

Centenary

Probation's 100 years

NEWS
FOCUS
Special
Essex Probation's newsletter
June 07



From reclaiming drunkards to protecting the public... the building of Probation

Realising that prison didn't work: the first hints of a new idea

A radical new sentence – in 1820

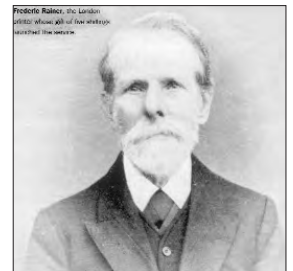
Magistrates in Warwickshire pioneered a radical new sentence of one day's jail for young offenders on condition they returned to the care of their parents or master ("to be more carefully watched and supervised in future.")



The first Probation Officer: George Nelson

A gift of five shillings...

London printer Frederic Rainer gave five shillings to the Church of England Temperance Society in 1876. He wanted the money to be used to rescue people who fell into crime through drunkenness, regarded as the social evil of the time, and the cause of most petty crime.



Frederick Rainer

The first Police Court Missionary: a big job

The Temperance Society appointed George Nelson as its first missionary in Southwark Police Court. His role was to deflect petty criminals from the capital's overflowing prisons, at a time when jail was the punishment for first offenders – be they men, women, or children.

A year later, it appointed a second missionary, William Batchelor, to Bow St. and Mansion House police courts.



Female Rescue Agents

Women missionaries were eventually appointed as well, sometimes called Female Rescue Agents. By 1885 there were 23 men and women carrying out the work.

Prisons too: "sign the pledge"

The number of Missionaries grew in the late 1800s and Prison Gate Missions were opened, offering newly-released prisoners breakfast, "a few earnest words" and an invitation to sign the pledge of Temperance.

Gradually supervision was not confined to abusers of alcohol – it was soon discovered that missionaries could have a positive effect on a wide range of offenders, including children. They began to visit their supervisees' homes to help with matrimonial conciliation, and to arrange support for someone trying to stop committing crime.



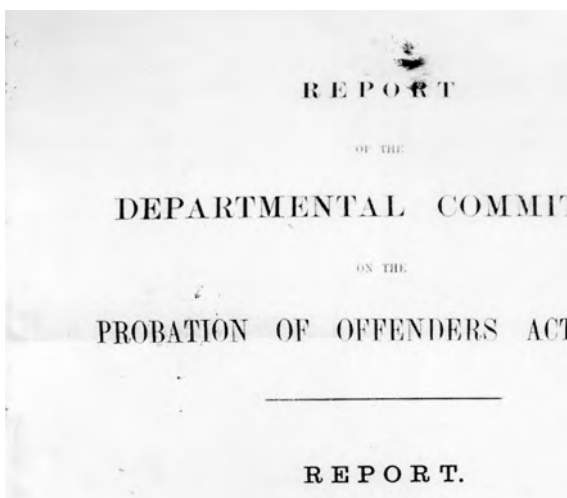
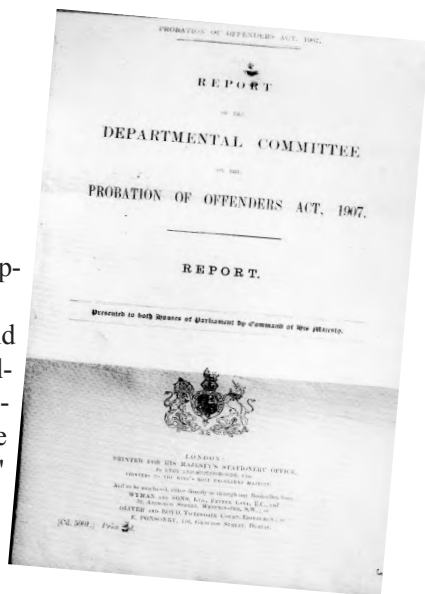
“On Probation” – informally

The 1887 Act enabled courts to release offenders “on probation” having taken into account the circumstances of the offence and the character and previous history of the offender. Magistrates and judges were given an opportunity to make a personal judgement about the offender and to release him or her with a stern warning not to be seen there again.

This was a voluntary arrangement – no statutory supervision was provided for, until 20 years later in 1907.

Probation: a new service

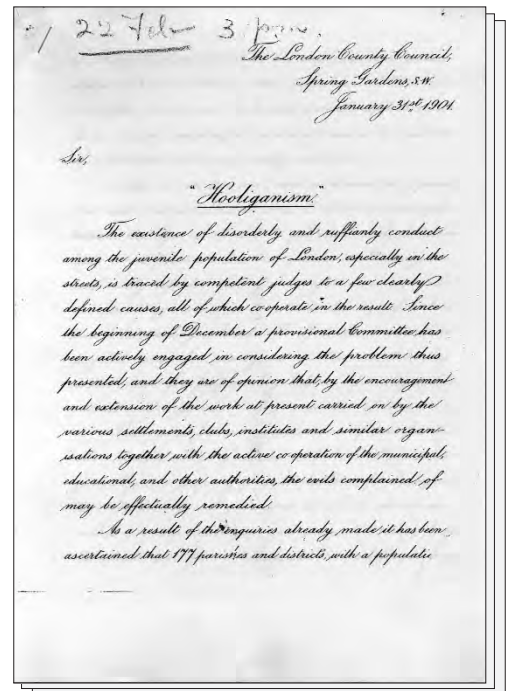
In 1907, 124 men and 19 women were appointed as Probation Officers. The Probation of Offenders Act 1907 laid the foundations of the modern service. Voluntary pioneering became a statutory responsibility. Courts were to release offenders on a probation order. Officers' duties were to "advise, assist, and befriend". A year later, out of over 1000 courts, 763 of them had a Probation Officer.



