

Chairman's Report
Annual General Meeting
8th May 2019

As Chairman I am delighted to present my second Annual report to BACO members.

The Committee

I would like to start by thanking the Committee who give so generously of their time and expertise and who have been unfailing in their work.

Joe Barclay	Governance
Mary Cronin	Treasurer
Caroline Donald	Membership & Minute Taker
Roz Rossington	Grants Administration
Fiona Paine	Fund Raising & Prisoner Support Volunteer (PSV)
Camilla Soames	Chairman

Prisoner Support Volunteers

Ted Vine stood down from the Committee as Prisoner Support Volunteer Co-ordinator in October 2018 but continues to fulfil his role of Prisoner Support Volunteer (PSV) in HMP Grendon. The Committee have minuted their appreciation for all that Ted has done whilst serving on the Committee. Ted has completed training Fiona Paine and me as PSV's for HMP Springhill. Fiona has been delivering the service on her own with a little back up support from me since August 2018.

Peter Lloyd is on hand to assist where he can in HMYOI, Aylesbury but is soon to work with the National Literacy Trust with their project in the Prison.

The Future for the Prisoner Support Volunteer Role

Since becoming Chairman in May 2017 I have been exercised as to how BACO can deliver its in prison service in all four establishments within the county. We are currently only fully active in two. Recruiting and training and retaining volunteers working in a Prison with all the complications of obtaining security clearance and the unfamiliarity of the working environment with rules and procedures to adhere to is a big issue for a charity with no salaried administration staff. With the full support of the Committee I have been in discussion with MK College who deliver 'Education' in HMYOI Aylesbury and HMP Grendon and deliver 'Resettlement' in HMP Springhill & in HMP Woodhill and at no fee to BACO nor the Prisons they have agreed to explore a partnership with us. Their security cleared staff are in prison every day and would receive applications for grants from the men and use the

secure email system to liaise with the BACO PSV responsible for the particular establishment who will assess the applications and award the grants; in consultation with the Grants Administrator and the Chairman. This is very similar to the system we have in place to receive applications from Probation for those men and women released into the community. Discussions are ongoing but we would hope to have our new delivery service partnership up and running by July in Grendon & the other establishments in September 2019. The new working practice will heighten the profile of BACO within the Prison and by working in collaboration with MK College we will become more aware of what areas our grants can play in bringing about positive change and help to rehabilitate and reduce reoffending upon release. Our PSV's will visit the prisons and meet with the MK College staff on a regular basis but will be more flexible than the current set time and date of the month. We hope to be able to extend the feedback from staff and prisoner as to how our grants have brought about that change. It is important that BACO the organisation is recognised as playing a role in rehabilitation and less of a focus on the volunteer.

Governance

Our existing Constitution was adopted in 1971 and updated in 2003. I was concerned that it did not offer members nor Committee members financial security against the possibility of litigation should an incident happen to anyone who was on 'BACO Business'. Joe Barclay, who has many years' experience of being a Trustee for other organisations has been in very helpful and in consultation with Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors has looked at updating our constitution to bring it in line with recommendations of best practice from the Charity Commission. We have been advised by Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors to form a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Articles of Association have been drawn up and sent out to all members and a motion will be put forward at the Annual General Meeting on 8th May 2019 for the members to vote on. If agreed upon then that will set in motion the legal process. Our name BACO will remain the same and so too will its objects and aims.

I am extremely grateful to Joe for the time and effort he has given and want to express our sincere thanks to Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors, Danielle Austin & Tim Roberts in particular for their ongoing help and advice.

