



Government starts debate on BBC's future

The Government has published the topics for debate as part of the process to review the BBC's Royal Charter to make sure it remains a valued public broadcaster.

The BBC is governed by a Royal Charter, with the current Charter due to expire at the end of 2016. The Government's consultation paper – a "Green Paper" – is the first stage of the process in setting a new Charter.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, John Whittingdale MP, said: "The BBC is at the very heart of Britain. It is one of this nation's most treasured institutions – playing a role in almost all of our lives. Ten years ago, the last time the Government ran a Charter Review, the media landscape looked very different. The BBC has adapted to this changing landscape, and remains much-loved by audiences, a valuable engine of growth and an international benchmark for television, radio, online and journalism.

"However, we need to ask some hard questions during this Charter Review. Questions about what the BBC should be trying to achieve in an age where consumer choice is now far more extensive than it has been, what its scale and scope should be in the light of those aims, how far it affects others in television, radio and online, and what the right structures are for its governance and regulation."

The consultation sets out four broad issues for public discussion:

- **BBC's mission, purpose and values**
The BBC currently has six public purposes that were set out at the last Charter Review in 2006:
- **Sustaining citizenship and civil society**
- **Promoting education and learning**

- **Stimulating creativity and cultural excellence**
- **Representing the UK, its nations, regions and communities**
- **Bringing the UK to the world and the world to the UK**
- **Delivering to the public the benefit of emerging communications technologies and services.**

All of the BBC's activity should be working towards one or more of these. The consultation paper looks at whether these purposes are still relevant, and in the context of recent challenges the organisation has faced, if there should be more direction set about how the BBC works by defining its values in the next Charter.

- **Scale and scope of the BBC's services and operations**
Twenty years ago the BBC had two television channels and five national radio stations. It is now the largest public service broadcaster in the world, with nine television channels, ten national radio stations, and a major online presence. The consultation paper looks at whether this particular range of services best serves licence fee payers and the impact it has on the commercial sector given the current and future media environment.
- **The way in which the BBC is funded**
The BBC is currently funded via the TV licence fee, which has proven to be a very resilient form of funding – bringing in £3.7 billion last year. However it is not without its challenges – for example it is regressive, set at a flat rate and is not adjusted for different household incomes. It is also true that more people –

especially younger people – now access television exclusively online and without a licence. This is perfectly legal, as the existing legislation was drawn up when the iPlayer did not even exist. The Government has already committed to dealing with this problem and the Charter Review will allow us to look at how to modernise the current system.

- **BBC's governance and accountability**

The BBC Trust – established by the current Charter – exists to represent licence fee payers and hold the BBC to account. At times the BBC has fallen well short of the standards that the public expect of it, such as the Digital Media Initiative, the failed £100m technology project which exposed governance issues at the BBC. There are three broad alternative options – to reform the Trust model, create a unitary board and a new standalone oversight body or move external regulation wholesale to Ofcom. The Government is seeking views on these models and the wider issues of how the BBC's transparency and accountability can be improved.

Culture Secretary John Whittingdale MP added: "The BBC is a national institution, paid for by the public. It will have spent more than £30 billion of public money over the current Charter period. Everyone must be able to have their say on how well they think that money is spent. This consultation gives them that opportunity. It also invites them to comment on how the BBC is governed.

"This publication is an important first step in an open and thorough Charter Review. It sets out the issues and some of the options for change. I want it to stimulate a national debate over the coming months as we map out the future for our BBC."

Andy Smith
Editor



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Editor's Comment

In the wake of our "summer of discontent", a season of strikes bringing widespread disruption to transport networks and other public services, it is easy to forget the good (and vital) work that most trade unions do on a day-to-day basis. Indeed, proposals by Government ministers for tougher legislation on unions are finding an increasing echo in stridently anti-union editorials and commentaries in the national and regional press. Outside the far left, which has a vested interest in promoting industrial militancy, few voices have been raised in support of trade unionism. But in the Institute of Journalists, which is in the unique position of being both a professional institution and a trade union at one and the same time, we know and understand only too well the importance of providing effective, independent representation for our members, and, while we have seldom supported or endorsed "industrial action", we have frequently had to do battle in other ways against unscrupulous management.

This Institute has been championing the interests of our members for over 130 years, and seeking to secure for them a fairer deal, better pay and conditions, and the respect to which they are entitled. This has often entailed tricky negotiations, and occasional stand-offs, with senior management in the media industry - although we have always striven to do so without resorting to the sort of provocative, largely inaccurate and invariably counter-productive "bosses versus workers" rhetoric which has so often been deployed by other, more politically-motivated, unions in their dealings with employers. As a union we are completely independent and that means politically neutral and fair-minded in representing our membership. But as we have frequently had to demonstrate at industrial tribunals

and even in court, we are willing and able to be tough and to "tell it like it is".

Now, with the political and industrial climate increasingly hostile to trade unionism, our Institute must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other unions in rejecting the Government's anti-union agenda and explaining to the public the benefits of trade unionism. Policies born of a knee-jerk reaction are never very sensible, and it is not right or just that we should face a raft of union-bashing legislation purely because Ministers are rattled by a few rail strikes. We owe it to all journalists to make the case for strong, independent trade unionism.

Andy Smith



Chartered Institute of
Journalists

Annual General
Meeting 2015

Birmingham -
Saturday 24 October

See page 12 for
further details

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The Institute: meeting new challenges all the time

By Mark Croucher
Vice-President, Chartered Institute of Journalists

The Institute has been around for over 130 years and in that time succeeding generations of journalists have faced up to the myriad challenges posed by events, governments and changing technology - not least the shadow cast by two world wars. For our generation the threat may be more pernicious, if less personally dangerous. In the 21st Century we operate in an environment which endangers the very future of journalism as we have known it.

The writing was on the wall with Leveson: it became open season on the press as a result of the unscrupulous - not to mention illegal - behaviour of a small number of journalists. A carefully stage-managed inquiry, the politically motivated skills of Hacked-Off and a public manipulated into exasperation saw journalists' popularity plunge to near politician-like depths and an unwilling press dragged into a regime of quasi-state regulation.

