Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has taken “full responsibility” for the death of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was murdered a year ago at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. However, the prince still denies personally ordering the killing. The US Central Intelligence Agency, on the other hand, has concluded that the order must have come straight from the Crown Prince.

“This was a heinous crime,” the prince said in an interview with America’s CBS News. “I take full responsibility.” But when asked what he knew about the operation, Prince Mohammed bin Salman claimed he had no knowledge of it until after it happened, and that he “could not keep close track” on what all of his country’s “millions of employees” were doing, suggesting instead that it was a rogue operation.

Khashoggi, who had been publicly critical of the Saudi regime’s recent crackdown on dissent, was brutally killed and his body dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018. There was a comprehensive forensic clean-up of the crime scene by the Saudi authorities immediately after the killing, and Turkish police were not permitted even to enter the premises until a fortnight after the murder.

There has never been a proper investigation and Khashoggi’s body has never been found. Only much later did the Saudis even admit that Khashoggi had died at the consulate - but they claimed he had been in a fight, and could not account for the disappearance of his body.

Eleven people have been charged in connection with the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, but court proceedings are closed to the public and the Gulf kingdom has so far refused to allow international investigators to work in the country. Despite the CIA report implicating Mohammed bin Salman directly in the murder, President Trump has gone out of his way to defend the Crown Prince, emphasising that Saudi Arabia is “a close ally” of the United States and discouraging suggestions that the prince may have been involved in the killing.

The very last article that Jamal Khasoggi wrote for the Washington Post was a damming indictment of the state of human rights in the Arab world, and Saudi Arabia in particular. His article was headed “What the Arab world needs most: Free expression.”

How is the Snoopers’ Charter being used against journalists and their sources?

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has persuaded the Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office to consider reporting more detailed information about warrants seeking journalists’ digital data and information that could identify their sources.

The IPCO is the oversight body set up by the controversial Investigatory Powers Act 2016, which is also known as “The Snoopers’ Charter”.

Professor Tim Crook, Vice-President of the CIoJ, has been asking for more detail about when state investigation bodies have applied to Judicial Commissioners for access to journalistic data that could be confidential information, or breach the protection of journalists’ sources.

Up until the present time the IPCO has only reported that in 2017 public authorities made a total of 755 applications to acquire data which related to persons who held sensitive professions and these could have related to “lawyers, journalists, members of parliament, ministers of religion or doctors.”

Professor Crook complained to the IPCO that given the importance of Article 10, freedom of expression rights to protect journalists’ confidential information and sources, this level of reporting was inadequate. “The 2017 report only stated that IPCO inspectors found no instances of the legislation being used improperly to identify journalistic sources. We need to know about those ‘proper’ instances when it has actually been used to reveal sources.”

He has asked for the exact figure of the times interception and use of journalistic data has been approved of by the judicial commissioners who evaluate the applications in secret.

The Institute believes the IPA 2016 legislation is a very poor substitute for the scrutiny of the courts under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984, when production orders against journalists have to be decided by judges with the parties represented by counsel. The IPCO told the CIoJ: “We will consider whether to include the information you have requested in the IPCO’s next annual report.”

The IPCO have defended their decision not to release any interim figures and information on the basis that they are “required to ensure that we do not cause national security or law enforcement concerns through the information we publish.”
Editor’s Comment

As members of our Institute gather at the Reform Club in London for our annual general meeting, preparing to debate matters of concern to the journalistic profession, not least the continuing threats to Press freedom in the UK and across the world, it is right that we should also give our attention to a less prominent, but equally significant, aspect of the CIoJ’s remit – our charitable role.

For more than 125 years, the Institute’s charities have been supporting journalists and their families; our fund for orphans was the first to be established under the Institute umbrella, back in 1891, and the CIoJ Welfare Fund is the newest (the result of merging several of our charities, a decision taken at our AGM last year).

We give tens of thousands in aid every year, providing a grand total of £65,033 in grants and essential support to CIoJ members and their families in 2018 alone. We will continue to be here to help people in the years ahead, thanks to responsible stewardship of our funds by our charity trustees. Indeed, the current value of Institute charitable funds totals more than £3.3m, and this ensures we can provide a welfare safety net for our members for many years to come.

One such member, a recent beneficiary of CIoJ charitable support, has written the following note of appreciation to the Institute which he has given us permission to publish in The Journal.

The views contained in The Journal are those of the Editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the Chartered Institute of Journalists. All rights reserved. © CIoJ 2019

I would like to express my very sincere gratitude to the CIoJ for the help it has given me during the past year or so after a leading Southeast Asian newspaper summarily terminated my employment contract without compensation after 24 years’ service. This left me without gainful employment at a very late stage in my journalistic career, and created severe financial difficulties for me. The Institute “came through” and helped me with a contribution from its Benevolent Fund – in particular to help tide me over a period while I finish a book. A “friend in need is a friend indeed” and the CIoJ has proved to be a true friend in this regard.

I joined the Institute back in the 1970s when I was on The Times in London and kept up my contributions after I left England in 1976 for Singapore, and then from Hong Kong and Tokyo until the severance of my contract in 2018. In this sense, I suppose I could say that I “stood by” the Institute – and it has certainly stood by me since. Belonging to a professional institute such as the CIoJ may appear to be a rather dated concept in an age when so many journalists work in a “gig economy”, where employment relations are governed by freelance arrangements, but the mutual-help ethos of the CIoJ can be invaluable.

