



Televising the courts must be “more than a media gimmick”

The Chartered Institute of Journalists welcomes television coverage of criminal sentencing in England & Wales but warns it will be “just a media gimmick” unless something is done to halt the disastrous decline of courtroom reporting and coverage.

Television cameras are set to be allowed into sentencing hearings at English and Welsh Crown Courts for the first time in a pilot scheme following the live coverage of proceedings at the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

The project is being funded by the BBC, Sky, ITN and the Press Association at no cost to the public purse.

Professor Tim Crook, Chairman of the Institute’s Professional Practices Board,

said: “This is progress, but the bigger issue is the failure of the media to maintain proper day-to-day coverage of the legal system at all levels.

Collapse

“Over the last 20 years there has been a dangerous collapse in commissioning and retaining court reporting journalists and resources in local, regional and national media. By my calculation, in the last thirty years nine tenths of court reporting has been liquidated.”

Professor Crook was the UK’s first specialist broadcast legal affairs correspondent, working for IRN/LBC during the 1980s and ‘90s.

He added: “Although the local and

regional press has faced enormous financial challenges in that time, some have responded with skill and enterprise to maintain readership. Too many haven’t. They have abandoned news gathering despite clear evidence that people want news. This is where the industry has failed to support democracy.

“In November I visited the Lord Chief Justice’s court in the Strand and observed several significant hearings that should have been reported by the national media, but were not. The failure to staff these important events and report them to the public means that a vital part of our constitution and the operation of justice will remain in the dark.

“This cannot be good for democracy.”

Congratulations, Mark and Janice!

Our Institute has a new President. Mark Croucher, a freelance journalist and former head of communications at the UK Independence Party, has been appointed to succeed Paul Leighton as President, having been elected Vice-President by the membership of the Institute in 2014. Janice Shillum Bhend, also a freelance, has been elected unopposed as Vice-President, and will automatically succeed Croucher in two years’ time.

The Presidential Handover took place at Europe House, headquarters of the open Office in London on March 4. Our guest speaker on this occasion was Ukup deputy leader Paul Nuttall MEP. In his acceptance speech, Croucher said it was time for the industry to start fighting back against those who have spent the last few years attacking it: “We are seeing an alarming mis-use of government power as various organisations find that a free press is not to their liking,” he said, “the Institute will continue to oppose these measures and to stand up for the freedom of the press.”

Following the Handover there was

some criticism of the Institute’s new President in Press Gazette and on various blog sites, citing Croucher’s political background.

In response, CIOJ Journal Editor Andy Smith clarified the Institute’s non-political stance and said that “as an organisation we have no party political axe to grind” and that “we have had in the leadership of the Institute over recent

years members and supporters of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour parties, but mostly people of no party-political allegiance whatsoever. Mark has been selected for his journalistic and communications skills and his longstanding service to the CIOJ, not for his past political affiliations. Attempting to



New president, Mark Croucher, welcomes Janice Shillum Bhend as Vice-President.

photo: © Kent Brookes

silence him because of his past role with UKIP is the type of censorship of which Hacked Off would be proud.”

We congratulate the Institute’s new President and Vice-President on their new roles and look forward to what will undoubtedly be a busy and active two years for the CIOJ.



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Editor's Comment

Hacked off with Hacked Off

Regular readers of the Journal will not be surprised to learn that I have never been a big fan of Hacked Off. From the moment this group of would-be media censors started to bring its weight to bear on the Leveson Inquiry it has behaved like a bully, deploying highly unethical practices to advance its cause – namely achieving State regulation of the press and preventing journalists from investigating the activities of the rich and powerful. But even I was shocked by the group's latest tactic, which was to instigate a vicious vendetta and smear campaign against Culture Secretary John Whittingdale. Whilst claiming to be opposed to "media intrusion" Hacked Off was instrumental in revealing aspects of Mr Whittingdale's private life. The group had embarked upon this hypocritical course of action purely because the Culture Secretary had stood up for the freedom of the press and had resisted Hacked Off bullying and was thus considered a "legitimate target" in Hacked Off's war against journalism.

What twisted morality is this? To target a Minister and to rake through his private life without the slightest shred of evidence of any political or other wrong-doing is an utterly vile tactic, even by Hacked Off's warped standards. It shows how desperate this anti-press lobby group is becoming

in its determination to impose full-blown State regulation of the press. In defending its actions, Hacked Off tries to point the finger of suspicion at the Culture Secretary, suggesting that he has an ulterior motive for his opposition to press regulation. The fact is, as we in the Institute know, that John Whittingdale has been a defender of press freedom throughout his political career, as his speech to the Institute six years ago, when he was guest of honour at our Presidential Handover at the National Liberal Club, amply demonstrated. Hacked Off wants people to assume that everyone opposed to State regulation of the press must have some hidden vested interest for so doing. In Mr Whittingdale's case it is purely that he doesn't share Hacked Off's vision of tightly regulated newspapers.

Hacked Off is currently trying to get official recognition for its own press regulator, IMPRESS. Thankfully, it is not getting very far. So, knowing what Hacked Off is like, we can probably expect yet more bullying and demonising of journalists and of those politicians who oppose State regulation of newspapers. In these circumstances it is all the more important that our Institute stands firm in defence of Britain's free press. We look to our new President, Mark Croucher, to lead the next phase of our campaign.

Andy Smith

EDITORSHIP OF THE JOURNAL

Andy Smith, who has served as Editor of the Institute's Journal for the past 13 years, has indicated that he wishes to retire from this post by the end of 2016. The Institute is therefore seeking a volunteer from within the membership to take on this key role, which carries a small honorarium. Is this something that could interest you? If so, for a preliminary chat about what is involved, please call the CIOJ Chief Executive, Dominic Cooper, on email dc@cioj.co.uk.

STOP PRESS

Concerns over BBC

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has expressed concern over "the trend towards State control" demonstrated by the Government's White Paper on the future of the BBC. The CIOJ's new President, Mark Croucher, said: "It is unfortunate that while the Secretary of State rightly opposes the extension of State interference in the printed press he seems less interested in safeguarding the independence of the nation's public service broadcaster. We do not want to see a BBC in which journalists always have to look over their shoulder and where their reports may be influenced by the political colour of the BBC Board."

He added: "We understand Ministers' concerns that the BBC is not always politically impartial, but creating a BBC Board that could veer editorially from the Guardian to the Daily Telegraph and back with every change of government is hardly a practical solution. These proposals appear to sacrifice the goal of long-term impartiality in the interests of short-term political gain."

CIOJ Council and PPB

Your Council members are:

Norman Bartlett
Andy Smith
Keith Lockwood
Michael Evans

The Ex Officio members of Council are:

Mark Croucher, President
Michael Hardware, Honorary Treasurer
Janice Shillum Bhend, Vice-President
Paul Leighton, Immediate Past President
Tim Crook, Chairman, PPB

Your PPB members are:

Tim Crook, Chairman
Campbell Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Amanda Brodie
Janice Shillum Bhend
Norman Bartlett
Jim Filbin
Andrew Kelly

Institute slates NUJ over press regulator

The National Union of Journalists' (NUJ) decision to back the proposed press regulator IMPRESS has been described as "a betrayal of democracy and journalism" by the Chartered Institute of Journalists (CIoJ).

The CIoJ condemns the NUJ's decision for giving credibility to a state backed system of punitive regulation unwanted by virtually all of the professional media in UK.

CIoJ Chief Executive Dominic Cooper says: "Not one sizeable mainstream news publisher has yet signed up to be regulated by IMPRESS. We believe that's the genuine position of the vast majority of professional journalists in the press and associated online publishers."

Cooper says: "It's the job of a journalists' trade union to hold regulators to account, to scrutinise and criticise – not join in and participate in a media freedom killing regime."

The NUJ's folly is yet another nail in the coffin of freedom expression in Britain, which is very sad when our world press freedom index ranking has just dropped by four places to 38-between Tonga and South Africa."

Cooper added: "There's nothing constructive in the NUJ helping conjure up a landscape of IPSO regulation for the majority of newspapers and IMPRESS regulation only for NUJ members and a few minor local/online publications. It's the least joined-up system you could get and does little to boost public confidence."

IMPRESS Royal Charter regulation will mean exemplary damages for news publishers who do not believe this system is independent of government control and influence. It could also mean news publishers refusing to be regulated by IMPRESS paying both sides' legal costs even if they win media law disputes.

The CIoJ has been pressing for consensus among all mainstream publishers to run an independent system of self-regulation that has the confidence of working journalists, professional publishers and their readership.

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.

A word from the President

By Mark Croucher

I would like to begin by offering my heartfelt thanks to our Immediate Past President, Paul Leighton. Paul assumed his presidency much earlier than expected due to the sad death of Charlie Harris during his term of office and under difficult circumstances has steered the Institute through a tough couple of years for journalism. I am sure you will join me in extending your thanks for his service.

We have many challenges ahead of us over the coming years as our industry evolves with the emergence of new technology, and I see one of my tasks as positioning the Institute to ensure that it remains both relevant and at the forefront of journalism.

The first of these is to address the issue of online journalism. We have seen the Independent move to an on-line only format, and only time will tell whether this will prove to be a model others follow. Certainly the online press is growing, and the Institute should move to embrace our digital brothers. I would hope to see a new class of membership created, the eMCIJ, to recognise the growth of online news, and proposals for this will be forthcoming over the next month or so.

Then there is the issue of our own membership, and our need to sustain membership growth. The Hon. Treasurer and Chief Executive will with myself form the core of a new membership and marketing committee, but of course this is a task which cannot be successful without the participation of the entire membership. You all have colleagues and friends within the industry, and I would ask that each of you become an advocate for what the Institute can offer from the professional cachet associated with the "MCIJ" after your name through to the benefits of our pension and benevolent funds for journalists who encounter difficulties during and at the end of their working life.