Website

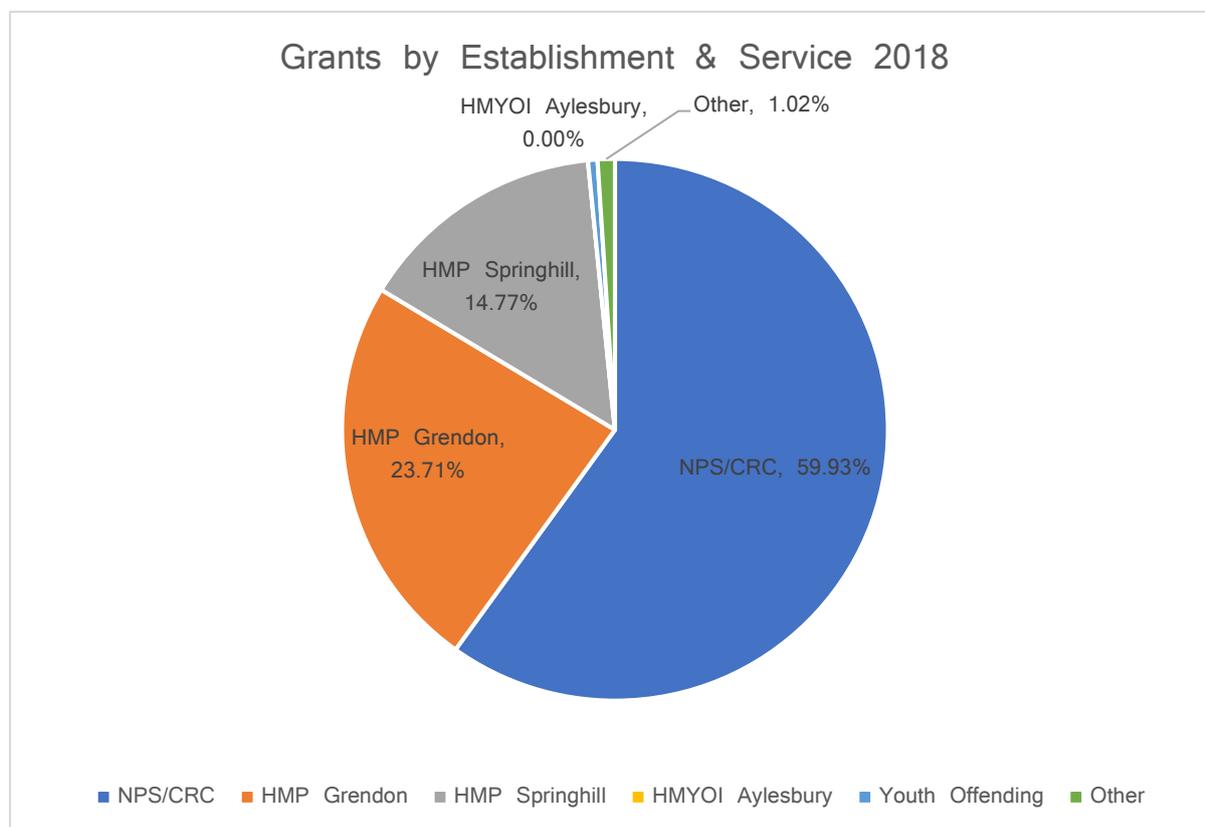
Thank you to Martyn Allen who has designed the new website and given endless hours of consultation to make it 'user friendly'. We hope that members will find it informative, there is a special Members only area to receive confidential information. Members will be able to renew their annual memberships, donate on line or sign up to BACO events. It will be regularly updated with testimonials from beneficiaries and relevant news from the Ministry of Justice concerning policy and 'our prisons' and other information of interest from the Voluntary organisations and agencies BACO works alongside or is affiliated to.

Ted Vine expressed a wish that no mention of Gill Vine or himself be made on the updated website. Saddened by this though I am I have respected his wishes.

Grants

In 2018 January – December BACO made 316 grants totalling £19,389 an increase of 26% on 2017

The average grant £62.00



National Probation Service (NPS) Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC)

59% of grants made in 2018 were to those released to Buckinghamshire, including Milton Keynes all are assessed and processed by Roz Rossington.

Roz has had two meetings with NPS at Aylesbury, one to discuss the issues of housing and the other to meet with the whole team to explain our criteria to help their clients.

Roz has been a tower of strength and along with Mary Cronin has helped me and newer members understand procedures and the complexities of working with the criminal justice system.

Accommodation upon release continues to be a huge problem in Buckinghamshire and it is with regret that we have had to give grants for a tent and warm clothing when requested by a desperate probation officer. See addendum 1 for full listing of grants

Prisons

HMYOI Aylesbury, further to Laura Boyle's (Head of Reducing Reoffending) excellent talk at the 2018 AGM, BACO members were invited to visit 'Bertha' the Redemption Roasters coffee roasting machine and café and members were invited to attend on two dates 11th October and the 30th October 2018. On both occasions Members spoke to the young men working in the Roastery and with staff and were invited to purchase coffee.

