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Front cover: WHY PEOPLE STOP DOING CRIME: Longford Scholars CJ Burge and
Imran Shaukat join the debate at the annual Longford Lecture, chaired by Jon Snow



The Longford Trust

Annual Report 2018

Things Can Only Get Better



Throughout his lifetime Frank Longford was a staunch believer in emphasising the positive. Once, when I was writing his biography, he asked me to meet him in his favourite haunt, the House of Lords. He wanted to know how I was going to refer in the book to some of the prisoners he visited. In particular he was keen that, if I mentioned their convictions, I should also include their achievements when behind bars – exams passed, portraits painted, poems penned. He was always looking forward, not back. It was, arguably, one of the reasons he lived to so great an age and made such an impact.

2018 has certainly been a year of looking forward for the Longford Trust. For our annual Longford Lecture in November in the imposing Assembly Hall of Church House in central London, broadcaster Jon Snow was joined on stage by four ex-prisoners, three of them Longford Scholars, to debate the question of “Why People Stop Doing Crime”. The panel ranged widely – on occasion looking back to their own experience of the criminal justice system, but more often directing their gaze forward, through education to careers, so as to highlight what needs to change if we are, as a society, to lock up fewer people, and to see a reduction in the number of ex-prisoners who return to jail after being released.

You can tell when a debate has struck a chord. There is a sea of hands raised in the audience wanting to join in the discussion. Jon Snow – who pronounced the lecture “the best yet” – managed to pick out most of them, and prison education staff, probation officers, a retired high court judge (now a Longford Trust mentor) and several more of our current scholars all spoke from experience on the night from the floor. At the heart of much of what was said lay a challenge – to encourage, support and believe in reform and rehabilitation much more than we currently do as a society. If Frank had been there he would have approved – though he might have added a third “r” – redemption.

It was just one highlight of the year. In the summer 13 of our Longford Scholars graduated, nine of them with a First or a 2:1. Some have been accepted onto graduate trainee schemes by major engineering firms and accountants. Others have joined campaigning organisations in the wider criminal justice sector. Still more have started post-graduate courses. All are getting on with their lives, building careers, establishing homes, starting

families. A few have trained to act as mentors to our current crop of 57 Longford Scholars, who are walking in their footsteps.

Our efforts to ensure that as many of our scholars as possible succeed took on a new dimension in the summer, with the launch of a new secure app, accessible only by password, where past and present Longford Scholars and mentors can build a supportive e-community on the basis of shared experience. The app – invigilated by a former Longford Scholar – also hosts lively discussions on what is in the news, and its notice board contains details on all the internships, work experience placements, part-time openings and other employment initiatives that the trust and its partner organisations can offer to help smooth progress from university to graduate job. Inside this annual report you can read about how Gareth Evans, one of our current Longford Scholars, spent four weeks in the summer vacation being paid to join the team of the advisors to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

Our growing network of routes into the world of work – and the expanding willingness of employers to see beyond prison sentences on CVs – is another highlight of the year. Positive, too, was the decision of UCAS, which runs university admissions, to remove the standard box around criminal convictions on its main application form from September 2018. The trust, along with Unlock, the Prisoners’ Education Trust and the redoubtable Dame Sally Coates, has long been pressing for just such a change to remove barriers to ex-prisoners embracing higher education. It is good to know that officialdom can listen.

Attitudes do feel as if they are starting to shift. And if we can persuade a younger generation to adopt the cause of prison reform, then real momentum will be generated, so our various interactions with this year’s Schools’ Partner – Highgate Wood School in north London – gave much hope. And laughter, when trust supporter Mel Giedroyc, of Great British Bake Off fame, accompanied two of our scholars on a visit there, and ended up in the cookery class tasting shortbread

Peter Stanford
Director
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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 has focussed on three particular areas in its efforts to continue his distinctive work for penal reform.

The first is our 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 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, National Prison Radio and the founder of the Shannon Trust, Christopher Morgan.

And the third is our Longford Scholarships' programme, started in 2005. It has since supported almost 280 young serving and ex-prisoners 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)

"The Longford Trust never gave up on me"

"I was looking at my finances and coming close to being forced to quit university in my first summer," recalls Gavin Thompson, pictured below on his graduation day. "Without a Bank of Mum and Dad, I thought I was screwed but I'd fought too hard to get here and wasn't giving up. I found the Longford Trust and their financial support was a lifeline at a critical moment".

