The Journal
Summer 2021
Serving professional journalism since 1912
Magazine of the Chartered Institute of Journalists

SAVE FLEET STREET!

By Andy Smith

London's Fleet Street, for many years the hub of the British newspaper industry, is under threat from the developers. This follows the decision of the City of London Corporation to approve the demolition of several iconic buildings and monuments in and around the street which is the spiritual home of our profession.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has linked up with heritage conservation bodies including SAVE Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society in a campaign to save Chronicle House, 72-78 Fleet Street, and adjacent buildings from the bulldozers. The CIoJ believes the re-development plans should be changed to incorporate and celebrate the street's heritage, rather than allowing the wholesale demolition of historic buildings in a nationally important Conservation Area. The scheme is also opposed by Historic England, the Government's own advisors on heritage preservation.

The Institute and its conservationist allies are furious that the City Corporation is able to proceed with this attack on the historic environment of Fleet Street when it is the landowner, the applicant and the decision-maker on the application – effectively the judge, jury and executioner!

The buildings under direct threat are important to the history of the British press – one of them was where the Institute had its very first office in the 1880s – but there is also mounting concern that if this far-reaching programme of 're-development' goes ahead, then other Fleet Street icons could also be targeted for demolition and replacement, and soon very little of the 'old' Fleet Street could be left.

In June the CIoJ wrote to the minister responsible for planning, Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, calling on him to review the City Corporation's decision. In our letter we highlighted the fact that the threatened buildings played a vital role in the history of the British press. Unfortunately the Secretary of State declined to get involved and deferred to the City Corporation on the grounds that the decision had to be taken 'locally'.



photo: © Tim Crook

Since the Secretary of State's refusal to stop the demolitions, we have written to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, because of their backgrounds in professional journalism, as well as to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Oliver Dowden. We have now also written to the Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation with a further plea for changes to the development plans.

Memorial

As well as demolishing important Fleet Street buildings, the new development approved by the City Corporation would involve the removal of the memorial to the reforming newspaper editor and distinguished parliamentarian T.P. O'Connor. Anyone who knows the street will be familiar with the bust of O'Connor and its eye-catching inscription: "His pen could lay bare the bones of a book or the soul of a statesman in a few vivid lines."

T.P. O'Connor founded the *London Evening Star* newspaper which campaigned for the rights of the homeless, poor and destitute. Its opposition to the war in South Africa and its exposures of "the unacceptable face of capitalism" led to angry stockbrokers burning copies of the newspaper on the floor of the Stock Exchange.

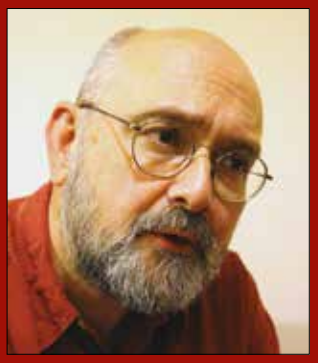
O'Connor was a Fellow of our Institute and left a bequest which created a charity in his name that has benefited hundreds of journalists in need since his death in 1929.

To save the heritage of Fleet Street, the CIoJ is proposing that the Corporation's architects "go back to the drawing board" and find a way to incorporate at least the façade of Chronicle House, to preserve the memorial to T.P. O'Connor, and come back with an architectural solution "that keeps the past with the present and future."

CIoJ President, Professor Tim Crook says: "There is no reason why the new development could not have imaginatively retained the architecture and symbolism of this memorable and famous section of Fleet Street, which has been the case with Beaverbrook's Express building and the former headquarters of the *Daily Telegraph*. We urge the Government and the City Corporation to think again."

See our special report on the battle for Fleet Street on pages 10-11.

Andy Smith
Editor



Assistant Editor: Stuart Millson
Production Editor: Dominic Cooper

In this issue:

Protecting journalists' sources	3
Award for pandemic charity	4
Institute condemns Greenslade	5
Record year for ALCS	6
Egyptian journalist freed from jail	7
22 newspapers forced to close	8
Rogues' gallery	9
Heritage under threat	10-11
Bookshelf	12-13
Orwell Prizes 2021	14
Round-Britain literary tour	15-16
A tale of two Newsteads	17
The Sandy Times remembered	18-19
C.L.R. James, intellectual giant	20

The views contained in The Journal are those of the Editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the Chartered Institute of Journalists. All rights reserved. © CIoJ 2021

TheJournal

ISSN 1361-7656

News or views intended for publication should be sent to:

The Chartered Institute of Journalists
PO Box 765, Waltham Abbey, EN8 1NT

E-mail: memberservices@cioj.org
Tel: +44 (0)20 7252 1187
Web: www.cioj.org
Twitter: @CIoJournalist
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chartered-Institute-of-Journalists/108017897514
LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Chartered-Institute-Journalists-63500

Printed by **Cool grey display & print Ltd**
Tel: +44 (0) 1444 474646

Editor's Comment

Threats to press freedom come in many different forms. The harassment and intimidation of BBC political correspondent Nick Watts by 'anti-lockdown' and 'anti-vaxxer' protestors in Whitehall is one example of how even here in London, just yards from the doorstep of Number Ten Downing Street, journalists can face very real dangers from the media-hating mob. A rather different example is the advertising boycott of GB News by major companies such as Ikea, Money Supermarket, Nivea and Open University, alleging that the new channel 'promotes hate'. The campaign against GB News is run by a group of ultra-leftwing agitators, but, while politically-motivated boycotts are nothing new, what is so alarming about this case is the speed with which several large companies capitulated to the demands of the extreme left, pulling all their advertising from the start-up television channel (which counts ex-BBC, ITV and Sky News journalists such as Alastair Stewart, Simon McCoy, Colin Brazier and Neil Oliver among its top-level team).

GB News founder Andrew Neil, Chairman of *The Spectator*, veteran BBC presenter and former *Sunday Times* Editor, was dismissive of the boycott, pointing out that "not a single example of hate has been given in evidence for this boycott, so this programme offers a standing invitation to the boss of any company that thinks to the contrary: our studio door is always open." He added that "the only hate this channel has broadcast was when we showed film of a BBC Newsnight reporter being attacked by a baying anti-lockdown mob. And we condemned that unreservedly." The campaign against GB News has been orchestrated by a group calling itself 'Stop Funding Hate', a misnomer if ever there was one!

> "A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that free men prize. It is the most dangerous foe of tyranny."
> – Sir Winston Churchill

Gunned down

Of course, some journalists face rather more than boycotts or harassment. Around the world, the implacable enemies of press freedom include numerous rogue states, organised crime syndicates and terrorist movements, none of which holds back from using violence to stamp out media critics. As we know only too well, in many countries it is not uncommon for journalists to be jailed, tortured or killed, simply for doing their jobs, and media organisations forced to shut down. Indeed, we now live in a world where journalists can be casually murdered inside a Saudi Arabian diplomatic mission for having criticised the regime in Riyadh, or can be blown up or gunned down by murder gangs on the streets of Malta, Amsterdam or Belfast (as we have reported extensively in this and previous issues of *The Journal*).

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has long campaigned for press freedom and in recent times we have been especially vigilant about the growing number of governments that deliberately target journalists. This year we have begun a daily vigil on the CIoJ's various social-media channels to highlight the victims of state terror and persecution around the world. In particular we have taken up the case of Australian broadcaster Cheng Lei, who has been imprisoned by Communist China for over a year, detained on the spurious charge of communicating state secrets overseas (another way of trying to make journalism a crime). We have been using social media to make daily protests about her continued persecution, and will continue to campaign for her eventual release. The CIoJ is also campaigning for the release of dissident journalist Roman Protasevich and his Russian partner Sofia Sapega who were abducted when their flight to Lithuania was intercepted by the Belarus regime and diverted to Minsk to be arrested and detained for alleged crimes against the state.

The CIoJ is the standard-bearer for press freedom, not just in Britain but world-wide. Please support our work, play an active role in the Institute if you can, and encourage other journalists to join us.

Andy Smith

Officers of the Chartered Institute of Journalists:

Prof. Tim Crook, President

Michael Hardware, Honorary Treasurer

Michael Hardware, Vice-President

Janice Shillum Bhend, Immediate Past President

All Institute officers are ex-officio members of Council.

Your Council members are:
Vivienne DuBourdieu, Michael Evans, Paul Leighton, Andy Smith

Your PPB members are:
Prof. Tim Crook, Chairman

Adela Earlington, Andrew Kelly, Navin Kukadia, Paul Leighton, Stuart Littleford, Tom Magner, Karim Ngobi, Janice Shillum Bhend.

Protecting journalists' sources: The verdict from Strasbourg

By Professor Tim Crook,
President of the Chartered Institute of Journalists

Former prison officer Robert Norman and his lawyers have thanked the Chartered Institute of Journalists for supporting their appeal to the European Court of Human Rights against a 20-month jail sentence for providing news stories to popular newspapers over a five year period. Judges rejected the appeal but the case is significant because it highlights the need for journalists to take much greater care in protecting their sources.

The Institute provided a 22,000 word affidavit arguing in the strongest terms that Norman should have been protected by the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 10 (freedom of expression) as a public interest journalist source. We also supported his argument that he should not have been prosecuted for "misconduct in public office" as it was not a legitimate law known at the time for criminalising public officials giving information to journalists. Norman and the journalist he was talking to, Stephen Moyes of the *Daily Mirror*, had no idea they could have been prosecuted for a medieval Common Law offence later.

Robert Norman was an official of the Prison Officers' Association at Belmarsh high-security prison in south-east London. He was not paid for the first story but later received £10,684 from the *Daily Mirror* for 40 disclosures of information over five years. Moyes was able to write and publish a number of stories which included an improper relationship between a woman warder and prisoner, the suspension of a prison chaplain for inappropriate behaviour with inmates, attacks and plots to kill staff, the demands of Abu Hamza on the prison service, the suicide of a prisoner, and other concerns about the prison's security.

Whistleblower

Moyes told *Press Gazette* the "stories were entirely in the public interest and would have remained hushed up by the authorities had he not acted as whistleblower in a bid to improve safety and conditions for prison staff and the public." Norman had been promised confidentiality, but the *Mirror*'s publisher, Trinity Mirror (now known as Reach), revealed to the Metropolitan Police the payments they had made to him. The Met were conducting Operation Elveden and would later prosecute and convict Norman and 33 other public officials for receiving payment from tabloid papers such as *The News of the World*, *The Sun* and *Daily Mirror*. As a result, Norman lost his job, home and savings. However, all but one of the journalists arrested and prosecuted were subsequently acquitted, had charges against them dropped or their convictions overturned. One reporter pleaded guilty and received a non-custodial sentence.

Unfortunately, the European Court unanimously rejected Robert Norman's appeal. The judges in Strasbourg said there had been "a strong public interest in prosecuting him, in order to maintain the integrity and efficacy of the prison service and the public's confidence in it."

The judges said Mirror Group Newspapers had made a "truly voluntary" disclosure to the Police. There had been a memorandum of understanding that allowed MGN to refuse to disclose information on Article 10 grounds, including the right to protect journalistic sources. They also decided Norman ought to have been aware that by providing internal prison information to a journalist in exchange for money he had risked being found guilty of misconduct in public office.

The European Court, in our view, had been wrong in law not to give protection to journalists' sources revealed to the police by publishers, and to criminalise public officials giving stories to journalists in the public interest.

Robert Norman said he and his wife were very grateful to the CIoJ for "the research and help provided in our quest for justice," and his QC, Keir Montieth, from Garden Court Chambers thanked the Institute for our "excellent and outstanding contribution to the application."

Pressure

The CIoJ believes the courts should have recognised that the Met Police had put pressure on the newspapers to hand over sources for prosecution. The European Court, in our view, had been wrong in law not to give protection to journalists' sources revealed to the police by publishers, and to criminalise public officials giving stories to journalists in the public interest.

The Institute is proud to have supported Robert Norman's appeal. He was fully entitled to Article 10 freedom of expression protection from newspaper publishers, police and legal system and did not get it. Furthermore, he deserves great credit for the dignity and courage he displayed throughout his ordeal.

This case and other recent developments in media law leave the protection of journalists' sources in a very precarious state. The notorious Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 was abolished in 1989 to halt the unjust criminalisation of any public official talking to journalists. It is clear that using the ancient offence of "misconduct in public office" was cynically fashioned by government to replace Section 2, knowing that it meant there would be no limit on the length of prison sentences that could be imposed.

The Bribery Act 2010 provides no formal public interest defence for sources or the journalists they are talking to. Bribery crimes affect any exchange of favour or reward between journalists and sources in public and private employment. The draconian nature and reach of this legislation means it is virtually impossible to hire specialist consultants to provide guidance, analysis and advice while still working in the sectors requiring public interest news coverage.

