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# Fighting for freedom of information

The Chartered Institute of Journalists (CIoJ) is breaking new ground in a series of test cases on Freedom of Information.

The Institute is currently battling five Freedom of Information cases at the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) and Upper Tribunal in a campaign to achieve proper recognition for the rights of journalists, academic researchers and NGOs to government information.

The Information Commissioner's Office is refusing to hear the CIoJ President, Professor Tim Crook's appeals against the block by MI5 and MI6 for access to historical files more than 70 years old. The First Tier Tribunal, which hears appeals on FOI cases, has actually barred any access to justice by saying it does not have any jurisdiction and will not even hear the appeal against the refusal to hear the appeal.

Professor Crook's three longstanding investigative projects have huge public interest significance and are clearly part of the 'social watchdog' role recognised by the highest European Court of Human Rights as deserving the right to state information. They have resulted in published books and a BBC television drama series.

## Appeals

There are also two appeals before the Upper Tribunal where Professor Crook and the CIoJ are challenging the refusal to recognise the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber ruling in 2016 saying there is a qualified right under Article 10 to state/government information. Strasbourg changed the law and extended the reach of Article 10 in freedom of information requests in a case from Hungary four years ago called 'Magyar'.

The UK government was the only intervening country opposing the move to recognise a standing right for access to government information under Article 10 Freedom of Expression, which along with all the other Human Rights was enshrined into UK law by legislation in 1998 and enacted in the year 2000.



*European Court of Human Rights building by CherryX CC BY-SA 3.0*

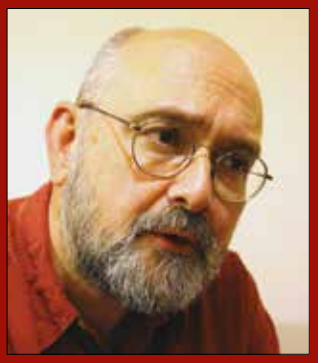
Every argument put forward by UK government lawyers was turned down in a high majority ruling of 15-2 by the Grand Chamber unequivocally declaring that there is a qualified right specifically for journalists, academic researchers and NGOs undertaking the public interest social watchdog role of seeking information in a democratic society.

But the UK government, the ICO (which regulates FOI in England) and the Information Tribunal system have blocked and opposed every move to apply the new ruling. In the Magyar ruling, the Strasbourg court explained that the right to state information for journalists should be recognised because: "It has been the Court's practice to recognise the essential role played by the press in a democratic society and the special position of journalists in this context. It has held that the safeguards to be afforded

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- Chartered Institute of Journalists is the only UK journalist body fighting to put freedom of expression law at the heart of freedom of information process
- European Court of Human Rights gave special recognition to journalists, academic researchers and NGOs by extending Article 10 to include the right to state information in 2016
- But UK government, FOI tribunal system and Information Commissioner's Office are stubbornly blocking implementation
- CIoJ President Professor Tim Crook has five FOI appeals fighting the issue and challenging absolute blocks to historical archives managed by Met Police, MI5 and MI6
- He is seeking access to information on government spying of staff and students at Goldsmiths, University of London, vetting and spying on left wing BBC writers and producers, and the case of WWII MI6 officer Alexander Wilson recently made into TV drama series Mrs Wilson

Andy Smith
Editor



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# Editor's Comment

Well, what a year this has been! One might even complain that there has been 'too much news'. The Covid-19 pandemic has been something of a rollercoaster ride, to say the least, and now, as this Journal goes to press, the nation breathes a collective sigh of relief as the first coronavirus vaccines are being rolled out across Britain, and, in a throwback to the halcyon days of the pre-Covid era, Brexit is back! Yes, as I write this editorial, the Prime Minister is still struggling to fulfil his election pledge to Get Brexit Done and every news bulletin is dominated by the game of political ping-pong between London and Brussels.

Disinformation, 'alternative facts', fake news and barmy conspiracy theories were certainly not new in 2020 but these poisons undoubtedly came into their own during the year. And the biggest source of them all was the most powerful man on Earth, Donald J Trump. Indeed it is the President of the United States of America who has shown all too clearly what happens when half the population chooses to believe 'social media' in preference to the traditional press and broadcasting industry. There were times when it looked like this journalist-hating demagogue might even be re-elected by Americans who, in their millions, appear to have deserted the mainstream broadcast and print media in favour of Facebook and Twitter.

As 2020 draws to a close, and following one of the nastiest presidential elections in modern US history, we now have the unedifying spectacle of the roundly-defeated Mr Trump attempting to cling to power, like some grubby Third World dictator, claiming that the election has been 'stolen' from him by a conspiracy of the media and the political Establishment.

## Despotism

It is no surprise that the only people outside the USA who will miss Trump once he has eventually packed his bags and departed the White House will be his fellow despots – the ex-KGB boss who now runs Russia, the Communist rulers of China and North Korea, and assorted Middle Eastern autocrats such as the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia – all of them enthusiastic persecutors of journalists. These were the leaders Donald Trump considered his friends.

In one of his first speeches as President-elect, Joe Biden spoke passionately about the freedom of the press. Let us hope this truly is the beginning of a new era and that America, post-Trump, will be able to resume its former role as champion of the Free World and opponent of tyrants.

Meanwhile, here in Britain we have witnessed the downfall of another opponent of the press – the PM's former Chief Advisor, Dominic Cummings. It is said that he was hounded out of Downing Street by, among others, Boris Johnson's fiancée Carrie Symonds. There are suggestions that Ms Symonds, whose background is in public relations for the Conservative Party, and who has many friends in the press, may be poised to play an even more significant role. If this is so, then she is well-qualified to do so, and it must surely be a good thing if she does.

There is no doubt that the Johnson administration, shorn of Cummings' negative influence, is bringing more 'press-friendly' people into Number Ten – people who fully appreciate the extent to which independent journalism underpins our democracy. The CIoJ particularly welcomes ex-BBC journalist Allegra Stratton who has taken over as the Prime Minister's Press Secretary.

## In Memoriam

There should perhaps be a black border around this editorial column. The second half of 2020 has been a time of mourning within the Chartered Institute of Journalists. As you will read in our rather larger-than-usual obituary section, recent months have seen the passing of three great British newspapermen – Harry Evans, Perry Worsthorne and Sam Brittan – all of whom have had connections with our Institute over the decades, one of whom was a longstanding and loyal CIoJ member, and another a very well-deserved recipient of our Gold Medal.

For many of us, the two most painful losses, however, were those of CIoJ Past-Presidents Ken Brookes and Norman Bartlett, who died within weeks of one another as autumn turned to winter. In many ways, Ken and Norman were the Institute, and it is hard to imagine the CIoJ without them. Both served on our Council for decades and both proved, in their different ways, that solid experience can go hand in hand with zeal.

It is especially poignant that the tribute to Ken that appears in this Journal was actually penned by Norman just before his own shockingly sudden and unexpected death. Farewell, Norman Bartlett and Kenneth Brookes – our Institute will not be the same without you.

**Andy Smith**


**Officers of the Institute:**

**Prof. Tim Crook**, President

**Michael Hardware**, Honorary Treasurer

**Michael Hardware**, Vice-President

**Janice Shillum Bhend**, Immediate Past President

**Prof. Tim Crook**, Chairman, PPB

**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.

*Continued from 1*

to the press are of particular importance. The vital role of the media in facilitating and fostering the public's right to receive and impart information and ideas has been repeatedly recognised by the Court, as follows: "The duty of the press is to impart – in a manner consistent with its obligations and responsibilities – information and ideas on all matters of public interest. Not only does it have the task of imparting such information and ideas: the public also has a right to receive them. Were it otherwise, the press would be unable to play its vital role of public watchdog."

Crook argues that the Human Rights Act imposes a statutory duty on public authorities to act in ways that are compatible with Convention rights and to interpret legislation in ways that are also compatible with Convention rights.



*Courtroom of the European Court of Human Rights By Adrian Grycuk - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0 pl, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=66030266*



*Member states of the Council of Europe By Rob984 - Derived from File:Europe orthographic Caucasus Urals boundary (with borders).svg, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41218742*

### Major change

The Act also states that all courts must take into account rulings of the European Court of Human rights. Crook says this has not been happening. The Information Commissioner's Office has been doing the opposite.

"They have had four years to seek changes to the Freedom of Information Act and subordinate legislation in order to recognize the major change in the law brought about by the Magyar case," he explains. "Instead, all they have done is obfuscate and block attempts to recognize this fundamental change in the law."

The CIoJ President says the Upper Tribunal recently did the exact opposite of advisory opinion of a more recent Strasbourg ruling in 2018 which said the UK courts should be following the ruling of the Grand Chamber in Magyar. The national courts, said the ruling, should, in the absence of special circumstances, follow "any clear and constant jurisprudence of this Court and should not, without strong reason, dilute or weaken the effect of this Court's case-law."

Professor Crook and the Institute are appealing the issue before Upper Tribunal Judge Stewart Wright who ruled earlier this year that Magyar did not apply in the FOI tribunal system in a case that had nothing to do with journalism, academic research, or NGOs in their campaigning role as social watchdogs.

The case involved a litigant in person called Derek Moss seeking information about a regeneration housing project from Kingston Council. He was outnumbered by a QC and two other leading counsel representing the government's Cabinet Office and the ICO.

Professor Crook believes his cases can be distinguished from Moss. He says it is time that the English FOI Tribunal system respected the rule of law and applied the Strasbourg's most powerful and clear declaration on the right to information for journalists and academic researchers. "It is astonishing that the ICO and First Tier Tribunal should be questioning whether it has jurisdiction on FOI requests to MI5 and MI6."

In February this year Tribunal Judge Hazel Oliver said he could complain to the Information Commissioner if a public authority relies on the absolute exemption in the Freedom of Information Act. The Judge also said he could "complain using human rights arguments about a refusal by the Security Service to engage with a FOIA request."

Professor Crook says: "It could be said we have the most powerful forces in the country ranged against us and all we have is our integrity, our well-founded arguments, and the Institute's professional duty to further freedom of the media and the right to information."

# Threats 'out of control'

Liverpool Echo political editor Liam Thorp believes threats to regional journalists are out of control, after sharing an email on Twitter saying "judgement will be due very soon" for Thorp and his editor. The writer of the email had claimed that Thorp and his editor were "responsible for thousands of deaths in this city with the fear you put out there with your disgusting journalism." It went on: "Karma is a bitch and you judgment [sic] will be due very soon"

Thorp told Hold the Front Page: "I think the situation is out of control at the moment and I don't know what the answer is, but I think we need to keep talking about it, because it is simply not OK." He was more direct on Twitter, saying: "I'll keep trying to raise awareness of the daily threats and abuse reporters get – there's a man currently in prison for threats to kill me and it's not ok for people to drop me an email with s**t like this."

**Liz Justice**

## 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.

# Common Currency: Celebrating 100 years of English PEN

English PEN, the campaign group which champions freedom of expression, will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a new programme, Common Currency, working with a range of partners across the UK. Over the next year, writers, readers and activists will come together for a unique programme of events, residencies and workshops beginning this autumn and culminating with a three-day "festival of free thinking" at London's Southbank Centre in 2021.

Taking its name from the PEN Charter that states "literature knows no frontiers and must remain common currency among people," Common Currency combines timely debates on freedom of expression, creative campaigning and a celebration of diverse voices. It seeks to ignite a national conversation around issues of expression led by writers and readers. As such, the programme is organised under three key themes inspired by the PEN Charter: free speech and democracy, languages and ideas, and celebrating women.

For decades, PEN has campaigned on behalf of writers, literary professionals, journalists, artists, cartoonists and musicians who are unjustly persecuted, harassed, imprisoned, and even murdered in violation of their right to freedom of expression. Ahead of the centenary in 2021, English PEN are launching a year-long letter-writing campaign, inviting supporters around the world to join them in celebrating and supporting writers of courage by sending letters of solidarity to them and their families.

PEN members have long supported fellow writers in this way and the impact of this simple act cannot be underestimated. These letters provide much-needed moral support for writers and their families during extremely difficult times, serving as a crucial reminder that they have not been forgotten.

**Year-long programme**

Daniel Gorman, Director of English PEN, explains: "English PEN has been championing the freedom to write, the freedom to read and for literature to remain a common currency in the UK and around the world since our inception in 1921. The world has changed considerably over that time, yet our work at the intersection between literature, human rights and freedom of expression remains as relevant as ever. To mark this moment we are thrilled to launch Common Currency, a unique and ambitious year-long programme of events, debates, writer residencies, literary commissions, campaigning, and fundraising, and we invite the nation to join us to celebrate a century of English PEN."

Common Currency is supported using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.




English PEN is part of PEN International, a worldwide writers' association with 145 centres in more than 100 countries. It is a community of readers, writers and activists protecting freedom of expression whenever it is under attack, supporting writers facing persecution around the world, and celebrating contemporary international writing with literary prizes, grants, events, and an online magazine. English PEN's work is made possible through core funding from Arts Council England, Sigrid Rausing Trust, and the TS Eliot Foundation, alongside the support of members, project partners and Silver PEN partners.

# Khashoggi murder case heard in Turkish court

A hearing has been held in Istanbul's Çağlayan Court in the case of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. No fewer than 26 defendants stand trial for the columnist's murder. Although the court rejected the application of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) to become a civil party in the case, RSF representatives were able to monitor the hearing. The trial is set to continue in March 2021.

RSF was the only international NGO present in court for the second hearing in Khashoggi's murder trial, which was monitored by RSF Director of International Campaigns Rebecca Vincent, Director of RSF Germany Christian Mihr, and RSF Turkey Representative Erol Önderoglu. "We are disappointed by the court's rejection of our application to become a civil party," said an RSF spokesperson, "as it would have given us access to court documents and allowed us to more robustly scrutinise the case. Regardless, we will continue to monitor the case closely and call for adherence to international standards. The Turkish courts have an important role to play in ensuring accountability for this horrific crime, and must keep proceedings fair and open - in stark contrast to the mockery of justice that took place in Saudi Arabia."

In the hearing on November 24, a second indictment naming six additional defendants was merged with the first indictment, bringing the total number of defendants to 26. All are Saudi nationals. They were represented by lawyers appointed by the Istanbul Bar Association, and the judge stated he would issue arrest warrants due to the defendants' failure to appear in court.

Witness testimony was given by Ayman Nour, the former head of an Egyptian opposition party and investor in Egyptian media in Turkey, who had known Khashoggi for 39 years. Nour spoke of Khashoggi's fear following threats he reported receiving from Saud al-Qahtani, a former aide to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The hearing immediately followed the G20 summit in Riyadh, held on November 21-22, in which G20 states failed to meaningfully engage with host state Saudi Arabia on the need for immediate press freedom improvements in the country, including justice for Khashoggi and



*Image: RSF*

the release of 34 jailed journalists. RSF culminated its months-long advocacy and campaigning efforts by hijacking the official #G20SaudiArabia hashtag with a message in support of press freedom.

RSF also continues to campaign for the release of dozens of journalists imprisoned in Turkey and broader press freedom improvements in the country.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia are respectively ranked 154th and 170th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2020 World Press Freedom Index (see the feature in the Summer 2020 issue of the CIoJ Journal). As previously reported in this Journal, the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies have also made clear they believe the Saudi Crown Prince is himself heavily implicated in Khashoggi's murder.

# 300 Group marks 40th anniversary

The All-Party 300 Group for Women in Politics came into being 40 years ago. The group was created by CIoJ member Lesley Abdela to campaign for more women in the UK Parliament, European Parliament, local government and public life. In 1980, when the 300 Group was formed, there were still only 19 women out of the 635 MPs, despite Margaret Thatcher having entered Downing Street as Britain's first woman Prime Minister the previous year. At under three per cent, that was about the worst record of any democracy in the world, and Lesley Abdela determined to take action.



*Lesley Abdela*

So in late 1980 Abdela gathered together a group in the one-parent-family Gingerbread's HQ offices in Covent Garden to discuss what to do about the lack of women in Parliament. In addition to representatives of the women's wings of the political parties about 35 women's groups including the National Federation of Women's Institutes, UK BPW, Soroptimists, and Associated Countrywomen of the World, sent representatives to the meeting. They concluded that although there were hundreds of women's organisations there was no campaign group solely dedicated to increasing the number of women elected to Parliament on an all-party/no-party basis. It was decided to launch one and to call it the All-Party 300 Group because the goal was to get at least 300 women elected to Parliament – about half of the (then) 635 MPs. The group's slogan was "A Woman's Place is in the House."

The 300 Group launch took place on November 25, 1980, in the Grand Committee Room of the House of Commons. Parliament's largest committee room was packed to overflowing with members of the public and politicians of all parties. Through Lesley Abdela's experience as a Parliamentary researcher and Parliamentary candidate, over the next several years the 300 Group pioneered training and familiarisation techniques which have since then been widely copied in the UK and around the world. Within just a few years the group had become extremely well-known, aided by favourable coverage in the Press, including national dailies and the main television channels.

Now, in 2020, a third of the 650 members of the House of Commons are women.

The 300 Group no longer exists but its successor is the 50/50 Parliament campaign (see https://5050parliament.co.uk). The archive of the 300 Group is held by the London School of Economics. Meanwhile, Lesley Abdela continues her work as a women's rights campaigner and journalist, for which she has been recognised as a the Fellow of the CIoJ. She has worked for women's representation in over 40 countries, in particular the states of the former Soviet Union and conflict countries such as Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal and Indonesia. References to her journalism can be found at https://www.theguardian.com/profile/leslieabdela and other online sites such as https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/author/lesley-abdela/

# New chair for APPG on media freedom

Damian Collins MP is the new chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on media freedom. Collins takes over after inaugural group chair John Whittingdale MP stepped down due to his appointment earlier this year as Minister of State for Culture, Media and Sport.



Following the launch of the APPG on media freedom in July 2019, Collins joins a cross-party group of parliamentarians from both the House of Lords and House of Commons who have committed to working together to address global and domestic media freedom challenges:

Collins said: "I'm honoured to be taking over as Chair from John, a renowned champion of the freedom of the press. Strong, independent and researched journalism is more important than ever, and the UK has a duty to defend journalists threatened for doing their job – at home and abroad."