"It went beyond finances to coaching and preparations when discrimination became an issue, to mentoring, and to emotional and academic support. The wider Longford Trust network is made up of some of the most brilliant, intelligent, kind and caring people. My journey to graduating was an unimaginable rollercoaster. Where most people would have assumed I somehow brought trouble on myself, the Longford Trust never gave up on me!"



In the summer of 2018 Gavin received his degree in engineering, was recruited by a major employer, and is now thriving on its leadership programme.

The Longford Lecture 2018



The 2018 Longford Lecture took place on November 28 in the historic circular Assembly Hall of Church House, Westminster. This year the trustees tried a new format. One of their number, broadcaster Jon Snow, chaired a panel discussion in front of a capacity audience on the theme of “Why People Stop Doing Crime”.

He was joined by CJ Burge, Jacob Dunne and Imran Shaukat, three current Longford Scholars, plus the business analyst Egerton Bayode. The whole event was broadcast live on National Prison Radio. Each panellist drew on their own experiences of prison and rehabilitation to suggest how the numbers of those going to jail might be reduced by early intervention, and how reintegration back into society, careers and families could be supported better, both on a practical level and by a broader change of attitude towards those with criminal pasts that allowed them a second chance.

In an adjoining room, five past and present artist Longford Scholars mounted an exhibition for lecture goers of their recent work, and a reception after the debate was catered for by the Clink. The whole evening was sponsored by Unilink Technology Services. You can watch the debate online on our website.

The 2018 Longford Lecture was sponsored by



All photos by Russell Bruns



The Longford Prize

Our annual Longford Prize was once again sponsored by the McGrath Charitable Trust. Worth £5,000, it celebrates organisations and individuals making an outstanding contribution to prison reform. Nominations come from members of the public, and our distinguished panel of judges this year made three awards to very different but equally remarkable recipients.

Highly Commended



Clare Forknell and Emily Foster from Reprieve receive the award

A highly-commended award went to the global human rights organisation Reprieve, for what the judges praised as, “its tireless efforts to uphold human rights, due process and the rule of law in this country and on the international stage”.

Outstanding Achievement

This award went to Josie Bevan for her widely-read and widely admired Prison Bag blog - about how she and her children are coping with her husband being in prison. In it, the judges said, “she tells it as it is to be part of a prisoner’s family. Her voice is eloquent, funny, passionate and compelling on behalf of families struggling on a little reported frontline of the criminal justice system.”



Jon Snow presents Josie Bevan with her award

2018 Overall Winner



(Left to Right) Luke Billingham, Kim Shearer and Lee Humphries collect their award and a cheque for £5,000

The 2018 Longford Prize went to Haven Distribution, founded 22 years ago by Lee Humphries, and still run and funded entirely by volunteers. It has sent out tens of thousands of books over two decades to prisoners in every jail in the country in response to requests from those desperate to engage in education. “Though it is determinedly low profile,” the judges believed, “Haven Distribution should be publicly applauded for sustaining this vital lifeline to prisons with such constancy, durability and dedication.”

Our Schools' Partner



Jon Snow with Highgate Wood School

Our School Partnership Project is about engaging young people interested in prison reform. Our 2018 partner was Highgate Wood School. After a June visit there to meet years 11 and 12 by two of our current scholars and trust supporter, Bake Off's Mel Giedroyc (*pictured on the opposite page with the participants*), the pupils produced the marketing materials for the lecture, and then attended on the night to contribute to the debate. With their teachers they are pictured (*above*) with Jon Snow.

***If you know of a school that would like to be our 2020 partner, please contact:
office@longfordtrust.org***

Highgate Wood School

Highgate Wood is a mixed comprehensive school in the north London area that prides itself on values of the 4Cs - *courtesy, consideration, contribution and cooperation*. After listening to the talks by two Longford Scholars who visited the school with the trust, some of the students wrote down what it had made them think.



