

C a P

Crime and Punishment Collections Network

**NEWSLETTER AND
INFORMATION
FOR MEMBERS**

October 2005

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Well here we are, I'm thrilled to find myself writing a welcome piece for our first newsletter and I can't believe how smoothly the whole founding process has been. For those unaware, the idea for a network was originally proposed by Debbie Snow at Ruthin Gaol and coincidentally the staff here at the Galleries of Justice had been thinking along the same lines, as I'm sure a number of you were too. Consequently we were keen to help make this a reality and when the funding for the exploratory process was announced we were eager to help make Debbie's suggestion a reality. Nevertheless, I remain a little surprised that the whole process proceeded so smoothly and this in essence is a consequence of the overwhelming interest and support I found for the project, nationally. We are now a recognised Subject Support Network and all of you are the reason this has become a reality.

However, it is worth remembering that with the formation of CAP comes a degree of membership and committee responsibility. All we have at present is a commitment, an infrastructure and a plan. The success of the network will be down to the dedication of the members and the relevance of the work we undertake. It is vital that this network actively works to make member's lives easier. If we fail to be useful we will fail to be used. Therefore I urge everyone to help us shape the kind of network you need. If you have recently been involved with a project which has been a success then this may be the basis upon which a workshop event could be organised. If you have discovered something which might be of interest to other members then why not share this in the newsletter and if you have a problem or question then why not contact the membership as a first option. For the committee's part in this, they will be measured by their actions. In my opinion it is vital that the committee remains (and considers themselves) answerable to the membership. Responding to their needs will be the biggest challenge for all committee members. I hope that we are on the threshold of the creation of a resource which will impact in a positive way upon all of our lives.

I am extremely excited and honoured to be a part of this process and I hope we will go on to continue to surprise ourselves by what we can achieve together and the difference we can make. It only leaves me to welcome you all to this first CAP publication, thank you for your commitment and hope that you will join me in helping to make our network a success. This could be a long and interesting road and I value your company.

Paul Baker
Chair

INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT COLLECTIONS NETWORK

**The first ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place at the
Galleries of Justice, Lace Market, Nottingham
On Tuesday 22nd November 2005**

The day's activities will be made up as follows although this is provisional and if you have any ideas or want something included, please let me know.

Please note that we are limited for time bearing in mind that members will be travelling from all corners of the UK:

9.30am	Registration - tea/coffee
10am	Welcome by the Chief Executive of G of J
10.10am	Introduction to CAP by acting Chair-Paul Baker, Curator of G of J
10.30am	A G M (agenda items welcome)
11.30am	Members split into two groups. One group to do historical walk through the GoJ, the other group will tour 'behind the scenes' areas, storage, education suites etc.
12.45pm	LUNCH - a hot buffet with a vegetarian option
1.45pm	Group tours in reverse
3.15pm	Close

Tea / coffee / water will be available throughout the day.

You will all by now have received the details of the CaP Conference - as above. I can't say I have been overwhelmed with applications yet but this will serve as a reminder.

Let us make this a success as I am sure we will all benefit from each other's experiences and the ups and downs of our collections. You know what they say, "A trouble shared is a trouble halved."

The cost to you for the day will be £22 per person.

Please email me at maggie.e.bird@met.police.uk to book a place (or six) no later than **Friday 28th October**.

Send your payment to Ralph Lindley at Ripon Museum Trust, The Workhouse Museum, Allhallowgate, Ripon, HG4 1LE.

Maggie Bird

Conference Co-ordinator

PRISON SERVICE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE PSC NEWBOLD REVEL

Our mission is to deliver a quality Library and Information Service to staff working in HM Prison Service, and to Training and Development Group staff and course members., and to provide access to Prison Service related information to other organisations in the criminal justice system.”

The Prison Service Library, based at Prison Service College Newbold Revel, provides a library and information service, free of charge, to all staff working in prison establishments and to members of Independent Monitoring Boards. Bona fide researchers from outside the Prison Service may be able to use the Library for reference purposes; applications should be made in writing.

The Library's main strengths are in the areas of criminology, penology, offender management, forensic psychology, management and training. There is also an archive collection of 19th century prison books and reports, which may be used for reference purposes.