Training

Many of you will know Janice Shillum Bhend, our new Vice-President, who will succeed me in 2018 and I offer hearty congratulations on her election. Janice has many years of experience of both journalism and journalistic training, and has kindly agreed – with the minimum of arm twisting – to head a new committee organising ongoing training that the Institute can offer to its members from the basic through to Continuous Professional Development.

Elsewhere, I am very pleased to announce that the former President of our Professional Practices Board Amanda Brodie is making good progress in her recovery from illness, and I am delighted to announce that Council has advanced her to a Fellowship of the Institute in recognition of her many



photo: © Ken Brookes

years of hard work. I am sure you will join me in hoping she can make a rapid return to Institute affairs. Her replacement on the PPB Professor Tim Crook is carrying on with her good work in the most sterling fashion.

Recent news in the wider world of journalism is not heartening. The government continues to press for the introduction of its "Snooper's Charter" and journalists ignore the progress of government interference at their peril. It is difficult to imagine a more Orwellian piece of legislation, particularly as we have already seen existing legislation mis-used to uncover journalistic sources. The guest speaker at our Presidential handover - Paul Nuttall MEP – touched on the subject as he called for more impartiality in the press, specifically in regard to the ongoing EU referendum, but more widely as something to be desired. The thrust of his speech was that the job of the media is to serve information, not opinion dressed as fact.

Meanwhile, the post-Leveson fallout continues with the NUJ backing the attempt by IMPRESS to be appointed as press regulator. One can only stare open-mouthed as the NUJ assists in nailing the coffin lid shut on a free press. There appears little likelihood that IMPRESS will prove successful in its attempt, but it would be foolish to be complacent and the Institute will with your support continue to oppose such efforts.

There is much to be done. Ever onwards!

"NEW DAY" – BLINK AND YOU MISSED IT

(to the tune of the famous John Keble hymn 'Morning' of 1827)

New every morning is the Day,
A venture, though, that failed to pay.
Trinity Mirror therefore chose
To bring it swiftly to a close.

Roger

Rory Peck Trust launches new resource for Libyan freelance journalists

The Rory Peck Trust has launched a new resource for Libyan freelance journalists, as part of a two-year project supported by the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF). "Freelancing In Libya" contains practical tools, information and guides to help Libyan journalists operate safely and professionally in an increasingly insecure and volatile environment.

With chapters on "The Business of Being Freelance", "Safety and Ethics on Assignment" and "How to Grow Professional and Protection Networks", the aim of the resource is to help Libyan freelancers produce high quality, non-partisan news and current affairs coverage in a safe and sustainable way.

"Today's generation of Libyan freelancers emerged during the 2011 revolution where they were able to report freely and openly for the first time," explains Sarah Giaziri, Programme Officer for the Middle East and North Africa at the Rory Peck Trust. "But most have found it hard to sustain their careers because of the deterioration of independent media outlets and the growing security challenges. There are still important and compelling stories to be told from Libya and we hope this resource will provide its freelancers with the skills to bring us these stories safely and ethically."

Attacks, threats and abductions of journalists are commonplace in today's Libya as both governments and militia attempt to control the flow of information. In 2014 alone, 29 journalists were kidnapped, according to Reporters Sans Frontieres – more than in both Syria and Iraq – and the Rory Peck Trust's own survey of 34 Libyan



freelancers in 2015 revealed that 80% had been threatened during the course of their work. Nearly all of the independent media outlets that sprang up after the revolution have been threatened into closure or exile, and the fear of attack amongst Libyan journalists is leading to self-censorship.

Mentoring scheme

This is the first resource to help Libyan freelancers tackle professional and safety issues. It forms part of a two-year project funded by UNDEF aimed at strengthening independent journalism in Libya, which includes in-depth workshops for freelancers, the establishment of a mentoring scheme and access to international protection mechanisms.

"It is really important that freelance journalists working every day in Libya have access to the right information," says Ahmed el-Hadel, a Libyan freelance journalist who attended a recent RPT

workshop in Amman. "This is the first time I've been provided with training or resources that are focused on producing stories safely. It's something that's missing in countries such as Libya, but it's really vital."

Annika Savill, Executive Head of the UN Democracy Fund describes the project as "a milestone initiative" for the Fund. "The deplorable rise of extremism, deteriorating security situation and growing restrictions on media in a range of countries, make even more relevant and important the work, courage and safety of independent journalists worldwide. The Rory Peck Trust is uniquely equipped to carry out this project in an environment such as Libya, where the need is acute and the challenges in operating are just as acute."

"Freelancing in Libya" is available in both Arabic and English.

For social media, RPT suggests using the hashtag #freelancinginlibya

Fellowships

The Council of the Chartered Institute of Journalists has awarded two fellowships.

Amanda Brodie has been honoured in recognition of her hard work and dedication on behalf of the membership over a period of several years as chairman of the Professional Practices Board and in recognition of her continual efforts to promote the Institute.

The second award was given to our Chief Executive, Dominic Cooper, for services dedication that goes beyond the call of duty during his 25 years service to the Institute.

Our congratulations to both of our "jolly good fellows"!

CPJ responds to media crackdown in Turkey

In response to the recent rapid growth in violations of press freedom in Turkey, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has launched the Turkey Crackdown Chronicle, a real-time diary of attacks on journalists and other media freedom abuses.

"The drastic deterioration of media freedom in Turkey in recent weeks necessitates rapid response and thorough documentation," said the CPJ's Nina Ognianova. "Journalists are being jailed, harassed, and expelled, news outlets are being shut down or taken over by the

government, and coverage is impeded or censored. Turkey must reverse this offensive and uphold its international commitments to freedom of the press."

The Turkey Crackdown Chronicle is updated daily, with events grouped by week. It features an interactive timeline giving an overview of developments in Turkey's press freedom climate over the past two years.

At the end of 2015 there were 14 journalists imprisoned in Turkey, according to CPJ's most recent annual prison census.

New online “treasure house” of information on Egypt

Cambridge University Press has signed an historic agreement with the Egyptian Government to provide online access to a “treasure house” of information about Egypt and the Middle East gathered by Cambridge authors over the past three decades.

Ten distinguished collections from Cambridge University Press – published under the Cambridge Archive Editions imprint – are included in the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, one of the Middle East’s most ambitious digital educational projects. The ten meticulously researched volumes bring together more than 52,000 pages of primary source materials from British government and other diplomatic sources concerning the history, politics and geography of Egypt and the Middle East region.

These collections – including Arab Dissident Movements 1905–1955, Israel: Boundary Disputes with Arab Neighbours 1946–1964, Palestine Boundaries 1833–1947, Records of Syria 1918–1973 and Turkey and her Arab Neighbours 1953–1958 – contain a wealth of information covering different periods of history across Egypt and the Middle East.

The Cambridge University Press collections are now available through the Egyptian Knowledge Bank free of charge to all Egyptians alongside thousands of educational and scientific articles, journals and multimedia materials – as well as extensive archive material from more



than 20 of the world’s leading educational publishers.

Launched in January 2016, the Egyptian Knowledge Bank will supply online educational materials to all major universities and research institutes in Egypt and is designed to improve Egypt’s English language skills and enhance Egypt’s position as a centre of excellence for teaching and learning in the Middle East.

Extensive archives

The Egyptian Knowledge Bank has brought together more than 20 major international publishers, including Cambridge University Press, to supply online educational material to all major

universities and research institutions in Egypt. One of the most ambitious educational projects in the Middle East, the Knowledge Bank was launched in January this year and contains thousands of the latest educational and scientific articles, journals and multimedia materials, as well as extensive archive material.

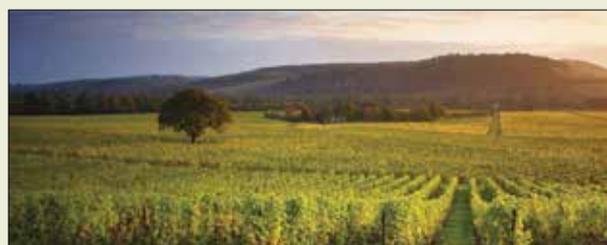
The partnership between Cambridge University Press and the Egyptian Government was agreed in November 2015 in a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace of Egypt and attended by the Egyptian President.

For more information: www.ekb.eg/web/guest/home

Press trip

English Wine Producer Denbies in Dorking, has been producing wine for more than 30 years in the Surrey Hills, and welcome 350000 visitors to their estate each year.

The pioneers of wine tourism have launched a new addition to their guided tours, in the form of a film illustrating life on the 265-acre estate. The film captures the vineyard’s transformation from bud-burst to harvest. Visitors will be able to catch a glimpse of what happens behind the scenes all year round in Denbies vineyard.

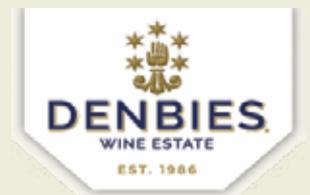


The Chartered Institute of Journalists have been offered two dates for member visits, on each of which a maximum of 12 members will be invited to tour the vineyard, meet the owner and principal winemaker, sample wines and view the film, with a lunch provided.

Should this event be oversubscribed, preference will be given to those members who can demonstrate a professional interest in wine

or wine tourism. It would therefore be very helpful if you would

please advise of any directly-relevant potential media opportunities you intend to approach in relation to a feature relating to this visit.



The first event has been planned for Tuesday May 24 and will start at 11.00am. It is free, and open to all members but you must book your place with Diane at Head Office.

BBC World Service's Outlook celebrates half-century with 50 inspirational stories

Outlook, one of BBC World Service's longest-running radio programmes, turns 50 this summer, celebrating half a century on air on July 4, 2016. To mark this milestone BBC World Service has launched Outlook Inspirations – a celebration of extraordinary people whose stories have inspired others around the world.