"The stories I heard today have inspired me to self actualise in more than just education. I now want to make an increasingly positive contribution to the community by helping people with disadvantages."
Yilmaz

"It was interesting to see successful rehabilitation and how minor events can string together and make significant impacts on people's lives."
Klevis

"The presentation changed my mind on the lives and experiences of prisoners and has inspired me to take part in this project. It also allowed me to consider why certain people do certain behaviours and that you should never judge a person by their 'cover'."
Preslava

Our Scholars Programme



"I know this might sound funny, but now I've had a baby daughter and I'm a dad, I know my life has truly turned around. Doing my degree was part of that. Becoming a family shows I've done it." Longford Scholar Imran was studying at Sheffield University and now has a job with a health charity. When you hear stories like his, you realise studying goes well beyond helping someone to get a job or live crime-free. It is about becoming part of the glue that enables self-belief and a successful, 360-degree life.

In 2018 we took on 23 new Longford Scholars and 13 Frank Award holders. The Frank Award students are all in prison and, of the new scholars, nine are inside. Many take advantage of more day-release from open prisons, as they near the end of their sentences, so they can travel to nearby universities.

"Turning sentences into degrees" is one of our catchphrases. This summer our graduate scholars showed what that means. 13 of them (more than half) got a first or 2:1. Within weeks of graduating, at least two started new jobs. That's not to say it's plain sailing for all. A handful of graduated scholars tell us of problems finding work once potential employers learn of their past. Not helped by the elephant memory of Google searches, which dig up the past long after convictions are spent and new lives started.

And we have launched our new Longford Blog, a platform largely by scholars for scholars to have a voice about issues which matter to them. A chance to reflect personally on what works and what doesn't in education for those in prison and after prison - with tips and policy suggestions for overcoming obstacles and stereotypes. We hope you have time to read and join our Big Conversation at www.longfordtrust.org/blog

*Philippa Budgen
Scholarship Manager
scholars@longfordtrust.org*

Doing Much More Than Just Making The Tea

"Before starting my paid internship (arranged by the Longford Trust) in September 2018 in the Office for the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner," writes current Longford Scholar Gareth Evans, "I was worried that a police-type institution would simply have an ex-con in for a few weeks to make the tea. Instead, on arrival I was asked to decide what I might best help with. That included devising a housing strategy for young offenders; reviewing and revising the regional Drug Intervention Programme; and joining in efforts to address gang violence.

My proudest achievement, though, during my time there was being able to start conversations about involving those of us who know where things feel most difficult with commissioning representatives in the West Midlands. That felt empowering. What might be possible if we can have the discussions and the input from wherever expertise lies?"



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

No Such Thing As A Typical Mentor



Every year in the early summer we hold a mentor training day for all those who have contacted us during the year and expressed an interest in becoming mentors. What always strikes me is the range of people who come along to offer their services to the Longford Trust. In 2018, when we held the session in beautiful rooms overlooking Tower Bridge (*pictured above*), generously given to us for the day by law firm Norton Rose Fulbright, we had an age range from those in their 20s to those in their 70s, and from the fields of law, the voluntary sector, the probation service, healthcare, finance and investment, academia and the arts.

In there, too, were some of our own ex-scholars who want to give something back to the Trust and are uniquely placed to offer new scholars the benefit of their knowledge, experience and support. It seems, happily, that there is no such thing as a typical 'Longford Mentor'.

And once trained that cohort of mentors has gone on to support our scholars in an amazing variety of ways: accompanying a scholar to a university interview, days before giving birth; providing legal advice and part-time work opportunities; and helping with time management to meet university deadlines.

