



TURNING LIVES AROUND

Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund

**HELPING LONDON'S EX-PRISONERS
INTO WORK AND A NEW LIFE
SINCE 1808**



Top Left: The inscription above the entrance to the Old Bailey. Photo Alamy

Top Right: Sir Richard Phillips, co-founder of the Sheriffs' Fund Society. The National Portrait Gallery, artist James Saxon

Above: The gallows in the Old Bailey. Photo Alamy



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Significant dates

1808 Sheriffs' Fund Society founded

1813 Elizabeth Fry began to improve conditions for women prisoners in Newgate

1834 Central Criminal Court established by the Central Criminal Court Act

1845 Fund-raising dinner for Sheriffs' Fund Society at Mansion House

1846 First Sheriffs' Fund Society Annual Report issued

1846 First donation by a City Livery Company (Cutlers)

1907 "New" Old Bailey opened by King Edward VII

1930 Ladies admitted as Life Governors of the Fund

1931 Sheriffs' Fund Society merged with Recorder's Fund

1946 Mrs Beatrice Harthan appointed Secretary and Almoner

1947 First woman appointed to the Fund's Committee

1970 Office in Old Bailey given to Fund by Corporation of the City of London

1989 Lady Bowater, Chairman since 1969, succeeded by Mrs Alison Saunders

2007 Mrs Saunders retired, Lady Davies appointed Chairman

2008 Bicentenary of Fund: dinner at Bank of England; 200 Club formed

2015 Lady Brewer OBE succeeded Lady Davies as Chairman

2017 Fund celebrated bicentenary of Elizabeth Fry's Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners

2022 Lady Russell succeeded Lady Brewer as Chairman

First words Sir Nicholas Hilliard

The inscription over the original front entrance to the Old Bailey requires us not just to punish the wrongdoer but also to defend the children of the poor. Each generation has to work out for itself how to satisfy this injunction, but it is obviously important that courts do not work in a vacuum, isolated from the communities they serve or insensitive to the circumstances of victims, witnesses and offenders.

Many people know that in 1955, Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be hanged in the United Kingdom. Her son Andrew was 10 years old at the time. It is less well-known that the trial judge sent money for his upkeep and that when Andrew later took his own life, prosecuting counsel at the trial paid for the funeral. More recently, some of the most impressive and eloquent people I met at the Old Bailey were the parents of young people who had been murdered. Mark Prince, father of Kiyana, and George Kinsella, father of Ben, came regularly at my invitation to speak to groups of young people thought to be at risk of becoming involved in gang and knife crime. In their different ways, all these individuals have assumed some extra responsibility for the wide variety of people who come within the Old Bailey's orbit.

The same spirit lies behind the Old Bailey's very own prison charity, the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund. It is sometimes tempting to ask why a charity should be needed to support prisoners and their families and to suppose that this work should be the responsibility of government. In fact, the work of charities in this sector has served to underline that prisoners and their families are a shared responsibility for all of us. And anything we can do to prevent further offending is one way we can do right by victims of crime and their families.

I was fortunate indeed in my time as Recorder of London that Tessa Brewer chaired the trustees. As a past Lady Mayoress, she understood perfectly how the Old Bailey and the civic City could work together for the benefit of others. She made it her particular priority to learn where the Fund's resources were best directed and to evaluate potential projects for herself. She was one of the first to appreciate the importance of developing employment opportunities for former prisoners and there are photographs of her in a hard hat on building sites to prove it! She knew that training had to start whilst prisoners were serving their sentences and she built strong working relationships with a number of prison governors to achieve this. She brought huge insight and remarkable commitment to the role. She was an inspiration to many and a huge debt of gratitude is owed to her. She made sure that the Fund continues to be a central and distinctive part of the work of the Old Bailey.

Two appalled Sheriffs

The twin pulls of Humanity and Duty compelled Richard Phillips and Christopher Smith, City of London Sheriffs in 1807-08, to set up the Sheriffs' Fund Society.

Richard Phillips, born in London in 1767, was a teacher, stationer, bookseller, and vendor of patent medicines. His profoundly republican views led him to be imprisoned for selling Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man*. He established himself in Paternoster Row as a publisher of magazines, textbooks, children's books and works of radical ideas, such as vegetarianism: in 1814 he wrote and published *Sir Richard Phillips's Reasons for Not Eating Animal Food, Or Any Thing that Has Enjoyed Sensitive Life*.

Sir Richard was known for his great energy, irascible temper and outrageous beliefs. In 1792 he founded *The Leicester Herald*. Fire destroyed the office, so with the insurance money he started a magazine carrying his own trenchant anti-government articles signed *Common Sense*. His belief that the theory of gravity had no foundation irritated the scientifically-minded as well as those politicians whom he roundly criticised. But he attracted many, and made an enormous fortune, so that by 1807 he was of sufficient standing to be elected as a Sheriff of the City of London, and to be knighted.

A duty of the Sheriffs was to inspect the City's prisons. With his fellow Sheriff, Alderman Christopher Smith, Sir Richard visited Newgate, and was appalled by the sight, sound and stench of desperate, dirty, hungry, raggedly-clothed prisoners huddled in dark, dank, cramped cells. Soon after, the Quaker philanthropist and reformer Elizabeth Fry found Newgate's Female Quarter full of half-naked mothers and children, often waiting for transport to the Colonies in prison ships. Many were drunk on cheap gin, some were clearly deranged. They were kept in leg irons unless they could pay the Keeper of Newgate for "easement".

Sir Richard wrote to the Livery: *Hence arose a question in my own breast between the feelings of humanity and the obligation of duty. Newgate could not be speedily enlarged yet it was repugnant to every principle of justice to permit the continuance of commitment before trial to any prison, all the regulations of which had a view only to the punishment of its prisoners and by which also they were denied the intercourse of their friends.* Fiercely criticising the prison's overcrowding, fees charged to prisoners, the use of irons, and transportation for short periods, he badgered the government and individuals to support prison reform.

Christopher Smith might have succeeded his father, running a small farm in Berkshire, had it not been for fear of smallpox. Sent to London to be inoculated against the dreaded disease, he was 'adopted' by the manager of the smallpox hospital, a wine broker who employed him in his business at 21 Queen Street, Cheapside, and left it to him at his death.

Smith developed a great interest in politics, becoming *a frequent attendant at the Westminster forum, and other debating societies*. In common with Richard Phillips, he was a strenuous advocate for Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man*. He joined the Whig Club, and served as an MP in both 1812-1818 and 1820-1830. At the same time he was advancing in City of London society, becoming a Freeman of the City, a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Drapers, and a Common Councilman for Cordwainers Ward. Reformers in Common Council described him as a renegade, yet he went on to be elected an Alderman, then Sheriff, and finally Lord Mayor.

Little is known of Smith's personal life beyond an impression that he was a devoted husband and father. However, in Parliament he spoke frequently, on subjects as diverse as Catholic relief, the Corn Laws, the character of King Ferdinand of Spain, governmental regulation of bread prices, relief for the suffering in Germany (1814), legislation against machine-breakers. He spoke often on prisons and prisoners, his views assorting strangely with his role as co-founder of the Sheriffs' Fund Society. Between 1813 and 1815 he was reported as considering that *While he had sympathy for the debtors in the Fleet prison, he opposed inquiries into conditions in other London gaols; the depravity of the prisoners at Newgate, he thought, made amelioration difficult and, as a magistrate, he was satisfied that the London gaols offered the best conditions in the kingdom . . . he raised a laugh by saying that 'the prisoners always had their proper allowance, sometimes more and sometimes less'. In 1817 he defended the delay in the execution of condemned prisoners, saying that 'the prisoners in Newgate, where he had been that day, did not complain of the law's delay'.*

It seems that a decade after the founding of the Sheriffs' Fund Society Smith was still interested in prisons, though perhaps not so determinedly on the side of prisoners as his fellow Sheriff. Though sharing Sir Richard's reforming zeal, he seems to have been more sedate and conventional. Had he been drawn into the Fund by Sir Richard's forcefulness and enthusiasm? Or had he had, and retained, a more cynical view of imprisonment? Whatever the truth the Fund, shortly complemented by Elizabeth Fry's work, was in the vanguard of a powerful movement for reform.