A life at sea, bound over under the Probation Act

A thirty-two-year-old seaman had been sent to prison in 1894 when he was 14, for stealing apples. "To send a boy of fourteen to gaol for an offence of that kind," commented Mr. Clark Hall, "has led to this man leading a life of crime ever since." (Altogether he had been convicted on 25 occasions with one term of 5 years' penal servitude.) "You have had a very hard life and very little chance, and I am going to adopt a very unusual course. Go to sea and strive to earn an honest living. It is your last chance. If you appear again you will inevitably get eight years."

1901: familiar concerns...?



This letter, from three concerned members of London County Council to various businesses in the capital, sets out in beautiful copperplate the solution to the “disorderly and ruffianly conduct” of juveniles. They estimate that 150,000 “lads and girls” aged 13-16 have nothing to occupy them: no clubs, no “wholesome outlets for their energies and relaxation away from the streets”.

They invite employers to a meeting presided over by the Lord Mayor, on Feb 22 at 3 p.m. to hear about establishing The Twentieth Century League which will aim to put things right, “in the interests of London and the Empire generally.” They are going to need £5,000 in total, and are asking the recipients of the letter either to attend the meeting, or to send a cheque towards the maintenance fund of the League.

This recipient evidently chose to go: he has pencilled in the date at the top of the letter.



The first meeting of the National Association of Probation Officers in 1912, formed in order to "undertake collective bargaining" and get "their needs attended to."

Moral outrage in "Lady Probation Officer's column"

"Dear friends and fellow-workers all, including the men, for, of course, they'll read this column as it is not intended for them"... Probation Officer Eleanor Cary expresses moral outrage at having to read out the Probation Order that informs a new probationer who is homeless that she must re-

ceive Probation visits in her own home. Also "we badly need power to dictate residence, or compel a probationer to remain in a home. For all these things we must unite, and with a long pull and a strong pull and a pull altogether we shall win!"

LADY PROBATION OFFICERS' COLUMN.

Dear friends and fellow-workers all, including the men, for, of course, they'll read this column, as it is not intended with some comments and suggestions of your own. Her difficulties are very real.

Personally I feel the Probation Forms need varying. I inform a new probationer—who has no home, and who is being placed in an institution, that she must receive at her own home visits from the Probation Officer weekly, or as often as the "Court" may think fit.

I am under an obligation to read over the order which is made to the probationer, and the "humour" of those as "Alice in Wonderland!" Then I think it would be better if every form bore a clause insisting that the probationer report at stated intervals, exclusive of the officer's visits to them. Frequently one makes several calls and months, and hours making definite of them for a I hardly see how that can be avoided by anything the magistrate or other authority can do. Personally, I always see the medical superintendent of the infirmary and request and insistence that they send out parents a probationer to leave the premises without first giving me adequate notice to meet them. Almost without exception I have found hearty co-operation in this matter, and I have received in this way.

Of course, too, we ladies need power to dictate residence, or compel a probationer to remain in a home.

For all these things we must unite, and with a long pull and a strong pull and a pull altogether we shall win!

ELEANOR CARY.



Maud Pell: an example of change

Arrested at age 14 for buying gin for her mother, Maud was brought into court, presenting "a shockingly neglected appearance, being hardly more than half clothed." Maud was sent to the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institute and even-

tually trained as a maid, setting in Fulham. This dramatic transformation was used to demonstrate the possibilities of rehabilitation. Maud kept in touch with her supervisor throughout her life.

1913 & 1915: Probation is keen to demonstrate its success...



BOY AS RECEIVED



SAME BOY DAY AFTER



DESPAIR.



HOPE.

...which seems instant...

Probation Officers evidently felt that the most palpable demonstration of success was before and after pictures: "Boy as Received" and "Same Boy Day After" on an Industrial Training Ship. Likewise "Despair", followed by "Hope" after talking to a Probation Officer.

However, like Probation staff today, they knew that it took a long time, and a lot of patience and hard work, to achieve what they were aiming for.

What goes around comes around...

Unnecessary Imprisonment: the case against short sentences 1913...

"The question of prison reform, if any real meaning is to be attached to the phrase, must be a question of how to deal effectively with the mass of persons, male and female, coming to prison under short sentences of a month or less. This questions has been engaging the active attention of the Secretary of State since 1910..."

IMPRISONMENT THAT IS UNNECESSARY.
COMMISSIONERS FEEL FOR REFORM.

An appeal to the Home Secretary to pass forward the scheme of prison reform which was outlined by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons in July, 1910, is contained in an annual report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Director of General Prisons issued on a Monday.