Over the years, Outlook has featured courageous individuals who have overcome adversity, followed their dreams and above all inspired those around them. The BBC is inviting nominations from the public for people they would like to suggest for Outlook Inspirations. (Nominations close on May 1, so you'll need to be quick!)

The search is on for people with extraordinary personal stories: people who have shown incredible resilience through difficult times, changed the fortunes of their local community or demonstrated remarkable courage or compassion. Above all, stories that leave fellow human beings in awe.

At the same time the Outlook team will be going through the back catalogue to seek out some of the most inspirational people who have appeared on the programme to add to the list of nominees. To launch the awards, several people have already been nominated by Outlook on the Outlook Inspirations website, and the complete longlist of 50 will be revealed in May.



An international judging panel, headed up by the BBC's Chief International Correspondent Lyse Doucet, will later select three winners from a final shortlist of 15. The three winners will be announced on Monday July 4, 2016 – the day of Outlook's 50th birthday – during a live BBC World Service broadcast from the Radio Theatre in London.

Global audience

Mary Hockaday, Controller, World Service English, says: "Outlook is at the very heart of what the BBC World Service does each day: sharing fascinating human stories

from all corners of the world with a curious global audience. Outlook Inspirations shines a spotlight on the achievements of some of these unsung heroes, as we invite our listeners to look back - and ahead - in celebration of Outlook's 50th anniversary year."

More information, including the remaining judges, will be revealed shortly.

To stay up to date with Outlook Inspirations, and for full terms and conditions for nominating, please go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03m0fd6>

Nalytics – The new research tool for journalists

Journalists and news organisations have never been under so much pressure to find information quickly as the public's appetite for content across all channels explodes. However, sometimes finding the right information for a story can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Not any longer, says Nalanda Technology, a new company that has developed the next generation precision search and discovery tool which it says can access and cross-reference information across an infinite number of digital sources at the click of a button.

Peter O'Hara, chief executive, Nalanda Technology, explains: "Nalytics picks up where Google finishes. Most people are familiar with the Google search engine but its search capabilities are really quite basic and typically present too many results for users to be able to decipher. Our platform covers the whole

of your information store from emails and attachments to Dropbox data, and the application does not have to be launched to view and review the data. There is no such thing as unstructured data. All data has an inherent structure; using our technology anything held in a digital format can be simply processed to create data sets. These can be used to locate and discover information and meaningful content within its context and structure."

For further information please visit website www.nalandatechnology.com or email info@nalandatechnology.com or call 0208 973 1100. CIOJ members are invited to apply to the company for a free two-week trial of the software. Please email info@nalandatechnology.com with the header "Journalist Trial" and include your name, Institute membership number, and details of who you write or broadcast for.

Newspapers axed

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has expressed "shock and disappointment" at the decision in March to cease production of the print editions of The Independent and The Independent on Sunday, and the subsequent closure of the short-lived New Day newspaper. CIOJ Chief Executive Dominic Cooper said: "The Independent has been a great champion of non-partisan journalism for 30 years and its move to an online-only publication is extremely disappointing for everyone, not least those journalists - staff and freelance - who are directly affected by the ending of the print edition. Just as shocking is the closure, after barely two months, of the New Day newspaper, which lasted from the end of February to the beginning of May. Both the Independent and New Day were non politically aligned and that is something the CIOJ applauds. The Institute has great concerns for press plurality in Britain after the loss of these newspapers."

Institute impartiality

By Liam Gallimore-Wells

“Unacceptable” is one word that has been used to describe the Institute’s recent appointment of former UKIP head of communications Mark Croucher as its president.

Since 1884 the Institute has championed broadcast media and press impartiality. So why is Croucher’s persona viewed by some as incongruous?

One answer might be today’s strangely politicised global news media environment. Mass proliferation of so-called citizen journalists via social media has started to blur boundaries that once distinguished publishable from unpublishable authorship. Though proponents of this new influx may or may not be in denial about the Institute’s role as standard bearer for the industry, its status as guardian of media practitioners’ professional interests is a reality that very few feel the need to publicly repudiate.

Xenophobia

Other answers are evident in definitions of xenophobia expressed by leading scholars in postcolonial thought, new nation building and transcultural identity. Educational psychologist Oksana Yakushko

describes it as ‘a form of attitudinal, affective and behavioural prejudice’. American ethnologist Verena Stolcke prefers the words ‘hostility towards strangers’. South African politics of belonging academic Francis Nyamnjoh’s choice of an ‘intense dislike, hatred or fear of others’ is similarly multi-layered. All three of these terms could be used to describe pre-judgemental comments that have been circulating about the Institute’s newly-elected leader.

Whatever our ethnicity, gender, background or profession, one of Britain’s internationally respected strengths is her commitment to balanced, facts-driven print and broadcast media output. For years millions of Britons have felt privately repulsed by insufficiently representative party political machine-driven campaigning. This reversible contemporary malaise is fast becoming synonymous with the ideological toothlessness that is producing a largely self-serving political class.

Our longest serving constitutional monarch Queen Elizabeth II’s legacy of political neutrality as head of our uniquely international Commonwealth of Nations serves as an important point of reference.

In a troubled world where more original, pan-representative thinking is required, perhaps it is the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby’s clarion call for a more imaginative European Union Referendum debate that strikes the right note. His words may also be interpreted as guidance to anyone questioning the legitimacy of the Institute’s newly-elected president: “There is no fixed Christian view on this [the EU referendum]. Those who want to leave the EU should set out what Britain would be like after leaving in a variety of respects, including its international attitude and its values.”

Recruitment

The Institute is offering a referral fee to any member who can help recruit new members.

Every Full Member you sign up will earn you £50. The new member will need to be sponsored by you and will have to satisfy our accreditation procedures.

Contact our Chief Executive for more details - memberservices@cioj.co.uk.

Every day is a good day to hear more women in the media

By Farhana Haque Rahman

On International Women’s Day newspapers and radio shows are filled with women’s voices. Yet too often the media’s attention is fleeting. These are the best of times, but without a doubt also the worst of times, for journalism and journalists – especially women in the media.

According to the Global Media Monitoring Project, women still account for only 24 percent of the people “heard or read about in print, radio and television news across the world.” Or as women’s media organisation Foreign Policy Interrupted have put it: “a woman over 65 is less likely to be cited as an expert in the media (than) a boy in the 13 to 18 age group.”

Hearing women in the media is not just about who is holding the notebook and voice recorder. Journalists also need to think about who they quote in their articles. IPS is proud to have an editorial policy of deliberately seeking quotes from women on all topics, not just on topics that have traditionally been considered “women’s issues”.

For those women who are journalists, many face violence and harassment even as they go about their daily work.

Two-thirds of more than 900 women journalists surveyed by the International Women’s Media Foundation said they had experienced some kind of threat or abuse – often by male colleagues. We all should take a deep breath.

Physical violence

More than one in five of the women media professionals asked said that they had experienced physical violence in relation to their work – the majority of these described it as sexual in nature – and government officials, police and apparently random people in crowds were cited as frequent perpetrators.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and Christiane Amanpour, the high-profile CNN correspondent who is now serving as UNESCO’s Goodwill Ambassador on freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety, are to be commended for their campaigns to stamp out the most existential threats to female journalists. But any gains made in bringing women’s voices to the fore in the media are threatened when the news industry itself is put under pressure.

The sector is already in a commercial

pinch, reducing resources available for reporters to provide their watchdog function. On top of that, there is a sense of growing censorship, taking different forms in different parts of the world.

Press freedom isn’t threatened only by violence. Journalists are being intimidated in countries across the globe and many deliberately avoid reporting on their nemeses. And the ill winds aren’t only blowing in developing countries. A U.S. presidential candidate fanned the flame of our concern recently when he suggested changing libel laws to make it easier to “win money” from journalists by suing them.

Controversial

Free speech is widely believed to be a public good. But it is also “the most complex and controversial right,” in the recent words of Irene Khan, head of the International Development Law Organization. It may not be an absolute right but it is one that is intimately tied up with what Khan called “the right to hear.”

We have a right to hear diverse voices and particularly women’s voices in the media every day. We – including journalists – also have a responsibility to listen.

A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY

In this article, taken from a speech by CIOJ Past-President, Michael Moriarty, the golden age of the industry is fondly remembered – but there is a warning for today’s journalists and editors.

When I retired 15 years ago I made two pledges. One, I shall never become a Press pundit (sorry, Roy Greenslade!) and secondly, I will never rubbish today’s editors – my successors – because it is tough enough and hot enough out there without old buzzards – old has-beens – like myself taking a pot at them. So, I’m breaking both of those pledges tonight.

It is a strange place here, The Freedom Forum. Most of my life in Reuters and YOB we always avoided The Freedom Forum because we were convinced it was a front for the CIA. Indeed, when I arrived, having chased my wife up and down Oxford Street, she having decided it was a good opportunity to do a bit of shopping, I was bursting for a pee and went straight into the loo and in there, as some of you may have seen, there is a Russian air-freshener! What does that mean?

Now then, Hugh Cudlipp. Where do you begin? It is most embarrassing because looking round the audience here tonight, there are many more old colleagues a hundred times more qualified to talk about Hugh Kinsman Cudlipp than myself. Especially Tony Miles sitting there (he pointed) as his successor and associate who worked with him for years. Nobody here knows him better as a professional journalist than Tony. All the others have passed on. And of course, we’re next – after you, Tony!

