

## BACO VOLUNTEERS

### THE TRUSTEES

The Executive Committee meets every two months in the Boardroom of HMP Springhill. The Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Grants Secretary, Membership Secretary and Support Service Co-ordinator keep and supply meticulous records and reports.

#### **Chair**

Gill Vine has been a volunteer for nineteen years and Chair for fifteen. She has devoted time to administration, fundraising, developing and sustaining new initiatives, and to raising the profile of BACO throughout the prison and probation services in Buckinghamshire. The outcome for everyone involved in BACO was receiving the QAVS in 2009.

#### **Treasurer**

Mary Cronin has been Treasurer for four years, and maintains the various BACO accounts, issues all cheques, and provides regular financial reports to the Trustees. She liaises with the Independent Examiner, Sarah Emm, to produce the Annual Accounts, which are submitted to the Charity Commission.

#### **Secretary**

Diane Long took over the role in 2010 from Gill Vine, who was acting Secretary. She is also a volunteer driver taking Springhill prisoners out on town visits. As Secretary she takes the Minutes at the Annual General Meeting and the bi-monthly Committee Meetings, puts them onto a computer database and sends them out to members electronically. She also sends out the Agenda for each meeting in advance of the date of the meeting.

#### **Membership Secretary**

Diane Long took over this role from Ted Vine in 2010. She maintains the list of members and their details, updating it as required. She sends out annual reminders to members when subscriptions are due and ensures that when donations and subscriptions are received they are forwarded to the treasurer.

#### **Support Service Co-ordinator**

Ted Vine has been a volunteer for eight years. For the last six years he has developed the Service in HMP Grendon & Springhill, extended it to HMYOI Aylesbury and to a lesser degree to date in HMP Woodhill. He is regularly in the prisons meeting prisoners to discuss their grant requests and liaising with staff.

#### **Grants Secretary**

Roger Russell has carried out this role for eight years. Each year he processes as many as 240 requests for grants. The majority come from the Support Service in HMP Grendon and Springhill, others from HMP Woodhill, and HMYOI Aylesbury. Roger receives many requests from probation officers applying on behalf of ex-offenders. Requests are very diverse and cover clothing, fares, trade tools, help towards professional and trade qualification courses, and relevant books and materials. Art and craft materials and musical instruments are also part-funded.

#### **Committee member**

Eileen Llopis was elected in 2010 and takes on various aspects of committee work.

# **BACO VOLUNTEERS**

## **carry out**

### **Town visits**

At HMP Springhill, before prisoners can go out to do community work, they need to have completed two town visits. BACO Volunteers take prisoners out on these visits.

Jeremy Howarth has been a BACO volunteer for fourteen years.

He collects the prisoner who has requested the town visit on a Saturday morning. They go to Oxford and have a coffee and lunch. He tries to show them things which will interest them personally. Recently he took two people to The Ashmolean, one of whom would like eventually to read archaeology at Oxford.

Liz has been a volunteer for four years.

She takes prisoners on town visits to Aylesbury. She says that she always tells them that they are her guests for the day, and that she is a representative of the community which welcomes them back. Often she finds them apprehensive of going into town, after having been in an enclosed environment, and she feels that taking time to chat and reassure is very important. After coffee, she tries to show them some key sites in the town so that if they come to work there they are familiar with places like the bus station, council offices, library etc. She tries to accommodate special interests, and has taken one person to an art exhibition and has spent the day in the reference library with another.

Sarah has been a volunteer for three years.

She says her experience of volunteering with BACO has been very rewarding. She found it easy and welcoming to join as a volunteer and started taking prisoners out on their Town Visits. She has met prisoners from all walks of life. Sarah feels that she is helping, as without the BACO volunteers, the prisoners are unable to progress to community work.

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### **Support Service**

Keith Westbury has been a volunteer for ten years

He meets prisoners in HMP Springhill once a month to discuss their grant applications. Its probably one of the most daunting decisions a first time volunteer has to make. What am I letting myself in for? Will I be able to cope? Am I cut out for this? Am I doing a good job? Ten years later he feels he is because no one has asked him to resign!

Olwen has been a volunteer for two years.

As well as helping with town visits, she meets prisoners in HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill once a month on each site to discuss their grant applications. Once a fortnight she attends inter-wing meetings with wing representatives, staff and others at Grendon. She finds hearing the issues that are raised very interesting as they give more insight into the operation of the prison. Attending social evenings at Grendon provides the opportunity to chat to individuals about their wide range of interests. This has changed her initial perception of offenders.

# **BACO VOLUNTEERS**

## **SUPPORT SERVICE**

Liz Griffin - 2011

Olwen - 2009 - present

Peter Toynebee -2002 -2005

Ted Vine -2004 - present

Keith Westbury - 2002 - present

## **DRIVERS**

Ted and Jean Drew - 1999 - 2010

Liz Griffin - 2011

Sarah - 2008 - present

Olwen - 2010 - present

Judy - 2004 - 2009

Diane Long - 2010 - present

Liz - 2007 - 2011

Chris - 2005 - 2008

Ted Vine - 2004 - 2008