

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In appreciation of your valuable support, financial or in kind:

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- Seven Anonymous Donors
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- H. H. Charitable Trust
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- Tom's Field
- Salisbury Diocese Mothers Union
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- FOGM Friends & Volunteers
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Friends of
Guys Marsh
Prison

practical support • better futures

Charity No. 1168102

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OUR MISSION

FRIENDS OF GUYS MARSH PRISON MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and support for the benefit of the public at large (in partnership with staff and governors) viable programmes and initiatives aimed at the rehabilitation and resettlement of offenders who are, or who have been, inmates of HMP Guys Marsh.

JOIN US AT

Visit our fabulous stall with wooden items made in the workshop by residents of Guys Marsh.

MARNHULL FEST!

Marnhull Recreation Ground
Saturday 27th July

News *for* Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of Guys Marsh Prison No 16

Welcome to our Newsletter for 2018/2019...

Over the last year, you will have seen much negative coverage in the media of prisons and what goes on behind the wire. This does not tell the whole story of prison life nor especially of the men at Guys Marsh. There is a huge amount of positive activity going on that sadly doesn't make the headlines. You will see reported some of this in the following pages. There is also the regular drum beat of significant support to the families, the men and our on-going help to those that need it.

The bus from Gillingham continues to offer a vital link to help families visit, the support of a play worker during visits and family's days helps develop and strengthen the bonds between dads and their kids, a key factor in reducing reoffending, and several new initiatives we've started all aim to help prevent men from re-offending.

There have been a number of memorable events staged in the prison over the last year, especially the play Choices, written, produced and performed by the men. There was also a very moving art exhibition by one of the residents, set in the Jailhouse Café, in memory of the 100th anniversary of World War One.

Your continuing support allows us to help the men have a second chance, providing support (both material and emotional) to avoid re-offending and offers them a brighter future once they have served their time. Thank you.

Giles Fearn - Friends of Guys Marsh Prison Chair



Tracy Harrison receiving a camera from Giles and the FOGM committee giving residents the opportunity to take family pictures at the Barnardo's Visit Days.

ACTIVE YEAR FOR FRIENDS OF GUYS MARSH

During the year we have been joined by three new Trustees who have brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our group. The first suggestion was the introduction of Leavers' Bags in the form of small holdalls to alleviate the stigma of carrying belongings in a black sack on their return to society. After liaising with the Management team, the first bags began to be issued in January and for those who need it we include a pack of essential personal items to see them through their first few weeks.

At last the word is spreading effectively that we are open to requests for help to purchase tools for employment on release. Each applicant is assessed and if they pass our criteria they are presented with a voucher towards the items before departure. We have helped many men returning to or joining businesses in Plumbing, Building, DIY, IT, Catering and Art. We ask for feedback and have received some positive news from several of the men.

At times we are asked for items to enhance daily life for inmates and staff such as Christmas tree lights for the Chapel Garden, replacement Anglican hymn books, and a dedicated camera for rehabilitation projects. The purchase of many of these have been procured with the financial support through partnership working.

Occasionally we receive larger requests. The prison has made a new, exciting arrangement with Bath Rugby Club for them to hold coaching sessions for our men once a pitch is established on an area which was previously wasteland. To allow visiting teams to play, the disused stables needed conversion into changing rooms but this was outside the prison's budget. We agreed to cover the cost of materials and are delighted with the building team's achievement.

Ongoing projects (including promoting family relationships, visitor transport, in-cell hobby materials) continue to aid rehabilitation. Not so positive news is that the new Play Worker who started her role so well had an accident and was laid off until her injury has healed sufficiently.

Several charitable trusts support us, money was raised from our outside efforts and some of the men are keen to donate from their wages too. A realistic and uplifting play written and acted by inmates depicting prison life and the difficulties of overcoming peer pressure, was produced and performed over several days for the prison community and invited involved outside organisations. It was received to great acclaim, deserving a far wider audience. The receipts from the tickets (paid by inmates, staff and visitors alike) was presented to FOGM and will be directed to fund our projects. For the year ahead we are planning several fund raising events for Friends and the public to enjoy.

Trustees have taken part in appropriate training sessions and internal meetings and attended prison organised Resettlement events.

Our search is on for a trustee or volunteer able to keep our website up to date.

FRIENDS OF GUYS MARSH PRISON (FOGM) SUBSCRIPTION FORM

☐

I wish to renew my subscription.

