

## PERSONAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

I thought it would be appropriate for me to write a personal report on everything that has happened recently.

Some time ago I told the Trustees and Sir Henry that I intended to step down from the Chair this year.

Then in February, I found myself in hospital undergoing emergency surgery for bowel cancer. As you can imagine this was an unexpected blow and I had no choice but to relinquish the Chair of BACO after 21 years.

I sincerely hope that there will be someone who will now step forward and take on the role of Chair. I will do all I can to support that person as will our Trustees. BACO is in good shape, ready to move forward in the next 20 years.

These last 20 plus years with BACO have been some of the most challenging and rewarding years of my life. I have learned to negotiate grants from a variety of Trusts and other interested individuals and above all, received recognition for BACO as a professional organisation working within the Prison and Probation Services.

I would like to thank all of you for your cards, flowers and good wishes, especially the men in Grendon for their continuing support for Ted, my husband. This has meant so much to both of us.

I have been fortunate during my years as Chair to have had the support of so many committed volunteers, both Trustees and Support Service. It has been a real pleasure working with them all.

My very special thanks go to my husband, Ted, who has acted as my Personal Assistant in putting together the 2017 application for funding to the Eranda Foundation and the 2016 Annual Report while I have been in hospital. We have sat outside in a hospital garden working on the contents of both. It has then been left to him to send off the application and set up the Annual Report on the computer at home, print it off and ensure it goes to the printers in perfect time!

*Sincerely*

*Gill*