

# FRIENDS OF PETERBOROUGH PRISON

## SUPPORTING THE FRIENDS & FAMILIES OF PRISONERS



## VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017

### Message from Hilary

Winter is now upon us. I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas season and not eaten too many mince pies and chocolates!! I imagine many of you who volunteer in the afternoon will be looking forward to the first time you leave the prison and it is still light.

So, what has been happening for FOPP in the last six months or so?

We were very pleased to receive money from the prison which meant our play-worker was able to have her contract renewed until the end of August 2018. Kim has now been with us for two and a half years and is very much appreciated by residents, families and prison personnel. She brings an aura of calm to the visits hall that enables visits to be a much more enjoyable experience for all. Thankyou Kim

The FOPP Annual meeting was held in October when Damian Evans, prison director, addressed us on developmental plans for the prison including plans to increase the number of remand prisoners later this year. This may be of benefit to FOPP in that further volunteering roles could arise. Sue Pitcher, gym volunteer, explained her role with table tennis for residents and her enthusiasm and enjoyment of the activity was tremendous. Malcolm Marsh who has recently been appointed as Children and Families Manager explained some of his plans to us. Two members of the Independent Monitoring Board also attended and very much appreciated learning about us. It was heartening for the volunteers to realise how much the director and senior management also value what FOPP does.

I am writing this piece just before the Annual FOPP Christmas meal, once again to be held at the Woodman pub. This is usually an enjoyable event and, hopefully, will be again this year so that by the time you read this you will agree that it was!!

There have been two new board members joining us since the last newsletter. Charles Hooper, for several years an education volunteer and David Hobbs who undertakes the role of story books mums and dads. They are both tremendous assets to the FOPP Board of Directors having taken on the role with commitment and enthusiasm injecting new ideas/ways of looking at issues. However, things are for ever changing and just as two new people join us, two of the existing team are leaving. Jenny Pardoe decided to leave us. Jenny has been a director for several years acting as meetings secretary, also undertaking the line management role for Kim, the playworker. Jenny kept us up to speed with safeguarding issues and has always been willing to work on small sub committees to sort out various issues. FOPP will miss her a lot.

I have also decided it is time to move on having been chairman for 11 years, joining FOPP very soon after the opening of HMP Peterborough. I have enjoyed my time, both as a volunteer and a director and now feel I am leaving the organisation in safe hands through the other board members and also with our employees, Jane, Kim and Mary who have all been with us for some time. I am delighted that the organisation will benefit from the fresh eyes of Jen Robertson, who will be an excellent chairman and I wish her well in her new role. If any volunteer is now interested in finding out about being a board member please contact Jane.

With thanks to everyone for the volunteering roles you perform, you are the life blood of the organisation. May I wish you all a happy new year. I will have fond memories of being a part of the team.

**Hilary Keegan, Chairman FOPP 2007-2017**



**WELCOME TO.....**

**Those who joined us  
in in the second half  
of 2017**

**Lauren- Education  
Stephanie– Tea bar  
Sue– Gym  
Amir Education**



**AND FAREWELL AND  
THANK YOU TO.....**

\* **Justine**  
\* **Kelly**  
\* **Lia**  
\* **Jenny**  
\* **Megan**  
\* **Giovanni**  
**And ....Hilary!**

Hello everyone. My name is Jen Robertson, and some of you may remember reading a short piece I wrote about myself for the March 2017 Newsletter.

I'm writing again because things have changed a bit since then – namely Hilary Keegan has stood down after an amazing 11 years as chair of FOPP. I have taken over from her and, as I said at the Christmas meal, she's a very hard act to follow, but I do promise to give it my best shot! I hope you'll bear with me while I find my feet. I joined FOPP in January 2016 and I've learnt a lot, but I still have a way to go. Luckily, Hilary has very kindly said that if I need her help and advice she's willing to act as my personal consultant!

I'm keen to ensure that FOPP continues to provide the structure and support you need in order to do your work as volunteers, delivering invaluable support to the friends, families and residents of HMP Peterborough. I'm also very keen to hear from you about what you need from me and the other directors of FOPP so please don't hesitate to email me:

[jen@friendsofpeterboroughprison.co.uk](mailto:jen@friendsofpeterboroughprison.co.uk)

Very best wishes to you all for 2018

Jen



## **Play worker News**

**I have just completed Autumn and we are now in the mad frenzy of Christmas. The children appear to enjoy this part of the year more than any other !!!!!!!**

**We have an elf on the shelf watching us all, me included! He is proving to be a good help in the play area.**



**This year I decided to do activities on a weekly basis. We started at the end of November with advent so we made advent calendars & coloured in advent pictures. We have also done a week of trees colouring in pictures, decorating pre drawn trees with self adhesive jewels and stars. Pictures I have laminated are available for the children to look at. We have trees, Christmas food, Santa, Christmas decorations and various other Christmas related items.**

**I have recently introduced interest boxes for Autumn. We had conkers, leaves, bits of bark, conker cases and feathers. I will be doing a Christmas box and so far I have wrapping paper, gift tags, cards, tinsel, a reindeer puppet and many more items to add.**

**We have a lovely book collection all Christmas themed and many of these are proving popular.**

**I am very lucky that I am well supported by FOPP staff and the prison staff who are always on hand to help me. I am known as the mummy Angel of the visits hall by one member of staff. The parents appear to appreciate me being there. They inform me it is much better when I am in the play area. People have even changed their visit days so they come when I am in the play area.**

**Hope this gives you a little snippet into what I do. I am happy for anyone to come and spend sometime in the play area.**

**Kim**





## **Smoke free prison**

As of January 29th 2018 both sides of the prison will be smoke free.

Just a reminder that as of 11 September 2017 cigarettes, tobacco and lighters are prohibited items and are not to be bought into the prison.

Anyone who wishes to smoke must leave any cigarettes, tobacco and lighters outside the establishment and use the allocated smoking area only - the smoking shelter located in the staff car park. Smoking is not permitted in any other location

**Just a reminder –please keep your personal information confidential at all times– you are always within your right to politely decline to discuss any details with anyone– resident or staff member alike..**

A red rectangular stamp with a distressed, ink-like texture. The words "CONFIDENTIAL" and "INFORMATION" are stacked vertically in a bold, serif font.

**Thank you for all your help and support during 2017  
FOPP would not be here without you!**

A colorful graphic for the year 2018. The numbers "2018" are rendered in a multi-colored, splatter-style font. Below the numbers, the words "Happy New Year!" are written in a smaller, multi-colored font.