It is pointed out that 21 per cent. of the prisoners received from ordinary courts during the year were sentenced to terms of imprisonment of one month or less.

"If sentences are taken as a term," says the report, "the question of prison reform, if any real meaning is to be attached to the phrase, must be a question of how to deal effectively with the mass of persons, male and female, coming to prison under short sentences of a month or less."

The committee has not accepted the active attention of the Secretary of State since 1910, in which year the Secretary of State issued in Parliament his intention of attempting to deal with the problem. The changes in law and practice which would be required have been, for some time, embodied in legislative form, but unfortunately the necessary time has not allowed of their completion.

"We attach great importance to the reforms which have been suggested for dealing with petty criminals, especially in the matter of those offenders of both sexes, and to the improved machinery for securing payment of fines in lieu of the revenue method of, in many cases, substituting imprisonment in default."

"It is not, perhaps, realized generally that of the total number coming to prison in a year, over 20 per cent. are committed in default of paying a fine. Of these 12 per cent. during the past year had fine either in whole or in part after reception in prison."

"If the necessary legal reforms were immediately introduced, we believe this unnecessary commitment to prison to be one of the most urgent, and we strongly trust that the Secretary of State will be able to pass legislative legislation with a view of dealing with this matter."

"We attach great importance also to the proposed reforms..."

The debate about crime and the causes of crime has a familiar ring to it

Women getting drunk more often: 1915...

"There has been a disquieting increase in the number of women charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct at many of the London Police Courts..."

Drunkenness among Women.

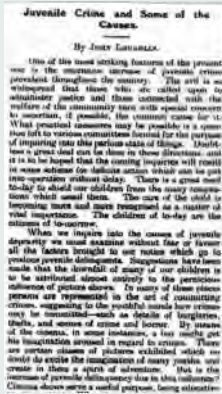
The following appeared in the "Times" of May 14th, 1915—

There has been a disquieting increase in the number of women charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct at many of the London Police Courts. Mr. Clarke Hall, at Old Street on Tuesday, had 22 women brought before him on those charges, and other London Magistrates, in poor neighbourhoods, have had the same experience of increased cases of drunkenness.

"Most of these women are either in receipt of Army separation allowances or their husbands, usually in the poverty border-line, are finding manual labour more remunerative and more easily obtainable than usual. Some of the women are earning money ordinarily earned by men."

The causes of juvenile crime 1918: the influence of the silver screen...

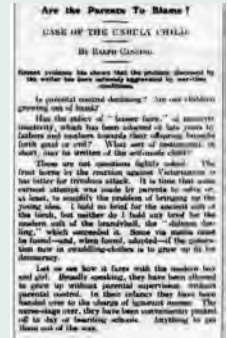
"One of the most striking features of the present war is the enormous increase of juvenile crime... Suggestions have been made that the downfall of many of our children is to be attributed almost entirely to the pernicious influence of picture shows... persons are represented in the act of committing crimes... details of burglaries, thefts, and scenes of crime and horror."



...or are the parents to blame?

"Is parental control declining? Are our children growing out of hand? Gradually more and more tether has been allowed to boys and girls, till now they are allowed to do more or less exactly what they like... they have been allowed to choose their friends without the mildest form of censorship. They have been given the

free run of the lending libraries. They have been permitted to turn their homes into a handy club for meals..."



My views on Probation: a Metropolitan Police Magistrate 1919

"The Home Secretary, by his interesting and important letter, has raised probation to the dignity of a science and art in criminal administration.

"Experience shows that, even with adults, the wise use of probation is rewarded by remarkable success."

Women of Education and refinement...

"For dealing with boys and girls up to the age of 16 everybody is agreed that women of education and refinement make by far the best Probation Officers."

He understands the need for quality supervision...

"The work of supervision involves a great deal more than tact and sympathy: visiting and the writing of adequate reports require strength of body and mind, and amateurishness of performance is a mere waste of time and money. The world has reluctantly learnt to acknowledge that charity and personal service are actually mischievous without scientific training..."

... and suggests that Probation Officers should be trained...

"...and it would probably be wise for those who desire to become Probation Officers to obtain a diploma by going through a six months' course for this kind of work, established by Mrs. Alfred Lyttleton and others, at the School of Economics, or they might achieve the same result by voluntary service for some time under an experienced Probation Officer."

Standardising Probation – 1925 Act

The 1925 Criminal Justice Act made provision for a comprehensive Probation system throughout England & Wales. It established a standard administrative framework and designated each Petty Sessional Division. Gradually, as the Service moved towards professionalism and embraced Social Work, its evolving style caused tensions with its religious roots and philosophy.

Open Plan... 1926 version in Glasgow



1920s: the debates continue and Probation comes in for praise

"Among the many wise reforms in the Criminal Justice Bill which the Lord Chancellor has introduced in the House of Lords is a provision for the wide extension of what is known as the Probation System."

"A short sentence is useless. It merely recruits the criminal class at a greater speed. The mere fact of imprisonment, however short, hangs like a thunder cloud over the man's after-life. I will release this man on Probation... I will place him under the guardianship of a Probation Officer I know to be wise and experienced."

