



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Dorset
Probation Trust



Institute of Criminology

Riots, Revolution and Rehabilitation: The Future of Probation

Steve Collett

Retired Chief Officer
Cheshire Probation Area/Trust (2001-2010)

15th Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 20th June 2012, **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 – *Riots, Revolution and Rehabilitation: The Future of Probation*
to be given by Steve Collett
- 3.30pm – Response and discussion
- 4.30pm – Tea and coffee (5.00pm End of event)

The Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture is supported by Dorset Probation Trust, 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)

Fifteenth Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture

Riots, Revolution and Rehabilitation: The Future of Probation

Steve Collett



Steve Collett was appointed Chief Officer of Cheshire Probation Area in April 2001 and retired in December 2010 after a career which began as a probation assistant in Bootle, Merseyside in 1974. After qualifying in social work (Liverpool University) in 1977 he worked in a variety of roles within both Merseyside and Greater Manchester Probation Services. Steve also taught social work and social policy in further/higher education in the early 1980s before returning to probation to take up a joint appointment with Merseyside Probation and Liverpool University (1987–1991). He has been an Honorary Fellow within the Department of Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology since then.

Steve chaired the Cheshire Criminal Justice Board between October 2004 and January 2007 and was a founding vice chair of the Probation Chiefs Association from April 2008 to November 2010. He has also maintained a 20-year commitment to *Probation Journal* through his membership of its Editorial Board, and has written on a variety of criminal justice and social policy issues for peer-reviewed journals. Following his retirement in 2011 he was made an Honorary Reader in Criminology at the University of Manchester.

Steve's interest in social work and criminal justice grew out of his work as a residential volunteer in 1971 for the Liverpool Simon Community – a locally based homelessness charity – in which he retained involvement for over 30 years. He was a trustee of the charity and chair of its Council of Management for 12 years until its incorporation within a national housing charity in 2005.

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, University of Cambridge), John Crawforth (then Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Probation Trust), and Peter Raynor (Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Swansea University). 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 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.