☐

I wish to become a Friend to support FOGM's work (please say how you heard about us)

.....

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

Email:

Data protection: By providing the above information you consent to it being kept on FOGM's database to receive our news. We confirm that your details will not be passed to, or shared with, any other organisation. **You may withdraw your consent at any time.**

Annual subscription: £10 £20 £25 £50 Other £

As an example, £45 pays for three fully kitted leavers' bags given to men locating to a hostel or no fixed abode. £80 pays for a Play Worker to work for a whole weekend with children visiting their fathers.

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to: **Friends of Guys Marsh Prison**

I would like to pay by standing order - please send me a form - Yes / No

Date:

Gift Aid declaration: Please sign below if you are a UK taxpayer and wish us to Reclaim tax paid on your donations which will increase its value to us by 25%. This is only allowable provided you have paid at least as much tax from income or Capital Gains as we are reclaiming.

Signed:

Please send form and cheque to: The Treasurer, Friends of Guys Marsh Prison, HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0AH





Sir Barry Wilson with members of the FOGM committee in 2014

Last September a Memorial Service was held in memory of this remarkable man who was the founder member, first Chairman and life-long supporter of FOGM. Due to his compassionate resolve to improve the crime free life chances for inmates on their release, in 2004 he invited a small group of people, all formerly associated in some way with HMP Guys Marsh, to develop the aims and objectives to create our new charity. He brought his huge enthusiasm, great energy and peerless interpersonal skills to the task, leading us through our formative years, which has enabled FOGM to grow into the organisation we are today.

At the loving family service Sir Barry's distinguished career in the Royal Navy was honoured by many of his colleagues, together with representatives and friends from the many other organisations, charities and communities who had been privileged to have known him and benefited from his involvement.

RUGBY PROJECT

Exciting developments on a project that FOGM has helped fund. Thanks to a very proactive prison officer, a team has embarked on a task that will contribute to the wellbeing, discipline, team building and self-esteem of the residents.

He has drawn up a plan to take a piece of waste ground behind the gym and create a rugby pitch, at the same time forming a team and offering a way of instilling many of the attributes someone needs on the road to self-discipline to avoid repeat offending.

He made a strong appeal to the Governor and deputy Governor, who shared his vision and could see the benefits of the plan and with their backing he has got the men to remove all the old fencing and debris off the waste ground before preparing the area ready for seeding.

Utilising the budget to the optimum, an outside company, specialising in re-turfing sports fields, came in and re-seeded the playing surface. The support of Bath Rugby club has also been of tremendous help - they have agreed the GM team can use their colours and will be donating kit! Awesome.

So, I hear you ask, where do FOGM appear? Well, to the side of the intended playing area were some very old and dilapidated horse stables. Drawing up another plan for funding, the PO presented the FOGM committee with a well-costed and researched request for the goods he needed to turn the run-down stables into home and away changing rooms. We used our contacts in the building industry to secure all the items he wanted - and at a more competitive price. So, a win-win for his project and FOGM.



One of our FOGM committee members went one better and has now also introduced North Dorset Rugby Club to the Prison Officer and as we speak, the grass is growing and North Dorset Rugby Club are talking about how all parties can now work together.

Watch this space for updates as the project develops and look out for details of the first match!

VINTAGE TEA PARTY AND EXHIBITION OF WW1 INSPIRED ART



The Jailhouse café set the scene splendidly for a tea party with a forties theme and was well rewarded with a full house. Many local people came and joined in with staff and supporters of Guys Marsh to see the exhibition of art by Danny Roberts.

His work, inspired by the WW1 centenary, was a dramatic display of the horrors of war both at sea and on the land; his tenderness depicting the effect of war on the family was an amazing insight into the grim reality and consequence of war. Dramatic paintings of soldiers amid the poppies, young couples and children embracing their loved ones, and a warship amid the terror of mine ridden seas.

Danny had found his love for art during his last two years at Guys Marsh, his talent seemed just waiting to be discovered and to this day many of the walls surrounding the wings within Guys Marsh are the brighter for his murals. His pictures were offered for sale by donation to the British Legion and over three hundred pounds was raised.



DORSET VOLUNTEER AWARDS EVENING 2018

Charities, public and private organisations, businesses and team initiatives. It was an eye opener; Dorset is amazing and so much of it passes us by unnoticed.

It was an inspiring and humbling experience to be part of this event and I accepted my award from the Lord Lieutenant with delight that my colleagues had thought to honour me this way although, in truth, being able to volunteer is the reward in itself.

