met should concentrate in getting its own act together rather than hassling journalists who are undertaking their proper role in exposing crime in our society."

The Rigg family are "shocked" at the broken camera because dozens of officers had gathered near the station on the anniversary of Sean Rigg's death on 21 August. The police show of force was probably because they feared trouble, following the death of Mark Duggan. He had been shot dead by police in Tottenham two weeks earlier, which triggered the riots.

Marcia Rigg, Sean Rigg's sister, said: "CCTV is crucial evidence ... so why isn't someone checking to see whether cameras work? How can we be sure the cameras inside Brixton station aren't broken?"

An inquest into Mr Rigg's death will be held next June, but the family are still struggling to get CCTV footage from the IPCC. Family lawyer Anna Mazzola said CCTV, or a lack of it, is partly why the family see his death as suspicious.

Brian Paddick, former borough commander, said: "The police need to understand that ensuring CCTV in sensitive areas such the backyard where Mr Rigg died and in front of the [Tube] station where Jean Charles de Menezes was shot, is as much to protect them as anyone else. Not to ensure cameras are working is serious neglect of duty on their part."

The Metropolitan Police insists CCTV did not "capture" the memorial anyway. The family disputes this. "New CCTV systems were introduced in compliance with the [HMIC] recommendations," the police said. Brixton MP Chuka Umana is now pursuing the family's concerns with the police.

Prisoners' wages to help crime victims

BBC News, 26 September 2011

The wages of 500 prisoners who work in communities are to be cut and used to support victims of crime, the Ministry of Justice says. The 40% pay cut will raise up to £1m a year for victim support services. The policing minister said the move, which comes into force on Monday, would make offenders take personal responsibility for their crimes. Ministers also want to target the wages of prisoners working inside jails, through new legislation.

Under the Prisoners' Earnings Act, 40% of prisoners' wages over £20 per week after tax, National Insurance and any court-ordered or child support payments, will be deducted and given to Victim Support. But the average wage of offenders working in prison is £10 a week, so many would not face the deduction.

Policing Minister Nick Herbert said: "For too long the financial burden of repairing the damage done by crime has fallen to the taxpayer alone. "Making offenders pay financial reparation to victims will require them to take personal responsibility for their crimes and go some way towards making redress to victims through the funding of crucial support services."

Prison Reform Trust director Juliet Lyons said it was a good idea in principle but it was important prisoners were not put off working altogether. She said: "It's always a problem if people leave prison with absolutely nothing. It's likely to cause further offending. And so a scheme like this has to be thought through carefully so that money is set aside for victims but that we also pay attention to resettlement."

'Make amends': Victim Support chief executive Javed Khan, said the money would be used "to deliver real, practical support for victims and communities". Getting prisoners working and developing workplace skills should help them on the path to reform," he said. "This will be very much welcomed by victims as they are united in wanting offenders to stop committing crimes."

Victims' Commissioner Louise Casey added: "Victims want criminals to be punished for their crimes and make amends for the harm they have caused. I believe the principle of criminals contributing to the costs of support for victims should be extended, and am hopeful that the government will now extend the victims' surcharge that judges and magistrates impose such that it applies to all offenders."

Justice Secretary Ken Clarke told last year's Conservative Party conference that prisoners in England and Wales should work a 40-hour week. He said the government was planning a major expansion of prison industries to get more inmates working.

Report on an announced inspection of HMP Peterborough (Women) 4 – 8 April 2011 by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. Report compiled July 2011, published Tuesday 27th September 2011: The prison is operated by Sodexo Justice Services

Inspectors had some concerns:

- The women's prison had improved significantly since our last inspection. However, the wide range of women held created a structural barrier to further progress
- Work with lifers was under-resourced and poorly supported with insufficient specialist, staff struggled to provide the necessary range of inputs to meet the needs of young adult women and those serving indeterminate sentences.
- the regime, interventions and services were not sufficiently tailored to the specific needs of the wide range of women held by the prison, with, for example, no provision for young adult women with alcohol problems;
- high levels of self-harm - average of 225 incidents reported each month involving 33 women
- there were too many male officers;
- although health care was generally good, there were problems with the appointments system and women did not have the option of seeing a female GP;
- the learning and skills strategy was too generic, covered both male/female prisoners, was insufficiently focused on the needs of young women and those serving indeterminate sentences.

