

Annual Report for 2005-2006

By Peter Stanford Director of the Trust

In a year when penal policy has featured high on the political agenda, the Longford Trust has continued to work to make heard the principles that Lord Longford espoused during his long life in regard of prisoners. Frank Longford was a great believer in the capacity of every prisoner to reform and, with the right encouragement, to remake his or her life. Our Longford Scholarships' scheme which offers bursaries to young ex-prisoners to enable them to continue their rehabilitation by studying for a university degree, continues to grow in terms of numbers helped and in scope. There are now 10 Longford Scholars at various stages of their studies. And this year we have appointed our first two Patrick Pakenham Award holders. This fund, set up in memory of Lord Longford's barrister son, Patrick, is specifically designed to help young ex-prisoners who wish to study Law.

The trust was also fortunate enough to attract a major grant this year from the Rank Foundation. It has given us £45,000 over three years to extend further the scholarships' scheme for the academic year starting September 2007.

Another major donation was received via Lady Antonia Fraser. As Lord Longford's literary executor, she negotiated a donation of £10,000 from Granada Television as it worked on a TV film about her father, starring Jim Broadbent and broadcast on Channel 4 on October 26. The film covered in particular his work with prisoners.

And the poet, Benjie Fraser and his barrister brother, Orlando Fraser, Lord Longford's grandsons, organized a successful poetry reading in Inner Temple in May 2006 to raise funds for the Patrick Pakenham Award scheme. Benjie was joined on stage by Lord Gowrie who read some of his own poems, and by Lady Antonia Fraser and Harold Pinter who gave a new work by Harold Pinter its world premiere. Their performance was later broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

Our 2006 lecture is still to take place as I write this, but Clive Stafford-Smith, the British human rights lawyer whose clients include those on Death Row in the United States and those detained at Guantanamo Bay, has taken as his topic *They Just Don't Get It: British politicians and the lessons they learn from America*. It is a challenging title at a time when our two nations are such close allies. Interest in tickets has been brisk.

We were sad this year that our four year co-operation in administering the annual lecture with the Prison Reform Trust has come to an end. They provided invaluable support as our trust found its feet. We are delighted, though, that they will continue to work with us on the awarding of the annual Longford Prize. And we now have our own office system for making sure the lecture is a smoothly run event . The lecture would not be possible without the much appreciated support of the Independent newspaper, our sponsors, the hard work of its marketing team and the valued input of the Independent's Managing Director, Ivan Fallon, and its Editor in Chief, Simon Kelner. We offer them our continuing thanks and gratitude.

We are also grateful for financial support received this year from Etienne Allard, the Avenue Trust, Len Blavatnik, Viscount and Viscountess Boyd, Gyles Brandreth, Sir Timothy Cassel QC, Michele Claudel-Meyer, the Clore Duffield Foundation, Dolly Costopoulos, the Earl of Dartmouth, Baron Wenceslas De Traux De Wardin, Mrs Mel Ferrer, Lady Antonia Fraser, Ivor Lask, Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd, Mark and Marguerite Littman, Katherine, Viscountess Macmillan of Ovenden, EJB Mavroleon, Richard I Morris Jr, Northern Dairies Educational Trust, Mr and Mrs Charles Palmer-Tompkinson, Thomas Pakenham, Putnam Lovell NBF Securities, Sonia Sinclair, Jon Snow, Peter Soros, Sir James Spooner, Lady Juliet Townsend and Robert Waddington.