



Court ruling “goes against spirit of justice”, says CIOJ

The Chartered Institute of Journalists (CIOJ) has criticised a decision by courts in Scotland to withhold details from journalists before cases start.

The Institute claims the ruling goes against long-standing principles of open justice.

The Scottish Lord Justice General, Brian Gill, announced the decision in a circular to journalists last month.

In the past, journalists in Scotland have been able to see complaints and indictments for note-taking purposes before cases begin in court.

But Lord Gill reviewed the arrangements because of “significant concerns” about revealing sensitive and personal data under the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998.

He said: “The current practice gives journalists an opportunity to attend and report on noteworthy cases. But it is now clear that the information being disclosed is excessive for this purpose.”

The decision means journalists will be unable to report the charges faced by an accused person, often at indictment level, before they reach court. Cases may be missed entirely if they call in court with no prior notice.

Absurd

CIOJ Scottish representative, Campbell Thomas, said: “It’s absurd that journalists are being prevented from seeing information that is going to be made freely available in court anyway.

“It has already been established under the DPA that in current cases, the clerk

will normally release information to the media if it’s been given in open court, unless there are any unfair implications for an individual.

“Up to now, the unfairness test has only been used when deciding whether to release information on cases after they had finished some time ago.”

Thomas added: “Lord Gill’s ruling goes against the century-old common law rule of open justice, where justice must be seen to be done. It will hinder journalists’ ability to cover court cases thoroughly and accurately on behalf of the public.

“We also do not believe it is acceptable for Lord Gill to mention the risks of the media breaching the Contempt of Court Act. This will create a chilling effect.

“It is up to editors to decide which pre-trial details to publish, and accept the consequences if they get it wrong. It is wrong of Lord Gill to introduce the hint of prior restraint.

“The decision sets a dangerous precedent in a democratic society.”

The CIOJ also believes that the decision goes against the spirit of transparency and accessibility for reporting set out in the 2012 Court of Appeal ruling involving the Guardian and Westminster Magistrates Court.

The court decided that journalists covering court hearings should be able to see case material to aid that coverage. The ruling, however, does not apply to Scotland.

Institute sides with newspapers over “post-Leveson paranoia”

Newspapers were right to blame post-Leveson paranoia for the initial refusal of the police to confirm that they were investigating Rolf Harris.

CIOJ General Secretary, Dominic Cooper, said: “These actions are exactly what we warned and feared would transpire in the wake of the Leveson Inquiry. The biggest losers in this instance could be the additional victims of a sexual predator.

“Hacked Off and their acolytes have championed celebrity protection from the media and it would appear that on this

occasion they largely achieved it courtesy of the police.

“Is this really what the public want or deserve? Do they want journalists fearful of putting allegations in the public domain? Are they now happy that during this trial a further 12 alleged victims came forward which means more cost to the public purse?”

Harris was placed on police bail in November 2012 after being interviewed

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Editor's Comment

Two things are essential at the grass-roots level if we are to have a fully-functioning democracy. One – which we in the Chartered Institute of Journalists know only too well – is a strong, independent local press. The other is strong, independent local government. Anyone who has gone through traditional journalism training will know the importance of these two institutions and equally will know that it is vital to have a healthy interaction between them, based on openness and mutual respect and understanding.

For some time now there has been a steady erosion of the independence of local government in the UK, especially in England. The strings are increasingly pulled by central government – to the extent that local councils find themselves unable to meet local needs unless they first comply with national diktats, even if this means that the needs of local communities are disregarded entirely in what is supposedly “the national interest”. At the same time there has been a failure of local government itself to assert its independence and to stand up for the rights and interests of local communities. Councillors and council officials at all levels – counties, cities, boroughs and districts, towns and parishes – are subject to growing criticism for failing to do their duty by the people they supposedly represent.

It falls, therefore, to the local press to highlight the weaknesses of the present situation in local government. This task is not helped by the growing number of council meetings held “in camera” and the decisions taken by local authority chief executives behind closed doors, citing “commercial confidentiality” or “political sensitivity”. Now we hear that the National Association of Local Councils – which represents the lowest tier of local government, the town and parish councils – has issued “guidance” to its 8,500 member councils across the country to adopt a new “media policy” which effectively bars councillors from speaking to journalists without written consent.

The NALC also urges councils to adopt rules banning journalists from contacting councillors directly, with all contact made

through the parish or town clerk. This has prompted the editor of the Northern Echo, Peter Barron, to tell the website Hold the Front Page: “It is completely outrageous to suggest that people who are elected to represent local communities cannot speak to a journalist – not even their local paper – without being stifled by red tape. Imagine trying to get a comment on a local issue and having to wait for a council meeting to approve permission for the relevant people to say something on behalf of those who elected them.”

He added: “The worry is that I’ve already come across councils here in the North-East which don’t like us talking to councillors and say we should direct our questions to paid officers. We’ve politely told them to get stuffed. Councils and governments want to control the media and write their own headlines. We must never let that happen.”

He is absolutely right, as my CIOJ colleague Amanda Brodie, chairman of our Professional Practices Board, has pointed out. Amanda called the NALC effort to gag councillors “an outrageous attack on democracy” and said that the requirement to get written consent from the entire council before even giving a simple quote to a reporter will make it impossible for journalists to do their jobs properly. Any organisation which spends public money must be transparent in its dealings, and co-operation with the press is a vital part of that process. These guidelines amount to a gagging order on councillors.”

Parish and town councils are the bedrock of local reporting, and councillors must be free to approach journalists with concerns they may have, without fear of being disciplined for doing so. I would urge members of the CIOJ who live in areas with parish or town councils to write to their local council clerk and ask for an assurance that the council will not be following the NALC’s “guidance” on press relations, and that, on the contrary, they will be encouraging a healthy, open and honest relationship between councillors and journalists. Local government and local press need one another. And local communities need both!

Andy Smith

CIOJ Council

Your Council members for 2013-15 are:

Andy Smith
Mark Croucher
Janice Shillum Bhend
Keith Lockwood
Karen Birch
Ken Brookes

The Ex Officio members of Council for 2013-15 are:

Paul Leighton, President
Norman Bartlett, Immediate Past President
Amanda Brodie, Chairman, Professional Practices Board

Student Video Competition – Winners announced



Competition finalists from left to right: Dan Brown, James Euinton, Helen Barker, Nadine Forshaw, Ellen Millard and Ben Hatton

Students Ben Hatton and Ellen Millard have won first prize in the European Student Video Competition with their documentary entitled “Land of Opportunity”.

The two Winchester University students were joined by the other finalists for the European Parliament competition at a party in Europe House in London on May 25.

Land of Opportunity explored what it is like for immigrants coming to the UK ahead of the highly anticipated lifting of restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanians.

The judging panel of professional journalists and producers commented that Ben and Ellen had made a “good selection of immigrant workers with well told back stories.” They had also “provided a nice combination of press headlines with the vox pops” and “had bought the personal stories to life.”

Second prize was awarded to Nadine Forshaw whose work, Eastleigh, explored the impact of politicians and the media on the attitudes of local residents in Eastleigh, Hampshire, towards the EU.

Students Helen Barker, Dan Brown and James Euinton won third prize with Coming to Boston. Judges said this had an



Winners: Ellen Millard and Ben Hatton

interesting regional focus and the video was “well set up visually, with an engaging down to earth voiceover”.

Students from across Britain had the opportunity to submit a 3-5 minute video capturing some aspect of the 40 years since the UK joined the Common Market.

The Judges were the Press Association’s head of video content, Jim Grice; Professor Tim Crook, Professor of Broadcast Journalism at City of Birmingham University and a senior lecturer in media law at Goldsmiths; Anna Averkiou, media trainer and former producer and reporter with the BBC, TV-am, CNN and MBC; and, Michael Green, a BAFTA award nominee.

Leveson paranoia

Continued from page 1

under caution as part of Operation Yewtree, looking at all sexual abuse reports involving celebrities in the wake of the Jimmy Savile allegations, but the police protected his name. Again, when Harris was formally arrested on 28 March 2013, police did not identify him - leaving journalists unable to stand up the story.

Although Harris’ name did appear on social media the press did not dare report it until The Sun broke the pattern on 19 April 2013.

Cooper added: “We do not want the excellent job newspapers do, scrutinising the actions of the rich and powerful, blocked by legal and political power walls.”

Phone hacking: Six more journalists cleared

Six more journalists have been cleared in the ongoing investigation into phone hacking at the News of the World. Among those cleared in July were Sun features editor Matt Nixson (a former colleague of CIOJ past President, the late Charlie Harris), former News of the World showbiz journalist Polly Graham, the Editor of The Sun’s weekend magazine, Rachel Richardson, and The Sun on Sunday features editor Jane Atkinson.

CIOJ General Secretary Dominic Cooper commented: “This has dragged on for well over a year and blighted these six journalists, preventing them from getting on with their jobs and their lives. We congratulate them for successfully coming through this horrendous ordeal and we wish them well in their careers.”