An appreciation of Bobbie Primrose's contribution to FOGM

Bobbie was one of the six founding trustees of FOGM in 2004 and has ever since been committed to upholding its ideals. As Treasurer and liaison person for all our Friends her role was immense and when the secretary post became vacant she found herself taking on that role as well. She has, in fact, spent the last fifteen years working tirelessly for the successful rehabilitation of our residents. Thankfully, Annie took on the Secretarial role and Bobbie has been able to hand over the post of Treasurer, as at the end of last year we were joined by new enthusiastic trustees, very knowledgeable in business management. She will remain as liaison officer for Friends of FOGM and still a very strong valued member of our committee.

Giles Fearn, Chairman

An extract from an article on Sky News, 28/05/19

Greene King provides employment opportunities for offenders to make a new start in life as revealed in this touching article.

Often people forget that those who end up being sent to prison are just normal people, sometimes good people, who took a wrong turn and find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. Sometimes all people need is a job. Thinking about it, if someone is a drug dealer and that is all they've ever known, they go to prison and then they come out and can't get a job, what are they going to do? They have no option but to make money on the streets again. Giving that person a job will change their life. The apprenticeship and job with Greene King gave me the opportunity to prove myself – not a chance that everyone gets. And now my family are proud of me. I have future, maybe a restaurant of my own some day. I know without this job I would have ended up inside or worse.

DORSET VOLUNTEER AWARDS EVENING 2018

The invitation to attend the 'Volunteer of the Year Award Evening' came as a total surprise and quite a mystery so we arrived with some curiosity about the event. On entering the hall in Dorchester we were warmly welcomed and amazed to see it packed with beautifully decorated tables with a selection of drinks and delicious canapes for all the guests. On our table there were people from a diverse range of different charities which engendered interesting conversation whilst we waited for the ceremony to begin; all wondering who would win the Volunteer of the Year Award. We soon realised that not one, but everyone was appointed a winner!

The Master of Ceremonies introduced the Special Guests; the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Angus Campbell, Lady Fellowes and Joe Langtree, to present different awards. He explained that we were gathered to celebrate the volunteers who had given an 'outstanding volunteering contribution' to their organisation and had been nominated by their peers. Throughout the evening people were called up to be presented with their award after we heard the details of their volunteering activities associated with their various charities, public private organisations and businesses with team initiatives.



FOGM MAKES A STAND AT CHRISTMAS IN THE CAR PARK!

To kickstart his 2019 fund raising, Atul, the popular owner of Robin Hill Stores in Marnhull, decided to organise a small charity craft fair in the car park, just before Christmas. Fortunately, he picked a date when it wasn't raining or blowing a gale – it's the right time of year for miracles, after all! – and invited a number of other local businesses and charities to run a stall.

FOGM was one of the 8 stalls represented and did a roaring trade in selling the delightful bird boxes, planters, hedgehog houses and bug hotels made by the residents of Guys Marsh as they learn, practice and hone their woodworking skills. The items were all very reasonably priced and made ideal Christmas gifts. The most expensive items were the hedgehog houses, but at a mere £25 these were soon snapped up and hopefully are now in situ and occupied!

This was a great opportunity to spread the word about the excellent work being carried out at Guys Marsh and the efforts the residents are making to change their lives and learn new skills. It also gave our hardy trustees who manned the stall a chance to talk to the visitors about FOGM, which certainly generated a lot of interest. Once all the money was added up and pledges settled, a grand total of £310 was raised. A very rewarding return for a couple of hours in the cold! As had been previously agreed, the money was split between Guys Marsh, so the proceeds could be used to purchase additional materials, and FOGM to put towards further events and support for the residents.

A big thank you to the trustees for withstanding the cold – hope you've thawed out now!



The FOGM trustees held a brainstorming session at one of their recent meetings to decide on some additional fundraising activities to undertake in the coming year.

There have been increasing demands on FOGM funds which, really, are just what we want as these funds are being used to support those prisoners keen to make progress and develop careers once they leave Guys Marsh.

However, this does mean we cannot rest on our laurels and no doubt none of us would wish to have to deny a valid request for support due to an empty bank account!

The results of the brainstorm are still being evaluated as we go to press, however two clear “leaders” have emerged from the list of suggested activities. These are, firstly, a Quiz Night and secondly, a concert by the Military Wives Choir. We hope to organise these two events to take place during the second half of 2019 and will be advertising in the Blackmore Vale magazine when they are due to take place.