Introduction from the report

HMP Peterborough is a Category B local prison separately holding male and female prisoners and is a designated Young Offenders Institution for young women. We have reported on the male and female prisoners separately but the wide and complex range of prisoners held was an important part of the overall context for both parts of the prison.

At the time of the inspection, Peterborough held 360 women.

The women's prison had improved significantly since our last inspection. However, the wide range of women held created a structural barrier to further progress. The prison provided good or reasonably good outcomes across the range of the healthy prison areas, but it struggled to provide the necessary range of inputs to meet the needs of young adult women and those serving indeterminate sentences, particularly those at the beginning of life sentences. Peterborough had taken on these roles when HMP Bullwood Hall had been re-roled to take male foreign national prisoners. Bullwood Hall had a specialist role for these two groups and

needed miscarriage investigations, then retreated from case work, not wanting to tread on the commission's toes. "It has taken quite a while to appreciate that the problems aren't over."

The three lawyers behind the CCA argue that the commission's resources are becoming increasingly stretched, with more than 1,000 cases a year to progress (the commission has been outspoken about its own funding issues) and now "faces an almost impossible task in undertaking the depth and level of investigation that is required in all but a very few of them". The watchdog has come under some pretty heavy fire, as critics argue the Birmingham-based body is no longer fit for purpose.

Baird talks of the "studied and obligatory neutrality" of the CCRC. "What is needed," he says, "is somebody that's going to investigate what might be unlikely leads. You need somebody on the side of the victims of the miscarriage of justice."

"The CCRC are decision-makers. They're not an advocacy organisation," argues Emily Bolton. As she points out, the CCA will be able to cherry pick cases, whereas the commission is statutorily obliged to consider all applications. Bolton helped set up the Innocence Project New Orleans, providing legal representation to the wrongfully convicted. "We started in 2001 and our work has led to the reversal of 19 convictions," she says.

They also point to problems of legal aid, which have long meant that defence lawyers are increasingly unwilling to take on non-remunerative appeal cases. Lawyers get paid £49.70 per hour for this work – a rate that has not changed since 2001 – and then they aren't paid until a case is finished, which could be years. There aren't many lawyers who are "still sufficiently committed or financially reckless", as Maddocks puts it, to take on "the often thankless task of trying to overturn false convictions".

The idea for the CCA is for a two-year pilot staffed by one or two case workers to demonstrate to public and private funders that a specialised, not-for-profit legal centre can deliver results. The pilot will rely on legal aid for its casework where available but seeks grant funding for its criminal justice policy role. It hopes to establish a sustainable funding model after two years.

Jon Robins is editing the Justice Gap series, including a collection of essays entitled *Wrongly Accused? Who is Responsible for Investigating Miscarriages of Justice*, out on 10 October.

Report on an announced inspection of HMP Kirklevington Grange, 9 –13 May 2011 by HMCIP. Report compiled July 2011, published Thursday 29th September 2011

Introduction from the report

Kirklevington Grange' is a small, specialist resettlement prison preparing men coming to the end of long sentences for their return to the community - mostly locally in the North East of England. It performed its specialist function very well.

Kirklevington carefully selected its prisoners and so, of course, in that and in other ways, a comparison with many other prisons might seem unfair. However, the principles that Kirklevington successfully applied - of men making progress by working hard to put something back into the community and to acquire the skills, experience and confidence they will need to get and hold down a job on release - are principles that have a wider application in the prison system.