(A Judge, reported in the Daily Express, August 1925).

"How does it come about that the two methods, Probation and flogging, have such opposite results, the success of Probation being 94%, and that of flogging only 20%?"

(Secretary of the Howard Association)

NATURE OF OFFENCES.			
Attempted Suicide	1	Threats	1
Suspected Persons.....	8	Assault	7
Larceny or Stealing ...	124	Unlawful Possession ...	2
Indecent Behaviour	2	Indecency	1
Embezzlement	4	Stealing and Receiving	1
Gambling	13	Stealing from Person...	2
Insulting Words and		Burglary	5
Behaviour	9	Begging	1
Sleeping Out	2	Football in Street	2
Drunk and Disorderly	4	Wandering	1
Wilful Damage	6		
<hr/>			
Sent to Homes	8	Employment Found ...	34
Sent to Sea	2	Loss of Employment	
Enlisted in the Army...	2	Averted	11
Restored to Friends ...	3	Emigrated to Australia	1

Not the kind of caseload current

Probation staff would recognise

Larceny or Stealing tops the bill in this examination of a caseload, and what has happened to some of the miscreants.

Only two have been playing football in the street, and only one convicted of wandering...

"500 Quarrels made up in one year of tactfulness: How she does it" 1928

TACT AND ADVICE.

When I get them together it is just a matter of tact and advice. If there is a question of persistent infidelity or real brutality I do not attempt to hinder the girl from obtaining what redress the Court can give her. But the great majority of cases are not of that kind. They are just the culmination of friction and unhappiness arising from three main causes. They are:—

1. Inadequate accommodation.
2. Mother-in-law.
3. No domestic training.

Usually there is at least one child, and the future and welfare of the children is my strongest card. It seldom fails.

Out of my Police Court experience I draw a picture of the child's probable fate if bereft of mother or father in the way they contemplate; I point out, too, their own probable fate, the temptations to which each will be subjected, and the accumulating responsibility that may ensue. I relate cases where prison has been the ultimate consequence. And when I have got them in a frame of mind to try again, I try to help them out of the difficulties which lie at the root of their trouble.

If it is housing, I try and get them better rooms.

IF IT IS MOTHER-IN-LAW.

If it is mother-in-law, I go and see her and talk to her as a mother myself with a grown-up son and daughter.

If it is domestic training, I go down to their home on a Sunday morning and show her how to cook a cheap and simple meal (having advised what should be bought) and give her a few tips how to make a comfortable home.

I don't blame the girl so much as the parents who bring them up so pitifully ignorant of everything that goes to make successful housekeeping. And if it is a couple living with parents I try to find them suitable rooms. I have a list in readiness.

It is wonderful work. I am certain it could be made equally successful in every town. It should be attempted if only for the children's sake.

Headed "Woman who makes Happy Wives", this article describes the work of a Probation Officer with separating couples in the 1920s.

"Since November last year 510 couples who would otherwise have applied for separation orders have gone away reconciled at least, to try again to harmonise; and they have not applied again. During that same period I have met with fewer than 100 failures," says Mrs. Sansom, the Probation Officer working in the Nottingham City Police Court.

