



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology

Why Probation Matters

Sue Hall



Chief Executive, West Yorkshire Probation Trust
and Chair, Probation Chiefs Association

17th Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Tuesday 17th June 2014, **at 1.00pm for 2.30pm**

Faculty of Law (LG18), 10 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DZ

- 1.00pm – Registration and refreshments (Faculty of Law, Atrium)
- 2.30pm – *Why Probation Matters*
to be given by Sue Hall
- 3.30pm – Response and discussion
- 4.30pm – Tea and coffee (5.00pm End of event)

The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture is generously supported by the Probation Chiefs 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, or any special dietary requirements)

Seventeenth Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Why Probation Matters

SUE HALL OBE



Sue Hall qualified as a probation officer in 1979 with her first job in Grimsby. Sue stayed with Humberside Probation Service for 20 years. She moved to West Yorkshire as Deputy Chief Officer in 2000 and has been a Chief Officer since 2004, working first in South Wales, then returning to West Yorkshire in 2005, where she is currently Chief Executive of the Trust. She received an OBE for services to probation in 2010.

Throughout her career Sue has been very committed to strengthening the profile of probation as a profession. She was a founder member of the Probation Chiefs Association and has been Chair since 2009. She has sought to raise professional concerns in relation to the government's Transforming Rehabilitation Programme, giving evidence on a number of occasions to the Justice Select Committee.

Sue is a transitional director of the newly launched independent Probation Institute, which aims to develop a strong probation profession across the public, voluntary and private sectors and to become a centre of excellence.

She also has an interest in international probation and believes that probation in England and Wales has much to learn from developments in Europe and the rest of the world. She has been a member of the Board of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) since 2010 and is currently Vice-President. She chaired the planning committee for the successful World Congress on Probation held in London in 2013.

In July 2014, Sue will step down from her current post, following the dissolution of the West Yorkshire Probation Trust as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme. Although she will be leaving the National Offender Management Service, she intends to continue supporting the development of the Probation Institute and promoting excellence in professional practice.

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), the late 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, University of Cambridge), John Crawforth (then Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Probation Trust), Peter Raynor (Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Swansea University), Steve Collett (Retired Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area/Trust (2001–2010)), and Paul Senior (Director, Hallam Centre for Community Justice, Sheffield). 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 sixteen-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 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 brendamcwilliams70@gmail.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.
Crawforth, J. (2011) 'Taking on trust: new leadership perspectives for probation', *Howard Journal*, 50, 289-306.
Raynor, P. (2012) 'Is probation still possible?', *Howard Journal*, 51, 173-89.
Collett, S. (2013) 'Riots, revolution and rehabilitation: the future of probation', *Howard Journal*, 52, 163-89.

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The 2014 lecture is sponsored by the Probation Chiefs Association.*