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 gives open season for government agencies to chase down leaks by secretly snooping into the mobile, online and computer communications of journalists and their sources. The oversight, currently managed by a team of judicial commissioners headed by Sir Brian Leveson, refuses to identify publishers, journalists or sources hacked into or under surveillance.

The Norman case confirms that working journalists cannot rely on publishers to continue the confidentiality promised to their sources if put under pressure by investigating police. It is also clear that judges in domestic and European courts have a view of the 'public interest' that does not coincide with the needs of modern democracy and freedom of expression.

Journalists therefore need to engage in counter-espionage techniques to protect whistleblowers and sources. Journalists also need to avoid leaving any traces or disclosures on their digital work systems that could eventually put in jeopardy the brave and courageous people talking to them to expose injustice, crime, wrongdoing, hypocrisy and abuse of power.

In short, the lesson being learned here by professional journalists is that they are very much on their own and the last line of protection for their sources.

Award for newspaper's pandemic charity

Mail Force, a charity set-up by the *Daily Mail* in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, has been honoured with a special award from the Journalists' Charity.

The Mail Force initiative has brought together businesses, celebrities and thousands of readers to make a huge difference – demonstrating the power of newspapers to 'make things happen'. In just over a year, Mail Force has raised £25m to deliver more than 42m items of PPE to front-line workers, chartering a plane as part of its ambitious operation. After that, it set about sourcing laptops for vulnerable children who had fallen behind at school. So far, more than 14,000 laptops have been given out.

James Brindle, chief executive of the Journalists' Charity said, "What Mail Force has achieved in the last year is truly astonishing. It highlights the unique ability of newspapers to bring people together to do something very special.

"Huge credit goes to the massive team effort behind the initiative, which yet again underlines the enormous value journalism brings to our society."

The Journalists' Charity's Special Award is given at the National Press Awards for outstanding commitment and contribution to journalism and is decided by the charity's trustees, who are all journalists or former journalists from across the industry. On receiving the award, Geordie Greig, editor of the *Daily Mail* said: "We are honoured to be recognised with this award from a charity that does so much for our industry. Our Mail Force campaign demonstrated the crucial role that newspapers continue to have in society as a force for good. It also showed, yet again, how generous our readers are and how much they shared our desire to get behind something that mattered to them."

He added: "Even though we had no experience in buying PPE or laptops, sometimes you have to step into the fray. We wanted to back up our words with actions and it has been hugely rewarding to hear from hospitals, care homes and schools about the difference we made."

Since March 2020, the Journalists' Charity (formerly the Newspaper Press Fund) has given essential help and support to hundreds of journalists affected by the pandemic, while continuing to champion the role of newspapers and other media outlets in supporting their communities.

MPs 'are poets at heart'

The importance of writers, and the growing enthusiasm with which readers and viewers embraced books, films and television series during the recent Covid-19 lockdown, is highlighted by an ALCS survey of Members of Parliament. And the most popular form of writing, according to MPs, is poetry – while journalism is their least favourite!

MPs were quizzed on their favourite writing location, predictions on their potential future writing earnings, and their activities during lockdown, to reveal what type of writer they had most in common with. Even though many politicians are already published authors in the non-fiction and fiction genres, or have had prior careers as journalists, poets were surprisingly the most popular result for the quiz. Forty four per cent said they would be poets if they were to change their career to become full-time writers, compared with 19% who said they would be non-fiction writers and even fewer who would be journalists (11%).

Four out of five (82%) of the parliamentarians who participated agreed that issues around fair pay for writers were worth raising in Parliament. Almost two-thirds (60%) supported clear structures to ensure that writers receive a fair share of revenues from the digital marketplace.

A recent report by the All-Party Parliamentary Writers' Group (APWG) set out 10 recommendations for Government on how best to support writers and to fairly remunerate them for their work. The report was based on a supplementary inquiry session the APWG held in November last year with organisations and writers across the literary field who testified as to how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on authors' incomes and opportunities. A key proposal from the report was to give creative organisations a clear path of engagement with the Government through a Creators' Council which would address the issues around fair pay for writers.

The APWG was established in 2007 and aims to represent the interests of all writers, to safeguard their intellectual property rights, and to ensure they receive a fair level of recognition and reward for their contribution to the economy and society as a whole. There are currently 65 members of the cross-party group, which has representation in both the House of Commons and House of Lords.

The Group's Chair is Giles Watling MP and the Vice-Chairs are Colonel Bob Stewart DSO MP, Lord Clement-Jones, Pete Wishart MP, Lord Balfe, Julie Elliott MP, the Earl of Clancarty and Andrew Lewer MP. The Secretary is Baroness Benjamin and the Treasurer is Lord Dubs.

New Patron

Architectural journalist Jonathan Glancey is the newly-appointed Patron of the Betjeman Society, which celebrates the life and work of the late Sir John Betjeman, poet, conservationist, journalist and broadcaster. Glancey succeeds Sir John's biographer, Bevis Hillier, as Patron.



Jonathan Glancey

Glancey has been architecture editor of both *The Independent* and *The Guardian*, and now writes for the BBC Culture website. He is an honorary fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and is best known to devotees of John Betjeman for his delightful anthologies *John Betjeman on Trains* and *John Betjeman on Churches*. He was a graduate of JB's old college, Magdalen in Oxford.

Lance Pierson, Chairman of the Society, said: "This is great news. Jonathan gladly accepted our invitation and sees himself as a 'roving ambassador' for the Betjeman Society. His immediate reaction was 'what the Society can offer is campaigning with a smile rather than the po faces of all too many organisations'."

The Betjeman Society was established in 1988 and its founder, Philippa Davies, describes it as "a think-tank determining how we can best ensure that Betjeman's ideas, priorities and writings are neither misrepresented nor forgotten; a pressure group, constantly reminding publishers, editors, broadcasters and others with influence that Betjeman is a name to be reckoned with; and a society of friends who came together because of a shared interest."

As well as his many books, poems, articles and television programmes, Sir John Betjeman is remembered for his role as a campaigning conservationist, and a great champion of Victorian and Edwardian archiecture. He deserves the greatest credit for saving the magnificent St Pancras Station (built in 1868) from destruction, and it features in his book London's Historic Railway Stations. His role in its survival is marked by a lifesize statue on the concourse.

www.betjemansociety.com

Institute condemns Greenslade

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has condemned former journalism ethics professor and *Daily Mirror* editor Roy Greenslade for attempting to justify acts of terrorism by the Provisional IRA.

In a statement, Professor Tim Crook, President of the CIoJ, said: "Greenslade's *Sunday Times* and *British Journalism Review* article 'What I did in the war' has clearly caused distress to civilian, journalist and security force victims and their families of 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland. Greenslade's comments strike at the very heart of professional values in journalism. His article and views undermine respect for journalistic independence, impartiality, transparency and honesty."

Crook added: "The violence perpetrated by the Provisional IRA cost the lives of news photographer Ed Henty, covering the City of London Bishopsgate truck bomb in 1993, and *Daily Express* journalist Philip Geddes in the Harrods bomb of 1983. "There was nothing accidental about their deaths. They were murdered."

Prof Crook said: "We have to emphasise that it is professionally incompatible for any journalist, let alone a national newspaper editor and professor of journalism ethics, to lead a double life of propagandising one side in any armed conflict with a fake identity while at the same time working for news publishers seeking to report on it."

The Institute believes this is about the safety of journalists as well as trust in the integrity and fairness of reporting and news coverage. "A journalist cannot and should not be a double-agent for any government or paramilitary group using violence to further their political ends."

Society appoints new chief

The Society of Editors has announced the appointment of Dawn Alford as its new Executive Director. She takes over from Ian Murray who stepped down from the post in March, after three years in the role. Alford has had an extensive career in newspapers and as a magazine editor. She has also spent more than 10 years as an editorial content director for digital and print content agencies.



Dawn Alford

Beginning her career on the *Exeter Leader*, a weekly paper, before going to work on the city's evening title, the *Express & Echo*, she later worked as crime reporter and chief reporter at the *Southampton Daily Echo*. On national titles, she worked in various reporting and executive roles including for the *Sunday Express*, *Daily Express*, *Mirror*, *Sunday People* and *The New Day*.

Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the Society, commented: "It is great that Dawn Alford is joining us as Executive Director. Dawn has tremendous experience of national and regional news organisations, has a deep commitment to press freedom, and is passionate about taking the Society forward."

Alford told *The Journal*: "It's a privilege to take over as Executive Director for such a prestigious society and one so important in today's complex world of communication. I have spent some time reading the shortlisted entries for this year's national and regional awards and I am in awe of the incredible and important work undertaken by the British press in 2020.

"As a Society we are about to embark on a series of consultations with our members about our future goals and what we can do to safeguard the freedom of the press, build trust in our industry and help newsrooms be as diverse as the communities and audiences they serve. There is a great deal to be done practically, including a refresh of our website and its content to better reflect the new support we can offer and to encourage a new generation of members."

The Society was formed 22 years ago following the merger of the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors. Its 400 members include editors, managing editors, editorial directors, training editors, editors-in-chief and deputy editors from across national, regional and local newspapers, magazines, radio, television and digital media.

Record breaker

Walter Bingham, a longstanding member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, has made it into the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest working journalist and the oldest talkshow host! Aged 97, Bingham is still toiling away after eight decades in professional journalism and broadcasting.



Warwick takes the chair

Trustees of the Journalists' Charity have appointed Christine Warwick as the organisation's new Chair, succeeding Ramsay Smith in the role. Warwick has spent a long career in and around the media in both newspaper journalism and public relations. Based in Wales, she has represented the charity's Welsh committee on the national council of trustees, and is actively involved in the organisation of the annual Wales Media Awards.

On taking up the role of Chair, Warwick said: "I feel very privileged to be selected as Chair, and particularly at a time when the financial support the Journalists' Charity provides for journalists in need is especially crucial because of the impact of the Covid pandemic on many in the industry."

Charity CEO James Brindle commented: "Christine has been a passionate advocate for the charity and its unique offer during her time as a trustee, and I am very much looking forward to working together to do more to help journalists at this difficult time. I'd also like to express my thanks to Ramsay Smith for his time and support over the last two years – the charity and the industry owes Ramsay a great debt of gratitude for his tireless service over many years."

Bob Satchwell



Bob Satchwell

The founder-director of the Society of Editors, Bob Satchwell, has died, aged 72, after contracting pneumonia and Covid-19. Satchwell started his career in 1970 as a graduate trainee on the *Lancashire Evening Post* where he rose from reporter to associate editor before joining the staff of the *News of the World* as assistant editor and eventually returning to regional newspapers as editor of the *Cambridge Evening News*. In 1977 Satchwell was named 'Journalist of the Year' in the British Press Awards. He founded the Society of Editors in 1999.

A memorial service for Bob Satchwell will be held at St Bride's Church in Fleet Street on Thursday September 9, 2021, at 11.30 a.m.

New partnership to boost training

The Journalists' Charity (formerly the Newspaper Press Fund) and the National Council for the Training of Journalists have announced a major new partnership aimed at boosting support for journalists and trainees.

Following the recent launch of the First Jobs Fund – which provides financial assistance to new journalists – the charity is extending its support offer with a donation to the NCTJ's Journalism Diversity Fund. Now in its sixteenth year, the scheme provides financial support with the cost of training for individuals from financially challenged and diverse backgrounds. More than 90% of recipients go on to complete their qualifications and get a job in journalism.

Support from the Journalists' Charity will initially fund two bursaries, helping to develop future talent at a time of rising debt and increasing costs. The new partnership will also bring added benefits, including the opportunity to signpost the charity's unique financial assistance offer to journalists who are unaware that help is available.

James Brindle, CEO of the Journalists' Charity, said: "The journalism diversity fund is one of the industry's big success stories so it's great for the charity to get involved and play our part. The fact that the fund is oversubscribed makes the charity's contribution all the more important. Working closely with the NCTJ will help the charity to give more support to journalists who need us, and right now, that's more important than ever."

Joanne Butcher, Chief Executive of the NCTJ said, "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the Journalists' Charity on board as a supporter of the Journalism Diversity Fund. We admire the work this long-standing and important industry charity is doing to increase its support for journalists who need assistance throughout their careers as well as later in life. Our new mutually beneficial partnership reflects our commitment to increasing the work we do with like-minded charities that share our values."

Generous support

The Journalism Diversity Fund was established in 2005, funded by an annual grant from NLA Media Access. Since then, it has enabled more than 400 people from disadvantaged backgrounds to undertake professional journalism training on NCTJ-accredited courses. In 2020 alone, the JDF offered assistance to a record 59 individuals due to the generous financial support from a growing number of media partners. Since the start of this year, the JDF has received financial backing from eight new partners and is now supported by 22 media organisations.