To make matters worse, we now find the Government using against the press the legislation designed for anti-terrorism and organised crime. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) has proved a useful tool for a political class obsessed with managing the media: providing ready access to journalists' phone records as a handy tool for catching sources. It is not just journalists, of course. With RIPA, we have already seen the misuse of powers on a huge scale: local councils conducting covert surveillance to ensure such heinous crimes as not living in the correct school catchment area or not putting out the correct waste bins are caught and punished. There is a raft of similar legislation either already on the statute books or lined up and ready for an increasingly supine Parliament to rubber-stamp. The icing on the cake will be the Snoopers' Charter, an unrestricted licence for the state to browse electronic information at will, the sort of tool that dictators and despots could only dream of in earlier ages.

Solidarity

It is against this background that the solidarity of journalists has wavered. The downsizing of media organisations, the increasing use of "citizen journalists" as a free alternative to professional news-gatherers, and the growth of internet news

organisations has fractured the industry and weakened the ability of journalists collectively to resist these measures. At a time when journalists should be strong, Leveson has cowed us and made us weak in the face of hostile public opinion.

We sometimes forget the dual role of the Institute. Unlike other organisations, we are not just a professional body, but also a trade union. This makes us more than a mouthpiece for the interests of our profession: it imposes upon us an obligation to fight for the rights of journalists both within and without our membership. For too long, trade unionism has been painted in political colours: as the vanguard of some socialist movement or as a handy source of funds for a collection of political parties mainly occupying the left of the political spectrum. But to view trade unionism in that light is to ignore the history of the movement since its inception. The Tolpuddle Martyrs fought not for the Labour Party but for the rights of workers. Our fight is not one which is associated with a political party, nor even a side of the political spectrum. It is more important than that.

Free press

For the health of democracy in this country we need a free press: one in which journalists can operate without the threat of government continually monitoring their communications and one in which sources can feel secure that the full weight of the state is not about to be turned upon the task of tracking them down.

If we fail, then journalism fails and the state wins. Our free press will be no more, reduced to the rewriting of Government press releases and reporting cats stuck up trees and school sports days lest the state deploy its powers.

By definition, fighting for a free press is a political fight, but one with a small 'p'. We have no interest in political parties or electoral advantage: we are free to fight for what is clearly right.

As both a union and a professional body we not only have a right but a positive duty to ensure our voice is heard. If we fail to maintain a free press, then we will have failed to heed one of the starkest warnings of history. It was Josef Goebbels who said: "The media is the orchestra on which the government plays its music."

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with

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and

Javier Ruiz Diaz, Open Rights Group; **Katherine Gundersen**, Campaign for Freedom of Information; **Stephen Hocking**, DAC Beachcroft; **Robin Hopkins**, 11KBW; **Chris Jarvis**, Environment Agency; **Ian Makgill**, Spend Network; **Tracy Phillips**, Lambeth Council; **Jonathan Pillinger-Cork**, Ofcom; **Martin Rosenbaum**, BBC Political Programmes and **Dr Benjamin Worthy**, Birkbeck College, University of London and Open Government Partnership

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Independent review on TV licence enforcement published

An independent review looking at the current sanctions in place for failure to hold a TV licence has found that the current system of criminal enforcement should be maintained, at least under the present system of licence fee collection.

It concludes that the current system is "appropriate and fair" and that it represents value for money for licence fee payers and taxpayers. However, the review does recommend that there is scope to improve the current system in relation to the transparency of the prosecution process, and the content and tone of TV Licensing communications; and that the forthcoming BBC Charter Review should consider moving towards a simpler system that would also assist in improving public understanding of what the licence fee covers.

David Perry QC, who led the review, said: "Following a detailed assessment of the various policy options we concluded that there should be no fundamental change in the sanctions regime as it applies to the current licence fee collection system. The current regime represents a broadly fair and proportionate response to the problem of licence fee evasion and provides good value for money both for licence fee payers and taxpayers."

He added that as an in-depth review of the BBC's Royal Charter is about to take place, "any change to the method of licence fee collection is likely to have an impact on the viability of introducing a non-criminal scheme of enforcement. It is to be hoped that the recommendations and observations made in this report will be of assistance to those involved in the Charter Review."

Currently a person who installs or uses a television receiver without a TV licence is guilty of a criminal offence under the Communications Act 2003 and may be fined – currently a maximum of £1,000. In a small number of cases, where there is a refusal to pay the fine and where all other enforcement methods have been tried or considered, a person can be sent to jail for non-payment of a court-imposed fine.

In 2013 there were 178,332 prosecutions in England and Wales for the evasion offence. 153,369 people were convicted and of these 152,664 were fined. The review highlighted that, despite the large number of cases, they are dealt with efficiently and take up only 0.3 per cent of court time. 32 people were imprisoned for non-payment of a court fine imposed following conviction for TV licence evasion.

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, John Whittingdale MP, said: "I am most grateful to David Perry for producing a very thorough analysis of the practicalities and consequences of decriminalisation. This is an issue which we will wish to consider carefully as part of the Charter Review and this report will be an important contribution to that."

The TV Licence Fee and Enforcement Review report can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tv-licence-enforcement-review-a-consultation>. The Written Ministerial Statement made by the Secretary of State is on the Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/todays-written-statements/>.

Hughes focuses on future of BBC

A journalism lecturer from Brunel University, London, has been appointed to advise the House of Lords on the future of the BBC.

Jacquie Hughes, who produced a report earlier this year calling for a major shake-up of the way the corporation is funded, has been appointed as a specialist adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communication as part of its investigation into reforming the BBC Charter.

Hughes said: "I'm delighted to be invited by the Committee to advise on the Charter. This is an important role because it will ultimately decide how licence payers could potentially get better value for money."

As well as having had a distinguished career in the television industry with 700 screen credits to her name, from reporter to executive producer, Jacquie is the author of the report, "Broadcasting by consent: The BBC, Public Service Broadcasting and Charter Renewal in 2017", published by the think-tank CentreForum.

The Select Committee will be reviewing the six public purposes of the BBC concerned with information, entertainment and emerging technologies. It will also be considering its fundamental purposes

and ways of setting the licence fee, while ensuring that the BBC remains independent.

The specialist adviser assists the Committee by providing sources of expert advice, the preparation of written briefing material for oral evidence sessions, commenting on witnesses' written evidence and assisting with a variety of tasks so that the Committee can carry out its functions.

ICon Awards

The Institute of Internal Communication is now inviting entries for the ICon Awards 2015. The ICon Awards celebrate talent and those who consistently turn theory into great internal communication practice. Award categories include writer, editor, community manager, in-house team (corporate), in-house team (public/not-for-profit) as well as internal communicator of the year.