Loans and photocopies may be provided from the Library's collection of over 20,000 items or, if the material required is not held in the Library, inter-library loans may be arranged, at the discretion of the Librarian. There is no limit to the number of items that may be borrowed from Library stock, though creation of mini-library collections is discouraged.

As well as books, pamphlets and periodicals the Library holds an extensive collection of Prison Service Instructions, Instructions to Governors, Advice to Governors, Notices to Staff and Home Office Notices, copies of which can be made and sent to enquirers.

The Library acquires an increasing amount of material on CD, including Encyclopaedia Britannica, British Books in Print and Criminal Justice Abstracts. These can be used to answer requests for information, perform literature searches or provide reading lists. Access to the Internet means we can answer a wide range of enquiries from a wide range of sources and, in some cases, provide full-text documents.

The Learning Resource Centre holds the College's collection of training videos, training exercises, computer-based training packages and audiocassettes, including some language tapes. It should be noted that this department was set up to support Training Services' staff and, therefore, does not provide a postal loan service in the same way that the Library does.

Library Opening Hours:

Monday	1000-1730
Tuesday – Thursday	0830-1730
Friday	0830-1400

For any further information about the Library and how it can help you, please contact:

Catherine Fell (Librarian):

Tel: 01788 804119

Fax: 01788 804114

E-mail: Catherine.fell@hmps.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Library, Prison Service Training and Development Group, PSC Newbold Revel, RUGBY, Warkwickshire CV23 0TH

POLICE ARCHIVES AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Since the late 1980s, the Open University's History Department has been at the forefront of the preservation and study of British police records. Under the direction of Professor Clive Emsley, the OU's European Centre for the Study of Policing has played a key role in founding and developing the academic study of police history.

In 1990, Clive Emsley and Ian Bridgeman published the results of a survey into the police archives of England and Wales, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. This was the first survey of the surviving records: its main defect is that the continuing chaos in the preservation policies of most (by no means all) British police forces means that much of it is obsolete, and some of the records identified in it have since been lost.

We have acted as an 'archive of last resort' for much miscellaneous policing-related material from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and often end up unloading boxes of books, journals or documents from the boots of our cars! Following a general public plea, we have also received copies of many police memoirs and autobiographies, published and unpublished. We hold the private papers of Eric St. Johnston, who retired as Chief Inspector of Constabulary in 1970.

Recent donations of books and other material from the City of London Police, Grampian Police, Essex Police, and the Metropolitan Police have added to our collection, which is now particularly strong for the middle years of the twentieth century, and includes a run of *Police Journal* from its origin in the 1920s up to 1975. The archive also includes photographs, oral history tapes, and a few artefacts.

We have a number of unique 16mm films from the City Police, many of which were produced in the 1950s and 1960s by the City Police Film Unit. We intend to professionally digitise and preserve these as soon as we can find someone willing to foot the bill. As a pilot project, we have digitised 'October 68', the film made by the CPFU of the policing of the demonstration against the Vietnam War: this includes footage of the first operational use of closed circuit TV for public order purposes, and is available for research access on DVD.

In June 2004 we organised a conference on the 'Heritage and History of the UK's Criminal Justice System', which highlighted the challenges

and opportunities of the policy and practice of police history, concentrating on the issue of archival preservation. The papers from this were published in 2004 as *'Giving the Past a Future'*, and copies are available from us for £10.

The most important archival resource at Milton Keynes is undoubtedly the archive of the Association of Chief Police Officers, which was given to us last year. It includes a large amount of material relating to the period between the 1950s and 2002, which covers almost all the topics that ACPO concerned themselves with. It forms an invaluable archive of the development of British police practice over the last 50 years.

At the time of writing, we have catalogued the ACPO archive items from the early 1980s onwards, and are in the process of setting up access arrangements (and restrictions) for this material. We envisage that this section of the archive will be open to the public for research purposes in 2006. The process of learning from it has already begun: following a successful bid by the Centre for funding from our Faculty and the OU Research School, a research student has just started his doctoral dissertation project using this archive to trace the evolution of neighbourhood policing strategies between 1980 and the present.

Members of the Centre have taken an active part in the process that has led to the creation of the CAP network, and we are looking forward to collaborating with other museums and archives. We are also interested in looking at the way that the image of the criminal justice system in the past is constructed and presented. As well as running research projects and the archive, we run a series of one-day research seminars on various aspects of the history of police and crime in Britain and beyond. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for this, please contact us.