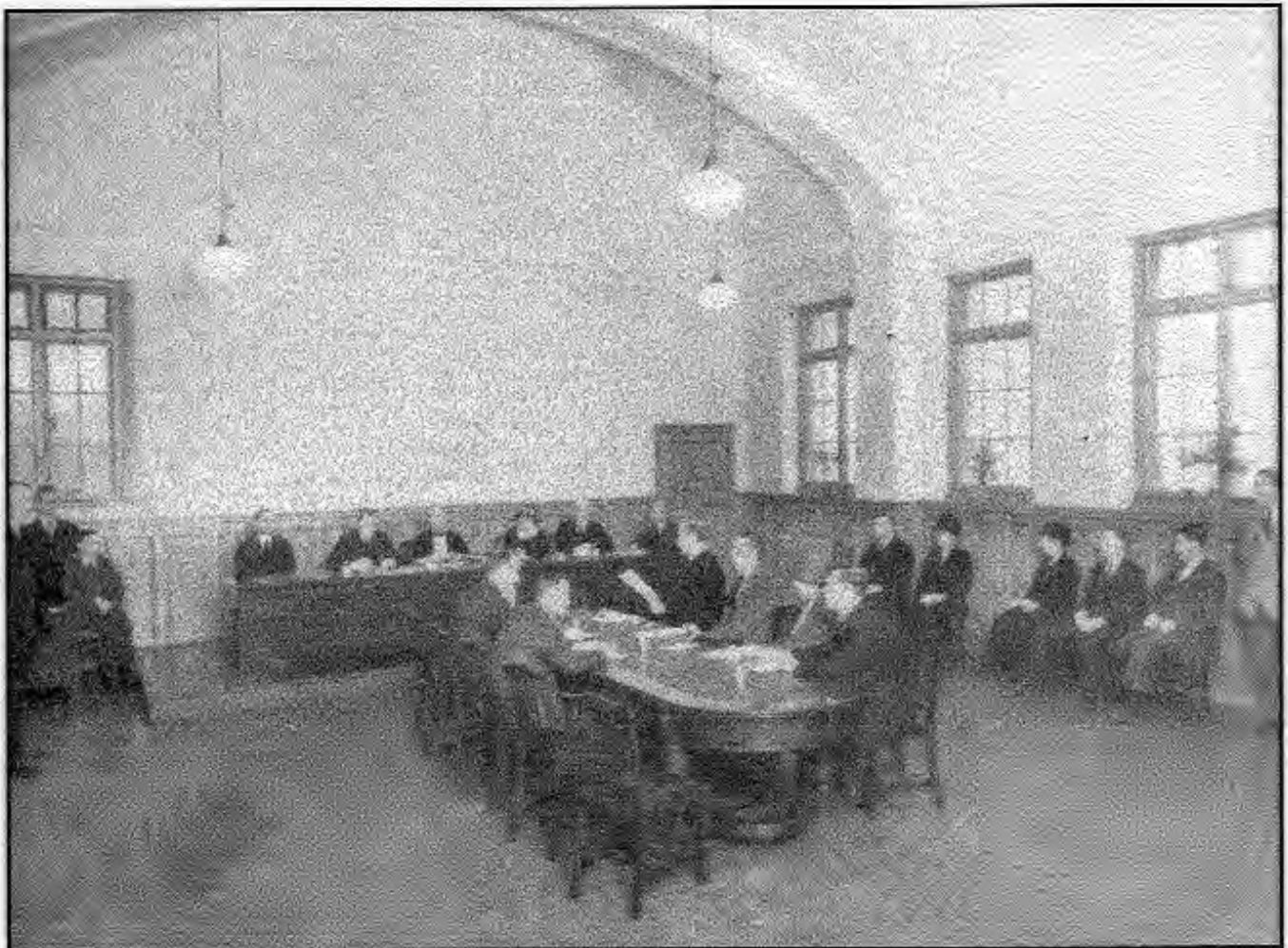
The Home Secretary expresses his views (1929)

"You have the task of redeeming and remaking..."

The sternest magistrate in our country finds no solution in sending a prisoner to jail...

I am, however, Home Secretary and 100 per cent with you in your work; and I feel a real anxiety that you should succeed in your difficult task of reform. If by any co-operation with me you can make your services more effective than they have been, you may rely on me, as Home Secretary, to do my best."

When a child went to court: a typical court in Liverpool 1926



National Association of Probation Officers.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE.



THE MEMBERS AT THE MAY CONFERENCE, 1927.

Press and Publicity Photographic Co.

29th Annual Conference of the Association
Hotel on Allenby, May 2nd, 1927, under
the chairmanship of Mr. ...

this country the juvenile offender is not dealt with w
anything like the same spirit or the

Growing numbers of Probation Officers... 1927

... and Probation's finest in Lytham St. Annes with the Mayor 1934



1941

Probation divorces itself from the Temperance Movement

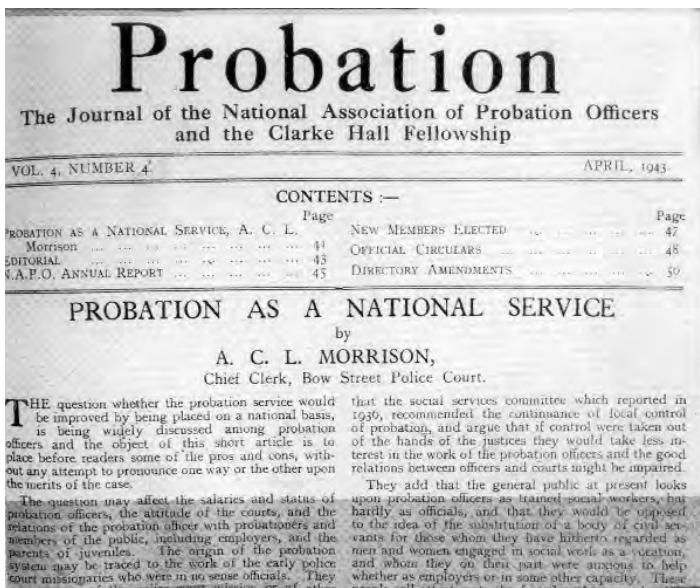
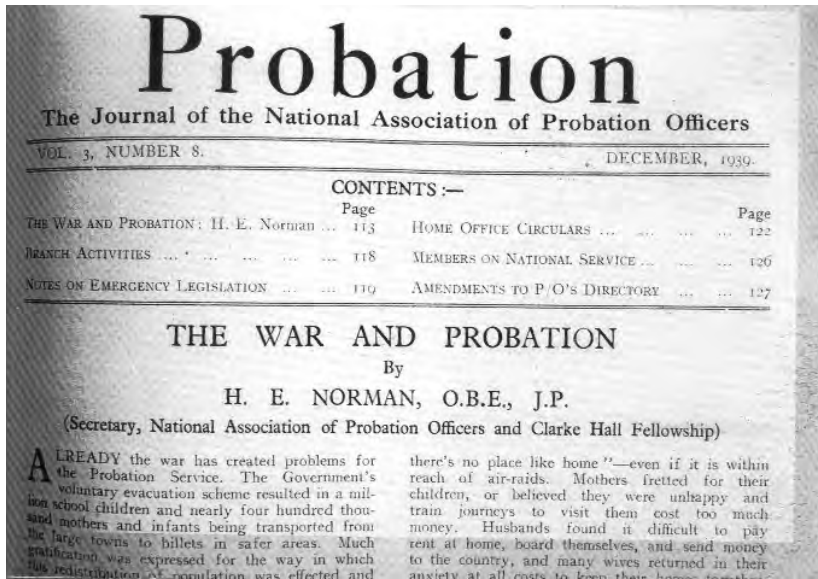
The marriage between the Temperance Movement and Probation headed inexorably toward divorce as Probation's role became more professionalised.