Other APPG officers include Sir Roger Gale MP, Theo Clark MP, Lord Black of Brentwood and Lord Foulkes of Cumnock. All parliamentary parties are represented in the APPG membership.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has welcomed Damian Collins' election as chair of the APPG, its Director of International Campaigns Rebecca Vincent telling The Journal: "There has never been a more urgent need for strong parliamentary leadership to address the deteriorating global climate for media freedom, including some very worrying trends here in the UK."

RSF worked closely with Whittingdale to launch the APPG and continues to provide the all-party group's secretariat.

# Institute welcomes Lords' report

The CIoJ has welcomed the recommendations of the report 'Breaking News? The Future of UK Journalism' from the House of Lords Committee on Communications and Digital, in particular the proposal for a Digital Markets Unit and the Online Harms Bill including a mandatory bargaining code to ensure that publishers are fairly compensated for online platforms' use of their content.

CIoJ President Professor Tim Crook said: "Parliament has recognised our profession and industry faces an urgent existential threat through catastrophic decline in newspaper circulation, jobs and titles and it is time the unfair dominance of global online digital giants in advertising and digital commerce is corrected."

He highlighted the committee's recognition of "the fundamental role that journalism should play in a healthy democracy" and said the committee's proposals on promoting media literacy, countering the 'fake news' phenomenon, and improving the job prospects of those from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds "are excellent and constructive."

The Institute also backs the Lords' proposals for improving contracts for and treatment of freelance journalists. The committee's recommendations for the use of audio recordings of court proceedings in media reports and expanding journalism access to live-streaming mirror the Institute's Open Justice proposals of two years ago.

(See pages 8 to 9 for the text of the CIoJ's main submission)

Professor Crook said the Institute had been "delighted to submit a portfolio of entrepreneurial measures to revive the professional infrastructure of UK journalism at local, regional and national level and will continue to persuade Parliament and Government to support and adopt our plans."

The Institute's submissions were published in the House of Lords' Report at:

https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/11925/html/

https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/2449/html/

# The importance of evidence

**By Richard Dove**

A report from the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee has drawn up immigration policies based on "anecdote, assumption and prejudice" instead of relying on evidence. The report concludes that the Home Office had "no idea" what its £400 million annual spending on immigration enforcement achieves.

A year or so ago I decided to broaden my reading and started buying the New Scientist every week. Science, I figured before the emergence of Covid-19, could perhaps deliver more than politics as it was based, for heaven's sake, on evidence.

I recalled C.P. Snow's 'Two Cultures' lecture, drawing lasting attention to the split between sciences and the humanities, and his description of this split being a major hindrance to solving the world's problems.

In my career as a journalist I have sat around many editorial tables at the BBC and elsewhere where the editors with firsts in Classics or some such would have very clearly been happier obfuscating on the scandals of ancient Greece than immunology or climate change. Arts degrees still dominate amongst editors and presenters. Jon Snow read Law. Tom Bradby studied History. Huw Edwards is a scholar of medieval French. Mishal Husain read Law, and Emma Barnett read History and Politics. I could go on.

The predominance of arts degrees still permeates the media, the civil service, politics, public relations and lobbying. Professor Brian Cox in a lecture on the value of science pointed out that science is a very humble pursuit: "As a professional scientist you are usually wrong and you try things out and you change your view immediately when some new evidence comes in that contradicts your view."

## Troubled world

Could this scientific approach help in analysing our troubled world and informing our politics? Politicians have learnt to state that "we are following the science." But science is not a linear path to problem solving. It is messy and unpredictable. This does not work in the fractious world of politics where certainty is both required and, in many cases, fictitious.

Political parties are driven by ideology. To support a political party you embrace a set of values and convince others in your quest for power. You find the evidence to support your values and discard uncomfortable facts. The Conservative Party manifesto, to take one of many recent examples, promises to solve the crisis in the NHS by building 40 new hospitals. Where did that number come from? Coronavirus has dulled the promise but the promise, or at least the manifesto statement, remains. Where is the evidence that more hospitals will solve the problem? We have learnt that in these times of Covid-19, old certainties such as the requirement for a third runway at Heathrow are no longer relevant. Science-based evidence will inform us to switch our priorities, but politics has no such transformational dynamic. The Labour Party pledged in its manifesto to spend £26 billion on the NHS by 2024 with a plan to raise the annual budget of the Department of Health by £40 billion over five years. Where is the evidence that this would make a difference given present appalling circumstances?

It is worth asking if evidence-based politics can make a difference. There has never been a better time for science to influence politics but in a steady, logical way not a bumptious excuse for a 'Moonshot' Covid testing programme. Test-and-trace guru Baroness Dido Harding told a select committee of MPs that the modeling she relied on had not predicted the sharp rise in demand for testing once the schools returned. Modeling is not static; it responds to daily, hourly inputs of data and conclusions can change. The Baroness studied PPE alongside David Cameron at Oxford University.

The Prime Minister's former chief adviser Dominic Cummings (first in Ancient and Modern History) clearly embraces what science can offer, particularly data analysis. He has said he wants to promulgate radical new ways of thinking, a new approach to politics. For him, data accumulation can provide evidence. It can provide clear, unambiguous answers to problems. Unfortunately, science and evidence-gathering can be a slow, arduous business, but if you are patient, it can provide irrefutable answers. It can provide, at its own pace and unhurried by presidential elections or the dogmatic whims of autocrats or radical ideologues, a vaccine that will work without side effects.

In time, scientists can provide a testing and tracing system that works for all, wherever they live, without the hectoring and false promises of ill-informed politicians. Let scientists lead the daily briefings with the politicians seated in the front row taking notes. Downing Street is looking for a spokesperson – let's get Professor Cox in and let him explain the difficulties, not the empty promises. Let him and other scientists gather the evidence and devise action plans. Evidence-based politics might just catch on and make the difference we all hope for. It is not as if we are getting things right now.

# Where charity begins

**By Janice Shillum Bhend**

As of September 2020, the Charity Commission for England and Wales now recognises public interest journalism as a charitable purpose. This is a positive step which has been warmly welcomed by the Chartered Institute of Journalists.

The Charity Commission was relaunched in 2018 with a new purpose and strategic direction. It is an independent, non-ministerial government department accountable to Parliament and responsible for maintaining an up to date register of charities, including making decisions on whether the 168,000 organisations currently on the register are indeed charitable. Over the last year around 8,000 have been removed for various reasons and more than 6,000 added.

Due to the Pandemic, the Commission broadcast its first ever online annual public meeting on its YouTube channel in October, although its Chair, Baroness Tina Stowell, pointed out that she would have much preferred a 'face to face' meeting like those usually held in one of their four bases, in Liverpool, London, Newport and Taunton.

Around 5,000 interested people registered to join the meeting online and will have discovered, as I did, that the Commission has made impressive progress during the first year of its five-year plan. "Charities must understand they do not have a right to public support but a responsibility for greater transparency and accountability," she told us, "we now have more information on our register than ever, people need to believe the motives of a charity are truly what is stated. The prefect example is the Captain Tom Foundation which we registered recently."

Chief Executive Dr Helen Stephenson went on to give us some facts and figures: "There are 900,000 staff in the charity sector, that's three per cent of the UK work force, and 9.3million volunteers," she pointed out. "Our principal ambitions are that people use the register to make informed choices about the charities they support and to make it easier to set up a charity or become a trustee. We have dealt with 8,329 applications in the past year, reducing queued case work by 80 per cent."

So that explains why the CIoJ's application to merge our charities into a new Welfare Fund was approved so much more quickly than expected… Enlightening.

**Janice Shillum Bhend is the Immediate Past President of the Chartered Institute of Journalists**

# Scholarships for international writers

The University of East Anglia (UEA) has introduced two new fully-funded annual scholarships for its prestigious Creative Writing MA programme.

The Sonny Mehta India Scholarship and The Sonny Mehta Scholarship for Writers will be available for students from India, the Indian sub-continent, North Africa and the Middle East, as well as those who self-identify as Roma. Both scholarships will cover tuition fees and living costs, as well as a grant to support the costs of relocating to the UK for the course.

The scholarships have been endowed by Gita Mehta, who wanted to establish the scholarships in memory of her husband Sonny Mehta, editor-in-chief of US publishing house Alfred A. Knopf and chairman of the Knopf Doubleday Group. Mehta died in December 2019 and over the course of his career published some of the most successful and influential authors of all time, including eight literature and one economics Nobel laureates. From Toni Morrison to John Le Carré and UEA graduate Sir Kazuo Ishiguro OBE, Mr Mehta's portfolio was broad and diverse, including popular titles such as *Jurassic Park* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* trilogy, as well as Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch* and memoirs by former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

UEA's Vice Chancellor, Prof David Richardson, said: "This is a wonderful contribution to UEA's Creative Writing programme and we are immensely grateful to Gita Mehta for making this possible. Sonny Mehta was the most influential editor and publisher of his generation. His wisdom and range transformed the literary landscape. At UEA we will continue to champion that call for excellence and inclusivity, and enable more brilliant voices to be heard."

Among Mehta's published authors are also a number of alumni from UEA's Creative Writing programme, including Ian McEwan and Sir Kazuo Ishiguro OBE.

The University has been celebrating the 50th birthday celebrations of its MA Creative Writing programme – half a century of nurturing talented new writers.

The programme was the first course of its kind in the UK and has produced more published and prize-winning authors than any other.

# 'Lockdown' is Collins Dictionary word of the year

'Lockdown' has been declared the word of the year for 2020 by Collins Dictionary, after a sharp rise in its usage during the pandemic. "It encapsulates the shared experience of billions of people," a spokesperson for Collins told The Journal.




Lexicographers registered more than 250,000 usages of the word during 2020, up from just 4,000 last year. Other pandemic-linked terms on the 10-strong list include 'furlough', 'key worker', 'self-isolate' and 'social distancing', as well as 'coronavirus'.

According to the dictionary, lockdown is defined as "the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces." It came into common parlance as governments around the world responded to the spread of Covid-19 in early 2020 by placing strict measure to stop transmission of the virus.

Non-virus related words to make the list reflect the social and political upheavals of 2020. Following the death of the unarmed black man George Floyd in the US the abbreviation 'BLM', for the Black Lives Matter movement, features having registered a 581% increase in usage, according to Collins.

'Megxit', the term modelled on the word Brexit which was used for the withdrawal of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex from royal duties. also makes the list. Social media also plays its part with "TikToker", describing someone who shares content on platform TikTok and "mukbang" - a term originating in South Korea which describes a host who broadcasts videos of themselves eating large quantities of food.

Helen Newstead, language content consultant at Collins, said: "Language is a reflection of the world around us and 2020 has been dominated by the global pandemic. Lockdown has affected the way we work, study, shop, and socialize. With many countries entering a second lockdown, it is not a word of the year to celebrate but it is, perhaps, one that sums up the year for most of the world."

Previous Collins words of the year
2019: Climate strike
2018: Single-use
2017: Fake news
2016: Brexit
2015: Binge-watch
2014: Photobomb
2013: Geek

The Oxford English Dictionary also choose their own word of the year, opting for 'climate emergency' in 2019, 'toxic' in 2018, 'youthquake' in 2017 and 'post-truth' in 2016.

# Independent newspaper rebrands

A Cheshire-based independent, monthly, tabloid newspaper has rebranded to reflect its increasing profile and presence across the county.

South Warrington News, which began in 1993, is now known as The Cheshire Times, simply to provide a stronger identity and wider awareness of the news and the qualities of Cheshire.




The high-response free tabloid has continued to expand geographically in recent years, bucking the trend for local newspapers across the UK and has gradually established itself as an important independent press presence across the county of Cheshire.

The Cheshire Times continues to be published and run by North West News Limited and owner and editor, Brigid Hardman, who said: "We now intend to take our message forward, with our sole aim being to promote the people, trade, businesses, services, education, organisations and communities of the areas we serve.

"The new format is already proving to be a strong vehicle and I am determined to uphold its active role in keeping businesses and communities thriving and interacting."

The newspaper's fully-interactive online version can be accessed, along with previous editions of South Warrington News, at www.cheshiretimes.com

# Reviving local journalism

## Submission from the Chartered Institute of Journalists to the House of Lords Committee on Communications and Digital (September 2020)

### Entrepreneurial incentives and ideas to revive the UK local, regional and national journalism infrastructure.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists (CIoJ) believes conflict of interests and the problem of compromising independence and constitutional distance from executive and legislature means that it would be best to avoid direct government and state subsidy.

The Institute recommends large-scale and imaginative measures of indirect support that incentivise the business of journalism, engage a mutual synergy between digital and print publication and consumption, and enhance education and enthusiasm for journalism reading. Such measures should avoid limiting or damaging the attraction of investment from overseas and expansion of the UK digital economy.

There should be recognition that the UK digital sphere or cyberspace is sovereign geographical and, indeed, geo-digital territory and the Westminster Parliament is entitled to legislate for licensing, taxation, and regulation of the use of this dimension of national infrastructure.

Hence, while the investment and entrepreneurial achievements of US corporations such as Facebook, Google, and Amazon have substantially contributed to the development of commerce in UK national cyberspace, these opportunities and their exploitation should be equated with the use of land, mineral or fossil fuel resources. They are not there to be plundered as though a free bounty; particularly if commercial exploitation has a substantially negative impact on industries in the traditional dimensions of the national economy.

The digital information age has had a substantial impact on the economies of scale of print publication commerce. The Institute believes a harmonious balance of opportunities, licencing and taxation can be reached that reverses the problem of jobs lost, titles closed and dimunition of professional journalistic culture in many parts of the UK through the near-monopolising of online advertising and the detrimental effects of digital oligopoly corporations creatively orchestrating off-shore and tax reduction schemes through transnational trading.

The Institute believes that well-intentioned 'trophy' and philanthropic grant schemes to support and develop a vague notion of 'public interest' journalism are not enough. At the same time overseas investment in jobs and commerce in the UK digital economy should not be driven away by excessively punitive digital turnover taxation. The proposal for a digital sales tax is currently set at 2%. Are there other ways of re-distributing the concentration and shift of advertising income from print media to digital oligopolies?

**1.Journalism Forward Investment Relief.** Legislation that offers additional entrepreneurial tax relief on profits for investment in local, regional and national newspapers and printed magazine publications. It is a given that the profits for any corporation and business can be offset through business acquisition and investment in expanding operations. The Institute proposes a new kind of forward investment relief tailored and targeted for local, regional and national journalism. This operates on the basis of a double benefit. For any investment up to a maximum shareholding of 49% in any local/micro, regional and national news publisher that distributes by print and online, the investor is entitled to an additional equivalent tax relief in relation to tax on the income from the investment. Consequently, were Facebook to invest £20 million in a regional newspaper publication as capital, they would be further entitled to future tax relief on up to £20 million in profit earned from that investment. The Institute believes Journalism Forward Investment Relief would be an opportunity and positive incentive for the main digital revenue oligopolies such as Google, Facebook and Amazon, as well as national newspaper corporations such as Associated Newspapers, Guardian Media Trust, News UK, Reach, and current FT owner Nikkei Inc. The global digital oligopolies, Google, Facebook and Amazon would benefit from developing communications journalism commerce in a medium that interpenetrates their out-facing public and social platforms. The national journalism media corporations would benefit expanding their talent and news gathering infrastructure with local and regional trajectories. This should also be an entrepreneurial incentivising measure that could be a boon to the specialist magazine sector. This is a significant part of the journalism industry and has been similarly struggling with the loss of advertising to digital oligopolies and the pressures on the social ritual of printed magazine reading.

**2. Change of property notification in weekly news publishers.** Any completed property transaction in the UK should require a statutory notice in the geographically relevant local weekly news publication in print form (and additionally online when that publication has an online platform) with a levy to the publisher each time of £100. With an average of 100,000 property sales each month this should generate £120 million of advertising revenue for the weekly local newspaper industry.

**3.Planning application notification in either local weekly or regional printed newspaper.** Any planning application and/or decision in the UK has to be published with the cost being borne by applicant on application and local authority on decision. Payment for the notice limited at £100 for each transaction. There are about half a million planning applications in the UK every year and this indirect income incentive has the potential of raising between £50 and £100 million income every year.

**4.Educational provision of printed newspapers.** Every state and private school, further education college and university in the UK should be engaged with a statutory duty to buy/acquire and make available to teachers and students a selection of 5 printed national newspapers (and associated magazines), one regional newspaper and one weekly newspaper for the five working days of each week. With an average weekly budget for each school /college, and university of £50, this has the potential for raising £2,600 expenditure each year on newspapers for each educational body. It is envisaged that the educational printed newspaper provision would apply to Primary, Secondary, Preparatory, and Public schools, Further Education Colleges, Sixth Form colleges and Universities. This should guarantee and generate revenue from 29,000 schools, around 290 Further Education Colleges, and 130 Universities in the UK. The potential revenue incentive here for printed newspaper sales would be £76.4 million in any one year.

The purpose of the educational printed newspaper provision is to provide the daily texts of everyday journalism and acquaint and equip educators and students with the printed output of professional journalism. This is the material publication of democratic reporting and debate that represents the first draft of the history of their time. It is the daily and weekly record of news and current affairs and the key tools by which education at all levels can widen and enlighten the new generations of readers into quotidian literacy. Reading the journalism of their time is the ideal introduction and participation in democratic polity and critical politics. These are the essential tools to advance the role and importance of education in an individual's responsibility to civic duty and understanding.

**5.Copyright licencing distribution from online digital sales revenue.** The Institute believes the necessary equalising adjustment on digital advertising can be ethically and properly achieved through distribution to news publishers by an organisation such as the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society known as ALCS. We would recommend the legislating for the Journalism Publication Levy. It needs to be recognised as a remedy through copyright culture and intellectual property rights. Google, Facebook and Amazon and any other significant commercial digital platform corporation that hosts, and indeed publishes, the processing and commerce in information originated by others and printed publication, and earns advertising sales revenue through its online operation should be obliged to pay a copyright licencing levy of 2% on all advertising revenues. The levy would be collected and distributed by ALCS.

The distribution of the Journalism Publication Levy would operate proportionately in relation to agreed Parliamentary and DCMS departmental policy purposed around the public interest of sustaining viable and stable local, regional and national journalism. Since there is a recognised need at the moment for the resuscitation of the weekly and regional journalism industry, it is envisaged that in

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its early years ALCS would distribute a significant proportion of the levy to local weekly and regional news publications.