The NCTJ continues to seek additional funding sources so that this tried and trusted programme can meet demand from the rising number of prospective journalists who would otherwise not be able to gain professional qualifications. Bursaries are awarded to help cover the costs of NCTJ Diploma in Journalism course fees and/or living expenses, depending on an individual's specific circumstances. All bursary recipients are matched with a professional journalist mentor from one of the sponsoring media organisations for the duration of their course.

Successful candidates are also connected with work experience opportunities and other insight events organised by the NCTJ and its JDF partners. The Fund is now supported financially by 19 media organisations: Aziz Foundation, BBC, Bloomberg, BMJ, CNN International, DMG Media, Dow Jones, Financial Times, Google News Initiative, Insider Inc, ITV News, Journalists' Charity, Newsquest, News UK, NLA media access, PA Media, Society of Editors, The Printing Charity, Reach Plc, Reuters, Sky and Yahoo UK.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us, and re-post our messages on social media. The Institute has a Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn presence which will keep you up-to-date with our news.

Record year for ALCS

The Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society has collected over £40m in one year for creators across the world. This is the first time in the organisation's 44-year history that it has hit this landmark figure. Since 1977, ALCS has paid out over £570m in total to writers for the use of their written and visual works.

ALCS exists to support its members' ability to write by increasing their income. It helps creators receive payments for hard-to-reach, unique uses of their work. Through these payments, ALCS aims to help support writers so they can continue to write the books, films and TV programmes that are beloved by, and central to, society.

Over the course of the year, the ALCS team has processed millions of micropayments received from 55 different countries, as well as securing new agreements with organisations in countries including Argentina, Belgium and Colombia. In the March 2021 distribution, which is typically the bigger of the organisation's twice-yearly distributions, it paid over 90,000 writers a share of £26m – more money to more ALCS members in a single distribution than ever before.

This record year comes at a time when many writers are still feeling the financial burden of the pandemic, after a year of lockdown restrictions and the most recent Budget announcement revealing changes to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme that falls short of expectations for freelancers. ALCS payments have been even more welcome than usual.

Owen Atkinson, Chief Executive of ALCS, said of the achievement: "It is fantastic that we have been able to collect this amount of income and distribute this money to our members in a year when so many writers have struggled financially. Thanks to the efforts of our staff, we have been able to operate business as usual and without disruption, despite everyone working out of their homes throughout the whole of the last year. Despite the ongoing COVID pandemic, we continue to collect licence income for members as we strive for another successful year in 2021."

Many members of the Chartered Institute of Journalists are already members of ALCS but if you have not yet signed up please go to **alcs.co.uk/register** to join.

'Lies and deceit' at the BBC

The Chartered Institute of Journalists says the profession of journalism must be wholly contrite about the implications of Lord Dyson's report into the conduct of Martin Bashir and the BBC's 1995 Panorama interview with the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

CIoJ President Tim Crook said: "This is a devastating example of why all levels of journalism must exercise an abiding and uncompromising duty of care to any and every individual we encounter in our everyday lives. The Dyson report highlights lies, deceit and cover-ups which permeated at the heart of the BBC at that time.

"Those journalists who sought to stand up to the powers and hierarchy were removed and discarded. On all levels this is a shocking revelation. And what is so terribly and sadly apparent is that the consequences, hurt and suffering endure for the family of the late Princess and those who worked for her. The Chartered Institute of Journalists recognises that, as a profession, we can never stop learning new lessons from the mistakes of the past, present and future."

Is the Government preparing to U-turn on Official Secrets?

In an interview on LBC, Boris Johnson appeared to indicate that the Government may be moving away from its proposed changes to the Official Secrets Act. The Prime Minister told his interviewer he did not want to live in a world "in which people are prosecuted for doing what they think is their public duty and in the public interest," adding that "the best and most important stories, whether Watergate or Thalidomide or whatever, come from tainted sources. One man's treacherous betrayer of confidences and irresponsible leaker is another man's whistleblower."

The PM's apparent U-turn on the subject follows strong opposition from the Chartered Institute of Journalists and others, to the Home Office's proposals for an update of the Official Secrets Act. The CIoJ, in its submission to the Government consultation on countering threats to national security, said the proposed changes "do not provide the protection needed in a democratic society to enable journalists acting in the public interest to publish information holding truth to power and providing scrutiny of abuse of power by government and private corporations and individuals."

Section 2 of the 1911 Official Secrets Act was repealed in 1989 because its use against civil servants, and the journalists they were communicating with, had brought government and the legal system into disrepute. In its submission to the Home Office, the CIoJ described the new proposals as "a resurrection of the discredited Section 2 …[which] had caused grave injustice to many civil servants and in the end public and constitutional embarrassment to Parliament and the process of government."

Tony Blair's Government, the Institute said in its submission, had in 2007 "adapted and conjured the medieval Common Law offence of misconduct in public office to be a substitute and more punitive resuscitation of Section 2 of the 1911 OSA. It did more damage to the public interest when engaged against civil servants and public officials and journalists" and it was "wholly inappropriate to adapt an old Common Law offence carrying a maximum sentence of life imprisonment in order to criminalise journalist and source communications… It was an example of creating a crime for which there had been no proper notice or warning – a clear breach of Article 7: no crime without law."

Espionage

The Home Office, the CIoJ wrote, had failed to separate and distinguish the threat of espionage, spying and subversion by hostile foreign powers from the problem of unjustifiable breaches of confidentiality by public officials to journalists. "The former is a threat to national security and should be treated as a criminal offence. The latter should be dealt with as a civil wrong in law."

The Institute argued that where disclosure by public officials to journalists can be proven on the balance of probabilities to damage the public interest, the limit of sanction should be constrained to the field of employment law, with consequences of disciplinary sanctions in the workplace, dismissal and loss of pension rights. "The criminal law should only apply to public officials who acted with foreknowledge that their communications would damage clearly defined categories of national security on a clear and present danger threshold of understanding and proof."

The Home Office proposals, said the CIoJ, "will not command public confidence. The offences envisaged, if engaged with enquiry, prosecution and trials in the courts, will generate gross injustice and will face defiance and opposition through the return of not guilty verdicts by juries. This will delegitimize the Rule of Law."

Inquiry points finger at Maltese government

A public inquiry into the assassination of Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia has found the state responsible for her death. The 437-page report concluded that the government of Malta had failed to recognise risks to the reporter's life and take reasonable steps to avoid them.



Daphne Caruana Galizia

It accused the state of creating "an atmosphere of impunity, generated by the highest echelons" and cited an "unwarranted closeness" between big business and government.

Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb outside her home in October 2017. The 'one-woman Wikileaks' uncovered networks of corruption in the country and abroad, and published her findings on a widely-read blog. Her accusations were relentless against politicians and officials, linking them to wholesale levels of corruption with famous Maltese businessmen.

In 2017 she effectively triggered an early election by publishing allegations linking Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to the 'Panama Papers' scandal, which exposed the use of tax havens by the rich. And in 2019 an investigation which backed up her claims against several of Muscat's close associates and appointed officials led to the Prime Minister's resignation. He continues to deny any involvement in her murder.

Liz Justice

Jailed journalist, Mahmoud Hussein, freed

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has welcomed the release by the Egyptian authorities of Al Jazeera correspondent Mahmoud Hussein after almost five years in prison. This follows determined campaigning by the CIoJ alongside other journalism organisations around the world.

Altogether, Mahmoud Hussein had to endure 1,506 days in jail merely for being a journalist. Last year the Institute began a daily vigil on its Twitter news feed @ ciojournalist calling for his release and marking each extra day of his imprisonment.

CIoJ President Tim Crook wrote to Egypt's Ambassador in London before Christmas asking the Egyptian government to show mercy and humanitarian consideration. He said: "We have huge respect for Al Jazeera for always standing by their journalist and campaigning exhaustively for him. Mahmoud became a symbol for the persecution of professional journalists everywhere. This fight, of course, continues."

Mahmoud was arrested in December 2016 while visiting relatives in Cairo, from Al Jazeera's HQ in Doha, Qatar. He was never formally charged with any crime or put on trial.

His release could open the door for other journalists wrongly held in Egypt.

Mahmoud was kept in solitary confinement for long periods, did not receive proper treatment for a broken arm, and his father died a year ago before being able to witness his son's return home.

At least 22 newspapers 'driven to close' in the last five years

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) says that it knows of at least 22 newspapers throughout the world that have been driven to close by governments they annoyed during the past five years. Most recently this was the fate of *Apple Daily*, Hong Kong's most popular tabloid, which announced on June 23 this year that it was shutting down under pressure from the Hong Kong and Chinese Communist authorities.

One of the few leading Chinese-language media outlets that was still criticising the Chinese government, *Apple Daily* is just the latest example of a newspaper that was deliberately 'murdered' by means of often drawn-out but ultimately lethal judicial harassment or economic strangulation, says RSF. They include *Vtime*, a Russian online newspaper that closed earlier in June, *Akhbar Al Youm*, a Moroccan daily that shut down in March, and two newspapers in Myanmar, *7 Day News* and *Eleven*.

"As well as murders of journalists, physical violence against them and violation of their rights, the methodical murder of newspapers has also become common," RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire told *The Journal*. "The death of a newspaper in another country triggers less emotion than the death of a person so it often goes unnoticed by the international public. Someone not paying close attention may assume that the newspaper was the victim of mismanagement or declining public interest. But newspapers are often deliberately put to death with terrible consequences for the right to information."

Economic strangulation

Apple Daily had to close because the Hong Kong government froze its assets, leaving it unable to pay its staff and suppliers. Economic asphyxiation of this kind is widely used to force newspapers to shut down. Morocco's last independent Arabic-language daily, *Akhbar Al Youm*, which was launched in 2009 and which was critical of the government, was throttled slowly in this way. After its founder and editor, Taoufik Bouachrine, was jailed in 2018, it was deprived of all state-sector advertising and then it received none of the aid that the government provided to the media in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It finally stopped publishing in March 2021.

Egypt's *Tahrir News*, an independent daily that had been publishing only an online version since 2015, was forced to close in May 2020 after the authorities deprived it of vital income by blocking access to its website for months without giving any reason. Something similar happened in Cambodia when, after publishing for 24 years, the English-language *Cambodia Daily* was forced to shut down in September 2017 by means of economic pressure in the form of an unprecedented tax demand. It had been at the forefront of the fight for independently reported news and information.

In Latin America, the Nicaraguan authorities managed to silence the 40-year-old *El Nuevo Diario* in September 2019. A critic of President Daniel Ortega's government, the newspaper was especially critical in its coverage of the crackdown on anti-government protests in April 2018. The government responded by using its monopoly on imported newsprint and ink to deprive the paper of the supplies it needed to keep printing.

Judicial harassment

Judicial harassment and arbitrary, vaguely-worded legislation are also used to submit annoying newspapers to a lingering death. *VTimes*, an independent news website founded last year in Russia, decided to shut down on 12 June, a month after the justice ministry put it on the "foreign agents" list. The website was concerned about the possibility of criminal prosecutions. Tajikistan's *Akhbor* news site took a similar decision last year as a result of being blacklisted and subjected to judicial harassment after publishing critical content on sensitive issues.

Similar policies killed the bimonthly *Mutations* in Burkina Faso. As a result of a libel suit, the paper and its editor were ordered to pay 17 million CFA francs (26,000 euros) in damages in 2018, an exorbitant sum beyond their reach. A demand for payment of several million euros in back taxes, based on a very selective application of tax legislation, forced one of Zambia's most critical newspapers, *The Post*, to stop publishing in June 2016, just weeks before general elections that were crucial for the government.

Censorship

In Myanmar, it was the February 2021 coup d'état that signed the death warrants for all of the country's independent media outlets in the space of a few weeks, in their print versions at least. In March, the junta simply rescinded the licences of several daily newspapers such as *7 Day News* and *Eleven*. The other independent newspapers such as *Standard Time* soon found themselves facing military censorship and newsprint shortages. Only propaganda newspapers are now available from Myanmar's newsstands.

In Turkey, the abortive coup in July 2016 triggered a major purge and many newspapers were banned under the ensuing state of emergency. They included the dailies *Zaman* and *Taraf*, and the pro-Kurdish newspaper *Özgür Gündem*, which were dissolved by decree in the summer of 2016 while many of their journalists were charged with "membership of a terrorist organisation" and "endangering the integrity of the state," and some were jailed.

