



## **Friends of Erlestoke Prison**

### **Annual Report**

*1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018*

# Annual Report

Publication date: July 2018

**Friends of Erlestoke Prison  
HMP Erlestoke  
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## 1. Chair's report

Welcome to our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, covering the year 2017/2018. We have grown since becoming registered in 2011 and gradually we are taking on more challenging projects as we develop the charity in new directions. We continue to work with the prison governors, staff and prisoners to identify areas of need, beyond the scope of prison budgets, that we can fulfill.



This financial year was not an easy one for the prison, but things have now greatly improved. The two residential units, which were damaged during the June 2016 incident, led to over 200 prisoners being re-housed in other prisons. However, these units were refurbished and re-opened during April 2017. Since then HMP Erlestoke numbers have slowly risen again and are over 500 at present. Staff numbers have also greatly increased from this time last year. Looking forward to later in 2018, a maximum of 30 local young offenders will be housed at the prison. These young men will eventually be resettled in Wiltshire and surrounding counties on release. From April 2019, it is anticipated that the prison will become a 50% resettlement establishment; new services will be delivered such as courses focusing on developing job-seeking skills.

For the last year, the Friends have maintained their focus on rehabilitation and helping prisoners to stay in touch with their families during their sentence. Our transport scheme, which operates on the 4 prison visiting days, has gone from strength to strength, with positive feedback from passengers and prisoners. Our art and origami sessions continue on Friday mornings and we now have an additional art session once a month on Tuesdays. We continue to source speakers who provide talks to the older prisoner group. Yoga classes continue on a weekly basis and we welcomed our new teacher Susanna who joined us in late 2017.

We also welcomed two new trustees this year: Carol Part and Carolyn Deverall. Carol has a wealth of experience in developing national and local charity potential and securing funds and is now responsible for our fundraising strategy and policy. Carolyn is passionate about rehabilitation in the criminal justice system and brings a wealth of experience from working in law and public service. Carolyn will focus on our work with younger offenders.

Fundraising remains a constant challenge, particularly for the All Weather Sports Pitch initiative, but we had several highly successful and memorable events in 2017/18. Thank you to Kate Adie who came and spoke about her experiences and memorable reports from around the world to an enthralled audience at St John's School, Marlborough. Thank you also to Rt Revd Dr Edward Condry for his sponsored cycle ride from Canterbury to Rome and to Major General Peter Williams who spoke at Dauntsey's School about his experiences as a cold war military spy. We are also grateful to the then High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Penny Marland who recognised our work with a High Sheriff Award, for services to the community.

Thank you also to all our regular contributors, those who support our events, those who raise money on our behalf, our volunteer drivers, patrons, prisoners, prison staff, partners and my fellow trustees. We look forward to another prosperous year where we will continue to fund our existing projects and pursue our goal to raise the required monies to build the much-needed All Weather Sports Pitch in HMP Erlestoke.

*Belinda Southwell, Chair, Friends of Erlestoke Prison*

## 2. Reference and administrative details of the Friends of Erlestoke Prison, its Trustees and advisers

1. The Charity is known as 'The Friends of Erlestoke Prison'. No other name is used.
2. The registration number is: 1147582
3. The address of the Charity is:  
HMP Erlestoke  
Westbury Road  
Erlestoke  
Devizes  
SN10 5TU
4. The Charity Trustees for the period of this report:  
Belinda Southwell (Chair)                      Angela Hughes (Secretary)  
Mark Mangham (Treasurer)                      Simon Petchey (Governance)  
Judith Squarey (Older prisoners)              Sarah Gooch (All Weather Sports Pitch project)  
Carol Part (Fundraising) – from November 2017  
Carolyn Deverall (Younger prisoners) – from January 2018
5. Patrons for the period of this report:  
The Charity has a Royal Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
and 5 Patrons:  
Sir Christopher Benson  
John Bush, CVO, OBE  
Robert Hiscox  
The Lord Margadale of Islay  
Sir John Nutting Bt., QC

## 3. Objectives of the Friends of Erlestoke Prison

The objective of the Friends of Erlestoke Prison is 'to promote and support the rehabilitation of prisoners who are or have previously been prisoners at HMP Erlestoke, by the provision of funds and services as the Trustees think fit, and in consultation with prison Governors/Governing Body'.

HMP Erlestoke is a Category C adult male rehabilitation prison and is the only prison in Wiltshire. There are eight residential units; three are standard units, one of which is used for induction, four are enhanced units, one is dedicated to intervention programmes. The total operational capacity of the Prison is 524. When men are released from Erlestoke, they move to a resettlement prison, close to their home or close to where they will begin their lives after prison. They are then supported by local Community Resettlement Companies (CRCs) who aim to provide through the gate resettlement services.

The Friends of Erlestoke Prison helps to support prisoners with the challenges of rehabilitation and changing

behaviour whilst in custody and also helps them to keep in touch with their partners and children whilst completing their sentence. The Charity also aims to raise awareness and promote local understanding of the Prison, which for many, is an unknown 'hidden' institution.

