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Registered Charity No. 1092825



Front cover: detail of installation by Lee Cutter, Longford Scholar and Fine Art graduate

## The Longford Trust Annual Report



# Annual Report 2012



**Peter Stanford**  
*Director, Longford Trust*

We launched our Longford Scholarships' project at a 10 Downing Street reception in 2002, and took on our first two young ex-prisoners in 2003, giving them awards of financial support and mentoring to help them continue their rehabilitation through studying for a university degree. It all feels so very recent in my memory, but I realise that we are, in fact, about to celebrate our first decade.

Over that period we have worked with over 100 young people, 80 per cent plus of them achieving their degree, and so it was appropriate that three of them agreed to join me on stage at Church House, Westminster, in November at the annual Longford Lecture, straight after Will Self, novelist and Professor of Contemporary Thought at Brunel University, had delivered a highly-personal, thought-provoking and well-received address on "Mind-Bending Behind Bars: Drug Use in British Prisons".

All three – Simon, Lee and John - spoke of the vital role that receiving a Longford Scholarship had played in their decision to go on with their studies, and in their determination to rebuild their lives through higher education. They received a prolonged round of applause from the 600-strong audience, and afterwards many visited the small exhibition Lee and John – both fine art undergraduates – had put on in an adjoining room.

The whole evening epitomised how seamlessly the three aspects of the Longford Trust's work – its annual lecture, its annual prize, and its scholarships' programme – mesh together into the sort of sustained and serious year-long, indeed decade-long, effort to address the causes and consequences of crime that Lord Longford himself would surely have applauded.

A full text of Will Self's lecture is available on our website ([www.longfordtrust.org](http://www.longfordtrust.org)). Our annual event was made possible through the generosity of the Daily Telegraph newspaper and of Thames River Capital, who sponsored it and enabled us, as throughout our short history, to offer free admission to all, another founding principle of the trust (though we do encourage those who can afford it to make donations in lieu of tickets to defer the costs we incur).

There have been many challenges in the course of the year for the trust, as for other charities, because of the prevailing economic climate, but the financial figures presented in this annual report show that we continue to thrive and are on a sound economic footing. A list of those major benefactors who have enabled us to do so is included with the accounts, but I'd like to take this chance to thank everyone for their contribution big or small, in cash or in kind. You make all that we do possible.

Another challenge has been the changing financial arrangements for higher education funding as a result of government reforms and the introduction of tuition fees of up to £9,000 per year. Already those with a prison record are more inclined than most in the population to decide "university is not for me". We have had to work hard to convince yet more not to come to this conclusion faced by a £27,000 bill, over three years, though our task is made easier by the growing volume of success stories we can produce of Longford Scholars who have graduated, found a job, made a home, been reconciled with their families and started families of their own. All this builds on the sense of self-worth, confidence and inclusion in society that a degree can bring.

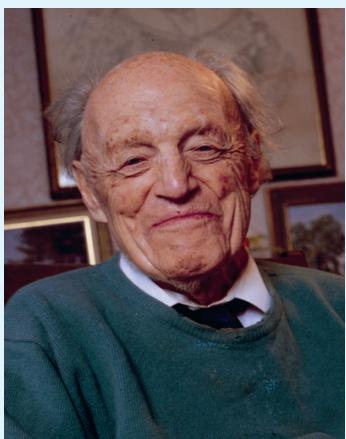
A final challenge has been to plan for the next ten years of our scholarships' programme. How many more of the applications for support that we currently reject (there are roughly 10 applications for every one of the 12-15 awards we make) could we respond to if we were to extend our fund-raising efforts on the basis of what is already such a positive track record? Our 10/10 Appeal – the high mark for what has been achieved, and signifying what we would like to build on and achieve in the next decade - has been taking shape and will be launched formally in 2013.

## About the Trust

The Longford Trust was set up in 2002 to continue the work of the late Frank Longford in the area of prison and social reform.

Lord Longford (1905-2001) was a campaigner for the rights of prisoners and outcasts in society. He strongly believed in the wider social benefits of forgiveness and the paramount importance of rehabilitation in education. The trust established after his death by his friends, family and admirers aims to increase awareness and engagement in prison issues, as well as giving practical support to prisoners and ex-prisoners, and to those who work with them.

The Longford Scholarships are offered by the trust to enable young serving and ex-prisoners to continue their rehabilitation by studying for degrees at UK universities. The trust also awards an annual Longford Prize for outstanding work in the field of prison reform, and organises an annual Longford Lecture to inform and influence public opinion on penal policy. Speakers have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President Mary McAleese of Ireland, broadcaster Jon Snow and, most recently, writer and novelist Will Self.