The Sheriffs' Fund Society is born

In 1808, the objectives of the Sheriffs' Fund Society were:

- 1 The temporary relief of the distressed families and dependents of persons in confinement**
- 2 A temporary provision for persons who, on being discharged from confinement, have no means of present subsistence or habitation**
- 3 The purchase of such tools, implements and materials as may be conducive to habits of industry in debtors and criminals**
- 4 The pecuniary aid of other objects of distress who come under the official cognizance of the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex**

Christopher Smith and Richard Phillips lobbied energetically on behalf of prisoners, pestering politicians to end the drastic sentence of transportation. Their own way of helping inmates in Newgate was to arrange for Poor Boxes to be placed in several prisons. In the first year of the Fund's life offerings collected in these Boxes, added to money donated by fifty individuals and organisations, amounted to just over £376 (c £33,238 today). The donors included:

The Foreman and members of a Grand Jury of Middlesex: £4

Another Middlesex Jury: 15s 6d

The Bishop of Durham; the Lord Mayor; the two Sheriffs (Christopher Smith and Mr – at the time; soon to be knighted – Richard Phillips); a Wine Broker: ten guineas each

Mrs Smith; Mrs Phillips (both Sheriffs' wives); Mr Griffiths of the Horn Tavern: two guineas each

A Nobleman: £50

Miss Bayley of Ramsbury Manor: £5

A French émigré; an Irishman: 7s each

The Fund gave everyday necessities – food, clothing, candles, coal, soap – to prisoners’ wives and children, struggling without a husband’s wages. Breast-feeding mothers received porter to restore their strength. Prisoners, many in mental and/or physical torment, all confined in horrific conditions, received basics which gave them some protection from illness, near-starvation and despair.

The Fund helped debtors such as sailors arrested by crimps on sham charges, and others falsely incarcerated with no hope of a fair trial. By continuing to give grants after release it assisted ex-prisoners to return to society, and enabled Prison Chaplains to give fundamental subsistence, or to prove innocence. Up to March 1808, the Fund disbursed nearly £300:

To 65 persons, for temporary subsistence on their being discharged from confinement, some of whom were sent back to their native places: £34 17s 6d

Immediate relief to distressed wives and children of numerous prisoners: £32 15s

Seven tons of potatoes, distributed at the rate of one pound or half pound per day among the prisoners, according to their necessities: £58 10s

Oatmeal, onions, leeks and a daily supply of porridge to female convicts: £7 15s 9d

Coals and candles for a moderate supply to all poor wards: £13 14s 6d

Soap and other articles calculated to promote cleanliness: £6 10s

Legal assistance, with which 29 debtors were liberated from Newgate after long imprisonment, the number of whose wives and children exceeded 120 souls: £23 10s

Advice, assistance and proceedings in regard to numerous other debtors: £10 10s

Sundry articles of clothing, as shoes, stockings, shirts, jackets and petticoats etc: £46 12s

Porter allowed to mothers who have fed children by the breast, and for prisoners threatened with low fevers for want of adequate sustenance: £6 14s

Sundry disbursements as rewards for cleanliness etc: £8 10s

Volunteers and donors gave all the goods, time and skill expended, including advertising and for the expenses of printing: £44 18s 6d.

These eminently practical and efficacious beginnings planted the roots of the Sheriffs’ Fund Society, which blossomed and flourished.

The Fund takes off and blossoms

Quaker philanthropist and reformer Elizabeth Fry persuaded the Corporation of London to improve the dire conditions of female prisoners in Newgate. The Lord Mayor at the time (1817) was Alderman Christopher Smith, co-founder of the Sheriffs' Fund Society. By 1827 the Fund had won such public approval that friends and supporters established it as a "regular institution", with a Treasurer, Trustees, and Rules & Regulations.

Annuities, subscriptions and donations poured in, making the idea of an Asylum for women a realistic possibility. The Committee observed that *As soon as a young female enters the walls of a prison, her doom is too often sealed – her character is blasted. She is deprived of that which alone can enable her to earn an honest livelihood: spurned by her friends, or perhaps ashamed to let them know of her disgrace, where can she turn? And it is well known to many that there are characters of the worst description sitting in the galleries of the court, or constantly prowling about the walls of the prison, awaiting the discharge of hapless girls so circumstanced only to entice them to the commission of fresh crime, or to allure them to a life of degradation and misery by offering them that shelter and pretended sympathy which is denied them by the rest of the world.*

A spell in an Asylum, thought the Committee, would give a penitent female a second chance. However, the Fund had many more immediate calls on its assistance. In 1846 it gave relief to 562 poor prisoners and their families. It enabled ex-prisoners to buy (or redeem from the pawnshop) clothes and tools of their trade. It supplied baskets of fish or fruit, to help them to earn a living *without being driven to acts of dishonesty by the pressure of want.*

Prisons in the 18th and early 19th century were privately owned by Dukes, Bishops, and the Dean & Chapter of Westminster. The Sheriffs enlisted HRH the Duke of Cambridge to preside at a grand public dinner in the Mansion House on June 17th 1845. The diners contributed over £1,300 (c £166,400 today), destined by the Fund for the building of an Asylum; but the Committee were checked by the City Solicitor's report that the reformation of juvenile offenders would need both State funding and great changes in the law. In addition, admirers of the late Mrs Elizabeth Fry were proposing as her memorial an Asylum for the 3,000+ women released annually from Metropolitan Prisons. The "Elizabeth Fry Refuge" was so similar to the Fund's project that the Committee abandoned their own idea and gave £500 towards the Refuge.

The Fund reported in 1866 that The Society *helps the families of prisoners to maintain themselves by their own exertions and industry during the incarceration of that member who has usually mainly, or entirely, contributed to their support. The Society not only considers this important, as securing the innocent from suffering with the guilty, but because it is most desirable, if possible, to prevent a prisoner's home from being broken up; as then, upon his discharge, he finds a place to go to, and is given time to find employment.*

In 1867-77, the Fund assisted 24 male and 60 female prisoners, providing: *Pecuniary assistance; Clothing; Sent abroad with outfit; Sent to Sea with outfit; Sent to Refuge & Reformatory (Home of Hope, Fry Refuge, Good Shepherd) and furnished with clothing; Obtained situations or employment, and partly furnished with clothing; Supplied with tools or stock (the sewing machines and mangles are lent).* The Fund's Minute Books recorded cases:

E . . . H . . . Age 20. Duly endeavouring to conceal the birth of her infant. Single. £3 after acceptance to HOME OF HOPE

Lewis lost his arm. Grant to purchase hook

T . . . Shearne. AGE 43. Stabbing a publican. £3 5s od fare to Canada to see his children. His wife left them here in England and some benevolent people sent them out to Canada. "The paternal feeling is a good one." Request from Archimandrake of the Greek Church

Annie R . . . Age 78. £3 to help while her son is in prison

Charles H . . . Age 21. Cruelly treated at sea. Chained to the mast for 50 days in such a manner that the chains cut his flesh. His crime "feloniously wounding". Acquitted. The captain of the vessel has since absconded. Proceedings have been commenced against him. £6 granted to refit the applicant for sea

Case of B . . . Ex police constable. He was ruined. The Recorder was very interested in the case

Caroline S . . . Age 46. 3 children. Husband forged Post Office Order and presented it for payment. 5 years penal servitude

The Fund's Secretary, always a prison chaplain working from his prison, and all others concerned, were unpaid until 1869, when the Assistant Secretary was awarded £10 per annum until 1882. From 1886 the Honorary Secretary was paid £21 per annum for expenses in investigating cases. It was not until 1913 that he received a modest salary – one of the many changes brought by the new century.

The Fund goes forward

The first major impact on the Fund in the 20th century was made by World War 1. In 1913-14 the numbers of grants given leapt by 81%, to 168. However, as the War escalated fewer men were imprisoned, so demand fell. The *Annual Report of 1917* noted: *The prison population has decreased, mainly attributable to the war, such as enlistment, drinking restrictions, and the great demand for Labour in various forms.* New jobs became available to prisoners' dependents: wives fed their children by toiling in munitions factories.