## 4. Structure, governance and management

### 4.1 Trustees and Patrons

The Charity has eight trustees, a Royal Patron, five patrons, and a small committee of enthusiastic local volunteers, supported by the prison management team. There are no paid permanent staff. The Charity has four independent service providers who deliver yoga, teach art and origami classes and manage the Transport Scheme.



The eight trustees are all volunteers; two have been with the Charity since start up and were previously members of the Independent Monitoring Board, both at HMP Erlestoke and other establishments. Initial recruitment was achieved through the Chair and Secretary's personal network of interested individuals. Going forward, it is the Charity's policy to advertise new or replacement trustee positions and to carry out a full selection and interview process. All trustees are checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service. They are also risk assessed by the Prison security department. Trustees attend relevant local conferences and seminars to ensure their knowledge is current and relevant to the work that they perform for the Charity.

One of the trustees is currently studying BSc Crime and Criminology with the University of Portsmouth. Trustees also maintain their knowledge of the Criminal Justice System and the Charity Sector through personal research and ongoing liaison with the prison and the HMP Erlestoke Independent Monitoring Board: [www.imb.org.uk](http://www.imb.org.uk)

We are pleased to welcome two new trustees who joined the Charity this year; Carol Part in November 2017 and Carolyn Deverall in January 2018. Carol will be responsible for the Charity's fundraising strategy and policy; she has long and wide experience in developing national and local charity potential and securing funds. Carolyn is passionate about rehabilitation in the criminal justice system and brings a wealth of experience from working in law and public service. She has worked on many charitable fundraising events and also volunteers as a Samaritan. Carolyn will focus on our work with younger offenders.

The trustees continued to hold regular meetings (approximately every 6 weeks) to ensure that they remain up to date with what is happening in the Prison, make decisions on requests for support, plan future events and discuss fundraising ideas. The Governor or Deputy Governor attends these meetings to provide up to date information about the prison. Volunteers are often invited to join these meetings, as are other prison staff and members of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), who provide additional expertise on prison issues. Prisoners are also invited to the meetings on occasions to discuss how they have benefited from the work of the Friends.

## 4.2 Prisoner forum

There has been one formal prisoner forum in this reporting period held in February 2018; seven prisoners from Education attended with Carol Part and Belinda Southwell. The attendees represented the internal prison magazine (The Manor), Outreach Education, Art, Origami, Library, Gym and the Volleyball Team. Belinda and Carol outlined the work of the Friends and asked for feedback from the prisoners about the Charity and ideas for new projects and initiatives. Some of the ideas discussed are summarised below:

- Re-introduce the recording facilities that were available some years ago, to assist in sharing the work of writers of short plays (*Response from Education Department – the recording studio facility which used to be located in the prison several years ago no longer exists, however, short stories can be recorded in other ways if prisoners request this*)
- The provision of a panel of staff/volunteers, to hold mock interviews and to assist with CV writing (*Response from Education Department: elements of this already happen through Employability sessions – mock interviews are held for employment and CV writing can be supported*)
- Improved advertising of the talks organised by RECOOP (Resettlement and Care of Older Ex-Offenders and Prisoners). (*The Friends will work with RECOOP throughout the year to improve this*)
- The ability for prisoners be allowed to “buy a bike” from the Julian House charity bike workshop before they are released
- New Team ‘strip’ for men who play in basketball matches with the Charity sunflower logo stitched onto shirts, which could be done by the sewing group.
- A facility for creative writing, so that work can be entered into the Koestler exhibition/competition and/or be available in the library.
- Up-to-date software for editing the internal magazine.

The following items were also requested and Education have advised that these can be provided on request:

- An abacus and basic ‘counting’ items needed by “outreach education”
- Coloured overlays to assist dyslexic prisoners read more easily.
- Rollers for the men who do pottery
- Materials, for example erasers and off-cuts of fabric for the Art & Textiles class

The possibility of an All Weather Sports Pitch was enthusiastically received and it was understood that it would take some time to raise the necessary funds. The prisoners requested that progress updates are published in the internal magazine, The Manor; the Trustees will ensure these are included in the Charity’s updates in the magazine.

## 4.3 Governance

Nature of governing document: Trust Deed, dated 28th May 2012. This Trust Deed is currently being updated to reflect changes in governance within the Charity.

Apart from routine tasks such as the registration of new trustees, our governance activity has largely been

focused on improving our procedures and ensuring that we meet the legal and practical requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation, which came into effect in May 2018.

We focused specifically on the 'Request for Funds' and 'Trustee Recruitment' procedures. For the former we emphasised the importance of all requests being fully justified, including the provision of a quantified output wherever possible to ensure that these were fully thought through. This was to meet the growing complexity and volume of requests coming from the prison. We have changed our trustee recruitment procedure from the original less formal approach to a documented procedure involving formal interviews by a trustee panel.

The wide-ranging scope of GDPR has provided a significant challenge to virtually every organisation in the country, and small charities are no exception. Staying in contact with our Patrons, Friends and supporters is the life-blood of the Charity and so we started preparation for this in the latter part of 2017. Particular consideration was given to our 'lawful basis for processing' personal information, and to ensuring that we handled such data in a secure and legal manner.