Changing attitudes to learning disabilities

Broadcasters Jon Snow and Sian Lloyd are among those supporting a campaign to change the way people with learning disabilities are represented in the media, and to tackle the increase in bullying, harassment and hate crime.

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities has drawn up guidelines for broadcasters, and has made a short film in which people with learning disabilities talk about how they feel they are represented and the simple changes they want to see made.

Channel Four News presenter Jon Snow said: “We have come a long way as broadcasters in understanding and reporting disability. But the often unseen issues surrounding people with learning disabilities are still far from well reported by the media. This guide provides our much-needed starting orders.”

The charity is also asking the public to sign a petition calling on Ofcom to change the way people with learning disabilities are represented. To support the campaign and sign the petition, go to the website www.learningdisabilities.org.uk.

Historic studios to inspire new wave of film-makers

A landmark of the British film industry will open its doors to professional and aspiring film-makers later this year when the University of Lincoln launches the UK's first university film school to be housed within a fully functional commercial film studio.

The iconic Twickenham Studios first opened to the world of film-making in 1913 and since then it has played a pivotal role in providing facilities for some of the world's most recognisable films; including Shirley Valentine, Zulu, The Italian Job, and more recently, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom and World War Z. It is the only facility of its kind in London that caters for the needs of both production and post-production.

With its remarkable 100-year heritage, the studio now acts as an outreach base for the School of Media at the University of Lincoln, which in September this year will launch the Lincoln Film School at Twickenham. This will offer industry-leading programmes of study for film makers, media professionals and recent graduates.

The Lincoln Film School at Twickenham will be steered by an expert advisory board,



including one of Britain's most recognisable and respected broadcasters, Angela Rippon OBE, the former Vice President of Warner Brothers Pictures, Rick Senat, and the Controller of Current Affairs and News Operations at ITV, Ian Squires.

Led by Brian Hall, Senior Lecturer in Film Production at the University of Lincoln, and Maria Walker, Chief Operating Officer at Twickenham Studios, the School will offer an intensive 20-week Practical Film Making course together with a series of short courses in specialist skills. The courses will incorporate a series of expert master classes delivered by industry professionals across a diverse array of topics, from directing and editing, to cinematography and set design. At Twickenham, students will also benefit from direct access to work experience and networking opportunities with leading lights of the global film industry.

One law for the medical profession, another for the media

By Amanda Brodie

The Daily Telegraph reported recently that dozens of doctors accused of serious malpractice have escaped disciplinary hearings by taking early retirement.

Conservative MP Stephen Barclay says he has obtained figures showing that 39 doctors have removed themselves from the medical register in the past three years, instead of facing investigations into their fitness to practise.

Mr Barclay says that families who had lost loved ones were suffering further injustice because those responsible were not held to account. He is quoted as saying: "There is a systemic failure in the disciplinary process that applies to doctors."

Mr Barclay makes some good points – but do I hear a chorus of disapproval about the General Medical Council (GMC) along the lines of it not being fit for purpose and that it should be shut down? No? So that would be just reserved for the now defunct Press Complaints Commission then.

And have fellow doctors and medical academics formed pressure groups to lambast their own profession, and call for tighter regulation, due to the behaviour of a few individuals? No? So that would be just

something that's happened to the media then.

If the urgent action around the Medical Act, which Mr Barclay is calling for, does happen, will anyone be insisting this be carried out by people totally independent of the medical profession? No? So it's just the media who are accused of marking their own homework then.

For whilst there is an apparent failure in the disciplinary system relating to doctors, who hold our lives in their hands, it is the media which has been subjected to a witch-hunt of staggering proportions.

More than 60 journalists have been arrested since the phone-hacking saga erupted in 2011, many of them dragged from their beds in dawn raids and handcuffed in front of their families, like terrorists. Several were left on bail with charges hanging over them for up to two years, only for the charges to be dropped. The effect on their careers and families can only be imagined.

And it will be interesting to see whether the medical profession will become the subject of a lengthy and very costly taxpayer funded public inquiry into the ethics and practices of doctors. I won't be holding my breath.

New "dating agency" brings journalists and SMEs together

By Simon Mountford

Britain's five million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the drivers of our economy but only a very few ever get picked up on journalists' radar. This is a double shame because journalists are missing some cracking stories and the businesses themselves are not getting publicity which could help their growth.

Now a new web-based service has been set up to rectify the situation. Called Journalink, the service is the brainchild of a former senior RBS banker, Peter Ibbetson.

He explains: "During the recession, we constantly heard cries from journalists for good, successful SME case studies, but very few were ever reported because, quite simply, smaller businesses tend not to use PR and so have no effective way of engaging with the media."

Peter describes Journalink as a kind of dating agency that brings together smaller businesses with those journalists that write about SMEs.

The user-friendly service is totally free for journalists and is very low-cost for businesses, which get what is effectively their own online PR agency.

Businesses input their own profile and contact details, telling the system the sector they are in and where they are located. They then write a press release on their own home page, using a simple template and Journalink sends it to those journalists with matching locations and interests.

The benefits to busy journalists are obvious. Not only do they receive content that is relevant, posted in their Journalink inbox, but they can also search all previously posted releases - as well as all the profiles - by keywords. This enables them to access content and find suitable spokespeople.

Additionally, if they want an answer to a specific question, they can just send the question to Journalink's business clients.

Several hundred SMEs have already signed up to the new service, which is continuing to grow week by week. Businesses using the site range from manufacturers to a top-level stuntman and developers of ground-breaking technology.

European Court rules on EU “Snooper’s Charter”

By John Szemerey

A Brussels directive on data collection has been ruled illegal and invalid by the European Court of Justice. This means any decisions made in the UK or any EU country based on the directive cannot stand, and Home Secretary Theresa May will have to rethink her plans to put the law on the statute book in Britain.

The European Court has ruled that the Data Retention Directive of 2006, which requires telecommunications companies and public communications networks to store data about all their customers’ communications for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years, is in conflict with people’s right to privacy.

The ruling results from challenges to the EU law in Ireland and Austria. Digital Rights Ireland, a human rights pressure-group, and the Government of the Province of Carinthia, Austria, and 11,130 individuals have brought legal cases challenging the validity of the directive.

As there was no established jurisprudence on the validity of the European law, the High Court of Ireland and the Austrian Constitutional Court

asked the EU’s highest court, the European Court of Justice, for guidance. Its ruling states unequivocally that the people’s right to privacy takes precedence over any law requesting the authorities or their agents to keep a record of people’s internet data and telephone calls. The Data Retention Directive therefore became invalid from the moment it came into effect in 2006.

Mass surveillance

The ruling not only demolishes communications data surveillance laws across Europe but sets a precedent for the rest of the world. While the ruling does not apply in the United States, if the mass surveillance programmes operated by the US and UK governments is challenged in a US court, the court will have to consider seriously the decision and arguments of the European Court.

The directive was agreed by the EU’s legislative authorities to force member

states to retain data about all people’s telephone calls and internet use, including all e-mails, in the fight against criminality and terrorism. The Court has ruled that it is unacceptable and disproportionate for the authorities to retain such data on the whole population of Europe. However it agrees that in specific cases, where it is suspected that crime or terrorism is involved, the authorities may collect such data, subject to permission being granted by a court.

Fundamental

The European Commission is now drafting a new law on data protection in light of the Court’s decision. It says that there has to be a proper balance between security and fundamental rights.

The British government has reacted negatively to the ruling. While it says it is carefully considering the ruling’s implications, a spokesman has said that the retention of communications data is “absolutely fundamental” in allowing law enforcement authorities to investigate crime and ensure national

security. “We cannot be in a position where service providers are unable to retain this data,” said the spokesman.

However, the pressure-group Privacy International has a different view: “As the Court states, it is not, and never was, proportional to spy on the entire population of Europe. The types of data retained under this hastily enacted directive are incredibly revealing about our lives, including our daily activities and whom we have relationships with. It is right and overdue that this terrible directive was struck down.”

The original cases are a direct result of the work of US whistleblower Edward Snowden, who had alerted by public to the fact that the authorities in the US and UK collected information on people’s telecommunications without any legal authorisation, and that they frequently shared the information available to authorities in the other country.

Emergency law rushed through Parliament

Ministers have been catapulted into action by the European Court’s decision. In July, David Cameron announced emergency legislation to enable the Government to continue secret surveillance of mobile phone calls, e-mails and other forms of electronic communication. These powers were “essential” to the fight against terrorism and organised crime, the Prime Minister said.

The Emergency Data Retention Bill was agreed in advance by the leaders of the three main parties in Parliament – which implies that it has been carefully drafted to conform to the ruling of the European Court. If not, the UK courts – executing the European ruling – would rule it illegal and invalid.

Home Secretary Theresa May introduced the Bill in the House of Commons on July 15. The six-clause Bill went through all its stages in the Commons within a day. It was expected to go through the House of Lords the following two days so that it could be on the Statute Book by the end of the week.