The proportions of distribution would ordinarily reflect the recognised printed circulations, digital subscriber numbers and ALCS should certainly be prepared to take into account those publishers building 'membership' and 'registration' dimensions of readership/audience. How could the levy operate in practice?

E-Marketer estimated that Google received ad revenue in 2019 of £5.7 billion with Facebook turning over £3.6 billion. If these two corporations were subject to the 2% copyright Journalism Publication Levy on these figures, ALCS would have £186 million to distribute to UK journalism publishers. If in the early years of the scheme, 50% of the levy were allocated to local weekly newspaper publications, and 25% to Regional newspaper publications the respective annual income of £93 million and £46.5 million is likely to be a substantial and energising boost to the industry and enable publishers to substantially invest in more journalists, coverage and operations. For example, all weekly newspapers would be able to employ a podcast specialist journalist who would be able to produce and make available a sound podcast form of the paper's weekly edition. All of the measures (1-5) would make the news publication industry so much more attractive and exciting for investors.

It has been reported that Amazon enjoyed £13.73 billion in sales in the UK in 2019. The extraordinary growth and market dominance of this US corporation on all aspects of traditional publishing and retail commerce has seen a fundamental shift in the concept of profit and gain in the overall economy. There have been proposals that the growing power of Amazon as an oligopoly and its distortion of economic activity could be addressed through an online sales tax of 2% for all goods bought online.

Given the substantial impact that Amazon's growth has had on publishing, the Institute believes there is an argument for Amazon to be subject to the proposed Journalism Publication Levy for collection by ALCS. Again, this would reward copyright and intellectual property culture.

The direction of benefit should be based on the notion of authors' rights where non-fiction writer and novelist, and journalist via newspaper and magazine publication. If this were 1% of UK turnover, £137.3 million pounds in funds could be distributed by ALCS in proportions that recognised that Amazon sales benefit book publishers and authors more than journalism publications. For example, 50% distribution to authors, 25% distribution to book publishers and 25% distribution to journalism publishers could generate annual returns of £68.65 million to authors, £34.325 million to book publishers and £34.325 million to local, weekly and national newspaper and magazine publishers.

**6. Zero VAT rating for digital sales.** The Institute would certainly recommend continuing the waiving of VAT on digital sales and revenue for newspaper, magazine and news journalism publishers and additionally the book trade. This would be a positive incentivising of commerce and business in the digital economy and should substantially benefit large online businesses such as Amazon.

**7. Improving the 'news journalism ecology'.** The Institute believes reviving the local and regional journalism industry needs to take into account the decline in local radio journalism caused by the agglomeration of UK independent radio broadcasting into national branded networks of stations. Ofcom has relaxed obligations to run local newsrooms in towns and cities and breakfast programme production and presentation generic to the local areas for stations when first licenced as 'independent local radio'. We suspect that DCMS and Ofcom may be relying on the community radio sector to make up the shortfall. Certainly, a key problem has arisen over the last ten to fifteen years where Ofcom licensing of community radio stations has undermined the stability and sustainability of established local and regional radio services.

The Institute strongly believes that Ofcom should not have been operating a licence expansion policy where previously established local radio services found themselves undermined and in competition with new community radio stations operating in a not-for-profit sector but competing and in some cases undermining the local advertising and sponsorship market for non-community radio stations.

Local and regional journalism needs viable and successful business models and by its very nature should thrive, like any other business on competition. 30 to 40 years ago local and regional journalism would be competition between local and regional newspapers, independent local radio, BBC local radio and regional television news gathering by BBC TV region and ITV local franchise.

There is certainly an argument for more strategic and coherent regulation by Ofcom and DCMS policy in respect of independent local radio licencing. For many decades radio journalism in the USA was a thriving dimension of the journalism economy because the Federal Communications Commission required that any radio station given a licence for broadcasting had to employ at least one professional radio journalist to provide a radio news service. It was significant that any US radio market at town and city level could sustain this regulatory requirement. The market and regulatory situation did in fact change during the latter part of the 20th century and the situation in UK local and regional broadcasting is different, and in many ways, equally complex.

The media privileges and commercial opportunities engaged with radio station licencing should encompass public interest and public service responsibilities to the journalism industry. We believe an Ofcom regulatory requirement for one, or even two professional journalists employed for any independent and community radio station licence in the UK along with the operation of specific local radio newsrooms would help bring about a return to 'localism' and local civic media identity in multimedia journalism publication.

The Institute believes Ofcom regulation and DCMS policy should move away from tolerating and endorsing rationalised news hubs in large radio groups owning multiple stations producing bulletins so distant from the actual locality of transmission and reception, or in the case of community radio, there being no regulatory requirement at all to provide a professional radio news service.

**8. Recognising the importance of the printed product in journalism.** The Institute continually campaigns for appreciation and promotion of the printed journalism form and is fundamentally opposed to the idea that digital media is and should be developed to replace some kind of 'dinosaur,' 'anachronistic' or 'redundant' medium. It remains the most viable model for most newspaper publishers. *The Times*, *Financial Times*, *Telegraph*, *Economist* and *Spectator* have successfully demonstrated that both forms can symbiotically work together in profit led publication economies of scale.

Britain's most successful periodical is the fortnightly *Private Eye* magazine with ABC rated circulation of 233,565 sales and bulk distribution of 2,295 copies. This endurance of success in the printed form has not depended on any significant online subscription operation or indeed substantial free access promotional accompaniment.

The e-book has not replaced the printed book and there is no reason why new generations of journalism consumers should lose out on the wholly different cultural and social resonance of buying and reading the printed daily newspaper, periodical or magazine.

It is also very important to appreciate that any crisis in printed journalism industry is an additional crisis for the printing and newsagent trades. Thriving printed journalism media ripples out to significant employment and profit led commerce in associated industries.

**9. Indirect measures to encourage and foster independence and impartiality in journalism.** The Institute pioneered campaigning against the use of local authority funding to publish propagandist 'Pravda' newspapers that purported to be equivalent local newspapers, but in fact siphoned off public council notice advertising and became nothing more than a public relations operation. These substantially damaged the local newspaper industry where they were published and discredited the civic and public integrity of the councils which set them up and promoted them. In recent years central government has sought to end the practice and we urge Parliament and central government to continue their vigilance in enforcing the ending of local authority 'Pravda' publications.

Local and regional newspaper journalism depends on impartiality and trust from all parts of the community. Journalism which divides audiences on the basis of political bias and propagandising degrades the market in a liberal capitalist society. Ofcom is a statutory regulator which ensures adherence on the part of licenced radio and television broadcasters to respect due accuracy and impartiality. These concepts, in particular separating news coverage from editorial comment and ensuring accuracy, are the bedrock of voluntary regulation of the newspaper industry (and its online dimensions) by IPSO and the very small sector of journalism publishers regulated by IMPRESS.

Essentially the nature and conditions of the market in the local and regional newspaper industry determine that successful publication depends on aspiration for accuracy and impartiality in journalism coverage. Diversity of representation and making sure that is reflected in content is a key part of the impartiality dynamic. The Institute strongly believes economic viability and success of local and regional journalism can be the driving imperative in ensuring that ethnic communities achieve equality and participation in professional journalism.

# A walk across Doha

**By Richard Dove**

After a day of meetings with old colleagues at Al Jazeera's headquarters in Doha, I decided that a walk across town would reacquaint me with this ever-changing city. I had no map, just a few landmarks.

The first challenge was getting across a frenetic highway. I waited for the red man to turn green. And so did five lanes of traffic. Their lights changed but mine didn't. Being a pedestrian in this city is not for the faint-hearted. There was clearly an informal race going on amongst the front five. The man in the shiny £200,000 McClaren looked casually confident. The lights changed and the McClaren was beaten by an average-looking 4x4 and … all the others. He stalled his high-performance silver machine. He'd probably just bought it. Thanks to abundant natural gas, Qatar, with a population under three million is the richest country in the world per head of population. Of the three million, 92 per cent are imported workers. There are only around 330,000 native Qataris.

I continued across a garage forecourt and noticed petrol was just over 40 pence a litre, so filling your thirsty 4x4 would be pretty light on the wallet compared to the UK. Over the road, there was a building the image of Marineville in the 1960s TV series 'Stingray'. Perhaps, like Marineville, it might even disappear underground when under attack? And Qatar is, in fact, under threat due to a continuing blockade led by Saudi Arabia. The border between the two countries remains closed. The Saudis have enlisted the support of neighbours Dubai, Bahrain and Egypt. They accuse the Qataris of supporting terrorism and getting too close to their enemy, Iran. The Saudis have even threatened to turn the Qatar peninsular into an island by building a canal along the 41-mile border.

After taking a quick photo of the building, I realised I had made a terrible mistake. CCTV was everywhere. A security guard was soon chasing after me. I wasn't sure they knew Stingray in Qatar and didn't fancy a few hours of interrogation trying to explain. But I showed him the photo and said lamely that I had "liked the look of the building". I deleted it and he seemed satisfied. By now, however, more guards had arrived. Had they ever seen Stingray? I decide not to ask, and they shooed me on my way.

### Driverless trains

The pavement by the Ministry – built on a slope to discourage pedestrians – disappeared and I was clambering across a sprawling building site. A new metro station was under construction, according to the sign. Three new lines would soon link the new stadia being built for the 2022 World Cup. I joined two Bangladeshi construction workers in a dash across the highway. They shouted "No car, no car" as they did so.

"Qatar Deserves the Best" proclaimed an official slogan, which appeared multiple times on hoardings. Construction of the metro was already costing around £30 billion and when completed it will have the fastest driverless trains anywhere, I was told. I scrambled over a series of barriers and suddenly, in front of me, there was an all-glass palace. It was a metro station and – surprise, surprise – it was open. Here was a vast edifice, with a curved roof and acres of marble and gleaming escalators. There were more people in smart beige uniforms on duty than there were passengers. Their smiles were mildly disconcerting. Yas, from India, introduced himself and guided me through buying a ticket. A single journey cost two riyals – about 40 pence. I was guided into a brightly-lit executive waiting room. What did I think of the metro? How was my 'customer experience?'

Some stations on the Red Line were open. So, I rode one stop in a pristine train with about 30 other passengers. One man came up to me and said "World Cup good", giving me a thumbs-up as he did so. Altogether, seven stadia are being built in Doha, costing many more billions. The designs were stunning, as will be the bills for their air-conditioning in the 40-degree heat. The Al Thumama stadium is shaped like a gahfiya, a traditional cap worn by Arab men. The Al Khor stadium is inspired by the inside of a Bedouin tent. The Al Wakrah stadium resembles the hulls of traditional dhow pearl fishing boats.

I alighted at the Al Corniche stop and a man in a beige suit approached me and asks if I had enjoyed my journey. His name was Solomon, from the Philippines, and he was the Station Team Leader. "We are training everyday for the football. I like Raheem Sterling."

There were multiple moving walkways taking me to escalators and lifts. When I emerged, I realised I was nowhere near my hotel. There was a sign in front of me asking cyclists to dismount. I had not seen a single cyclist. A red Ferrari and a two-tone Rolls Royce roared away from the lights. Qatar Deserves the Best, as the slogan said – and it can, quite clearly, afford it. I gave up on my trek and hailed a taxi.

# Election law 'not fit for purpose'

Academics and campaigners have warned that the Government's proposals to modernise electoral law "only scratch the surface" of what is needed to protect democracy online.

The call for a toughening up of new laws follows the publication of a new report, 'Democracy in the Dark', published by the Electoral Reform Society which revealed a major rise in online spending during the 2019 general election – with little transparency over how it was used.

The report's author Dr Sam Power, of the University of Sussex, said: "Campaigning online allows people and parties to engage with politics in a new way that is both exciting and necessary, but our legislation should reflect these trends – and our report shows that as it currently stands electoral law is not fit for purpose. We are also clear that the Government's proposals represent only a first step on the road to creating campaigning platforms that engender confidence in electoral processes. Whilst taking this first step is laudable, we hope our report encourages the Conservatives to think considerably bigger, to truly enact a raft of 'world-leading measures'."

Darren Hughes, Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society added: "Openness and transparency are vital if the public are to have faith in politics and the digital campaigns it produces. But, as has been shown, nearly a year after the election, voters remain in the dark about who targets them online. The Government is right in its move towards digital imprints, to show who is behind the ads we see. But, make no mistake, these reforms must go beyond imprints if we're to see the changes needed to shine a light on the unregulated 'Wild West' of online ads. If the Government fails to tackle this issue head on, they will fail in their bid to safeguard our democracy, leaving dodgy donors, dark ads and disinformation to reign free in our politics."

**E-mail address**

**If you are not receiving regular messages from us via e-mail it is likely we do not have your up-to-date details. Don't miss out. Update your details today - memberservices@cioj.org .**

# Covid-19 support and guidance

I wanted to write to you as the Institute's new President this year to thank you for all your past support and ask you to continue subscribing to the Institute. This is the surest and most effective way of securing the kind of professional commitment that supports ethical and independent journalism and ensures protection for your professional interests.

Every week we are at the cutting edge in championing a free press and media, supporting the constitutional role of journalism in underpinning democracy, campaigning to protect our industry and profession from multiple threats, and promoting the highest professional standards.

Our research and innovative thinking has been advising Parliament to take on proposals that can economically revive the UK's journalism infrastructure and reverse declining local, regional and national newspaper circulation, closure of titles and loss of jobs.

We are advocating five cases in the Freedom of Information Tribunal system to make the change decided in 2016 by Strasbourg in European Court of Human Rights law on the Article 10 right to government information be fully applicable to journalists in the UK.

We are holding Parliament's watchdog to account on the operation of the 2016 'Snoopers' Charter' Investigatory Powers Act to ensure professional journalists' communications data is not misused and journalists' sources are protected. We are at the forefront of campaigning against local authorities that misuse election purdah guidelines to exclude the media and public from meetings and produce 'Pravda' spin-doctoring of controversial decisions and discussions held behind closed doors.

**Welfare fund**

We are maintaining a unique package of benefits to our members that includes a welfare 'safety net' of income support when times are particularly tough such as in the present pandemic. Over £3.5 million in charitable funds have dispensed a significant amount of grants in recent years - particularly this year as many members have been in difficulties through loss of work and having to adapt to lockdown conditions.

As a member you have our professional solidarity, the 24-hour legal advice and counselling helpline, and the reassurance we will be by your side through employment disputes.

The Institute is also a trade union, but it is distinctly impartial and non-party political in its policy so as to embrace and ensure inclusivity to professional journalists of all persuasions. Other benefits include a UK National Press card, International Press card, receiving the Institute's Journal magazine, advice guides for freelances, and the use of the post-nominal MCIJ. We are planning to introduce continuing professional development (CPD) courses for which full members will be entitled to participate. The first online course will be a refresher in professional media law.

It is my sincere belief that at £16.50 per month for full members, this is tremendous value and a vital part of being able to continue funding and maintaining our service to you. The rate for trainee members for the first two years of their careers at £8.25 per month is such an encouraging and supportive introduction to our profession.



Thank you so much for your continuing support and helping us to strengthen and maintain the interests of high quality professional journalism and the role we have in furthering democracy, freedom and liberty.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Tim Crook, President

## Key Worker status

We were first off the mark with questions about the Government's definition of Key Workers which they initially restricted to journalists working as public service broadcasters. Obviously journalists in all areas of the industry and all platforms have been conscientiously reporting the coronavirus crisis.

The CIoJ believes that a professional journalist qualifies as a Key Worker if they are on assignment covering the emergency for a news publisher. The possession of our National Press Card and/or a letter of commission by the news publisher should be sufficient confirmation to any police officer seeking to enforce stay at home requirements.

We have been pleased to see that our requests have been listened to and the government advice on this has now changed.

By behaving responsibly as a profession, it will aid our work representing your needs to government.

However, please be aware of the urgent safety obligations that employers need to provide to you if you are commissioned to work outside the home. The Committee to Protect Journalists has made available and updated a very useful guide at: https://cpj.org/2020/02/cpj-safety-advisory-covering-the-coronavirus-outbr.php

## How we are helping journalists in the pandemic

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has collated a number of different pieces of advice and is passing them on to support our members, and journalists in general. We are all in this together. Together we will get through it.

Obviously professional journalists working outside home have duties and obligations to our fellow citizens and colleagues.

We should:

- Always keep our two metre distance;
- Wherever possible, avoid travelling in vehicle with others;
- If you are working in a clinical setting, and/or in close contact with people who may have COVID-19, consider wearing protective gloves and face masks.
- Follow official advice on hand washing – wash hands with soap for more than 20 seconds and/or use anti-viral hand sanitiser if available.;
- Broadcasting journalists should equip themselves with booms to ensure microphones are more than two metres distant from recording operators and reporters/presenters.
- Of course, professional journalists should not be expected to report in any environment likely to have the COVID-19 present without World Health Organization recommended protective clothing and equipment. This would, for example, be a hospital, clinic or location where somebody is suffering from or has recently died from the disease.
- For the most up-to-date advice always check, and keep referring to (the advice is regularly updated), official guidance sites such as PHE – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public – and WHO – who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public .

We would also encourage members to undertake reporting from the safety of their home by using technology, if they can. For instance, using video conference calls for interviews, etc. Radio and online journalists can synchronise interviews if the interviewee is prepared to record digitally on their own smartphone and email the recording from their end.

## Pension Fund vacancy

The Institute's Pension Fund is seeking applications from members.

The Pension Fund delivers a small monthly stipend on a lifetime basis to a small number of members who are experiencing long-term financial difficulties.

Any member who is interested should download an application form from the Institute's website. If you have any questions or want to discuss a potential application please contact the Chief Executive.

Deadline for applications is January 31.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you are a member of the CIoJ, the Institute's Benevolent Fund is here to help you. We have nurtured our charities so that we can provide real help to members at times like these. If you wish to apply for support just go to **www.cioj.org/benevolentfund** to download a form.

### OTHER SOURCES OF HELP

Journalists may also apply to The Journalists' Charity for financial assistance or other at this difficult time.

#### The Journalists' Charity

The Journalists' Charity was founded in 1864 as the Newspaper Press Fund by a group of writers including Charles Dickens to help journalists and their dependants going through tough times.

More than 150 years later, the charity remains committed to providing advice and support to individuals working across the industry, at a time when journalism has arguably never been more important to society.