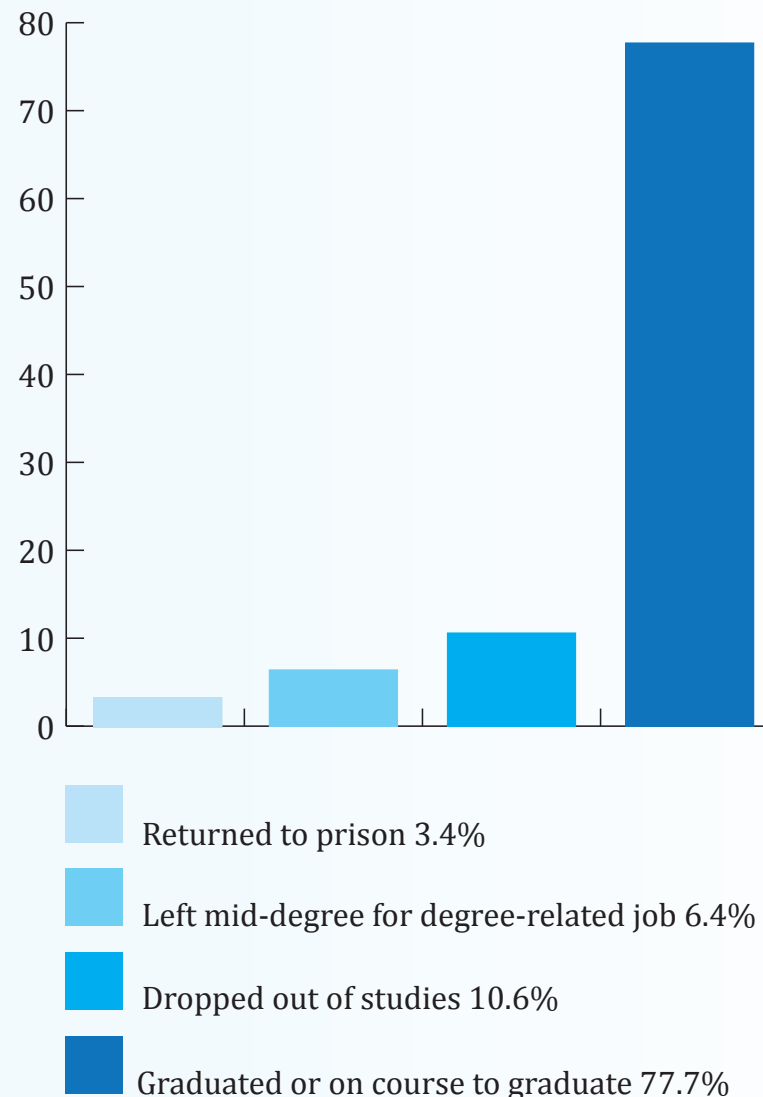
But it is not a one-way street. As one of the new mentors said to me of her scholar: "I very much hope he gets as much from my mentoring as I get from being his mentor."



Natasha Maw
Mentor Manager
mentors@longfordtrust.org

Our Outcomes

Since we began our scholarship programme in 2005 by making just 3 awards, we have supported more than 280 young men and women through their degree courses and beyond. In the summer of 2018 we made 23 new awards of Longford Scholarships and had 57 individuals on the programme at the start of the 2018-2019 academic year. Here is a picture of how the programme has changed lives since its inception.



How We Make A Difference

Here is a small sample of the written remarks Longford Scholars have sent us over the past 12 months.

“What you do is great and has been a massive help. It really takes off some of the pressures I am under with studies and finances.”

BE, 29, halfway through a construction management degree

“The way in which you have supported me is something that I will remember and praise to anyone who will listen for a long time to come”

CV, 28, nearing the end of his OU degree and his prison sentence

“Thank you for your support over the last year, I wouldn’t have been able to finish without your (continued) support with everything”

HJ, 32, on completing his MA and getting accepted for a PhD

“Thanks for your continued support. I hope one day to be able to repay the favour by helping future scholars.”

KA, 37, picking up a degree course he began in prison now he has been released.

“I hope you know the level of appreciation I have for the trust and everyone involved. It is hard for me not to mention you [to others] as I wouldn’t be here without your support.”

CB, 29, nearing the end of his Fine Art degree in London

Our Year in Pictures



Longford Scholar Paul Grady (left, at the Royal Academy, where his work was in the Summer Exhibition) and Chris H (below, on graduation day)



Longford Scholar Emma Small with her parents after her graduation (right) while Paul Vincent collects his degree (below)



The Frank Awards: How We Turn Sentences into Degrees

Since their launch in September 2014, our Frank Awards, which fund one Open University module for serving prisoners who otherwise have no way of covering the cost, have supported 60 young men and women to put their time behind bars to good use by taking their first steps in higher education, in preparation for their release.

Supported for the past four years by the Linbury Trust, the Frank Awards are run in partnership with the Prisoners' Education Trust and the Open University. Several of our Frank Award holders have already gone on to apply for, and receive, Longford Scholarships on release.

Since 2017, we have also been able to provide one-to-one mentoring with our trained volunteers in four prisons.

One recent recipient wrote to us this year: "I'd like to thank you for my 60-credit Open University module. Without it, study would not have been possible. I hope to pursue a career in prosthetic engineering or cancer research. Your generosity has given me a second chance at turning my life around. I hope one day to support your trust personally."