The deadline for entries is 30 September. Winners will be announced at the Communicator of the Year lunch on November 12 in London. Entry packs can be downloaded at www.ioic.org.uk

Consultation on BBC's future

Continued from 1

The public consultation marks the start of the Charter Review process. Over the coming months, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will be engaging with the public and industry to make sure that all views are given proper consideration.

To support the Charter Review, the Government has announced the appointment of a group of experts from across a range of industries and backgrounds. Its remit will be to provide expertise, challenge and advice during the Charter Review process.

The public and industry can access

the consultation paper, including an online response form, at www.gov.uk/bbccharterreview. The consultation will run until October 8, 2015. The Government will then bring forward proposals based on this consultation in Spring 2016.

The BBC Charter Review can be found online at www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445704/BBC_Charter_Review_Consultation_WEB.pdf.

A copy of the BBC Royal Charter laid before Parliament in October 2006 can be found online at https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/assets/files/pdf/about/how_we_govern/charter.pdf.

BBC agrees to fund provision of free television licences for over-75s

The Government has reached agreement with the BBC that it will take on the cost of providing free television licences for over-75s. This will be phased in from 2018/19 with the BBC taking on the full costs from 2020/21.

A Government spokesman said: "Having inherited a challenging fiscal position, the Government is pleased that BBC has agreed to play its part in contributing to reductions in spending like much of the rest of the public sector, while at the same time further reducing its overall reliance on taxpayers. As part of these new arrangements, the Government will ensure that the BBC can adapt to a changing media landscape."

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said: "The BBC is a valued national institution that produces some of the finest television and radio in the world. But it is also a publicly-funded body, so it is right that it, like other parts of the public sector, should make savings. The deal we have agreed with the Corporation means that it will take on the significant cost of TV licences for the over-75s, easing some of the pressure on taxpayers who have to meet the country's welfare bill, while also ensuring that our promise to maintain pensioner benefits is met in full over the next five years."

"The decisions the BBC and the Government have reached together will also secure its long-term future, with a funding model that is sustainable and can adapt in an age where technology is rapidly changing."

The following has been agreed with the BBC:

- The Government will bring forward

legislation in the next year to modernise the licence fee to cover public service broadcast catch-up TV.

- The Government will reduce the broadband ringfence to £80m in 2017/18, £20m in 2018/19, £10m in 2019/20 and £0m in 2020/21.

- The Government anticipates that the licence fee will rise in line with CPI over the next Charter Review period, subject to: (a) the conclusions of the Charter Review, in relation to the purposes and scope of the BBC; and, (b) the BBC demonstrating that it is undertaking efficiency savings at least equivalent to those in other parts of the public sector.

- The Government will consider carefully the case for decriminalisation in light of the Perry Report and the need for the BBC to be funded appropriately – no decision will be taken in advance of Charter Review.

The Government's commitment that all households with an over-75 year old will be eligible to a free TV licence will be honoured throughout this Parliament.

The Director-General of the BBC, Tony Hall, said: "We have secured the right deal for the BBC in difficult economic circumstances for the country. This agreement secures the long term funding for a strong BBC over the next Charter period. It means a commitment to increase the licence fee in line with inflation, subject to Charter Review, the end of the iPlayer loophole and the end of the broadband ringfence. In the circumstances, the BBC has agreed take on the costs for free licence fees for over-75s, and after the next parliament, will take on the policy."

TV studio complex saved

A television studio complex in West London has been rescued from the administrators after a leading entertainment company stepped in at the eleventh-hour to keep it as a "centre of creativity". Media company Lean Forward, which produces interactive gaming shows, has bought the 22,000 sq ft site in Acton from the administrators.

Marketing Director Andy Hodgson explained: "The complex offers studios, office and warehouse accommodation. It is the perfect fit for us. There is plenty of space and we can create television without the limitations or absurd costs of central London. It is also a big boost to the local economy as we have created 45 jobs and have room to grow as we expand our service over the next twelve months. All of us feel we are in a centre of creativity. There's real buzz again about the place."

The studios were originally purpose built more than 14 years ago by now defunct shopping channels Bid TV and Price-Drop TV before they got into financial trouble and were forced to close down.

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Drones help 300,000 watch Henley Regatta live

TV production company Sunset+Vine has revealed astonishing viewing results from its first online production of Henley Royal Regatta. The world's pre-eminent river rowing event, now in its 177th year, was streamed live on YouTube from July 1-5 and on the BBC Red Button on Finals Day.

Employing new technology and new camera positions into its revolutionary production of rowing, including the use of drone technology to provide as yet unseen coverage of the sport, Sunset+Vine's broadcast coverage delivered a truly unique view of rowing to its viewing audience. Over 294,000 people watched the Henley Royal Regatta live on YouTube with

a further 100,000 watching specially created on-demand daily highlights programmes and the individual races so far. 40% of the audience came from outside of the UK.

Over 250 individual races were also clipped out and uploaded on YouTube for viewers to access On-Demand. Figures for Finals Day viewings on BBC Red Button and BBC Sport website are yet to be disclosed. It was the first time the event had been broadcast anywhere since 1976.

Sir Steve Redgrave, Chairman of the Royal Regatta, said: "The pioneering nature of the coverage of Henley Royal Regatta has provided a truly cutting-edge and innovative perspective of our

event for viewers, as well as delivering a unique insight to the sport of rowing for a new generation of fans. The feedback we have received for Henley's first broadcast anywhere since 1976 has been exceptionally positive and bodes well not only for the future success of this prestigious event, but also for the televised future of the sport."

Michael Cole, one of the most experienced television producers of rowing events in the UK, including the 2012 Olympic Regatta, was Editorial Director.

The Henley Royal Regatta YouTube channel can be accessed: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HenleyRoyalRegatta/> featured

New FOI commission heralds “crackdown on the right to know”

A major attack on the public’s right to information is likely following the Government’s announcement of a new Commission to review the Freedom of Information Act, according to the Campaign for Freedom of Information.

The Commission has been asked to consider whether new measures are needed to protect the Government’s internal discussions from disclosure and to reduce the “burden” of the FOI Act.

Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, Maurice Frankel said: “The Government is clearly proposing to crack down on FOI. Ministers want certainty that policy discussions will not only take place in secret but be kept secret afterwards. They don’t like the fact that the Act requires the case for confidentiality to be weighed against the public interest in disclosure.”

He added: “The Commissioner and Tribunal give substantial weight to the need to protect ongoing government discussions and the frankness of future exchanges.