The prison was very safe. Diversity work, health care and basic services such as catering were all of a high standard. Prisoners were treated with respect and individual attention was paid to their progression. High standards of conduct and motivation were expected in return and these were rigorously enforced. In 2010, 95 men had been returned to closed conditions; while we believed this approach was right, recording of these decisions and other sanctions needed to be improved.

Justice gap can be filled by the new Centre for Criminal Appeals

Case of Tony Stock highlights why processes to address miscarriages of justice are failing, convicted of robbery in 1970, Tony Stock is still trying to prove his innocence

I was witness to an unusual reunion this week, between the former solicitor-general Vera Baird QC, defence lawyer Glyn Maddocks and a 73-year-old Welsh pensioner called Tony Stock, convicted of robbery in 1970, Tony is still trying to prove his innocence. The last time the three of them were together was 15 years ago at the Royal Courts of Justice.

At that point Stock had already spent over quarter of a century fighting to prove his innocence. In July 1970 he was sentenced to 10 years for his part in a brutal robbery in a Leeds shopping centre. Back at the royal courts in 1994, Baird was then junior to Michael Mansfield QC and Stock was Glyn Maddocks's first client claiming to be the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Stock and his defence team assumed his name would be cleared after a supergrass confessed to his role, identifying four accomplices, in an attack that involved setting upon staff with iron bars and stealing more than £4,000. That confession was made in 1978.

The wheels of justice, as they say, turn slowly. Stock always fought the conviction. He was one of the first rooftop protesters, and spent almost 100 days on hunger strike. It is astonishing that after 41 years, he is still trying to clear his name – and spending his pension on hiring private investigators to track down the original witnesses.

Three years after Baird, Maddocks and Stock last met, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) was set up in 1997 as a response to a scandalous list of miscarriages: the Birmingham Six, the Bridgewater Four and the Cardiff Three. The Stock case has a small but significant place in legal history: it is the first and only case to have been referred back to the appeal courts twice by the CCRC. And yet, after a total of four appeals, the conviction remains in place. The 1996 appeal failed despite the dramatic appearance of the supergrass, Sam Benefield, a former member of a vicious east London group, the Thursday gang. He was sneaked through the back door of the Royal Courts of Justice, with an armed guard, dressed as an Arab sheik.

The primary reason for the meeting this week was for Maddocks, Baird and Emily Bolton of the anti-death penalty charity Reprieve to discuss a new organisation called the Centre for Criminal Appeals which will support the investigation of miscarriages.

"The case of Tony Stock is exceptional for many reasons but it's also a textbook example why we need the CCA," Maddocks tells me. "The evidence supporting his conviction has been shot to pieces. There is literally nothing left of the prosecution case. Yet he's still fighting. The system has failed. We need a new approach."

Since the Stock case, Maddocks has acted in numerous cases of wrongful conviction including that of Paul Blackburn, whose conviction for the attempted murder and sexual assault of a nine-year-old boy was quashed after 25 years in 2005 and Johnny Kamara, whose conviction for murder was quashed in 2000 after 17 years.

The idea behind the Centre for Criminal Appeals is to fill what Maddocks calls "a very real justice gap". The lawyer points to the network of help for those claiming to be victims of judicial error: the university-based Innocence Projects, a diminishing number of criminal defence lawyers who are willing to spend time on poorly remunerated appeals work and other initiatives such as the Miscarriage of Justice led by the journalist Louise Shorter at Inside Times. However, Maddocks argues, there is nothing "which brings together the level of expertise necessary".

What about the CCRC? "When the Commission came on stream, we all thought that it was Valhalla," replies Baird. She points out that the human rights group JUSTICE, which pio-

had been resourced accordingly. In the current setting, these young adults and lifers were minorities within a large local prison with a constantly changing population of remand and short-sentenced women.