Our e-Community Network



This year we have set up a secure communications platform where past and present scholars and mentors can message one another, take part in discussions, and generally feel part of a supportive Longford Trust e-community. Slack is the platform we are using, and this new initiative is being generously funded for three years by The Wilmington Trust.

The idea was born out of the frustration past scholars (such as myself) have felt about not being able to keep in touch with other scholars who are studying at universities around the country, going through similar challenges and facing similar obstacles. The value of a like-minded network can never be understated in terms of helping each other through life.

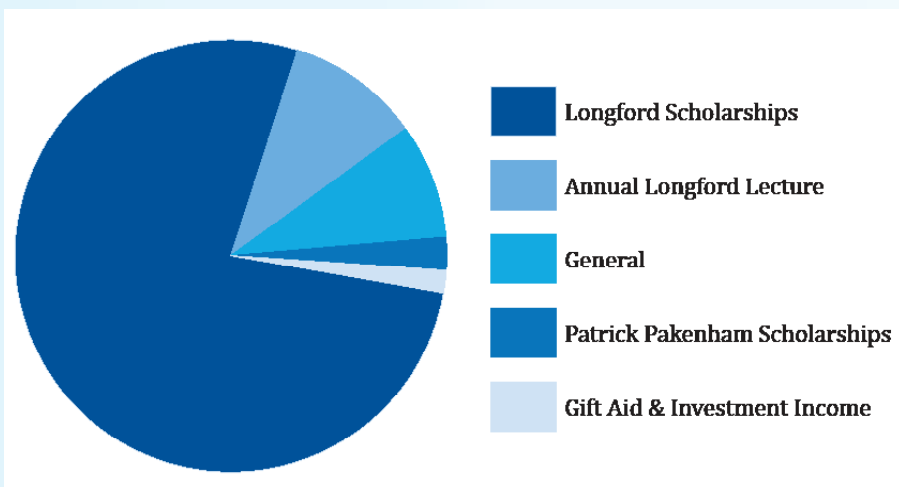
Luckily for current and future scholars, they now have the means to share experiences and concerns with each other. Scholars and mentors are invited in the first instance to see whether they want to join the online community. If they do, they are given a unique password to the platform. The site is very secure and cannot be accessed from outside of the platform.

There are currently five separate channels for communication on it: a general channel; one just for scholars; one just for mentors; one for job opportunities; and one for random posts. In the six months since we launched in the summer of 2018, 39 scholars and 46 mentors have already signed up.

There is a lot of emphasis given to helping ex-offenders back into employment – among others by the Longford Trust. This platform puts these fine words into action by supporting our scholars to build their networks.