But after a decision has been announced they sometimes order disclosure where exchanges are anodyne, the material is old or the case for openness is overwhelming.

“If that balancing test is removed mistakes, bad decisions and policy failures caused by deliberately ignoring the evidence will be concealed for 20 years.”

FOI “working well”

Frankel pointed out that the Freedom of Information Act had been fully examined only 3 years ago, by the Justice Select Committee in its post-legislative scrutiny of the Act. The committee reported in 2012 that FOI had proved “a significant enhancement of our democracy”, and that the Act was “working well”.

The report had concluded: “We do not believe that there has been any general harmful effect at all on the ability to conduct business in the public service, and in our view the additional burdens are outweighed by the benefits.”

Ross takes helm at magazine society



The Editor-in-Chief of the Institution of Engineering and Technology’s E&T magazine has been elected Chairman of the British Society of Magazine Editors.

Dickon Ross is an award-winning journalist and is the first Chairman of the Society to come from the business and professional magazine sector since the position was held by the Editor of Autocar in 1981. The Chairmanship is usually held by someone from the consumer magazine sector. Previous holders of the post have included the editors of Radio Times,

Cosmopolitan and Top Gear.

On his appointment, Ross said: “It is a great honour to chair such a prestigious organisation. I am particularly proud to be the first business-to-business editor for such a long time to hold the post. I want to attract more members from business-to-business magazines and to build on the great work that the BSME does to celebrate editorial excellence.”

Dickon Ross has been a science and technology journalist for over 25 years in both consumer and trade magazines, ranging from the weekly Electronics Times to Focus magazine (now BBC Focus). He joined the IET in 2002, where he launched the Flipside magazine for young teenagers, which ran for nearly ten years up to 2014 and in that time was enjoyed by millions. He became Editor-in-Chief for the IET’s magazines in 2004. In 2008 he won BSME Editor of the Year (Business and Professional) for E&T and again in 2011, as well as 2011 Editor of the Year (Youth magazines) for Flipside.

E&T magazine is published 11 times a year in print and in tablet edition. The magazine website is at www.eandtmagazine.com and its jobs board at <http://engineering-jobs.theiet.org/>.

Indian reporter honoured for courage

The International Women’s Media Foundation has selected Meera Srinivasan, Assistant Editor at The Hindu, as the Foundation’s Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow for 2015/16. Now in its eleventh year, the Fellowship provides a unique academic and professional opportunity for women journalists focusing on human rights and social justice reporting.

Beginning in August, Srinivasan 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 pursue research and coursework on refugees and vulnerable communities, and will also complete journalism internships with The Boston Globe and The New York Times.

“Elizabeth Neuffer was a courageous reporter for the Globe who was determined to shine a light on injustice wherever she found it, and we continue to be inspired by her example and her work,” said Linda Pizzuti Henry, Managing Director of The Boston Globe. “We are grateful that the Fellowship in her name has enabled courageous women journalists around the world to carry on that tradition.”

Neuffer died while reporting in Iraq in 2003. In collaboration with Neuffer’s family and friends, the IWMF started the Fellowship to honour her legacy while advancing her work in the fields of human rights and social justice.

Srinivasan, based in Tamil Nadu, India, covers human rights pertaining to ethnic reconciliation, religious tolerance, and refugees in both Sri Lanka and her home country of India. Between 2013 and 2015, Srinivasan was posted to Sri Lanka as a foreign correspondent for The Hindu covering the country’s post-war challenges.

“The Fellowship is a fantastic opportunity for personal reflection on larger themes of human rights and social justice, that are critical to addressing class inequalities and discrimination reflected in vulnerable communities everywhere,” Srinivasan said.

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RIPA and its watchdogs

By Liz Justice

When you read the role of Sir Anthony May KB you trace an establishment figure with a winding earnest pathway in the highest courts in the land. Oh and a wry sense of humour. But take a step away from the figurehead of the Interception of Communications Commissioners Office and the operational head, Joanna Cavan, is a different kettle of fish. Prior to joining she was an independent expert witness in relation to forensic telecommunications and represented the prosecution or defence in a large number of serious and high profile criminal court cases.

For journalists and the police this means a formidable opponent in the pursuit of secret emails.

Hacking trials are still going on despite the fact that journalists faced by their peers have mostly ended up walking out of court innocent – albeit emotionally exhausted and torn to shreds for doing their jobs after their employers handed over all their emails to the police.

In the background is a new insidious set of rules called the Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) which is threatening the foundations of all journalists work in the electronic age.

There are essentially two types of interception warrants. RIPA section 8(1) warrants and section 8(4) warrants and all are for the capturing of the content of communications and related communications data.

8 (1) says – An interception warrant must name or describe either –

- (a) one person as the interception subject; or
- (b) a single set of premises as the premises in relation to which the interception to which the warrant relates is to take place.

8(4) says – Subsections (1) and (2) shall not apply to an interception warrant if –

- (a) the description of communications to which the warrant relates confines the conduct authorised or required by the warrant to conduct falling within subsection (5); and
- (b) at the time of the issue of the warrant, a certificate applicable to the warrant has been issued by the Secretary of State certifying –
 - (i) the descriptions of intercepted material the examination of which he considers necessary; and
 - (ii) that he considers the examination of material of those descriptions necessary as mentioned in section 5(3)(a), (b) or (c).

Unreadable

Yes, like all rules made by the State, they are unreadable but basically it means that RIPA gives the powers for everyone to be spied on with every Facebook, Twitter or other electronic mention. Then if the police want to investigate further they should get further agreement from a named senior politician. Put smoothly by a Government official, “RIPA permits mass interception of communications but controls exist on further access to the messages content.”

For journalists it means that if someone comes to us with a story and we check them out using our mobile phone or any other electronic media then we are ourselves a target for being a subject for one of these warrants. And even more important that our “contact” can be traced, identified and well we are back in the twilight world of “surveillance” where it is breach of security to say if a warrant has been issued – so don’t ask!

The rules are clear. RIPA is for national security, to Prevent/detect serious crime, to safeguard the economic well-being of the UK and as part of an international mutual assistance agreement (dealing with serious crime).

Except when the best known case came to light through Plebgate it was simply a way for the Metropolitan Police find out which officers had spoken to The Sun and sacking them - leaving the rest of us puzzled as to which one of those rules applied.

In practice there are four Secretaries of State and one Scottish Minister who undertake the main burden of authorising (or declining) interception warrants. The Secretaries of State and Minister mainly concerned are;

- the Foreign Secretary, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
- the Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Theresa May MP

- the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP
- the Defence Secretary, The Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP
- the Cabinet Secretary for Justice for Scotland, The Rt Hon Michael Matheson MP.