We rejected the idea of using the 'legitimate interests' basis for holding data on the grounds that it is vague and has not been tested in the courts. Instead we have contacted all the individuals on our lists and systems to obtain explicit approval for holding their data, thus removing any possible ambiguity. Our limited systems already conformed to the earlier data protection legislation, but we have also carried out a rationalisation of the data we hold and reinforced our security rules.

## 5. Marketing and Publicity

### 5.1 Awards

We were proud to be awarded a High Sheriff Award this year in recognition of our work within the community which included a £500 donation. We were also nominated and assessed for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and although, we were not successful in winning the award, we felt that being nominated clearly acknowledged and recognised the time given by our volunteers to undertake our support to HMP Erlestoke.

### 5.2 Publicity

Several local community talks about the Friends of Erlestoke Prison were given this year by our Trustees; for example, Angela Hughes and Carol Part joined the Friends of the Athenaeum Theatre's "Lunch and Listen" session and provided the pre-lunch talk in September 2017. Similarly, Angela Hughes gave a talk to the Winterbourne Monkton Village Club in February 2018. Both organisations made donations to the Friends by way of a thank you.

The Trustees continue to hand out their easily recognisable sunflower leaflet at all events and regularly maintain and update the Charity's website [www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com](http://www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com). The Trustees were also pleased to link with PACT this year, who are contracted by HMP Erlestoke to provide services to support prisoners' families; PACT now promote our Transport Scheme on their website targeted at families visiting

the prison: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/hmp-erlestone>. The site also lists up to date visit times, how to book a visit and what happens during a visit to the prison.

The Transport Scheme continues to be promoted widely throughout the prison: in the internal magazine (The Manor), the Visits Hall, the Visitor Centre and via posters and postcards in the residential wings. The Trustees also continually advertise for new volunteer drivers in the local community (see section 6.6)

Articles about the Friends and their work continue to be included in the prison internal magazine, 'The Manor'. This is written and edited by prisoners, for prisoners. Also, Weston College (the education provider within HMP Erlestone) ran a two page article in their March 2018 magazine highlighting our origami classes (see Section 6.3) including a report by one prisoner who typically folds up to 25 hours each week in his spare time and cuts the paper for all sizes in class.

Occasionally local media run stories, which promote our work, for example the Gazette and Herald article in January 2018 highlighted our online auction and mentioned a prisoner who had donated his wages earned in one week to the Friends. He had asked the prison to pay the money to the Charity instead of himself.

Bishop Edward Condry and Sarah Gooch spoke live on BBC Wiltshire's Breakfast Show in July 2017 to discuss the Bishop's cycle ride from Canterbury to Rome and how the Friends will spend the money raised.

Fundraising events are largely promoted via local news, radio and events websites plus posters in local villages and towns near to where the event is taking place. Trustees also promote events through their personal and professional networks.

### **5.3 Twitter - @friendserlepris**

The Friends will be launching a Twitter account in April 2018. Please follow us! For those who do not have an account, our Twitter feed will also be on the homepage of [www.friendsoferlestoneprison.com](http://www.friendsoferlestoneprison.com)

### **5.4 Friends of Erlestone Prison Public Safety Award – December 2017**

The Friends now sponsor and present the Public Safety Award at the annual HMP Erlestone Community Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to Andy Blake who won the 2017 award. Andy was nominated because since his move to non-operational role he continues to act as a sounding board and point of support to both Band 4's and Case Administrators in the Offender Management Unit. It is further evidenced how supportive he is in his willingness to do talks to new staff. His knowledge and experience around public protection matters is extensive and he uses this to aid staff in the department assess offenders risk and formulate parole processes. Also nominated for this award were Stephen Melville and Darren Wren.

## 6. Projects

### 6.1 Art

The 'Friday Art Project' was launched in March 2017 as a non-qualification based session and has proved to be a great success. Originally targeted for up to 8 men per session, we now have between 8 and 12 men who attend regularly. Due to its popularity, the 'Tuesday Art Project' has been launched, 2 weeks per month; one funded by the Friends and one funded by the prison. The Tuesday sessions have given more prisoners the opportunity to develop their skills and discover their talents. Sue McNally-Mills continues to engage and inspire the participants with a variety of techniques, tools, materials, subjects, books and art newsletters.

Below are some of the comments about the classes from the prisoners who attend:

*"The days I come to these art sessions to relax and draw are the nights that I sleep".*

*"This is one time that we can be ourselves and not be 'on guard' emotionally and physically"*

*"It is a place we can do some art which I could not explore in the chaos of my life when I was younger"*

Several examples of the work created in these sessions (see sampled selection below) were exhibited as part of the Pinned Up Festival In March 2018 (see section 6.2)



The Trustees received this Christmas card from the art group participants:

The Friends remain strong believers that art can positively impact rehabilitation and aim to continue funding these sessions into the future.