After the War cases again rose dramatically, to 755 in 1919, and 952 in 1920. The causes were a burgeoning prison population, the disappearance of wartime jobs for women, and the high price of raw materials. The Fund concentrated on helping people to set up on their own, providing tools of trade such as sewing machines. The *Annual Report of 1919* noted: *Those women who have had sewing machines lent to them have been visited four times within the last 12 months, and all have been found to be doing well.*

In 1930 Ladies became as eligible as Gentlemen to be Life Governors – annual subscribers of at least one guinea. The sum increased periodically: in 1981 Life Governorship was available to people making a *donation of seventy five pounds (£75) or more in one sum or who subscribe not less than ten Pounds (£10) per year under Deed of Covenant.* Also eligible was *The Acting Executor of any Will by which the Fund benefits to the extent of two hundred Pounds or upwards.*

In 1931 the Sheriffs' Fund Society absorbed the Recorder's Fund, which assisted cases on probation and was administered at the Central Criminal Court through the two Probation Officers, presided over by the Recorder. Gradually, the organisation of the resultant Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund became more formalized. A Chairman having always been chosen at each meeting, from 1933 a regular Chairman was appointed – always a man until The Honourable Lady Bowater was elected in 1969.

World War 11 put terrific pressure on the Fund. Prisoners' dependents whose homes were damaged or destroyed, whose children were evacuated, who lost all their possessions, were given much practical help. Clothes were tightly rationed, so the Fund ferreted out second-hand clothes which were stored in a basement cell in the Central Criminal Court, on a rail provided by the Deputy Chairman, and in the Fund's office. Prisoners' wives picked out items, including second-hand and new sheets and blankets.

In 1942, despite high taxation and war problems, donations increased; but when evacuee families and long-absent servicemen returned after the War, to face scarcities and money difficulties, the Fund's resources were again stretched. The 1946 *Annual Report* noted: *A certain number of cases suffering from Neurasthenia and similar disorders due to the war require specially generous treatment in the process of permanent rehabilitation.*

A Selection Committee appointed as Secretary & Almoner Mrs Beatrice Harthan, who wrote: *I was assured that all I had to do was to continue the welfare work that had occupied me for nearly six years in the Women's Royal Air Force on a day to day basis . . . Explaining that I knew nothing about book-keeping, I was assured that all I had to do was to enter income on one side of the cash book and payment out on the other . . . I was persuaded to accept the position . . . the instructions about my duties were clear and simple. It was essential to have a telephone and a typewriter.*

Mrs Harthan devoted forty years to the Fund, for which she was awarded an MBE. She worked from home until 1965 when the Fund was offered a room over the vestry of St Botolph's Without Aldersgate. In 1983 her salary was £5,500. Aged 90, she embarked on researching a history of the Fund.

The Fund always insisted on very careful examination of cases before making any grant, so one of the Secretary's many duties was to visit men in prison and the families in their homes. In 1962 the Fund enlisted the first voluntary helper. In 1989 Lady Bowater's successor as Chairman, Mrs Alison Saunders, initiated holding the AGM in Court No.1 of the Old Bailey, greater involvement by the Recorder, and fund-raising, which was increasingly vital, every two years.

By the time of its bicentenary in 2008 the Fund was firmly established as the City's quintessential charity, still true to its original objectives though the nature of both crimes and prisoners had changed. As Mrs Harthan observed on her retirement, robberies and muggings had grown more violent, cars led to new kinds of crime, and greed had often replaced the poverty which in the 19th century led people to be imprisoned for stealing food and getting into debt. She wrote: *In almost two hundred years since the Sheriffs' Fund Society was founded there have inevitably been changes in the types of crimes committed, the sentences passed and the help required by prisoners and their families, but one thing has remained constant throughout the years and that is the compassion shown by the two founders, which has been continued by the Committee.*

Future-proofing by fund-raising Lady Davies

In 2007, when I had the great honour of succeeding Alison Saunders, the Fund gave nearly 620 individual grants, and the number was increasing annually. The bicentenary of the Fund's philanthropy towards people traditionally ignored and disparaged – ex-prisoners – merited a celebration and a kick-start to the next 200 years. To give this campaign a solid basis of modern evidence, an independent survey of the grants' effectiveness was carried out, which showed that the Fund was greatly appreciated by its beneficiaries and their Probation Officers.

The Governor of the Bank of England offered the Bank's magnificent Courtroom, free of charge, for a 200th anniversary dinner; an Opera Evening was held in Guildhall; renowned author PD James gave the third in a series of lectures based around crime and punishment to an enthusiastic crowd in No. 1 Court of the Old Bailey; Lord Falconer addressed the AGM; and a Prisons' Debate series at St. Mary-le-Bow was inaugurated, hosted by the Rev. George Bush and chaired by broadcaster Jon Snow. The then Sheriffs, Presidents of the Fund, Alderman Kevin Kearney and his wife Mary, started a now annual tradition of producing a Shrieval fund-raising event. Distinguished Patrons, including the then Bishop of London, the Senior Law Lord, Lord Phillips, Baroness Helena Kennedy and Sir John Parker, were recruited to lend lustre to the Fund and a 200 Club of new supporters was set up. The extra £200,000 raised helped the Fund to reach out to the wider world, while still grounded in the Livery's generosity.

Since the 200th anniversary, the Old Bailey and its judges have played an even larger part. The Recorder, His Honour Judge Peter Beaumont, whose support was vital and active, held special breakfasts in the Judges' Dining Room in aid of the Fund, inviting guests to hear the personal story of one of the Fund's beneficiaries, over coffee and croissants. The Secondary, Charles Henty, held ever-increasing numbers of tours of the building, bringing in more much-needed funds; a troupe of thespian judges, led by His Honour Judge Peter Rook, and assorted lawyers introduced an annual theatrical event in Court No. 1, bringing not only funds but also Fun to the core business of helping people to rebuild their lives.

By 2015, when I handed over to Tessa Brewer, the number of grants had risen to 1,433, costing just under £220,000 – an increase of 50% over the previous five years. This was achieved by the philanthropy of the City and new supporters, the commitment of the Advisory Council, and the unstinting hard work of the Fund's two part-time (!) members of staff, Christine Smith and Paul Lecoutre.

New departures Lady Brewer

Having first become involved with the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund in the early 1990s at the invitation of the remarkable Alison Saunders, who like her predecessor brought innovation to the Fund's procedures, I became Chair in 2015. It has been fascinating to witness the change in attitudes and understanding of prisons. What was regarded with little interest is now front page news with many charities operating in the sector and making a notable difference. I succeeded Prue Keely-Davies who had set her own mark on the Fund as you will see in her contribution. Prue was creative in so many ways and we owe her the first proper Evaluation of the Fund's work as well as the expansion of its activities.

Thanks to a number of generous legacies from some Old Bailey Judges, the Fund was able to extend its work from just the grant-giving sector, important though that is. Together with the then Recorder of London, Sir Nicholas Hilliard, we embarked on a programme called *Out for Good* to help prisoners on release with jobs and mentoring. We asked Bounce Back to be our delivery partner and we saw fantastic results. We must mention the amazing fund-raising efforts of past Sheriffs and their partners, most particularly the cycle rides London to Paris and London to Waterloo, organised by Neil and Emma Redcliffe, which raised staggering sums for this expensive programme.

Alongside this we supported a number of initiatives including PACT to help with more volunteers at the Witness Service to sit and help the families of both victims and the accused. This is such an important part of the work at the Old Bailey.

The Fund's latest major project is *Untold*. It delivers training by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in the technical side of the creative industries, based at HMP ISIS (both a YOI and an HMP). We have been involved from the start and it is exciting that the training theatre recently opened by the Sheriffs at the prison is *The Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund Theatre*. The funds for this were greatly helped by the imaginative fund-raising of Sheriffs Mainelli and Hayward, one with a slimming challenge and one a sponsored Horse Ride round the City.

At my first AGM as Chairman, the Inspector of Prisons said that the ray of light in the sector was the charities working within it. Had the City of London Livery Companies not stood by the Fund since 1808 it would certainly have ceased to exist. It is something which I feel the City should be very proud of. I certainly am and feel lucky to have been involved with it for all this time.

Thank you kindly

In 1870 the Fund helped a prisoner's family to go to America. His wife wrote:

Dear Sir, I go to work at half past seven in the morning until six at night. I am getting on very nicely. I get nine dollars a week at the same business that I was in London. I have been placed in a position to help myself; if I had stayed in London my work would have fell off, what then could I have done because I could not expect always to be helped by friends. No! I faced a storm, lost my boy (he died on the voyage) but saved my own soul from destruction.

