



NEWSLETTER TO SUPPORTERS: JULY 2017

Support from HMPPS

Following a meeting with representatives of Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service, an article appeared, on the Service's intranet, encouraging prisons to take up the Prisoners' Penfriends scheme. There followed a great deal of interest, particularly from those working in Safer Custody departments in prisons, who are increasingly concerned about the rising rate of suicide and self-harm among those in their care.

Guardian article

Our service was mentioned in an article by Jonathan Aitken in the Guardian newspaper (online). The article commended Prisoners' Penfriends, saying that our letters can help the mental equilibrium of lonely prisoners, who have been abandoned by their families. It also mentions that Prisoners' Penfriends spots early warning signals of distress, self-harm or suicide and passes these on to prison officers so that they can intervene. Jonathan Aitken describes the caring way in which our volunteers write to isolated prisoners and suggests that the work deserves more funding.

OBE

Our director, Gwyn Morgan, was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours – for services to the rehabilitation of prisoners. (We've been advised that, for security reasons, this information should not be shared on social media).

Supported by Garfield Weston

Patrons: Sir Nicholas Hytner, Sir Peter Lloyd, Peter Moffat, Lord Ramsbotham. Trustees: Jennifer Gadsby-Peet, Malcolm Duxbury, Stephen Pollard (chair), Shane Holland, Martin Stevens. Director and co secretary: Gwyn Morgan OBE. Company no: 4629036. Charity no: 1098118.

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