*"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)*



*Ben Levings photograph by Naomi Stewart*

### Ben Levings

Ben got involved in drugs as a youngster and received a four-year sentence. Originally a welder, while inside he discovered a gift for carving, starting on soap.

He won a prestigious Koestler Prize for his artwork. On leaving prison in 2006, he completed a foundation course in Art and Design and then went to study stone carving at the City & Guilds of London Art School with the support of the Longford Trust. Since graduating, he has won an open competition for a carving in a public sculpture garden in Surrey, worked on Salisbury Cathedral, and has undertaken a series of prestigious commissions. He now lives in the West Country with his partner and child.

*"I discovered a direction and release through carving that I had not found through anything else in my life".*

## **The Longford Scholarships aim to**

- **Provide** a unique source of educational funding for young serving and ex-prisoners to encourage and assist them into higher education
- **Build** viable futures for ex-prisoners by supporting them through higher education, and offering them one-to-one mentoring
- **Create** role models of successful rehabilitation for young serving and ex-prisoners, demonstrating how education offers a way out of the cycle of reoffending

## **Why the Scholarships are needed**

Approximately 59% of those released after completing their prison sentence will be reconvicted within 2 years. This figure rises to 74% among the under 21s.

The link between low educational achievement while at school and subsequent criminal behaviour is well established. Prisoners are much more likely than the rest of the population to come from homes where education is not valued, and to have been excluded from school.

Ministry of Justice figures show that only 3 per cent of new prisoners have a degree level qualification, compared to 20 per cent of the general population. But often prison allows inmates the opportunity to discover for the first time the power of education to transform their lives.



*Self-portrait photograph by Naomi Stewart*

### **Naomi Stewart**

Naomi Stewart graduated in photography in 2013 from London Metropolitan University and has now embarked on a professional career. A single mother, she was supported throughout her studies by Michelle, one of our volunteer mentors and a trained psychologist.

*"Michelle tells me how she sees me, when we meet up. And she is able to tell me what progress I am making, and what I still have to work on. Confidence is always a hard one. How accepting will people be if they find out you have served a prison sentence? Do they even need to know? It can be hard getting the balance right and Michelle has helped me so much. If she hadn't been there, if the trust hadn't had confidence in me, I don't think I would have been able to cope. It would have been too much for me".*

## **How they work**

Longford Scholarships are available to young serving and ex-prisoners (within five years of their release from prison). Applicants have to demonstrate

- That they are intending to study full-time or part-time at degree level at a UK university
- That they have received a provisional offer of a place on a named course
- That they can provide evidence of a genuine need for financial support and mentoring
- That they have thoroughly investigated all other potential sources of funding
- That their chosen course will help them to rebuild their life and give back to society

There have been Longford Scholars at most UK universities from Oxford to Brighton, Edinburgh to Exeter. And the range of subjects studied stretches from pure maths to textiles. We fund vocational as well as academic subjects. The trust awards one designated scholarship each year for those wanting to study law. The Patrick Pakenham Award was named after Lord Longford's barrister son and was funded by his friends and admirers after his death in 2005.

## **What we offer**

- Funding of up to a maximum of £5,000 per year to go towards tuition fees and/or living costs
- A designated mentor, all of them volunteers, many of them drawn from Longford Scholars who have graduated

## **A typical Longford Scholar**

- Our average award per scholar is around £1000 per year, or £3000 over the duration of a standard three-year degree course
- 95 per cent of our scholars have never had the opportunity to experience higher education before
- The average age of our scholars on receiving their award is 29, and the age range stretches from 19 to 43
- We only make awards for post-graduate courses when there are compelling reasons as to why they will improve that applicant's employment prospects

# **What impact have the Longford Scholarships made?**

"The Longford Trust is so important. By people believing in me, it instills self-belief in individuals like me wishing to take a leap of self-worth. 'You are not alone' goes a long way, I am very grateful for this continued support."

(Vicky is studying landscape management at Greenwich.)

*"Thank you so much for your support. It really helped me get the right equipment that I desperately needed for my course. I can't stress enough how much the Longford Trust has helped me".*

*(Toby is in the final year of a computer science degree at Bath.)*

"I would like to thank you and the Longford Trust for supporting me and helping me to achieve my goal through the ups and downs I experienced during my course when my past seemed to get in the way of my future."