In the 20th century, ex-prisoners whom the Fund had helped often wrote to thank:

Dear Sir or Maddame Want to thank you for the £200 pounds you awarded me its life changing I've now got a flat where my daughter Anne she five this year . . . I swear when I get on my feet and earn money I will make a donotion Thank you so much you made a Big Diffrence in my life.

Some ex-prisoners asked their Probation Officer to write for them:

Mr J very sensibly elected to spend all his money in a charity shop (Cancer Research UK) where he got incredible value for money and was able to buy the most items I have ever seen anyone do with a £100 grant (21 items). He made the volunteers at the shop very happy. Thank you again for your continued support.

Thank you for helping G who is coping well with looking after the five children on his own, although he still struggles financially. If you recall his wife died and then his mother-in-law died leaving him with his own children and his wife's younger siblings to care for with Social Service assistance. G was very grateful for your cheque and his smile was a pleasure to see.

The Fund supports *Untold*, a programme which helps young men in prison to gain the experience and qualifications employers want. Jake, a prisoner at HMP/YOI Isis and member of the *Untold Experts by Experience Steering Group*, wrote:

Untold seems to reach out that bit higher than anything else. I can see it being one of those courses you hear talked about on the wing, where people ask all the time how they sign up. I see it as a project that doesn't just give prisoners good skills but changes their entire attitude to personal growth.

A former drug addict wrote:

I went to jail twice, both times for burglary, the worst kind in my view looking back now. When I came out I was lost and didn't know what to do. I knew my record would be a problem but I thought it was a tiny hill. What a mountain it turned out to be. I sent off applications for jobs by e-mail and by hand, to people personally. I got a few interviews and all went well until they asked if I had a criminal record. Then the mood changed, and their tone and body language. They were just going through the formality of it all to get me out of the way.

I joined an agency where they don't check on you and they put me to work in a bakery. I put my head down and worked hard and for a year they were happy until I asked about a full-time job with holiday pay and sick pay. Their mood changed and I had to find a more secure job. By complete chance and timing I met Peter, who runs a small Charity in the City of London. It puts ex-offenders and young homeless people into flats. I was lucky enough not to have been homeless. Peter told me about Pret's scheme and sent me along.

Pret took me on for the three-month scheme. I got on really well so they offered me a full-time job and I jumped at it. I have now been at Pret for 15 months and moved up to become a Hot Chef. I rent and pay for my flat and most of my bills. On Wednesday evening and at weekends I volunteer as a coach for a local under-18s football team. From Monday to Friday I work 6.30 – 2.30. On Monday nights I play for a 5-a-side football team which I am giving up to spend a bit more time at home with my 6-month-old little girl who I live for, and my girlfriend.

Ever since I got out of jail I always wanted to be a locksmith which is funny because I went to jail for picking locks. It was a long shot but worth a go. We found a good course and I did it with help from the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund and St Mary le Bow Charity, and passed. I have no intention of leaving Pret but locksmithing will be a part-time thing as the course only showed me how to do it, it didn't make me any good at it. I need practice and the right tools. I wouldn't consider using my new skills for anything other than legal and paid work, as I am proud to say that since jail over 3 years ago I have never been stopped, arrested, done anything illegal or been wanted by the police. As statistics go, I fall into a small group that hasn't re-offended even though, as many do, I had my doubters. So I went from not knowing where I was going to being in charge and steering my life, guided by my new-found friends.

Does the Fund really do good?

**In the year from September 30th 1867 the Fund helped 465 male and 155 female prisoners discharged from the City of London Prison, Holloway. The grants supplied specific needs, for clothing, tools, stock, assistance with finding work, starting afresh in a new country, and living safely either with friends or in an institution aimed at rehabilitation.

The Governor of Holloway, J. Weatherhead, wrote:

The Governor is happy to record that several of the above stated prisoners are earning an honest livelihood, doing well, and feel deeply grateful for the means afforded them.

**In 1933 Sir Ernest Wild, Recorder of London 1922-34, wrote:

The terribly responsible work of having to sentence men and women at this great Court, day by day, would be intolerable were it not for the beneficent activities of the Sheriffs' Fund, with which my Fund is incorporated. The Society enables a chance to be given to the young offenders, and sometimes to old "lags"; while the innocent families of convicted persons are helped from the same source. The Fund is administered by our splendid Probation Officers, by the Chaplains of the four Prisons in London for men, and by the Secretary after personal visitation of cases, all grants being approved by the Committee. It has saved many a soul.

In 2007 an External Evaluation carried out by M and E Consulting confirmed that **the Fund's aims and objectives are being met in an effective and compassionate way. The Fund appears to provide offenders with the means to address their immediate needs which often make a difference to their lives in the longer term. The evaluation concluded:

The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund provides an extremely valuable service which meets the most urgent needs of offenders seeking to rebuild their lives.

It provides its service in an efficient, sensitive and timely manner.

It is highly valued by offenders and probation officers.

It clearly makes a real difference.

****In 2008 the crime writer P.D. James said:**

This is indeed a charity where even a little practical help at the right time can make the difference between failure and success, and alter the direction of a life.

****In 2011 an Employment, Training and Education Advisor working with London Probation Trust wrote:**

I have requested money from Sheriffs & Recorders for numerous offenders and I am able to see the positive changes that the grants make to their lives.

****In 2013, the Fenix Foundation's Impact Analysis of the Fund noted:**

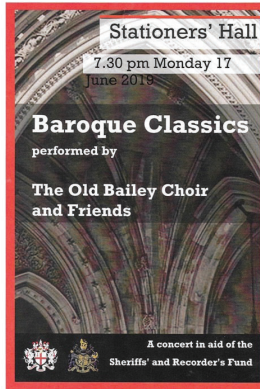
The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund was regarded as a highly valuable resource by the practitioners interviewed by Fenix. The value lies in its ease of access, the responsiveness and professionalism of the secretariat, its non-judgemental nature and its wide applicability . . . The Fund is generally regarded as having a positive impact on offending behaviour with the impact felt to be disproportionately great to the (relatively) small sums involved.

****In 2022 Emily Thomas, Governor of HMP/YOI Isis, wrote of *Untold*:**

Thanks to the generous donation from the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund last year, we were able to deliver 6 courses, each 8 sessions, with Guildhall in scene construction, scene painting, sound, lighting, stage management and video projection. Despite pandemic restrictions and Isis being in outbreak, 25 young men engaged with the courses and feedback was really positive both from the prisoners and from the Guildhall tutors. Scenic construction participants were so enthusiastic that they insisted on staying on for the next course and painting their scenery rather than allow a new group to take over! One Guildhall tutor commented that our young men were more enthusiastic and willing to engage than the students he taught at the school.

At the same time we established a relationship with Gallowglass, Europe's largest events company. They are keen to employ young men on release and have strong internal training and apprenticeship programmes in lighting, sound and other 'backstage' skills. All young men who took part in the Guildhall courses were provided with contact details and information about applying for jobs with Gallowglass.

Wonderful occasions



Top Right: Sheriff William Russell and Hilary Russell with Martha Kearney, Helen McCrory and Damian Lewis, who gave a memorable fund-raising event in the Old Bailey. Centre Right: Fiona Adler and Martin Stephens performing in *Forever Trial & Error* in the Old Bailey's Court No.1. Photo Mike Williams. Bottom Right: H.H. Judge Peter Rook and the cast of *Trial & Error*. Photo Mike Williams. Above Left: Performance of 17th-century music and song sponsored by Aldermen and Sheriffs Alison Gowman and Nicholas Lyons, their consorts Glen Hurstfield and Felicity Lyons and the Worshipful Company of Turners

Sponsored runs & marathons * Dramatic shows in Court No. 1 * Fashion show * Concerts in Old Bailey, Barbican & St Paul's * Bridge night * Dinners in Mansion House & Bank of England * Receptions * Operas * Debates in St Mary le Bow * Lunches in The Clink restaurant

Top Right: Sheriffs Charles Bowman and Christine Rigden about to ride around the Livery halls

Bottom Right: Old Bailey Telecommunications Team Leader Pearl Sandford, Lady Brewer and the Duchess of Gloucester at a sponsored fund-raising reception in Rothschild's spectacular new building

**The Sheriffs of the City London
Tour the City on Horseback
27 July 2016**
In aid of the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund
helping London's ex-offenders into
work and a new life since 1808