In 1941 the Temperance Society separated from the Mission, later to become the Rainer Foundation.

WAR: hasty marriages, wartime separations bring more work

During the war years, Probation Officers were used in a social work capacity, helping to deal with the problems of evacuation of children and the strain brought on by hasty marriages and wartime separations. Army Welfare Officers asked for help from the Probation Service in sorting things out.

The Probation Officer was widely recognised as someone to whom people could go for help in domestic difficulties.



Probation as a
National Service?
Not for nearly sixty years!

Caseload figures Essex 1947

Caseload calculations look a little more sophisticated these days: there are Probation Officers in Essex who remember filling in very similar forms

P. R. 1.

ESSEX COMBINED PROBATION AREA.

Petty Sessions Division (Borough) of
Probation Officer's return for quarter ended... 30.04.1947.

1. PROBATION, SUPERVISION and AFTER-CARE.

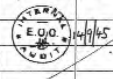
	Probation.			Supervision			After-Care.			Vol. Supervision	TOTAL	
	Juv	Adm.	Adult	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	Prison	Borstal	App/St			M. F.
Brought Forward	10	8	7	8							10	18
No. of new cases from this Court	2		1								2	1
No. of new cases from other Courts			2	1							2	2
TOTAL	12	8	10	9							12	18
LESS:												
Transferred to other officers			1									
Supervision completed			2								2	2
Supervision terminated				1								
No. remaining under supervision	10	7		9							10	16
Disposal of cases where supervision was terminated:-												
Committed to Approved School												
Committed to Borstal											1	
Committed to Prison												
Otherwise dealt with												
TOTAL											1	

(over)

1.

Name of Person Eulakes, Harold Edward
 Address Sandon Green Cott, Sandon Quarry
 Name of Parent or Guardian Mrs Phyllis Susannah Eulakes
 Address as above
 Date of Hearing 12 Sept 1943 Date of Order 12 Sept 1943
 Order of the Court 2 yrs Probation in a.R. of £5
£2.10.0 restitution to be made in 2 yrs. by instalms.

DUES TO BE PAID BY DEBTOR.		AMOUNTS RECEIVED FROM DEBTOR.		PAID TO JUSTICE'S CLERK.			
Date.	Amount.	Date.	Chall Book fol.	Amount.	Date.	Chall Book fol.	Amount.
13-9-43	2 10 0	Oct 7 1943					
		Nov 27 1943	2	10 -	Feb 1 '44	2	10 -
		Feb 10 1944					
		Nov 29 '44	3	4 -	April '44	3	4 -
		Apr 6 '44					
		Dec 28 in 3/5		18 6	Dec 30 '44	5	18 6
		18/44		17 6			
				2 10 2			
		Jan 11 1945					
		May 9 " 5/6	4	17 6	Sept 4 45	6	17 6



1943

**£2.10 shillings restitution in instalments over 2 years:
 collected by the
 Essex Probation Officer**

These days the courts have the responsibility for collecting fines and compensation.

1946

"I'll say it's a good school 'e's gorn to - it's got Home Office approval an' all."

In 1946, being sent to an Approved School was a well-known element in the range of sentences available.



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By courtesy of "The Star"

"I'll say it's a good school 'e's gorn to—it's got Home Office approval an' all."

(Continued from page 75)

son.

Treatment of Parents found guilty of neglect of their children. A memorandum was agreed upon to be sent to the Home Office.

1948: a new Act provides for Probation's reports for the courts

The Criminal Justice Act in 1948 dictated the way in which courts could adjourn a case for enquiries to be made about an offender's circumstances and home surroundings, to help the court in deciding the most suitable method of dealing with a case.

Divorcing parents: further concern for the children.

