



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Institute of Criminology

Is Probation Still Possible?

Peter Raynor

Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
School of Law, Swansea University

14th Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 22nd June 2011, **at 1.00pm for 2.30pm**
Faculty of Law, 10 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DZ

- 1.00pm – Registration and refreshments (Institute of Criminology)
- 2.30pm – *Is Probation Still Possible?*
to be given by Professor Peter Raynor
- 3.30pm – Response and discussion
- 4.30pm – Tea and coffee
- 5.00pm – End of event

*The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture is supported by
the Probation Association, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, and the late Hugh Sanders OBE*

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

To book a place please contact: Joanne Garner,
Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA
Tel: 01223 335360, Email: jf225@cam.ac.uk
(When booking, please state if you have problems with mobility)

Fourteenth Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Is Probation Still Possible?

Peter Raynor



Peter Raynor is currently Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Swansea University, a post he has held since 1996. Brought up in Birmingham, he studied classics and philosophy and worked in bookselling before joining the Probation Service as a trainee and obtaining a BPhil in Social Work and a CQSW at Exeter University. After some years as a main grade officer in Gloucester he moved to Swansea University as a lecturer in social work, continuing for a while to do part-time work with the West Glamorgan Probation Service. He was Director of social work training in Swansea from 1981 to 1993, and was awarded a PhD in 1987 for his research on alternatives to custodial sentences for young adult offenders. During the 1980s he was also closely involved with the National Association of Victim Support Schemes and helped to start the first Victim Support Scheme in Wales.

His research over the last 30 years has covered many aspects of work with offenders. Studies carried out for the Home Office and for probation services have included evaluations of enhanced probation, cognitive-behavioural programmes, pre-sentence reports, services for substance misusers in prison and in the community, voluntary and statutory resettlement of prisoners, risk and need assessment, 'pathfinder' resettlement programmes, the experiences of people from ethnic minorities who are subject to probation supervision, and the skills used by probation officers in individual supervision. He has also contributed to service development and/or training in Scotland, Ireland, Romania, Spain and the Channel Islands.

His involvement with practice and policy has included membership of a Probation Committee and a Probation Board; of Accreditation Panels for England and Wales and for Scotland, and of Scotland's National Advisory Body on Offender Management. He represented the Wales Assembly Government on the NOMS Stakeholder Forum until its abolition by NOMS, and is currently a member of Wales's National Criminal Justice Forum. In academic life he has held two Nuffield Foundation Social Science Research Fellowships and has been a visiting Fellow at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology and the Oxford Centre for Criminological Research, and an 'invited Professor' on the inter-University Masters in Criminology in Barcelona. He has also been a member of Research Assessment Exercise panels in 1996 and 2001. He has published many articles and book chapters and several books, starting with *Social Work, Justice and Control* in 1985 and including, most recently, *Rehabilitation, Crime and Justice* (with Gwen Robinson) and *Offender Supervision* (edited with Fergus McNeill and Chris Trotter).

THE BILL McWILLIAMS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Bill McWilliams, who died in 1997, had a prestigious career as a probation practitioner, researcher and writer. His quartet of articles on the probation service's development up to the point at which the "punishment in the community" debate began, is now widely regarded as its definitive history of ideas. He was a staunch advocate of the need for rigorous evaluation of probation practice – but an equally staunch critic of the excesses of the management ideal. He had an independence of mind – irritating to more timid souls – that won him friends across the spectrum of political opinion in the Service. There are many who would say – as W.H. Auden said of George Orwell – "how I wish he were still alive, so that I could read his comments on contemporary events".

To keep his spirit alive, a group of Bill's relatives, colleagues and friends has established *The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture*. It is intended to honour the contribution he made to the probation service over a thirty-year period and keep his perspectives at the forefront of probation thinking as the Service moves into the 21st century. Beginning in 1998, speakers to date have been Ken Pease (Professor of Criminology), John Harding (then Chief Probation Officer), Barbara Hudson (Professor of Law), Martin Wargent (then Chief Executive of the Probation Boards' Association), Antony Duff (Professor of Philosophy), Rod Morgan (then HM Chief Inspector of Probation), Todd Clear (Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice), Hindpal Singh Bhui (HM Inspector of Prisons), Anthony Bottoms (then Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge and Professorial Fellow in Criminology, University of Sheffield), Mike Nellis (Professor of Criminal and Community Justice, University of Strathclyde), Judy McKnight (then General Secretary, Napo), Loraine Gelsthorpe (Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice) and John Crawforth (then Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Probation Trust). Each of the lectures has been, or is to be, published in *The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice* (see below). The lecture series has already run over a thirteen-year period - the "transition years" of the 20th to 21st centuries - developing a tradition of drawing on academic and professional contributors and using educational and probation service settings in different parts of the country. It has now been scheduled to continue for the next two years in the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge.

For information or to offer suggestions about the development of the lecture series, please contact *The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture* Steering Group at 48 Rock Road, Cambridge, CB1 7UF; e-mail nq69@dial.pipex.com; tel 01223 511810.

References for the lectures:

- Pease, K. (1999) 'The probation career of Al Truism', *Howard Journal*, 38, 2-16.
- Harding, J. (2000) 'A community justice dimension to effective probation practice', *Howard Journal*, 39, 132-49.
- Hudson, B. (2001) 'Human rights, public safety and the probation service: defending justice in the risk society', *Howard Journal*, 40, 103-13.
- Wargent, M. (2002) 'The new governance of probation', *Howard Journal*, 41, 182-200.
- Duff, R.A. (2003) 'Probation, punishment and restorative justice: should Al Truism be engaged in punishment?', *Howard Journal*, 42, 181-97.
- Morgan, R. (2004) 'Thinking about the future of probation inspection', *Howard Journal*, 43, 79-92.
- Clear, T.R. (2005) 'Places not cases? Re-thinking the probation focus', *Howard Journal*, 44, 172-84.
- Bhui, H.S. (2006) 'Anti-racist practice in NOMS: reconciling managerialist and professional realities', *Howard Journal*, 45, 171-90.
- Bottoms, A. (2008) 'The community dimension of community penalties', *Howard Journal*, 47, 146-69.
- McKnight, J. (2009) 'Speaking up for probation', *Howard Journal*, 48, 327-43.