Cudlipp was a character – the journalists’ journalist. Never again will we meet anybody like him; he was out of this world. He was down to earth, emotional, supercharged, a political animal, a genius at newspaper presentation. It is significant that Keith Waterhouse said he learnt all his skills of newspaper presentation from Hugh Cudlipp and that says it all. His secret, of course, was his simplicity. He was a man of the people; he believed in the ordinary people. He learnt about life going round with his old man on a vehicle – there was an apocryphal story that it was a horse and cart. It wasn’t a horse and cart, it was a hired van. It is true, though, his father delivered groceries and Hugh went around with him through the Welsh valleys and learnt so much about life – which he always quoted ever after as his schooling because, remember, like most of us in Fleet Street of our generation, we left school at 14.

He described himself as a reporter, observer, listener and raconteur and, of course, he never missed a trick. But that was what he was. Oh dear, he used to frighten

the life out of me. His head would be into his shoulders – he used to stand there like this and he would crowd you, when he was in a bad temper – which was quite often, and he saw everything. I remember he came to our wedding in Arundel in 1988 and I persuaded him to say a few words. He had us all in stitches. He said: “When I came in I saw all these eminent and powerful people. I thought I was at a gangster’s funeral. Then I saw that the police were smiling so I knew it must be a wedding.” That was Cudlipp.

I describe my first meeting in my biography that Dennis Griffiths mentioned. He was in his office and he beckoned me inside. He handed me the ‘phone and said: “See who this is, he talks so bloody posh I can’t understand a word he’s saying.”

Baron Cudlipp, KBE, OBE, born August 23, 1913, died May 17, 1998 aged 84. In 1963 he married the distinguished magazine editor, Jodie Highland and I am delighted to say Jodie is with us tonight. They had 35 happy years together and all of us who met them several times after his retirement saw what a wonderful couple they made. He retired in 1973 at the age of 60. He said – and was quoted several times – that it was an unpardonable vanity on the part of anyone over 60 to go on running newspapers and telling the young what to do. He recanted that later but he certainly believed it when he retired.

Wonderful person – genius!

He was 24 when he was made editor of the Sunday Pictorial. He was editor of the Sunday Pic three times before it became the Sunday Mirror. He was Editor-in-Chief of Mirror papers, editorial director, vice chairman, chairman. A wonderful person – a genius. He made mistakes in plenty but the biggest cross he had to bear was the charge that he had given away the Odham’s Sun to Rupert Murdoch who immediately turned it into a tabloid and clobbered the Daily Mirror with it.

Rupert got it for £75,000 down and a maximum of £700,000 on HP over six years. Of course, these days, it makes that in six days.

Murdoch told me that the most astonishing thing to him was that the IPC and Cudlipp team played down that it mustn’t go tabloid. He couldn’t believe that he got the Odham’s Sun at a knock-down price and he could turn it into a tabloid. But of course the reasons for that deal have never had a proper airing. There were two very good reasons why Cudlipp did it.

One, if he had taken up the other option and closed down The Sun after the Herald, 2,000 people would have been thrown out of work in Long Acre so he wasn’t going to do that. No way at all. And the other option was even worse. He would have to sell it to Robert Maxwell who was sniffing around. Rupert bought the Odham’s Sun and he bought the News of the World because of Maxwell.

The Apple Orchard...

The Mirror had become too serious. He had always said that journalists and editors should never take themselves too seriously. He did on that occasion. He had already lost the trend and among the astonishing things we remember is – who was the first man to put a nude into a national newspaper? Hugh Cudlipp on the Sunday Pictorial in the 30s! It was called The Apple Orchard by a society photographer called Roy and there was a little girl topless in an apple orchard and she was like this. And she was so skinny you couldn’t tell if she was a boy or a girl. Cudlipp went to Cecil King who told him he couldn’t do it. No way, he would never get away with it so he went to the then chairman, John Cowley, who was rather staid, although he had a mistress in France, nevertheless he was relatively old-fashioned and a bit of a Puritan. He was so clever, Hugh. He got Cowley talking about apple orchards in Kent. Apparently this bloke was a pig farmer and had a couple of apple trees. So Hugh said to him: “Is this a true representation of the apple orchards at this time of year, John?” Cowley looked at it and said, “Yes, I’ve got trees like that in my orchard.”

“Well, I believe I’ll run that,” said Cudlipp and off he went and told them on the Stone that the picture had been given the OK by the chairman. So it is astonishing that Cudlipp sadly read it wrong when he took the view – I remember him telling us, God forbid, I shouldn’t be saying this but you’ve got to be objective – he said that The Sun was a comic for Irish navvies. That was within weeks of being taken over. Of course, if it was read by Irish Navvies, it was read by a lot of other people as well. But the ultimate irritant was Maxwell.

At this point I must now confess that I was working for Robert Maxwell and the NSPCC and between us we raised £14 million and saved the NSPCC. In the course of that, when we were working in Maxwell House at the back of Liverpool Street station I heard that the wicked old sod was trying to get the Daily Express and I said: “You’ll never get the Express – buy the Daily Mirror.”

Lessons to learn

So what would he have made of today's papers, bearing in mind what we have just read there and the fact that he had stepped aside for the younger generation? As I say, he was having second thoughts at the end. He wrote in Dennis Griffiths' Newspaper Yearbook, 1997: 'There are lessons editors of newspapers need to learn by observing if they are dim enough not to know by instinct.'

I find it curious that in the 1990s young journalists of both sexes are able to edit national newspapers, even for short periods, with little more street wisdom than can be acquired by writing a pop column or working on women's magazines or supplements. I wish them the luck they surely need. Is Piers Morgan here?

He noted that "Publish and Damned" his own testament was the credo that made the Mirror so successful in the war years and beyond and he added: "In some of the current British tabloids publish and damned is the hypocritical alibi for the excretion of sleaze, intrusion and kiss-and-tell. Investigative journalism has become keyhole prying."

Contempt

In my day the over-riding problem was how to get the ship into the bottle. Our papers were a marvel of compression; our sub-editors admired the world over. Today the bottle has become a 10-gallon jar. Bigger and bigger papers, more and more chaff in a frantic effort to fill them. The Press has become self-obsessed and flabby. Today's ruling philosophy is fat newspapers with a high cover-price and fat advertising revenue. The profession, generally, is held in contempt by almost everyone outside the industry. There are few worthy exceptions – much of what we read is marshmallow pap. Those of jumped-up pop stars with limited shelf-life; lots of likely stories from telly persons desperate for publicity – nobody's posing as somebody.

These days the men in suits, accountants, business school graduates and so on have taken over from the proprietors and editorial directors of yesteryear who are just as passionate about producing powerful newspapers at low prices as the journalists they employ. For all the feeble crowing about putting a handful of copies here and there the circulation charts continue to

display row upon row of minus signs. Sales are less than half were they stood in my hay-day. There is a grave danger that the printed word as produced by the popular Press will give way to the Internet and become redundant in the first half of the 21st century.

Why else do you think that Rupert Murdoch has diverted his millions to satellite television and Kelvin Mackenzie runs a radio station?

Saviour needed

The time has come for a newspaper revolution to restore the mass-appeal that came in waves through much of this century. The new millennium must find something new, exciting and different. We need a saviour, perhaps, a pathfinder like Cudlipp or Christiansen before things go from bad to worse. Standards have fallen, despite the talk of self-regulation. Production values make the toes curl.

The key thing – vital on every newspaper – was that the night editor, features and news editors, knew the right story for the front page, for their readers. Not every paper but for their paper. What has happened to that?

World Leaders of the 1970s: A Decade of Turmoil

Arundells, a very fine townhouse in the heart of Salisbury, Wiltshire, was the home for many years of Sir Edward Heath. The former Prime Minister wanted his house, garden and art collection to be retained and made available for members of the public to visit and enjoy following his death. Now, thanks to The Sir Edward Heath Memorial Foundation, Arundells is preserved for posterity and incorporates a fascinating museum of Ted Heath's life and political career (as well as his musical and sailing interests). This year it is also staging a major exhibition entitled "World Leaders of the 1970s: A Decade of Turmoil." The exhibition, says the Foundation's spokesman David Felton, "will explore the personal histories, careers, achievements and errors of nine of the most important political leaders of the decade and their relationship with Britain." As such, it should be of great interest to all journalists!

During the decade of turmoil, international relations were conducted against a backdrop of Cold War tensions, oil price shocks and a number of high profile acts of terrorism including the 1972 Munich Olympics, the Iranian Hostage Crisis and numerous hijackings. The exhibition runs until mid-August.

The featured leaders are:

- President Richard Nixon – President of the United States of America
- Leonid Brezhnev – General Secretary Communist Party of the Soviet Union

- Chairman Mao Zedong – People's Republic of China
- Willy Brandt – Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Indira Gandhi – Prime Minister of India
- President Georges Pompidou – President of France
- Kakuei Tanaka – Prime Minister of Japan
- Pierre Trudeau – Prime Minister of Canada
- Henry Kissinger – Secretary of State, United States of America

"World Leaders of the 1970s" comprises a unique collection of over 70 iconic photographs, as well as documents from the turbulent period together with artefacts and memorabilia from the Arundells collection including photographs of Edward Heath with H.M. The Queen and President and Mrs Nixon at Chequers; President Gerald Ford, Henry Kissinger and Leonid Brezhnev decked out in furs at the Vladivostok nuclear arms control summit; the infamous kiss between Leonid Brezhnev and East German leader Erich Honecker lampooned on the Berlin Wall; and a photograph given to Ted Heath by Richard Nixon inscribed: "In our line of work it's always good to have a second skill! Smooth sailing in your new boat."

Among the controversies and insights explored in the exhibition, with echoes of today's debates, is correspondence between



Willy Brandt and Edward Heath about the outcome of the 1975 European Referendum and, in 1972, a commitment from Germany to take a share of the influx of Ugandan Asian refugees to the UK. Other events documented include the deterioration of relations between Britain and the US over the Middle East in 1973 to the extent that papers were commissioned for Secretary of State Kissinger on potential US sanctions against Britain.

