



NEWSLETTER TO SUPPORTERS: JANUARY 2015

Very busy indeed

Our supporters will recall that we have now successfully expanded our scheme to include sex offenders. Many will also be aware that, due to austerity cuts, prisoners are now spending very much more time locked in their cells. Possibly as a result of these two things, many more prisoners have been applying for penfriends: there were 94% more successfully completed applications between July and December 2014 than there were between July and December 2013. As for the number of letters forwarded: 902 were passed on during the second six months of 2013, while, over the second half of 2014, we forwarded 1,355.

New trustees

The charity's trustees have decided that, to accommodate the increasing interest in our work, the time has come to extend our scope. As a first step, three new trustees have been appointed to our board:

- Shane Holland, a long-standing penfriend volunteer, who has several years' experience raising funds for a wide range of charities;
- Martin Stevens, a released prisoner, who served 17 years of a life sentence. Martin is well known to our volunteers, having been involved in our training programme since 2006.
- Eleanor Kennedy, a young professional in the charity sector.

We feel that, taking into account the experience of our existing trustees, we now have a formidable team to build on the charity's strengths.

Christmas donations

We were delighted to receive Christmas presents – in the form of cheques for our funds – from many of you. One long-term supporter chose to send us a cheque instead of spending the money on Christmas cards – a “first” for us! Thank-you to everyone.

Patrons: Sir Nicholas Hytner, Sir Peter Lloyd, Peter Moffat, Lord Ramsbotham.
Trustees: Jennifer Gadsby-Peet, Malcolm Duxbury, Stephen Pollard (chair), Shane Holland, Martin Stevens, Eleanor Kennedy.

Director and company secretary: Gwyn Morgan. Company no: 4629036. Charity no: 1098118.

PO box 33460, London SW18 5YB; email: gwyn.morgan@prisonerspenfriends.org; tel 0208 870 6939