Meetings have taken place and there is support and enthusiasm for BACO to re-establish its work within the prison focussing on education and long term 'careers in custody' skills.

In March 2019 the Prison was put in 'special measures' by the MOJ. Prison numbers are being reduced and improvements being made to the facilities. BACO will be prioritising delivery of service with an emphasis on supporting education and creative projects to help rehabilitate many of whom are facing long custodial sentences in other establishments once they have moved on from HMYOI Aylesbury

To date only one grant for a scientific calculator has been processed in 2018 but we hope to be able to show a significant improvement on this delivery by the end of the year.

HMP Springhill

Fiona Paine (PSV) saw 77 men and awarded grants towards vocational training courses, driving lessons, certificates, work clothing

See addendum 1

Fiona has established good relations with staff at Springhill and attends the Voluntary Sector quarterly meeting hosted by Lisa Daley, Head of Business and Industries to exchange ideas of how to improve services and communication and look at areas of collaboration with other voluntary organisations working at Springhill.

HMP Grendon

Ted Vine (PSV) saw 101 men and awarded grants towards essential clothing, musical instruments, radios, craft materials. See addendum1.

Discussions are ongoing with Ted having expressed a wish to reduce his time at Grendon. His work is so appreciated by the men and BACO at Grendon is seen very much as a force for positive change.

August 23rd saw the Community Challenge Quizz at HMP Grendon, BACO fielded a losing team! Thanks to Ted Vine, Dr Ruth Farwell (High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire), Ken Birkby, Jeremy Howarth and Amanda Nicholson for their valiant efforts.

November 27th was Edmund Clarke (artist in residence) exhibition an invitation from Edmund to all BACO members was extended. Ken Birkby, Leonie Thorogood, Fiona Paine, Amanda Nicholson, Susan Williams, Julia Upton attended and bore witness to the very high standard of work exhibited.

Caroline Donald has taken over organisation of the Social events at Grendon and has built up good lines of communications with the wing officers and therapists to ensure members who wish to attend apply for wing backing in good time.

Caroline will also be managing the Members page on the website and I would ask for your patience in the early days of administration. My sincere thanks to her for all her help.

Jamie Bennett, Governor left Grendon/Springhill in January 2019 and has gone to Long Lartin a Category A, High Security Prison in Worcestershire. He attended the BACO Film Event, 'Mary Queen of Scots' and members who had made it through the snow to attend the film showing in January were able to say Goodbye and express their thanks for all his support.

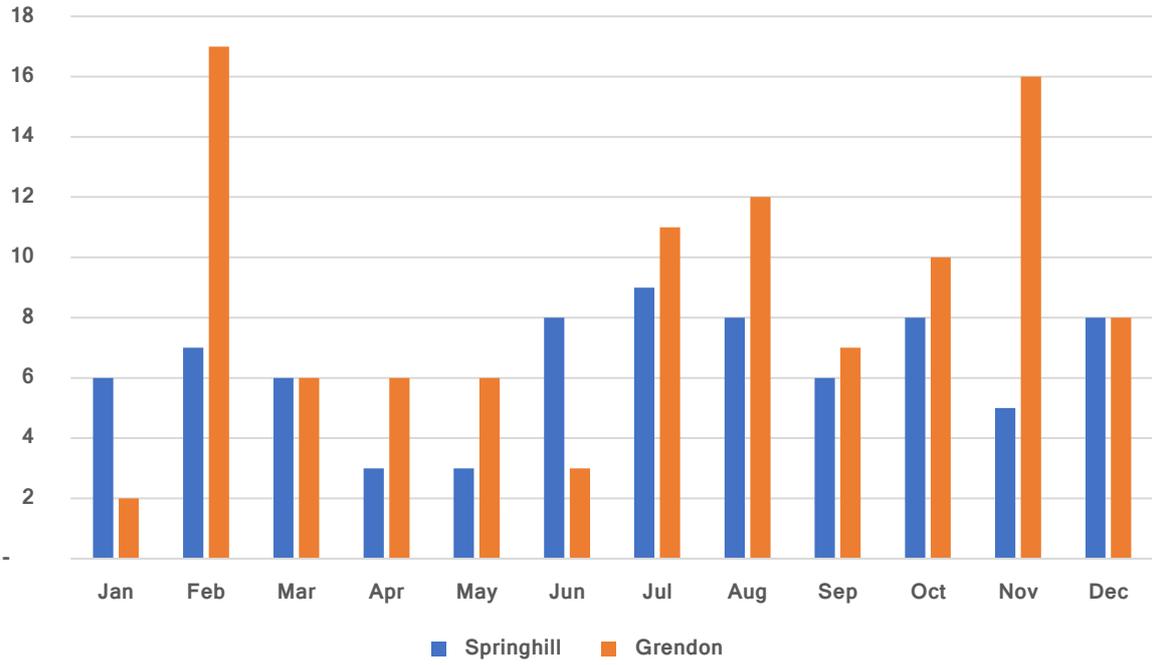
Deputy Governor Rebecca Hayward is currently the interim Number 1 Governor.