Journalists at *Népszabadság*, a leading Hungarian newspaper founded during the uprising against the Soviet yoke 65 years ago, were subjected to another, very sudden form of closure in October 2016. Its owner, the Hungarian media group Mediaworks, denied them access to the building without any prior warning after deciding, in a matter of hours, to stop publishing because revenue was in free fall. Mediaworks was sold a few weeks later to a media group close to Viktor Orbán, Hungary's prime minister.

Surviving online

To circumvent these various forms of harassment, some newspapers have managed to survive as news sites. After 75 years, Venezuela's historic daily *El Nacional* was forced to stop producing a print issue in October 2015 but this outspoken critic of the current government has managed to keep providing independent news coverage online. Azerbaijan's last opposition newspaper, *Azadlıq*, had to stop printing in September 2016 but is still reporting online. Moussa Aksar, the editor of *L'Evénement*, one of Niger's leading dailies, has managed to keep it going online, while running a farm and selling cow's and camel's milk and mangoes. He stopped producing a print version in 2018 as a result of a fall in advertising revenue, and judicial harassment in connection with his coverage of alleged embezzlement by senior political and military officials.

Most of the countries and territories that have used these methods to silence independent newspapers are ranked low or very low in RSF's 2021 World Press Freedom Index, which covers 180 countries. Hong Kong is ranked 80th, Zambia 115th, Nicaragua 121st, Morocco 136th, Myanmar 140th, Cambodia 144th, Venezuela 148th, Russia 150th, Turkey 153rd, Egypt 166th, Azerbaijan 167th, Tajikistan 162nd and China 177th. The exceptions are Burkina Faso and Niger, ranked 37th and 59th respectively.

RSF's 2021 gallery of 'predators' – tyrants old and new



Image copyright RSF.org

By Rebecca Vincent
Director of International Campaigns, Reporters Without Borders

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published a gallery of grim portraits, those of 37 heads of state or government who crack down massively on press freedom. Some of these "predators of press freedom" have been operating for more than two decades while others have just joined the blacklist, which for the first time includes two women and a European predator.

Nearly half (17) of the predators are making their first appearance on the 2021 list, which RSF is publishing five years after the last one, from 2016. All are heads of state or government who trample on press freedom by creating a censorship apparatus, jailing journalists arbitrarily or inciting violence against them, when they don't have blood on their hands because they have directly or indirectly pushed for journalists to be murdered.

Nineteen of these predators rule countries that are coloured red on the RSF's press freedom map, meaning their situation is classified as 'bad' for journalism, and 16 rule countries coloured black, meaning the situation is 'very bad'. The average age of the predators is 66. More than a third (13) of these tyrants come from the Asia-Pacific region.

"There are now 37 leaders from around the world in RSF's predators of press freedom gallery and no one could say this list is exhaustive," RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. "Each of these predators has their own style. Some impose a reign of terror by issuing irrational and paranoid orders. Others adopt a carefully constructed strategy based on draconian laws. A major challenge now is for these predators to pay the highest possible price for their oppressive behaviour. We must not let their methods become the new normal."

The most notable of the list's new entrants is undoubtedly Saudi Arabia's 35-year-old crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who heads a rigidly autocratic state that tolerates no press freedom at all. His repressive methods include spying and threats that have sometimes led to abduction, torture and other unthinkable acts. "Jamal Khashoggi's horrific murder exposed a predatory method that is simply barbaric," says RSF.

The new entrants also include predators of a very different nature such as Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, whose aggressive and crude rhetoric about the media has reached new heights since the start of the pandemic, and a European prime minister, Hungary's Viktor Orbán, the self-proclaimed champion of "illiberal democracy" who has steadily and effectively undermined media pluralism and independence since being returned to power in 2010.

Women predators

The first two women predators are both from Asia. One is Carrie Lam, who heads a government that was still democratic when she took over. The chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region since 2017, Lam has proved to be the puppet of Chinese President Xi Jinping, and now openly supports his predatory policies towards the media. They led to the closure of Hong Kong's leading independent newspaper, *Apple Daily*, on 24 June this year, and the jailing of its founder, Jimmy Lai, a 2020 RSF Press Freedom laureate.

The other woman predator is Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's prime minister since 2009. Her predatory exploits include the adoption of a digital security law in 2018 that has led to more than 70 journalists and bloggers being prosecuted.

Some of the predators have been on this list since RSF began compiling it 20 years ago. Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, were on the very first list, as were two leaders from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Belarus's Alexander Lukashenko, whose recent predatory inventiveness has won him even more notoriety. In all, seven of the 37 leaders on the latest list have retained their places since the first list RSF published in 2001.

Three of the historic predators are from Africa, the region where they reign longest. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, 79, has been Equatorial Guinea's president since 1979, while Isaias Afwerki, whose country is ranked last in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, has been Eritrea's president since 1993. Paul Kagame, who was appointed Rwanda's vice-president in 1994 before taking over as president in 2000, will be able to continue ruling until 2034.

For each of the predators, RSF has compiled a file identifying their "predatory method," how they censor and persecute journalists, and their "favourite targets" – the kinds of journalists and media outlets they go after. The file also includes quotations from speeches or interviews in which they "justify" their predatory behaviour, and their country's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index.

For the gallery and full report, go to **www.rsf.org .**

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS
FOR PRESS FREEDOM

SPECIAL REPORT

Our heritage under threat

By William Mulder

As reported on the front page of *The Journal*, the Chartered Institute of Journalists is campaigning alongside SAVE Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society, to oppose the unnecessary and avoidable demolition of iconic Fleet Street buildings and monuments which are a key part of the newspaper heritage of London.

The proposed new 'Justice Quarter', comprising courts and a police station, involves the destruction of the entrance to number 78 Fleet Street, which was the Institute's first headquarters in the 1880s. It also means the removal of the bust to the newspaper editor and parliamentarian T.P. O'Connor (1848-1929) with its inscription, "His pen could lay bare the bones of a book or the soul of a statesman in a few vivid lines."

The CIoJ was able to establish its T.P. O'Connor Fund thanks to a sizeable bequest he left to the Institute upon his death in 1929. Many hundreds of journalists have benefited from this fund over the decades. The Institute is supporting the campaign by SAVE Britain's Heritage which has launched a petition to persuade the Secretary of State to 'call in' the City of London Corporation's decision to allow the demolitions to go ahead.

CIoJ President Tim Crook recalls that as a teenager he was employed by the City Corporation as a roadsweeper in Fleet Street and the surrounding alleyways and adjoining squares: "While sweeping Fleet Street, I read the tribute to T.P. O'Connor, and the other commemorative plaques and statues dedicated to great journalists and writers such as Charles Dickens, Edgar Wallace, William Makepeace Thackeray and Dr Samuel Johnson, and these are what drew me to my 44-year-long career in journalism."

He added: "It is really heart-breaking that this development means so many historic Fleet Street newspaper buildings will be lost. When you destroy such important memories and symbols of the past you also destroy the values and significance they bring to the present. There is no reason why the new development could not have imaginatively retained the architecture and symbolism of this memorable and famous section of Fleet Street, which has been the case with Beaverbrook's Express building and the former headquarters of the Telegraph group."



photo: © Tim Crook

The front of Chronicle House designed and built for the newspaper trade in 1924 by Herbert, Ellis & Clarke.

Symbolism

The new development by Eric Parry Architects replaces Chronicle House and architecture representing Fleet Street's journalistic past with a Court building that only represents law, prosecution and litigation. It could be argued that freedom of expression and all the riches of democracy enhanced by a free and campaigning press are being annihilated by the brutalist symbolism of law and trial process. Prof Crook explained: "A true 'Justice quarter' should combine the heritage and design of law and journalism as well as policing."

The history of this part of Fleet Street is rooted in the most important liberal and social consciousness newspapers published in Fleet Street during the 19th and 20th centuries: *The Daily Chronicle*, *The Daily News* and *The Star* in London. The frontage which will be pulled down includes a plaque to Bradbury & Evans, printer and publisher of the novelist Charles Dickens. He founded *The Daily News* in 1845 which would merge with *The Daily Chronicle* in 1930 to become *The News Chronicle*. This was the sister morning paper of *The Star* before they were both controversially sold to Associated Newspapers and effectively closed down in mergers with the *Daily Mail* and *London Evening News* in October 1960.

Fleet Street's Chronicle Building is all that remains of the presence and contribution of these iconic Liberal titles in newspaper history: *The Daily News*, *The Daily Chronicle*, and *The Star* of London. Former CIoJ President George Glenton was the court correspondent for *The News Chronicle*. The book he co-wrote in 1963 with the paper's news editor, William Pattinson, *The Last Chronicle of Bouverie Street*, describes how a much-loved national newspaper with successful circulation of well over one million readers along with its London evening title were sacrificed on the altar of 'economies of scale' that benefited shareholders rather than the public interest.

After the *Daily News* and *Chronicle* merged in 1930 most of *The News Chronicle*'s operations were based in Bouverie Street, though the Chronicle Building continued to be used by journalism publishers and most recently was the London headquarters of the French news agency Agence France Presse.

The Daily Chronicle gave its name to the building fronting 72-78 Fleet Street. It had started as a halfpenny local weekly in Clerkenwell in 1856 and went daily with the Chronicle title in 1869. Because it challenged and embarrassed Prime Minister Lloyd George, he would buy it in 1918 with a Liberal Party syndicate for £1.6 million. Through the 1920s its reporting and photojournalism were pioneering. It would usually devote its back page to a composite of the most striking news photographs of the day.

During the Second World War, the basement of Chronicle House provided a vital public shelter during the Blitz that devastated the nearby journalists' church of St Bride's.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has no objection to the ambition of the City of London Corporation and every respect for the professionalism and achievement of Eric Parry Architects in terms of the vision for a new justice quarter in the City combining courts with policing. What we would have

hoped for though is the necessary incorporation and respect for journalism history and heritage in the project.



Image: US Library of Congress & public domain.

Fleet Street at the beginning of the 20th Century with the Daily Chronicle newspaper and its headquarters between 72 to 78 Fleet Street on the right- a vital presence and aspect of the visual history of the centre of British journalism.

Spiritual home

Fleet Street is the spiritual home of British journalism. This needs to be respected and preserved. We in the Institute earnestly and sincerely urge a reconsideration of the design and effective inclusion of the existing Fleet Street facade, preservation and celebration of the memory of T.P O'Connor and his bust and inscription, and indeed, the plaque commemorating the printer and publisher of Dickens and Thackeray.

The new 'Justice Quarter' needs to celebrate the social and public justice sought through journalism as much as in the law, and a recognition, to use the words of T.P. O'Connor, that: "In journalism, as in life, it is the personal that interests mankind."


News Chronicle

LAST-DITCH PEACE PLEA TO GAITSKELL

The Last Chronicle of Bouverie Street

THE STAR

'BRIBES': LEAGUE & FA ACT

George Glenton and William Pattinson

The cover of 'The Last Chronicle of Bouverie Street' by George Glenton and William Pattinson. It features the front page of the last edition of The News Chronicle published Monday 17th October 1960.

The Institute received a letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government written on behalf of the Secretary of State Robert Jenrick dated July 8, 2021 and stating: "The Government remains committed to giving more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues and believe that planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible. The call-in policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively. The Secretary of State has decided, having had regard to this policy, not to call in this application. He is satisfied that the application should be determined at a local level.

"I appreciate that this is not the preferred outcome for you, and I understand that there will be great disappointment as a result. It is however, now for the Council to determine this application and a copy of our letter to the Council is attached for your information."

In the light of this refusal to intervene, the CIoJ President, Prof Tim Crook has written a letter to the Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation asking for reconsideration of the development plans. He says the Institute hopes the plans can be re-drawn to preserve the heritage of Fleet Street.

The many faces of T.P. O'Connor

Born in County Westmeath, T.P. O'Connor was the only Irish 'Home Rule' MP to be elected to Parliament from an English constituency. He represented the Scotland Division of Liverpool, which had a large Irish community, from 1885 until his death in 1929. In 1888 he created and launched *The Star* newspaper in London to fight for the thousands of homeless at a time when the Embankment was crowded with penniless down-and-outs. In 1888, in the districts of East London, Battersea and Deptford, 27 out of every 100 men were out of work. There was no welfare system and no local government apart from ecclesiastical vestries and the Metropolitan Board of Works.



photo: © Tim Crook

Thomas Power O'Connor (5 October 1848 – 18 November 1929), known as T. P. O'Connor. His bust by Francis William Doyle-Jones at the entrance to 78 Fleet Street.



Image: US Library of Congress & public domain.