Labour MP Tom Watson criticised the rushed three-day legislative procedure as “a stitch up”. Members of the public would not have had a chance to read the Bill, let alone lobby their MPs about it, and the bill would not have been properly debated in Parliament, he said. However, David Cameron was determined to push the legislation through. “It is the first duty of government to protect our national security and act quickly when that security is compromised”, he said.

Don’t forget

You will find many of the CIOJ’s forms, leaflets and guides available as downloads on the members’ area of the Institute’s website, www.cioj.co.uk.

Finland “a good example of regulation”

As our media organisations shape up for the final showdown in the press regulation battle, Finland is trumpeting its enviable record on press freedom, yet appears to have achieved this without compromising on ethics.

Amanda Brodie, chairman of the Institute’s Professional Practices Board, went to a seminar in London to find out more...

Finland has been given the accolade of having the world’s freest press. (2014 World Press Freedom Index) Media professionals from abroad and the UK gathered at the Finnish Embassy this summer to find out how the business model has worked for them.

Ambassador Mr H E Pekka Huhtaniemi told delegates: “In Finland, self-regulation has not turned into self-censorship.”

This was an important theme, picked up by the keynote speaker, Risto Uimonen, who chairs the Mass Media Council (MMC) for Finland, the equivalent of IPSO). He told the meeting that their system of regulation works because it is established by publishers and journalists working together: “It is very important that journalists are represented,” he said.

This is a point which the CIOJ made recently when PPB member Campbell Thomas met with the new chair of IPSO, Sir Alan Moses, and one the Institute has been making for some time.

Mr Uimonen says membership of the MMC is voluntary but 95% of Finnish media groups - including press, radio, TV and news agencies - sign up to it and abide by its rules.

Naming and shaming is its main tool in the box, there is no financial punishment for a breach of the guidelines, but the MMC’s ruling must be published in full on the offending media’s website. Less than 40% of complaints are upheld and it receives on average just one complaint a day, compared with thousands for the UK.

If a case is going anywhere near a court then the MMC will have nothing to do with it – the law is kept entirely separate from the regulatory body. It also only deals with organisations, not with individuals.

It is financed by media organisations, the ministry of justice and journalist unions – there is no political funding. It has an open application process for membership to its board – anyone can apply but within that there are quotas for the media on the basis of eight media to five public, and the chair has the casting vote.

Crucially, the media are in the majority, and unlike some taunts from UK pressure groups, there are no protests in Finland



Risto Uimonen, Chairperson, Mass Media Council for Finland

that the regulatory body is not independent enough of the press.

Mr Uimonen said: “You think here that the majority [on the board] must be outsiders, but when you look at the figures, which has got the better record, Finland or the UK?”

“Our system is self-regulation and not something that is forced by law. Self-regulation must be based on a voluntary approach.

“It is very important for the self-regulatory system to be effective, that it is respected by all the journalists – so the majority on the council must belong to representatives of the media.”

He adds a word of caution: “It is important for the media to keep their front and back yards clean, otherwise someone else will come and do the cleansing.”

So can we say Finland has found the Holy Grail of balancing press freedom against effective regulation?

Certainly there are good things about their regulatory system which we should aspire to. But the Finns admit that their press is not nearly so willing to push the boundaries as ours has always been. It is easier to regulate a group which is already quiescent.

One thing is for sure, it is to our shame that while Finland galloped in first in the free press stakes, the UK trotted home at a lame 33rd. And it could get a lot worse if pressure groups like Hacked Off and various media academics have their way.

The last word on the subject, as far as I am concerned, goes to Mr Uimonen: “Any charter or ethics code must be written by journalists – otherwise it is not self-regulation, it is regulation from outside the industry.”

Newspaperman’s new novels

Veteran newspaperman George Wilkie is striking new ground. The 72-year-old journalist is about to press the button on not only one thriller but a trilogy. The books are titled “The Crumbling Fist.”

Wilkie who was previously Pictures Editor of the Herald and Evening Times in Glasgow, a well-known photographer and latterly lectured at the City of Glasgow College took to writing fiction when he retired two years ago.

He told the Journal: “Previously I had published as a co-author, factual works through Mainstream. This time my thrillers will be put directly onto the e-book system. I have been at the cutting edge of technology all my professional life so I am quite excited by the worldwide reach of this medium.”

“The Crumbling Fist” books trace the life of a boy from a Midlothian mining village who eventually becomes the first Scottish pope - but a pope with a secret, a killing he was involved in when 12 years old and the past comes back to haunt him. They will be available from Amazon Kindle later this month and free to read.

The trilogy will be followed up in December with a spy novel called “Celluloid Mirrors.”

“This book is about intelligence agents recruited from Scottish newspapers to spy on their own colleagues in the 1960s and 70s. This Glasgow journalist eventually becomes a full time spy and it follows his career up to the present day. It also has a parallel plot of love and vengeance. Like most tales it is based on fact but fictionalised to shield the identities of those journalists.”

NEW APPOINTMENTS

UCAS

Rachel Johnson is the new Head of Careers at UCAS Media, the marketing communications arm of UCAS, the university admissions service. The senior role has been created to give employers more opportunities to engage with students at different stages, from 16 year olds to graduates.

Rachel Johnson said: “UCAS Media is perfectly positioned to help companies start conversations with students, at times when crucial career choices are being made. The strong foundation of the UCAS brand, our digital offering and face-to-face events give our clients brilliant opportunities to get their messages across to young people. I look forward to leading the team as we develop our careers proposition for employers over the coming months.”

Why did you join the Institute?

Why do people join trades unions, or professional organisations - or combinations of the two like our own Institute or the Royal College of Nursing.?

The explanations people offer used to focus on "solidarity" with others in the same business and as a form of insurance against facing redundancy, dramatic changes in their job description, or to defend themselves against oppressive managements.

Other members cite the benefits of 'networking', comparing experiences and problems with other like-minded people as what attracted them to join.

I always told prospective members that we held better "parties" and public events than "the other lot" Indeed, alongside the serious work of the Institute we have always sought to arrange a decent social calendar, including our famous "Race Days" at Ripon, lively social events at Conferences and the dinners and receptions organised by Freelance or Broadcasting Divisions.

However in these straitened times, I suspect that more and more of our recruits join us as a "protection policy" in the face of cut-backs, redeployment and worse.

It's certainly true that the Institute has a proud record of defending individual members who find themselves in difficulty. Many have good reason to be grateful to the General Secretary and his predecessors at Head office for the support they've received at Industrial Tribunals, with legal disputes, and in conflict with publishers reluctant to pay up! Too many freelances are kept waiting

for payment by newspapers and magazines which seem to think that if they spin out non-payment long enough, freelances will lose heart and give up asking for their rightful fee.

Some years ago, when my reputation as a journalist was defamed by the very publication for which I had written a weekly column for more than four years, the Institute pursued the guilty party all the way to the law courts in London.

Throughout six long months of stressful claim and counter-claim, our officers gave me all the support I could wish - with a public apology finally conceded by the publishers and read in the High Court!

A vital part of the Institute's activities has been, and, increasingly, will be, arguing the case for journalists and journalism in the public domain. As disgruntled so-called celebrities and self-interested politicians continue their efforts to undermine the traditional press freedom which underpins our democracy, the need for a strong, influential voice for journalism has never been greater. Investigative journalists now have to operate in the toxic and stifling atmosphere engendered by the Leveson Inquiry.

The vast majority of honest, accurate and decent journalists have been punished for the "sins" of the very few. "Sins", which in any event, should have been dealt with by the existing laws of the land.

The job of defending the profession became a little harder when our "colleagues" in the NUJ capitulated and supported Leveson's recommendations for press regulation underpinned by state legislation. However, our recent recruitment of former NUJ members suggests that many of them did not appreciate that union's failure to defend them and the profession as a whole.

Members of Council and our Professional Practices Board have lobbied and continue to lobby for a more enlightened attitude from Government to the press, and in the meantime, we've given qualified support to the newspaper publishers' approach to independent regulation as easily "the lesser of two evils". It's not perfect - working journalists are not properly represented on the panel- but it's better than the state alternative.

Whatever your motivation for joining the Chartered Institute may have been, I hope you feel we are justifying your decision and will encourage colleagues to join us. And, if there are any other issues you think we should be addressing, I hope you will contact us. The General Secretary Dominic Cooper and I are only an e-mail away and I know that any of the members of our ruling Council are always ready to discuss your concerns.

Paul Leighton, President

Save our sources

The CIOJ has pledged its support for the Press Gazette's petition on protection of journalists' sources.

The petition comes in the wake of criticism after police used the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) to secure details of calls to and from journalists during the Plebgate affair. However, RIPA warrants may only be granted in the following circumstances:

"(3) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a warrant is necessary on grounds falling within this subsection if it is necessary—

(a) in the interests of national security;

(b) for the purpose of preventing or detecting serious crime;

(c) for the purpose of safeguarding the economic well-being of the United Kingdom; or

(d) for the purpose, in circumstances appearing to the Secretary of State to be equivalent to those in which he would issue a warrant by virtue of paragraph (b), of giving effect to the provisions of any international mutual assistance agreement."