 **The Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund
& Pimlico Opera Rising Stars**
present
Rigoletto
Tuesday October 20th
7.30 pm
Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace
London SW1
In Verdi's tuneful masterpiece Rigoletto, deformed court jester of the womanising and corrupt Duke of Mantua, sees his own daughter ensnared by the Duke. In the tragedy which inevitably follows Rigoletto's attempt at revenge, the audience is carried on a rollercoaster ride of elation, love, misery and despair.
All proceeds shared between The Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, for ex-offenders and their families in Greater London, and Pimlico Opera's pioneering work with prisoners.
Tickets: £39 & £22
10% discount on 4 or more booked together
Box Office: 020 7730 4500
Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ
Online: www.cadoganhall.com



*** Coffee morning * Thames rowing race * Old Bailey tours
* Wine tasting * Thanksgiving service in Tower of London
* Bring & Buy * Book launches * Carol service * Tandem
and horseback rides * Sheep drives * Breakfasts with
Recorder * Children's party * Ballet & Bubbly
* W.S. Gilbert champagne celebration**

From the coalface Christine Smith

In 1993 I was a part-time secretary to the Science Tutor at Birkbeck College. My job was quite easy, but I wanted to do more. In the *Situations vacant* of the *Evening Standard* I was intrigued by a rather vague advertisement for someone with secretarial skills for an unnamed organisation. Not with any serious intentions, I applied. To my surprise I was interviewed in a small office in the Old Bailey by a charming and elegant lady, Mrs Alison Saunders. She asked me various questions, including whether I had any objection to working for a prisoners' charity. I said no, I didn't, though of course I'd never even thought of such a job. After a pleasant chat Mrs Saunders said I was "exactly the sort of person we are looking for" which boosted my ego and I accepted on the spot!

In 1993 there were two other members of staff: the Administrator David Elias, an old-school London Probation Officer, and the Treasurer, John Sowerby, a recently retired accountant. They were both very welcoming and I enjoyed working for the Fund from the start. Much of the work was routine, but interesting and eye-opening – a completely different aspect of life from any I'd come across. I soon learned what a huge difference small grants can make to ex-prisoners who lack the most basic items, eg bed and bedding, cooking facilities, warm clothes, etc.

Applications were much fewer thirty years ago, so David often investigated them in detail on the telephone. His conversations with Probation Officers, and his tales of the Probation Service, were revealing and fascinating. The most difficult aspect was that not all cases result in success, and the re-offending of ex-prisoners is high. Sometimes much effort went into helping, but some just cannot be helped. Occasionally there would be irate and concerned telephone calls from ex-prisoners who did not realise that they themselves could not make an application to the Fund, it had to come from their Probation Officer. These calls were often demanding and had to be dealt with diplomatically and with empathy.

As computers and systems were introduced, applications and grants increased, needing more money. To raise the Fund's standing Alison held the AGM in Court No. 1 followed by a reception in the Judges' Dining Room. She initiated a programme of fund-raising events, involving the Recorder more. I remember with great pleasure an early trip to the Royal Docks, *Rigoletto* in the Cadogan Hall, a glamorous reception in Rothschild's new building, the Royal Parks half-marathon in Hyde Park when my daughter Sarah, plus five of her colleagues and a client from Cranstoun Drug Centre, raised money for the Fund.

The Central Criminal Court fascinated me as I am interested in London's history. I relished the tours conducted by the Secondary, who gave all proceeds to the Fund. He told enthralling stories of Court No. 1 and Deadman's Walk, along which prisoners staggered to the gallows, or to the cart for transportation.

Over my 26 years at the Fund we all had our ups and downs and I obtained a degree (albeit late in life), gained two grandchildren and saw the death of my husband, when my role was temporarily kindly filled by Heather Brown, former P.A. to the Recorder. A strong memory is the approachability and friendliness of the Court's staff. In the canteen where we lunched (despite the mediocre food) I became acquainted with staff from Security to Switchboard, particularly the knowledgeable and ever-helpful Chief Telephonist, Pearl Sandford.

Filing and records piled up relentlessly and were stored in the 'museum', a padlocked room down two basement levels, where reputedly a ghost roams. The rumour was confirmed to me by more than one person, and some staff refused to go there. I was not fazed, but did not like the darkness and the need to unpadlock the doors.

In 2005 Paul Lecoutre joined the Fund as Administrator/Treasurer. He devoted himself to the ever-increasing number of applications with great speed and efficiency. He devised a system of pie charts showing how grants were applied to clothing, tools of trade, courses, white goods, furnishing, special projects etc. His analyses of the Fund's grant-giving, published in the *Annual Report*, give a clear and accessible account of how the process works, which is very useful for the Advisory Council and Trustees. Paul was a great ally and working companion, his only weakness being that he never managed to find his way around in the rabbit warren of passages in the building, and had to be guided everywhere!

When I left the Fund I was treated to a farewell lunch at – appropriately! – HMP Brixton. A very happy end to an unusual and happy job – a view shared by my successor, Claire Ivey. She told me that she was *overjoyed to get the job. From the warm welcome I received and a tour of the Old Bailey's Grand Hall, "too good to be true" entered my mind. The first year was a baptism of fire, as I navigated the office duties and a host of meetings and events, but I enjoyed the opportunities and happily threw myself into charity life. When Covid compelled home working I drove to and from London to collect the grant applications until we organised mail redirection. Zoom helped, until we became zoomed out. Now we're back to normal services, reviving my first, happy thought: "too good to be true!"*

Back-up from the Old Bailey

The Old Bailey initially retained the fearful reputation of its predecessor, the grim Newgate prison; but as reformers gradually changed attitudes to imprisonment, it became associated less with horror and more with the quest for justice.

In 1970, the City Corporation granted the Fund the invaluable asset of an office in the Old Bailey. The Recorder spends his working days in the building, and both Sheriffs have flats there. Thanks to the excellent cooperation of the Old Bailey staff, fund-raising events are often held there, such as the enduringly popular *Trial & Error*, a dramatic miscellany illuminating 400 years of Newgate and the Old Bailey. Meetings of the Fund's Trustees and Advisory Council are held in the building, with Court No. 1 as the splendid setting for the AGM, at which a beneficiary of the Fund summons up the courage to speak of his or her experience. A beneficiary invited to speak wrote to the Fund:

I would be honoured to attend your fund-raising events and speak as a beneficiary of your awards. Without the help and support from the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund I would not have been able to pay my deposit and accept a place or offer on my course and accomplish my achievements to date.

I am forever grateful for the assistance your organisation has provided. You have helped to change my life in a positive direction forever. I would be honoured to share this testimony with others.

The two Sheriffs elected annually are ex officio the Fund's Presidents, with the Recorder of London – the Senior Circuit Judge at the Old Bailey – as Vice President. The current Recorder, HHJ Mark Lucraft QC, writes: *The Central Criminal Court is the premier Crown Court in England & Wales. Many of the most significant criminal trials that affect all of us take place here. Our courts are (sadly) kept busy tackling cases of homicide and terrorism. Although the court-rooms we use date to 1907 or 1972 they have been kept fully utilised throughout their history and particularly so as we live through the current pandemic. Many of the defendants are young men often accused of the most serious of offences. We have an impressive line-up of senior judges who tackle the challenges each case poses, but who also take a keen interest in the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of those found guilty. As judges we are all keen to support the essential work of the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund in assisting those it can release from prison with learning new skills and trades.*

Thanks to the Livery Companies

In 1846 the Fund's Vice Presidents, listed in the 1846 *Annual Report*, included: His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, The Most Noble the Marquis of Lansdowne, The Rt. Hon. Lord Kenyon, The Rt. Hon. Lord Bexley, the Rt. Hon. Lord Monteagle, The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart, and the Lord Mayor. A City charity, the Fund owed much of its successful growth to noble City gentlemen, many of them members of City Livery Companies. The Fund's Treasurers and Trustees have often been Aldermen, Common Councilmen and Liverymen.

Following the Fund's founder Sheriffs, the two Sheriffs elected every year by their fellow Liverymen continue to play a vital part in the Fund. As well as being supportive individually, they often encourage their Livery Company to donate to the Fund. The Cutlers' Company was the first to make a donation, in 1846. The Armourers' & Brasiers' Company has faithfully contributed since 1876.