As well as offering friendly help and guidance to journalists of all ages and backgrounds, the charity provides confidential advice, emergency support and financial assistance, often when there's nowhere else to turn.

The Journalists' Charity supports a range of events throughout the year which offer networking and career development opportunities. And our coveted special awards recognise individuals who've gone above and beyond, demonstrating an outstanding commitment and contribution to journalism.

The charity's criteria to be eligible for financial help from the Charity is that you must have worked as a journalist in the UK or for a UK organisation for at least 2 continuous years out of the last 5 years or for 7 years in total (if not current) and journalism was the main source of your income during that period.

To find out more, go to: www.journalistscharity.org.uk

# CIoJ Funds in numbers...

129 - years of support

£48,000 - total support provided in 2019

16 - people in receipt of support in 2019

£3.8m - the value of Institute charitable funds

15 - families helped in 2019

Chartered Institute of Journalists CHARITIES CIoJ

OBITUARY

# Sir Harold Evans (1928-2020)

When the Chartered Institute of Journalists awarded Sir Harold Evans its Gold Medal, it was recognising how five iconic books he had written had helped elevate the status of journalism from the rather shady trade of Grub Street to an admirable profession. *Newsman's English*, *Handling Newspaper Text*, *News Headlines*, *Pictures on a Page* and *Newspaper Design* still constitute the structure of a syllabus for a degree in practical journalism; something a working-class lad who'd entered the newspaper industry as a teenager and went onto graduate at Durham University would have been proud of.

Reflecting on Evans' career, Godfrey Hodgson wrote in the Guardian: "Between 1972 and 1977, while in the thick of the editorial battle he found the time to produce one of the few classic books about journalism, five volumes of *Editing and Design*, of which at least two, *Newsman's English*, on writing for newspapers, and *Pictures on a Page*, on the choice and use of photographs, are works of rare insight and quality."

Hodgson emphasised the significance of Evans's first editorship- that of the *Northern Echo* in Darlington, "a job hallowed for him by the fact that one of his predecessors was the great W.T. Stead who went on to be the crusading editor of the Edwardian *Pall Mall Gazette*. Evans kept a picture of Stead in his office." At least Evans avoided W.T. Stead's experience, going to jail when pushing the boundaries of media freedom in legal jousts.

The award-winning BBC editor and producer Giles Oakley wrote a follow-up letter to the *Guardian* to point out that "The five books on journalistic editing and design by Harold provided inspiration for a four-part series on BBC One entitled 'Evans on Newspapers', produced by Bernard Adams in 1980, assisted by Marion Allinson and me as directors."

Oakley remembered: "We were desperately trying to get a script out of him, only for it to arrive via courier, an envelope full of seemingly random scraps of paper with hastily hand-written text in pencil, with plenty of crossings out, side notes and arrows. Of course, when deciphered it all made perfect sense."

This anecdote reveals the irony in how an editor who became a legend for his instructional authority carried out his work in an atmosphere of organised chaos.

## Unorthodox

He had a notoriously short attention span and could not sit still for any length of time. In the middle of a conversation he had a habit of leaving to attend to another demand or task, always running between departmental heads and abandoning his office to a lengthening queue of people waiting to see him. Unorthodox and infuriating, but endearingly eccentric. He inspired loyalty with everyone he worked with.

The BBC's obituary explained that he had left school at 16 and wrote applications to every newspaper in the Manchester area, finally securing a job at the Ashton-under-Lyne Reporter. It was one of those British weekly newspapers which, to use Evans's own words, "bothered with the little things in people's lives, the whist drives and flower shows."

The BBC reported that Evans's celebrated editorship of the *Sunday Times*, marked by the herculean and humanitarian campaign for the victims of the drug Thalidomide, ended with Rupert Murdoch's acquisition. After moving to edit the daily *Times* he fell out with the Australian magnate and many years later at the 2011 Leveson Inquiry would describe him as "evil incarnate".

Michael Leapman in the Independent said Sir Harry Evans was the "one of the greatest newspaper editors of all time." Leapman pointed to the significance of being spotted as a journalist of great promise in 1956 with the award of a Harkness Fellowship which allowed him to spend two years in the United States at Stanford and Chicago universities, studying journalism and foreign affairs. At that time British universities had never developed journalism as a serious subject. There had been a two-year diploma run at King's College, University of London, but this ended with the outbreak of the Second World War.

## Scholarly

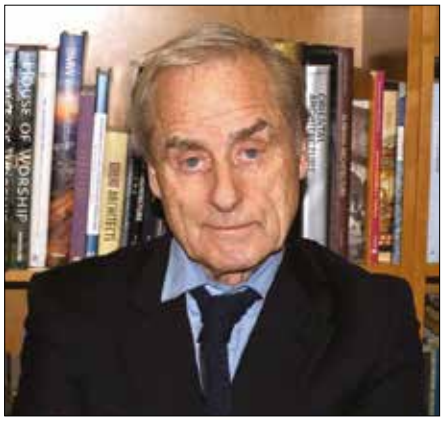
The experience in America would bring a reflective and more scholarly understanding of the public interest purpose of journalism as a serious and ethical profession. He believed a free press could be an important force for improving society.

His first book on the practice of journalism was written as early as 1961 – *The Active Newsroom*. Leapman described the 1972 to 1977 five-part series on editing and design – including volumes on headlines, pictures and language – as containing many precepts which have remained valid in "the subsequent age of computerised typesetting and page make-up."

*Pictures On A Page: Photo-journalism, Graphics and Picture Editing*, the fourth in the series, is probably the most well-known along with *Newsman's English: A Guide To Writing Lively, Lucid, and Effective Prose*. The latter was later revised by Crawford Gillan in 2000, and re-edited into *Essential English for Journalists, Editors and Writers*.

Evans followed in the tradition set up by George Orwell in his famous essay 'Politics of the English Language.' They were both aiming for honesty, clarity and simplicity.

*Newsman's English* in 1972 sought to achieve style and impact in news writing by answering the questions: What constitutes good copy; How can you avoid wasteful words and clichés; How do you rewrite a bad sentence; How do you shorten verbose source material; How much knowledge should be assumed from the reader; How do you structure a news story for maximum effect; What is the best way to write intros and to cope with the subsequent chronology; How can quotes and opinions be fed into the story without boring the reader; and How can news style be varied to add to a paper's image?



*Sir Harold Evans at the Strand Bookstore, November 2009, in New York City to discuss his memoir, 'My Paper Chase: True Stories of Vanished Times,' by David Shankbone. Creative Commons licence: CC-BY-3.0*

Answer all these questions correctly, and you would always be destined, with assistance from Sir Harry Evans, for a successful career in news journalism writing. *Pictures On A Page* showed how photojournalism can give meaning, colour and even drama to the apparently mundane. Evans was an expert at showing how cropping can rescue or ruin a photograph.

He was also eloquent and thought-provoking on the ethics of photographs of violence and sex, and how vulnerable we will always be to the manipulation of emotions through visual propaganda, and the contingency of news photographs presenting events that never happened or can so easily turn heroes into villains.

The irony and extraordinary ambiguity of covering news events was illustrated so poignantly on the back cover of his book with the extraordinary analysis: "Why is the girl in the centre smiling?" Her fiancé is being given life-saving treatment on a beach, but she smiled when seeing the press photographer and thinking that she might appear in the newspapers.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has always been enormously proud of its recognition of Sir Harold Evans with the award of one of its coveted Gold Medals.

In the history of British journalism he will be appreciated with the same reverence as one of the founding members of Institute W.T. Stead – one of his predecessor editors at the *Northern Echo*. In addition to avoiding Stead's fate of being sent to jail for his crusading and campaigning journalism, Evans also got to America in one piece to continue his career in publishing and book writing (W.T. Stead drowned in the Titanic disaster of 1912).

**Tim Crook**

# Sir Samuel Brittan (1933-2020)

OBITUARY



Sir Samuel Brittan, who died on October 12, aged 86, was a distinguished academic economist and journalist with a liberal outlook, who had worked with governments and for the past five decades had served as the influential Economics Editor of *The Financial Times*.

He was born in 1933 in north-west London, one of two talented sons of a doctor with a Litvak heritage, educated at Kilburn Grammar School and subsequently Jesus College Cambridge, where he studied economics avidly under Milton Friedman (the US economist who discovered monetarism) and Joan Robinson, among others, to gain a first-class degree in the 1950s. His younger brother, Leon Brittan, who pre-deceased him, went, by contrast, into Conservative Party politics and served Mrs Thatcher as Home Secretary in the 1980s.

Brittan's childhood must have been overshadowed by the ugly threat of Nazism and Fascism in Europe, and the possibility of war that posed, to which inter-war British governments responded only by lazy tergiversation or cowardly appeasement of the dictators. He therefore grew up inspired by Churchill and determined to change things and repair Britain's damaged economy, adapting it to the country's reduced circumstances in a changed post-war world, where it had ceased to be at the heart of a great empire and had indeed granted independence to the majority of its former colonies.

But Brittan had also absorbed Karl Popper's book *The Open Society and its Enemies* and probably also Yaakov Talmon's *The Origins of Totalitarian Democracy*, which would have alerted him to the threat that still hung over democracies and still does. He was much influenced too by Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*. So he was conscious of the new threats to freedom and liberal democracy in addition to the urgent need for European unification.

## Persuasive style

On graduating, Brittan joined the FT but in 1961 moved to become Economics Editor of *The Observer*, which was when I first got to read his articles and admire his very persuasive style. After Harold Wilson's victory in the 1964 election, he moved briefly to work for the Department of Economic Affairs, leaving just before its closure in 1966. But in 1966 Brittan returned to the FT, where he remained for the rest of his career, a respected British institution in a country that had gradually stagnated, partly due to uncompetitive practices, an overvalued pound, failure to integrate with Europe and archaic union restrictions. That situation was well parodied at the time in the satirical film, 'I'm alright Jack.'

Few UK industries were so severely disadvantaged in this country as newspaper production which we journalists all knew only too well. So Brittan therefore joined a minority of his FT colleagues in the [non-TUC] Institute of Journalists. By the 1960s, TUC-affiliated print unions – and especially the NGA – had exerted a grotesque influence over the newspaper industry, not excluding journalists, and The Times, by now owned by Rupert Murdoch, had been forced by a print union strike to cease publication for almost a year. That was when the FT carried the brilliant headline: "A la Recherche du Temps Perdu", quoting the title of Marcel Proust's famous novel.

It was time for union power to be restrained and reflecting this popular upsurge of sentiment Mrs Thatcher replaced Edward Heath as Conservative leader and was elected Prime Minister in 1979. It so happened, however, that the advance of computerised production rather than political dogma finally brought the curtain down on the century-old union domination of newspaper production and its accompanying hot metal technology. Computer technology finally extended to the British press in 1986 and thereafter the old craft unions ceased to dominate the lucrative newspaper industry, which changed fundamentally as a consequence.

> He was a civilized opera-loving gentleman and a loyal friend whose distinction was recognised by the Queen in 1993 when he was knighted for his service to journalism.

I found myself as an FT sub-editor involved with Sam when colleagues would ask me at work: "Sholto. What the f—k does Brittan mean by saying, 'Treasury revenues will be enhanced by fiscal drag?' " I had to explain. A week later, I was again asked what Brittan meant by "the J-curve effect"? Soon I heard that our taciturn yet reliable Night Editor had instructed Top Table, "Better give Sam's column in future to Sholto: he seems quite comfortable with the technical terms."

## Notoriously impractical

His copy was in any case always fastidiously typed and required no correction or amendment whatsoever. Yet Sam was notoriously impractical in everyday matters, which provoked some wry comments from a few colleagues.

> Samuel Brittan was an economic genius, certainly the most influential commentatorwriting in English based on academic knowledge since John Maynard Keynes in the 1930s.

He was always friendly and approachable on a personal level while thanking me personally for my efforts to secure FT management recognition of the minority of journalists who wished to safeguard their rewards and working conditions without assistance from the politicised NUJ, some of whom formed our Institute of Journalists chapter.

Samuel Brittan was an economic genius, certainly the most influential commentator writing in English based on academic knowledge since John Maynard Keynes in the 1930s. He was a civilized opera-loving gentleman and a loyal friend whose distinction was recognised by the Queen in 1993 when he was knighted for his service to journalism. France also made him a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

Our last encounter was two years ago when we met at the annual luncheon for retired FT staff. Sam enquired earnestly whether I had heard the scurrilous rumours circulating about his late brother, Leon? Did I believe them? I replied that I had heard these rumours, but had dismissed them as unfounded slander. Sam said nothing more, but then briefly shook my hand in response for one last time.

**William D. Sholto**

# Sir Peregrine Worsthorne (1923-2020)

OBITUARY

Traditionalist, High Tory, defender of "the English gentleman" and campaigner against "barbarism", Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, who died in October, aged 96, had a long and distinguished career in journalism, almost entirely with Telegraph Newspapers.

A graduate of Peterhouse, Cambridge, Worsthorne was an officer of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry during WW2 and served in the Italian campaign as part of a clandestine reconnaissance unit known as 'Phantom'. His interest in politics was formed early on, and he had a natural advantage; his stepfather was Sir Montagu Norman (Governor of the Bank of England from 1920 to 1944).

Worsthorne's journalistic career started in 1946 with a two-year placement at the *Glasgow Herald*, before joining *The Times* two years later as a sub-editor. His big break came when he was sent to the US as the paper's Washington correspondent, and he remained in DC for the next five years, although his strongly conservative politics led him to move from *The Times* to the more right-wing *Daily Telegraph* in 1953. At the same time he began contributing to the anti-communist magazine Encounter, a publication covertly funded by the CIA.

It is interesting that Worsthorne was able to write in 1954 that post-war America compared favourably to Britain because the US, at the time, "put its faith in the intellectual elites" while the UK seemed dedicated to "the masses". He was always an admirer of the 'old' USA, and told an interviewer in 2014 that he had been privileged to meet no fewer than eight US Presidents and former Presidents, from Herbert Hoover to George H.W. Bush.

## Blossoming career

Worsthorne's career at Telegraph Newspapers blossomed during the following decades – as well as being a widely-read weekly columnist on the *Sunday Telegraph*, he was Deputy Editor of the Sunday from 1961 to 1976, Associate Editor 1976-86 and Editor 1986-1991, ensuring that the paper became the foremost publication of High Toryism, combining a nostalgia for the age of Empire with strident views on immigration, law & order, and, from the late 1980s onwards, opposition to the European Union, describing the assertion that Britain's entry into the Common Market had not involved loss of British sovereignty as "a lie, or at any rate, a dishonest obfuscation."

He was not, however, a Thatcherite, and he eschewed free-market, neoliberal ideas entirely. He hoped for a 'traditional' Conservative government that recognised that the "state.. [should] regain control over 'the people', to re-exert its authority" so that Britain did not "spin into chaos". Most controversially, he toyed with the idea of a right-wing military coup and suggested that the Army, perhaps aided by American intervention in the form of the CIA, might be the only way to save the country if a far-left socialist government ever came close to winning power. This led to Labour MP Chris Mullin, author of A Very British Coup, naming the chief conspirator in his novel 'Sir Peregrine'.

During Worsthorne's long tenure in charge of the Sunday Telegraph comment pages, that particular section of the newspaper became known as the "Worsthorne College" because of the large number of similarly right-leaning journalists and commentators whose articles appeared there.



*Sir Peregrine Worsthorne*

> Worsthorne's often-controversial columns in the Sunday Telegraph continued even after he was sacked as Editor...

## Trenchant

Worsthorne's often-controversial columns in the *Sunday Telegraph* continued even after he was sacked as Editor by the paper's new Editor-in-Chief Andrew Knight "over lunch at Claridge's" in 1991. His penned his final column for the *Sunday Telegraph* in 1997, by which time he had been working for Telegraph Newspapers for over four decades and had survived several changes of ownership at the newspaper group. But in the end his trenchant opinions were probably too much for the new *Sunday Telegraph* Editor, Dominic Lawson, and new proprietor Conrad Black. In all likelihood, it was Worsthorne's reactionary stance that kept him from the Editorship of the *Daily Telegraph* and left him at the weekly title for all those years.

Knighted in 1991 for services to journalism, Peregrine Worsthorne was always an unashamed elitist and reactionary, lamenting in 2013 that: "The gentleman has gone." He thought that David Cameron seemed to fit into the gentlemanly tradition, "but he's very embarrassed and awkward about it. To be ashamed of that side of our national life is very sad."

In his 2004 book *In Defence of Aristocracy*, which followed New Labour's removal of most of the hereditary peers from the House of Lords, Worsthorne wrote of his profound regret at the exclusion of the British aristocracy from public life, and warned of the damage that would be done to constitutional government by cutting the link between Parliament and traditional elites.

For all his High Toryism, his silk shirts and Garrick Club lunches, Peregrine Worsthorne was a newspaperman to his bootstraps, and was perhaps the ultimate Fleet Street columnist. In 1989 he wrote: "The job of journalism is not to be scholarly.

> For all his High Toryism, his silk shirts and Garrick Club lunches, Peregrine Worsthorne was a newspaperman to his bootstraps, and was perhaps the ultimate Fleet Street columnist.

The most that can be achieved by an individual newspaper or journalist is the articulation of an intelligent, well-thought-out, coherent set of prejudices – i.e. a moral position." Hear hear to that!

Sir Peregrine Gerard Worsthorne died on October 4, 2020. He is survived by his wife Lady Lucinda Worsthorne (*nee Lambton*), the celebrated writer, architectural historian, photographer and broadcaster.

**Andy Smith**

OBITUARY

# Kenneth Joseph Alban Brookes (1928-2020)

Kenneth Brookes, a Life Fellow and great stalwart of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, died suddenly on October 11 after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer just a week previously. A member of the Institute since the 1960s, he served as President in 1983-4, the Institute's centenary year, was for many years Chairman of the Freelance Division, and was our resident expert in all aspects of copyright law and intellectual property. Those who knew him will not be surprised to hear that he was working right up to the very end, at the ripe old age of 92 and was full of energy and dedication to the last.