The Star also campaigned for, and secured, the establishment of an elected London County Council. Its first edition sold a record print-run of 130,000 papers, all produced in one day from a basement in Stonecutter Street. *The Star* was a halfpenny evening paper and one of the first to use 'New Journalism' investigative practices to campaign for social improvements. O'Connor pledged to "do away with the hackneyed style of obsolete journalism" and said there would be no place in his paper for "the verbose and prolix articles" of other newspapers.

O'Connor's first editorial in *The Star* spoke for a spirit of journalism that endures into the present day. He wrote: "In our view, the effect of every policy must first be regarded from the standpoint of the workers of the Nation, and of the poorest and most helpless among them. The charwoman who lives in St Giles', the seamstress who is sweated in Whitechapel, the labourer who stands begging for work outside the dockyard gates in St George's-in-the-East. These are the persons by whose conditions we shall judge the policy of the different political parties, and as it relieves or injures or leaves unhelped their position shall the policy by us be praised or condemned, helped or resisted."



Image: US Library of Congress & public domain.

T.P. O'Connor was a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists and left a bequest which created a charity in his name that has benefited hundreds of journalists in need since his death in 1929.

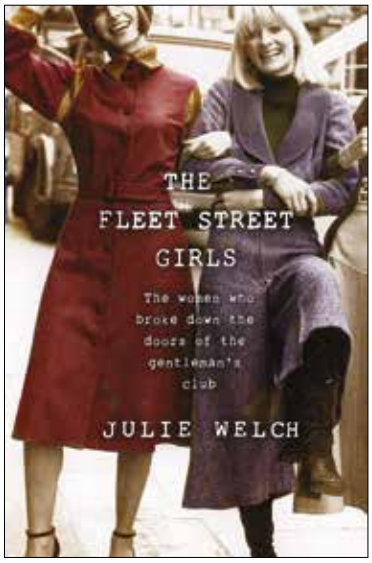
BOOKSHELF

Fleet Street Girls: The women who broke down the doors of the gentlemen's club

By Julie Welch

Published by Trapeze, Orion Books, 2020

Hardback £18.99



The 'gentleman's club' in question was Fleet Street. This book was written by the woman to whom every female sports reporter, presenter and editor in the UK owes more than they could possibly imagine. In 1973 Julie Welch became the first woman in national newspapers to cover football. When she entered the press box at Coventry City football club and phoned in to file her copy, the entire room of men fell silent.

She had stormed the barricades of sexism and discrimination in British journalism with talent and professionalism. This brilliant and entertaining book also shows she did so with wit, grit and a great sense of humour. "Women in the press box? So it's come to that!"

But as Welch writes: "Why shouldn't a woman be a sportswriter? Sport is for everyone. It's playing. It's belonging, it's great deeds and huge emotions, it's a natural expression of being human, part of life. I've been given the chance to show what women are capable of, and I am not going to let a dinosaur like him get in my way."

This is a page turner. Julie Welch is a fluent and accomplished writer. She was the screenwriter for the David Puttnam film *Those Glory Glory Days*, inspired by her childhood love of football and Tottenham Hotspur. Her previous books include *Too Marvellous For Words*, a charming account of her education at the all-girl boarding school, Felixstowe College, in the 1960s.

Fleet Street Girls is not total autobiography. She interviews and blends in the experiences and struggles of other "pioneering and trail-blazing women" who also broke down barriers in the 1970s and 80s. They include Lynn Barber, Sue Peart, Emma Lee-Potter, Mary Kenny and Wendy Holden. Chapter Five and 'Making Mayonnaise with Kingsley Amis' explains how the journey to Fleet Street really began in 1968 for a young Bristol University undergraduate called Julie Welch who had a go at the "Who will be the young writer of the year?" competition in the *Daily Telegraph* Saturday magazine. She wrote about a friend's dilemma over whether to have an abortion, a gay friend, "usual bed-hopping, lectures, thwarted pursuits of love" and drugs. The only prize she had ever won before was "a five-shilling postal order for drawing a pony in *Riding* magazine at thirteen." Seven years later at the age of 20, the *Telegraph* rang to say she was young writer of the year, and going to be interviewed by Kingsley Amis. It really is worth buying the book to find out what happens next.

Throughout the atmosphere and indeed the poetry of newspaper journalism is evoked with sharp and affectionate writing. It was and still is a "life-consuming news factory" though now without "the subterranean rumble" of the printing presses. Typewriters are no more. Keyboards and working from home mean the 'dystopian clutter' of the newsroom has been replaced with incoming emails and struggling with the mute button on Zoom and WhatsApp calls. At the end of the book the author returns to Fleet Street as it is now, somewhat forlornly chasing and searching for ghosts, but still appreciating the memory and the fun. "No one who hasn't worked in Fleet Street when it was really Fleet Street can possibly know what it was like. To understand, you need to have stretched your limits to meet a mad deadline, or been one of the last exhausted stragglers in the news room when all the lights were still burning at one in the morning."

The generations who worked like this are now pushing into their sixties, seventies and eighties and many have been banged out into oblivion. The present journalism diaspora of online and digital smartphone and social media writers would do well to take time out to connect with the memory and thrill of their forebears.

Welch writes: "You need to have been part of the laughter and the jokes and the misbehaviour; to have walked into the pub as a young woman, satin-shirted, sexy, glowing, knowing that the men would turn to look, would make space for you to join them, because you were you. The point wasn't really the big story. It was the way you were as one, working for the same end, that fat bundle of paper that smelt slightly woody and blackened your fingers when you turned the pages and went out in the world with your name, your name, in it."

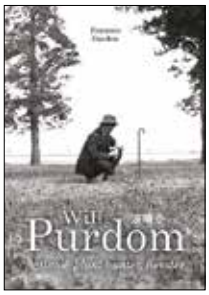
Tim Crook

Will Purdom: Agitator, Plant-hunter, forester

By Francois Gordon

Published by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 2021

240 pages, hardback £18.99



Francois Gordon, diplomat turned writer and a lifelong enthusiast for gardens and botany, is the author of a remarkable new book (elegantly designed and printed; with each page having the feel of Chinese silk) on the life of a hitherto overlooked character, Will Purdom, a plant-hunter of the early 20th century.

The many photographs of Purdom which adorn the pages of Francois Gordon's immaculate research and historical context-setting, suggest the subject to be a typical figure from the zenith of British imperial history, as he has the appearance of an upper class Army officer of the period. And yet, Purdom was actually a member of the rural working class and began his career in botany at Kew Gardens, under the almost feudal overlordship of Sir William Thiselton-Dyer (a man who seemed more in the character of a ruthless British district commissioner than the head of a botanical garden!) Purdom, as a young Kew apprentice, found himself in opposition to Dyer's regime, agitating for better wages and conditions - a campaign which would result in his dismissal from Kew's priesthood of gardeners.

However, Purdom's qualities and talents were enough to recommend him to the Arnold Arboretum in the United States and to the influential Veitch nurseries, who despatched him to the mysterious imperial realm of China on a specimen-gathering expedition, which, unfortunately, coincided with the revolution of 1911 – Purdom later being rescued by derring-do volunteers from the Legion of Frontiersmen. With much fascinating detail about the nature of the country (rural China was almost like a mediaeval land), Gordon's work is as much a book for the general student of history as it is for botany enthusiasts. Much praise must go to the author for the depth of his research, which paints a portrait, not just of an obscure plant-gatherer, but the life and times of Britain and China in an epoch which may have some resonance with our own.

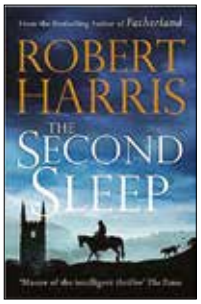
Stuart Millson

The Second Sleep

by Robert Harris

Published by Penguin, 2020

414 pages, paperback £8.99



The Rev. Christopher Fairfax is on a journey from Exeter to an isolated village, in which a fellow clergyman (deceased) is rumoured to have assembled a collection of artefacts from the distant past. Fairfax travels by horse, the speediest form of transport in England... 800 years from now.

Robert Harris is a master storyteller, equally at home in the febrile France of the Dreyfus affair, or Chamberlain's Munich crisis, or in this latest engrossing and chilling fantasy of the future. His skill is in setting a scene, brilliantly, imaginatively and convincingly – and this he does in his version of *Things to Come*, or perhaps, more accurately, 19th-century Nature-writer, Richard Jefferies' novel, *After London*. Gradually in The Second Sleep (for it is a story that unravels step by step), we discover that at some point in the impossibly distant 2020s, our technical civilisation failed, leading to a much-diminished population and the rebirth of a mediaeval existence. Yet village life seems undisturbed, with the Rev. Christopher most interested in the results of local archaeological digs: the shiny plastic hand-held machines (each embossed with the curious emblem of an apple) which the 'ancients' used to talk to one another. Stories abound, too, of archaeologists who have discovered the remains of a vast road to the north of London, "some 100 feet in width" and the remnants of steel causeways which used to convey large numbers of people at high speed. (The executives of Highways England and HS2, beware!)

Yet (in a scene reminiscent of Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*) ecclesiastical forces are seeking to suppress such discoveries – including the dangerous work of one antiquarian who has rediscovered a force lost centuries ago: electricity. On no account must we descend into the chaos of the old technical civilisation in which God was abolished. Meanwhile, England (which has reverted to a Wessex-like state) faces other far-off threats: wars with France, and a Caliphate in the north of England – the descendants of post-war Islamic immigrants; an interesting, uncomfortable (even, unfashionable) but bold prediction by the author of what might come to pass, based upon current trends.

Fairfax is drawn into the mysteries of the past, to a strange concrete structure some miles away, which local superstition has made into a place of terror and the supernatural. What lies there – and who is watching his every move? A sinister tale, a hypnotic descent into an alien, yet at the same time half-recognisable country of the future, *The Second Sleep* is one of the best dystopian journeys you are likely to find anywhere in literature.

Stuart Millson

NEWS IN BRIEF

CPD course

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has rolled out its first CPD (continuing professional development) advanced course in Media Law, Regulation and Ethics for members. This ran over a four-week period between May and June, with separate online sessions covering media contempt, privacy, libel, open justice, and copyright, as well as free access to a 244-page electronic book. This was the first in a series of CPD courses which, in the long term, should lead to journalists qualifying for the Institute's 'Chartered Journalist' status.

Journalist released

Imprisoned journalist Lady Ann Salem (known as 'Icy') has been freed in the Philippines following a successful campaign by the CIoJ and other press freedom organisations. The appeal court in Manila ordered her release after another court had declared her arrest and the search of her home unlawful. CIoJ President Tim Crook wrote to the Philippines Ambassador in London calling for Lady Ann Salem's release, and members of the Institute held a daily vigil on social media.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

When I was a young journalist, one of the first things we were taught was that, if we used abbreviations or initials in an article, we must first spell out what the abbreviations and initials stand for. Today, journalists often use new words, or existing words with new meanings, without spelling out what those words mean. CIoJ President Tim Crook did this in his inaugural speech, which was printed in *The Journal* last year, when he mentioned 'podcasting' and called for a Podcasting Committee to be set up by the Institute. Does everyone know what a podcast is? Should not our new President have spelled it out? Many will know what he means, but not all. An explanation in *The Journal* would have been helpful.

Language, of course, is changing all the time. Could not The Journal publish an article listing the new words that have come into current usage in, say, the last 20-30 years? There are certainly plenty! Words like 'app' and 'digital' spring to mind. The first is an abbreviation, often used as a substantive word, while the second is given quite a new meaning. Computers and the internet have introduced a new language into our vocabulary. A guide to what the new words mean would be very welcome, to journalists of all ages.

Yours, John Szemerey

The Editor replies: This is an interesting suggestion and one which we can consider for the next issue. In addition to all the IT-related terms, we could include new words that have arrived with various political agendas, such as 'identitarian', new meanings for old words ('woke') and abbreviations ('trans').

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my gratitude to the Institute for the assistance and guidance provided in a recent employment matter.

Following illness and bereavement I returned to work only to find that my salary had been cut, and then suddenly, without warning, my position was made redundant, and a derisory redundancy settlement offered to get rid of me. The way I was treated by my employer was absolutely disgraceful, especially as I have worked for the same organisation for more than a decade. No consideration at all was given to my length of service or the fact that I had over the years frequently gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' out of loyalty to the organisation.

The trade union arm of the Institute supported and advised me on how to deal with this terrible situation, kept me 'on the straight and narrow' when dealing with my employers, and enabled me to successfully appeal the redundancy and in the end secure a much better deal from my employers, with a vastly improved redundancy settlement. I could not have done any of this without the support of the Institute of Journalists.

So, a huge thank-you to Dominic Cooper and the IOJ(TU)!