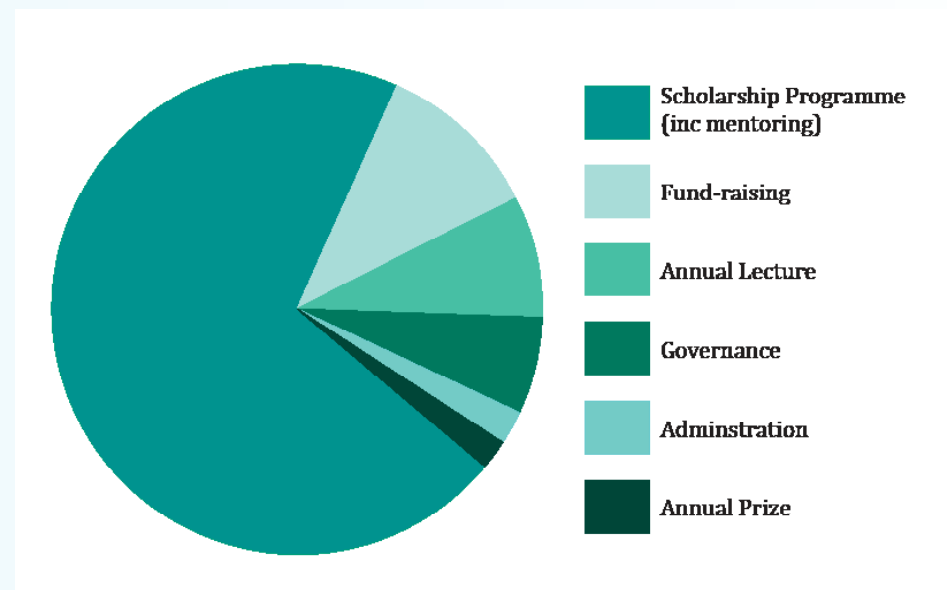
*Jason Grant
Platform Invigilator*

INCOME	2018	2017
Donations to Restricted Funds		
Longford Scholarships	£183,366	£168,288
Annual Longford Lecture	£23,666	£26,939
Patrick Pakenham Awards	£6,180	£11,100
<i>SubTotal</i>	<i>£213,212</i>	<i>£206,327</i>
Donations to Unrestricted Funds		
General	£20,134	£37,345
Gift Aid	£3,878	£1,859
Investment Income	£301	£207
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>£24,313</i>	<i>£39,411</i>
TOTAL	£237,525	£245,738



We are grateful to the following major donors for their support in 2018: Jon and Julia Aisbitt, Charles Alexander, Sarah Anderson, Lord Archer, David Astor, Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing, Lionel Barber, Hannah Billington, Gyles Brandreth, The Bromley Trust, Thomas Brown, Lord Charles Cecil, RJ Clark, Richard Collins, Shirley Conran, Dr Stephen Corcoran, Dolly Costopoulos, The Milo & Violet Cripps Charitable Trust, Harriet Cullen, The Dischma Charitable Trust, Stephen Fitzpatrick, Alex Fletcher, The Robert Gavron Charitable Trust, The GESS Trust, The Hawthorne Charitable Trust, Kate Hill, Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust, The KW Charitable Trust, The Legal Education Foundation, Lawrence Lever, The Linbury Trust, The McGrath Charitable Foundation, The Miles Morland Foundation, Richard Oldfield, The Ofenheim Charitable Trust, Guy Pakenham, Kevin Pakenham and Ronke Phillips, Richard Pollitzer, The Rank Foundation, The Rivers Foundation, The Stone Family Foundation, Troy Asset Management, Unilink Technology Services, Marina Warner, The Wilmington Trust and the Alex and William de Winton Trust.

EXPENDITURE	2018	2017
Scholarship Programme (inc mentoring)	£176,600	£205,277
Fund-raising	£27,020	£23,824
Annual Lecture	£20,079	£15,972
Governance	£15,875	£14,537
Administration	£5,837	£6,377
Annual Prize	£5,300	£5,665
TOTAL	£250,711	£271,652



Current Assets at end of 2018	£243,892
Current Liabilities in 2019 (scholarship awards already made)	£56,720
Current liabilities after 2019 (scholarship awards already made)	£39,700
Accruals	£2,700
TOTAL ASSETS	£144,772

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Kevin Pakenham - *Chair*

Hannah Billington, Rachel Billington, Jason Grant,

Victoria Greenwood, Tom Pakenham, John Podmore, Jon Snow

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The Team

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Jill Dale - *Events and Fundraising Manager*

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"Exercise Yard: some thoughts in blank verse" by Mike Nicholls HMP Dartmoor



The free man's sun shines down upon the yard.
Sunlight, like stars, glints from the razor wire.
Embedded flakes of mica shine from out
The granite blocks that shape the cruel walls.

A raucous laugh rings out from the one who has
Forgotten for the moment how he's caged
And others share his momentary joy:
We captives are at exercise today.

A seagull circles, silent overhead -
Unknown to it confinement such as ours.
For him the sea, the moor and endless sky
Are kingdom free and freedom's legacy.

Soft breezes blow to cool our captive trudge
Where we, about the yard, still penned, can go
In endless goal-less ambulation round,
Until recalled, too soon, again to bars.

Yet here, above all else, there's time to think:
The days will dawn when we are free again
And, taking lessons learned whilst kept confined,
Can exercise in boundless open space.

One thing we learn, when we are kept within,
Is how to value freedom when we're out.
So, 'till the gate swings open once again,
Make each day count instead of counting days.

Actor Harry Treadaway from "The Crown" reads the winning "Pinter Poem" at the 2018 Longford Lecture (pictured above) The prize is awarded by Antonia Fraser, Frank Longford's daughter, in memory of her late husband, Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter, and goes to the best poem by a prisoner published that year in Inside Time.

insidetime
the National Newspaper for Prisoners & Detainees