For more information about the impact of art in prisons, please visit the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance Evidence Library: <http://www.artsevidence.org.uk/evaluations/>



## 6.2 Arts Festival – Penned Up



Following the success of the ‘Penned Up’ arts festival last year, the Friends were pleased to be one of the sponsors of the 2018 festival, which ran from the 12th to the 22nd March. The Friends were particularly keen to support this initiative as it involves prisoners in its organisation, many of whom were tasked with nominating and inviting the speakers to the event, designing publicity materials and helping with logistics.

A multitude of over 20 speakers and workshop leaders ran sessions for prisoners to inspire, build knowledge, encourage creativity and develop new skills during the 2-week period. These inspirational individuals included Levi Roots (Dragon’s Den contestant), Tony Adams (Arsenal football player), Shaun Attwood (ex-offender and author), Jonathan Edwards (poet) and Cathy Rentzenbrink (author). Terry Waite was the last speaker at the festival who visited the prison in May and told a group of prisoners about his 5-year ordeal in the hands of hostage takers in Lebanon. Below are quotes from prisoners who attended some of the sessions:

Mark Johnson (author and founder of User Voice) session:

*“Interesting, Mark displayed honesty about his past addiction and gave all who attended courage for the future”.*

Courtia Newland (author) session:

*“This workshop was proper informative and gave a good insight into how to start writing properly. WICKED AFTERNOON”.*

Ilya (graphic artist) session:

*“This was good for me as it’s going to make me start doing my artwork again. And I’ve learnt how to do a storyline with my work”.*

Andy Thomas (conspiracy theorist) session:

*“It was interesting and made some crazy theories sound a lot less crazy. He made me think when he said we were distracted by the media and gossip stories”.*

### 6.3 Origami

Since summer 2017, we have been funding origami sessions on a weekly basis. Thanks to the inspiration and talents of our origami teacher, Helen Holtam, these Friday morning sessions continue to be popular amongst the prisoners who regularly attend. The session is divided into two;



the first half is dedicated to producing and packaging greetings cards. The second half of the session focuses on learning how to create 3D origami models. Over the year, the group have designed and made many greetings cards, which have been sold in the



prison Visits Hall, the Education Department, the Erlestoke Farm Shop <https://erlestokehousefarmshop.org.uk>, Salisbury Cathedral Shop, Sarum College Bookshop, the Crown Court Café, various church groups and most

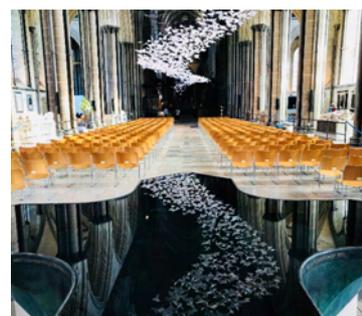
Friends of Erlestoke Prison fundraising events. Over £2,000 has been raised for the Charity from the sale of the cards this year.



Before Christmas 2017 the origami group folded beautiful white decorations for an entry in the St Thomas's Church Xmas Tree Festival in Salisbury. The decorated fir tree was then brought to Erlestoke and placed in the Education Department corridor for December where it was a great advert for the class.

Helen also ran an origami session as part of the Pinned Up arts festival (see Section 6.2).

Prisoners who attend the origami sessions were also busy in the run up to the Salisbury City of Doves project running from the 12th May until July 2018; they made beautiful origami doves in the sessions to be displayed in the Cathedral as part of the Michael Pendry art installation to celebrate Salisbury's resilience and spread the message of peace and hope across the City following the nerve agent attack in March 2018.



For more information about the Salisbury festival, please visit: <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/news/thousands-white-doves-bring-message-peace-and-hope>

### 6.4 Older Prisoners

The Friends have partnered with RECOOP (Resettlement and Care of Older Ex-Offenders and Prisoners) this year to provide monthly talks to entertain and inform older prisoners. Sandra Seldon from RECOOP manages the scheme and Judith Squarey arranged the following sessions on behalf of the Friends:

8<sup>th</sup> November – ‘The Antarctic’ given by Captain Colin Macgregor RN Retd.

A one and a half hour session, which included illustrated talks about Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton and Captain Macgregor’s own experiences on HMS Endurance going to the South Pole. Captain Macgregor provided books and a suggested reading list for those who wanted to learn more.

6<sup>th</sup> December – ‘Stourhead and the work of the National Trust’ given by Tom Burr MBE

Tom Burr gave an excellent and amusing talk, which elicited good questions and many spontaneous comments from the older prisoners.

28<sup>th</sup> February – ‘Canterbury to Rome bike ride’ given by Bishop Edward Condry

A talk about his pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, which raised money for our all weather, sports pitch project. Bishop Condry also spoke about other pilgrimages he had completed including Santiago di Compostella; he talked about how a pilgrimage makes you take a look at yourself and your life.

For more information about RECOOP, please visit: <http://recoop.org.uk>

## 6.5 Health Trainers

The Friends continued to support the Wiltshire Council Health Trainer programme at HMP Erlestoke which was originally launched in 2009. The Health Trainers fulfill a role in the prison similar to Health Trainers around Wiltshire in the local community. They work on a confidential one to one basis with other prisoners, helping their clients to establish their own solutions to improve health and wellbeing. They focus on health issues such as healthy eating, stopping smoking, increased physical activity, weight loss and improving emotional health. The Friends believe this is a valuable programme, not only for the Health Trainers own development, but also for all their clients in the prison.