Chris Williams (Lecturer in History)

You can contact the Centre by email at: v.f.humphrey@open.ac.uk, or by post at: Valerie Humphrey, Arts Faculty, Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.



NEW GALLERY FOR THE HM PRISON SERVICE COLLECTION AT THE GALLERIES OF JUSTICE

The Gulbenkian Prize winning National Centre for Citizenship and the Law (NCCL) Galleries of Justice museum, in Nottingham has recently been through a refurbishment to incorporate a new gallery for the HM Prison Service Collection.

Most items are on public display for the first time and the gallery uses cells in the formerly derelict 1833 prison wing as exhibit spaces. Objects on display include whipping posts, treadmill steps, escape equipment, improvised weapons, costumes, prisoner art and items associated with the Chaplain and the Surgeon.

"The arrival of the national HM Prison Service Collection is a huge boost," said NCCL Chief Executive, Graham Brown. "The collection will play a huge part in the re-shaping of the organisation and its exhibitions by giving a better attraction to visitors and enabling us to broaden our citizenship work with young people."

The museum acquired the collection following the closure of the HM Prison Service Museum in Rugby earlier this year. 12,000 objects were moved from the Rugby site to the new home in Nottingham where they are kept in environmentally controlled stores.

The new gallery forms the first stage in the display of this nationally important collection and work is currently under way to develop stage 2, a Capital Punishment Gallery which will provide an appropriate home for key items including the gallows from Wandsworth Prison, the executioners box and the door from Oscar Wilde's cell at Reading Gaol.

Curator Paul Baker handling part of the collection. Courtesy NCCL Galleries of Justice.



ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY GEORGE CROSS FOUNDATION.

The Foundation was created under the Police (NI) Act 2000, at the time of the reorganisation of policing in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of the Foundation is 'to mark the sacrifices and honour the achievements of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.' And included in its functions are the following: -

1. Managing the RUC GC Garden and the provision and management of a new Police Museum.
2. To engage with the various Associations and Groups with the wider RUC GC family.
3. Supporting the professional development of police officers e.g. the provision of a bursary fund to serving PSNI officers.
4. Arranging and encouraging appropriate RUC GC events.



The Patron of the Foundation is HRH The Prince of Wales. On 2 September 2003 he opened the RUC GC Garden. Since that date, over 9000 people have visited the garden.

The Garden is a tribute to those officers who died since 1922 due to terrorism or whilst serving in the Force. The Garden is divided into two parts – a Historical Trail detailing the history of policing in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1914 until 2001 and 'The Area of Peace' where the deceased officers are remembered – 312 killed in terrorist incidents, 960 whilst serving and 20 killed in terrorist incidents after retirement. For a virtual tour see website listed below.

The new Police Museum is to be built adjacent to the Garden and is at the initial planning stages. It is hoped that it will be completed and open at the beginning of 2008.

The Foundation organises an Annual RUC GC Day Service on the Sunday nearest to 1 June each year (The force being formed on 1 June 1922.)

The Foundation was actively involved in the opening of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Room at the Policing Training College at Bramshill, Hampshire. This was opened by Prince Charles on 1 June 2005 (the 83rd Anniversary of the formation of the Force). This will be a permanent reminder of the contribution made to policing by the organisation.

Anyone wishing to obtain more details, make an appointment to visit the Garden, or make contact with me can do so as follows: -

Telephone – 028 9070 0116

Email – rucgcfoundation@nics.gov.uk

Web site – www.rucgcfoundation.org

Raymond Orr

THE HISTORY OF RIPON MUSEUM TRUST

The RIPON CIVIC SOCIETY from its inception in 1968 had been concerned at the lack of museum coverage in the city which had resulted from the closure of the City Museum at Thorpe Prebend House in 1956. This was to be made worse by the closure of the Wakeman's House Museum in 1987. The Society had continued to press the Local Authorities to provide premises for another museum.

In 1981 the Old Liberty Prison, built in 1816, became vacant and it was decided to set up the Ripon Museum Trust with the intention of opening up the Ripon Prison and Police Museum there. Ripon Museum Trust was granted charitable status in 1983.

The Aims of the Trust:

- To provide and maintain a museum or museums in Ripon for the exhibition to the public of articles of historic interest.
- To extend, conserve, maintain and store the collections of the Trust.
- To persuade the Local Authorities to provide museum facilities in the City to replace those lost by the closure of the Thorpe Prebend House and Wakeman's House Museums.

Progress of the Trust

The **Prison and Police Museum** was opened in 1984 on the first floor of the old prison, built in 1816 as an extension to the 17th century House of Correction which had been closed in 1878 due to prison reform when a lot of small local prisons were closed. It then became the Police Station for the Ripon Section of the West Riding Constabulary in 1887 following the amalgamation of the small Ripon City Police Force into that force until 1956 when the present police station was taken into use. The museum underwent major renovation work thanks to the award of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund between October 2002 and May 2004. The museum gives our visitors an insight into life in prisons and the police with numerous interactive displays. The Trust is responsible for the largest collection of police memorabilia in the North of England.

In 1994 the Trust obtained a lease for the former Vagrants' Cell Block at the old Workhouse built in 1854 in Allhallowgate and opened the **Workhouse Museum** there in 1995. This was the first Workhouse Museum in the country and contains displays of what life was like in the days before the welfare state. Life was very harsh and families were split up on entry into the Workhouse.

In 1999 the Trust opened up the old No.1 Court, built in 1830, and which had closed in 1998, as the **Courthouse Museum**. Visitors can stand in the dock from where numerous unfortunate prisoners were transported for what today would count as minor crimes. Case studies have been completed regarding some of these unfortunate people. The courthouse has featured as the court in the popular TV series 'Heartbeat'.



The three museums are grouped together under the overall title

The Yorkshire Law and Order Museums.

Capital expenses are substantially met with grants from various foundations and the proceeds of fund-raising events. For revenue to maintain the museums and to store and conserve collections, the Trust is dependent on entrance fees, donations and annual subscriptions of the membership.

For more information you can write to Ripon Museum Trust, The Workhouse Museum, Allhallowgate, Ripon HG4 1LE or contact us by phone on 01756 690799, by email at info@riponmuseums.co.uk or visit our website at www.riponmuseums.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE MUSEUM.

The Greater Manchester Police Museum is housed within an original Victorian Police Station in Manchester City Centre. It was one of five purpose built police stations opened in 1879. The museum was recently successful with a Heritage Lottery application and as a result was able to transfer an 1895 Courtroom from Denton Police Court. As well as the courtroom, the museum has an original Charge office and five cells as well as a historical gallery, transport gallery, international police association room and crime room. Guided tours are given every Tuesday by museum volunteers (all retired officers in period costumes).

The museum also has a souvenir shop and temporary exhibition area.

There are two full-time paid police staff: the Curator Duncan Broady and myself Museum Officer Dave Tetlow. We are assisted by twenty part-time volunteers. As well as guided tours within the museum to groups from primary school children through to university students, the museum also provides outreach and evening work at police stations, schools and colleges and special interest group meetings. The museum staff are also responsible for the research and production of temporary and permanent exhibitions, collection management, academic and family history enquiries, the digitalisation of the police historical photographic collection and the organisation of the paper archive.

Items of note within the archive are appointment registers for Manchester City Police, Salford City Police, Bolton Borough Police, Rochdale Division of Lancashire Constabulary and Oldham Borough Police. Some Alien registers are available for Salford, Rochdale and Oldham, Chief Constable Reports, General Orders, Watch Committee Reports, Police Gazette, Police Review and press cuttings.

A full list of dates of the above can be obtained by writing to the Greater Manchester Police Museum, Newton Street, Manchester, M1 1ES. Telephone 0161 856 3287.

There is a short history of policing in the Manchester area attached to the Museum web page accessed by the Greater Manchester Police website
police.museum@gmp.police.uk

METROPOLITAN POLICE HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Over the years the Metropolitan Police has collected a large number of historical items and police memorabilia. A museum to record the many events of the force was not established until 1949, just prior to the Festival of Britain. The Chief Superintendent at that time, Arthur Rowlerson at Bow Street Police Station, made an appeal for items to reflect the part that Bow Street had played in the development of policing in the capital. This collection formed the basis for a museum which was on show for many years, albeit with limited access. The museum was always a low-key minimum expenditure for the police and was mainly kept going with the dedication of a curator and the goodwill of a few volunteers. In 1981-81 the few rooms occupied by the museum were needed and the artefacts were packed away. Bow Street has since been sold on the open market.

The collection is currently housed in a warehouse in south London and the police service is still unable to invite access to the 30,000+ items stored there. This Aladdin's cave of treasures of police history with its collection of uniforms, badges, station books and photographs, not to mention the station desk, collection of truncheons and a bust of Sir Robert Peel situated by the door to greet the staff each morning, is known to only a few and has been seen by just a handful of people since the early 1980s.

In 1995 an Inspector (now retired) decided to form a Friends group in anticipation of raising interest and convincing the Met it would be good publicity to have a Police Museum in London. However, under the ruling of the new Metropolitan Police Authority, their priorities are operational policing and there

is no remit to provide for a museum. The Friends group still exists and numbers over 200 members who meet 2 or 3 times a year with invited speakers.

Recently the staffing has changed at the warehouse and there is now a small team of dedicated workers, lead by Maggie Bird, who are laboriously working through the collection and cataloguing and recording every item. Research facilities are also carried out for historians. It is hoped in the near future that the Met will be able to accommodate this collection in the form of a Research Centre and this will make it more accessible for visitors.

To find out more or to arrange a visit (by appointment only) contact

Maggie Bird on 020 8269 0204 or email Maggie.e.bird@met.police.uk

Similarly many of the branches or departments within the Met have their own collection of memorabilia pertaining to their roles. One such example is the **METROPOLITAN WOMEN POLICE ASSOCIATION** which owns a small collection of uniforms, hats, photographs and an impressive collection of press cuttings relating to the history of women police. This is maintained by one of the members who holds an Open Day each year so members can visit and reminisce or bring items along or help to name photographs etc. For more information on this collection or to arrange research you can contact Maureen Whitford on 020 8303 0808 or to see more about the MWPA go to www.mwpa.org.uk

Other departments have their collections in a police station where the 'holding officer' is stationed e.g. River Police, Traffic, Dog Section.

YORK MUSEUM TRUST

York Castle Museum is well known for its social history collections and its famous recreated streets. Less well known, however, are its buildings. These two grade 1 listed buildings were once part of the Castle of York and the county gaol for Yorkshire. 2005 saw the 300th anniversary of the completion of the oldest of these buildings.

Completed in 1705 the Debtors' Prison was built to house both felons and debtors. This new gaol was built on part of the site once occupied by York Castle. Prisoners had been kept in the castle since the 13th century, but the existing buildings had fallen into poor repair. The court house, rebuilt in 1674-75, and a jury house also stood within the confines of the castle.

A tax of 3d in the £ on all land within the three ridings of Yorkshire was levied and in 1701 work began on the new gaol. The architect is unknown, but it was possibly William Wakefield; a trained lawyer rather than a professional architect. A native of Yorkshire, Wakefield also designed Duncombe Park and Gilling Castle.

The building was to be modern and functional. Men and women were to be kept separate and those awaiting trial and those convicted were also to be separated. The debtors were to be housed in a different part of the building to the criminals, and even the debtors were to be divided into three classes reflecting their situation.

The finished building was a handsome example of English Baroque architecture; built to reflect county pride. The upper floors were occupied by the debtors, the left hand wing by the governor of the gaol and the right hand wing by the chapel. At the very lowest level, flanked by earthly justice in the form of the governor and divine justice in the form of the chapel, were the cells for the felons. Separate outside exercise yards were also provided for each type of inmate. Daniel Defoe described the gaol in his *Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*, in 1727 as:

"...a Prison the most stately and complete of any in the kingdom, if not in Europe"

In 1777 a new court house was built, designed by John Carr, and in 1780 another prison building was added. The Female Prison, as it is now known, was built to provide extra accommodation for the functions of the court and to ease some of the overcrowding problems then present in the Debtors' Prison. The women appear to have been moved to this new building as were some debtors. Men and women serving short prison sentences were also housed here as was the new infirmary. This was again an impressive looking building, the façade mirroring that of the courts opposite. It was extended in 1802 with the addition of two wings.

There was still a problem of overcrowding in the Debtors' Prison. The felons' cells, originally designed for one now housed sometimes three men at any one time. There was no area for the prisoners to exercise in poor

weather which resulted in them being locked in their cells for up to sixteen hours a day. Disease was common with gaol fever, a form of typhus, claiming many inmates. It was decided to build another new prison on the site beyond the end of the Female Prison.

In 1835 the new prison opened and the male felons were moved from the Debtors' Prison (pictured). It cannot be claimed that this new building was architecturally

handsome. It had the governor's house in the centre from which he could supervise the four prison wings. A new gate house was



included in the scheme and the whole castle area including Clifford's Tower was surrounded by a high wall. The chapel was moved from the Debtors' Prison to the Female Prison and the vacant space converted into accommodation for debtors and prison staff. The new prison was linked to the Female Prison by a corridor so that the felons could attend the chapel.

By 1900 York Castle had ceased to be a civil prison. It was handed over to the military authorities who used it as a detention barracks. The military too left the buildings in 1929 and the site was sold to York Corporation. In 1935 the last of the prison buildings to be built became the first to be demolished along with the gatehouse and the walls. The city had intended to build civic buildings on the site, but only the foundations were ever completed. In 1938 York Castle Museum opened in the Female Prison, becoming the permanent home of the Kirk Collection of Bygones. The Museum expanded into the Debtors' prison in 1952.

2005 has provided us with the opportunity to make this story more prominent within the Museum and also beyond its walls. A small collection of prison related objects was displayed in the entrance area of the Museum. A trail around the buildings highlighting features original to the prison was also published. This included a short history of the site and images from the archive. A new section on the prison history was added to the Museum's website with a searchable database of prisoners' names taken from gaol calendars in the collection.

Although relatively low key the commemorations have been successful in highlighting the prison history. New objects have been donated including a stone Bible carved by a prisoner and an amateur film shot in the 1930s within the prison walls before some of the buildings were demolished. The prison trail has already sold out and the interest in the prison history, I believe, will continue for a long time after 2005.

www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk

THE BROAD ARROW

The origin of the “Broad Arrow” symbol on Government Property

The “Broad Arrow” on Government stores represents the *Pheon* (*the barbed head of an arrow or dart*) on the coat of arms of the Sydney family, dating from when Henry, Viscount Sydney, later Earl of Romney, was Master-General of the Ordnance from July, 1693 to June, 1702.

The origin of its placement on the Sydney blazon is the fact that it is not an arrow head as such, but the \uparrow or \hat{a} , the broad **a** of the Druids. This Celtic letter stood prime and marked superiority in rank or authority. In some circumstances it represented royalty.

As early as the late 18th century the Board of Ordnance started using the familiar Broad Arrow (Crow’s Foot) mark to identify Government property. During the Crimean War army clothing was marked this way to deter soldiers from selling their greatcoats and in the 1870s the mark was applied to all service articles including prison dress. This resulted in the familiar prison garb with Broad Arrows associated with the late 19th century.

The use of the Broad Arrow was discontinued in the 1920s in an effort to improve the dignity of those in prison.



and finally ...

***This is interesting - amusing - entertaining - but most of all
It's HISTORY.***

Found in a Police Note Book recently acquired by the Ripon Museum Trust:

Tuesday 20th May, 1969.

Duty: 2-10

2pm

On Duty.

Uniform – complete – handed in to Section. Checked by Sgt. Parker & found to be in order & correct. Documents also checked & in order.

Handed over to Storeman, Mr. Thompson.

5pm.

Meal Break.

5.45pm

On Duty.

Office Duty.

I now sign off with the greatest of pleasure, after 30 years of Service. God bless you all & may it rain, hail & snow upon your miserable bodies, when on night patrol. I'll be thinking about you & praying!

Cheerio All.

10pm

Off Duty for ever.



The identities of the Officer and the Force have been withheld for obvious reasons, but it was a Yorkshire Police Force.

The Prisoner's Release.

One cold day in December, 2002, the President and the Curator of Ripon Museum Trust spent a morning working in the Prison and Police Museum in the City of Ripon. Both were dressed in old clothes as they were busy dismantling displays in the museum in readiness for work starting in the building which used to be a prison and a police station.

The Curator unlocked the door to let the President, a well known local man of 85 years leave. The President who was carrying a plastic carrier bag stepped into the yard to be met with the following remark from a lady who was looking through a grille into the yard at the time "Come quick, a prisoner's being let out!" Her friend hurried to see the sad spectacle.