An added statutory role for Probation

The importance of considering the welfare of children when their parents divorced was stressed by the 1950 Denning Committee. A senior-ranking Probation Officer in London was appointed to the Divorce

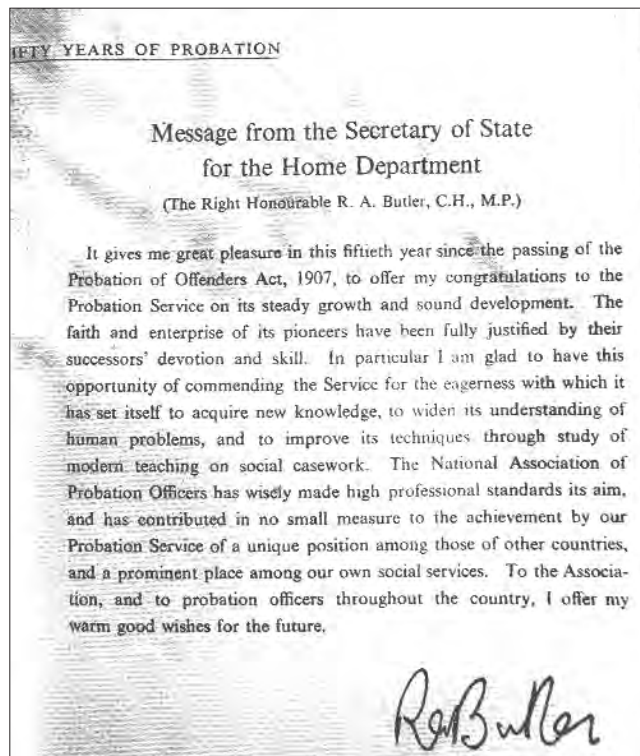
Division of the High Court, to investigate and report in cases where there was a dispute over custody.

Missionaries, and then Probation Officers, had always held some cases of this nature.

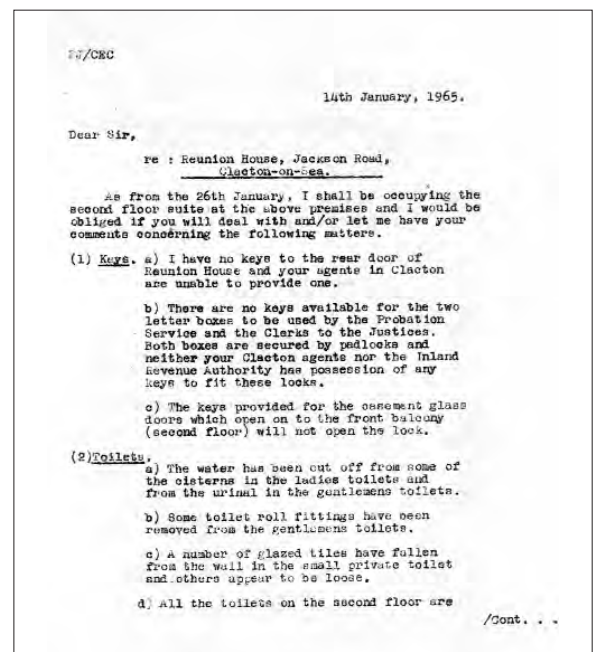
By 1958 the Probation Service was required to provide a Divorce Court Welfare Service for the whole country.

Probation's 50th: Home Secretary "RAB" Butler sends congratulations 1957

...commending the Service for "the eagerness with which it has set itself to acquire new knowledge, to widen its understanding of human problems, and to improve its techniques through study of modern teaching on social casework."



The Senior Probation Officer in Clacton dealt with the office move himself in 1965... no keys, filthy toilets proved a distraction from reducing crime...



1960s and 70s: increasing momentum:

Probation takes on more

1962: Morrison Report : “the protection of society” given more prominence

The Report saw the role of the PO as a "professional caseworker, employing, in a specialised field, skill which he holds in common with other social workers... the Probation Officer's prime concern is the well-being of an individual.

BUT "he is also the agent of a system concerned with the protection of society."

Aftercare – official... 1964-66

Work previously done by the local discharged prisoners' aid societies was taken on by the Probation Service

Parole duties too

The 1967 Criminal Justice Act introduced Parole supervision and established the Parole Board.

Community Service and more...

1972: The Criminal Justice Act saw the inclusion of Community Service for the first time; also Day Training Centres and Suspended Sentence Supervision. Community Service, now called Unpaid Work, was popular from the start with magistrates, who liked the idea of purposeful work that you could “see”. The work that goes on to change people’s behaviour and thinking is less visible.

Probation Hostels

Probation Committees were empowered to provide and maintain Probation Hostels. Hostels, or shelters, predating Probation, had originally housed homeless boys or "fallen women" in the 19th century. Many had been taken over by the Probation Service. In the 1970s a programme of building bail hostels meant that increasingly substantial alternatives to custody could be on offer. The Probation Service now operates 104 Approved Premises. Public concern about the location of hostels and the nature of the offenders now housed in them continues, but hostels remain the safest form of accommodation outside prisons.



Community Service workshop

Group programmes

From the 1970s, Probation had experimented with the use of group programmes for offenders. Many were successful, but their development was unco-ordinated.

In the 1990s, the "What Works" initiative, promoted by Sir Graham Smith, the Chief Inspector of Probation, introduced more rigour into the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.

1980s: moving away from petty crime to alternatives to custody

A shift towards heavy crime

The supervision of so-called low-tariff offenders which had traditionally been Probation's bread and butter was being supplanted by the need to provide alternatives to custody for those at real risk of immediate imprisonment.

Advising, assisting and befriending?