This year, the Friends purchased several pieces of equipment to support the work of the Health Trainers including a recumbent bike (pictured left), high precision digital body weight scales, a portable stadiometer (for measuring height), 2 blood pressure kits and a peak flow meter (to monitor conditions such as asthma).

Angela Hughes continues to attend the Health Trainer Steering Group meetings to monitor the progress of the programme and to assess the need for potential further support from the Friends.

For further information about the Health Trainer programme in Wiltshire, please visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-trainers>

## 6.6 Transport Scheme

Enabling regular contact between prisoners and their families is at the heart of the work of the Friends. There is no convenient bus service from Westbury Station or Devizes Market Place to the prison. The Transport Scheme allows many visitors needing transport to make regular visits, particularly those who could not otherwise afford to pay for taxi journeys from Westbury or Devizes.

In addition to visiting days on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, in December HMP Erlestoke introduced Sunday visits this year. There are also some Family Days throughout the year, which are held on Wednesdays.

The number of visitor passengers (including children under 12) and the number of volunteer journeys to and from the Prison are shown below:

	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
<b>Total adult passengers</b>	545	623
<b>Total children under 12</b>	146	111
<b>Total volunteer journeys</b>	469	515
<b>Total 'no show'</b>	13	8

*Figure 1: Statistics for April 2017 to March 2018 compared with April 2016 to March 2017*

Although some passengers live comparatively nearby, in Bristol or Bath, most travel long distances and can come from as far afield as Scotland, Newcastle, Yorkshire, Manchester, Sussex, Kent, The Midlands, London, Devon, Cornwall, Wales or East Anglia. Such long journeys, by public transport, make visiting the prison a stressful experience, especially for young children and the consideration and thoughtfulness of the Volunteer Drivers are hugely valued. Our team of drivers has increased to 29 during the year and the Trustees particularly wish to express their gratitude to those who give so generously of their time, when they already have busy lives. The Transport Scheme could not operate successfully without them. Supporting the drivers is important to the Trustees; in December 2017, the drivers were invited to the prison and were given a tour by a member of the Independent Monitoring Board and one of our Trustees. They also had the opportunity to meet prisoners who had benefited from the scheme, exchange experiences with each other and learn from prison staff how the visits booking system operates and the importance of family visits in prisoner rehabilitation.

We ask passengers for a voluntary donation for each journey and, although this is not a requirement, many passengers are pleased to make a contribution towards the costs of the Scheme. During this year we have been delighted to receive a specific grant from The Hilden Trust, towards the costs of the Transport Scheme.

Throughout the year, we receive messages of thanks from passengers and here are just a few examples:-

T from Gloucester with 4 young children

*"Thank you for all your help - we could not have afforded it or managed without you - it is such a lovely organisation - we are so grateful to have met you all."*

A from Swindon

*"Thank you for organising the transport today, it is really appreciated - I have no idea how we would have found the prison if it was not for your volunteers - many many thanks"*

L from Bristol

*"My partner has been moved to a different prison, so I will not be going to Erlestoke anymore - thank you for always organising the transport, making my visits a lot easier - you all do such a good job and are the kindest people taking time out of your lives to do this - thankyou - it was nice meeting you all."*

J from Bournemouth with daughter and 2 children

*"Just wanted to say a huge thank you for helping us today - it meant a great deal to us."*

R from Reading with elderly mother

*"Thank you so much - you have all been very kind and it has always been appreciated. He has been moved to another prison and it is a nightmare journey - what a pity they do not run a volunteer service there too!"*

A from Bristol

*"Thank you - I am glad I've met people like you all - such a good help to me on my visits - it means a lot."*

J (a mother) from London

*"Many thanks for your help on my first visit to ERLESTOKE. It took a lot of stress from my journey, and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing my son again after so long. I have been granted another visit and, once again, I would benefit a lot from you and these wonderful people who work with you, to make the lives of these men, and their families more bearable"*

Carol Part is the Transport and Volunteer Co-ordinator. She ensures the smooth running of the Scheme and acts as the liaison link between the passengers and the volunteer drivers. The Trustees are extremely grateful to Carol for all her work with the families who use the scheme.

## 6.7 Yoga and Tai Chi



Sadly we said goodbye to Jane Greenlees who had been running our yoga and Tai Chi classes until April 2017. The Trustees and those prisoners who had been attending the sessions were sorry that Jane had to leave us, so much so that the class arranged to send her flowers, grown in the prison, and a card to say thank you for all her teaching.

It took a little time, but fortunately we were able to find another yoga teacher, again through the Prison Phoenix Trust, Susanna Graziano. Susanna began teaching with a taster session in November 2017 and since December 2017 has been running a weekly class on Wednesdays for up to a maximum of 20 prisoners. In support of Susanna's professional development, the Friends have approved funding for her to attend the 5-day residential course run by the Prison Phoenix Trust specifically designed for those teaching yoga in prisons. Susanna will attend this course in June 2018.