*(Simon graduated in 2013 with a First from the Open University.)*

***"I do believe that for me keeping up my studies helped me ease into being a relatively free man....The Longford Trust had been so good to me that I wanted to do my best not to let them down."***

*(Tom graduated in 2009 with a First in biology from Derby.)*

"The Longford Trust were the first people who had faith that I could do a degree and were prepared to offer me practical support to achieve that."

*(Paul graduated in 2007 with a 2:1 in law from Westminster.)*



## **Jason Grant**

Jason graduated in media and communications in 2009 from Goldsmiths College, London and is now one of our graduates who works as a mentor to the next generation of Longford Scholars.

*"I had a traumatic childhood. I ended up in the Old Bailey at 15 and was sent down for the first time a week after my sixteenth birthday. I got into radio upon release and was encouraged to attend university to become a professional broadcaster. I don't know if I would ever have finished my degree if the Longford Trust hadn't been behind me.*

*Education allows you to become the person you are meant to be. I lost sight of that as a young man, but I am now working as a successful freelance journalist, in radio and with digital stories.*

*Where would I be without the Longford Trust? One way to answer would be to look at what has happened to the friends I grew up with in New Cross, south east London. Some of them are dead, some are serving life sentences. Quite a few are doing double figure sentences. Another was recently given 30 years. These are the guys I spent my time with as a young man, getting involved in the same things as they were. I was the same as them."*

## ***Education versus Recidivism***

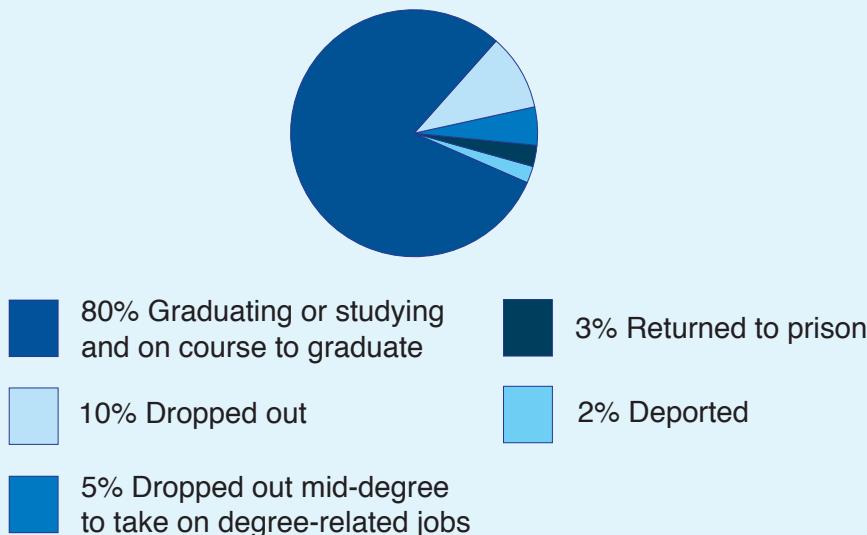
Only three per cent of Longford Scholars have returned to prison after release against a national figure of 47.5 per cent for all prisoners, and 56 per cent in the 18-21 age group.

80 per cent of those receiving Longford Scholarships have gone on to gain a degree, or are currently at university and on target to do so.

An additional five per cent of Longford Scholars have left university mid-degree to take up paid employment, but in an area related to their degree subject.

“The financial cost of re-offending by ex-prisoners, calculated from the overall costs of crime, is staggering and widely felt. In terms of the cost to the criminal justice system of dealing with the consequences of crime, recorded crime alone committed by ex-prisoners comes to at least £11 billion per year.” *The government’s own Social Exclusion Unit (2002)*

## ***Snapshot of Longford Scholars***



## ***The Future***

To mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the scholarships’ programme, the Longford Trust plans from 2013 onwards to

- **Increase** the number of Longford Scholarships on offer from 12/15 to 20 each year
- **Strengthen** the support it offers serving prisoners just embarking on degree-level studies at the Open University to encourage them to become the Longford Scholars of tomorrow
- **Improve** the quality and reach of our mentoring scheme

These ambitions have been debated and agreed by the trustee board, and carefully costed. They will mean an increased focus on fundraising, building on our successful relationships with existing funders, highlighting our impact in achieving positive outcomes with 85 per cent of those who are given a Longford Scholarship, and securing new sources of funding.