A Life Fellowship of the Institute was bestowed on him in the late 1980s by virtue of the immense amount of work he had already done for the Institute by that stage – and he was to continue working tirelessly in our interests for more than three decades after that! At meetings he was assiduous in his personal note-taking and observant of meeting protocols. He travelled extensively on assignments as well as being a guest speaker at many engineering and technology-focused conferences and events. He took on the responsibility for organizing several of the CIoJ's overseas conferences. I witnessed on several occasions – typically at the World Travel Market – his quiet yet persistent negotiating skills with hotels and travel agents to secure low prices, then little extras added into packages without cost.

I was in tune with Ken Brookes because, like him, I have an inclination to read the small print. Not that I agreed with him all the time. Remember how he campaigned to give freelances discounted subscriptions by submitting their tax returns to demonstrate they couldn't afford the full fee? Even when it was rejected at Conference he brought it up again two years later. "Like Frankenstein," I said at the time, "but rising from the grave in East Barnet rather than Transylvania." Yet we stayed amicable colleagues.

He took on the copyright responsibility for the Institute and, by their default, the NUJ as well in the deliberations of the British Copyright Council. Copyright is a mind-numbing topic to most yet Ken heroically carried on. He faithfully delivered his reports to Council to subdued groans yet it never seemed to put him off. The bizarre thing was that, while verbally he could drone on to satisfy the 'British Boring Board of Control' (as the Daily Telegraph's 'Way of the World' would have put it), when it came to writing he was clear, structured and concise.



## Heroic

He compiled and wrote two editions of the *World Directory and Handbook of Hardmetals and Hard Materials*. He gave me review copies of both editions. The later one in 1996 was A4, hard covers and 792 pages. Yes, it was heavy. As you can imagine these were pretty comprehensive works. He also wrote some other books, I believe, of an engineering flavour. He was well into aviation and boasted that he had attended every SBAC airshow since it started – not at Farnborough which everyone is familiar with but Radlett, then the home of Handley Page (a major manufacturer long since gone). And he could prove it as he had a copy of every show catalogue including the first held in 1946. To mark his 85th birthday, he visited Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the largest airshow in the world, where 10,000 aircraft assemble and half a million people visit. He was a prolific photographer. His library contains about 150,000 original Kodachrome slides pre-digital and uncounted thousands now digital.

He was tolerant and had a good sense of humour – and needed it for the ribbing that he invariably got from his CIoJ colleagues!

Ken Brookes is survived by Sandra, his wife of more than 50 years, and a son and daughter.

**Norman Bartlett**

## Ken inspired us all

It shocked us all to hear of Ken's passing because we believed him to be indestructible. Whoever heard of a freelance journalist still attending international conferences, writing and earning in his nineties? Well, that was Ken, who has departed for his next adventure swiftly and working right up until the last, which is absolutely what he would have wanted.

I have always had great admiration and much respect for Ken's work ethic, though it must have driven his lovely, hospitable wife Sandra mad at times. The way he never gave in to the disabilities of old age, his deteriorating sight for instance, always worried me a bit when he set off stalwartly homewards via two trains, after Council meetings at the Reform Club.

Ken inspired us all not to give up, ever. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the CIoJ Rule Book and of copyright matters will be greatly missed, though I should mention here that Council meetings may well be shorter now.

I greatly appreciated Ken's advice and experience during my stint as VP then President, and I know the Institute will miss his input on event photography as well as Council, Freelance Division and Pension Fund matters. A journalist to his fingertips, we won't forget him, indeed I suspect that "What would Ken say?" could become our mantra at all future meetings.

**Janice Shillum Bhend**

Just when I thought this year couldn't get much worse the Institute lost two stalwarts within weeks of each other. It is no exaggeration to say that the impact will massive for the Institute, and me personally. I am lucky in various parts of my job, but one of the most striking is the friendships I have built through the years. And I considered both Ken and Norman as friends. The news of their passing so close to each other rocked me to a standstill, Norman's in particular due to the tragic nature of his accident and the personal support and guidance he showed me through my time as General Secretary and latterly Chief Executive.

Both were a bedrock of advice and direction through various trials and tribulations over the years, and were always ready to step forward with crucial support when needed most. Members will remember Norman, with five minute's notice, delivering the financial report at last year's AGM when the treasurer could not make the meeting. Another indication may be shown on these pages where you will read an obituary for Ken written by Norman immediately upon hearing that Ken had died. Not knowing, of course, that his own obituary would sadly follow on the very next page of the same Journal. Ken's work for the Institute spans more years than I have been alive!

Although very different men, they were similar in that they never needed, or desired, plaudits for the work they did on behalf of the CIoJ. Their commitment was equal in measure, and neither put himself ahead of the best interests of the organisation. These attributes were shared by so many Institute stalwarts who served over the years. The Chartered Institute of Journalists will miss them, and so shall I. Very much.

Dominic Cooper,
Chief Executive of The Chartered Institute of Journalists

# Norman Bartlett (1935-2020)

OBITUARY

Norman Bartlett, a key figure in the leadership of the Chartered Institute of Journalists for many years, died in hospital on November 13 as a result of complications following a cycling accident near his home in Chelmsford, Essex. Coming just a few weeks after the passing of another Institute stalwart, Ken Brookes, Norman's sudden death was a great blow to his colleagues on the CIoJ Council as well as, of course, to all of Norman's family and many friends, and his loss will be keenly felt as the Institute struggles to get back to 'normality' in 2021.

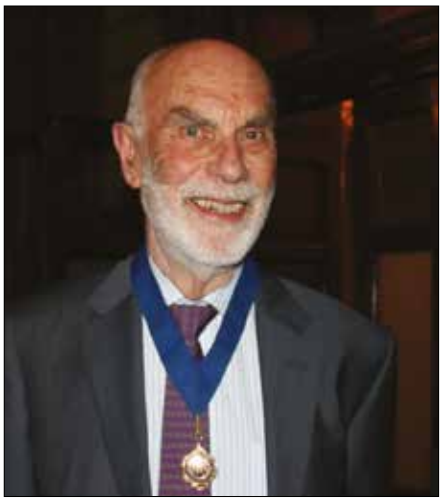
A long-serving Treasurer of the Institute (2003-2013), President from 2011-2013 and a hard-working member of Council for more than two decades, Norman played a vital role in recent years in the restructuring of the CIoJ's charities and the establishment of the new Welfare Fund. He resourcefully steered the painstaking changes through two annual general meetings, set up the bank accounts and drew up all the documentation for the Charity Commission which was accepted by the Commission earlier this year.

Norman Bartlett's career in journalism was on the technical side and he was a specialist writer on transport and aviation, with a global reputation as News Editor at *Bus World*. Prior to moving into full-time writing, he had served in the Royal Air Force and was employed in international marketing in the electronics and defence industries.

As my colleague, Immediate Past-President Janice Shillum Bhend said: "We will all miss Norman's common sense and deep knowledge of charitable matters so very much. He was always working for others, always so positive and active. He was always so full of 'get up and go'. His contributions have been invaluable in every way."

In recent times I have affectionately described Norman as our dependable and trusted Pericles. Whenever the Institute needed advice and wise counsel, Norman was always there to help, to solve problems, and to provide the important answers. A staunch member of the Institute from the 1990s onwards, a highly respected campaigner for professional journalism and journalists' rights, he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and best wishes go to his widow, Marie, and their family.

**Tim Crook**



## Constant support

Norman was someone I held in the very highest regard. I will always be grateful for the constant support he gave me while I was chairman of the Institute's Professional Practices Board. His strong but fair leadership while President was a hallmark both of his work and his personality, and he could always be relied on for a fair assessment of any situation. If there was a dispute, Norman was always the one to pour oil on troubled waters. He not only brought calmness, but reason and often a sensible solution to problems, with his own unique way of approaching things.

At Council or committee meetings, folk always opened up to his measured and well thought-out opinions, and, disagreements or not, everyone respected him for his wisdom and fairness. He also had an amazing talent of relating to everyone, regardless of age, status or beliefs. Possessed of a dry sense of humour and with a wicked twinkle in his eye, Norman approached life with a fearlessness many would envy.

He loved his buses and once refused a car ride from a meeting venue with me, so he could travel back on a bus he had spotted that he had not been on before. A man of great energy, he never seemed to age, either mentally or physically. Even if we had not been in touch most of the year, Norman would ring me without fail, on New Year's Day – it was his way of keeping in touch on a personal level - this year the phone will be strangely silent.

The list of things he did for the Institute was endless, but more than this, he was an inspiration to us all on a personal level, and will be sorely missed.

**Amanda Brodie**

# Walter Leaf (1922-2020)

Walter (Wally) Leaf, a longstanding member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, died in July.

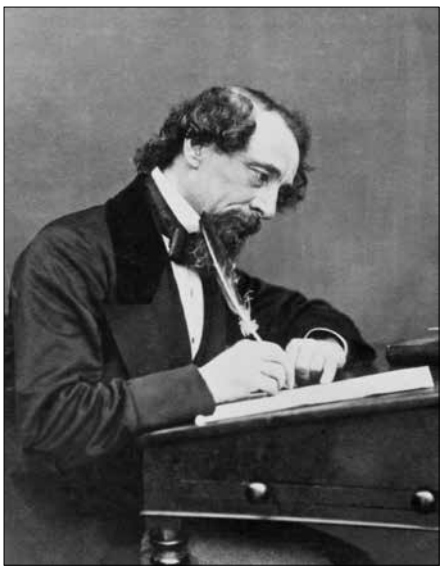
Born in East London – 'within the sound of Bow Bells' – he won a Scholarship to Coopers Foundation School and matriculated with first-class honours but WW2 prevented him from going on to further education. Instead he joined the RAF and trained to serve as a navigator in Coastal Command; he was subsequently assigned to duties in Canada (which was to be the British government's 'home in exile' should the Nazis have invaded and occupied Britain). After demobilisation he studied to become academically qualified as a Chartered Company Secretary, going on to work as Company Secretary at Watches of Switzerland. In the 1950s he turned to lecturing in response to appeals from the authorities for people with business experience to go into teaching. Wally lectured in English and Business Studies to mature students and became a senior lecturer at London University. He was also actively involved with the Workers Educational Association (WEA), the adult education charity which aims to give working-class and socially-disadvantaged mature students a 'hand up' in life and with their career prospects.

Wally Leaf was a prominent member of London's Jewish community. He was member of Board of Deputies of British Jews from 1967, edited the award-winning magazine of the Hendon Reform Synagogue, and became a regular contributor to the Jewish Chronicle, writing on travel and sports, among other topics. He was also a Vice-President of the Zionist Federation. A regular visitor to Israel and known to many politicians and senior civil servants in that country, he knew every Israeli Ambassador to the UK and was with Shlomo Argov shortly before his assassination, which affected him very deeply and made him more resolute in his advocacy for Israel. As a journalist he wrote extensively about the Middle East, and about politics, travel, and television. For some time he was in the PR department at Odhams Press and later worked for the *Sunday Times*. He also wrote poetry – for which he had a genuine talent – and he loved reading, especially devouring news and newspapers. He was a loyal member of the Freelance Division of the CIoJ for many years and often contributed to The Journal.

His devoted family, including wife Joella (nee Stein), were at his bedside when he expired.

**Patrick Emek**

# Celebrating and commemorating the life and works of Charles Dickens (1812-1870)



As well as being the author of fourteen complete novels, one unfinished novel, five Christmas Books – including the ever-popular and much adapted *A Christmas Carol* – and numerous other works of fiction, Charles Dickens was a prolific and accomplished journalist. Learning shorthand in his teens, he began his career as a parliamentary reporter and later edited and wrote for a series of publications, most famously the weekly journals *Household Words* and its successor *All the Year Round*, right up until his death in 1870.

The Dickens Fellowship was founded in London in 1902 and is a worldwide association of people interested in the life and works of Charles Dickens. It has strong, long-lasting and continuing associations with members of the Dickens family, many of whom have served as President of the Fellowship. Currently there are fifty-two branches worldwide, including twenty-four in the USA, fifteen in Great Britain, four in Canada, and three in Australia, as well as individual branches in New Zealand, Japan, Italy, Holland, France and Denmark.

Each year, one branch of the Dickens Fellowship organises and stages an annual conference where members from around the world meet, socialise, and celebrate Dickens. Recent conferences have been hosted by branches in Carrara (Italy), Sydney (Australia) and Eastbourne (UK).

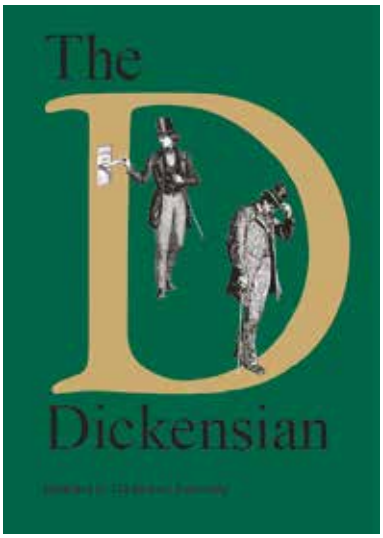
Branches also each organise their own annual programme, with a range of events and activities of interest to their members. The Central Fellowship, based in London, also organises an annual programme of events and activities, which typically include talks, a debate, and visits to places associated with Dickens. Members also celebrate the anniversary of Dickens's birthday on 7th February each year with a dinner in central London. The guest speaker and proposer of the toast in 2020 was Armando Ianucci, director of a recent film version of Dickens's David Copperfield.

Fellowship members also annually commemorate the anniversary of Dickens's death, on 9th June 1870, with a service and wreath-laying ceremony at his grave in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner. The wreath always features red geraniums as this flower is the official emblem of the Dickens Fellowship. The red geranium was Dickens's favourite flower and he often wore one in his buttonhole during his public readings. Two children from Gad's Hill School, which now occupies the house where Dickens died, at Higham in Kent, also lay a wreath at the Westminster Abbey service, and their wreath is made from flowers grown in the gardens of Gad's Hill.

The Dickens Fellowship publishes a journal, The Dickensian, which was founded in 1905 and has an unbroken record of publication since that time. It is currently published three times a year (in Spring, Summer and Autumn) and is well illustrated. Contents include main articles on aspects of Dickens's life, times and writings; reports of conferences and exhibitions; reviews of books pertinent to Dickens, and of stage, screen and radio performances of adaptations of his works; a report from the Charles Dickens Museum in London; and selective advertising. The Dickensian also acts as the journal of record for the Fellowship, providing an account of Fellowship events and activities around the world, and a record of obituaries.

The Dickensian's UK subscription rate is £19 p.a. for individuals and £29 p.a. for institutions. There is a reduced rate of £15 p.a. for Fellowship members, and individual subscriptions also include access to the on-line archive of all issues published since 1905.

In 1922 the Dickens Fellowship bought numbers 48 and 49 Doughty Street in the Bloomsbury area of London. Dickens had lived in number 48 between 1837 and 1839, during which time he finished one novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, and wrote two more: *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby* as well as editing the monthly magazine *Bentley's Miscellany*. After refurbishing and refurnishing them, the Fellowship opened the Doughty Street houses as The Charles Dickens Museum in 1925 and the Head Quarters of the Fellowship is still based there, although the Museum is now run by an independent Board of Directors, one of whom is a nominee of the Fellowship.




The Dickens Fellowship is still active in supporting the museum, helping them to purchase significant items for their collection and contributing to their appeal for funds during the Covid-19 lockdown crisis.

To find out more about the Dickens Fellowship, and how you can become a member, or to find out more about contacting or subscribing to The Dickensian, please visit our website http://www.dickensfellowship.org/ or follow us on Twitter @DickensFellowHQ.

### Dickens the Journalist

Charles Dickens was an accomplished journalist before he achieved success as a novelist, and even after finding fame he continued in journalism by taking on a number of editing roles, eventually becoming editor of a weekly publication, Household Words, in 1850. He edited this and its successor, All the Year Round, until his death in 1870. Dickens' many journalistic roles included:

**Freelance law reporter (1829-31)**

**Parliamentary reporter, The Mirror of Parliament (1831-32)**

**Reporter, True Sun (1832-34)**

**Reporter, The Morning Chronicle (1834-36)**

**Editor, Bentley's Miscellany (1837-39)**

**Founder and Editor, Master Humphrey's Clock (1840-41)**

**Editor, The Daily News (1846)**

**Co-founder and Editor, Household Words (1850-59)**

**Founder and Editor, All the Year Round (1859-70)**

# 21st Century Dickens

To mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the great writer Charles Dickens, the Journalists' Charity and the Dickens Fellowship linked up to run a competition to find a new Dickens character for the 21st century. The competition was used to raise awareness (and funds) for the Journalists' Charity which Dickens helped to establish in 1864.