You do not have to wait to register your interest for either of these events. Simply email with your details and the particular event you would like to attend and we'll keep you updated as the details firm up.

Email: info@friendsofguysmarsh.co.uk

In the meantime, look out for the Friends of Guys Marsh stall at the Marnhull Fest.

Marnhull Fest on Saturday 27th July.

We will be selling some of the lovely woodwork items made by the residents in the Workshop at Guys Marsh. These include many garden items such as bird boxes, bird feeders, hedgehog houses, bug hotels and planters as well as more general items like storage crates, picket fencing, dog beds, welly racks and so on.

Come and visit our stand – we'd be delighted to welcome you in person and we're sure you'll find something that will enhance your garden or home!

CHOICES

I was surprised to meet several people I knew attending the performance. We were then escorted to the chapel, which would be the theatre for the evening. I noticed that there was a sense of calm yet excited expectation, perfectly normal just before any performance. I was shown to my seat and it then struck me that I did not need to try and distinguish between those on the "outside" and those on the "inside"; we were all on the inside.

The play was spell-binding; superbly paced and hard-hitting without being extreme. A member of the audience asked me afterwards what had shocked me most; I suspect she expected my answer to be about the language, the suicide, the drugs, the intimidation and so forth but actually the thing that shocked me most was the overwhelming sense of hope, I had not expected it. Set inside a prison, the play explored the choices available to us all and the consequences that they set in place; when to be brave, when to show compassion, when to enact change, to set in motion a set of events that lead to a greater destiny. The playwright, Kam, had quoted Barack Obama: *"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."*

I left Guys Marsh a changed person that evening. I realised that this was THE volunteering opportunity I had been looking for and have since become a trustee of FOGM.

Shaun Bracey



**Visit the Jailhouse Café
open Monday to Friday
from 10 am to 3 pm**

HAVE YOU A LITTLE TIME TO VOLUNTEER?

Saturday Refreshments Rota - Can you spare 2.5 hours around lunch time on a Saturday just once every 2/3 months? To welcome the visitors in our little kitchen in the Visits Centre outside the fence and offer hot or cold drinks whilst they wait to make their visit inside. It's interesting and very easy. Please contact us via info@friendsofguysmarsh.co.uk if you are interested in this opportunity, or wish to learn more about other voluntary openinas within Guvs Marsh.

CHOICES

CHOICES – The play, written by a resident of Guys Marsh, was an amazing production, its content sharing the realities of drug taking and how it affects the lives of many of the men in prison. The actors were to be applauded for their ability to get a very serious message of life in prison across to the audience, in particular the consequence of choosing to follow the drug habit.

Written by Kam, who had seen the reality of taking this path and had made the positive decision to reject any such habit, decided to write the play and with much support from Dr Sarah Lewis and the Growth team the production became a reality and was shared by staff, prisoners and many supporters of Guys Marsh. I feel sure it will have had quite a lasting effect on those who watched it. Kam is to be congratulated!!

In all over £1,000 was raised which was donated to FOGM – so in turn will be available to help more men within the prison.

Kam and the Growth team wanted to thank the Chapel for their unstinting help over the several weeks, and asked if FOGM could arrange that 30 copies of the Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New be donated to them. This we achieved with the generous support of The Mothers Union of the Salisbury diocese.

The impact of this play has changed at least one person's perspective of prison life, please read his review below.

I feel very fortunate to have attended a performance of "Choices" at Guys Marsh in January, a play written and performed by residents. One of my New Year resolutions is to explore opportunities for volunteering and I had visited the Volunteer Centre in Dorchester to find out where my time could be best spent; I had not expected to find myself so quickly gaining experience first hand, so was delighted that one of the staff invited me as her guest that evening. For the rest of the day I churned over endless questions in my mind and was a little apprehensive of being the other side of the fence. Will the play be any good? Will I have to speak to prisoners? Will I be shocked by the content? What ID will I need? What can I take in to the prison? Was I safe? It struck me that I was already putting up mental barriers and that I should be open to whatever happened rather than trying to draw on stereotypes.

THE LEAVERS' BAG INITIATIVE

I'm sure most of us would agree that feeling clean is one of the simple pleasures of life. It makes us feel healthy, fresh, increases our self-esteem and prepares us for the day.