An account is also included of the occasion when Brezhnev took Nixon for a spin around Camp David in a dark blue Lincoln Continental, which had been presented to him by the Ford Motor Company before the Secret Service could stop him.

The exhibition has been made possible through the assistance of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Foreign Ministry of Japan, the Archive and Libraries Service of Canada and the Nixon Presidential Library.

For more details please visit the website www.arundells.org

London Press Club Awards 2016

The Daily Mail was crowned Daily Newspaper of the Year for the fourth time at the recent London Press Club Awards. The Times took the newly-created Weekend Newspaper of the Year title. Journalists from ITV, Sky, BuzzFeed, The Spectator, The London Evening Standard and the Mail on Sunday were among those honoured.

The glittering awards ceremony, held at the Corinthia Hotel, was packed with editors, journalists and presenters from the world of print, broadcast and digital media. The compere, BBC News presenter Kate Silverton, started by thanking the assembled audience of news gatherers - on what was her first day back at work - for "keeping me sane" during two years maternity leave.

Quoting the judging panel, she said that the Daily Mail's "vigorous campaigns" and "star-studded roster of columnists" made the paper stand out among its competitors as "the one not to be missed". The judges also praised its sports section and "strong opinion that makes grown men quake".

"If it's not in this paper, it probably didn't happen," said one member of the judging panel.

Accepting the award, the newspaper's fourth in 11 years, editor-in-chief Paul Dacre paid tribute to the high quality of journalism in Britain, declaring that, at its best, it is "better today than it ever was".

"Our industry is populated by incredibly dedicated and hard-working people, many in the regions working on a pittance," said Dacre. "Indeed, at the risk of blowing our own trumpet, I would like to say that no one works harder than the Mail's journalists. I am constantly humbled at their selflessness, brilliance and passion for getting it right. I accept this award on their behalf."

Of The Times Saturday edition, Silverton told the audience: "In a field crowded with excellent writing and comprehensive coverage of everything from politics to sport and finance to lifestyle, the judges thought the winner's roster of suburb columnists gave the edge over weekend competitors."

Breathtaking scoop

The awards winners were announced by category, starting with Business Journalist of the year, which was taken by Sky's Mark Kleinman.

Silverton told the audience: "Sometimes called 'the scourge of the City', Sky Business Editor Kleinman breaks news like no other broadcaster on a regular basis and surprises his competitors with his ability to dig out stories many City people wish he wouldn't."

Print Journalist of the Year, was won by the Political Editor of the Mail on Sunday, Simon Walters.

Silverton said: "Scoop after breathtaking scoop furnished by the Political Editor of the MoS makes the paper unmissable for those inside and outside the Westminster bubble."

Digital Journalist of the Year award went to Heidi Blake of BuzzFeed. "In joining Buzzfeed over the last year, Heidi Blake has continued to grow her reputation as a highly formidable investigative journalist and helped the platform on its journey towards being regarded as a serious news site. Her work on breaking the tennis scandal last year not only was a global story, but a powerful indication in how future online media can use data to break huge stories," Silverton told the audience.

Hotly contested

Julie Etchingham of ITV picked up the Broadcast Journalist of the Year award for her work as one of the solo presenters of News at Ten.

"A news-making interviewer in her own right on 'Tonight' and as the moderator of the only election debate in which all the political leaders took part" was what made her stand out to the judging panel.

In the hotly contested Scoop of the Year category, Miles Goslett, won for his expose of Kids Company which was published by The Spectator.

The judges said of Goslett's work: "In taking on Kids Company and its two prominent mouthpieces, Camilla Batmanghelidjh and Alan Yentob, Miles Goslett was effectively tackling much of the British establishment. This was a charity beloved by so many in positions of power, not least the Prime Minister's wife and some fairly powerful BBC top brass, so doggedness - and accuracy - were to be crucial."

The Edgar Wallace Trophy, in honour of one of Fleet Street's most famous journalists, was awarded to David Cohen, campaigns editor and chief feature writer of the London Evening Standard.

Chairman of the judges, Bill Hagerty, said: "There was no argument this year when the panel debated whose name should be added to previous inductees of one of journalism's most exclusive clubs. The career to date of David Cohen made him the outstanding candidate, one whose



L-R Kate Silverton, David Cohen and Bill Hagerty.
PICTURE BY: NIGEL HOWARD/EVENING STANDARD ©

work has already seen him win the Paul Foot Award, for spearheading the paper's Frontline London campaign on gangs, and receive two Orwell Prize nominations, for series on The Dispossessed and disadvantaged young Londoners.

"What Cohen has achieved should provide inspiration for all journalism students and those considering working across the news media platforms."

Earlier Sir Alan Moses, chair of IPSO, rejected the idea of "a defensive press" and championed the cause of robust, "edited journalism" over "the unedited flatulence of the troll online" in his keynote speech at this year's London Press Club Awards lunch.

Was "all fair and dandy in the world of press behaviour?" he asked several hundred editors and senior journalists gathered at the five-star luxury Corinthia Hotel in London for the annual Awards lunch. "Oh good lord, I sincerely hope not," he said.

"The thought of a well-behaved press tiptoeing daintily in the park for fear of treading on the pretty flowers in so many illicit beds gives this regulator cold gruel indeed", said Sir Alan, a former Lord Justice of Appeal and Court of Appeal judge, who became IPSO's first chair in 2014.

And a thinly-disguised dig at IMPRESS, the self-appointed charity claiming to rival IPSO which was set up with the backing of the majority of UK newspapers, he announced a new category of award - for Regulator of the Year - with IPSO coming second, but "highly commended".

"The winner is IMPRESS - what regulator could hope to rise to the eminence of a regulator of the Ferret and the Bit of Stone...where few if any complain and where those worthy blogs do what you all ought to learn to do...behave yourselves. What fun it must be a theoretical regulator. The triumph of theory over practice needs does it not our admiration," said Sir Alan.

Whicker's World Foundation Awards

The finalists for the inaugural Whicker's World Foundation Awards have been announced.

The awards were set up in memory of legendary broadcaster Alan Whicker and have attracted entries from across the globe. Finalists have been whittled down to five entries in each of three different sections: the Funding Award, Veteran's Award and Audio Award.

The top prize is the Funding Award of £80,000 which will be awarded to emerging talent (under 30 year's old) who are looking to make their first full-length documentary. The five finalists, who will be pitching their ideas at Sheffield Doc/Fest in June, proposed stories from Burma, South Sudan, the Amazon, the USA and Syria.

The winners in all three categories will be announced at the Award's Night at The Crucible, Sheffield, also on 14th June.

Founder of the Whicker's World Foundation, Valerie Kleeman, photographer, programme consultant and Whicker's partner for more than 40 years, said: "Alan's wish was that the Foundation should provide a platform for young documentary makers. He would be amazed and delighted by so much of what we have seen. We looked for surprise and originality and have not been disappointed- the sheer variety of entries has been overwhelming. The spirit of Whicker's World is alive and flourishing in the most unexpected and inaccessible places."

The finalists in detail:

The Veteran's Award

The £4,000 winner of the award for veteran first-timers over the age of 50 will be a contest between Keith Hault, a former IT manager from Witney, and Norman Fowler, the former Conservative cabinet minister turned cub reporter at the age of 77.

Fluechtlinge – Refugee Keith Earnest Hault, a fan of Alan Whicker's 'gentle approach' to interviewing was inspired to create a ten-minute film about Syrians seeking refuge in a disused airport used for the Berlin Airlift. When he witnessed his friend's wife Caroline trying to help refugees against a growing backlash he 'felt the urge to film it if only for her family to reflect on later in life'. Keith learnt his film-making skills at the SAE Institute after redundancy and divorce turned his life upside-down. Judges were impressed that he made this entirely self-funded film as 'a simple tale of ordinary people helping other ordinary people at their time of most desperate need'.

The Truth About Aids – Reporter / Presenter Norman Fowler. Producer Smita Patel/Editor Hugh Levinson for BBC World Service. In 1987, as Health Secretary in Margaret Thatcher's government, Norman Fowler united forces with Chief medical Officer Sir Donald Acheson to create a leaflet called Don't Die of Ignorance. Every UK household received a copy explaining, in unusually frank detail for the time, exactly how HIV is spread. Thirty years on Lord Fowler travels the UK, US, Australia and Russia to compare experiences and find out how far prejudice is still hampering effective policies for AIDS prevention. In the submitted extract he engages with drug addicts on the streets and congressmen in the White House, dodging unwanted attention from local police along the way.

Audio Awards

After much soul searching the five finalists of Audio Awards were felt by the judges to be those that best exemplified the criteria – to coax the human spirit into revealing itself, tell us something new and unexpected about the world and excite wonder. They are: -

Lore's Story: recorded and presented by Lore Windemuth-Wolfson and Produced by Elizabeth Burke for BBC Radio 4.

The Dhammzedi Bell: produced by Francesca Pancetta for BBC Radio 3.

Shoah in Jerusalem: written and presented by Jonathan Freedland and produced by Sarah Peters. The editor was Iain Chambers for BBC Radio 4.

Little Volcanoes: recorded, written and produced by Catherine Fitzgerald, sound mix by Matt Thompson and Mike Woolley. A Sky Arts online commission. Made in the UK.

Johnny O: The Pirate's Story: recorded written and produced by Lu Olkowski edited by Sean Cole, Samara Freemark, Amanda Aronczyk and Brendan Baker who also did the sound design. Recorded in the US, funded by KCRW and broadcast in Australia on RN Radio Tonic, part of the Australian Broadcast Company.

All finalists will receive Hindenburg editing software. The winner of the £4,000 first prize and the £1,000 runner's up award will be announced at Sheffield Doc/Fest on 14 June.