Yours, Robert

24-hour legal advice

Members should remember they have access to the Institute's legal advice line 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

Advice may be sought on any legal issue, and, in addition, the advice line will also provide tax guidance and provides a counselling service, too.

Contact head office for more details.

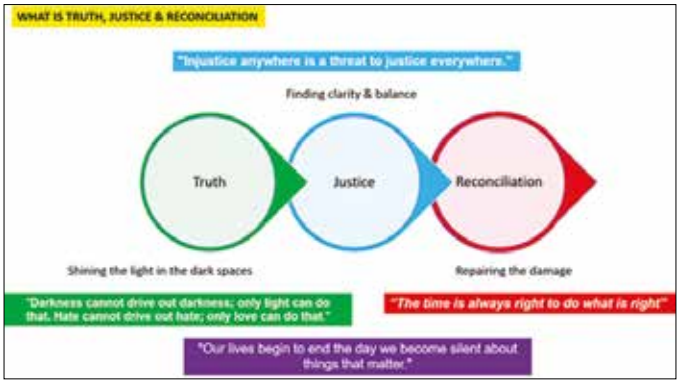
Journalism, justice and joy

By Dr Royston Flude

In our 'connected' world, all news is international and journalists are vital storytellers, shining a light in dark places, celebrating extraordinary achievements and despairing about humanity's lack of harmony. Journalists are the 'second oldest profession' as story-telling has evolved across countless generations. Whenever the curiosity of journalists is contained and restricted, we open the door to thought control and ideology. The consequence is 'institutional harassment'. This institutional harassment has many forms.



Institutional harassment usually results when there is a power imbalance. In recent years we have seen many examples of whistleblowers telling their stories of wrongdoing through the media. Unfortunately, many have found out the hard way that media organisations can disclose their identity, causing a catastrophic impact on their lives including loss of employment and employability, and sometimes even resulting in custodial sentences.



This sad outcome has now extended to journalists who can be imprisoned and killed. In the UK, the Chartered Institute of Journalists has recently taken part in the Home Office consultation on Government plans to update the Official Secrets Act. The Home Office seems to want to invalidate the 'public interest defence' and replace it with a draconian system that could see journalists sentenced to up to 14 years in prison if they make 'unauthorised disclosures'.

It is vital that there is a process for revealing truth, seeking justice and reconciliation based on 'optimising the joy', as opposed to 'maximising the pain'. This process should celebrate the value of journalism in campaigning for justice and fairness, and ensuring that reconciliation provides lasting positive change. Martin Luther King Jr brought much wisdom to these concepts, standing on the shoulders of giants. Or Nelson Mandela, who pioneered the Truth & Reconciliation process in South Africa.

So how can journalists respond to the 'Big Brother' world? We must keep shining the light in dark places. Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz has concluded that optimal outcomes arise from optimising both GDP and social well-being. In facilitating enlightenment, we must help people move away from pain and embrace love, minimising barriers, celebrating diversity and inclusion. Journalists provide the lubricant for life, often with humour and joy.

Perhaps we can learn much from the IKIGAI approach across generations.

A better understanding of human geography will be critical in traversing both natural and complex disasters. It requires new thinking, which is the domain of journalists.



The Orwell Prizes 2021

The Orwell Foundation has announced the winners of this year's Orwell Prizes, recognising the best political writing. Awards are made to works which best meet George Orwell's own ambition "to make political writing into an art."

The winner of the 2021 Orwell Prize for Political Writing is *Between Two Fires: Truth, Ambition and Compromise in Putin's Russia* by Joshua Yaffa. This is a series of beautifully-written pen-portraits of fascinating individuals – TV producers, priests, human rights activists and more – trying to thrive in contemporary Russia, many of whom are little-known to a Western audience. It is the Moscow-based journalist's first book.

The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction has been awarded to *Summer* by Ali Smith, the fourth and final book in her 'Seasonal Quartet'. Written and published at great speed last year, Summer captures our time with great acuity, and is hopeful and furious in equal measure. Winter and Spring were previously shortlisted and longlisted for the prize, in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

The winners of the Orwell Prize for Journalism are John Harris and John Domokos, for their *Guardian* video series 'Anywhere but Westminster. "It's a great honour and thrill to receive this prize," Harris commented, "particularly because of George Orwell who has always been a great influence and lodestar for us both." The team were previously shortlisted for the prize in 2020.

Annabel Deas is the winner of The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils, for her BBC Radio 5 Live podcast series 'Hope High', a BBC Radio 5 Live podcast series that takes the listener into the heart of the lives of the children recruited to run drugs by organised gangs. Despite the best efforts of a school, this process is invisible to the authorities and institutions who might have intervened.

Did you know?

Your annual subscription to the Chartered Institute of Journalists is tax-deductible? This applies to any Institute member who is a UK taxpayer, whether you are a staff journalist or a freelance.

‘The rolling English road…’

Stuart Millson takes us on a round-Britain literary tour

The landscapes of the British Isles, the British character, or indeed the variety of British characters which you will find if you travel from Cornwall to Caledonia, have provided endless material for novelists, essayists, poets and observers of the social scene, from most notably the 1930s onwards, Sir John Betjeman and H.V. Morton, to an altogether different view of England in the form of George Orwell’s accounts of urban grime and squalor, and the North Country sketches of J.B. Priestley’s *English Journey*.

I would like to begin my personal and free-wheeling literary tour of Britain in the company of that tweed-suited English giant, G.K. Chesterton, and we leave from the imaginary seaside town of Pebbleswick, in the 1914 novel, *The Flying Inn* – a fantastic story of an England in which an Islamophile government has outlawed the traditional activity of ale-drinking! Pebbleswick is the idealised, quiet seaside town: a symbol of so many provincial coastal places in Britain, and the heroes of the story – publican Humphrey Pump and the Irish captain and adventurer, Patrick Dalroy – set off across country in the spirit of rebellion, with their mobile pub, defying the authorities and staying one step ahead of them. Great versifier as he was, Chesterton loves to include various drinking songs in *The Flying Inn*, and so our journey begins in bibulous mood:

“Before the Roman came to Rye or out to Severn strode,

The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road.

A reeling road, a rolling road, that rambles round the shire,

And after him the parson ran, the sexton and the squire;

A merry road, a mazy road, and such as we did tread

The night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head.”

Later in the rhyme, the wandering rebels recall “the night we went to Glastonbury by way of Goodwin Sands”! And by the time we get to the last verse, the geographical distances embarked upon by our travellers have taken on a truly spiritual dimension!

For H.G. Wells, reassuringly sunny days along the coast of Devon and Cornwall concealed a lurking menace. One of the characteristics of Wells is the way in which so many of his short stories, set in our, or rather his, ‘real’ present, juxtapose the familiarity of everyday places and things with the sudden and shocking appearance of strange, undiscovered worlds or species. In his 1896 story, *The Sea-Raiders*, the appearance at Sidmouth, Torquay and Newlyn of giant octopus-like sea creatures with “intelligent eyes” which capture and feed on bathers and boat-trippers makes for terrifying reading. Here, a Mr Fison spots something unusual among the rock pools …

“… but it was only when he surmounted the skerry of boulders that he realised the horrible nature of his discovery. The rounded bodies fell apart as he came into sight over the ridge, and displayed the pinkish object to be the partially devoured body of a human being. And the rounded bodies were new and ghastly-looking creatures in shape somewhat resembling an octopus… They were the size of fair-sized swine about the body, and the tentacles seemed to be many feet in length… Twenty yards beyond them, amid the surf of the now turning tide, two others were emerging from the sea.”



Image: G K Chesterston Society

G.K. Chesterton

In neighbouring Cornwall, the secret inlets of the Helford River in *Frenchman’s Creek*, the tide turning at Polridmouth Bay in *Rebecca*, the Fowey river and harbour, the district of Par in *The House on the Strand* – these are the vivid and living backdrops to some of the most exciting and engrossing novels to be penned by a 20th-century writer, Daphne Du Maurier. As in the H.G. Wells story – a science fiction horror unfolding in a real place – so the coast and country of Cornwall provides the scene for the unsettling short story *The Birds*, another tale of a quirk or perversion of Nature.

Gossip and beer

This was also very much the case with Dylan Thomas who famously lived at the Boat House, Laugharne. In Paul Ferris’s brilliant biography of the poet, the estuary at Laugharne, the spring tides, the reflection of the lapping waves on the side of the house, the herons motionless on the sandbanks, the sound of a foghorn far off in the Bristol Channel, the poet walking home after a morning of talk, gossip and beer at Brown’s Hotel to one of his wife’s “rich fatty stews”– all are included to show Thomas firmly placed in his world. We see post-war Britain, Carmarthenshire in the 1940s, people attending the weekly market at Carmarthen town (all dressed in their Sunday best!), and a land of small family farms, of people who have scarcely ventured further than Cardiff. Thomas’s line, “Oh may my heart’s truth still be sung from this high hill in a year’s turning,” is so suggestive of the modern-day bard, a man romantically declaiming his lines in the open air.

Yet Thomas sought escape from Wales and its “misty bogs”, embarking upon lengthy tours of the United States, behaving outrageously in front of dull academics at American universities, and writing to his wife in full-blown optimism at the sunlit scene of San Francisco harbour, where seafood is cheap, Chinese food cheaper, and a carefree life in which the long-suffering Mrs Thomas “would never be tired again.” The planned-for permanent escape did not happen, and Dylan’s body – he died at the age of 39 in a New York hospital – was brought back to Laugharne. Curiously, weeks after Thomas’s burial, the poet’s mother told people that the herons would come to his writing shed, wondering why the man who sat at a desk writing was no longer there to feed them. Of all the epitaphs or memories of this Welshman, the story of the herons is, for me, the most affecting.

An altogether less lyrical view of British life and places than Thomas’s can be found in the work of George Orwell. Whether on the *Road to Wigan Pier*, or *Down and Out in Paris and London*, Orwell paints a stark, black-and-white picture of the grimness of urban England in the years of Depression. Yet rural poverty is also in Orwell’s mind, and we discover it as we follow Dorothy, the Clergyman’s Daughter (a young lady who has lost her memory and has slipped into a state of destitution) as she attaches herself to the bands of hop-pickers which were once a regular feature of Kent life. In this passage, Orwell shows that it is not just the North or the modern city which harbours poverty. He also describes the rural Kent of yesteryear:

“Looking back, afterwards, upon her

interlude of hop-picking, it was always the afternoons that Dorothy remembered. Those long, laborious hours in the strong sunlight, in the sound of forty voices singing, in the smell of hops and wood smoke, had a quality peculiar and unforgettable…"

Henry Williamson, too, gives us a glimpse of South East London and Kent in the years following the First World War. Lewisham, once a village – now part of the urban sprawl of Greater London – appears in a short story about the last native rat to live in the poor River Ravensbourne, once a living stream of the River Thames, but its banks today now encased on either side in concrete, or simply buried altogether beneath the crowded, featureless suburbia which has swallowed both Lewisham, and the old Kent market town of Bromley.

First published in 1929, Donald Maxwell's *A Detective in Kent* uncovers for the reader the mysteries and "spirit of place" of that county. Descending into the remoteness of the "fifth continent", Romney Marsh (the flat expanses and long horizon, incidentally, soon to be interrupted by the huge blades of wind turbines), Maxwell shows how the Isle of Oxney – today, a half-forgotten inland spot – was once a real island at the mouth of the River Rother, the gateway to the proud Cinque Port town of Rye. The quiet village of Appledore, which stands on the Napoleonic-era Royal Military Canal, was once a sea-town, and boats could tie up at New Romney, now a couple of miles inland. Place-names, too, fascinated this detective-like explorer of England, as can be seen in his chapter, *The Clue of the Fifth Quarter*:

"The ancient British word for marsh is 'ruimne' (possibly pronounced room). With 'y' or 'ey' tacked on for island, we at last get 'ruimney' and Romney, the marsh island… Judging from the name Midley, between New Romney and Lydd, and a little to the west, there must have been an island in the channel, which would have been called Middle-Ey, hence the name. There is a ruin here which is part of a church. We thus close the first chapter of the evolution of Romney Marsh under the Saxons. The Danes have also come into the picture, for Dungeness has been interpreted 'Danes' isle headland'."

Other writers to have succumbed to 'marsh magic' include Sheila Kaye Smith, author of *Joanna Godden*. The prolific children's author, Malcolm Saville, also set some of his *Lone Pine Adventures* at Rye and on Romney Marsh, and I can remember reading these stories many, many years ago, and being quite chilled by the appearances of the mysterious bird-watcher at Dungeness, and the "flying saucer" near Rye!