Despite the above requirements, no prosecutions were brought against any individual. Instead, the only actions secured was the dismissal of four police officers.

More than 500,000 RIPA authorisations will be given this year. So far the police have refused to confirm how many of their requests have involved journalists.

"It is vital that all journalists get behind this campaign," said Paul Leighton, CIOJ President, "because the protection of sources goes right to the heart of our work. If we cannot protect those who come forward with information we will rapidly see a decline in willing informants.



"It is shocking that police are allowed to smash the protection of journalists' source rights in this way. It is clearly a gaping hole in the law. PACE regulations are the most appropriate means by which to access journalistic material, where a production order would have to go before a judge.

"The police need to immediately justify their actions in regard to Mr Newton Dunn's information, and then give full details of how many times they have used RIPA to circumvent the rules regarding protected journalists' material. If they can't, or won't, there is clearly something to hide."

Public expect TV election debates

The House of Lords Communications Committee has heard resounding evidence that the majority of the public positively expect that the televised debates first held in 2010 will happen again before next year's general election.

In the midst of speculation about the permutations of the imminent campaign, TV debates are proving to be central to the build-up. Who will be on the podium? How many debates will there be? Who will benefit? The committee's report begins with the concern that political jockeying over the answers to these questions risks a return to the historical pattern of failure to reach agreement and failure, as a result, to ensure the debates reach our screens. The Lords committee argue that this would be regrettable in light of powerful evidence that the public expects the debates to happen again and research showing the ways in which the debates served the public interest: helping to energise and engage the public in the electoral process, with the most striking impact on the young and relatively disengaged.

Speculation

The committee's report also sets out the ways in which speculation over the question of participation in the debates is sometimes misinformed. A proper understanding of the legal and regulatory framework around broadcast content is important in answering some of the perennial—though not necessarily warranted—questions which have been raised about the propriety of broadcasters' judgements over who can participate. The committee argues that "a proper understanding of this framework also makes it clear why the case made for certain proposals, such as the introduction of an independent debates commission on the US model, is in fact insubstantial."

Finally, the committee proposes a number of evolutionary reforms to the production of the debates under the continuing editorial stewardship of the broadcasters. Should they take place again in 2015 and beyond, the broadcasters should collectively make more of the opportunity to inform voters and to encourage the public to be interested in the electoral process; they should adopt a clearer, better communicated set of processes and principles during their organisation; they should establish an online portal or hub for the debates to ensure their easy discoverability alongside other election resources; and they should make sure they

consider the balance of gender and ethnic diversity among the moderators.

Public interest

Former Committee Chairman Lord Inglewood said: "We only have a year to go before the next general election and already there is much discussion underway, both in the media and between the broadcasters, about whether the debates will happen again in 2015, even given their success in 2010.

"What has been made very clear to us is that most people would be interested in the debates happening again, and we hope that this report will help to show that and in doing so make it harder for any reluctant party leaders and their strategists to withdraw from participating in something which the public expects to happen and which in a number of ways can be seen to have been in the public interest.

"However, there is a great deal of speculation around at the moment about who should be allowed to participate in the debates; sometimes pretty ill-informed about the answer to that question. Under the current arrangements, a whole series of legal and regulatory safeguards and rules are in place to ensure that all political parties are given due weight and coverage by the broadcasters during an election period. And this doesn't just mean the debates, but the whole patchwork of coverage relating to the election, of which the debates are just a part.

"Suggestions have been made for the establishment of an independent body to oversee the organisation and arrangement of debates, but we see no need for that; the rules that already exist make this unnecessary, if not a rather insubstantial idea.

"But we do think that the broadcasters could collectively do more to inform voters and encourage the public to be interested in the issues and the process. We already know that 87% of 18-24 year olds – traditionally the demographic most likely to experience voter apathy – said that the debates led to them discussing the election and relevant issues with their peers.

"This is exactly what we need to capitalise on and why, although we emphatically do not want to interfere in any way with the editorial independence of the broadcasters, we believe our report is timely in order to provide food for thought in considering how to build on the success that last times' debates undoubtedly achieved."

International award for freelance journalist Louisa Reynolds

The International Women's Media Foundation has named Louisa Reynolds as this year's IWMF Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow.

Reynolds, a British freelance journalist based in Guatemala, is the tenth recipient of the annual fellowship, which gives a woman journalist the opportunity to develop expertise while focusing on human rights journalism and social justice issues.

"I strongly believe that journalism can act as a powerful instrument for change by highlighting injustice and also by finding stories that prove that a transformation is possible," says Reynolds, who contributes regularly a wide range of Latin American and international publications.

Beginning in September, Reynolds will spend the seven-month fellowship as a research associate in residence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies. She will also complete internships at The Boston Globe and The New York Times.

Courageous

Ellen Clegg, president of the Boston Globe Foundation and Globe spokeswoman, explains: "Each Neuffer fellow embodies the core principles that our beloved colleague, Elizabeth Neuffer, held dear: courageous journalism, boundless curiosity, and a burning desire to shine a light on injustice. Ten years out, we're proud to see how the fellows have made their mark on the world."

The fellowship is named after Elizabeth Neuffer, a Boston Globe reporter and the winner of the 1998 IWMF Courage in Journalism Award, who was killed while on assignment in Iraq in 2003. Neuffer's life mission was to promote international understanding of human rights and social justice.

Founded in 1990 by a group of prominent women journalists in the United States, the International Women's Media Foundation is based in Washington DC and is dedicated to strengthening the role of women journalists worldwide. The Foundation celebrates the courage of women journalists who overcome threats and oppression to speak out on global issues. For further information, visit the website www.iwmf.org.

Al Jazeera convictions: “A dark day for media freedom”

The conviction on June 23 of three Al Jazeera journalists accused of “falsifying news” and supporting the banned Muslim Brotherhood has been described as “a dark day for media freedom” by the human-rights charity Amnesty International.

The three journalists – Australian Peter Grete, Canadian-Egyptian Mohamed Fahmy and Egyptian Baher Mohamed, all considered by Amnesty to be prisoners of conscience – were sentenced to seven years in jail. Baher Mohamed received a further three years on a separate charge of possessing a bullet shell. They have been detained since December 29 last year.

“This is a devastating verdict for the men and their families, and a dark day for media freedom in Egypt, when journalists are being locked up and branded as criminals or terrorists simply for doing their job”, said Philip Luther, Director of the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International.

“The only reason these three men are in jail is because the Egyptian authorities don’t like what they have to say. They are prisoners of conscience and must be immediately and unconditionally released. In Egypt today anyone who dares to challenge the state’s narrative is considered a legitimate target.”

Out of six others on trial alongside the Al Jazeera journalists, two were acquitted and four were sentenced to seven years.

The court also sentenced a number of other journalists to 10-year sentences in absentia, including British journalists Sue Turton and Dominic Kane and the Dutch journalist Rena Netjes.

“A complete sham”

A trial observer from Amnesty International recorded several irregularities and examples of complete ineptitude during the proceedings. In 12 court sessions, the prosecution failed to produce a single shred of solid evidence linking the journalists to a terrorism organization or proving they had “falsified” news footage.

“The trial was a complete sham. Consigning these men to years in prison after such a farcical spectacle is a travesty of justice,” said Philip Luther.

Prosecutors obstructed the defendants’ right to review and challenge the evidence presented against them. The prosecution also appeared unprepared and disorganised, often presenting irrelevant evidence.

Key witnesses for the prosecution also appeared to contradict their own written testimony. Technical experts admitted on cross-examination that they were unable to

confirm whether Al Jazeera journalists had doctored images or carried unauthorised equipment.

“The verdict provides further evidence that Egyptian authorities will stop at nothing in the ruthless campaign to crush anyone who challenges the official narrative, regardless of how questionable the evidence against them is,” said Philip Luther.

It’s not just journalists who are at risk. Thousands have been locked up over the past year as part of a sweeping crackdown on dissent, with mass death sentences handed down to supporters of former President Mohamed Morsi.

“The Egyptian judiciary has proved time and time again that it is either unwilling or

incapable of conducting an impartial and fair trial when it comes to those perceived to support the former president. Instead of locking up journalists and others perceived to pose a threat, the authorities should focus their efforts on conducting credible investigations into abuses by the security forces,” said Philip Luther.

Twenty people were tried in the case, 11 in absentia. Those in court included five Egyptian students arrested on 31 December 2013 in Cairo and Nasr City. Nine of the defendants are Al Jazeera staff, according to the network. Dutch journalist Rena Netjes does not work for Al Jazeera and left Egypt after she discovered she would face trial. The remainder are Egyptians.

Aiding broadcasters in typhoon-hit Philippines

International media covering the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines have turned to UK-based security consultants Pilgrims Group for advice and logistical assistance.

It is taking months for coastal communities in the central Philippines to re-establish themselves in the wake of the typhoon, and a number of charities and aid agencies are still working tirelessly to help local communities in the area - but life is slowly returning to normal in these strife-torn islands. But ‘normality’ must have seemed a long way off when teams from Pilgrims Groups arrived on the scene to support media organisations in the region in the immediate aftermath of the typhoon.