And just before the election and with an anonymised report issued by Sir Anthony showing that over a three-year period RIPA was used against 105 journalists and 242 sources, the Government announced a revised code of practice so that any journalist had to be subjected to getting agreement from the court.

Fine until July when, true to form, the IOCCO said there had been another two breaches by “un-named police forces”.

But again I come back to the quiet backwater of the IOCCO and these RIPA regulations which were for counter terrorism and never envisaged as a weapon to strike journalists. The IOCCO aims are to ensure

- the systems in place for the interception of communications are sufficient for the purposes of RIPA Part I Chapter I and that all relevant records have been kept;
- all interception has been carried out lawfully and in accordance with RIPA Part I Chapter I and its associated Code of Practice; and,
- any “errors” are reported to Sir Anthony May and the systems are reviewed and adapted where any weaknesses or faults are exposed.

And now I have started to be very afraid of this deadly weapon in which a few selective people know the secrets and journalists are once again the enemy.

BMJ announces new partnership

Global healthcare publisher BMJ (formerly British Medical Journal) is to publish the Journal of Investigative Medicine, which is owned by the prestigious American Federation for Medical Research.

The first issue of the title under the new partnership is scheduled for January 2016. Taking on the American journal will add to BMJ’s expanding portfolio of more than 60 world leading medical and allied science journals, including several that are published in collaboration with US-based medical societies and associations.

The Journal of Investigative Medicine is peer reviewed and currently publishes 8

issues a year, covering the latest scientific developments in all medical research specialties, with the aim of translating these into clinical practice.

Editor-in-chief Dr Michael McPhaul, who has been at the journal’s helm since 2004, will continue in his role.

Welcoming the link with BMJ, he said: “The AFMR is excited to be joining with BMJ to publish the Journal of Investigative Medicine.

“This partnership will further accelerate the development of the journal as an outstanding venue for the publication of high quality research and timely reviews.”

New report reveals threat from Islamists on campus

The Government's counter-radicalisation strategy is being prevented from functioning effectively in British universities due to a campaign of opposition from students which is actually being coordinated by a pro-terrorist group called CAGE.

Recording over 100 on-campus events hosting speakers with extreme views or a history of involvement with extremist organisations each year since 2012, the latest report from the independent think-tank Student Rights shows the alarming reach of extremism on UK campuses. The report also highlights how a number of those convicted of terrorist offences have passed through Britain's higher education institutions.

The Director of Student Rights, Rupert Sutton, commented: "The evidence presented in this report shows that extremism on university campuses remains a serious issue while the dominant narrative is one which draws on extremist campaigning to undermine attempts to challenge the problem. As such, it is vital that the Government works to increase support for those challenging extremist narratives about Prevent, and that any guidance for university staff addresses fears driven by these narratives.

"Universities should be the best place to challenge extremist ideas, yet at present this is simply not happening – something that must change if we are to successfully oppose on-campus radicalisation."

Afghan violence

A new study by the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee attributes 72 percent of violence against journalists in Afghanistan to the Afghan government rather than the Taliban. Violence against journalists was attributed to insurgents in 12.5 percent of cases but the majority of attacks were perpetrated by forces acting on behalf of the government. The study examined 39 cases of violence from January to June 2015 including one murder, four cases of assault, 19 beatings, two detentions, and 13 cases of threats against journalists. There are growing concerns that the Western-backed regime in Kabul is just as extreme and dictatorial as the one it replaced.

New campaign highlights value of UK's creative industries

Almost two million people in the UK have jobs which are directly associated with the media and the creative industries. A new initiative under the umbrella of Creative Content UK, a partnership between content creators and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), aims to highlight the importance of the sector, the opportunities that it offers for young people, both as consumers and as potential creators themselves.

By showing how to easily access content – such as music, film, TV, books, games, magazines and sport – from authorised online sources which provide a superior user experience, the campaign will encourage consumers to attach greater personal value to the creation of the content they love and demonstrate the increased choice that brings.

The education programme will target 16-24 year-olds, their parents, those responsible for household internet connections, as well as others who influence young people's attitudes to accessing content. To capture the attention of these audiences, public relations firm Weber Shandwick will lead an integrated consumer, corporate and social PR campaign, with activities scheduled to start later this summer.

Creative Content UK is a ground-breaking partnership across the creative sector that, together with an education campaign part-funded by the Government, seeks to reduce online copyright infringement. The

initiative also includes a subscriber alerts programme, to follow after the education campaign launch, which will notify bill-payers if illegal content is being shared with other users through their internet connection.

In remarks made to parliamentary representatives and stakeholders at the Alliance for Intellectual Property reception in the House of Commons, Janis Thomas, Education Project Manager, Creative Content UK, said:

"We are delighted to have three highly experienced agencies on-board to help us create disruptive and engaging multi-media campaigns that will connect with the aspirations of young people.

"This behaviour change initiative is vital to the success of the sector and will ensure that we can continue innovating and taking risks on new artists and ideas. We aim to inspire individuals to make a personal commitment to the future of the UK creative industries and to the creation of music, film, games and other entertainment, which they love so much."

Creative Content UK will be measuring the impact of the education campaign in a number of ways - including using extensive analysis conducted by Ipsos MORI. The surveys will help to assess levels of illegal consumption and correlating engagement across legal platforms, as well as attitudes towards the value of content and awareness of the programme as a whole.

Guardian's Sarah Boseley named Health Journalist of the Year... for the second time

The Health Editor of The Guardian, Sarah Boseley, has won the Medical Journalists' Association award for "Health Journalist of the Year". She also won the award in 2014.

Award judge Olivia Timbs, former editor of The Pharmaceutical Journal, said that Sarah Boseley's work was "unusual and of a consistently high standard. Her contributions ranged from an analysis of the use of ketamine that helped the international lobby prevent any restrictions in its use, to a piece about the tribulations of launching a clinical trial during the Ebola epidemic. The judges all agreed: she gives you a sense of adventure."

Unfortunately, the award winner was unable to collect her trophy in person as she was one of the casualties of the transport strikes that prevented many invitees from attending the awards ceremony.

The award for "Editor of the Year" went to Jenni Middleton of Nursing Times. Judges

said she had "demonstrated an impressive record in transforming the fortunes of the publication and its brand, as well as providing lively, thought-provoking, and relevant content for the readership."