In our 2006 report, we noted that young adult women had been received with little opportunity to prepare a suitable regime. It was also proposed that the prison should take lifers when there was no experience in dealing with them and had no psychology input, even though psychological assessments form a vital part of the first stage of a life sentence. We recommended that Peterborough should not undertake a specialist first stage lifer role for women until there were resources for specialist assessments and a clearly worked out strategy explaining how individual needs would be met. In the 2008 inspection, we found that provision for lifers and young adult women was still underdeveloped. Work with lifers was under-resourced and poorly supported with insufficient specialist staff. Living conditions were not suitable or adapted for women who would spend some years in the prison and there was no consideration of the specific needs of young adult women. At this inspection, while some of the previous deficiencies in sentence management had been addressed, there was still too little differentiation of a regime and provision for young adult women and lifers.

Because of the wide catchment area, some women had long journeys to the prison. Measures to identify and meet immediate needs on arrival required improvement. Like most women's local prisons, many women had a range of acute needs reflected in high levels of self-harm - an average of 225 incidents were reported each month involving 33 women. It was, therefore, positive to see some very supportive procedures to care for those at risk of self harm and suicide. Some women, poignantly but effectively, were distracted by the provision of colouring books. There were some excellent interventions for women with alcohol and drug problems, including robust but appropriate challenges to women's drug and medication acquisition-related behaviour. Just under half (similar to comparable prisons) of women said they had felt unsafe at some time in the prison. We were pleased to see the prison developing new ways of tackling anti-social behaviour with greater attention given to dealing with the underlying causes of the problem. The segregation unit was decent and professionally run with a focus on care. The use of force was not high.

Staff-prisoner relationships had much improved since our last inspection and were mostly very good. Personal officer work was particularly good but there were too many male officers, and on one occasion we found a single male officer in charge of the mother and baby unit overnight, which was inappropriate. The unit itself provided a safe and supportive environment.

Living conditions were clean and decent, although some cells designed for one were shared and cramped. Diversity work was effectively led by the director and deputy director. However, residential staff were over-reliant on the specialist diversity team to support foreign national prisoners rather than resolving some basic issues themselves. The quality of health care services was good, but there were problems with the appointments system and a high rate of non-attendance at clinics. It was unacceptable that women did not have the option of seeing a female GP.

Time out of cell and the number of activity places were better than in most local prisons, but those without an activity spent too long locked in their cells. When we checked in the working part of the day, almost a quarter of women were locked behind their doors. The learning and skills strategy was too generic and covered both male and female prisoners - there was insufficient focus on the needs of young women and those serving indeterminate sentences. The work training and education that was on offer was generally good, but the range of qual-

ification obtainable was limited and at too low a level.

The resettlement strategy was not based on a comprehensive needs analysis, and the regime, interventions and services were not sufficiently tailored to the specific needs of the wide range of women held by the prison. There was no formal custody planning for women on remand or serving less than 12 months. There was a satisfactory range of interventions and services to support the resettlement of most women when they left the prison, but was not always sufficiently well targeted. As an example, recent OASys data indicated a much higher need for provision for young adult women with alcohol problems, but nothing different or specific for this group had been provided.

Even so, most women at Peterborough are held safely and decently and many benefit from a range of effective interventions to help them resettle successfully when they leave the prison and reduce the risk of reoffending.

Nick Hardwick, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

Report on an announced inspection of HMP Peterborough (Men), 4 – 8 April 2011 by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. Report compiled July 2011, published Tuesday 27th September 2011. The prison is operated by Sodexo Justice Services

Inspectors had some concerns:

- We were concerned that vulnerable prisoners who subsequently broke a 'voluntary' compact would be moved from the vulnerable prisoners' wing to a general landing, which was a breach of the prison's responsibility to protect them from harm.
- relatively high numbers of men said they felt unsafe, suggesting a need to develop further effective violence reduction and anti-bullying strategies;
- an unsuitable mix of prisoners on the first night and induction wing meant vulnerable prisoners spent too much time locked up;
- although health care was generally good, there were problems with the appointment system, leading to a high rate of non-attendance;
- there was still not enough activity to keep everyone occupied and, while the work training and education on offer was good, the range of qualification obtainable was limited; and
- there was little resettlement planning to meet the needs of men not included in the pilot, such as the significant proportion of un-convicted prisoners.
- A pilot ('payment by results' scheme) was in its early stages but certainly looked promising, and for the group of men eligible, provided the best reintegration support we have seen in a local prison.
- However, it was hard to avoid the impression that this was an initiative 'hosted' by the prison rather than one that was integrated into its everyday work.