The tropical cyclone, known in the Philippines as Yolanda, killed an estimated 6,200 people and hit the country’s regions of Samar and Leyte especially hard. Chinese television called Pilgrims within 48 hours of the typhoon making landfall. The disaster was of particular interest to Chinese viewers because the Philippines is home to one of the largest Chinese communities in South East Asia and the two countries have close links.

“Within two hours of receiving the call we had consultants flying from the UK and New Zealand,” says Dan Still, Senior Operations Officer. “Chinese TV were relying on us to support them logistically and medically, so our team needed experience in setting up a logistics base and administering medicines in remote areas.”

Media operations were based in one of the hardest-hit cities, Tacloban, a conurbation of 220,000 people which was laid waste by the typhoon, its basic infrastructure and communications systems entirely out of action.

Chinese TV had a team of up to ten people who needed to be fed, sheltered and protected as they went about their work.

“We set up a logistics base in Manila, providing vehicles, drivers, medical supplies, fresh water and food,” says Dan Still. “Acting on advice from our local consultant, we found the Chinese broadcasters a safe house, provided them with close protection and provided advice on risk and a measured necessary response. The main risk was civil unrest. The population were clearly in a tragic situation, going without food and shelter.

“There was also the risk of aid convoys being attacked. These dangers diminished over the weeks we were there. They covered the situation longer than most broadcasters as China was playing a major role in the relief effort.”

As international relief arrived, the situation on the ground steadily improved and the teams from Pilgrims were able to move their logistics base to Tacloban itself. After 21 days, the situation was deemed safe enough for broadcasters to operate without the assistance of Pilgrims Group.

For more information on the Surrey-based company’s work for media organisations, go to www.pilgrimsgroup.com.

Interview with Lord Inglewood

Lord Inglewood is former Chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications. In this role he has dealt with many media-related issues. Amanda Brodie, chairman of the Institute's Professional Practices Board, interviewed him at the House of Lords recently and asked him about his work and his views on press regulation.

Tell me about your work on the Communications committee – what would you do in a typical week?

"When Parliament is sitting, the committee meets on Tuesday afternoons. As chairman you have to help prepare the papers at the beginning of the process and work with the clerks on the timetable and agenda for the next meeting. After that there is a wash-up session and general admin work. I also speak at conferences and give interviews."

What do you see as the main purpose of the Communications Committee and what is your role within it?

"The committee's purpose is to focus on media and creative industries. Our remit involves informing those involved in this sector – what is going on in Parliament has a big impact on the way these industries conduct themselves. It is important when you are considering things that are or may be going wrong, that there is a dialogue.

"My role as chairman is firstly to be a servant of the committee. One's own political prejudices should be put on one side, although they obviously affect your opinions. I have never had any problems with any of the conclusions the committee has reached. When we write a report it is the report not of individuals but of the committee as a whole. There is a surprising degree of general consensus and not a huge disagreement between political perspectives.

"Having a less confrontational approach is a good thing, but there is a risk with consensus politics that you are so busy finding the common ground that you lose your intellectual edge – but I don't see any evidence of that happening here."

Can the Communications Committee offer a different perspective than its counterpart in the House of Commons, the Culture Media and Sport Committee?

"We differ from the House of Commons in that we are not so aggressive or adversarial, but that doesn't mean there are not disagreements. We do tend to stand

back slightly from the fray and try to take a wider steer on a topic. The Commons tends to focus on narrower topics and can be very frenetic. This difference is reflected in the kind of work we do."

Is the purpose of the Upper House mainly as a debating chamber, or do you see it as having a real effect on legislation?

"The Government has to reply to our reports and then we have a debate on it here. If we are still angry with their point of view, we can produce a follow-up report. If we say things that are incompatible with their policy, they will say they don't like it, but if you watch what happens in the next couple of years, you often see a shift in their direction."

You have been chairman of this committee since 2011 – what would you consider your greatest achievement in that time?

"I think that would be saving the committee, because it was in danger of being shut down. People felt there wasn't anything of sufficient value in it. But I shifted the emphasis away from traditional media to new media and technology and the communication challenges they bring."

What are your views generally on press regulation and do you agree with statutory regulation of the Press?

"What we have seen is a series of criminal acts and some journalistic activity which has gone beyond the rules of responsible journalism, which you can't just pretend hasn't occurred. You have to find a way of encouraging good behaviour and providing for appropriate redress where this has not happened. The PCC did not work as well as it should have done so we must replace it. But it is of over-riding importance that the State does not regulate the Press.

"Instead of recognition bodies we should put the onus on the media and then leave the judiciary to decide if they have adhered to it. We can avoid a charter by going down the judiciary route but it must be fair and



Lord Inglewood

work and be seen to work. If it is complete self-regulation according to rules set by the media, then the outside world will be anxious about it."

Last October you put out a press release stating that the debate around the Royal Charter "bypassed Parliament and is undemocratic". You called for a full debate in the Commons but you did not get it. Did the Government ever respond to you and if so what were their reasons for refusal?

"They said because there had been a discussion on the principle of a charter, that was sufficient, but I didn't think it was. We raised the point privately too, but at the end of the day they can steam-roller things. Timing is important in politics."

Do you think the Royal Charter is dead in the water now that most of the industry refuses to sign up to it?

"In the long-term I would like to see a seamless system worked out. There is a lot of discussion about the differences between the two systems [of regulation] but they are not that far apart and I am sure you can find ways of bringing them together."

Do you think it was right that former Culture Secretary Maria Miller drew up the Royal Charter with pressure groups like Hacked Off present, but without any members of the press industry being represented?

"I think she should have drawn up the charter herself and then received representations from all sides, and not drawn it up in cahoots with anyone."

Pressure groups do tend to over-state their case – people should be sceptical of the claims that lobbyists and others make.”

Do you think the IPSO (Independent Press Standards Organisation) plans for regulation are adequate to allay public concerns over the behaviour of the press?

“We will have to wait and see. For it to succeed, it is very important that everybody buys into it and that it is seen to work. If this happens, we may find that the requirement for an alternative system of regulation falls away.”

Do you think the Leveson inquiry was necessary?

“The inquiry was necessary – there were a lot of things that we didn’t know about that had a bearing on the topic. But whether the precise terms of reference were the right ones, is open to question.

For example, the question of media plurality was not dealt with.

“The interesting thing about it [the inquiry] was the relationship between politicians and media moguls and the influence on journalism as a whole.

“The criminal act devolves from a flawed ethic. If you have standards in journalism, the first one is you don’t break the law of the land except where there is public interest – the courts can decide this but it is also a matter of conscience.”

How do you feel that the phone-hacking saga, and all that has followed on from it in the last three years, has changed the UK press industry?

“I think it has put them on their metal and has raised a lot of issues. People found the Milly Dowler situation very distasteful and it will put people on their guard against the press for a long time. You need a system which fairly deals with these things when they happen.”

You told a debate in the House in 2012: “It all boils down to a lack of confidence and trust...no amount of changing the regulatory architecture will help by itself, unless that trust and confidence is restored.” But how do we restore trust and confidence in the industry without undermining the freedom of the press?

“As the quote says, ‘by their deeds we shall know them.’ It is the way people behave that restores confidence. Good behaviour up front should be embedded in the wider regulatory system. But we do want to avoid statutory regulation. The Government can’t impinge on the press’ ability to be free and fearless in what it does.”

The local press were exonerated by Lord Justice Leveson. Do you think they have been unfairly caught up in the press regulation feeding-frenzy? Should they be treated differently from the national papers and if so how?

“In general the local press stands up to scrutiny – the problems have not been in that sector. They don’t deserve to get caught up in additional regulation in general, but it is inevitable because they look the same to people outside.

“The basic rules are the same but the responses may be different. This is the kind of area where you

need some discretion. It is like sentencing people for crimes; you can’t have mandatory rules, you have to have flexibility within the system. It has to be reasonable [for the local press] or they won’t sign up to it.”

Our local press is in crisis – how can we protect this valuable community asset for the future? Should there be subsidies or tax breaks?

“I am not in favour of direct Government subsidies – I don’t like the siren voice of public money.”

The role of the Communications Committee

The House of Lords Select Committee on Communications was set up in 2007 to look at a broad range of communications and broadcasting public policy issues and to highlight areas of concern to Parliament and the public.

Its first chairman was Lord Fowler, and many of its initial members served on a one-off committee set up in 2005 to look at the BBC Charter Review, out of which the Select Committee on Communications was born. The committee is constituted on a cross-party basis and investigates public policy areas related to the media, communications and the creative industries.

The committee decides itself which subjects to investigate and takes both written evidence and oral evidence in public from individuals, academics, businesses, think-tanks and government ministers in order to gather material before then producing a report. The Government have to respond to a report by the committee within two months of its publication. A debate in the Chamber of the House of Lords often then follows.

In recent years, the committee has produced reports on the governance of the BBC, the future of investigative journalism and media convergence and plurality.