The plea for written portraits of an all-new Dickensian character produced almost 300 submissions. Journalists' Charity trustee Charles Garside, with the aid of his son James, has performed and recorded 150 of the entries, and you can find them online at: https://journalistscharity.org.uk/dickens/

1. Mattie Merrywinkle by Annie White
2. Mr Pendledump by Tamara Roberts
3. Dizzy Doddle by Araf Chohan
4. She by Peter Hughes
5. He by William Cornthwaite
6. Julia by Jody Bradshaw
7. Mr Frank by Janice English
8. Birdy by Unknown Author
9. Fennel Green by Charlotte Corrigan
10. Aloysius Shard by Patrick Hogan
11. Roger Federer by Simon Carroll
12. Boris by Sheena Blackhall
13. Rishi Moneytree by John Knox
14. Jacob Rees Mogg by Brian Goldfarb
15. Mr Charles Spender by Vanessa Rea
16. Dr Blunt by Aimee Chan
17. Neil Sharington by Carrie-Anne Taylor
18. Nowhereman by Diana Lilford
19. The Admirable Major Vinton Hall by Mavis Ellis
20. Mr Holliworth by Patrick Ost
21. Mr Doosucre by Deborah Siddoway
22. Annabelle Sprogg by Kathryn Simmonds
23. Lil by Valerie Moyses
24. Davey Boy Plummer by Natasha Vidler
25. Ryan Goldenchild by Freya Eden-Ellis
26. Chris Whitty by Steve Mason
27. Belinda Hutchinson by Andrea Southwell
28. WTF Peters Esq. by Agnes Foy
29. Mrs Brullen's Ear by Christine Ewer
30. Mr Common Sense by David Holt
31. Lorna Tramples by Lisa Chudley
32. The Fly Tipper by John Carter
33. The worst of times by Sylvia Pereira
34. Mr Bumble by Eric Midwinter
35. Dombey and Burns by Steve Kimber
36. Kent by Mary Egan
37. Derek Asp by James Riding
38. Fake News by John Bronsdon
39. Lord Bercow of Snidebottom by Rob Hubble
40. Mrs Staymery by Cara Bills
41. World Leader by Richard Morris
42. Whitley by Michael Fleming
43. Sylvia Woodward by Laura Tapper
44. JW Marceau by Frederick O'Brien
45. Man with a painted mask by Diane Horn
46. Kyle by Christopher Swain
47. Daniel Twitcher, pop star demigod by Chris Owen
48. Skip Telfon by Chris Davies
49. Charlotte-Anne Mounteback by Julia Thorley
50. Mrs Bugloss by Patricia Lesley
51. Alexander Kerfuffle by Peter Herron
52. Bloncket Drabstone by Dennis Bruce
53. Justin Harmway by Aymeric Fromentin
54. Beatrice Ramsbottom by Sarah Treweeks
55. Atlas Dissect by Wilma Cairns
56. Gabriel Roy by Fiona Quinn
57. Franklin Swatteridge by Mark Burrows
58. Terry Crouch by Diane Silva
59. Barbara Copeland by David Whewell
60. The Postman by Linda Allen
61. Marjorie Butterworth by Maxine Burton
62. Jonah Bombast by Deborah Rhodes
63. Desmond Goodbody by William MacKenzie
64. Daisy-Lou Belle by Valerie Reilly
65. Jed Thorogood by Pauline Short
66. Technology Teacher by Lucinda Craker
67. The Aerialist by Ramy J Salameh
68. Phineas Glebethrostle by Mark Bryant
69. Harry Harbottle by Nick Fletcher
70. The Martin Twins by Efrosyni Hobbs
71. We'll meet again by Judy Chapman
72. Mr Tinks by Sue Dobson
73. Sam Speedwell by Denise Lawrence
74. Miss Marigold Price by Peter Sergison
75. Miss Brown by Imogen Grubin
76. Professor Whitty by Roy Jamieson
77. George Smith by Sandra McKay
78. Mary by Marie Day
79. Miss Nigella by Janine Beacham
80. Royston Alexander Mail by David Matthews
81. Miss Thunder by Jed Sheerin
82. Peregrine Primrose by Diane Manning
83. Qwerty Ken by Cullen Warnock
84. Constance by Lyn Walsh
85. Annie Crawford by Jodie Portugal
86. Lionel Grosser by Gerald Vinestock
87. Tom by Ellie Welbourn
88. Arthur Winter by Luna Barnard
89. Trevor by Ciaran O'Brien
90. Frederick Arthur Fleetfoot by Barbara Parsons
91. BoJo by Jack Lamb
92. Peter Gill by Carolyn Crompton
93. Mrs Digby by Helen Reed
94. Kylie by Helen Steventon
95. Auntie Betty by Ellen Clavier
96. Billy Revel by Carol Fletcher
97. Michael O'Graball by Alan Castree
98. Duggie Tover by Linda Penter
99. Toper by Fraser Massey
100. Papa P by Jacqueline King
101. Jemina Jones by Gill King
102. Miss Molly Pinch by Sarah Warnock
103. Kimberley Bigginsbottom by Karen Riva-Palicio
104. Daniel Dabbler by Natasha Anne Kelleher
105. Cake Heaven by Barbara Trigg
106. The Dickensian by Alan Ford
107. Charity Bravinder by Leila Wilcox
108. Kat by Sandra Clayton
109. Augustus Flint by Melanie Doherty
110. Mr Barnard by Greg Hall
111. Jim Bedlamson by Madalina Serban
112. Priscilla Godmersham OBE by Rachael Revesz
113. Zeke by Graham Day
114. Sam Geekinson by Alina Lazar
115. Mr A Perkins by Amy Yallop
116. The Politician by Sona Popat
117. Janus Trueblood by Iris Newton
118. Caspar Cruft by Catherine Parker
119. Antiboz by Colin Wood
120. The Fitness Instructor by Moira Ashley
121. Polly by Richard Clarke
122. Mrs. Shrewditch by Rufaro Chikwanda
123. Mrs Blunden by Jane Fahy
124. Sebastian Bark by Colin Chattenton
125. April Whiskey by Bryan Rhône
126. Ms Doppelt by Rachel Cunningham
127. D by Alice Dunn
128. Mr Comego by Nancy Rae
129. Miss Benson by Angela Wren
130. Diminuby Butterstride by Daisy Dunn
131. Andy Appgood by Stuart Fortey
132. William Connolly Jr. by Edith Robson
133, Daisy Lou Somerville by Karen Bucknall
134. Gerald by Jenny Goodwin
135. Rainbow Boy by Jan Hughes
136. Velma by Sylvie Lewis
137. Julian Murchison by Katharine Shearing
138. Selwyn Slimber by Jean Salkilld
139. Tommy Taverner by Christina Westwood
140. Miss Smallbone by Jen Dalmaine
141. Miss Sox by Susan Wickham
142. Indigo Jones by Oda Lisa
143. Miss Julie by Benita Cullingford.
144. Our Chessie by Ginette Barber.
145. Mr Speaker by Sue Krisman
146. Martha Penny by Tesni Penney
147. Barzilla Gabbage by Anne Lawson
148. Belinda Goshawk by Helena Young
149. Miss Greer McGregor by Kirsty Mceachran
150. The Hospital porter by Liz Hannam

At an online presentation ceremony during the summer lockdown, Dickens Fellowship President, Ian Dickens, announced that the winner of the competition: David Whewell, with his character Barbara Copeland – 'the B of the Q' at a famous DIY store! The winner was awarded an original drawing of 'Barbara' by veteran Fleet Street cartoonist Stanley McMurtry MBE – better known as 'MAC' – a certificate, and two tickets for a guided tour of the Dickens Museum in London. Four runners up each received two tickets to visit the Dickens Museum.

# A Tale of Two Presidents

**By Tim Crook**

This is the story of a mysterious glass plate negative photograph, undated, of President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) at a dinner hosted by journalists in London, that languished in the archives of the George Bain news agency at the US Library of Congress with no other identification (pictured right).

We can now reveal that this was 'a midnight supper' hosted by the President of the Institute of Journalists in the banqueting room at Stationers' Hall in the City of London in June 1910. Most of the country's national and provincial newspaper editors were there along with all of the London correspondents of the American press, and those journalists accompanying Roosevelt on his world tour.

The Institute President at the time was the newspaper proprietor Harry Levy-Lawson (1862-1933) who was also Liberal MP for Mile End. Levy-Lawson is seated in the middle and can be seen wearing the Institute's original gold Presidential medal, which was first struck in 1906.

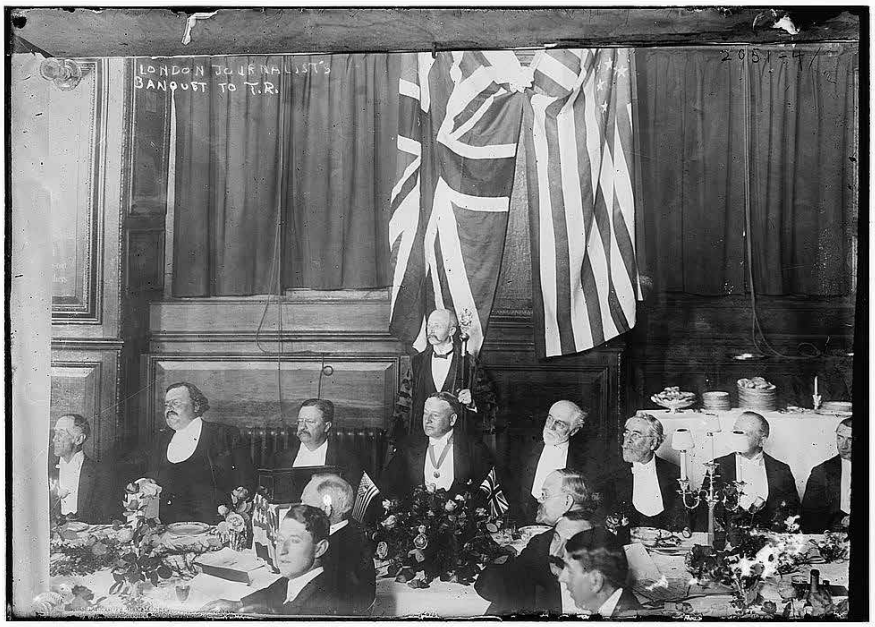
Theodore Roosevelt had just finished two terms as US President and had arrived in London after travelling across Africa and Europe. He is sitting to the right of Harry Levy-Lawson with the US ambassador Whitelaw Reid on Lawson's left.

This was another time and age, when the President of our Institute lived in a mansion – Hall Barn in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, owned, we hasten to add, by Levy-Lawson and not the Institute!

He saw active service in the Great War, was mentioned in despatches and in 1916, on the death of his father, succeeded to the title 1st Viscount Burnham and took his seat in the House of Lords. He also succeeded his father in the management and ownership of the *Daily Telegraph*.



*Institute President Alfred George Gardiner. Image: Imperial War Museum. Public Domain.*




*Institute President Harry Levy-Lawson with US President Theodore Roosevelt to his right at Stationers' Hall midnight supper, June 1910. Image: George Bain agency archive, US Library of Congress. Public Domain*

It might be apparent that there is an absence of representation of women in these archive photographs. This was indeed a time when women were still campaigning for representation and equal rights, including the right to vote.

## Teddy Bear

Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt (US President 1901-09) was one of the most important and influential world leaders of his age. Vice-President to William McKinley, he was catapulted to the Presidency in 1901 when McKinley was assassinated. Roosevelt won his own mandate at the election in 1904 and served until 1909.

He is reputed to have been the inspiration for the 'Teddy Bear', due to his decision to spare a wonderful brown bear that had appeared before one of his hunting parties in the American wilderness.

Roosevelt would experience an assassination attempt himself, two years after attending the Institute of Journalists' dinner in London. He was campaigning in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was shot in the chest by saloonkeeper John Flammang Schrank. He carried on speaking when he judged that the bullet had not penetrated his lung. It would remain there for the rest of his life.

The Institute's dinner was reported in the *Daily News*, edited by Alfred George Gardiner (1865-1946) who later became famous as the columnist 'Alpha of the Plough'. Gardiner served two terms as President of our Institute and used the Reform Club in Pall Mall as his 'writing office'.

At the time the *Daily News* eclipsed the *Manchester Guardian*, which was only a provincial morning paper, and had the notoriety of having supported the Confederate cause during the American Civil War.

The *Daily News* report of the event stated: "In proposing the health of Mr Roosevelt, the Chairman said they could say of their guest that he was a man who said what he believed to be true and was afraid of nobody. His destiny was to be a perpetual tonic." In reply, Roosevelt said "he had thoroughly enjoyed his stay in England. To judge by some of the comments he had received there were people who had not shared his enjoyment (Laughter)."

There were cheers when he added that it was "a pleasant thing to know that the relations between the United States and Great Britain were so much better, and he ought to point out that they had steadily improved almost in proportion as the United States had grown stronger and less sensitive to what was said of it from outside."

As a Republican President, Theodore Roosevelt had always cultivated respectful and friendly relations with journalists and the media. His main message was the importance of peace in the world: "He thought that in modern life there was a tendency, hitherto unknown in the world, for a power, as it grew more strong, to also grow more careful of the rights of others, or at least more reluctant to infringe unwarrantably on the rights of others."

**Tim Crook is the President of the Chartered Institute of Journalists**

# Remember Artemus Jones

**By John P. Lethbridge**

Thomas Jones was born on 18 February 1871 in Denbigh, North Wales, the youngest of Thomas and Jane Jones's six sons. Thomas Jones senior a master stonemason worked in the local quarries. Thomas Jones junior studied at the local state school and took the name Thomas Artemus Jones to distinguish him from the many other local boys with this name including three born in the same registration district, year, and quarter that he was.

Thomas Artemus Jones left school in 1885 aged fourteen and became a shop assistant at W. H. Smith's at Denbigh Railway Station. In 1886 he joined the *Denbighshire Free Press* as a reporter reporting on the Denbigh Tithe War. He later worked for the *Hereford Journal*, the *Norfolk Chronicle*, the *Manchester Sunday Chronicle*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Daily News*. He freelanced for other papers including *Reynolds News* and the *Daily Mail* and wrote stories and articles for Welsh journals. In 1891 he lived in Leominster and in 1901 in London.

Artemus Jones belonged to both the Institute of Journalists and the London Press Club. The Press Club was then purely a dining and drinking club. He wanted to set it up on a regular basis and insist that its members pay their subscriptions – but another member, Charles Alexander Dawburn, who worked for the *Manchester Sunday Chronicle*, wanted to keep the Press Club as it was. These two journalists, Dawburn and Artemus Jones, were soon to find their names linked in another way.

In 1901 Thomas Artemus Jones was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists and passed his bar exams, becoming a barrister on the North Wales Circuit. Early in his career he featured in several notable cases.

## Jones v Hulton

On July 12, 1908 the *Manchester Sunday Chronicle* published the following passage in a description of the 1908 Dieppe Grand Prix by its Paris correspondent, none other than Charles Alexander Dawbarn:

"What there is Artemus Jones with a woman who is not his wife who must be you know –the other thing whispers a fair neighbour of mine, excitedly into her bosom friend's ear. Really it is surprising how certain of our countrymen behave when they come abroad! Who would suppose by his goings on that he was a churchwarden at Peckham! No one indeed would assume that Jones in the atmosphere of London could take on so austere a job as the duties of a churchwarden. Here in the atmosphere of Dieppe on the French side of the channel he is the life and soul of a gay little band that haunts the casino and turns night into day besides betraying a most unholy delight in the company of female butterflies."

Artemus Jones did not sue Dawbarn, who was not rich enough to make it worthwhile. Instead he sued E. Hulton & Co. who published the *Manchester Sunday Chronicle*. The case was heard at Manchester Assizes on 23 November 1908. The judge was Sir Arthur Moseley Channell; the prosecution counsel Gordon Hewart a former journalist who was a friend of Artemus Jones; and the defence counsel Adolph Max Langdon KC (King's Counsel) and Edward Acton.

The defendants claimed never to have heard of Artemus Jones and that using his name was a coincidence – but he won his case nonetheless, and was awarded £1,750, equivalent to about £300,000 today. The defendants appealed to the Court of Appeal, which upheld the verdict by a two to one majority. The case then went to the House of Lords which also upheld the verdict.

## Casement Trial

Artemus Jones tried and failed to be selected as the Liberal parliamentary candidate for Merioneth in 1909 and Denbigh Boroughs in 1910. However, he was chosen as the Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate for Merthyr Tydfil in 1913 but war broke out the following year and the next general election had to wait until 1918.

The most famous trial in which Artemus Jones was involved was the 1916 treason trial of Sir Roger David Casement, who had tried to recruit Irish POWs in Germany to join an Irish Brigade to fight for Germany; and was then landed in Ireland by a U-Boat. It was planned for another U-Boat rendezvous with the one carrying Casement and land a cargo of arms for Irish republicans. The other U-Boat did not reach its rendezvous because of a navigational error and Casement claimed that he only joined the plot because he had hoped to persuade Sinn Fein to call off any uprising until after the war.

Casement's defence counsel were Alexander Martin Sullivan KC, an Irish Nationalist, John Hartman Morgan, and Artemus Jones. Sullivan's health broke down during the trial and Artemus Jones took over the defence, fighting hard for his client, but the outcome was inevitable. Sir Roger Casement was convicted of treason on June 29, 1916, and was hanged August 3.

When the Liberals split, Artemus Jones supported Asquith, not Lloyd George, making him unacceptable to the Merthyr Tydfil Liberals at the 1918 general election. Most Welsh Liberals idolised Lloyd George. In 1919 Artemus Jones was made a KC. At the 1922 general election the Liberals were still split and he failed to be selected as the Liberal parliamentary candidate for Gower, near Swansea, instead standing at Macclesfield, Cheshire. He failed to win the seat. By the 1923 general election the Liberals had reunited and he stood for Swansea East but lost. He stood for Keighley, Yorkshire, at the 1924 general election but lost again.

In 1927, aged 56, Thomas Artemus Jones married a trainee barrister Mildred Mary David, who was 39. She qualified as a barrister in 1931 but did not practise although she was a magistrate for many years and was active in public life. The marriage was childless.

In 1929 Artemus Jones was appointed head of the Mexican Claims Commission which investigated claims by British citizens for losses incurred in Mexico's civil wars. In 1930 he was appointed County Court Judge for North Wales and in 1931 he was knighted. He campaigned for improved status for the Welsh language. After he was appointed a judge he announced that he was willing to hear evidence in Welsh despite this being illegal under the 1536 Anglo-Welsh Act of Union passed in Henry VIII's reign.

## Welsh language

Artemus Jones helped lead the campaign that got the 1942 Welsh Courts Act passed. This allowed the Welsh language to be used in Welsh courts. He retired as a judge in 1942 and died on 15 October 1943 aged 72. He is buried in Bangor Cemetery in North Wales. His widow Lady Mildred Mary Artemus Jones died in 1980 aged 92.

"Remember Artemus Jones" became watchwords to journalists, authors, playwrights and TV producers. It is because of Jones v Hulton that novels contain disclaimers that their characters are fictional. Charles Alexander Dawbarn would have been well aware of Artemus Jones from the Press Club, and in any case weekly papers such as the *Manchester Sunday Chronicle* employ far fewer journalists than dailies and it would have been impossible for them not to have known one another.

## 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.

# Taking up the baton of racial justice

In the first in a series of articles on significant black and ethnic minority journalists who have made an important contribution to the history of journalism, William Mulder looks at the life of Rudolph Dunbar, who was both a pioneering musician and campaigning journalist, who covered the liberation of Europe with a conductor's baton in his knapsack.