Introduction from the report: HMP Peterborough is a Category B local prison separately holding male and female prisoners and is a designated Young Offenders Institution for young women. We have reported on the male and female prisoners separately but the wide and complex range of prisoners held was an important part of the overall context for both parts of the prison.

At the time of the inspection, Peterborough held 480 men.

The prison had recently been chosen, with much fanfare, as the first pilot for the government's 'payment by results' scheme funded by a social impact bond (SIB). The inspection was not an evaluation of the pilot, but did create an opportunity to make some observations on how it was working.

The men's prison had improved since our last inspection and there were encouraging signs that it was on an upward trajectory.

The prison was a generally safe environment but relatively high numbers of men said they

had felt unsafe at some time. Although fewer said they actually felt unsafe at the time of the inspection, this indicated a need to take more account of information from prisoners in developing effective violence reduction and anti-bullying strategies. Measures to support prisoners at risk of suicide or self harm were very good. Work to reduce both the supply of and demand for drugs was given appropriate priority.

Most prisoners had a good induction and prisoners had an opportunity to meet a range of staff in the Link Centre, which provided resettlement services. Connections peer workers also provided pointers to the range of support available, though not all prisoners understood the peer support role or what was done on their behalf. The segregation unit was decent and professionally run. Use of force was not high.

An unsuitable mix of prisoners on the first night and induction wing meant that prisoners, vulnerable because of their offence, had to spend much of their time locked up. We were concerned that vulnerable prisoners who subsequently broke a 'voluntary' compact would be moved from the vulnerable prisoners' wing to a general landing, which was a breach of the prison's responsibility to protect them from harm.

Staff-prisoner relationships had much improved since our last inspection with a more developed, if not wholly effective, personal officer scheme. Living conditions were clean and decent, although some cells designed for one were shared and too cramped. Diversity work was effectively led by the director.

However, residential staff were over-reliant on the specialist diversity team to provide support for foreign national prisoners rather than sorting out some basic issues themselves. Health care services were good but there were problems with the appointment system, leading to a high rate of non-attendance at clinics.

Time out of cell and the number of activity places were better than in most local prisons but there still not enough activities to keep everyone occupied, and some men spent too long locked in their cells. When we checked in the working part of the day, nearly a third of men were locked behind their doors. The work training and education that was on offer was generally of good quality, but the range of qualification obtainable was limited and at too low a level.

The SIB funded an impressive range of resettlement services for men serving sentences of less than 12 months, and investors would obtain a return dependent on the outcomes achieved. The process involved an initial assessment by staff (and peer mentors) employed or trained by the St Giles Trust to identify the actions required to reintegrate the prisoner back into the community and a through the gate service to meet those needs. The pilot was in its early stages but certainly looked promising, and for the group of men eligible, provided the best reintegration support we have seen in a local prison.

However, it was hard to avoid the impression that this was an initiative 'hosted' by the prison rather than one that was integrated into its everyday work. The prison's business plan and resettlement strategy were not based on a comprehensive needs analysis and there was little planning to meet the needs of men not included in the pilot, such as the significant proportion of unconvicted prisoners. There was little evidence of a whole prison approach to resettlement, including involving personal officers to ensure that the prison took full advantage of the benefits the payments by results pilot offered.

Overall, it is clear that Peterborough men's prison is an improving institution that has made commendable progress. The good environment and staff-prisoner relationships create the necessary foundation for further development.

Nick Hardwick, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons