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Longford Trust The Longford Trust
Annual Report 2016

Why Answers Lead to Questions



The Longford Trust was founded in 2002 to continue, in some measure, Lord Longford's life-long work with prisoners. That commitment had two particular features: his involvement with individuals, visiting several prisoners a week for 71 years, right up to his death in 2001; and his concentration on practical solutions.

And that has been our approach too. Our Longford Scholarships offer practical support to young serving and ex-prisoners who want to continue their rehabilitation by going on to university. That includes one-to-one mentoring, by a dedicated group of trained volunteer mentors. Our Longford Prize recognises those who have made a practical difference in the field of prison reform. And our Longford Lecture each year provides practical proposals for how we can do things better – as individuals, as a society and as part of the democratic process, locally, nationally and internationally.

But the work the Trust does has a very particular context in Britain's criminal justice system, and sometimes it is impossible to ignore those reforms that are crying out to be made. And so, from the autumn of 2015 until the summer of 2016, on behalf of the Trust, I was a member of Dame Sally Coates' review of prison education, ordered by Michael Gove, as a reforming Secretary of State for Justice, delivered to him and its recommendations accepted "without hesitation, repetition or deviation", as he put it publicly the time.

I would urge you all to read Dame Sally's report on the Ministry of Justice's website. There has, of course, been a change at the top since, and the new Secretary of State inevitably has different priorities, but the Trust continues to favour changes to the way prisons are run that would enable more young men and women behind bars to seize the chance that education offers, up to and including, for some, aspiring one day to get a degree. Some of the details of our work in this regard are included in this annual report.

Once he had left the government, Mr Gove's enthusiasm for prison reform did not disappear overnight. He returned to the subject to give our 2016 Longford Lecture in November at Church House on the theme of "What is Really Criminal in Our Justice System". He spoke boldly of the continuing need for far-reaching reform of our prisons. Again full details are on pages 7 to 10.

Charities that stand still sometimes find themselves going backwards, so the Longford Trust continues to try to improve what we do and how we do it. 2016 saw the first stage of a strengthening of our mentoring programme and

that will continue into 2017. We know from the individuals we support with scholarships just how important their mentors are to them. Some have no-one else to sustain and encourage them, or to turn to when the going gets tough. The more effective we can make our mentoring, the more ex-prisoners we can see through to degrees, jobs and fulfilled lives.

We have also undertaken a revamp of our annual Longford Prize, with a larger sum given to the winner and new statuettes, designed by a former Longford Scholar, Ben Levings. We are grateful to the McGrath Charitable Foundation for their support in this development, and to Unilink Technology Services for their sponsorship of the Longford Lecture.

Our scholarships programme and our Frank Awards (for serving prisoners wanting to take individual Open University modules) remain as popular and oversubscribed as ever. We are grateful to the many organisations and individuals who support us financially in our efforts in this field. A full list appears on page 21, but special mention should go to the Linbury Trust for their generous backing of the Frank Awards.

The financial climate in which all charities operate remains challenging, but I am delighted to report that our fund-raising has been more successful this year than last, enabling the charity to continue to grow. Full details of our income and expenditure can be found on pages 21 and 22.

I hope Frank Longford would approve of what is being done in his name. Certainly his family remains actively and passionately involved in the trust with his youngest son, Kevin Pakenham, an outstanding chairman, and his daughter Rachel Billington bringing the wealth of knowledge that comes from her role as an associate editor of Inside Time, as well as his old friends and admirers such as Jon Snow, our wonderful Master of Ceremonies at the Longford Lecture. But as the years pass, a new generation is now involved with the Trust for whom the name Lord Longford means little. Our job then is to make sure that his ideas, if not his name, remain alive in a practical, immediate and relevant way that changes individual lives. "Second chances" was a phrase Michael Gove used a lot in office, and in his lecture. It was also, inevitably, a favourite of Frank's.

What the Longford Trust does



Since it was established in 2002 by friends, family and admirers of the former Labour cabinet minister and lifelong prison visitor, Lord Longford (1905-2001), the Longford Trust focuses on three particular areas in its efforts to continue his distinctive work for penal reform.

The first is its annual Longford Lecture, held since 2002 in the spectacular round Assembly Hall of Church House, Westminster,

home of the Church of England's General Synod. Speakers have included a Nobel Laureate (Archbishop Desmond Tutu), a Head of State (President Mary McAleese of Ireland), the Metropolitan Police Commissioner (Ian Blair), the Deputy Head of the Supreme Court (Brenda Hale) and most recently a former Lord Chancellor (Michael Gove) as well as writers Michael Palin and Will Self, and the campaigners Bianca Jagger and Clive Stafford Smith.

The second is the Longford Prize, awarded annually by a distinguished judging panel to an individual or organisation showing outstanding qualities of courage, humanity and persistence in the field of prison reform. Past winners have included Circles UK, Prisoners Abroad, HMP Grendon, Pact and the founder of the Shannon Trust, Christopher Morgan.

And the third is its Longford Scholarships' programme, started in 2005. It has since supported almost 200 young serving and exprisoners to continue their rehabilitation through studying for a degree at a UK university. Awards include both financial help and one of the trust's trained group of volunteer mentors.

"If we are really concerned with the reform of prisoners, what we do when they emerge from custody is at least as important as what we do for them while they are inside." Lord Longford (1994)

"Unlocking my true potential"



Justin Gahan with his new baby

Justin Gahan has been studying accountancy and finance at the University of West London since 2015. As well as speaking publicly at events on behalf of the Longford Trust and its scholarships' programme – including to inmates at HMP Guys Marsh on an education awareness day – he has passed his first year with a First. "The Longford Trust has provided me with the added support I needed in order to unlock my true potential," he says.

In April, he became a father. This still is from a short film, made by award-winning photographer Russell Bruns, to appear on the Longford Trust's new website in 2017, in which Justin talks about his studies and his ambitions for the future.

The 2016 Longford Lecture



What is Really Criminal about our Justice System



Michael Gove presenting the 2016 Longford Lecture

On November 16, 2016, Michael Gove gave the 15th Longford Lecture to a capacity audience (650 plus) at Church House, Westminster. He had accepted the trustees' invitation while still a reforming Justice Secretary, leading a radical overhaul of prisons in England and Wales. But events – the enemy of all politicians – intervened, and he took to the stage as a backbench MP, but one clearly passionate about prison reform. Here is an extract from his lecture (the full text is on the Longford Trust website).

"I think it's important that we step back and reflect on the individuals who make up our prison population. The first thing to say is that they are all individuals. The most notable over-represented group is, of course, Members of Parliament. From Horatio Bottomley to the present day, the road from Westminster to Wormwood Scrubs is a well-travelled one... But while that group is unlikely to elicit much public sympathy, we should certainly be much more sensitive to the way in which so many of those who come into contact with our criminal justice system are individuals from relatively disadvantaged groups. We know that a disproportionate number of all those of our fellow citizens who end up in prison have been abused or neglected as children. They will have witnessed domestic violence when growing up, have been failed by the education system and have been in foster or other residential care. They will often have been brought up by adults with addictions or other mental health problems. They will, in all too many cases, suffer from substance abuse and mental illness themselves. They will have been harmed not just physically and psychologically. They will also have endured spiritual and moral deprivation. Many of those in our jails never had someone who loved them enough when they were young to tell them the difference between right and wrong. They will have

grown up in homes where affection was absent or fleeting, authority arbitrary or brutal. They will never have developed the habits of consideration towards others, deferred gratification and empathy which are the cement of civilisation. Of course, the overwhelming majority of those who've faced such challenging childhoods make successes of their lives. But their achievements deserve all the more recognition because of the difficulties they've overcome. And those of us who've been fortunate enough to enjoy love, stability and carefully-policed boundaries when we've been growing up should make an extra effort to understand the lives of others who've lived with coldness, violence and chaos. Then we might appreciate why children who've learned that showing weakness only invites abuse cover up the fact they can't read in class with shows of bravado and disruptive behaviour. These same boys, finding learning difficult and school alienating, increasingly play truant or invite expulsion. So many of those in our prisons are damaged individuals, victims themselves, and we should be careful about the moral judgements we make about them. Of course, when individuals cross the line and break the law there has to be punishment. But it's critical to appreciate that many of those who are in our prisons grew up without the social capital or moral reinforcement the rest of us have been fortunate enough to enjoy.

That does not mean when they offend that we should suspend the operation of the law on which the social order depends. Law-breaking requires the imposition of sanctions. But the deprivation of liberty inherent in being sent to prison is punishment enough. Offenders should not face further degradation or indignity when in custody. Quite the opposite. We should use that time to repair lives not further blight them. We need to ensure that prisons build up the resources of character and resilience which will mean prisoners are less likely to offend in future. I believe, with Frank Longford, that such a mission is vital because every single human soul is precious and all of us can achieve something worthwhile if the circumstances are right."

The 2016 Longford Lecture was sponsored by





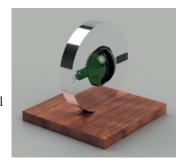
The Longford Prize McGrath Charitable Trust



2016 has been a year of change for the Longford Prize. Thanks to the generosity of the McGrath Charitable Trust, the prize money now on offer is £5,000.

And instead of certificates, the Longford Trust commissioned one of its former Longford Scholars, Ben Levings, now forging a successful career as a carver and stonemason, to design a beautiful new award to present at the annual lecture to prize winners.

Made of stainless steel, glass and yew, the detail on the statuette is the lock indicator found on UK prison doors. The award represents, Ben says, the door unlocked, transparency and reflection - some of the things that he felt are celebrated by the Longford Prize.



Ben Levings' design for the Longford Prize. www.benlevings.co.uk

Two Winners

Since its inception 15 years ago, the judging panel has always named a single winner of the Longford Prize. In 2016, however, the panel decided to make an exception and to name two joint prize winners. Both share, the judges said, an ambition to effect change in the lives of prisoners by promoting greater openness, but go about the task in radically different ways.



Kevin McGrath of the McGrath Charitable Trust (left) presents the prize to Christopher Stacey and Julie Harmsworth from Unlock

The first of the joint winners was the charity Unlock. The judges said about it: "This charity, founded in 1999, is run by people with convictions for the estimated 10.5 million people living with convictions in the UK. It has the invaluable aim of countering the sometimes life-long disadvantage that can result from having a criminal record. From persuading employers to adopt fairer recruitment practices to challenging the insurance industry to reduce inflated premiums for those with convictions, Unlock's

sustained, practical and highly effective work means that those it supports can successfully navigate the many obstacles on the path to rehabilitation and positive re-engagement with society."



Actress Jennifer Joseph receives the Longford Prize on behalf of The Shakespeare Trilogy

And the second joint winner was The Shakespeare Trilogy. Here is the judges' citation: "This inspiring outreach scheme by Clean Break Theatre Company, York Saint John University's Prison Partnership Project and the Donmar Warehouse. developed over four years of workshops in women's jails, has resulted in highlyacclaimed West End

productions of three of Shakespeare's plays. Each stars ex-prisoners and is set behind bars. The whole project is a lightning conductor for the place and value of the arts in prisons. In the insight it allows audiences into the lives of those in the otherwise closed world of a jail, the Trilogy powerfully and memorably highlights our shared humanity and potential."

Lifetime Achievement Award

The judges gave this to Juliet Lyon, in recognition they said of "a lifetime of commitment to those on the margins of society – in mental health, managing the Richmond Fellowship therapeutic communities; in education as head of a psychiatric unit school; and from 2000 until 2016 as director of the Prison

Reform Trust." Juliet Lyon has always, they added. "combined passion with powerful advocacy, rooted in a peerless command of her subject and handson experience. A natural leader, and an innovative. irresistible campaigner, she has played a crucial role in improving the lives of many, most notably female and young offenders. She is, in the world of prison reform. a national treasure."



Juliet Lyon receives the Lifetime Achievement Award

The Longford Scholarships



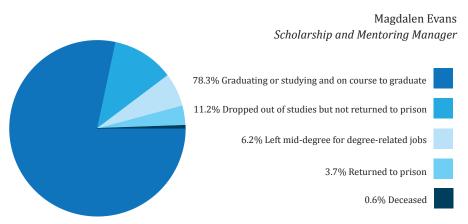
At the end of 2016 we had 51 young men and women on the Longford Scholarship programme, at different stages in their degree course. Five of our current scholars are women (in line with the percentage they represent in the prison population) whilst two are ex-service personnel. Since we began making awards of financial and mentoring support in 2005, we have now worked with 161 individuals in total. Just short of 80 per cent of them have graduated or are on the way to graduating.

A further six per cent have dropped out mid-degree to take degree-related jobs. This summer, for example, one of our computer science undergraduates was adamant that he wanted to get going in the IT workplace rather than return that autumn for his final year. Without having completed the first two years, however, that job opportunity wouldn't have been there.

Of the remainder, just four per cent return to prison – a far cry from the national reoffending rate amongst all prisoners of between 40 and 60 per cent, depending on their age. And one of those who did return to prison was able, with our support, to complete his degree studies by transferring to the Open University. He graduated this summer and invited us to the ceremony.

We continue to expand our network of ex-scholars, who keep in touch about their lives and careers through both social media and by attending the annual lecture. One recently graduated computer scientist is already being so successful in his new job that he has set up a direct debit to the Trust so as to allow others to receive the help from us that did so much for his prospects. Others are coming forward to volunteer as mentors, and their experiences and enthusiasm makes them a particularly valuable asset.

Part of my work is to visit prisons and meet the inmates and staff in the education departments so that everyone who could benefit from a Longford Scholarship does. There have been eight such visits this year, several accompanied by one of our trustees.



"Crucial to my learning"

"Frances's mentoring has been crucial to my learning. Her experienced advice has made me think clearly and academically, especially at times when I was a bit confused about what the lecturers wanted me to research."





Longford Scholar Imran Shaukat with Jon Snow (left) and his Longford Trust mentor, Frances Toynbee (right) pictured at the 2016 Longford Lecture

Imran Shaukat began a four-year BSc in applied social sciences at Sheffield University in 2016 with the support of the Longford Trust. The 35-year-old had been working with a number of voluntary organisations – including Shelter and Addaction - since his release from prison. As well as achieving grades that have put him on course for a first in his end of year exams, Imran has also contributed to various public discussions on prison reform, including appearing on a BBC Radio 4 *You and Yours* phone-in.

He has built a strong relationship with his Longford Trust mentor, headteacher Frances Toynbee. "Her mentoring has been crucial to my learning," he says. "Her experienced advice has made me think clearly and academically, especially at times when I was a bit confused about what the lecturers wanted me to research." For her part, Frances has enjoyed their "lively political debates. Imran has taught me all sorts of things I didn't know".

Nat Billington and Patrick Pakenham Scholars

Since 2006, the Longford Trust has offered special awards, set up in memory of Lord Longford's barrister son, Paddy, to those young serving and ex-prisoners wanting to study law at university. In 2016, we had nine students on this programme, including Adam who, having graduated in the summer of 2015, applied and was accepted in September 2016 for membership as a trainee barrister by Inner Temple. The programme is funded with support from the Legal Education Foundation.

Both the Bar Society and the Law Society have special scrutiny procedures in place for those with criminal convictions who wish to take professional examinations as either a solicitor or a barrister. The Longford Trust has developed links with both bodies and is able to support its candidates through their processes. The trust has also built relationships with major law firms – including Pinsent Masons and Bates Wells Braithwaite – aimed at facilitating greater access for our scholars to their work placement and internship programmes.

And in 2016, the trust launched its Nat Billington Scholarships, in memory of Lord Longford's technology entrepreneur grandson, which encourage young serving and ex-prisoners to study computer science and associated subjects as a way back into the workforce in an area where there is a skills shortage.

With the support of the Rank Foundation, the first Nat Billington scholarships were awarded in 2016, and the trust commissioned a short film aimed at all UK prisons and made by trained staff and prison learners at Wayout TV, based at HMP Wayland. It features past Longford Scholars who have graduated in computer science talking about how rewarding such a career avenue can be.

All aboard a childhood dream



Roman Shutov in the workshop of the International Boatbuilding Training College, Lowestoft

Roman Shutov was fascinated by boats even before he served as a youngster in the Russian navy. Now in his mid-30s, and based permanently in the UK for the past decade, he has finally realised his dream.

With the support of a Longford Scholarship, he embarked in 2016 on degree-level training at the internationally-renowned Boat Building College in Lowestoft. His course there includes fine-tuning the new skills he is learning in the best traditions of East Anglian wooden boatbuilding on public commissions such as a new ferry for the coastal town of Walberswick. His final qualification will be in Marine Constructions, Systems Engineering and Maintenance, and is one recognised and respected in the boat industry around the world.

What a difference a Longford Scholarship makes

"Going to university following my release from prison was the best decision I've ever made. It gave me a solid base to rebuild my life on. The Longford Trust helped every step of the way, and it would've been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for me to complete university without them. Outside of the financial support, knowing that I'd be sending them status updates each term gave me that extra motivation to excel in my studies, which ultimately resulted in me earning a First overall."

Jon, graduated in 2016, and now working for a major British company

"It is really my only opportunity to discuss legal theory and case law with anyone. So it's proving invaluable."

Matthew, on the support given by his Longford Trust mentor with his law degree, being undertaken by distance learning from inside prison

"I'm not sure if I emailed you to say thank you for your top-up grant. Your support amazes me! I haven't had my results but I did well in the coursework and my course director says that my exams were excellent. I'm so grateful as there are still huge obstacle to overcome."

Keith, graduated with a first in actuarial science in 2016 and is now embarking on a fully-funded Masters in maths.

"I had a good day yesterday with Steven. We had lunch at the Courtauld and then went to the Rodin exhibition there. As we walked through, he said it was like an art book coming alive. Great to be able to show somebody things for the first time."

Sarah, on an outing with her mentee Steven, who started a Fine Art degree in 2016

"I had my first session with Kate last week, she's wonderful. We chatted for hours."

Jane, on meeting her Longford Trust mentor who is supporting her on her criminology degree

"Alex gave a really inspiring talk to the prisoners about her journey since she left prison. It was all males but she has been invited back to talk to women prisoners in a couple of months and asked me to go with her again."

Elena, mentor to Alex, one of our 2016 Longford Scholars

"Ban The Box" on University Applications



Dame Sally Coates

In her report on prison education, published in April 2016, Dame Sally Coates challenged universities to "ban the box" on their UCAS application forms. Currently, at the very first stage of the application process, before even their academic qualifications have been scrutinised, every candidate is required to disclose if they have an unspent or "relevant" criminal conviction.

This rule is, in Dame Sally's words, "one of the major barriers for prisoners in continuing education on release". Many are deterred from even trying, fearing rejection. Those who do go ahead with an application face a diverse range of risk assessment processes, few of which are in line with the good practice guidelines published by UCAS itself.

Longford Trust director, Peter Stanford, who was a member of Dame Sally's panel, has been working with a group of other prisoners' charities to encourage the Universities' Minister to review both the UCAS application process, and the "risk assessments" system.

Like many of our Longford Scholars, Simon (not his real name) experienced problems getting a place because of his criminal record. Two years running he was rejected by all five universities he put on his UCAS form, even though his grades matched their admissions' criteria. It was only by plucking up his courage and phoning round admissions' tutors that he finally persuaded one to take a chance on him. He is now in his final year at a Russell Group university and is predicted a 2:1.

"My view," he reflects, "is that the universities have got it sweet. Once you disclose they can effectively do what they want with you. You rely on finding one decent individual to take up your case."

The Frank Awards:

supporting serving prisoners to embark on degrees

Since 2012, prisoners wanting to study at degree level with the Open University must take out student loans. Previously the tuition fees for OU modules had been paid for by the taxpayer on the basis that the funding was an investment in rehabilitation, with 75 per cent of OU prison learners completing their qualifications and 88 per cent passing, far above the figures for the adult population.

As a result between 2012 and 2016, there has been a 42 per cent drop in numbers of inmates working towards higher education qualifications with the OU (down from 1787 to 1079). "Most of us in prison can barely afford a can of tuna in the weekly canteen let alone a student loan," wrote one prisoner at HMP Pentonville.