Only a few Livery Companies donated before 1893, after which donations started to increase, prompting the Committee to consider a regular appeal. The Minutes of a meeting in 1900 recorded: *Your Committee, whilst thankful for the liberal support at present received from several City Companies, . . . believe that a well considered scheme for periodical assistance – to even a very modest amount – from all the great Guilds . . . would meet with a ready response.*

In 1901 the Fund appealed to four of the Great Twelve Companies and four of the minor ones. Regular appeals followed: in 1914 the Sheriffs applied to the Goldsmiths on behalf of a *Society closely connected with the City (whose) income is administered by a Committee composed of City men with practical experience.* Disingenuously, they added that no appeal had been made to the general public in the belief that adequate support would be provided by the Companies.

The links between the Fund and the City's Livery Companies have developed through the creation of Life Governors, the 200 Club, and the exceptionally original – and blessedly profitable – events organised by the Sheriffs. All current Masters and their Clerks are invited to the AGM, held in No. 1 Court of the Old Bailey, followed by a convivial reception. The Fund is now supported by virtually all the Livery Companies. Their backing has enabled the Fund to develop larger, more ambitious projects, while still helping individuals with appropriate grants at a time of great need. The Fund delights in the connection with the Livery Companies, relies on them, and is deeply grateful to them.

Donations, legacies and goodwill

The Fund is a self-supporting registered charity (no. 221927) run by voluntary officers plus a Secretary and an Administrator, both part-time. Bar salaries for these two, all monies the Fund receives are spent on grants to the individuals, charities, and training & mentoring schemes it supports. It relies for income on regular and one-off donations including legacies, and on fund-raising events.

Apart from the grand dinner held at Mansion House in 1845, the Fund made little effort to raise money until the end of the 19th century. It depended on the generosity of a few supporters such as Sir Moses Montefiore, who in 1883, on entering his 100th year, gave £99. It also benefited from two ancient gifts, the first stemming from an agreement between King Henry V¹¹¹ and the Corporation of London for the re-foundation of St Bartholomew's Hospital. They agreed on an annual payment, in perpetuity, of £10 as a stipend for a *prieste which shall be called the Visitor of Newgate, who shall attend to visit the prisoners of Newgate as necessity shall require and to be always resident there for that purpose*. Nearly 340 years later the payment was transferred to the Sheriffs' Fund Society. The Fund still receives the annual £10.

The second ancient gift originated in 1632, when Lady Catherine Barnardistone gave £5 to release poor prisoners whose debt was under £50, and £100 for the preaching of three sermons to the condemned prisoners in Newgate. In 1888-89 the Charity Commissioners transferred her gift to the Sheriffs' Fund Society.

A few legacies helped the Fund, but in the 20th century the number of applications for grants crept relentlessly up and up. To supply the need, the Fund issued appeals to organisations including the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, City Companies, and selected Trusts and Foundations. From 1932 to 1965 the London County Council organised contributions from cinemas giving Sunday performances: during World War 11 numerous donations came from West London cinemas such as the Shepherd's Bush Gaumont. In 1940 the Committee acknowledged contributions from famous English actors in Hollywood: Charles Chaplin, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh and Basil Rathbone.

The new medium of the wireless enabled the Fund's message to be heard by a large audience, with good results: in 1934 the Recorder, Sir Ernest Wild, appealed on the BBC's *Week's Good Cause*, raising £190 18s 3d. In 1950 a broadcast appeal by the Recorder, Sir Gerald Dobson, brought in £589 12s 7d.

The Fund became increasingly well known. In 1952 under the headline *Old lag made her alter will* a City newspaper wrote about Mrs Helen Norris, who had bequeathed the Fund a large sum after reading a published letter from an “old lag” who reformed late in life and went straight, influenced by the Fund and a City Probation Officer. An extract from Mrs Norris’ will is always read out at the AGM. In 1962 *Woman’s Own* published an admiring article about the Fund’s Secretary and Almoner, Mrs Harthan.

In 1958, its 150th anniversary, the Fund celebrated with a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale, which produced £343 5s 10d. In 1970 the Lord Mayor, Lt. Col. Sir Ian Bowater, gave permission for a Bring and Buy Sale in the Mansion House, which raised an astonishing £1,508. Some unusual donations arrived: in 1935 Ingoldsby Dramatic Club gave £120 14s 8d, raised at a show they gave at the Cripplegate Institute. In 1969 F.E. Cleary gave the royalties from his book *The Flowering City*. At the end of his Shrieval year in 1975, Mr Anthony Hart sold his regalia and donated the proceeds.

Applications to the Fund kept increasing, by 50% in 1990-91 and “at an alarming rate” in 1992-93. Urgently needing income, in 1997 the Chairman appealed for donations via forms printed in the *Annual Report*. In 2004-05 a record number of grants – 427 – cost nearly £83,000. In 2008, the Fund’s bicentenary, Chairman Lady Davies established the 200 Club, whose members each contribute an annual £200 (or more), the approximate cost of an individual grant. This most beneficial source of income was added to by a growing number of legacies: Her Honour Judge Ann Goddard QC, for many years a judge at the Old Bailey, bequeathed a substantial sum. As she would have wished, the Fund used it to support charities focused on children. Her generosity inspired further legacies.

Goodwill has prompted many other generous acts: creators have given their books and cards to be sold for the Fund. Benefactors have sponsored fund-raising events and given prizes for the “lucky programme” winners at performances of *Trial & Error*. Individuals have panted through sponsored runs and swims. The Sheriffs regularly dream up an amazing variety of events, from horseback or tandem rides round the City Livery Halls, regardless of the riders’ experience (i.e. lack of) of horses or tandems, to performances by consummate professionals such as Damian Lewis and the late, great Helen McCrory. All contribute to helping offenders to make a positive new start, to the benefit of themselves in particular and to society. The Fund is indebted to each and every contributor.

Join in!

Come to Fund events Priority booking for donors. See www.sr-fund.org

Become a donor via the forms on pages 31 & 33, or www.sr-fund.org

Arrange a tour of the Old Bailey. Apply to the Fund's Secretary (page 27)

Listen to the Old Bailey choir's glorious concerts www.oldbaileychoir.com

Have lunch at the Clink restaurant, HMP Brixton, delicious food cooked and served by prisoners in training for a new start www.theclinkcharity.org

Decorate your home or office using trained ex-offenders employed by Bounce Back www.bouncebackproject.com

Sponsor a fund-raiser (*Rigoletto*, sponsor Lawrence Graham LLP & World Traders' Company; Rothschilds reception, sponsor Master Needlemaker Martyn Chase)

Admire and buy beautiful work hand-made by prisoners www.finecellwork.co.uk

Employ ex-offenders, as do companies e.g. Timpsons, Pret, Land Securities

Learn about prisons & prisoners: read the Prison Reform Trust's factfile *Bromley Briefings* www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Give a prize for a fund-raising raffle or "lucky ticket"

Buy cards *Either* in person at Fund events, *or* online at www.sr-fund.org *or* from the Secretary (page 27) with payment by cheque to *The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund*. Prices include p&p.

* **Cards featuring Old Bailey** blank inside **£10 per pack of ten**

* **Fold-out cards with City panorama** blank inside **£10 per pack of eight**

Buy books *Either* in person at Fund events, *or* from The Recorder's P.A. Rebecca Collins, email rebecca.collins@cityoflondon.gov.uk Prices include p&p.

* **Court No. 1: The Old Bailey – the Trials & Scandals that Shocked Modern Britain** by Thomas Grant (hardback, **signed by the author**) (**£33**)

* **A Decade of Criminal Justice** by Sir Roger Gifford and Adrian Waddingham (**£21.50**)

* **Court No. 1: The Old Bailey** by Thomas Grant (paperback, **signed by the author**) (**£13.50**)

* **Jeremy Hutchinson's Case Histories** by Thomas Grant (paperback, **signed by the author**) (**£13.50**)

Make contact

Office hours: 11.15 a.m. - 4.15 pm Tuesday & Wednesday

**The Secretary, Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund,
Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EH
Telephone 020 7192 2734
Email srfundsec@yahoo.com**

Website www.sr-fund.org

The website contains detailed information about the Fund, including *Annual Reports*, Mrs Harthan's history of the Fund, the Fenix Foundation's 2013 Evaluation, case studies, ways of donating online, advance notice of events.

Registered Charity No. 221927

Useful links

***St Giles Trust.** Supports vulnerable people with a diverse range of needs.
www.stgilestrust.org.uk

***Hardman Trust.** Lists prisoner-funding charities. **www.hardmantrust.org.uk**

***Fine Cell Work.** Charity & social enterprise which teaches prisoners and ex-prisoners to make beautiful hand-made products. **www.finecellwork.co.uk**

***Prison Advice & Care Trust.** The Fund works in collaboration with PACT and with the Witness Service at the Old Bailey. **www.prisonadvice.org.uk**

***Prison Reform Trust.** Campaigns for a just, humane and effective penal system via research, events, publications. **www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk**

Applications to the Fund

To apply to the Fund for assistance for a client:

*Probation Officers should download an application form via their Intranet.

*Social Services case workers, Social Welfare agencies and other professionals should apply to the Secretary of the Fund: **srfundsec@yahoo.com**

Please note that an offender or ex-offender may not apply him/herself.

The last word Lady Russell

Fifty-two years ago a very wise, intelligent lady became Chair of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund. She ran it for a remarkable 20 years, working extremely hard, with great passion and a determination to grow the Fund to change the lives of prisoners on release. She was Lady Bowater, my husband's grandmother, Lady Mayoress in 1969-70. I was lucky enough to know her for many years.

In 2016, before my husband William took office as Sheriff of the City of London and we moved into the Old Bailey, I decided to learn more about prisons. My chance came when I was invited by the charity Fine Cell Work to visit HMP Brixton with a volunteer to see the work they do and have lunch at The Clink Restaurant. The visit was enlightening and inspiring. Not only did we see the remarkable work of both these charities but we also saw the Bad Boys Bakery in action, and joined a group of young men in the Art Room. During the day I spent time with the prisoners talking about their families and their life in prison.

As I walked out of the prison that day, back to life on the outside, I had an overwhelming feeling that I wanted to help prisoners get their lives back on track and give them a second chance. It all seemed such a waste, a waste of time, energy, resources and their lives.

For the rest of our Shrieval year in the Old Bailey I relished the chance to attend meetings of the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, and was delighted to be asked by Lady Brewer to join the Advisory Council in 2017.

Lady Brewer has done a remarkable job during her seven years as Chair, in particular through her initiative in developing large prison-based schemes such as *Untold*. This is a programme based at HMP Isis working with prisoners who are keen to engage with the creative industries. The Fund seed-funded the successful pilot project and continues to support the programme as it develops. In the future, I would like to see the Fund continue to incubate and support initiatives such as *Untold*.

And now as I take over as Chair I feel both hugely honoured and extremely proud. Not only will I be able to continue with my passion to help ex-offenders to rehabilitate and lead stable lives on release, but I will be following in Lady Bowater's footsteps 52 years earlier . . . however, I have no plans to stay 20 years!

Thanks and credits

In its 200+ years, the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund has survived incomprehension, World Wars, Covid 19 and lockdowns. Today it is not only flourishing but is also expanding its vital work: a tribute to the zeal, generosity and skills of its trusty supporters. A few are already named. The complete list includes generations of:

**Chairmen, Trustees, Presidents (Sheriffs), Vice Presidents (Recorders), Advisory Council members, Treasurers, Solicitors, Auditors, Patrons, Secretaries, Almoners, Administrators

**All Old Bailey staff including the Secondaries, the staff responsible for catering and security, the staff of the Recorder and of the Keeper, the telephonists, who give much out-of-hours assistance

**Also at the Old Bailey: the Witness Service, the Old Bailey Choir, which holds fund-raising events in aid of the Fund, and the Probation Service, which is the conduit for many grant applications

**Donors including many individuals, Life Governors, 200 Club members, Livery Companies, Ward Clubs, Charitable Trusts, Foundations, businesses, legal Chambers, City churches, sponsors of wonderful events

**Givers of advice, time and skills: Probation Officers, Prison Chaplains, Social Workers, speakers (including courageous beneficiaries), voluntary helpers who help events to run smoothly, financial and IT specialists, musicians, actors, singers, ticketing organisers, programme sellers, marathon runners and many more

**Givers of practical help to goals supported by the Fund: Prison Governors and officers, voluntary services, employers who train and employ ex-prisoners

Finally, the Fund is greatly indebted to the Corporation of the City of London for providing the huge blessing of an office in the Central Criminal Court.

**We hope that *TURNING LIVES AROUND* has given you
a glimpse of the Fund's work, and that you may feel moved to**

Support the Fund

How to donate

All donations to the Fund, whether of money, time, skills or contacts, are most welcome. Since 1808 the Fund has given small grants for specific needs to prisoners on release and to their families living in the City of London or in the Metropolitan Police District. Increasingly, it now also gives large grants to incubate and implement programmes which provide training and mentoring for people while they are in prison and after their release. Such schemes significantly reduce re-offending; but inevitably they are expensive to set up. The Fund is grateful for donations which can be made in any of the following ways:

Donating by cheque, bank transfer or standing order mandate

* **Donation** using the form on page 31. Donors are invited to the AGM & reception, and are given priority booking for events

* **200 Club mandate** using the form on page 33. Members of the 200 Club make an annual donation of £200 or more. They are invited to the AGM & following reception in the Judges’ Dining Room, and are entered in a draw for a prize, for example a lunch with the Old Bailey judges, or a tour of the Old Bailey

* **Legacy** in your will, or using this suggested codicil:

**I give the sum of £.....
..... (words and figures) to The Sheriffs’ and Recorder’s Fund
(Registered Charity no. 221927) of Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey,
London EC4M 7EH for its general charitable purposes. And I declare
that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of such charity
shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.**

The Fund recommends that you consult your solicitors or other professional advisers in making such a gift by will or codicil (particularly if you wish to leave any share or part of the residue to your estate). Should you wish to discuss any aspect of a proposed gift in advance, please contact an officer of the Fund.



Donating online

Visit the Fund’s website **www.sr-fund.org** selecting the *Ways to help* page. Or tap your smartphone on this QR code which will take you direct to *Ways to help*.

Donation form

Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund

Please make your donation by **cheque** or by **BACS**, using this photocopied form. If applicable, please sign the **Gift Aid declaration**. Send the form to:

**The Secretary, Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund,
Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EH**

If you prefer, you can access the form from the *Ways to help* page of the Fund's website: **www.sr-fund.org** The page can be accessed by tapping your smartphone on the QR code on page 30.

CHEQUE

I enclose my cheque, payable to the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, to the value

of £.....(..... pounds)

Forename(s), surname & title (BLOCK CAPITALS)

.....

Home address

.....

Post code..... Email address.....

BACS

I have instructed my bank to pay the sum of £.....
(.....pounds) to the account of the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, a/c no. 10842508, sort code 20-10-53, Barclays Bank PLC, Bloomsbury & Tottenham Court Road Branch, PO Box 113345, London W12 8GG. The reference for this instruction is my surname/company/organisation:

.....

Gift Aid declaration

I should like the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund (Charity Commission reference 221927) to reclaim the tax I have paid on this donation, and on all future donations. I am a UK taxpayer, and note that I must have paid at least as much income tax or CGT as will be reclaimed. Please treat this and all future payments as Gift Aid donations.

Date Signature.....



In the prize draw at *Advocacy, Trial & Error* Lucy Beacon won a day's training in the craft of turning. Turner Carlyn Lindsay taught her to turn an ornamental pencil holder. Photos Carlyn Lindsay



Sheriff Chris Hayward before and after his magnificent weight loss, sponsored in aid of the Fund



Right: Christine Smith with her daughter Sarah who ran a half-marathon in aid of the Fund

200 Club mandate

Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund

Please make your donation by completing this photocopied mandate. If applicable, please sign the **Gift Aid declaration**. Send the mandate to:

The Secretary, Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EH, who will forward it to your bank.

If you prefer, you can access the mandate from the *Ways to help* page of the Fund's website: **www.sr-fund.org** The page can be accessed by tapping your smartphone on the QR code on page 30.

Name and branch address of your bank.....

.....
Please pay to the account of the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund,
a/c no. 10842508, Sort code 20-10-53, Barclays Bank PLC, Bloomsbury &
Tottenham Court Road Branch, PO Box 113345, London W12 8GG,
the sum of..... (suggested minimum £200 -
two hundred pounds) starting annually on.....
.....until further notice.

Forename(s), surname & title (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Home address

Post code..... Email address.....