A new award for "Blogger of the Year" was won by the BBC's Nick Triggle. Judge Kat Arney said: "Nick's blog sets the bar high, providing clear, well-presented content on many important health topics."

Did you know?

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

Also, you may pay your subscription online or by internet banking. Check our website for more details.

Stampeding the Establishment

How opinion polls and media hype can force politicians' hands

By Steve Nimmons

In March, Israeli voters went to the polls to elect 120 representatives of the Knesset. Pollsters had predicted a victory for the left-wing Zionist Union, led by Isaac Herzog. The Zionist Union was established in December 2014 from the Israeli Labour Party and Hatnuah (under Tzipi Livni). Their main political opponent was Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, a wily political operator and as incumbent (and longest serving Israeli Prime Minister since Ben Gurion) a significant obstacle for Herzog to overcome. Throughout the election campaign, and on election day itself, the international media was talking up a Herzog win and an anticipated 25 to 21 seat win for this party. Then it suddenly goes wrong.

As the day unfolded, Likud, no doubt spooked by the possibility of being decisively routed, warned that Arab voters were "turning out in droves". In an act that appeared as quaint as ham-fisted, they sent a barrage of SMS messages to Israeli cellphones with a blunt call to action: "Get out of your homes and vote." Netanyahu's 11th-hour follies went even further, with the Prime Minister appearing to U-turn on his policy on the "2-state-solution" for Israel/Palestine, and announcing another programme of housing development in the disputed territories.

The US took umbrage at these clumsy utterances and the frosty relationship between Netanyahu and Obama dropped further on the mercury. Seasoned pundits saw through Netanyahu's posturing and rightly called it as a sop to parties such as Naftali Bennett's Jewish Home, with its more hard-line right-wing stance. After all, a vote wasted on the right would help to deliver Israel into the hands of the Zionist Union. Netanyahu was soon being lambasted as hawkish and extreme by the global media (in all its organised and disorganised forms) – though some seasoned pundits saw things with greater acuity and realised that Netanyahu was in the death-grip of political desperation. Inaccurate polling information, self-doubt and a fear of loss was driving his agenda. In many ways, the Prime Minister had lost control.

The Zionist Union could have been forgiven for counting their chickens early. There was little dissent that victory was theirs. Herzog would then set about the business of coalition building. Having a system of proportional representation, Israel is effectively governed by coalition in perpetuity. But wily old Netanyahu and his Likud colleagues beat the odds and swept Herzog aside with surprising ease. The

pollsters in gross error faded behind the cacophony of Netanyahu's demonization.

We are left to wonder if his actions delivered victory or if victory was certain and his actions were dictated by false prediction. This is the economics of political short-selling.

In the days and weeks after the election I spoke to several members of the Labour Party in the UK. Their disappointment was readily apparent and freely expressed. They felt a missed opportunity to re-orient the political discourse of the Middle East, and no doubt wished for a new relationship between Israel under Herzog and Britain under Miliband.

The fortunes of Netanyahu and Cameron and Herzog and Miliband seem oddly entwined. Yair Lapid, Israel's liberals, fared better than Nick Clegg. Nigel Farage, on the other hand, cannot be said to have a parallel anywhere!

Cat on a hot tin roof

UK pollsters had unionist parties dancing like cats on a hot tin roof during the Scottish Independence Referendum in September 2014. Cameron, terrified of presiding over the literal disintegration of the UK, ended up writing Scotland a blank cheque. The result was nowhere near as close as pollsters predicted. Cameron and the No Campaign forgot the simple law that people fear loss twice as much as they desire gain (we observe this in Netanyahu's election-day rhetoric).

Polls do not accurately predict the behaviour of the herd and it is politically dangerous to base "policy pivots" on dud

information. The BBC exit poll on May 7 was accurate (Lord Ashdown's hat eating aside), but the exit polls from Channels 1, 2 and 10 in Israel were significantly deviant and missed the gravity of the Likud victory. Polls rarely spot the radical swings that redefine outlier events.

I was up for Portillo in 1997 and felt the shock of many as Labour's Stephen Twigg took the seat. In 1997 the "outlier event" was a swing of 17.4%. Within 18 years there has been a swing of 39% to the SNP in Glasgow North East. Far more "big names" fell in 2015 than in any election for many years - with Ed Balls, Douglas Alexander, Vince Cable and Danny Alexander all losing their seats, and then Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg falling from their leadership perches as a result.

In the wreckage of victory however, Netanyahu needs to rebuild a credible peace process, while Cameron faces the federalisation of the Union and his own 2-state problem between England and Scotland. Damaging long-term effects are easily caused by under-thought announcements and on-the-hoof policy formation. I firmly believe that victory belongs to the bold. The bold need self-control and steely nerves. When the polls predict your demise, fight on with stoicism and principle. It is better to go down a statesman than a sheep. More likely than not, the pollsters will be wrong and you will profit most by smiling wide and waiting for the declaration. If you are defeated by an outlier, take solace in the thought that either you or they were on the wrong side of history.

Wishart elected Chair of All Party Writers' Group

The All Party Writers' Group (APWG) has announced that Pete Wishart MP has been elected as its new Chairman.

Scottish National Party MP Wishart replaces John Whittingdale MP, recently promoted to Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport. Pete Wishart has a long history of supporting the creative industries, not least because for 15 years, he was a member of Celtic folk-rock band Runrig.

A passionate supporter of creators' rights, Wishart said after his election: "I am delighted to have been elected as Chair of the All Party Writers' Group. Immediate priorities are to ensure writers are fairly paid for their work. This means we should be focusing on ensuring fair contracts for writers and ensuring the debate being

held by the European Commission in Brussels on copyright doesn't create an environment through future legislation that disadvantages writers."

The All Party Parliamentary Writers' Group was established to protect and promote authors' rights.

It consists of cross party members who meet regularly to discuss issues pertaining to writers and who encourage the Government to consider the plight of the writers when considering any changes in legislation. It has tackled a number of difficult issues in Parliament, most recently pushing for the implementation of the extension of Public Lending Right to audiobooks as enshrined in the Digital Economy Act 2010, an extension finally put into practice in 2014.

OBITUARIES

Rodney Bennett-England

We are sad to report the death of Rodney Bennett-England, a Past-President of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and my predecessor as Editor of this Journal.