In addition the Awards Committee will also be granting award highly commended prizes of £250 each to two applicants. The first is Eve Conlon from Tyneside, UK for "Student Gamblers"- where Eve investigates just how bad the rising problem of student gambling from secondary school to university has become." The second was Joel Carnegie from Geelong in Australia for "From Music into Silence"; the story of Australia's only fully-qualified music-therapist, who uses his love of the harp to ease the suffering of the terminally ill. These short reports exemplified sensibility, promise and commitment.

The Funding Award

The judges were excited by the number and the variety of strong stories being proposed from across 5 continents. The full proposals will not be published at this stage to safeguard the applicant's work.

Burma's Lost Royals - Alex Bescoby's story centres around a forgotten monarchy and an intriguing quest that threatens to tear a family apart.

Inga of The Amazon – Jennifer Chui on the trail of a tiny plan with very big ideas.

Americaville – Adam James Smith on the pursuit of Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness in a Chinese replica of an American town, right down to lessons in cooking with Jello.

Mukesh – Ricky Norris on the powerful, high ranking UN whistleblower who tried to stop genocide in South Sudan.

Lessons from My Father – When Safwon Suleyman's estranged father, a Syrian exile in Turkey, tells his son he is "on a personal Jihad to rebuild the Syrian human being" Safron is at a loss to what a 60 year old former factory owner can do, but as the father's free school starts to rise from nothing Safwon is drawn in.

About Whicker's World Foundation

Last June the Whicker's World Foundation, whose principal aim is to give a much needed fillip to authored documentary storytelling in the UK, launched three new documentary awards worth a total of £100,000 for the promotion of curiosity in programme making, generously funded by a legacy left by the celebrated broadcast journalist Alan Whicker, who died in 2013.

The deadline for entries closed on February 14 and the next round opens on June 15. Details at whickersworldfoundation.com

Halting the stampede

By Walter M. Leaf

In the last issue of The Journal, under the heading “Stampeding the Establishment”, Steve Nimmons contributes his views on the 2015 Israeli elections. Unfortunately, Steve does not like the results. Having visited and commented on Israel for over half-a-century, however, and being still involved in that work, I’d like, for the sake of awareness and fairness, to add something to the other scale pan.

First, let me remind readers of what Steve said. If his views are correct, Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel’s second-longest (and, of course, democratically elected) prime minister, can accurately be described in the following terms: “wily,” guilty of electoral “follies,” and of a “U-turn on the 2-state solution” with the Palestinians, in addition to “clumsy utterances,” and “posturing.” We are also told that “seasoned pundits with greater acuity” realised that Netanyahu was “in the death-grip” of “political desperation, inaccurate polling information and self-doubt” and “in many ways” had “lost control.”

Death grip? How astonishing, then, that – when the votes were counted – Netanyahu had triumphed again.

A clue to how Steve came to be so off-the-mark comes when he tells us that for “days and weeks after the election” he spoke about it to several members of the UK Labour party. They shared his disappointment at the failure of the “left-wing Zionist Union under Isaac Herzog” and “Britain under Ed Miliband.” Perhaps, if he had also spoken to other parts of the electoral spectrum, in both Britain and Israel, his forecasts might have been more authentic and his disappointments less acute.

My interest in Steve’s piece arises because I first knew Bibi Netanyahu when I was reporting from New York City. To say I don’t recognise him from Steve’s assessment would be an understatement, although many would agree that all politicians change their minds when circumstances alter. Don’t we all? He was just coming to the end of his term as Israel’s representative at the United Nations, where he made his name as a brilliant defender before a difficult audience. It is not easy for the world’s only Jewish country to get a favourable hearing in an organisation of 123 countries, of which 22 are members of the Arab League and 57 in all belong to the Organisation of Islamic States!

Enemies all around

Yet, although most of the delegates representing Muslim-controlled lands invariably walked out whenever Israel’s delegate was allowed to speak, you’d see many of them huddled around the TV monitors in the corridors, hanging on every word. That could be because, unlike many of his critics, he does not harangue or holler. He speaks quietly and relies on evidence more

than emotion, although he can certainly be emotional when he reminds his audience of the truth. Which includes such facts that it is not Israel that has deserted the peace table. Abbas walked away from it for almost a year, rather than listen to both sides, and still refuses to negotiate, even though Israel (which is menaced by sworn enemies all around and has had to endure repeated invasions, hi-jacks, suicide bombings, infiltrations by individual murderers of families in their homes or when travelling, and unending threats) has already yielded territory in exchange for peace with Egypt and Jordan. It now exists on a recognised area amounting to a mere 18% of its ancient land, as legally re-allocated totally by the Balfour Declaration and the League of Nations.

Perhaps the best way to understand Bibi is via his book, “Fighting Terrorism”. It was written twenty years ago, just before he was first elected Premier. I’ve read many bulky books on that subject. But this succinct volume, in a bare 150 pages, tells you all. It deals masterfully with terrorism against many countries, including his own, and is as relevant today as when he wrote it. He had, after all, first-hand knowledge of enemy action, in his own family. He himself was wounded in warfare, defending his country, and he suffered unutterable grief when his elder brother led that heroic rescue flight to Kenya, to save the crowd of Jewish visitors that dictator Idi Amin had seized and was holding prisoner. As the world held its breath, the plane landed, the guards were overcome, the Israeli prisoners freed and the plane took off for Israel. There was only one Israeli casualty: Bibi’s brother sadly died leading the operation.

These days, Israel’s Prime Minister has to

fight on several fronts, including terrorism; organised Palestinian riots; a UN rather different from what its idealistic founders generations ago envisaged and where, in spite of horrific wars and oppression worldwide, the majority of hostile resolutions (backed by its Islamic core) incredibly slam the only democracy in a region stretching thousands of miles – Israel.

Boycott

Let us not be too ready to think we are above all that. There’s not only the largely hostile media. There is also the boycott movement against Israeli products and projects in our country, even though we actually owe that tiny state better treatment. It is a strong supporter and importer of British visible and invisible exports. While our TV sets and computers embody revolutionary components, born in Israeli brains and laboratories, to transform our communications, and our hospitals and surgeries rely on remedial advances discovered by Israeli minds and methods. And the barren Third World benefits from innovative agricultural procedures first employed by Israelis to make “the desert bloom like the rose,” as the Bible puts it. Meantime, steadily nuclearizing Iran (with eased sanctions) continues to promise Israel’s death.

All this helps to show why I believe Israel deserves a fairer glance and better understanding. Israelis remain cheerful – despite irrational international enmities, like the non co-operation launched by hundreds of British university lecturers and the Islamic harassing of Jewish student-groups. Happily, the Council of Christians and Jews and many other unprejudiced bodies – and people – safeguard our morality.

George Alagiah wins Charles Wheeler Award

BC reporter and news presenter George Alagiah has been named winner of this year’s prestigious Charles Wheeler Award for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcast Journalism. The Award is made each year in honour of one of the BBC’s most celebrated correspondents, the late Sir Charles Wheeler.

George Alagiah joined the BBC in 1989 and became one of its leading foreign correspondents, reporting on conflicts and human tragedies from India, Brazil, Rwanda, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Africa, Kosovo and several other countries. He has reported for feature length documentaries and current affairs programmes, and currently presents the country’s most highly viewed TV bulletin, the BBC Six O’Clock News. He has written

two major books, *A Passage to Africa* (Little, Brown, 2001) and *A Home from Home* (Abacus, 2006).

The Charles Wheeler Award, a collaboration between British Journalism Review and the University of Westminster, started in 2009 when the inaugural winner was Jeremy Paxman.

It is presented each year by Sir Charles’ widow Lady Wheeler, accompanied by the Wheeler family.

The annual award ceremony is hosted by the University of Westminster and will take place this year on June 14 at the University’s newly restored Regent Street Cinema. Presentation of the Award will be followed by a keynote speech from distinguished playwright and former journalist Sir Tom Stoppard.

The Chinese Magus

By Richard Yeo, Top Hat Books, 310 pages, paperback, £11.99.
ISBN 978-1-78535-239-3

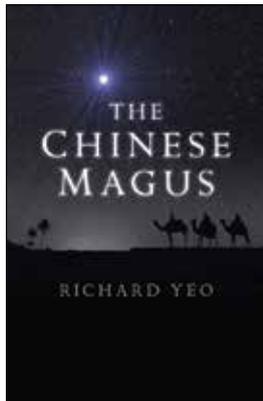
In ancient China, Governor Xiang Li contemplates his realm, his administration, his philosophy – and the heavens. An astronomer, he regularly escapes from day-to-day cares via an “inner kingdom” – a rose-scented, turret enclave in semi-darkness at the end of a long, spiral staircase. A servant, Kwon Ru, has placed food and drink before him, but Xiang Li’s gaze wanders beyond this earth:

“Putting such thoughts out of his mind he moved to the work table where Ru had set in order his charts of the star mansions. Soon he was deeply absorbed... Xian Li checked measurements and angles on the charts and compared them with the position of the Moon in the Mansions. White Tiger of the East, he thought. The Mansion of Autumn. He rather thought that the anomaly which had first caught his attention earlier in the year was somewhere between the Mansion’s ‘Stomach’ and ‘Hairy Head’...”

The strange presence in the night sky – “the anomaly” – is a mysterious star in the western sky, which draws Xiang Li away from his home, his work and his wife – beckoning him on a pilgrimage across the Steppes, the Torugot Pass, the Tien Shan Mountains, and the Bactrian Plateau to Samarkand; and from Samarkand, on to the lands of the Middle-Eastern Roman Empire, and to a humble stable at a remote place near Jerusalem – Bethlehem.