Trains and Buttered Toast is a compilation of writings by Sir John Betjeman, in this case edited by Stephen Games. It is a wonderful compendium of Betjeman's whole philosophy. Sir John – journalist, poet, broadcaster, conservationist – was the great defender of old West Country railway stations ("I know the stations by heart" he wrote, "the slate- and granite-built waiting rooms, the oil lamps"); old churches (both in the City of London and in the rural shires); old eccentrics, and all the things which give character, charm and meaning to life, including the 'Victorian heraldry' on a railway engine's tender. He was the genial but determined Englishman in battered hat and slightly dishevelled suit, guidebook in hand, absorbed by the grand architecture of a Victorian town hall, the ironwork on what survives of a mainline station, or the strange marsh-creatures carved on the pews in a fenland Norfolk church.



Image: The Betjeman Society

The statue of Sir John Betjeman at St Pancras Station

Bland functionality

In April 1950, a time in which we were beginning to see the arrival of soulless municipal architecture and the cult of bland functionality in all things, especially in housing and housing estates, Betjeman broadcast a talk for the West of England Home Service, in which he fielded a strong defence of the Victorians:

"One final word: we are always told it is the Victorians who destroyed England with their ugly buildings. The Victorians did not string the sky with wires and turn old villages into Canadian lumber camps with forests of upright poles. The Victorians did not plant cathedral cities and old county towns with lamp-posts of concrete that look like boa constrictors..."

He seemed completely content with English places, and the rhythm of life here, and probably would never understand people who book holidays to Thailand, the Caribbean, or ski trips to fashionable resorts. The only place for Betjeman, I seem to recall, which exceeded England in character and beauty, was Ireland – and even then, that country represented for him a replacement for the England lost to commercialisation and bad manners. Betjeman loved the counties of the West – where "the sky widens to Cornwall", and we see the poet at home here more than in any other place. In the February of 1949, again for a talk for the Third Programme, he said this of Padstow:

"Some think of the furthest-away places as Spitsbergen or Honolulu. But give me Padstow, though I can reach it any day from Waterloo without crossing the sea. For Padstow is further away in spirit even than Land's End. It is less touristy than other fishing towns like Polperro and St. Ives; less dramatic than Boscastle or Tintagel… It does not look at the open sea but across the tidal water to the sand dunes of Rock and the famous St. Enodoc golf course."

During the 1920s and '30s, another prolific writer was at work – H.V. Morton, a charismatic figure and – with his trilby, notebook and general appearance of the Fleet Street hack – everyone's idea of the fast-working pre-war journalist. Morton travelled throughout the country by car, distilling the essence of each place he visited, and perfecting a new style of approachable romanticism and popular history. His books (*In Search of England*, for example, which ran into dozens of reprints) are a record of their time – the England before motorways, where one could still find a comfortable wayside inn and observe a local scene which was not part of a National Trust exhibition. (At least in the days when the Trust could at least be relied upon to offer such undiluted historical vistas.)

Meanwhile, the freelance journalist Roy Kerridge (many will have seen his name in *The Spectator* and *The Sunday Telegraph*) has again raised the banner of Morton, with a carefully-observed, sometimes off-the-beaten-track, but always engrossing and amusing survey of Britain. Kerridge has a marvellous way of describing the places he visits: modern Yorkshire is "big and braggardly, the Texas of England"; the ballroom at Blackpool Tower "resembles a gilded gin palace crossed with the Brighton Pavilion"; and "the bare hills of Hoy look like the humps of a sea-monster."

I fear, though, that I am running out of pages in this edition of *The Journal*, so it's time to close – with G.K. Chesterton at the conclusion of his rolling English road…

"For there is good news yet to hear and fine things to be seen,

Before we go to Paradise by way of Kensal Green."

A tale of two Newsteads

Following his article in the Winter 2020-21 issue of The Journal about Jones v Hulton (1908), the case that made the name Artemus Jones a terror to journalists and authors, John Lethbridge looks at Newstead v London Express Ltd. (1839), a case that sent another, quite different, message.

On Wednesday March 30, 1938, the *Daily Express* published an article, headlined, "Why Do People Commit Bigamy?" Its opening paragraph read: "Bigamy is increasing in Britain. Twelve years ago not many more than 200 misalliances were contracted in a year. Latest figures show that the total has now passed 300 a year. Why do people do it?"

Underneath this paragraph was a picture captioned "Harold Newstead, thirty year old Camberwell man, who was jailed for nine months, liked having two wives at once. Married legally for a second time in 1932 – his legal wife is pictured right above – he unlawfully married nineteen year old Doris Skelly (left above). He said 'I kept them both till the police interfered.' "

This case was widely reported but the other newspapers that reported it all said that Harold Newstead was a barman (actually he worked in a snack bar) and gave his address as Crofton Road, Camberwell. The *Daily Express* omitted these important details, to its cost.

Harold Cecil Newstead was born in South London on January 18, 1913. His father, Max Newstead, was a Russian immigrant to Britain. Newstead was an Anglicised version of a foreign surname. Max Newstead and his wife had three other sons and a daughter. In 1938, Harold Cecil Newstead was 25 and working in his father's hairdressing salon in Camberwell.

After seeing his name in the March 30 *Daily Express* report on bigamy, Newstead sued the publishers for libel. On Friday April 1, 1938, they printed this correction: "The *Daily Express* is asked to point out that Mr Harold Newstead who carries on business as a ladies hairdresser at 8 Camberwell Road, London, and lives at Herne Hill, is not the Harold Newstead of Camberwell who was at the Old Bailey on Tuesday last sentenced to nine months imprisonment for bigamy. The Harold Newstead who was sentenced was a barman, aged thirty, of Crofton Road, Camberwell."

This apology did not satisfy the plaintiff. The case of Newstead v London Express Newspapers Ltd. was heard at the High Court on Wednesday March 15, 1939. The judge was Sir John Anthony Hawke; the plaintiff's counsels Alfred Thompson Denning KC and Roy Mickel Wilson; and the defendant's counsel Gerald Osborne Slade. Denning (Tom to his friends) was later famous as Lord Denning. Depending on your political viewpoint he was either the friend of the common man or a strong but paternalistic reactionary. He died in 1999 aged 100.

Denning KC explained to the court that Harold Cecil Newstead was usually known as Harold Newstead; was well-known in his profession and had won cups and diplomas in England and abroad. The *Daily Express* article had embarrassed him, for some of his customers had thought that it referred to him. It should have said that the bigamous Harold Newstead worked at a snack bar. Other newspapers had done so. The plaintiff and several other witnesses testified in support of the plaintiff's case.

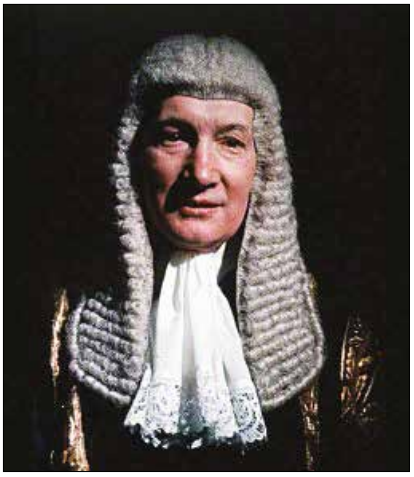
Slade, for the defendant, argued that the alleged libel was a statement made in good faith about another person of whom it was true. Recent case law supported the argument that such a statement was not libellous. Denning replied that if a man published words reasonably understood to refer to the plaintiff and they were defamatory of him it was no defence to say that they did not refer to him. It did not matter that they were true of someone else. Even if this was true of the other person, they would not escape if they gave an insufficient description when a full description was available and they chose not to use it.

Five questions

The judge asked the jury to decide five questions. Would a reasonable person understand the alleged libel to refer to the plaintiff? Was the convicted bigamist a Camberwell man? Was the expression "liked having two wives at once" fair comment? In omitting the occupation and address of the convicted bigamist were the defendants reckless or negligent? And what sum should any damages be?

The jury failed to agree on the first question. It agreed that the convicted bigamist was a Camberwell man and liked having two wives at once, and that this statement was fair comment; and said that the defendant had not been reckless but had been negligent in omitting important details in its report of the bigamy case. Its answer to the final question was that the damages should be a farthing, i.e. a quarter of a penny. After some discussion the judge discharged the jury and adjourned the case.

The trial resumed at the High Court on Friday April 21, 1939. After a long and highly technical legal discussion between the judge and counsel for the plaintiff and defendant, the judge refused to enter judgement on the case. This meant that in theory the plaintiff could sue again.



Lord Denning (1899-1999)

The *Daily Express* appealed against this decision. It wanted a clear verdict. Editor Arthur Robin Christiansen would have consulted with the paper's owner, Lord Beaverbrook, about this. The Court of Appeal heard this appeal on Monday November 20, 1939. The judges who heard it were the Master of the Rolls, Sir Wilfred Arthur Greene; Lord Justice Herbert du Parcq; and Lord Justice Sir Frank Douglas MacKinnon. The barristers involved were as before.

The Appeal Court ruled that the publication of a defamatory statement, though true of A and intended only to refer to him, is actionable at the suit of B if the statement would reasonably be taken to apply to him, and it is immaterial if the statement was published negligently or recklessly. It is for the publisher of the statement so as to describe A that no reasonable person would think that it applied to B. The court therefore supported Mr Justice Hawkes's decision to reserve judgement, meaning that the plaintiff could ask for a retrial.

Sir Wilfred Greene and Lord Justice du Parcq supported this ruling. Lord Justice Mackinnon dissented saying said that he would have allowed the *Daily Express*'s appeal as the jury had assessed the damages at a farthing. He said that he could not conceive that any reasonable jury would arrive at a larger figure.

It was agreed that the *Daily Express* could appeal to the House of Lords, but it did not do so. Lord Beaverbrook had deep pockets, but by November 1939 the Second World War had begun and he had better things to do with his time and money.

After the War, Harold Cecil Newstead emigrated from Britain to Australia. He and his family lived at Rose Bay near Sydney. He died in 1995 aged 82 and is buried at Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park near Sydney. The other Harold Newstead, the bigamist, died at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, in 1985 aged 78.

The Sandy Times and 'Force Information' in the Gulf War 1990-91

By Lt-Cdr Nigel Huxtable RN

Force Information and Media Services in Operation Granby 1990-91, by S.J Anglim, published in the *RUSI Journal* in October 1995, first told the story of *The Sandy Times*, the newspaper produced for British forces in the Gulf War. *The Sandy Times* ran to 25 issues, with a print-run of 10,000, and included twice-weekly issues during the ground offensive against Iraqi forces. Distribution to over 550 addresses across a vast area was accomplished by the staff themselves, with occasional help from off-duty soldiers. (The full background to the printing of the newspaper in Riyadh is amply explained in the RUSI article for those wishing to understand how this was accomplished.)

The editorial independence of *The Sandy Times* distinguished it from the usual 'official' military publications, and it was credited with 'getting it right' in so far as it was criticized, so wrote General Peter de la Billière, "from both ends of the spectrum, (which) seemed to me a striking tribute to the newspaper's editorial independence, which in my view was essential if *The Sandy Times* was to gain the confidence of the servicemen and be an organ they trusted and respected." This allowed it to be described as "an enormous success which had admirably fulfilled its role of binding all the far flung elements of the British forces together and giving them a focal point."

Unlike the civilian journalists in-theatre, the staff of *The Sandy Times* were unfettered by the constraints of pooled stories or photos. And even with her well-known face and reputation, CIoJ member Kate Adie could not secure access to the private service arranged before the return of the British war dead. *The Sandy Times*' coverage of this event gained high praise from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for its dignified handling of the emotions of the event. What made the newspaper so significant is that it was the major element of 'Force Information', a new concept deployed by the Ministry of Defence for the first time in 1990, which emphasized the importance of establishing and maintaining good morale among all the troops in-theatre, regardless of badge or service.

As this year is the 30th anniversary of the coalition's victory over Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces, and their expulsion from Kuwait after their illegal annexation of that country, it is an appropriate time to cast a light on Force Information in the Gulf War. It is an often-overlooked aspect of the British role in this successful conflict, and hopefully the author's first-hand experiences can be a useful introduction to understanding the benefits of bringing together novel approaches to the ever-present problems of maintaining high morale and countering misinformation in the ranks. The success of this particular approach to 'internal communications', in the form of Force Information, worked largely due to the personalities of those involved and the small size of their team. The personal touch was read and appreciated by the audience and it is felt appropriate to include this first-hand account of their work.



