

Wednesday 31st May 2017

Introduction by Mary-Anne Dixey

Before the reading I would like to speak, all too briefly, about Gill's enormous contribution to the IMB at Woodhill.

Every prison has an Independent Monitoring Board, made up of volunteers appointed by and reporting to the Home Secretary. The role requires not only the ability to evaluate process, rules and procedures, but also and very importantly, to speak face to face, to those held in custody about their concerns.

Gill was the longest serving member of the board at Woodhill, this being her 15th year. I had the privilege of working with Gill for the last 10 years.

In her time with the IMB she has held every office and was, this year, responsible for recruitment.

It is an unusual role in an unusual place. If someone is emotionally tough enough to work in such a challenging environment there is a danger of becoming cynical and hardened. That never happened to Gill.

She embodied, and lived on a daily basis her belief in fairness, equality, service to others and treating everyone with dignity, kindness and respect.

She had endless and envious patience when listening to concerns or complaints from prisoners.

If she said she would get back to someone she always would, she was absolutely true to her word.

She embraced the responsibility the role demands and was an outstanding role model.

She will be deeply missed.