As a response, in 2014, the Longford Trust introduced the Frank Awards. These grants cover the cost of one OU module and are available to those inmates who can show that they either don't meet the strict and bespoke criteria applied to prisoners seeking a student loan, or are unable because of exceptional personal circumstances to take on the debt burden required to realise their educational potential.

Working in partnership with the Prisoners' Education Trust and the Open University, the Longford Trust has made 28 Frank Awards over 3 years. The total outlay in 2016 was £14,000 and it was funded by a grant from the Linbury Trust. One aim of the project is that the Frank Awards holders of today should become the Longford Scholars of tomorrow.



Turning sentences into degrees

"I'm eternally grateful to the Longford Trust. You gave me more than higher education, a mentor and money. You have given me opportunities and hope, confidence and happiness."

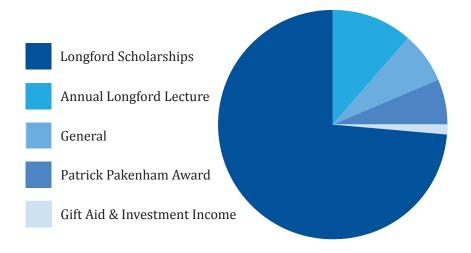


CJ Burge, who received a Frank Award to support her OU studies in Law while in prison, pictured (left) at the 2016 Longford Lecture with her Longford Trust mentor, barrister Jessica Jones



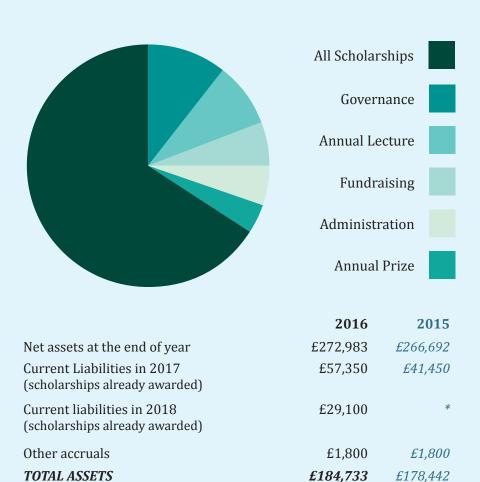


INCOME	2016	2015
Donations to Restricted Funds		
Longford Scholarships	£142,413	£122,231
Annual Longford Lecture	£21,727	£16,758
Patrick Pakenham Awards	£12,100	£10,900
SubTotal	£176,240	£149,899
Donations to Unrestricted Funds		
General	£13,993	£34,300
Investment Income	£2,353	£3,699
Investment Income	£186	£130
Sub Total	£16,532	£38,129
TOTAL	£192,722	£188,018



The Longford Trust is grateful for the financial support for its work offered during the course of this year by: Charles Alexander, Stephen and Nuala Blaney, Bridgewater Associates, Lord Charles Cecil, RJ Clark, Richard Collins, Shirley Conran, Dolly Costopoulos, the Violet and Milo Cripps Charitable Trust, Harriet Cullen, JCA Davey, the Alex and William De Winton Charitable Trust, Lady Antonia Fraser, the Robert Gavron Charitable Trust, the Hawthorne Charitable Trust, Kate Hill, Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust, the KW Charitable Trust, the Legal Education Foundation, the Linbury Trust, the Lund Trust, the McGrath Charitable Trust, the Monument Trust, the Miles Morland Foundation, Peter Neall, the Northwick Trust, the Ofenheim Charitable Trust, the estate of the late Henrietta Phipps, Richard Pollitzer, the Rank Foundation, Sir James Spooner, the Stone Family Foundation, Unilink Technology Services, Marina Warner and the Wilmington Trust.

EXPENDITURE	2016	2015
All Scholarships	£123,280	£140,543
Governance	£19,402	£17,728
Annual Lecture	£16,130	£18,972
Fundraising	£10,884	£4,900
Administration	£9,687	£6,370
Annual Prize	£7,250	£1,650
TOTAL	£186,633	£190,163



^{*} In 2015 accruals for 2016 included total of £45,000

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Kevin Pakenham - *Chairman*, Lady Rachel Billington , Victoria Greenwood, Tom Pakenham, John Podmore, Jon Snow

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