HMP Woodhill

Discussions have taken place with the Head of reducing Re-offending, Olivia Ker. She pleased to know that BACO would like to commence their service again at Woodhill and is supportive of a delivery partnership with MK College. Woodhill is on schedule to reconfigure as a Cat B resettlement prison and will lose its core local function and no longer house prisoners on remand. We hope to have BACO operational in Woodhill by November.

We are delighted the Chris Bagley , Industries and Business Manager of HMP Woodhill addressed the AGM 8th May 2019.

Appointments by Establishment 2018



Accounts

We are indebted to Andrew Richardson BA FCA and his team for once again auditing our accounts and a big thank you to Mary Cronin (Treasurer) for keeping the accounts. See Addendum 2.

Fundraising

We have received support from Trusts and Foundations and for the third year running support via the serving High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire from the Police & Crime Commissioners pot to reduce reoffending. Thank you to Fiona Paine for her enthusiasm for approaching potential donors and for her networking skills.

Members continue to be generous and 'bumping up' their annual subscriptions and the Committee actively promote BACO whenever they can to recruit new members.

BACO has now joined the Vale Lottery and a committee member won £2,000 in the draw and kindly donated it to BACO

See addendum 2

Banking

Mary Cronin has set up on line banking so that BACO can make grants to Probation (they are moving towards being automated) but we continue to use cheques for the Prison service. As with cheques two registered signatories are required for all payments.

Members can now renew their subscriptions or make donations directly into the BACO account Sort Code: 30-90-38 Account: 0007 7146

Events

Working Title gave BACO permission to show 'Mary Queen of Scots' in Cuddington Village Hall on 19th January 2019. The snow came and South Bucks was gridlocked but Members yet again sent generous donations to make up for their absence. Money raised at this event is ring fenced for administration costs.

Reading Agency

This is the sixth year BACO has supported the Six Book Reading Challenge in both HMP Grendon & HMP Springhill. Ted has organised the prizes which are awarded at the end of the calendar year, a range of reference books which are purchased at a 15% discount, they start from a boxed set of a Collins English Thesaurus & Dictionary . A BACO trophy will be presented by Ted on May 24th 2019th at a ceremony organised by the Librarian, Debra Lovell.

Wyvern Arts Society

Thanks to BACO Member Jeremy Howarth's introduction to the Wyvern Arts Society, grants from their members totalling £600 have been made via BACO to the Art Therapy department at HMP Grendon. Art materials and a camera and printer with inks and paper was purchased to enable the men to take photographs of their work with them when they leave Grendon or to show to their families when they visit.

£250 was awarded to Drawing Connections a Cambridge University 'Learning Together' project between men at Springhill working on creative arts with students from Bicester College.

Kestrel Theatre

BACO supported the pantomime 'Jack The Lad' an original production with music written by men in conjunction with the **Irene Taylor Trust** by taking along two miniature Mediterranean donkeys now BACO Mascots to escort the families from the visitor centre to the association room.



Addendum 1.pdf

Addendum 1 Grants 1



The Bucks
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Addendum 2 Accounts 1