How much more important would this be to someone restarting their life after a spell inside Guys Marsh as a resident. Whilst the excitement of being "outside" may be enough for some, for others, release day can bring with it huge challenges. Finding somewhere to sleep, finding work, managing and organising your own time, filling your day with worthwhile activities and trying not to slip back into old patterns of behaviour that may be unproductive or destructive.

Friends of Guys Marsh have tried to help take some of that stress away and provide the newly released with a small gift in the shape of a Leavers Bag.

The bags contain enough toiletries for a few weeks, essential in being able to maintain a level of personal hygiene and independence that makes everyone feel better.

Also within the bag are a torch, notebook and pen. All brand new, fresh, clean stock with no history attached but just being offered in the spirit of friendship and as a helping hand to those who may not have anyone or anything waiting for them outside the gates.

Bags are offered to any of the leavers who are in need, as identified by staff connected with the Catch 22 programme.

Bag contents:

- Washbag
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Razors and shaving gel
- Shampoo
- Comb
- Shower gel
- Notebook & pen
- Torch

If you would like to donate to enable us to continue with this worthwhile and practical support, please visit our website

<http://friendsofguysmarsh.co.uk/support-our-work/>



Thank you!

BARNARDO'S FAMILY ROLE

The Barnardo's service at Guys Marsh is part of the overall drive to reduce reoffending and to alleviate the impact on children of parental absence and the inevitable consequences of offending on families. In my role as Barnardo's Family Engagement Worker at Guys Marsh my work is really varied and rewarding. One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is spending time preparing activities for the children who attend domestic and family visits. We try to provide activities that encourage children to interact and bond with their loved one and to help them manage their feelings about having a loved one in prison. Making memory boxes is particularly popular, especially when there are lots of feathers and glitter to decorate them with. It's really heart-warming watching a father and child sit down to play together or make something special together. I also offer support to adult visitors coming to see their loved ones. This can involve giving them information about the visits process, directing them to whom they can contact if they are worried about the safety of a loved one or just providing a friendly listening ear for someone visiting for the first time.

Families can contact us for support via email, phone or in person. We receive many queries, from "what is the process when my partner is released" to "are there any books that I can read to my children about prison". I have recently started a craft group, alongside Story Book Dads, where men can make things to send home to their children. Last week we made praise cards and one man told me that his children had been delighted to receive something from him in the post. We have a small but wonderful group of volunteers who support the work that Barnardo's does for families at Guys Marsh. Anyone who would be interested in volunteering with Barnardo's can contact our volunteering co-coordinator Penny:

Penny.fisher@barnardos.org.uk.

Easter bags provided by FOGM for children at the Easter family visit.



BARNARDO'S FAMILY ROLE

From a Volunteer

Banardo's family days are great days for inmates and families to spend time as a family together. The last family day was just before Easter, children and dads made Easter hats, Easter cards for each other, and in general had a real family day including lunch, dads and children played games, pool, and in general both children and fathers really gain from these special days, which are totally relaxed from the formal visit days. It is so important when you see families united in this manner.

From Aimee Derrick, Barnardo's Family Engagement Worker

I just wanted to share a bit of feedback with you all about how your support helps in a very positive way. I know a while ago FOGM bought a photo printer for the prison to use for families. I wanted you to know that it is still going strong and at every family visit having photos (using the camera donated by Salisbury Diocese Mother's Union) has been the most important part of the visit for families. I also have just started using it with men who don't have visits so that they can send photos to their children showing them their room and where they work at the prison.

THE GROWTH PROJECT

The work that the Growth Project has undertaken in Guys Marsh has had a massively positive impact on the lives of those living and working within the prison. A quote from one of the residents sums up how much we all value the work of Dr Sarah Lewis: "since this project began, we feel there is hope where before there was very little. We, at last, have hope for our futures

From Dr Sarah Lewis (penal reform solutions)

We have had a busy time on the Growth Project this year following a positive report from the inspection, which highlighted a robust rehabilitative culture. With a new team in place we have carried out training for staff around growth and reflective practice, to assist and support staff in their day to day work. We have also carried out research training with a mixed team of residents and staff, to work together in understanding the persistent issues linked to drug use in prison.

After performing our play, based around spice use in the prison community, we analysed the feedback and were reassured about the messages of commitment and motivation in helping the prison in addressing spice use.

I remain amazed and overwhelmed by the talent and commitment of the staff and residents here at Guys Marsh and hope to go from strength to strength as the year progresses.