Below are some comments from prisoners, highlighting the benefits of attending the classes:

*"I have felt my breathing has got better. I feel good and relaxed. My mind is calmer"*

*“Very good for my old bones. Feel more flexible and relaxed”*

*“A general increase in happiness and a calmer mind”*

*“More relaxed and stress-free. Clearer thought. Helps me to sleep”*

*It has improved my mental health – I feel less anxious and more relaxed”*

*The Prison Phoenix Trust (PPT) supports prisoners in their spiritual lives through meditation, yoga, silence and the breath. It recommends breath-focused stretches and meditation sensitively tailored to student’s needs. Prisoners who participate in the classes report that their yoga practice helps them cope with anxiety and depression, allowing them to sleep better and to find something in themselves that they like. Several now continue their yoga practice outside of the class, in their cells on a daily basis. [www.theppt.org.uk](http://www.theppt.org.uk)*

## **6.8 Chapel Garden structure**

Last year the Trustees agreed to fund a rainproof structure in the Chapel garden for use by prisoners and staff when the weather is poor. The prisoners working in the Farms and Gardens carpentry workshop designed the structure and it is currently under construction and should be in place during summer 2018. The Trustees are grateful to the Salisbury Mothers’ Union who donated £600 to the prison to cover the costs of this structure.

## **6.9 Other items funded this year**

There were several other smaller items funded by the Friends this year, namely:

- 4 guitars and 4 drum sticks for the Chapel music groups
- CD/DVD cleaner for the Library
- Contribution towards exhibition stands in Salisbury Cathedral to exhibit prisoners’ creative writing as part of a Cathedral season exploring themes of memory and identity. This was in support of the continuing partnership between HMP Erlestoke and Salisbury Cathedral.

## **6.10 All Weather Sports Pitch – our new initiative**

In July 2017, to further promote an improvement in learning, team-building, well-being and fitness of prisoners, as part of their rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration into society, the Trustees launched a £500,000 appeal to raise funds for an All Weather Sports Pitch, equipment and storage, on unused land at HMP Erlestoke.

Such a facility would not only provide real benefit to the prisoners, but also to staff, especially in the building of relationships. It would provide access to a broad range of sports activities, including Football, Volleyball, Softball, Badminton, Basketball, Circuit Training, Outdoor bowls, Tennis. In addition, there would be opportunities to develop sport/lifestyle qualifications from Astara Training Ltd, which provides high-quality accredited training courses in Mental First Aid, health and well being.

At present the only link with the local community is through the Erlestoke House Volleyball team, which were proudly 2016/17 champions of Wiltshire Division 1. An All Weather Sports Pitch, with the availability of additional sports, would further the links with the community and help to build prisoners' confidence in meeting with people outside of the prison. There would also be a significant benefit in the use of the pitch as an opportunity to strengthen relationships between prisoners and their children on Family Days.

Through various events and specific donations, over £80,000 has been generated or pledged for this exciting project. The Trustees will continue to raise funds through the Charity's own initiatives and plan to make applications to grant making trusts and other funding bodies during 2018/19.

## 7. Fundraising

### 7.1 Kate Adie – May 2017

We raised just over £3,600 when Kate Adie came to Marlborough to speak about her experiences and memorable reports from conflict zones around the world. Over 230 people attended the event. We are grateful to St John's School in Marlborough for providing us with their 'Theatre on the Hill' as the venue and to the White Horse Bookshop in Marlborough for acting as our ticket agent for the event. As a thank you to St John's School, we presented them with 3 planters made by the prisoners, purchased from the Erlestoke Farm Shop.

<https://erlestokehousefarmshop.org.uk>



Photograph © Ken Lennox

### 7.2 Open Garden in Upton Lovell, near Warminster – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017



Richard and Belinda Southwell kindly opened up their garden to the public in aid of the Friends in July 2017. Serving cream teas and selling cakes and plants, the event raised £330 and resulted in many more sponsors for Bishop Edward Condry's sponsored cycle ride to Rome (see section 7.3).

### 7.3 Rt Rvd Dr Edward Condry sponsored cycle from Canterbury to Rome - July 2017



We are delighted and extremely grateful to the Rt Revd Dr Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury who raised over £8,000 for the All Weather Sports Pitch appeal by cycling to Rome. A famously keen peddler he undertook the whopping 1,200 mile journey to support our work in HMP Erlestoke. The journey started on the 7th July and lasted 14 days. To read more about the journey, you can find Bishop Edward Condry's Blog here:

<https://bishopedward.wordpress.com/2017/07/>



## 7.4 South Canorby Supper – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

This event raised over £5,200 in aid of the All Weather Sports Pitch appeal from ticket sales, raffle and donations. 68 guests attended a supper held in South Canorby, Salisbury by kind invitation of The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and his wife Helen.