A veteran journalist who spent most of his Fleet Street career with the Daily Telegraph, Bennett-England was President of the Institute from 1985 to 1986, a long-serving member of the Institute's Council, and served as the Hon. Treasurer (although usually referred to as "Bursar"!)

from 1988 to 2004, and as Journal Editor from 1996 to 2003. From the 1970s to the early '00s he was a familiar face and voice at Institute conferences, and was an entertaining host at post-conference parties in his hotel room, which invariably involved the consumption of copious quantities of alcohol by all concerned!

The Institute was not the only focus of Bennett-England's energies and he also had a longstanding involvement with the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ), on whose governing council he served for many years and of which he became Chairman in 1993, and with both the Media Society and the London Press Club. He also had a number of books to his name, and was the editor and principal co-author of the seminal work *Inside Journalism* (first published in 1967, with a foreword by Lord Devlin and contributors including another Institute stalwart and sometime President, William Rees-Mogg) as well as authoring the books *Dress Optional: The Revolution in Menswear* and *As Young as You Look: Male Grooming and Rejuvenation!*

Traditionalist

Bennett-England was active in the Church of England, and was very much on the "High Church" wing of Anglicanism. As well as being a regular churchgoer at home in Norfolk and a prominent member of the interdenominational Christian chivalric order, the Order of St Lazarus, he was active in groups such as the Friends of St George's Church, Paris. He was also heavily involved in various conservative Anglican organisations resisting what he saw as threats to the traditional Church of England, and was a founder of the pressure-group Church In Danger.

As an illustration of Bennett-England's thinking, it is worth quoting from an article that he co-authored in the 1990s with then Tory MP John Selwyn Gummer: "It is easy to be dismissive of Traditionalists, label their fears 'ill-founded' and accuse them of resenting change. Yet the facts speak. The Church of England, the Church of



the English people, is being hijacked by a group intent on reforms at any cost which mock at revealed truth, the faith for which our ancestors fought and died, and which even deny scripture. We believe the Church of England must stand firm in scriptural orthodoxy and resist changes which will be divisive."

Yet, Bennett-England's theological conservatism was not matched by similarly reactionary views on other matters. Indeed, on the question of homosexuality he was an arch-liberal and for a time chaired the Albany Trust, a charity promoting homosexual equality. His progressive opinions on such topics, and willingness to stick his head above the parapet to champion controversial causes such as lowering the homosexual age of consent, attracted considerable criticism at the time. Being a high-profile campaigner as much as a journalist he was often under fire - from liberals for his Church traditionalism and from conservatives for his advocacy of the "gay rights" agenda.

Rodney Bennett-England passed away in Walsingham, Norfolk, on April 16, 2015, after a long illness. A funeral mass was held at The Shrine, Walsingham on May 21. CIOJ Chief Executive Dominic Cooper and Journal Editor Andy Smith represented the Chartered Institute of Journalists.

Andy Smith

E-mail address

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

Charles Kennedy

It was an unlikely venue to meet a rising star of the SDP. On the first night of the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool in 1989, I had been chatting to a couple of political reporters at the bar of the Imperial Hotel. As on most such occasions, the barman was being kept pretty busy.

I had been accredited as a reporter at the conference to do some "colour pieces" for the East-Midlands-based newspaper group for whom I wrote a weekly political column, The Trader Group - then owned by Derby journalist and entrepreneur, Lionel Pickering.

I hadn't been there long when I bumped into a cheerful, chatty, red-haired Scot whom I recalled had been elected to Parliament for the Social Democratic Party in 1983. Just two years after we met, following the formal merger of the SDP and Liberal Party, my conference companion over a few drinks became President of the newly-formed Liberal Democrats.

So what exactly was an SDP MP doing at the Tory Party Conference?

The gregarious Scot in question was Charles Kennedy, who, after graduating with an MA in Politics and Philosophy from Glasgow University had worked for BBC Scotland as a journalist. It was an Editor at "Today" who hit on the idea of Charles using his journalist background to do an "outsider-looking-in" style coverage of the Conservative gathering for the Radio 4 programme. Which is how he came to be running shoulders with other journalists - and a good few Tory MP's in Blackpool!

In 1983 Kennedy was studying at Indian University - having received a Fulbright scholarship - when he received the SDP nomination to stand for the Ross, Cromarty and Skye constituency in General Election. In a shock result he became the then-youngest sitting Member of Parliament (at 23) defeating the sitting Conservative Hamish Grey.

He retained his seat at the at the 1987 General Election and was the first SDP to support a formal alliance with the Liberals - with whom they finally merged the following year.

I met Charles a few times at the House of Commons after our first encounter and two years later we persuaded him to be the guest speaker at the Institute's Annual Dinner during the CIOJ Conference in Glasgow. Somewhere in the Institute archives we should have some photographs of him at the dinner where he proved a highly entertaining after-dinner speaker!

He was Liberal Democrat Party President from 1990 to '94 and Lib Dem Leader of the House of Commons from 1997 to 1999. In that year Charles was elected leader of the Lib Dems after Paddy Ashdown retired - beating four other candidates with 57% of the "transferred" vote.

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His affable, and relatively laid-back style was particularly in evidence in his appearances on the satirical panel show "Have I Got News for You?" and as a result, some commentators dubbed him "Chatshow Charlie".

But his affable style was not a "performance" – it was part of the genuine down-to earth nature of the man, who was a witty and talented debater – indeed, he had won the Observer Mace Debating Competition in 1982. He was, in that awful phrase, a "people person", who was at ease in the company of folk from every kind of background. His manner put everyone he met at ease.

Under his leadership, in 2001 the Lib Dems won 52 seats with 18.3 percent of the vote and then in 2005 was at the helm when his party took 62 seats -their greatest number of seats since 1923, with 22% of the vote. They took a good number of seats from Labour – especially in constituencies

Although there had been rumour about his health around the time of the 2003 invasion of Iraq (which Charles and the Liberal Democrats opposed - the only major British party to do so) and the 2004 Budget, but it was not until 2006, when Charles was informed that ITN would report he was being treated for a drink problem that the story finally broke. He decided to get his announcement in before the broadcast and held a news conference to confirm that he had sought profession help for a drinking problem.

He told reporters he had now been dry for two months and would call a leadership contest – in which he planned to be a candidate. Twenty five of his MP's called on him to resign in a public statement and – despite a great deal of support from grass-roots party members he decided to stand down as leader. He continued in the Commons as a backbencher until he lost his Ross Skye and Lochaber seat in the SNP tidal wave that swept Scotland in the May General election this year.