The author of this remarkable novel is Richard Yeo, a former Royal Naval officer who has now turned to the genre of the historical novel – or perhaps a new invention: the historical novel that unites past events with a thirst for the esoteric – for the mysteries and epiphanies of life. The Chinese Magus is the story of one man’s quest; his response to the irresistible pull of the mysterious star that heralds the birth of Christ; his journeying through the snowstorms and emptiness of vast trackless lands – the caravan procession in which he travels dwindling with each great obstacle or tempest.

Many characters accompany Xiang’s story, not least the brutal, fearless Dorba Tembay whose job it is to lead the party through the dangerous mountain route – and the manipulative Eunuch Ping, who would dearly love his master never to return. But always at Xiang’s side is his female servant, Te Zhu, who endures the privations of the



trek – silently surviving what seems like an impossible expedition. We also meet villagers, nomads, Roman soldiers, and even a brutal tax-collector – supported by a brigade of soldiers – who, on the return journey, fails to recognise the once immaculately-dressed administrator and ruler. Richard Yeo provides a very satisfying twist, to this and many other episodes – as Xiang Li, now changed by his experience at Bethlehem, sets many wheels in motion around him.

With a clear, beautiful style and shaping of an unusual story of far-off lands and ancient times, Richard Yeo’s Chinese Magus is one of the best, most intriguing new works to have appeared on our bookshelves for a considerable time.

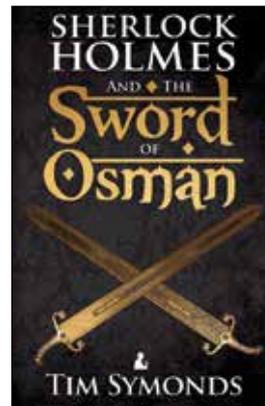
Stuart Millson

Sherlock Holmes and The Sword of Osman

By Tim Symonds, MX Publishing, 230pp, £8.99, paperback.
ISBN 978-1-78092-755-8

The Magus-like figure of Sherlock Holmes – the inscrutable detective, almost superhuman in his intellect and asceticism – has caught the imagination of writers, dramatists, filmmakers, and a worldwide readership. The London fogs of the Victorian-Edwardian era, the bizarre mysteries which they conceal, Holmes’s extraordinary ability to see beyond the range and vision of mere mortals – all provide an unending source of inspiration. It is as if we cannot leave this world: as if each tale of Holmes and his assistant, Dr. Watson, is never enough. Thankfully, writer and Institute member Tim Symonds is on hand to ensure that the casebook of the great detective continues.

Re-imagining Holmes is a great art, and it must be said that Tim Symonds has, in his latest work – The Sword of Osman – taken the formula to new levels and to a new geography entirely. We are just eight years away from the outbreak of the Great War, and Holmes finds himself on a foreign mission, on the very edge of Europe and Asia; solving a murderous conspiracy upon which the stability of the tottering Ottoman Empire of Sultan Abd-ul-Hamid depends. To evade detection themselves, Holmes and Watson arrive in Asia-Minor disguised in Royal Naval uniforms, but for the great



BOOKSHELF

man of Baker Street (and for Tim Symonds) authenticity – and a withering observation from Holmes – is everything...

“I awoke next morning to find Holmes changing into the Commander’s uniform and pulling on his boots. I flung myself into the Surgeon Lieutenant’s dress uniform... A porter unloaded our luggage and placed it alongside us in a cab to the harbour. Holmes murmured, ‘Watson, I understand old Army habits die hard but if you are to pass as a naval officer you must rid yourself of the custom of placing a handkerchief in your sleeve. It might well be remarked upon by the crew.’”

Once in the near-Orient, our heroes are surrounded by the sights and sounds of this exotic, yet sinister land – and full marks to the author for his love of scenery and landscape-painting:

“... I looked out of the carriage at the passing sights. Small, clean-eared Arabian horses plunged their faces into great deep basins, lustily lapping the water. Rows of fruit-shops offered apricots, cherries and plums from large baskets... A Cypress tree in the courtyard of a mosque and a stand of Oriental Plane...”

Having laid out the stage, Tim Symonds steers our detective from the dusty streets to the Sultan’s palace – which seems like a vision from an Arabian fairytale. Despite his power, the ruler fears conspiracy and overthrow from every corner and shadow, especially as the unique and priceless Sword of Osman – “only one swordsmith [says Holmes] on God’s good earth could wield hammer and tongs to fashion so beautiful a blade” – has disappeared, to be replaced by a fake.

But who could have struck such a blow? As Holmes observes to the bewildered Sultan: “You are the best-guarded sovereign in the world. High walls surround you. Every inch of this vast palace is under supervision... The only passage of entry to the sword was through two consecutive pairs of doors, one of brass and one of iron... Each night the keys are handed to the Chief Black Eunuch. Given the Head Gardener’s extra two thousand pairs of eyes, it’s impossible for an outsider to remove the sword.”

And so, take your seat for a superb mystery, which goes to the very heart of the Sultan’s realm: the appearance of a mysterious nocturnal apparition, with flames flickering from its body; deadly poisons and secret messages; suspicion and suspects on all sides, as Holmes, gloriously revived by Tim Symonds, undertakes one of his most audacious searches and missions to date.

Stuart Millson

OBITUARIES

John Hosken

Veteran Broadcaster – and long-standing Institute member - John Hosken has died, aged 79.

Institute stalwart John Hosken, who has died after a short illness, was a man of many talents and many voices! For many years he was BBC Radio's Industrial Correspondent, during an era of strikes and mass pickets, but he was also known for his role as a commentator for State Occasions, as a successful children's author and as a regular stand-in for Jimmy Young during the 1980s.

John, christened Clifford after his father, but always called by his second name, was immensely proud of being Cornish and of his time at Truro School, where he was a scholarship boy. His burning ambition was to be a journalist, and he joined the West Briton soon after he left school. He served two years National Service with the RAF, where his training as a shorthand typist stood him in good stead, achieving an impressive speed at shorthand. During his time with the service, he developed a passion for running daily, becoming the RAF's Coastal Command Champion.

After National Service he returned to West Briton, where he developed his own weekly column, "Onlooker". His editor suggested he move to the Western Morning News in Plymouth where he became one of the team of court reporters, and achieved his first-ever byline when, in 1961, just before the opening of the Tamar suspension bridge between Plymouth and Saltash he walked across the river, braving the rudimentary plank pathway between the suspension cables, swaying alarmingly above the water!

John was keen to join the world of national newspapers and was having been told by the editor of the Daily Herald in Manchester, to "drop in if he was ever passing" he took the train to Manchester, where he was sent for a day's trial on the Manchester Evening news. He got the front-page splash! A job with the Daily Herald soon followed and he moved to Manchester with his first-wife Lin, where, later, Petrie and James were born.

From the Herald, he joined the BBC in Manchester as presenter of the weekday evening programme Voice of the North. Additionally, he became part of the team working for Don Mosey's Saturday sports programme. He was recruited as an interviewer for a variety of London-based programmes – World at One, Woman's House and Radio 2's Late Night Extra. He also appeared on television's Look North.

Subsequently, John joined BBC Radio in London as a reporter, where he had a



Gillian and John Hosken

short stint as Science Correspondent before applying for the post of Radio Industrial Correspondent. During a time of serious industrial unrest, he forged close contacts with leading union figures like Joe Gormley of the NUM and Ray Buckton of the train-drivers union ASLEF.

Later, he would entertain colleagues in the BBC Club with his impersonations of Joe Gormley and TUC leader Vic Feather. In fact, John had a particular talents for "doing voices" – his repertoire included Sir Winston Churchill, WC Fields and ASTMS leader, Clive Jenkins. I recall especially, his Vic Feather, which was so good that, apparently, Vic's son asked John to do it for him after Vic - TUC General Secretary until 1973 - had died.

John's three children Petrie, James and Andrew, remained with mother Lin when she and John divorced and he moved to London in 1970, but he ensured that the children spent regular weekends with him, whenever the BBC hadn't called him out to cover a story!

Memorable trips

In May 1978, John married Gillian, a producer with BBC World Service, whom he met and got to know when they first worked together, and would meet for a drink at the BBC Club. They were to spend 38 years together.

John had moved on from Industry to become the BBC's Aviation, Transport and Local Government Correspondent. At that time, airlines used to invite air correspondents and their wives to travel with them when they launched new routes, and the couple had some memorable trips. John also travelled and reported on Concorde regularly.

After his stints presenting the Jimmy Young show, John was also asked to present his own show, Late Night Friday, on Radio 2. When John joined the broadcast team for State Occasions, his first commentary was on the Lord Mayor's Banquet, and later, in

1983, in recognition of his commentaries, the Lord Mayor granted him the Freedom of the City of London.

John went on to commentate on State Opening of Parliament, the wedding of the Prince of Wales to Diana and the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. It may be that growing up with his mother, who was blind, gave him a particular gift for painting a picture of events, and John's gentle Cornish lilt unquestionably added to the colour of the events he described.

When he left the BBC Staff in 1988, a successful freelance career beckoned, making many documentaries for BBC World Service. For Radio 2, he travelled to Mexico and the US to make a programme called "Cousin Jack", relating the story of how many Cornish travelled world-wide when Cornwall's tin-mining industry collapsed. For that story and many other articles on Cornwall, John was invited to become a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh – which celebrates Cornish culture and traditions.

John was a multi-talented broadcaster with a skill for getting to the heart of the story and of the individuals he interviewed. He was a loyal member of the Institute's Broadcasting Division since the mid-seventies and regularly attended our meetings at the Horse and Groom in Fitzrovia.

I feel privileged to have known him and enjoyed his company. I recall with particular pleasure the copy of his first book, Meet Mr Majimpsy, which he gave me when it was first published – and which, subsequently, I passed on to my son.

John was an old-school journalist and a true gentleman; I know he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

He is survived by his wife Gillian and three children.