Lord Inglewood, the former Chairman of the Committee, is a Conservative who joined the Lords in 1989. He is chairman and non-executive director of media group CN (Cumbrian Newspapers), an independent local media business based in Carlisle.

Based in Cumbria, he is a non-practising barrister and chartered surveyor and his focus points include the European Union, agriculture, energy and the environment.

Regulatory body launched

IPSO - the industry organised regulatory body for the newspaper and magazine industry - was launched on September 8.

Governed by a 12-person board, under the chairmanship of Sir Alan Moses, it includes six independent members, and five publishing industry representatives. Publishers, via the Regulatory Funding Committee, have a say over the choice industry representatives on the two bodies.

It has the power to levy fines of up to £1m on its members and can launch investigations into serious wrongdoing by

publishers who have signed up.

However, not everyone has signed up. Despite IPSO being the only regulator in town, the Guardian, Observer, Independent and Financial Times have not signed up.

Revealing the move in a leader column, The Guardian said it acknowledged there have been some improvements made under IPSO. But said: “...the way IPSO came into being has not been satisfactory. The attempt to graft a medieval-style royal charter on to press regulation was a constitutional train crash.

“The Guardian, in common with the majority of what used to be called daily national broadsheet papers in the UK, is not signing up to IPSO at this stage; nor are several magazines or major new media players. This paper will wait to see whether Sir Alan succeeds in reforming some of the governance issues that still cause anxiety. In the meantime, we will reinforce our own system of complaints and mediation.”

The Leveson report page 1758 was also clear: “By far the best solution to press standards would be a body, established and organised by the industry, which would provide genuinely independent regulation. of its members.”

Information Security for Journalists

BY SILKIE CARLO AND ARJEN KAMPHUIS,

Published by the Centre for Investigative Journalism (<http://www.tcij.org/resources/handbooks/infosec>)

Whether the emergency information surveillance laws rushed through Parliament are a “snooper’s charter” or, to quote the Prime Minister, a vital tool to “keep the country safe” depends not just on an assessment of terrorist and criminal threats, but how cynical one is about the honesty and intentions of the government. Similarly, whether you see Julian Assange or Edward Snowden as heroes, traitors, or simply self-publicising fantasists will derive largely from how credible you regard their allegations. For most people the issue will boil down to whether they trust and believe the ‘whistleblowers’ more than the government spokesmen who claim that surveillance is carried out within a strictly regulated legal framework.

The authors of Information Security for Journalists are in no doubt as to where they sit on this continuum. Their booklet is dedicated to the ‘whistleblowers’, and the claims made by Edward Snowden in particular are accepted uncritically. To Carlo and Kamphuis, governments are active participants in the suppression of journalists as they perform their key function, which, in quoting William Randolph Hearst, they see as “writing down what powerful people and institutions do not want written”. They note that the Mexican army spent \$350 million on surveillance tools between 2011-12, and that nine Mexican journalists were killed in work-related incidents during the same period. The inference is obvious.

That said, the main external threats to the vast majority of UK computer users still comes from regular cybercrime or the physical theft of equipment (and thus the data stored on it). Even if British government scrutiny is as intrusive and all-pervasive as Carlo and Kamphuis believe, the chances of the average citizen being of serious interest to the security forces remain pretty low. Even the average journalist (if there is such a thing!) would probably not be a person of interest unless and until their investigations stumble across something juicy. So we need to consider which parts of the advice in Information Security for Journalists are applicable to the citizen at large (including many journalists) and which are more relevant to investigative journalists who



believe they need heavyweight data protection.

For example, their guidance on encrypted folders would be of application to most citizens. It makes sense for everyone to have an encrypted folder or drive in which to keep confidential data and records. Large organisations already invest in encrypted email technology and, again, there may be occasions when it is useful for the individual to encrypt a particularly sensitive piece of correspondence. Where they urge the use of untraceable web browsing techniques, a second ‘air gapped’ laptop (i.e., one which never, ever, goes on-line), and a secure open source operating system the case is more ambivalent – not least because these are surely the self-same techniques that would be used by paedophiles or terrorists. Might, perversely, possession of such systems not in themselves draw undesirable attention to the user? And at the end of the day, the State can always resort to what Carlo and Kamphuis coyly call “extreme lengths” if they want to get hold of somebody’s passwords.

So, how worried should we be about someone gaining unauthorised access to our valuable data? About government snooping, the answer is, candidly, we simply don’t know. Concerning data breaches in general, however, a distinctly alarming picture emerges. According to figures published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills last year, in 2012 63% of small businesses suffered a data attack by an unauthorised user. However, more than half (57%) were inside jobs – i.e., staff-related security breaches – rather than hacking by the state or outside cybercriminals. Admittedly, the majority of these stemmed from accidental loss of data (the laptop left on the Tube syndrome) – but 10% of staff breaches were identified as being deliberate and malicious. In other words – and ironically Snowden rather proves this point – the biggest risk to your organisation’s data doesn’t come from criminals or governments: the ‘motivated intruder’ is just as likely to be on the payroll.

Stuart A Notholt

The Wicker Man

ALLAN BROWN
Polygon, £12.99
paperback, 260pp,
ISBN 978-1-84697-144-0.

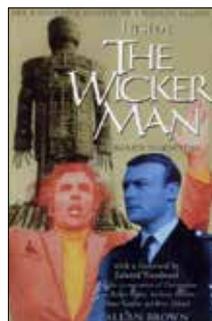
Journalist Allan Brown, clearly has a fascination for the esoteric; for

strange local myths, lonely countryside and a chilling tale. Devoted to the making and history of a cult British-produced horror film, his book, *The Wicker Man*, takes us back to 1973, to the era of Hammer and a lurid period for cinemagoers – but to a film which set a different course for the horror genre. Starring Edward Woodward and Christopher Lee, and using the magnificent, remote setting of the Dumfries and Galloway coast, this troubled picture told the story of a Scottish island, ruled by the single-minded Lord Summerisle (played by Lee), which had reverted to “the old religion”. Summerisle is a pagan community, which doesn’t much like strangers, especially when May Day is approaching or when the beer is flowing at The Green Man inn, and the landlord’s daughter (Britt Ekland) is used to lure the naive, Bible-believing policeman (Edward Woodward) to a martyr’s death.

For those who have yet to see the film, I will not spoil it by revealing too much of the plot. But suffice it to say, in the words of Allan Brown, that it is all about “rural oddities and agricultural necromancers”; and what happens, or could happen, if society decided to opt for a different set of values. Directed by Robin Hardy, with screenplay by Anthony Shaffer, *The Wicker Man* divided critics at the time, and set new standards in how to chill an audience. Yet this is no blood and vampire scenario: the horror comes from the fact that ordinary life, and everyday compass-points, ideas and beliefs have been altered for a strange religious cause.

Film enthusiasts will love this book: the author takes us to the locations, and tells the reader all about the techniques of film-making and continuity. We discover, for example, that even though it was shot in the Autumn (a chilly time of it for the actors and actresses), props and scene specialists magically made the film appear as if everything was happening in the spring. Imitation blossom trees helped! Also, Allan Brown explains how different villages, and their angles and aspects, were almost spliced together, to create a sense of one place: the main town and ancestral castle of Summerisle.

We learn, too, of the artistic rivalries and personal difficulties between the film’s creators; the lack of understanding by the people who financed it (and this was a depressing time for Britain’s crumbling cinemas and film prestige), and of the real feelings of those who starred. For Christopher Lee, this was his favourite role: a rural magus, from the Dark Ages, presiding over his followers, all of whom are prepared to do his bidding, to placate the spirits who have temporarily forsaken the island. For one of the leading ladies, Diane Cilento (she played the island’s schoolmistress) there was a moment when she was accidentally knocked over during the filming by her excitable pagan pupils



– something which did not seem to dim her clear relishing of her role.

Allan Brown has recorded the history of *The Wicker Man*. He explains its classic status, and re-appraises Anthony Shaffer and Robin Hardy's masterpiece – valuable parts of which ended up on a cutting-room floor, never to be recovered. He writes in a witty style, and I am personally delighted by his dismissal of a recent Hollywood remake, or travesty, of the film: Summerisle becomes, in American hands, a community of feminist separatists – “a gathering of the *Virago Press*”, he observes, sardonically!

The film buff will want technical details, dates, anecdotes, gossip from the set, and studio politics. The general reader will be interested in the inspiration for it all – how the film continued a very British preoccupation with the occult, with mystery, sleuthing and the supernatural. Allan Brown gives both sets of reader plenty to enjoy. And now, in the words of Christopher Lee's Lord Summerisle: “It is time to keep your appointment with *The Wicker Man*.”

Stuart Millson

Protest Vote

BY TIM NEWARK

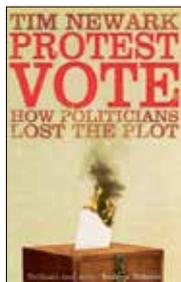
Published by Gibson Square, 2014.