Plans were made to abandon the Probation's traditional role of advising, assisting and befriending, moving towards more focussed, specialised supervision and public protection. The first Statement of National Objectives and Priorities for Probation (SNOP) was published.

Court reports: more specialised

Probation was required to abandon such practices as the routine provision of court reports on first offenders appearing before juvenile courts.

Home Office circulars shaped the content of court reports towards being more specific, relevant, and stressing the current offence and offending history, limiting the amount of "social" information included.

Criminal Justice Act 1991 is still shaping some of our current Probation practice

Legislation to deal with crime increased, starting with the Criminal Justice Act of 1991. This was a major piece of work signalling more change in Probation's role, with the word "punishment" occurring more frequently than ever before. The Inspectorate was made a statutory body.

The Pre-Sentence Report, replacing the 80s' Social Enquiry Report, is a logical extension of it, focusing on the offence, and assessments of the likelihood of reoffending and risk to the public.

National Standards govern the delivery of work. the Probation Service is being judged increasingly on its achievement of the targets set.

Risk assessment and supervision planning have been formalised to become a standard procedure for all

work with offenders.

Cash Limits were placed on the Probation Service, and in 1993 the **Probation Service Act** consolidated previous legislation.

In 1997 the **Crime (Sentences) Act** abolished the need for offenders to consent to being put on a community sentence.

The 1997 Sex Offender Act introduced registration for sex offenders.

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act introduced child curfew, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, Youth Offender teams, Sex Offender Orders and new racially-aggravated offences.

In 1999 **Home Detention Curfew** was introduced.

Risk Assessment

As far back as the 1960s, Probation had been attempting to quantify risk through the use of predictive tools. The Jesness Inventory on offenders was one. A variety of mathematical techniques was used but a consistently reliable instrument was not found. Assessing the risk posed by an offender continued to be the subject of debate and experiment, along with reliance on the experience and skill of the individual Probation Officer, until the late 1990s, when a new system started to

emerge. OASys, the Offender Assessment System, is ground-breaking and now used throughout the service. It has been copied by Probation Services in many other countries, and is still developing.

1990s: Radical change. more control, increased accountability

By the end of the 1990s
new working methods
were being examined and
planned ...

National Probation Directorate

- The National Probation Service for England and Wales was announced in 2001. A National Directorate in London worked with 42 Probation Areas on new programmes, new assessment tools, new structures, to facilitate research into what worked best with offenders.
- What had begun as a therapeutic relationship a hundred years ago between an Officer of the Court and an offender was now seen in terms of a Criminal Justice Agency responding to society's desire to punish, control and rehabilitate the offender. Enforcement was regarded as a key tool in ensuring compliance with court orders. The Probation Service's matrimonial work section was removed to the Lord Chancellor's Department, and newly named the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAF-CASS).
- Offences had to be "serious enough" for a Community Sentence to be made. Work with dangerous offenders became a key element in the Service's responsibilities, and highlighted the necessity for working in partnership with other agencies, whether statutory or voluntary, in each Area.
- The assessment and management of risk had taken on growing importance as Probation's supervisees were more seriously convicted over the years.
- The Criminal Justice Act 2003 brought with it a raft of new work to absorb, including new sentences.
- Plans to make Probation's work with the prisons more cohesive, and to ensure end-to-end sentence planning, were debated, as a new National Offender Management Service was announced, with the intention that the Prison and Probation Services would work in parallel under NOMS.

Recently, Probation, under the banner of the National Offender Management Service, was moved into the Ministry of Justice, away from the Home Office. The tradition of change continues...





Centenary Day

June 11th 2007



Flags fly for Probation's Centenary

The thundering clamour of Westminster Abbey's bells greeted 1500 Probation staff as they left the multi-denominational Probation Centenary celebrations held there. Recently-appointed staff mingled with long-retired members from across the country in what turned out to be a pretty grand event in the capital.

Essex staff in the picture

The Minister of Justice, Lord Falconer, stopped for a photo with Essex staff, before moving on to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre to deliver his speech about Probation's future.



Jane Dewitt in the Abbey. She represented Essex in the Abbey procession

What the Minister of Justice said



The Minister's with us... members of Essex Probation staff, past and present, with Lord Falconer

“

100 years is a significant landmark. All who work or have worked in the probation service have much to be proud of. Those hundred years have been years of consistent service to the nation. The Probation Service has made a real impact on the shape of our penal policy, and in consequence, on the character of our society.

“Throughout its history I believe the service exhibits two particular characteristics. First, realism. You do know what can be achieved. That it takes time. That it often involves setbacks. That sometimes it involves failure. Addictions don't often stop over-night. There will be relapses. Some offenders never change. But some do.

“Second, sticking it out. The job requires being prepared to stick it out for the long haul. With the offender. And often with the wider public as well ”

and now...

Re-offending rates for Probation in Essex are some of the lowest in the country, according to national data.

National figures for reoffending

For **Prison** Sentences under 12 months: **60%** have reoffended within 12 months

For **Probation** Sentences under 12 months: **38%** have reoffended within 12 months

Probation improving all the time:

Over the last five years,

reoffending by those on Community Sentences has dropped by 13%

reoffending by those sent to prison for similar offences has stayed the same.