*Rudolph Dunbar in Berlin, Germany in 1945. Image: Picture Post.*

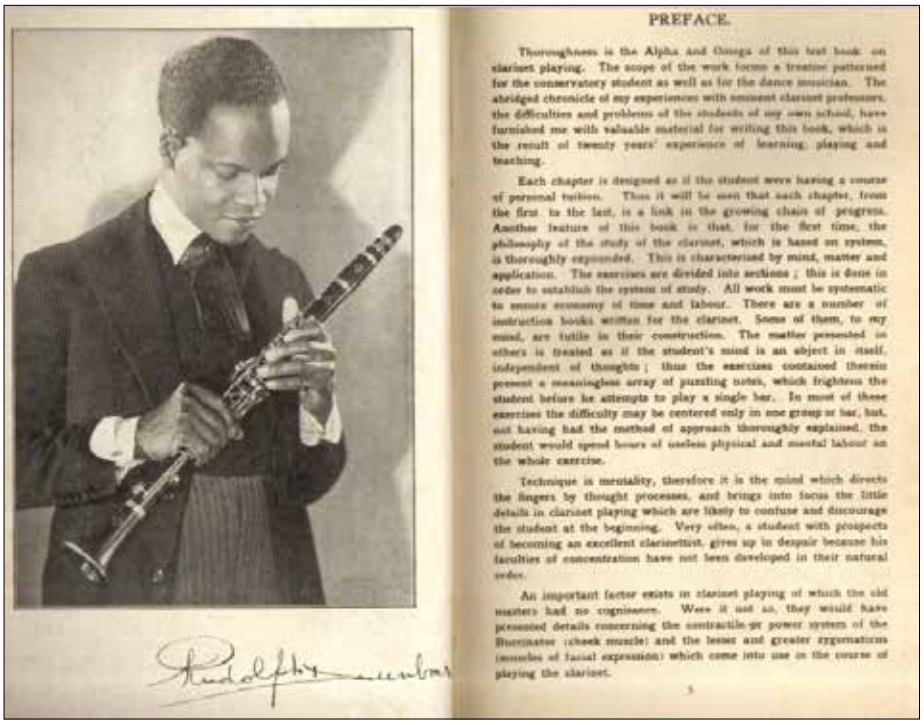
Rudolph Dunbar (1907-1988) was a musical genius, a brilliant journalist and indefatigable campaigner for racial justice, but in the post-war period he was discriminated against and excluded from the riches of success he so greatly deserved.

Featured and celebrated for his appearances as a conductor and musician on BBC Radio during the 1930s, Dunbar challenged the colour bar that applied to American servicemen in London by questioning General Eisenhower at a press conference in London.

He persuaded the wartime Minister of Information Brendan Bracken to write an article for the *Sunday Express*, which appeared on September 20, 1942, in which he declared that the "Colour Bar Must Go" for all black people in Britain.

Bracken credited Rudolph Dunbar for inspiring and requesting his intervention: "There is, of course, no legal Colour Bar in this country. Mr Dunbar has himself pointed out that most coloured people in Britain come from the British Colonies. They are, therefore, British citizens with, in theory, the same rights as any Englishman. It is deplorable that he should have to write "in theory", but it is in fact true that there is still some colour prejudice in this country and still social barriers against coloured people."

Bracken agreed with Dunbar to "End it quickly", concluding his article: "The prejudiced must be taught by precept and example to overcome their prejudices' and 'the sooner the better."



PREFACE.

Thoroughness is the Alpha and Omega of this text book on clarinet playing. The scope of the work forms a treatise patterned for the conservatory student as well as for the dance musician. The abridged chronicle of my experiences with eminent clarinet professors, the difficulties and problems of the students of my own school, have furnished me with valuable material for writing this book, which is the result of twenty years' experience of learning, playing and teaching.

Each chapter is designed as if the student were having a course of personal tuition. Thus it will be seen that each chapter, from the first to the last, is a link in the growing chain of progress. Another feature of this book is that, for the first time, the philosophy of the study of the clarinet, which is based on system, is thoroughly expounded. This is characterised by mind, matter and application. The exercises are divided into sections; this is done in order to establish the system of study. All work must be systematic to ensure economy of time and labour. There are a number of instruction books written for the clarinet. Some of them, to my mind, are futile in their construction. The matter presented in others is treated as if the student's mind is an object in itself, independent of thoughts; thus the exercises contained therein present a meaningless array of puzzling notes, which frightens the student before he attempts to play a single bar. In most of these exercises the difficulty may be centered only in one group or bar, but, not having had the method of approach thoroughly explained, the student would spend hours of useless physical and mental labour on the whole exercise.

Technique is mentality, therefore it is the mind which directs the fingers by thought processes, and brings into focus the little details in clarinet playing which are likely to confuse and discourage the student at the beginning. Very often, a student with prospects of becoming an excellent clarinettist, gives up in despair because his faculties of concentration have not been developed in their natural order.

An important factor exists in clarinet playing of which the old masters had no cognisance. Were it not so, they would have presented details concerning the contractile or power system of the Buccinator (cheek muscle) and the lesser and greater zygomaticus (muscles of facial expression) which come into use in the course of playing the clarinet.

5

*Dunbar in his book on the clarinet published in 1939.*

## Highly influential

Dunbar was highly influential because he was the London editor for a reporting agency representing more than 200 United States black newspapers. He was already famous by 1942 for his triumph at the Royal Albert Hall conducting the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

His *Guardian* obituary in 1988 explained he was part of a "small, pre-war group of blacks who pursued international careers of distinction with London as their base." Dunbar "had the aspiration and talent to place him in a trio with Paul Robeson and C.L.R. James; like them, he had a multiple career combining music, journalism (as a war correspondent) and campaigning against racism."

C.L.R. James offered this tribute on his death: "Dunbar was a striking example of his musical period. He was first of all a master of popular music- jazz- but he always insisted, and to me in particular, of the importance of classical music. His distinguished work must be seen in relation to the strong prejudice against coloured classical artists."

Leaving British Guiana (present-day Guyana) at the age of 20, he settled in Britain in 1931, studied in New York, worked in many parts of Europe and eventually lived out most of his life in London.

Dunbar was the first black man to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic in 1945 and the first black man to conduct orchestras in Poland (1959) and Russia (1964).

During the 1930s and 40s he was a leading journalist working as a music critic for *Melody Maker*, writing for the BBC's *The Listener*, and a foreign and war correspondent for the news agency representing African-American newspapers. In this latter role he covered the D-Day landings and the liberation of Paris.

*Continued on page 24*

# 1920 – 2020: Looking back on 100 years of journalism

**By Navin Kukadia**

This article looks back over the last 100 years of journalism; showing how science and technology have shaped and changed journalism and the press. It also highlights the milestones on how the media have shaped the world by reporting news and stories from around the globe.

Back in the 1920s, the world's leading super-powers included the British Empire, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the French Commonwealth. The Twenties became known as the 'Golden Age' largely because of economic growth following the First World War. The emergence of Jazz Age culture in the United States contributed to an era when social, artistic, literature cultures were progressing dynamically. Despite the end of the Great War of 1914-18, a global news story of unprecedented proportions, national and world events meant there were many opportunities for journalists and the press to report urgent and significant news.

The news industry in that period was dynamic, expanding and evolving around the world. Reporters would be dispatched to bring back stories relating to conflicts such as the civil wars, major political changes, and regional conflicts from around the world. At the same time journalists were operating locally and regionally by reporting incidents, events and extraordinary stories on their own patch. In those days the press reporting technology was limited to taking notes on paper pads, usually using the skill of shorthand. More fortunate news operations were able to employ photographers with cameras who could capture significant news events on photographic plate and later film.

Over the first 40 years of the twentieth century most of the news came to its audience by printed press, radio and cinema news reel. It could be argued that the infrastructure of production meant there was time to process news stories with established systems of rigorous editorial, grammar and structure checks before publication in print and by broadcasting. At this time news was very much of an exciting innovation in the expansion of print and radio media. The narrative had a captive audience.

This was the time breaking news stories evolved from stop press items on the back page of newspaper last editions to live radio transmission, photographs transmitted by telegraphic radio waves, and news reel film in the cinema 'news theatres'. Again it can be argued that reporters and newspapers were able to take care and responsibility for their stories and the scrutiny on detail was high. Reports consisted of what they saw, observed and who they interviewed. Those reading the news relied on reporters being balanced, impartial and honest with what they witnessed.

During the 1920s and 30s, technology such as radio, camera and film helped journalism bring moving stories and photos to the people.

One hundred years later, in 2020, technology is once again shaping and transforming the press and journalism industry. I believe the acceleration in change is very similar and has been equally transformative. The single biggest impact has been the Internet that has utterly changed the dynamics of journalism.

## Global media

We are now in a period where mega global news outlets are beaming down from their channels multiple news stories and this is mixed with the output of national news channels, independent publishers, individual freelance publishers with their own platforms, and the 'citizen journalist' communicating in what has become known as 'social media'. The Internet and digital media have transformed and re-shaped the press and what was previously understood as journalism into some vast portal of information.

New stories are now rapidly and continually fired into public media space. The speed and scale have been breath-taking. It would have been regarded as science fiction 100 years ago. It would have been to many unimaginable.

In 2020, production and transmission allows very little time for editorial scrutiny of content, grammar, structure, ethics, or quality. Story images, both still and moving, are instantly uploaded from mobile smart-phone cameras and edited on what are really mini production studios with almost instantaneous publication to the World Wide Web.

In the 2020 news media room of today, it seems mainstream journalists are all conscious and struggling to keep up with the speed of news information and the competition from the online citizen journalist. News events in terms of the technology of capture are no longer dependent on the presence of the professional reporter, photographer, radio reporter or film news reel camera-person, and television reporting crew. Anybody with a smartphone has become more than just a witness. They have become part of the near instant producing news media sphere.

At the same time reporters are looking to capture more in-depth stories and incidents by going right into the heart of the matter sometimes regardless of risk and of their own safety. This is perhaps very much the case in instances when the reporter is more daring to capture a particular point of view for exclusivity.

Today, in the Information Age, news and journalism have become much more mobile through televisual practice and the context of the Internet. The Internet has also enabled the power of choice and selectivity to now belong with the reader. In 2020, the decline in the selection of printed news stories by readers is now self-evident. They have shifted their choice by seeking news from digital social media platforms.

One of the major challenges today for journalism is how best to react to technologies such as artificial intelligence that could one day produce automated news commentaries from videos and photos. The possible impact of facial recognition that can generate and develop news stories about people in public spaces is another technological development that could become part of news gathering and content creation. The need for maintaining balanced, respected and impartial journalism is all the more acute in the face of these potential changes.

The graphic below highlights how printed and traditional news formats appear to be declining with the Internet taking over through websites and social media.




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*Continued from 23*

## Journalism Risk Management: The Future

Journalism and 'the press' as we have known it, in political, public and conflict zones have come under much greater scrutiny and are at greater risk of attack. There is always an element of risk in the world of journalism. Depending on the area, the risk level can be low or high with consequences. Over the last hundred years, risks have always been present in front line journalism. I would argue that today, professional journalism should take preventative and mitigating actions against risks and consequences.

Below is a graphic that charts zones of risk and consequence. They are very much dependent on the areas covered by the reporter.




What emerges from the analysis is a need to take preventative and evasive actions. Risk assessment, personal protective equipment and visibility are paramount. In high risk zones, the chances of consequential incident remain high when there is great uncertainty. The contingency of the unknown is always troubling. My concluding graphic (right) symbolises the need to separate fake news from professional and transparent mainstream media. It is vital to differentiate competition from all sides.




What we have learned over the last 100 years of journalism is that technology has been a significant game changer. Now mobile apps bring us the news and stories which shape opinion and understanding almost instantaneously compared with the news gathering and production time cycles of the past.

The key risk facing journalists today is that the need to be first and exclusive for the moment in the new techno-media-sphere can compromise standards. It can diminish qualitative levels of ethical and professional performance. What has differentiated the journalism from 1920s and that of 2020s is the lowering of content, balance and editorial scrutiny to a fast-paced echo-chamber of digital sound, online multimedia, and digital video and imagery.

Format and style have been transformed to embrace new technologies. The very nature of news content is so different. And there is so much more freedom to corrupt news values with biased, unbalanced, and non-fact-checked material. The heat of the story of the moment is so much more intense and the global digital sphere means it cannot be forgotten and hidden in traditional archives of bound volumes of old newspapers and metal cans of old film and audio-tape.

Perhaps now the individual reader is no longer a passive unresponsive consumer of print, radio sound and merely watching film projected onto a cinema screen or presented by television cathode tube. The reader is so much more selective.

The reader is now so much more. The reader edits and publishes as well.

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*Continued from 22*

He is credited with the heroism of saving the US 969th Battalion during the Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944, when, after he lost his way near Marchin, civilians warned him of a waiting ambush of German tanks down the road where the 969th was headed.

In 1939 he wrote a Treatise on learning the clarinet and bridged the classical and jazz traditions with a modernist and progressive approach in his playing, teaching and composition. The book was reprinted in multiple editions throughout the 1940s.

At the head of this article is a remarkable photograph of Dunbar in September 1945 taking the baton in front of the Berlin Philharmonic. This was seen as a symbol by the Allied Armies of the defeat of genocidal racism because the talent and dignity of a black classical conductor of music was directing the orchestra of what had previously been the capital of Nazi Germany.

## Tragedy

It is a tragedy that the *Guardian* should observe in its obituary that he became "a case history of the prejudice meted out to others he had campaigned against" and all his energies were channelled into "the political fight against racism."

A BBC Two documentary broadcast in 1989 argued that he died "a bitter and impoverished man." In his unfinished autobiography titled 'Triumph and Tragedy' he claimed that there were powerful elements within the musical establishment working against him.

A Radio Four documentary first broadcast in 2007 argued that he died in obscurity in Britain, "convinced that the BBC in particular had barred his way to greater things."

The Chartered Institute of Journalist believes Rudolph Dunbar deserves renewed and elevated commemoration for his achievements.

There is every reason to appreciate his anger and resistance and to give him credit for the integrity and endurance of his fight against racism that benefited so many people during the Second World War and the future generations of Black people in Britain afterwards.



The Guardian ended its obituary 32 years ago with the observation: "Dunbar's life seems to be the stuff movies are made of: perhaps one will be of his."

We would certainly endorse and give power to this sentiment now.

**William Mulder**

BOOKSHELF

# The War Against the BBC

By Patrick Barwise and Peter York

Published by Penguin, 503 pages, paperback £10.99




Sir Allen Lane and his brothers developed Penguin in 1935 to produce intelligent books that could be bought at railway stations for the price of a packet of cigarettes and so portable they could drop out of vending machines. The iconic paperback imprint has continued the tradition of publishing 'specials' that run arguments for their time. *The War Against the BBC* by Patrick Barwise and Peter York is a rage and warning for 2020 going into 2021 – though at just over 500 pages you might struggle to slip it into your coat pocket and finish reading it on an inter-city trip from London to Edinburgh.

The notes begin at page 349 and there are more of them than quite a few PhD theses I've had to examine. I can't remember when I last bought a packet of cigarettes so at £10.99, I don't know if the price is in keeping with Sir Allen's aspiration for good value at the bookstand.

Penguins were supposed to be fictional entertainments. Barwise and York's well-intentioned polemic is perhaps more in keeping with Sir Allen's later innovation of the Pelican paperback in 1937 – books to enlighten. In any event, publishing in the 21st century comes with a lesser-priced e-book and even an audio download version read by actor Neil Gardner.

The multimedia age of multiple forms and platforms is a reminder of the crisis and perfect storm the BBC finds itself in. Indeed, the title's strapline, "How an unprecedented combination of hostile forces is destroying Britain's greatest cultural institution… And why you should care" is a very good clue to the book's angle and attitude.

## Forensic

At the core of this project is important research and forensic deconstruction of the varied forces chipping and gnawing away at the BBC's reputation, popularity and stability. These include a certain section of the press and a number of right-wing think-tanks.

Barwise and York provide a considerable amount of evidence about the BBC's worth, importance and financial value in respect of what the annual licence fee brings to each payer. There is detail throughout that provides powerful cultural and political justification for its continued funding. Most of the chapters offer a substantial social and economic portfolio of the values and advantages generated by BBC information, education, and entertainment.

Professional journalism in the United Kingdom needs an enduring BBC, and reversal of some of the decline in income and staffing of recent years.

The book's authors make the very good argument that the compromise on paying the licence for everyone over 75 and taking on the funding of the BBC World Service should not have happened. Governments are in the habit of arm-twisting the BBC to divert licence-fee funding to actually subsidise what they are failing or unwilling to do themselves.

The local news partnership of funding 'local democracy reporters' covering local and regional councils is really not something the BBC should be paying for. If the BBC really had these millions to spare, would they not be better spent on district reporters on the ground originating and channelling views, voices and stories into their mainstream news coverage?

The licence fee should increase with inflation like everything else so that the BBC does not shrink and shrivel.

The main purpose of this book seems to have been to counter nine 'BBC myths':

- Lots of people don't use the BBC but are still forced to pay the licence fee or go to prison
- It's bloated, wasteful and inefficient
- It's the best funded public broadcaster in the world
- It does things that should be left to the market
- In 2015, it agreed to fund free TV licences for all over-seventy-fives
- If it didn't over-pay its senior managers and star presenters, it could pay much or most of the cost of free TV licences for all over-75s

Curiously, the authors divide the above as 'pretty much complete myths' with three more that are 'widely held' but 'mostly mythical though inherently more subjective:'

- BBC news and current affairs coverage is systematically left-wing
- It's anti-Brexit
- People no longer trust it

Is *The War Against The BBC* sufficiently convincing? This reviewer would say it wins the debate when presented to the milieu that the authors hail from. And that could be its weakness.

Yes, the fact that NHK in Japan and ARD in Germany are better funded public service broadcasters is important. But it would have been more interesting to know if NHK and ARD have had or are having any of the problems and attacks blighting the UK's PSB.

## Aggressive

What is the method of funding in those countries? Do they have an aggressive BBC licence collection fee style system of mail threats and criminal prosecution? Do they pay their presenters, managers and editors more than their presidents or prime ministers?

There is a tone throughout the text that has the feel of Hacked Off, Media Standards Trust, IMPRESS, Leveson Inquiry cheer-leading, and anti-Brexit and anti-Conservative Party resonance.

Barwise and York decided to characterise across pages 91 to 92 a research study about BBC Radio 5 Live's public service commitment by Kent University's Centre for Journalism as an assault on the BBC because it was funded by News UK which is Rupert Murdoch's 'New Front' in its war with BBC Radio.