Paperback £14.99. ISBN 9781783340057

From the earliest pages of this book anybody resenting and distrusting the nation's ruling elites would find themselves warming to the author. Not a member of any political party, Tim Newark is very much in tune with Britain's growing army of protest voters, and readers will delight in how he personally campaigned against Islington Council over parking issues. This is not another of those turgid political books that we buy but fail to read to the end, as this one is written in such an engaging style that I am sure you will devour it eagerly from start to finish.

The author had planned for this book to be solely about Nigel Farage and the UK Independence Party but the publishers suggested a wider remit, drawing in a diverse array of protest movements and parties – apparently fearing that a book about UKIP would not be popular enough – though that was before the party's triumphant performance in the European and local council elections in May.

As the sub-title makes clear, “politicians have lost the plot”. This book looks at many of those who have upset the governing elites over recent decades, including the



Mulcaire speaks about the hacking scandal

There is one mystery figure at the heart of the phone-hacking scandal – Glenn Mulcaire, the private investigator hired by the *News of the World* to investigate and back up its front-page stories. Mulcaire's arrest in 2006 for intercepting royal household phone messages barely registered at the time. Yet his work has continued to generate headlines and embarrassment for the establishment – with Prime Minister David Cameron on the back foot after his former aide Andy Coulson was sentenced. Mulcaire is the insider who – according to Judge Saunders – said ‘stop’ to the journalists at the *News of the World* and whose testimony is essential in grasping how far the rot has spread.

James Hanning, deputy editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, has investigated the story from the beginning, questioning key players including reporters and former editor turned spinmaster Andy Coulson. In researching his book about the hacking scandal, *The News Machine*,

he gained exclusive access to Mulcaire and his family – who are deriving no financial benefit from the book – over an extended period of time, and interviewed senior politicians, policemen, lawyers and journalists who were involved in the ongoing scandal.

Glenn Mulcaire said: “After almost a decade of silence, I have agreed to speak to writer James Hanning.” Martin Rynja, of publishing company Gibson Square, added: “Glenn Mulcaire delivered many thousands of accurate news facts to the journalists at the *News of the World*. It took James Hanning several years to persuade him to cooperate exclusively with his meticulously researched book. There is no other account that is as complete a picture of the biggest media scandal of the 21st century.”

The News Machine: Hacking: The Untold Story by James Hanning is published by Gibson Square and available in paperback at £12.99, and also as an e-book.

Greens, for whom, we learn, Nigel Farage once voted. The early days of UKIP, along with its Eurosceptic rival, the Referendum Party, led by Sir Jimmy Goldsmith, are well covered. From these tiny acorns, we now have the highly successful “People's Army” of many thousands of people, led by Farage.

In Newark's book we are treated to numerous stories and titbits from the years of UKIP's growth, including the vanity and ultimate disaster of ex-Labour MP turned TV presenter turned UKIP MEP Robert Kilroy Silk, who, failing to win a leadership coup, went off to form his own short-lived anti-EU party, *Veritas*, which was immediately labelled *Vanitas*! Kilroy envisaged UKIP as the populist movement they are today, gaining votes from all the old parties, but his political career ended, as so many do, in abject failure. For a TV professional like Kilroy it is ironic that timing turned out to be his weak point.

You will be amused but also angry reading the chapter “Oops, we let in a million”, describing New Labour's mistakes and perversity on immigration; at least Jack Straw admitted to this. The book also tells us why and when Labour became a fanatically pro-EU party. Another chapter, aptly headed “Toxic Tories” relates the catalogue of political errors made by the Conservative Party over recent decades.

An accomplished journalist and historian,

the author also blogs for the Taxpayers' Alliance. The Alliance features alongside other stalwarts of Euroscepticism such as the Freedom Association, the Bruges Group and the Campaign for an Independent Britain, which have all contributed to the political backlash in their different ways. I heartily recommend this book.

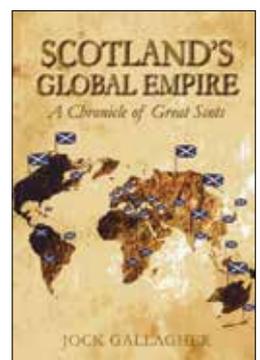
Mick McGough

Scotland's Global Empire: A Chronicle of Great Scots

JOCK GALLAGHER

Whittles Publishing, paperback 450pp, £20, ISBN 978-1-84995-102-9

At the height of our country's power in the 19th Century, Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, spoke of his desire to “uphold the Empire of England”. However, the journalist, author and former television producer, Jock Gallagher, has recently celebrated



Chapman Pincher (1914-2014)

Former Daily Express journalist Chapman Pincher has died at the grand age of 100.

A keen shooting and fly-fisherman, the well-spoken Harry soon started to annoy those in power with his first splash, an account of the top-secret development of the atomic bomb, which sparked a furious transatlantic row.

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was decidedly unhappy about Pincher's ability to gain insider information on defence matters. He wrote in a personal minute to his minister of defence: "I do not understand how the Express alone of all the newspapers has got the exact decision that we reached at the cabinet last Thursday on space. Can nothing be done to suppress or get rid of Mr Chapman Pincher? I am getting very concerned about how well informed he always seems to be on defence matters."

Even when he retired from journalism the leaks kept coming, leading to a series of best-selling books on the infiltration of Britain's intelligence services by Moscow which culminated in the allegation in his

book *Their Trade is Treachery* (published in 1981) that the head of MI5 was a Soviet spy.

Pincher was a prolific author - his books included *Too Secret Too Long* (1984), *The Secret Offensive* (1985), *Traitors: The Labyrinths of Treason* (1987), *A Web of Deception* (1987), *The Truth about Dirty Tricks* (1991) and *Treachery* (2011).

He was heavily involved in the Spycatcher affair, as the former MI5 counter-intelligence officer Peter Wright had been one of Pincher's key sources for *Their Trade is Treachery*. However, when Wright tried to publish much the same information in *Spycatcher*, it was banned in the UK and Wright had to go to Australia to get it published.

Pincher was not a man to be seen drinking with the Fleet Street hordes, but he remained a compelling writer who brought to light many closely guarded secrets. He must have known his time was up when earlier this year he published his own memoirs, *Dangerous to Know*.

Liz Justice

the publication of his new book which shows how the worldwide hegemony of Disraeli's island-nation owes more than a little to the rousing skirl of the pipes and the blood of Caledonia.

Scotland's Global Empire, without being in any way overly partisan or narrowly preferential, still manages to turn the tables on those of us who tend to see the Empire as an English creation, listing the myriad and magnificent contributions made by the author's countrymen to world civilisation. Perhaps pleasingly for those Englishmen, browbeaten into believing that they alone were warmongers or imperialists, Jock Gallagher's tome is a chronicle of Scottish (as much as English) battles, blood and hardy heroism. Victorian derring-do at the Dargai Heights, the Crimea or the Sudan was just as likely to come from the sons of Dundee or Dunfermline as it was from the cockney or county regiments celebrated by Kipling.

But it is not just the military muscle of old Scotland which is celebrated in this engrossing book: we discover that the pen is actually mightier than the sword - particularly when Scots are wielding the implement! Take, for example, the case of Daniel Cameron, a journalist from Berwick-upon-Tweed. He was just 23 years old when he emigrated to the United States, his aim being to take on the Chicago press. Blowing into the windy city, young Daniel soon gained the attention of the agricultural inventor, Cyrus Hall McCormack, and the pair formed a partnership which resulted in the launch of two great newspapers, the

Chicago Herald and the Chicago Times. However, when the Civil War broke out, Cameron proved himself a man of action, taking up arms for the Union cause, and raising the 65th Illinois Infantry - the "Scotch Regiment".

Other sons of the auld country established their credentials in American journalism and publishing, such as Bertie Forbes, born originally in New Deer, Aberdeenshire, and serving for a time on the staff of the Dundee Courier.

Today, thanks to Bertie's interest in the machinery of financial affairs and the cult of the businessman, the world's money-men now turn to the pages of a well-known publication... Forbes Magazine. The equally authoritative Business Week was, again, the work of a Scot - Malcolm Muir from Kelso, who then careered on to the pages of Newsweek, which he edited for nearly a quarter of a century.

Whatever the particular interest of the reader (and he or she does not have to share the author's nationality to enjoy this book), one can find all manner of extraordinary tales of achievement. From science, invention, administration and politics, to business, journalism, sport and the art of war, Jock Gallagher truly shows us the power and influence of Scotland's global empire.

A sturdy, informative, meaty volume for your bookshelves; and eye-catching not least for its excellent typeface, paper quality, and (for the true Scot) inspiring cover: a map of the world bristling with Scottish flags!

Stuart Millson

New campaign against copyright infringement

A new organisation has been formed with the aim of reducing online copyright infringement. Creative Content UK, which is backed by industry and Government, seeks to create wider appreciation of the value and benefits of copyright protection. It also plans to monitor unlawful file sharing and offer advice on where to find legitimate sources of content.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said the Government would provide £3.5 million towards Creative Content UK's educational awareness campaign. Announcing the funding, Cable said: "We are working with industry to ensure that intellectual property rights are understood and respected. Education is at the heart of this drive so people understand that piracy isn't a victimless crime - but actually causes business to fail, harms the industry and costs jobs."

