

Chair's report to 2017 AGM

I read this morning in the press of yet one more prison suicide, just add it to the list! Arrested with mental health problems and apparently just left, put this with the continuing increase in prison numbers, end of life units being built for terminal and old age prisoners, still the use of cuffs on hospital beds, longer sentences, it must make one wonder about the state of our society, but here at PJG we battle on!

We again had a programme of three good meetings and we are lucky that the reputation of PJG can attract such quality and well informed speaker.

We continue to campaign as in our aims and objective and would welcome ideas, suggestions for topics and meetings, also feedback good or bad would be appreciated to enable us to grow stronger and have a louder voice.

The Stroud area is still our stronghold but we endeavour to visit other parts of the shire, so again suggestions, ideas are most welcome.

It is still a battle to change ideas and attitudes, we fight a demonising media, negative press coverage, and a justice department that appears to focus on votes and self interest, it is most heart warming that there are groups and organisations like ours and those today who care and will give up their time to talk to us and hopefully begin to change ideas and attitudes.

I would like to thank on behalf of those in and out of the system all those who work tirelessly on their behalf, it must at times appear to be a worthless and thankless task. There is a special, heartfelt thank you to all the prison visitors and especially the prison chaplains who bring a ray of light and sanity to those behind the doors.

They may not think so, but their presence and the fact that they give their time is truly a miracle in a sad, lonely place.

Thank you from us all, past, present and future.

Martyn Sheppard