Using quotations from *Private Eye* magazine they described Professor Tim Luckhurst, who led the study, as "a self-styled leading expert on broadcasting" despite having "published nothing authoritative on it" and that the report made "bold claims" though "as far as we know, the research was published as a short report, rather than a peer-reviewed paper."

While being particularly ungenerous about a former award-winning BBC editor and journalist, former editor of *The Scotsman*, author of the book *This is Today: A Biography of the Today Programme* (2001), author of many peer-reviewed articles in academic journals, and currently Head of the new South College, and Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor at Durham University, Barwise and York did not seem to understand the point of an academic study into the serious news and current affairs content of a BBC national radio channel; particularly when it appeared to fall short of its commitment by a factor of 30 per cent.

Luckhurst and his colleagues at Kent University were doing their best to hold the BBC to account. What they did was in the public interest.

In these circumstances a report rather than a peer-reviewed article in a hallowed academic journal is often regarded the appropriate form of publication and dissemination. It is not as if the BBC, Ofcom and other media corporations do not fund academic research projects. Associated Newspapers funded an important Oxford Reuters Institute study and report into the comparative costs of defending defamation actions.

## Diligent research

Elsewhere, the authors have appeared to research diligently, professionally, and have a great cause. But I wonder if they

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are preaching to the converted and have decided that BBC-sceptics are a lost cause.

They do cover the BBC's own-goals and 'own worst enemy' syndrome, encapsulated in a rather affectionately titled chapter "To Err is Human" – but I think the challenge is properly understanding why the BBC has so many enemies, or many more enemies than they had before. Is it really all down to the machinations of commercial rivals and right-wing think tanks?

The writing and publication predate the recent scandal surrounding Earl Spencer's allegations about Martin Bashir and the fake bank statements used to gain access to Diana, Princess of Wales, and that notorious Panorama interview of 1996. Of course, the BBC's 'enemies' have had a field day, but there are so many aspects to this furore that leave the BBC's most loyal supporters with a sense of disappointment and despair.

As Barwise and York do like to quote and reference George Orwell, like the author of *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, it can be said they run a very good argument. It is certainly well worth reading. You may well be conservative (with a small 'c' and a big 'C'), a Brexit supporter no less, a happy and contented reader of the *Daily Mail*, *Times*, *Sunday Times*, *Sun*, *Telegraph* and *Express*, and at the same time truly love the BBC and want it to thrive in the British national interest. That really should not be a contradiction in terms.

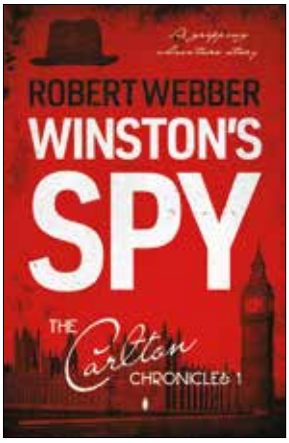
You will find ample evidence and arguments in *The War Against The BBC* to inform your position and help save "our most important cultural institution, our best-value entertainment provider, and the global face of Britain."

**Tim Crook**

## Winston's Spy

by Robert Webber

Published by Troubador, 370 pages, paperback £14.99



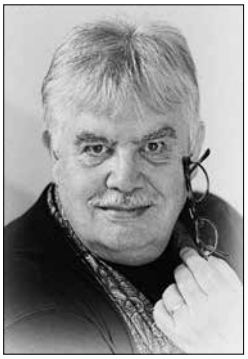

Robert Webber's tense thriller, set on the very volcano-edge of the Second World War, brings us the story of Alex Carlton, recruited by Military Intelligence to undertake a dangerous mission to the far-flung frozen wastes of Finland.

A country whose wartime role has often been overlooked by novelists and historians, the Finnish nation proved itself – as a small country – to be remarkably courageous at challenging and repelling its more powerful and menacing Soviet neighbour (at a time when the Nazis and Soviets were bound by a non-aggression pact). It is to Robert Webber's credit that he has adjusted our focus, away from the usual theatre of warfare in Western Europe, to the Baltic and Russian front.

The author is entering an already crowded market, with so many classics on the bookshelves concerning espionage (from Frederick Forsyth to Robert Harris) – but we find in Webber an effective contender in the field; his writing evoking the feel of the immediate pre-war era and the twilight life of the secret agent. Institute members will relish such passages as:

"The sessions that Alex enjoyed most were with a chain-smoking, ex-Fleet Street journalist, who smelled consistently of stale alcohol, and who taught him how to say much in very few words. 'Journalistic column inches reduce the revenue from advertisers – and advertisers pay your salary!' was his maxim that he drummed into Alex's brain at every opportunity. Alex started to believe that, should he fail at everything else, a career in journalism was a possibility."

The novel's hero then begins his journey through the secretive archipelago of London's intelligence networks but finds that the powers-that-be are not looking for any ordinary person, with a normal, personal life. He is soon advised that "girlfriends are an unnecessary complication" – that his relationship with Theodora is not in the best interests of the service, and that even her background must be scrutinised. The novel deals well with themes such as the stresses and strains of duty v. family; the tense, claustrophobic sub-world of the intelligence officer; the fate of the insecure, imperfect recruit taken away from everyday life and sucked inexorably into an unknown, anonymous mission.



Anyone addicted to the secret-service genre will be delighted to see the appearance of Robert Webber's new novel, first instalment of his 'Carlton Chronicles', with its tantalising prospect of many more adventures to come. For the lead character, Alex, the next stop is either landfall on the Scandinavian coast – or oblivion at the bottom of the North Sea.

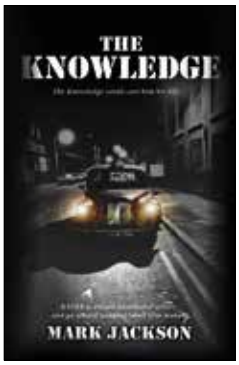
**Stuart Millson**

## The Knowledge

By Mark Jackson

Published by Matador, 158 pages, paperback £8.99

Chartered Institute of Journalists member and BAFTA Scotland nominated writer, Mark Jackson sets a tremendous, dangerous pace in his recently-published political thriller, *The Knowledge*.




Set in the rainy, drab streets of 1971 London, this is the story of one cabbie, Tony Pinner, who – through pure chance, through one fare – is plunged into a major conspiracy involving a powerful, ruthless secretive order, operating among the taxi ranks. Yet the novel begins in the London of 1688 – "the Thames splitting London like a black scar"; the watermen, the forerunners of today's taxi drivers, conveying their human traffic through the darkness, perhaps unaware of some of the great men and events with which they come into contact, but soon to exert an influence beyond their station.

For Pinner, 283 years later, his passenger, Howard Crosse, was just a top-ranking civil servant, attending another day at his Whitehall office – but with Crosse's death and the revelation that his role was to prepare for Britain's entry into Europe, the taxi driver finds himself entangled in a deathly political battle – all brilliantly plotted by Mark Jackson against the background of that decimalisation, Heathite era. Breathless action follows – from The Strand to Spitalfields Market – and gritty dialogue (reminiscent of the screenplays of Troy or Ian Kennedy Martin), and a cast of characters whose surnames reflect London itself – Olympia, Kensal, Latimer, Morden.

Authentic echoes of the times are brilliantly deployed: a popular song of the early-'70s "drones on" in a cafe; and a funereal bookmaker's shop conjures up a depressing image of the city in that decade (as memorably described by Andrew Marr) of "donkey-jacketed menace". Mark Jackson's potent work is thoroughly engrossing – a book that you will want to read in one go, preferably with a glass of two of whisky next to you. From our vantage point of Brexit, Mark's work takes us back to the conspiracies and underworlds of a London which may seem dated – but how much has London, in its dark essence, changed since 1688?

Much recommended – and I sincerely hope that a film production company "finds" this thriller and turns it into the hit which it deserves to be.

**Stuart Millson**

# Essential Law for Journalists

By Mike Dodd and Mark Hanna

Oxford University Press, 2020 (25th Edition), 560 pages, Paperback £25.99

This remarkable journalism law text book first appeared in 1954 and was written by the late Leonard McNae, who was editor of the Press Association's Special Reporting Service. The 25th edition has been co-written by PA's retiring legal editor Mike Dodd and Mark Hanna who this year retired from his position as Senior Lecturer at Sheffield University and is now Emeritus Fellow.

In the last 66 years it would be remarkable for there to be any professional journalist in the United Kingdom of any generation who has not had to read McNae's *Essential Law for Journalists*. And it is both disturbing and equally remarkable that in a supposedly democratic society with traditions of a free press during this period the range of laws controlling and limiting that media freedom have grown as much as the size of the book.

Consider the tenth edition published in 1988, then edited by Walter Greenwood and Tom Welsh. This was the year I had successfully campaigned for the right to appeal Crown Court reporting restrictions and secret hearings after taking the UK to Strasbourg. Then there was no recognised media right to privacy law. In fact that edition's chapter 30 on privacy ran to only two pages in length.

There were thousands of more journalists employed by weekly, regional and national news publishers. There were millions more newspaper readers. There was no Internet thirty-two years ago. And the 10th edition comprised a total of only 209 pages.

In 2020, the 25th edition needs 529 pages and a companion website hosting three additional chapters. Edition 25 is much more than twice the reading now required compared to Edition 10. There is more than twice the number and complexity of media laws that need to be understood and navigated. Since 1954, most professional journalists are now graduating, and more than half have postgraduate degrees. They need to be.

It is rather sobering reading Tom Welsh and Walter Greenwood's preface in 1988 and comparing it to that of Mike Dodd and Mark Hanna in the year 2020. In the '88 edition Welsh and Greenwood talked of low-points and "the unprecedented scale of the attempts by government to restrict the media over the operations of the security services, and the rapid development of the laws which enabled these attempts to achieve considerable success."

They highlighted and warned of tricks by government and the rich and powerful to find loopholes to muzzle and silence scrutiny, accountability and reduce open justice. In 2020 there is not much difference. Dodd and Hanna write: "It is therefore depressing for us, as McNae's authors, and of concern to many journalists and lawyers, that in the two years since the previous edition the number of open court hearings in England and Wales has been drastically reduced."

The online magazine *Hold The Front Page* reported that Jon Harris, the editor of the Manchester-based news agency Cavendish Press was complaining that "placing of restrictions protecting criminals in court has now reached an 'unprecedented' level." He also said coronavirus is being used as an excuse to bar his reporters from hearings.

The cutbacks and pressures on legal system and journalism industry combined with the pandemic crisis have produced a perfect storm of wretchedness. Truth be told that all those trying to continue doing their jobs have been heroic. However, it is pretty lamentable that in 2020 Mr Harris was complaining about so many Contempt of Court Act Section 11 orders being imposed at cases his reporters are covering that challenging them would be a complete waste of time and money.

### Hot air

As a court reporter and news agency editor myself I was fighting this in 1984 and went to the European Court of Human Rights on this issue. So much for the efforts of the 'media working group.' Has it been a complete waste of time and space and full of hot air? Only time will tell.

To be fair to those involved, published protocols on the relationship between court staff and journalist publishers have been very constructive. They have involved and consulted the Evening Standard's Courts Correspondent Tristan Kirk who recorded a YouTube message introducing a new HMCTS Media Guidance document.

There was a glitzy launch of the guide at the Central Criminal Court in March this year with much grandstanding by the people involved including government minister Chris Philp.

"Justice must be seen to be done" – he was reported saying. But is it? Has it really improved? The jury is out on that question. Certainly, there is every reason to be concerned that Kirk may be the only court correspondent employed by any national news organisation. Meanwhile, there is just more and more of the law intervening to prevent journalists and what the *Essential Law* editors now call 'media organisations' from reporting the truth.

Mike Dodd warned in an interview with Press Gazette this year that privacy has become the biggest threat to press freedom in the UK. A subject that barely concerned two pages of the 1988 edition now has to explain why it is now virtually impossible to report the names of criminal suspects who have been arrested but not charged.

Dodd told Press Gazette: "The growth of privacy has gone too far […] and we now have a situation in which the Court of Appeal takes the view that a man who is accused of or suspected of criminal activity or is even being investigated for potential criminal activity is entitled to regard that as being private information that shouldn't be in the public domain – which is why we've got the situation where nobody is prepared to name the MP who is accused of raping a parliamentary worker despite the fact that she thinks he ought to be named."

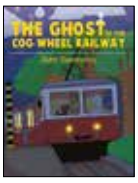
All students of journalism and indeed professional practitioners need to read and keep abreast of *Essential Law for Journalists*. It is a book that needs a new edition every two years because courts, government and Parliament are determined to make our lives as legally difficult as possible.

Mike Dodd and Mark Hanna have done a quite brilliant job offering clarity, explanation and warning to the extent that what has often been described as 'a journalist's bible' has the respect of lawyers and judges as well as professional journalists.

**Tim Crook**

# The Ghost of the Cog-Wheel Railway

by John Szemerey




Published by Austin Macauley, paperback, 42 pages, £10.99

Younger readers – or indeed grown-up readers who love railways and amusing ghostly puzzles – will be delighted by Institute member John Szemerey's light-hearted tale of the supernatural from Hungary. The result of a story he told to his own family, Szemerey has created a superb story-book, the perfect Christmas gift, with excellent illustrations that help to set the mood (although there does not seem to be a credit for the artist).

The saga concerns the cogwheel railway line that serves the people who live on the hilly Buda side of Budapest, and the old train-driver, Zoltan, whose one aim in life – and the afterlife – is to maintain the rail service, no matter how much the appearance of an apparently driverless train scares the locals – and baffles the local police!

Passengers of the strange ghost-train also include a group of stray cats, the unruly feline presence adding to the head-scratching difficulties faced by the authorities.

They say that a sad tale is best for winter, yet this is most definitely one ghost-train which you can board in the full knowledge of there being a happy ending – with more than a few smiles along the track!

**Stuart Millson**

The Chartered Institute of Journalists

# 2020 AGM report

## Friday, October 23

**Held online via Zoom conferencing facilities.**

The members were welcomed and the President outlined the day's events. Apologies were noted from Mr Harvey Thomas, Michael Moriarty, Tom Magner and Karim Ngobi.

Members remembered Ken Brookes, who sadly passed away on 11 October. Mr Brookes, a past president, had supported the Institute for more than 50 years and had been the Institute's copyright representative, and expert, for more than 30 years. His loyalty and commitment to the organisation was second to none, as was his tireless work in defending the rights of freelance journalists.

The President reminded members of the detention, without charge, of Aljazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein. The Institute regularly uses its social media sites to remind the world of Mr Hussein's plight and keep the pressure on the Egyptian authorities to release him.

### IoJ(TU) session – *strictly non-employing members ONLY*

**The following business was transacted:**

1. The Chairman of the Professional Practices Board (PPB), Tim Crook, delivered a report on the activities of the Board.
2. Michael Hardware moved that the audited accounts of the Institute of Journalists (TU) for 2019 be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

3. Members then had a question and answer session with the PPB Chairman and the General Secretary.
4. The Chairman directed members to the details of the PPB election in the AGM brochure. In addition to those detailed in the brochure another nomination had been received from Mr Navin Kukadia. The Chairman moved that all members nominated for the Board be elected. The following members were elected to serve for 2020/21:

   Tim Crook, Norman Bartlett, Janice Shillum Bhend, Andrew Kelly, Adela Earlington, Navin Kukadia, Paul Leighton, Stuart Littleford, Tom Magner and Karim Ngobi.

   **Outcome: Carried**

### THE CHARITIES

5. **Reports by Chairmen of the Institute's Charities:**

   Dominic Cooper delivered a report on the activities of the Orphan Fund and moved that the 2019 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

   Dominic Cooper delivered his report on the activities of the Benevolent Fund and moved that the 2019 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

   Norman Bartlett delivered his report on the activities of the Oak Hill and TP O'Connor Fund and moved that the 2019 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

   Dominic Cooper delivered his report on the activities of the Pension Fund and moved that the 2019 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

6. Members then had a question and answer session on the work of the CIoJ and its charities.

### CIoJ session

7. The President, Professor Tim Crook, took the Chair and delivered his presidential address.
8. Michael Hardware moved: that the audited accounts of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and its charities for 2019 be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

9. The President moved: that the 135th report of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and the IoJ(TU) as submitted to the membership be received and adopted.

   **Outcome: Carried**

10. The President moved that Samuels be reappointed as the Institute's accountants and auditors.

    **Outcome: Carried**

11. The President moved that Boyes Turner be reappointed as the Institute's solicitors.

    **Outcome: Carried**

12. The President moved that any unfinished business by the end of the meeting shall be referred for consideration by Council.

    **Outcome: Carried**

13. Resolution: **Membership Survey**

    Originally proposed by Navin Kukadia, but in his absense proposed by Judith Ryser and seconded by Norman Bartlett

    "CIoJ hosts a membership survey to obtain feedback on how the Institute is perceived, understanding its benefits and what additionally members would appreciate as new and improved benefits. This is accompanied by producing and enacting a plan for events and networking meetings in 2021. These would be online initially with the expectation that they would be offline social events later next year when it is hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic is more contained and the risks to health minimised."

    **Outcome: Carried**

14. Resolution: **Protection of Journalists**

    Proposed by Stuart Littleford

    "The Chartered Institute of Journalists calls on the Law Commission to consider investigating whether the creation of new criminal offences could provide better protection for journalists intimidated, threatened and assaulted while carrying out their work."

    **Outcome: Unfortunately Mr Littleford was unable to attend the meeting. The matter was referred back to the Institute's governing Council to take forward**

14. Resolution: **Opinion pieces**

    Proposed by Geraldine Comiskey, seconded by David Bentley

    "That the professional media put in place a policy of employing journalists (whose only or main career is journalism) to interview politicians, experts, celebrities and anyone with an obvious vested interest in pushing an angle / promoting a cause - rather than allow these people to write opinion pieces.

    ~~"Their opinions should only be published as part of articles written by journalists, with appropriate questioning and an unbiased reporting style - or on the Letters to the Editor page.~~

    "Also, opinion pieces in general should be kept to a minimum. The plethora of openly biased articles in the news media has done tremendous damage to the public perception of journalism - and is affecting us directly as readers stop buying newspapers."

    **The motion was amended from the floor to delete the second paragraph (highlighted above). The amendment was accepted by the proposer.**

    **Outcome: Carried**

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