



NEWSLETTER TO SUPPORTERS: JULY 2008

A HEALTHY FIVE-YEAR OLD

Prisoners' Penfriends has reached its fifth birthday: we became a registered charity in June 2003. Our babyhood was spent making sure that the Prison Service was happy with our approach. The first letters were forwarded when we were nearly one year old, in April 2004. Since then, 4,430 letters have passed through the post-box.

Like all fashionable toddlers, we have undergone early-years training. Half-day sessions for our volunteers have been held over the past two years in London (two sessions), Warwick, Chester, Builth Wells, Lancaster, Leeds, Exeter and Cambridge. Over 70% of our volunteers have now received training – and have improved their knowledge about keeping themselves secure while “listening through the post”.

Now we've reached school age, we're making new friends. This year, we have worked alongside the National Association of Prison Visitors, the Writers in Prison Network and Safeground, an organisation which runs the Family Man course in prisons and is using penfriends to write to those prisoners whose family members do not want to correspond with them.

We're still only little – but we're quite proud of our start in life. Thank you for making it possible.

All the charity's administration costs are met by contributions from individual donors. It would be impossible to continue this work without you. Thankyou.

Patrons: Sir Peter Lloyd, Fay Weldon, Lord Ramsbotham. Trustees: Keith Donald (chair), Jennifer Gadbsy-Peet, Stephen Pollard. Director and company secretary: Gwyn Morgan. Company no: 4629036. Charity no: 1098118.

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