The initiative has cross-party support. Shadow Culture Secretary Harriet Harman said: "I strongly welcome the partnership between the creative sector and ISPs to work together on the Creative Content UK initiative. I hope this initiative will encourage greater uptake of digital services and more responsible use of the Internet to safeguard jobs in the UK and reinforce our position as leaders in world class creativity."

Creative Content UK's founding partners include the Motion Picture Association, the British Recorded Music Industry, and the four main internet service providers: BT, Sky Broadband, TalkTalk and Virgin Media, with the prospect of other ISPs joining at a later stage. It also has the backing and support of a broad range of organisations including the BBC.

The campaign aims to inform and encourage consumers - ranging from the next generation of digital users to 'silver-surfers' - about the huge range of entertainment content that is available from legal and licensed sources, giving them greater confidence when buying and using content online and providing additional guidance about internet safety.

OBITUARIES

John Slim

One of the Institute's best-loved Past-Presidents has died, aged 83, just eight months after being diagnosed with cancer.

Former Birmingham Post columnist and feature-writer John Slim was President of the Institute of Journalists from 1997 to 1978, having been an active member of the Post and Mail chapter for some years.

John began his career on the Kidderminster Shuttle in 1951, and after working in Redditch for the B'ham Gazette & Evening Despatch he joined the Post and Mail office in the town in 1963, before moving to the Post's Head office in the centre of Birmingham.

For the next three and a half years he wrote the 1,000 word "Mercian" column daily, which gained a dedicated and loyal readership. It featured encounters with some extraordinary "ordinary" folk, as well as high-profile figures like the late Enoch Powell. His wife Elsa recalls "John was the first newspaper reporter to interview Enoch Powell after his "Rivers of blood" speech in 1968, and once shared a taxi-ride with Muhammad Ali on his way to an appearance on Michael Parkinson's television show".

I first met John in summer 1969 when I started work at the Birmingham Post as a callow trainee reporter. In common with many of the staff, I confess I was in awe of his command of the written word and of his punctuation, although it would have been hard to find a more approachable and good-humoured man.

Writing this, I suddenly recalled that I had corresponded with him when I was still at school. John had been educated at St Philip's RC Grammar School in Edgbaston, and during my time at the same school, I edited the school magazine. Discovering he was an Old Boy of SPGS, I wrote asking if he would produce something for us. A humorous article appeared in my post box almost by return, in which he described his sporting activity at school – and in particular his swimming 'prowess'; "straight down... like a stone!" he reported!

After leaving St Phil's, he went to Underwood Secretarial College to learn shorthand and typing in preparation for his planned journalistic career after National Service. At the College he encountered a fellow student, then appearing in pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre, (Sir) Norman Wisdom. Apparently, Norman wanted to learn to use the typewriter in his dressing room so that he could respond to letters from his fans. In between typing sessions they went out to a local café to buy each other coffees. Elsa told me "John says Norman still owed him four-pence halfpenny!"



Alongside his feature-writing, John also built up a reputation as a theatre critic. He had reviewed professional theatre from 1968, but in 1984 when the previous reviewer stepped down, he was asked to stand in for a week to cover amateur stage while future coverage was arranged. He was still "standing in" in 1991 when he retired – only to continue reviewing from home. He also became the editor of the national magazine of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, which he edited until he retired ...again...in 2009. Elsa believes that John must have reviewed around 4,000 amateur theatre productions from 1986 onwards.

John also published several books containing some of his 7,000 limericks, some famously – if mildly - risqué, wrote poetry online, and helped promote local Amateur Theatre with a website called "Behind the arras", which he launched with former Post and Mail colleague Roger Clarke.

Last year, after being diagnosed with cancer, John started producing a blog in which he wrote "I've had a good run, a lot of jolly, happy decades in which I have deployed my insistence on failing to understand any given situation in the knowledge that if everything is not quite hunky-dory it will eventually go away. Life goes on until eventually it doesn't".

John left an indelible impression on all those who met him as a truly kind and decent man with a passion for the English language and an engaging sense of humour. He always said he was immensely lucky to be able to do a job that was his hobby.

He is survived by wife Elsa, four children and nine grandchildren.

(The Institute was represented at his funeral by the General Secretary Dominic Cooper and me. Among the mourners was radio and television presenter Don Maclean, who is President of the St Philip's Old Boys Association.)

Paul Leighton

James Alexander Gordon

A warm tribute has been paid to broadcaster James Alexander Gordon who has died, by the journalists organisation of which he was an active member for 30 years.

A statement from the Chartered Institute of Journalists said he would be greatly missed by his many colleagues and friends – but especially by all those who worked with him at Radio 2 and in the Institute.

President of the Institute, Paul Leighton who read news alongside "JAG" for many years at Radio 2, said he would always be remembered as a "loyal friend, a true gentleman and a thoroughly professional broadcaster".

Said Leighton: "He was always a consummate professional on air but off-duty he had a wicked sense of humour and was a marvellous raconteur. James was famous - possibly notorious - for his story of his chilling night-time encounter with 'the Langham Ghost'." (The Langham was the hotel opposite Broadcasting House where newsmen and announcers had bedrooms so that they could cover 'split shifts'.

After an early career in the music business, James started work as a newsreader/announcer at the BBC in the seventies – and began reading the classified football results in 1973. His unique cadences meant that listeners knew the outcome of a match after hearing only the first score.

James joined the Institute of Journalists in the early eighties and soon became Vice-Chairman of the Institute's Broadcasting Division and an active participant in Institute meetings and events. He was also in much demand as an after-dinner speaker and compere.

Although he formally retired from the BBC in 1992, he went on reading the soccer results for Radio5 Live until he had an operation for cancer on his larynx in 2013.

James leaves a wife Julia, son David and two grandchildren Molly and Martha.

Leighton said: "James was a one-off. No other broadcaster will ever be quite as instantly recognisable – or as much loved. Our thoughts go out to Julia and his family."

CIOJ AGM 2014

London, Saturday 25 October

Come and have your say at our AGM

The Institute's AGM will be held on October 25 at the Civil Service Club in Whitehall.

This is the members' chance to meet the President and Council of the Institute, to hear about the activities and achievements of the Council's sub-committees, the Professional Practices Board and the various CIOJ charity committees, and to help shape the policies and programme of the CIOJ and the IoJ (TU) for the year ahead.

There will also be a dinner after the meeting, which all members are welcome to attend. The cost will be £25.

Emergency motion

As you will know, we sadly lost our President, Charlie Harris, earlier in the year. As a result of his death our Vice-President, Paul Leighton, stepped up to the role of President a year earlier than was expected. This has caused a difficulty with forthcoming elections for Council and Vice-President.

Although elections for both would, under normal circumstances, take place at the end of this year (2014), the Vice-President would have to take up office in one-year's time, necessitating an election for a new VP at the end of next year (2015), too. This would then mean the elections would be out of sync and, therefore, financially inefficient.

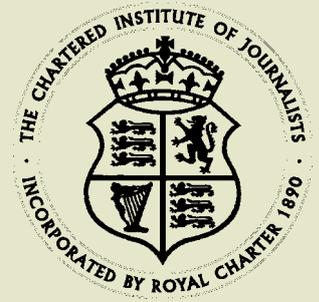
One way to resolve this issue, and the one adopted by Council, is for the current Council to remain in office for a further year (until the end of 2015) and then conduct elections for VP and Council at the same time. We would still potentially need an election for VP at the end of this year, but it would mean that from 2016 onwards the VP and Council elections would happen at the same time.

To do this, however, the proposal would have to be put before the members at the AGM, and the members would have to formally adopt the proposal. The final wording of the motion will be available in the next couple of weeks but if you have any observations or queries about what is being proposed you may contact the General Secretary on 020 7252 1187 or memberservices@cioj.co.uk.

We very much hope you will be able to come along next month and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Please register your attendance by contacting Diane at memberservices@cioj.co.uk or call 020 7252 1187.

We look forward to seeing you on October 25!



Venue

**The Civil Service Club,
Great Scotland Yard,
Whitehall, London, SW1.**

**A 2-minute walk from
Charing Cross station.**

Rooms are available at the club at very competitive rates for CIOJ members and their guests attending the AGM.



PENSION VACANCY

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

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

Any member who is interested should either download an application form from the Institute's website or contact the General Secretary for more details. Deadline for applications is October 23.

Stand for election to the PPB

Would you like to stand for election to the Professional Practices Board?

The PPB is the part of the Institute that deals with our trade union activities. It campaigns on matters that affect the day-to-day lives of working journalists and undertakes legal battles on behalf of members.

Contact Amanda Brodie - amandabrodie@cioj.co.uk - for more details. Deadline: October 17.

E-mail address

Make sure we have your e-mail address. If you are not receiving regular messages from us via e-mail it is likely we do not have your up-to-date details. Don't miss out. Update your details today - 020 7252 1187 or memberservices@cioj.co.uk