Christine Kinder, a harpist from Swindon played as everyone arrived. Richard and Belinda Southwell generously paid for this musical greeting. Thank you to all who helped on the evening, especially the two young people recruited by Helen Holtam, Rob and Georgina. Also, thanks to Richard Amey from Sarum College who provided salads and helped in the kitchen, giving his time for free. Thanks also to Arthur Gooch who checked the guest list and supervised the parking arrangements, and Rowena Gooch who produced the delicious food. Last, but by no means least, thanks to The Rt Rev Dr Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury for his fascinating talk about his bicycle marathon from Canterbury to Rome which raised over £8,000 in sponsorship, and has raised the profile of the work that is being done to help rehabilitate the men in Erlestoke prison.

## 7.5 Christmas Auction – December 2017

Our Christmas Auction 2017 raised £4,662. Thanks go to all those who placed online bids and congratulations to all our winners. Auction items varied from holidays, hampers, bread making courses, helicopter rides, dinner in the prison, to a rare vintage whisky and a day at the races.

## 7.6 Major General Peter Williams – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018



Thank you to our supporters who joined us at Dauntsey's School for a fascinating talk by Major General Peter Williams followed by supper in March. Over £16,000 was raised through ticket sales and donations, which will go towards the All Weather Sports Pitch appeal, launched by the Friends last year. We are grateful to Dauntsey's School who permitted us to use their Memorial Hall and Dining Hall for this event.

## 7.7 Easyfundraising and Justgiving

The Friends continue to encourage all supporters to donate via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) when shopping online. Many retailers will make automatic donations to us, at no extra cost to yourself, if you select the 'Friends of Erlestoke Prison' as your preferred charity. Thank you to our supporters who do this regularly when shopping online.

Thank you also to the individuals who donated online via <https://www.justgiving.com/friendsoferlestokeprison>

## 7.8 Grants and donations 2017/2018

Our application to the Hilden Charitable Trust for a grant to support our Transport Scheme for a further 12 months was successful and we secured £6,000 to contribute to the costs of our Co-ordinator and scheme running costs. We have also been encouraged to apply for a further year's funding in November 2018.

The Friends were also most grateful for a grant of £5,000 from The Monday Trust towards the costs of our core work, including the Transport Scheme. Our grateful thanks also go to The Worshipful Company of Girdlers, for their generous donation to the All Weather Sports Pitch appeal.

## 8. Other Donations

Thank you to HRH The Duchess of Cornwall who donated ten copies of 'Anatomy of a Soldier' by Harry Parker to the library at HMP Erlestoke for World Book Night on Sunday 23rd April 2017. Harry Parker served with the 4th Battalion, The Rifles, of which The Duchess is Royal Colonel.

## 9. Financial Review

On 31 March 18 the charity had funds of £68,707; during the year our expenditure was £17,962 and we raised £61,886 in income. Our fundraising is a combination of personal donations, the proceeds of fundraising events and organisation/trust fund donations and grants, often for specific projects. Our bedrock is the continuing steady stream of donations from our generous regular supporters.

Our specific fundraising this year has been tremendous, with a series of events notably Bishop Edward Condry's cycle ride, Kate Adie's talk at St John's School, Marlborough, the supper at the South Canonry, the Christmas Auction and Peter Williams talk on "My Life as a Cold War Spy" at Dauntsey's School in Devizes.

The impetus has been our ambitious project to build an all-weather sports pitch under the formidable leadership and guidance of Sarah Gooch, ably assisted by Carol Part. Although not received within the financial year and not therefore reflected in the accounts, we are very grateful for a legacy from the Gray family.

Our expenditure is directly linked to the charity aims. Our spending has remained steady this year and the Transport Scheme with its dedicated coordinator is now mature. We received a grant from The Hilden Charitable Trust specifically aimed at this scheme which, combined with passenger donations, is now virtually self-funding.

Origami has, with great energy from Helen Holtam, in its initial year, proved a net contributor to the charity, through the growing sales of a range of original and quality cards and artwork.

Our core costs budget for the financial year 2018/2019 has been set at £24,100 anticipating the addition of Drama to our regular provision of support to the offenders. Although we will continue to fundraise for our core projects, much of our fundraising efforts will remain focused on the capital funds required for the All Weather Sports Pitch. We have already proved that we have the capability to generate funds for this project ourselves and we will be making applications for grants from charitable trusts and other organisations.

Our draft reserve policy is to ensure that we have sufficient funds to cope with a 25% drop in income without impacting key projects for 6 months and our reserve level is now more than in line with this policy.

Our access to external grants has not been impacted by the growth in our reserves in recognition that a growing proportion is earmarked for the All Weather Sports Pitch, although not technically yet a formal restricted fund.

We currently have a current account and an instant access savings account, which is earning a basic level of interest. Our investment policy will be reviewed in 2018/2019 to ensure that, despite poor market conditions, we attempt to obtain a better rate of return for our current reserve but with careful consideration of the risks associated with financial investments.