Paul Leighton, Chairman, Broadcasting Division.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

(1926-2015)



Edward John Barrington Douglas Scott-Montagu, 3rd Baron Montagu of Beaulieu, was a longstanding member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and was our Honorary "Millennium President" in the year 2000. He was perhaps best known in recent years for his tireless championing of British tourism and for the success of the National Motor Museum which he founded, based on his own collection of vintage and classic cars, and which to this day is housed at his country estate, Beaulieu, in Hampshire.

Montagu was in many ways an archetypal English Tory of his generation – Eton, Oxford and the Guards – but his career was marred early on by high jinks at the Bullingdon Club (seemingly more acceptable now than in Montagu's day!) which led to his leaving university in his second year, and allegations of homosexuality (in those days still a criminal matter) and several high-profile court cases in which he faced the same charges as Oscar Wilde more than half a century earlier. (The story of the witch-hunt against Montagu was the subject of the 2008 Channel Four documentary *A Very British Sex Scandal*.)

Notwithstanding these blots on his character he continued collecting, conserving, writing and promoting, and became highly regarded as an ambassador for Britain's heritage industry and tourism. He served as Chairman of the Historic Houses Association in the 1970s and then of English Heritage in the following decade, and when the Blair government "reformed" the House of Lords in 1999 he ended up as one of the 92 Hereditary Peers who stayed in Parliament after being elected to remain there by their fellow Peers.

Edward Montagu was a well-liked and respected figure in both Parliament and the media, and was a popular choice as our Institute's Honorary President in 2000.

Andy Smith (CIOJ President 2001-3)

VIEWPOINT

THE COST OF CARE

By Dr Lin Berwick MBE

The time bomb of the issue of the cost of social care is about to explode – and, what is more, this government has no realistic idea of how it is going to be funded.

It is as though they are just sticking their finger in the wind to see which way the wind is blowing. The wind is blowing quite fiercely for change, and it will happen, not simply because the government is aware that it must put more funding into social care, but because the minimum wage legislation has focused the real issue on the level of funding that social services will need to meet their obligations.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre, the think-tank for health and social care statistics state that some 654,930 people (2013/2014) receive care in their own homes, a further 228,000 are self funding, however these figures of a total of 883,000, pale into insignificance when one realises how the bill will need to increase to meet required levels of care.

Catastrophic

For example, someone requiring 24 hour full time live in care, who has previously engaged carers on a self employed basis, perhaps paying a much lower rate for night-time attendance, now has an obligation to employ those carers on a PAYE basis, and therefore has to meet the new minimum wage for the whole 24 hour period. On this basis the weekly care bill would come to £1209.60 excluding national insurance contribution, holiday pay of four weeks, statutory sick pay or maternity leave.

The knock-on for social services and individual carers is catastrophic, because it is putting social care provision further and further out of reach, and we are heading on a collision course of momentous proportion.

It is highly unlikely that any one family could meet this kind of expenditure unless they were reasonably wealthy to start with.

Emotional tension

The true cost of all this is not just about financial expenditure, it is more to do with the emotional tension and pressure that this kind of issue puts a disabled person under. In the past there were many more local authority residential care establishments, now, sadly the vast majority have been sold off to comply with "care in the community". This so-called care in the community is becoming non-existent.

What I wish to know is; what are Mr Cameron and Mr Crabb going to do about it. It is evident that more money must be found for Social Services up and down the country, to meet their obligations, and at

Dr Lin Berwick MBE is a qualified psychotherapeutic counsellor, homoeopath, a member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, a lecturer and writer on disability matters and a contributor to TV and radio programmes on related issues.

In 1994 she was named by RADAR as one of their "People of the Year". She was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to people with disabilities in 2003.

Lin is blind, has cerebral palsy and is a wheelchair user. She requires 24-hour care. She founded The Lin Berwick Trust in 1989 with her husband, Ralph Boyce, because of their personal frustration at the lack of suitable holiday accommodation for people with disabilities. Lin is President of the Trust and a member of the Board of Trustees - www.thelinberwicktrust.org.uk.

*Lin has written several books about her life including *Undeclared* and *Inner Vision*. Her latest book entitled *God's Rich Pattern* was published in 2012.*



the moment, no-one seems to have any idea where the extra funding is coming from.

Up to now all we have heard about is cuts, these cuts have jeopardised social care to the extent that for some people, they are receiving as little as half an hour a day, in reality, not enough time for that person to go to the toilet and wash their hands. More and more, hours of care are being cut and the level of personal funding required is increasing to almost £20 an hour with VAT. Where is the humanity in all of this? People are much more than a feeding and toileting machine, they would wish to have some social interaction and socialisation, and really feel valued by those who care for them, rather than feeling that they are nothing more than a nuisance.

People cannot always do things at breakneck speed, if you are dealing with people who have disability or dementia; you have to go at their speed, not yours.

There are many personal issues that people are fearful of every day of their lives, what they need is a sense of quietness, rather than constant anxiety about what is going to happen to them.

David Cameron, of all people, knows what it is like to be on the end of caring, his own son, Ivan was profoundly disabled, with Cerebral Palsy and epilepsy, and many other medical issues. He knows at first hand, the level of worry that people experience on a day to day basis, yet he sits back and only talks about cuts in services, when what is desperately needed is increase.

It's that referendum thing

By Roger Bush

Some two years ago Andrew Marr was at work on his first novel. Since it deals with a crucial referendum on British membership of the European Union, it's worth a second look just now. When it was published, in the autumn of 2014, *Head of State* had a rather mixed reception. Part of what follows is recycled from a review I wrote at the time, but what is more interesting now is the detailed description of what went on in the run-up to the Referendum.

"People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public" wrote Adam Smith in *Wealth of Nations*. A note at the front of *Head of State* tells us that its author had long wanted to write a political satire. So, when his agent arranged a meeting with Lord Chadlington, who supplied him with a plot involving a daring conspiracy at the heart of Government, he grabbed at the opportunity. As you might expect, the plot idea from the former head of Shandwick included some intricate manipulation of the media, allowing Marr to combine his knowledge of politics and journalism.

The action takes place in September 2017, so Marr was more than a year out in his fantasy forecast. Of course, with anything set in the near future, there are always going to be some recognisable figures of

the present still around, and Marr didn't hesitate to use them alongside his fictional characters. The Government of the day (Conservative) is supporting a 'Yes' vote in the Referendum – so he got that right. It is led by one Bill Stevenson (William and Stevenson are the author's middle two names). Germany's Chancellor is now a man – David McAllister (these Scots creep in everywhere!), the US President is now a woman (guess who?) and Nicolas Sarkozy has returned as President of France. David Cameron and Boris Johnson have somehow wandered off-stage, the latter after "a short-lived administration". So, surprisingly, has Nigel Farage, referred to only in an aside as "the insurgent UKIP leader". And the country now has a King, not named but again recognisable, his private study "filled with the King's own watercolours of Scotland, India and Windsor". As you can gather from the above, Marr indulged in some gentle mockery. One of the key figures in the conspiracy is Nelson Fraser - a reversal of the name of the current Editor of *The Spectator* – while the Editor of the *New Statesman* appears only as car, and a "slick, tinnily and noisy" one at that.

Deeply divided

The Government is deeply divided over the Referendum – so he got that right too. But the "No to Europe – Democracy First" campaign is led by a formidable former

Home Secretary (so he got that wrong) called Olivia Kite (waving a flag, or flying a kite?), operating from a country house in Essex. The conspiracy involves concealing the awkwardly timed death of the Prime Minister less than a week before Referendum Day (one hopes, for David Cameron's sake, that he got that one wrong too). Most of its levers are pulled by Professional Logistical Services, a secretive group of influential figures rather resembling a domestic Club of Rome. Much of the action takes place in 10 Downing Street, which Marr carefully researched to provide accuracy of detail. Some of this I found surprising, having been concerned with a book about the place back in the 1970s. I don't remember a "narrow brick Tudor corridor connecting No.10 to the Cabinet Office", though I know some remnants of Whitehall Palace were found in the 1960s when the house was given a two-bay eastern extension. But the claim that Downing Street was effectively rebuilt from the ground up at that time is surely wrong. Only No.12 at the western end of the street was pulled down and replaced.

Extracts from the *National Courier* (The Times retitled?) bracket the novel's fourteen chapters. The first, dated June 22, 2017 (a year less a day from the date of our upcoming Referendum) covers the PM's announcement of his September date; the second, dated 10 October 2017 describes the previous day's memorial service in Westminster for the departed Prime Minister (curiously, attended by "the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge" who would hardly be known by those titles after the accession of the Duke's father!). A rather more serious error was the title of the novel itself. I know that many journalists, even those concerned with politics, confuse the Head of State with the Head of Government, but it was not something one would have expected of Andrew Marr.

As a novel it's all a bit of a mish-mash. There are dozens of walk-on parts, both real and fictional, and the narrative is frequently interrupted by flashbacks (a bid to sell film rights here?). It just about works, but Marr is so good at so many things that perhaps he should have left novel-writing to others. Illustration too, to judge by the book's endpaper drawings. But "a political entertainment", as Lord Chadlington refers to it in his Foreword, it certainly was.

So what about the big question? Which view triumphed in the Referendum? I can't be accused of a spoiler so long after publication, so you may as well know that the 'No' campaign won. Bets had been placed – are they being placed right now? – and some parties did very well out of the result. By mid-summer we shall know whether Andrew Marr got that one right.

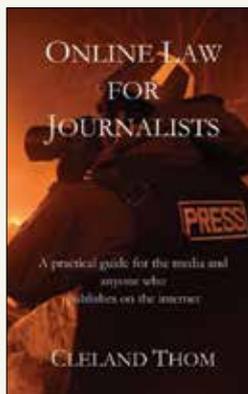
Online Law for Journalists

By Cleland Thom

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