Less than a month later he died suddenly at his Fort William Home of a haemorrhage linked to his struggle with alcohol.

Charles had married Sarah Gurling in July 2002, but they were divorced in December 2010. Their son was in the gallery with his former wife when the House of Commons paid tribute to Charles – with politicians of all persuasions remarking on his sincerity and thorough-going decency. He was a gentleman among politicians and, like those MP's, I feel privileged to have known him.

As for those Today commentaries on the Tory Party Conference he did for the Today programme; I confess I never did hear them. I fear I was too busy each morning writing up material from the day before! But, knowing him – even a little – I don't doubt they were both witty and incisive. Politics and journalism have lost a very fine man.

Paul Leighton. President

OBITUARIES

Barbara Hutchinson

Who is this elegant beautiful woman? A glamorous filmstar? A celebrity?

This beautiful fashionable young woman is Chartered Institute of Journalists member, fashion writer and Press Association (PA) stalwart, Barbara Beatrice Hutchinson. Or rather she was, because Barbara died aged 94 on July 2. During her working life for the PA in Fleet Street, and after retirement in the 1980s, Barbara lived in London's fashionable Kensington. In her posh mansion pad, in Prince Consort Road in the shadow of the Albert Hall, Barbara indulged her love of music. She owned and played a grand piano. Her favourite music was Strauss – he of the romantic Blue Danube. Always a snappy dresser even in retirement, Barbara continued her career as a freelancer with energy and enthusiasm, jetting off to report fashion shows in Paris for her clients in fashion-conscious Australia.

Devastatingly, dementia took over her mind and made her unable to cope with living alone in a way her immense physical difficulties never had. Barbara was persuaded to leave her beloved Albert Mansions home, which she did reluctantly, for a brief life in care. She moved into Pickering House, the Journalist Charity's home in Dorking. She had a couple of happy years at the home - her last residence.

Barbara was a bright, special, elegant, admirable, charming, interesting, splendid lady, influential friend and colleague who had many admirers including me. Very independent despite crippling illnesses, she would often say; "Come have lunch at the Victory Services Club. I get to be a member because daddy was a war hero." Indeed, he was and was severely wounded in World War One at the Battle of the Somme. Ironically, he was saved from a fatal wound by a cigarette case in his pocket!

Once she had retired from the PA and its deadlines, Barbara became an enthusiast of Institute functions. She attended the CioJ's 2008 conference in Gibraltar and despite her immobility set about attending all the outings on offer. At the end of the conference, without making a fuss or speech, unannounced she took a taxi to the Gibraltar airport on her own, paid for it and met us in the departure lounge for the flights home. Barbara did this so as not to inconvenience anyone because of her difficulty getting into and out of coaches with her gammy leg. She could have had a free trip to the airport and joined the group on the CioJ booked coach. What a considerate lady.

For the Institute's 2002 conference in Cyprus, Barbara booked herself into a non



CioJ hotel– cheaper and two or three hotels away from the conference hotel venue. She painfully walked to the CioJ conference hotel yet got to all events and on time.

Wartime

Born on July 29, 1920, Barbara was days away from her 95th birthday when she died. She was the only daughter of Colonel Charles Alexander Robert Hutchinson and wartime nurse Barbara Anne Betsy Allan who met while he was in hospital after being seriously injured in World War One.

During World War One, Col Hutchinson was severely wounded in the Battle of the Somme (1915-16). His pelvis was fractured when a bullet hit a cigarette case in his pocket. He was treated in a guest house turned military hospital in London's Park Lane, W1, by nurse Barbara Anne Betsy Allan who became his wife on February 17th 1916 at a society wedding in St George's, Hanover Sq. After a year convalescence, he returned to the army instructing at the Cadet College in Wellington, India. His pupils were sent to WW1 war zones.

In 1920 not only was Barbara born, but her father retired to fruit farming in South Africa. In 1925 the family returned to the UK and lived in Dorset where Barbara's father died in 1928 from pneumonia from swimming in Swanage Bay.

Adversity

An example to us all – Barbara never complained in adversity about her crippling illnesses. Always elegant, cheerful, sunny smile, interested in everything especially news despite her advanced years.. Barbara never married, never had children yet had a full and active live. She leaves loving family members. She and her cheerfulness will be sadly missed.

The Institute was represented at Leatherhead crematorium for the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Barbara Beatrice Hutchinson on July 24 by former PA colleagues and friends, Institute members Vera King and Wyn Freedman and also by CioJ General Secretary Dominic Cooper.

Wynnette Freedman

Chartered Institute of Journalists 2015 Annual General Meeting, Birmingham

The Institute's Annual General Meeting will take place in Birmingham on Saturday October 24, at the IBIS hotel.

All members are invited to attend and play a full part in the proceedings.

Below you will find ways in which you can participate including how you can put your name forward to serve on the Institute's Professional Practices Board.

We hope you will be able to attend, and maybe have dinner with us afterwards.

Do you have any motions that you would like discussed at the AGM?

Members are invited to submit motions for discussion at the AGM. Submitted motions should be received by Head Office no later than October 2.

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 deals with legal battles on behalf of members.

Contact Amanda Brodie - amandabrodie@cioj.co.uk - for more details. Deadline: October 9.

Evening Dinner

On the evening of the AGM members will be having dinner at the club. If you wish to join us you will be more than welcome. The cost will be in the region of £30 which will be payable in advance. Please let Diane know if you wish to attend - memberservices@cioj.co.uk.



**Saturday
24 October 2015**

Venue

**The IBIS Hotel,
21 Ladywell Walk,
Birmingham, B5 4ST.**

**A 2-minute walk from
Birmingham New Street
station.**

Accommodation

**Rooms are available at
very competitive rates
for CIOJ members and
their guests attending the
AGM. Rooms will need to
be booked and paid for in
advance via head office.**

**Contact Diane if you wish
to book for the AGM and a
room: 020 7252 1187.**

MEMORY LANE

Here is a photograph that should spark some fond memories of Institute events in the 1980s. Pictured at a meeting in the basement bar of the Cheshire Cheese in Fleet Street - a regular haunt for Institute members before the exodus to Docklands - are (left to right): Harold Evans (then Editor of The Times), Tony French, Harvey Thomas (then Chairman of the Institute's London Region) and Bob Farmer (General Secretary of the Institute). The picture was taken on May 15, 1981. Tony French is shown clutching a trophy - what is it? If anyone has any more information about the event at which this photo was taken, the Editor would be delighted to hear from them.