## 9.1 Receipts and Payments Accounts: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Fundraising income	36,975		36,975	5864.86
Grants	11,000	6,000	17,000	
Donations Received	5062		5,062	6569.22
Gift Aid Income	2,835		2,835	
Investment income	14		14	14
<b>Total Receipts</b>	55,886	6,000	61,886	12,677
<b>Payments</b>				
Transport Coordinator and equipment	305	6,000	6,305	7199.67
Transport Expenses	36		36	464
Transport Equipment				
Yoga	1,364		1,364	4962
Art (labour and materials)	6,332		6,332	186
Drama				3,976
Health Trainers & equipment	611		611	2,800
Equipment				414
Origami	1,439		1,439	
Fundraising costs	511		511	1798
Insurance	470		470	462
Justgiving subscription	216		216	216
Older project areas				1963
Sundries	677		677	379
<i>Sub total</i>	11,962	6,000	17,962	20,843
<b>Total payments</b>	11,962		11,962	20,843
<i>Net of receipts (payments)</i>	43,924		43,924	8166
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	24,783		24,783	32,927
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	68,707		68,707	24,783

Note: Within these Accounts the Trustees have designated a Fund for the All Weather Sports Pitch; please see section 6.10 for more details.

## 10. Public Benefit Statement

Our Public Benefit statement remains unchanged from previous reports.

Most prisoners will eventually be released into our communities and will have to re-establish themselves back into society. Unless HM Prison Service makes effective interventions whilst the men are in custody it is highly unlikely that they will change their behaviour and many will revert back to old habits and patterns upon release, which leads to re-offending and more victims of crime.

It is well documented that the risk of men re-offending is much reduced if they have a home and a job upon release, and have been supported throughout their sentence by friends and family. HM Prison Service works to help the men in these areas, but with budget cuts and staff shortages, there is a gap between what could be provided and what is actually provided.

Any rehabilitated prisoner, who becomes a law-abiding citizen, will provide benefit to the community, particularly if he is employed and properly supporting his family. The Charity will work with HMP Erlestoke to help prisoners take responsibility for themselves and their future outside of the Prison. The Charity will do this by encouraging prisoners to actively plan and prepare for their future by developing a good work ethic, face up to their crimes and their offending behaviours and take the opportunity to educate and develop themselves whilst in custody.

The Charity offers volunteering opportunities for the local community to work with the prison to help achieve its aims. Many people in the communities around HMP Erlestoke view the prison as an 'unknown institution' where 'bad' people are sent for punishment. The Friends of Erlestoke Prison aim to raise awareness of prison life and build understanding of how many of the prisoners ended up in prison, often through mental illness, drug/alcohol addiction, abusive childhoods and poor education (to name a few). Prison is not a punishment – being placed within an institution, having your life 'managed' by someone else and withdrawal of freedom is the punishment. But prison is also an opportunity to change. The Friends are realistic and know that even with powerful interventions, some prisoners will not change. However, if the interventions work for a percentage of the prison population, communities will benefit from the integration of non-violent, employable men with skills and trades who are able to support themselves and their families. People are often prejudiced because of what they don't know – as more locals become involved with the prison and understand what it is trying to do, they may become more accepting of ex-prisoners, particularly those who want to transform their lives.

## 11. The Year Ahead – 2018/2019

The All Weather Sports Pitch appeal will be a major focus for fundraising efforts in the 2018/2019 financial year. The Friends strongly believe that a sports pitch will greatly benefit the mens' physical and mental well-being and will provide educational opportunities as well as fresh air and exercise. They will be able to play team sports and we firmly believe that playing football, volleyball and other sports will help to turn their lives around.

However, this appeal will not be at the expense of our support to prisoners' families and we will continue to sustain and develop our Transport Scheme to meet the increasing demand. We will also continue to offer art and yoga in the prison and hope that the Resettlement into Open Conditions course, which we have previously sponsored, will run again this year. We are also working with the prison to introduce some drama sessions back into the regime over the coming months. Consideration will be given to all future requests for funding which supports education and skills development to improve post custody employability. Also initiatives, which support rehabilitation and inspire changes in patterns of offending behaviour will be supported where possible.

Our fundraising activity in the next financial year will include a 'Jailbreak' event and in support of the All Weather Sports Pitch appeal, a charity football match – keep an eye on our website and Twitter feed for more information.

### **11.1 Sustainability**

A challenge for any charity in what is now a highly competitive environment for securing funds, is the issue of sustainability. The Friends will continue to explore previously untapped sources of funding to ensure that their important work continues. Our fund raising has become and will continue to be more strategic, particularly for the All Weather Sports Pitch.

Effective evaluation of our current work is also critical to demonstrate the impact of our investments and to attract new funding streams. We will continue to work with external partners to deliver the best services possible and ensure that that prison can absorb new activities into the regime with the required level of support. We will also continue to recruit new volunteers for the Transport Scheme and focus on activities, which ensure the retention of existing volunteers and trustees.

### **11.2 More information**

If you would like more information about the work of the Friends, please visit our website: [www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com](http://www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com) or email [info@friendsoferlestokeprison.com](mailto:info@friendsoferlestokeprison.com)

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our charity.

The Trustees

Friends of Erlestoke Prison