In 2013, at our annual Longford Lecture, the Longford Trust will launch the 10/10 Appeal to support the scholarships’ programme, its name a reference both to the high mark already achieved by these awards in transforming lives and futures, and an indication of what we plan to build on and achieve in the decade to come.

## *The Longford Lecture aims to*

- **Provide** a national platform for serious contributions to questions of social and penal reform
- **Make** significant recommendations to policy makers
- **Engage** wide public interest

"I speak from bitter and lived experience: if you had asked me at almost any time during the twenty years I spent in active addiction which I would have preferred, being deprived of my liberty, or deprived of my drugs, I would have opted for incarceration every time. Had I known that incarceration would, of necessity, have forced me into making a real and fundamental decision about whether I wanted to recover or not, then perhaps that decision would've been arrived at earlier – as it is to the individual, perhaps it could be to the society as a whole."



Will Self gave the 2012 Longford Lecture, talking on "Mind-Bending Behind Bars: Drug Use in British Prisons"

## *The Longford Prize*

recognises the contribution of an individual, group or organisation working in the area of penal or social reform in showing outstanding qualities of humanity, courage, persistence, originality and commitment to diversity.

**The Prisoners' Advice Service** won the Prize in 2012 for its long, distinguished and unique track record in providing legal advice, standing up for the rights of prisoners, and ensuring proper judicial scrutiny of what goes on behind bars



Lord Longford's daughter, Rachel Billington, presents the 2012 Longford Prize to Matthew Evans, director of the Prisoners Advice Service, at the Longford Lecture

## *Past winners include*

**Circles UK** (2010) for its courage, commitment and innovation in working, on their release from prison, with sex offenders, one of the most marginalised groups in our society.

**Inquest** (2009) for its remarkable perseverance, personal commitment and courage in supporting the families of those who have taken their own lives while in the care of the state.

**HMP Grendon** (2008) commended for its therapeutic, humane and safe regime which offers a beacon of hope in the prison service nationally.

## INCOME

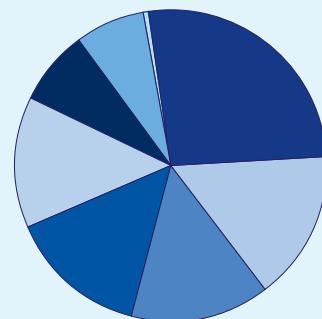
Trusts - general	£27,500
Companies - general	£16,000
Donated services	£15,000
Trusts - scholarship directed	£15,000
Individual - scholarship directed	£14,299
Lecture	£7,839
Individual - general	£7,731
Other	£308
<b>Total</b>	<b>£103,677</b>

## EXPENDITURE

Scholarship grants	£43,680
Project costs	£16,383
Donated services - media sponsor of lecture	£15,000
Lecture - other expenditure	£12,219
Staff excluding projects	£9,534
Fundraising and other costs	£4,201
Longford Prize	£2,000
Scholarship subsistence	£1,213
Mentoring	£168
<b>Total</b>	<b>£104,398</b>
<i>Current Reserves</i>	<b>£162,996</b>

## INCOME

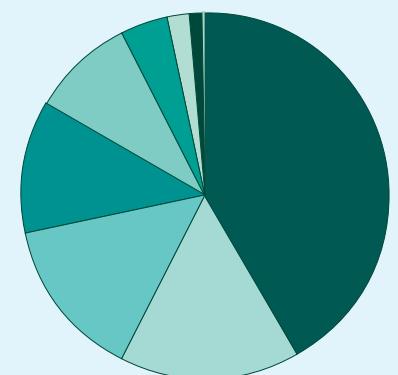
- Trusts - General
- Companies - General
- Donated Services
- Trusts - Scholarship Directed
- Individual - Scholarship Directed
- Lecture
- Individual - General
- Other



The trustees continue to maintain strong reserves capable of sustaining the Longford Trust's work in the medium and long term. We wish to ensure that the annual lecture is not dependent solely on sponsorship, and could survive if that sponsorship ever proved hard to find. And since many of our Longford Scholars are embarking on three or even four years degree courses, we keep sufficient funds in reserve, once we have accepted them on the programme, to cover our commitment to them throughout their time at university.

## EXPENDITURE

- Scholarship Grants
- Project Costs
- Donated Services - Media Sponsor of Lecture
- Lecture - Other Expenditure
- Staff Excluding Projects
- Fundraising and Other Costs
- Longford Prize
- Scholarship Subsistence
- Mentoring



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