Crown Copyright, Ministry of Defence – Nigel Huxtable

Major-General Rupert Smith and general staff of British 1st Armoured Division at a planning meeting on Day 2 of the ground war

New concept

As a Royal Navy Instructor officer with experience as a joint Service Mountain Expedition Leader, and running the Training Video Production facilities in Portsmouth at the Royal Naval School of Engineering & Technology (RNSETT), the chance to merge the two roles with a dash of self-sufficiency do not come around too often. But then after returning from Scotland in the New Year of 1990/91 I was asked if I would like to join Force Information (FINFO) in the Gulf. FINFO was an entirely new concept created at the behest of General Peter de la Billière to provide all British troops in theatre with updates on what was happening and entrusted to set up and provide force communications mediums. Radio was provided by British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) / Services Sound & Vision Corporation (SSVC); Video was shot and edited in theatre by another Instructor officer, Lt Cdr Campbell Christie, and made good use of American 'combat camera' footage.

To keep the troops on the ground and aboard ship up to date, a newspaper was created. Initially an A4 sized production, the *Sandy Times* eventually evolved as a news magazine printed in Riyadh and distributed to all service units, both in theatre and to their home areas. One Army and one RAF officer edited material from the British broadsheets and collated articles about who was doing what and roughly where. Its aim was to keep morale buoyant during the long months of preparation, training and international politicking with Iraq and the UN, whilst quashing rumours and answering letters from the servicemen and women in theatre. Something done without advice or interference from 'on high'. Lt Col Glyn Jones providing the hand on the tiller or 'top cover', as it was called by Squadron Leader Pat McKinley RAF, who provided the replies to the letters and edited inputs from the broadsheet news articles sent from the UK, as well as laying out each production for the printers in Riyadh.

Photographs were a rarity, so having brought an R5 Leica camera kit with me, I offered my support to the *Sandy Times* team (i.e. Sqn Ldr McKinley). Thereafter, I enjoyed the freedom not only to move about the deployed British Army and RAF bases and Naval ships alongside in the Gulf port of Al Jubail but also have my film processed in Riyadh. This allowed us to have up to the minute illustrated stories published weekly in support of morale amongst the various units as well as ensuring facts were available and rumours quashed. A series of centre-spreads reflecting the life and times

of the ordinary serviceman in theatre as well as including material safe for sharing with families and non-deployed units in the UK and Germany. Having built up a reputation with the troops for honesty and lack of obvious 'message' I was made very welcome wherever I pitched up.

Pithy responses

Because of the editor's honest and sometimes pithy responses in answering readers' letters, questions were inevitably raised about the lack of oversight. That and the religious/political ramifications of getting it printed in Riyadh meant that questions were eventually raised in the House of Commons. Support received from MPs ensured the costs of this new approach to internal comms 'in theatre' were met and its benefits proven.

Invitations to visit the various units on the ground ensured a welcome wherever I as a photographer pitched up. Food, a place to sleep and transport whether helicopter or jeep and the daily transport planes to and from Riyadh ensured a wide coverage of the troops on the ground. Even accompanying them in the move West to the final assembly and attack positions (Ad Dibdibah Drive). As the days passed the editor and I decided that when the coalition troops were to invade Iraq/Kuwait then it was only honest for us to be there to record the event as eye witnesses. This was agreed and arranged. Mostly due to the reputation of *The Sandy Times* as a trusted in-theatre publication. Mid-February saw Sqn Ldr Pat McKinley embarked with Patrick Cordingley's 7 Brigade 'Desert Rats' and me with Major General Rupert Smith's 1 Div HQ team. Having settled in to our new locations, been issued with our morphine ampoules and attended the briefings, international negotiations called a halt to the countdown.

Returning to Riyadh we remained on call to return to the front, but having been briefed we were unable to contribute anything new to the latest edition, or even share what we knew in HQ. Let alone the photographs of briefings being delivered to senior officer at the front. The film processing took place at a 'one hour lab' where film could be watched as it was processed and pictures printed with no chance of any getting 'lost'. Standing watching everything being processed and printed was always a small period of calm amidst extremely busy times for the small *Sandy Times* team. Only after the war did I learn quite what had gone on in the background, security-wise, to allow me to do this.

Once the word came down that 'the clock was ticking again' we hastened back northwards. Luckily I had been able to talk my way to accompanying a Royal Signals team setting up 'ptarmigan' radio nodes in advance of the ground troops and so was in one of the first vehicles into Iraq at the head of the British army. There then followed 100 hours of modern fluid tank warfare with access to the Headquarters in the field and even on to the front line itself. Typical of the support I received was to be told that there was an RN Sea King due in, as it dropped off anti-tank teams, and did I need a lift? So I left the forward POW collection team I was with at the time and ended up next day returning to the very front line in a Puma doing casevac work. The Navy pilot needed little persuasion to exceed his safe fly zone to go right forward to 7 Brigade HQ area to collect blue on blue casualties. Coalition forces had advanced so fast that safe fly zones were not keeping up with the front line. Foolhardy perhaps, but speed was of the essence in supporting the wounded.



Crown Copyright, Ministry of Defence – Nigel Huxtable

Signallers briefing the troops who would be among the first into Iraq

Having eventually run out of film, I returned to Riyadh only to hear at the airport that a ceasefire had been called and to be asked if I was going to cover the ceasefire negotiations at Safwan. Sadly not, as I had all my film to see safely printed up as well as restock for whatever came next. Back in the office, Charlie Lowndes, the principal BFBS journalist, recorded my impressions of what I had witnessed. As the ceasefire came into effect at 0800, my words were being transmitted unchecked and uncensored by anyone other than our own FINFO team. A small price for him typing them up for sharing in the next *Sandy Times* alongside the experiences of Sqn Ldr McKinley.

Even more challenging was my getting all the images from the ground war processed and back in HQ before midday. Not everyone in Saudi Arabia was in favour of the coalition, and my photographs would have provided perfect access to military intelligence material.

Eventually Pat McKinley returned from Kuwait City, where he had ended up with the Desert Rats. Together we put together a *Sandy Times* edition and I had the privilege of flying copies of it back into Kuwait city only days after the fighting stopped. Only when I returned to Kuwait with UNIKOM did I fully see what had been done to the city and could watch and once again record the return of the desert battlefields to their previous state.

On my flight out to Riyadh in January 1991, I shared the flight with a retired editor of *The Scotsman* newspaper. He pointed out the unique position in which I had been placed and the importance of being a witness to events, with no allegiance to the established Press corps or Military Public Information system. Images from the Gulf War were a highlight of this time both in the press and *The Sandy Times*, forming the basis of several exhibitions at the MOD, in Kuwait and at various museums in the UK, as well as being used in the Central Office of Information's official history of the war, 'The Shield and the Sabre'.



Crown Copyright, Ministry of Defence – Nigel Huxtable

In the Gulf, 1991

C.L.R. James: Cricket correspondent and intellectual giant

By William Mulder

Cyril Lionel Robert James first made a name for himself in Britain as an elegant cricket correspondent for the *Manchester Guardian*. Born in Trinidad in 1901, by the time he died in Railton Road, Brixton, in 1989, he was described in the Independent as "probably the most versatile and accomplished African-American intellectual of the 20th century."

Stephen Howe, in *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, wrote: "Very few figures in twentieth-century Caribbean or British life and letters have matched the sheer range of James's interests and activities. Revolutionary and aesthete, novelist, historian, literary critic, philosopher, political analyst, and in many eyes the foremost of all writers on cricket."

The Encyclopedia of the British Press 1422-1992 explained how James's entry into British journalism came about when he left Trinidad in 1932 as a schoolmaster to join his friend Learie Constantine in Nelson, Lancashire, where Constantine was playing professional cricket in the Lancashire League. Neville Cardus recruited James to write on cricket for the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Glasgow Herald*. At the time Cardus was developing a new mode of sports writing, abandoning the normal stereotyped style in favour of elegant essays – all illuminated by memorable phrases.

James would extend the genre with poetic and musical metaphor and quotation. His 1963 book *Beyond a Boundary* would add the dimension of politics to his unique approach to writing about sport. The title of his book was inspired by the Rudyard Kipling poem 'The English Flag'. In the preface, James turned the line of verse "What do they know of England who only England know?" into "What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?"

"To answer involves ideas as well as facts," he wrote. *Beyond a Boundary* would come to be regarded as a classic of sporting literature and indeed cultural studies.

It seems that when anyone writes about C.L.R. James he is frequently defined as a journalist polymath. His *Washington Post* obituary listed him as a "political historian, Marxist philosopher, novelist, political activist" as well as a cricket journalist. The *New York Times* said he was "a prodigious and eclectic intellectual" who travelled the world and "debated Marcus Garvey in England, confronted Trotsky in Mexico, helped conceive pan-Africanism and influenced leaders of African revolutions including Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana."

He was a key leader and influencer of the 20th century Pan-African movement who helped to change a world of European-dominated empires into self-determination and independence in the Caribbean and Africa, and participation in global affairs on equal terms at the United Nations. He should be recognised not only as a great black journalist but a significant journalist in history for everyone.

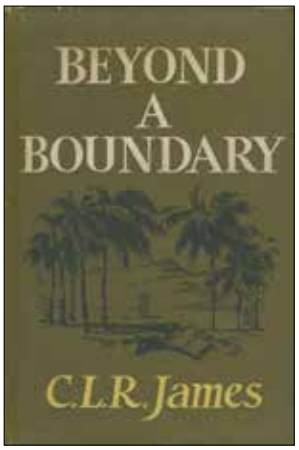
There are now many published biographies. In 1989 Paul Buhle wrote in *C. L. R. James: The Artist as Revolutionary* that when he arrived in Britain to help Learie write *Cricket and I* (1933), he had already completed *The Case for West Indian Self Government*. Buhle said this was "The first important manifesto for national independence in the British West Indies." His third wife Selma Weinstein James said: "C. L. R. was fundamentally a political person and his great contribution was to break away from the very narrow and white male concept of what Marxist politics was." It was certainly not the Stalinist politics of the Soviet Union. In the 1930s he had more sympathy with Leon Trotsky, though when he met him in 1938 he recalled they had a "fairly fruitless exchange, especially on cricket."

John Arlott, when reviewing *Beyond a Boundary* for the cricketing 'bible' *Wisden's Cricketing Almanac* in 1964, observed that the book was "so outstanding as to compel any reviewer to check his adjectives several times before he describes it and, since he is likely to be dealing in superlatives, to measure them carefully to avoid over-praise – which this book does not need … in the opinion of the reviewer, it is the finest book written about the game of cricket."

Pan-Africanism

After moving to London in 1934, C.L.R James wrote two books that have endured and risen in prominence both in his lifetime and posthumously. He researched libraries in London and Paris for *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*, a study of the Haitian revolution, and published by Secker and Warburg in 1938. It served as a revelatory and important history of those events, and became the political manifesto for forthcoming anti-colonial revolt and for Pan-Africanism.

James also wrote a stage play, *Toussaint l'Ouverture*, which was performed at the Westminster Theatre in 1936, with Paul Robeson in the title role. His novel *Minty Alley* had been written earlier in the summer of 1928 while he was still in the West Indies. Secker and Warburg published it in 1936 and it became recognised as



The First Edition cover of C.L.R. James's Beyond a Boundary published in 1963 by Stanley Paul/ Hutchinson

the first novel to be published by a black Caribbean author in the UK. It was recently selected by Booker prize winning author Bernardine Evaristo in the Penguin series 'Black Britain Writing Back' which served to rediscover and celebrate pioneering books from Black Britain to "remap the nation and reframe history." Evaristo said James's novel "brings the past alive with such charm, vitality and humour."

C.L.R. had the kind of life that would make a spectacular and gripping feature film, perhaps a future project for the Oscar-winning Sir Steve McQueen. He lectured, wrote and was politically active in the USA between 1938 and 1953. There was a second marriage to a young white woman, Constance Webb, internment on Ellis Island over his residency status (largely because of his left-wing politicking) and then a return to London which became his constant home for the remaining 30 or so years of his life. James drafted but never fully completed *American Civilization* between 1949–50. It would be published posthumously in 1992, and Stephen Howe says it "was far ahead of its time in many ways; not least in its close analysis of 'popular culture'—cinema, comic-books, radio serials, mass-market fiction—as a key to understanding a society."

Between 1958 and 1960 he edited Trinidad's *The Nation* but moved on after falling out with the country's Prime Minister, Eric Williams, who had been James's school pupil 30 years earlier.

In 1981 James settled into a tiny book-filled apartment at 165 Railton Road, Brixton, above the offices of the magazine *Race Today* edited by his nephew Darcus Howe. *The Times* newspaper's obituary observed that he became the subject of "much admiration, a Trotskyite sage with a group gathered around him, mostly young and black."

C.L.R. James is a major figure in journalism history whose life and influence is likely to gain in prominence and recognition in the years to come.