Bank account no Sort code.....

Signature..... Date.....

Gift Aid declaration

I should like the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund (Charity Commission reference 221927) to reclaim the tax I have paid on this donation, and on all future donations. I am a UK taxpayer, and note that I must have paid at least as much income tax or CGT as will be reclaimed. Please treat this and all future payments as Gift Aid donations.

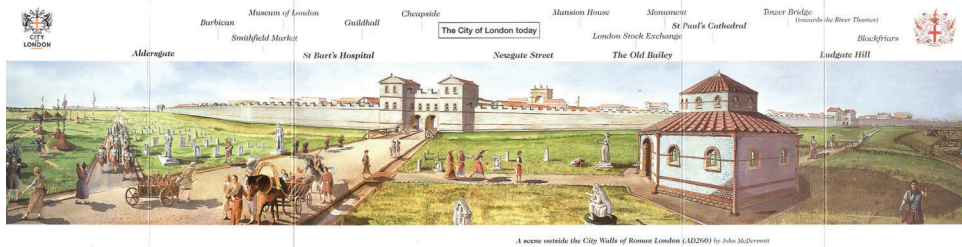
Date Signature.....



Left: The refurbished Family Room at HMP Wormwood Scrubs, paid for by the Fund
 Right: Tulchan Communications LLP gave the Fund the collection from their carol service at St Mary Woolnoth



Left: HRH The Countess of Wessex at HMP Downview in connection with the London College of Fashion's *Making for Change* project, part-sponsored by the Fund
 Right: Sir Ian Bowater at the foundation of the Central Criminal Court's new wing, in which the City of London Corporation gave the Fund an office
 Below: Fold-out card on sale for the Fund





Left: Sheriff Neil Redcliffe and his wife Emma rejoicing at their arrival by bicycle in Paris. Through sponsorship, they and their co-riders raised unprecedented sums for the Fund.

Below L to R: Trustee James Harman, former Chairman Lady Davies, Advisory Council member Niki Meinertzhagen, Chairman Lady Brewer, Secretary Christine Smith, Trustee Penrose Halson, Advisory Council member The Lady Clarke, Trustee Danny Bell, Chairman Elect Lady Russell, after a farewell lunch for Christine





Chairman Alison Saunders (right) at a Summer Scheme of activities, including water sports, organised by the Metropolitan Police of Barking and Dagenham

Right: Painting by a beneficiary who presented it to the Fund with thanks for help given when he was in great need. Photo Christine Smith



Below: From a City newspaper, 1952

Old lag made her alter will

MAJOR GUY F. RICHARDSON, C.C., City Sheriff 1948-49, has succeeded Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury Beer as chairman and hon. treasurer of the Sheriffs' and Recorders' Fund Society.

This society's work began in 1808 through the efforts of two City Sheriffs, Alderman Christopher Smith and Sir Richard Phillips. The Fund has helped prisoners and their families. "It has been a shelter from which many a man has been able to start on his way to find employment and to bring back to himself the lost name of good repute."

Last year, Mrs. Helen Charlotte Norris bequeathed to the Fund the income from a trust formed from the sale of all her property. Mrs. Norris altered her will in favour of the Fund after reading the published letter of an "old lag" who reformed late in life and went straight through the influence of a City probation officer.

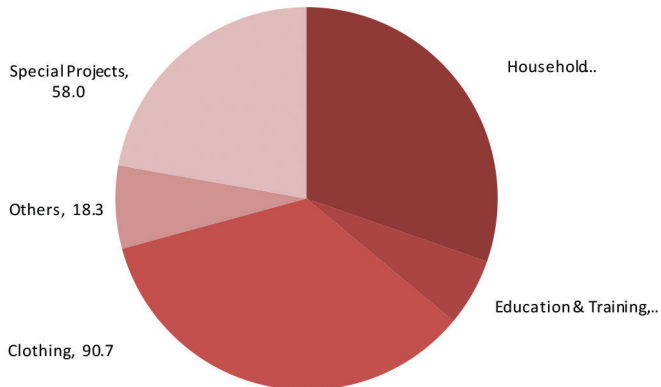
A wonderful worker for the Fund is Mrs. B. E. Hartham, Secretary and Almoner. She saves the Fund vast sums of money by obtaining for prisoners' families and ex-prisoners, clothing and other necessities at incredibly low prices.



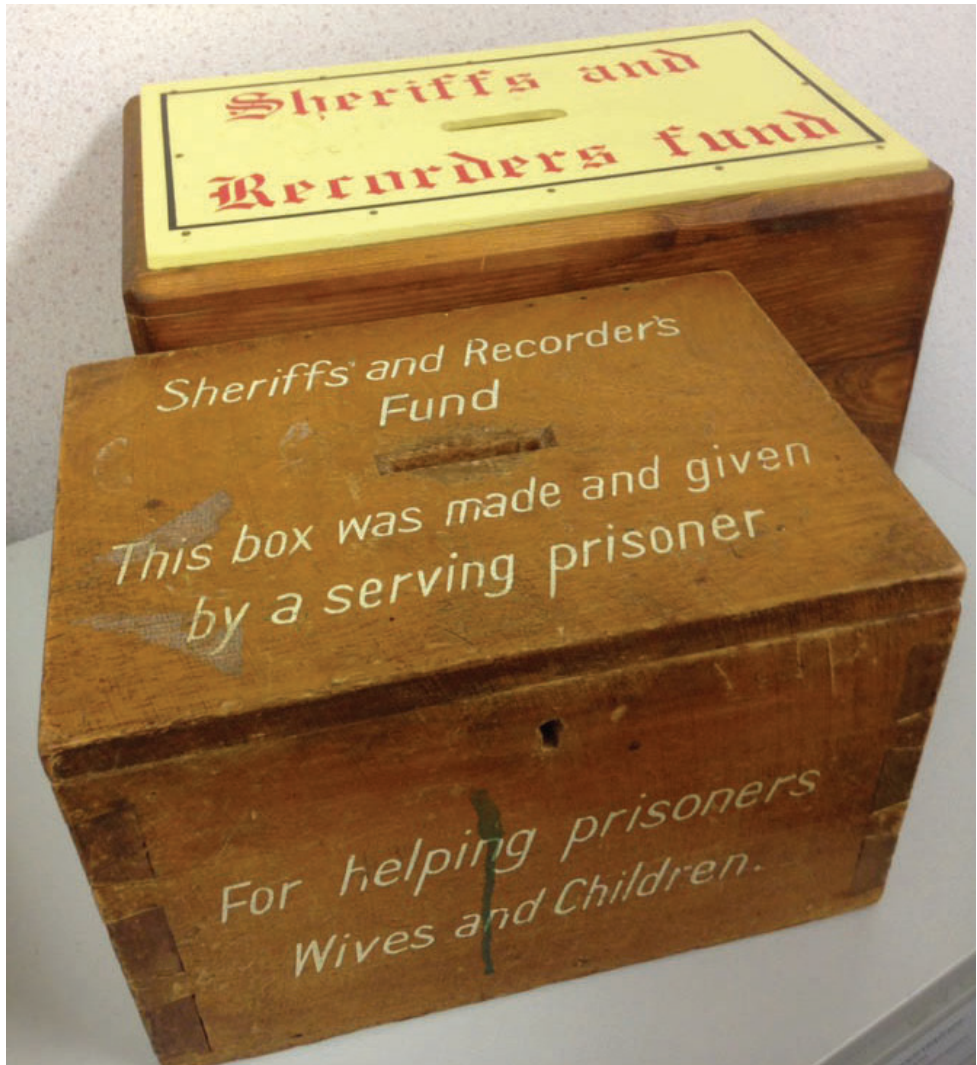
Above: Stalwarts of the Fund Christine Smith, Secretary for 26 years, and Paul Lecoutre, Administrator/Treasurer

Right: The Old Bailey's Matron, Catherine Waters, flanked by Sheriffs Andrew Parmley and Fiona Adler at the start of their tandem ride round the Livery halls in aid of the Fund. Photo Mike Williams

Below: Diagram designed by Paul Lecoutre showing the allocation of casework grants



TURNING LIVES AROUND



Collecting boxes given to the Fund, reminiscent of the Poor Boxes installed by the founding Sheriffs in 1808. Photo Christine Smith

Website: www.sr-fund.org
Go direct or tap your
smartphone on this QR code