I can speak from hard experience in this regard, and I would urge other journalists to support the Institute too. You never know when you may need its help – professionally or financially – but of course the Institute of Journalists can only offer such help if its resources are maintained and augmented by members’ contributions. My grateful regards to all at the CIoJ.

The distinguished Victorian founders of our Institute would, I am sure, be proud to know that in the twenty-first century the charities of the Chartered Institute of Journalists would still be supporting journalists and their families, targeting financial aid where it is needed most. As members of this Institute, now, in 2019, we should value and support the CIoJ’s charitable work, and remember that the Institute will always be “there for us”.

Andy Smith

Officers of the Institute:

Janice Shillum Bhend, President

Michael Hardware, Honorary Treasurer

Tim Crook, Vice-President

Mark Croucher, Immediate Past President

Professor Tim Crook, Chairman, PPB

Institute officers are ex-officio members of Council

Your Council members are:
Norman Bartlett, Ken Brookes, Vivienne DuBourdieu, Michael Evans, Paul Leighton, Andy Smith

Your PPB members are:
Prof. Tim Crook, Chairman
Norman Bartlett, Adela Earlington, Andrew Kelly, Paul Leighton, Stuart Littleford, Alistair Riddell, Prof. Kemal Yildirim
Gold Medal for Kate Adie

BBC journalist Kate Adie is to receive the Gold Medal of the Chartered Institute of Journalists. The presentation will be made at the CIoJ annual general meeting, at the Reform Club, Pall Mall, on Friday October 25.

The Institute is making this award – our highest honour – in recognition of Adie’s outstanding services to journalism, combined with her steadfast and courageous front-line reporting from conflict zones throughout the world. The last recipient of the award was Baroness Betty Boothroyd, former Speaker of the House of Commons, in recognition of her defence of freedom of speech and her championing of Parliamentary democracy.

Janice Shillum Bhend, President of the CIoJ, said: “We are delighted to make this award in recognition of Kate Adie’s life-long achievements in the world of journalism. Kate has shown great courage and commitment to our industry through all her reporting days, and is such a positive role model for women in journalism.”

Kate Adie CBE DL FCIJ, distinguished BBC journalist and longstanding member of our Institute, is to receive the Institute’s Gold Medal, our highest honour.

Embassy siege

“She became a household name in May 1989,” recalls her former BBC colleague, CIoJ past-president (and Broadcasting Division chairman) Paul Leighton. “The BBC’s duty reporter, who had been following the six-day siege of the Iranian Embassy in London, finished his shift early to attend a dinner party and Kate, starting her night-shift early, found herself reporting live as the SAS stormed the embassy.”

Her commentary on the SAS action, which interrupted the World Snooker Championship, was heard in millions of homes.

Tiananmen Square

The two foreign assignments she is most often associated with are the American bombing of the Libyan capital Tripoli in 1986 and the Chinese authorities’ killing of protestors in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in 1989. “Her graphic reporting from China brought the true horror of that massacre into our living rooms,” says Leighton.

Adie served from 1989 until 2003 as the BBC’s Chief News Correspondent. She has travelled extensively during her BBC career, reporting from the Balkans in the early 1990s, from Russia, the United States, Africa, and Northern Ireland. She was with the Coalition forces as they chased Saddam Hussein’s troops out of Kuwait in 1991.

She has also been a judge for literary prizes including the Booker, Whitbread, Costa and Orange, is a trustee of the Imperial War Museum, and has been involved with a number of charities, including SSAFA, the UK’s oldest military charity. She was appointed CBE in the 2018 Birthday Honours.

Kate Adie has written four books: The Kindness of Strangers (her autobiography), Corsets to Camouflage, Nobody’s Child, Into Danger and Fighting on the Home Front: The Legacy of Women in World War One. She is a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Dorset.

Obstructing newspapers

A major new report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) sheds light on how governments, state institutions, powerful oligarchs and corporations obstruct print media distribution.

Instead of silencing journalists or preventing them from writing a story, press freedom’s predators may block information at the moment of distribution. Until it reaches the reader’s hands, a newspaper is vulnerable, and the predatory imagination knows no bounds, says RSF. This is highlighted by the report “Newspapers that never arrive – obstructing print media distribution” which documents the many obstacles that are placed in distribution’s often dangerous path.

“They are rarely quoted or named in a newspaper and they’re in the media vision’s blind spot, but the printers, distributors and vendors of newspapers are essential links in the press freedom chain,” RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. “It’s not enough for journalists to be free to investigate and write. The product of their work must be able to reach the reader without hindrance. Or else the public is denied the news and information diversity that is essential to any democracy.”

Continued on page 4
Institute’s tribute to veteran Zimbabwean journalist

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has paid tribute to veteran Zimbabwean journalist Lawrence Vambe, who died in London in September at the age of 102. Vambe had for many years been a leading champion of civil rights in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

His death coincided with the funeral of former President Robert Mugabe, with whom Vambe had once been friends, having met when they were both students at the Jesuit-run Kutama College in West Mashonaland in the 1940s. Vambe and Mugabe had parted company politically after the Mugabe regime’s attacks on Africans in Matabeleland in 1983.

In his later years, Vambe moved to the UK, initially living on the English/Welsh border with his wife Mary, then, following her death, with his family in Islington, north London. He died at 102 shortly after his 95th birthday, Sir David Butler, in conversation with journalist and author Michael Crick. For lovers of painting there is a talk and exhibition on practices that threaten our fundamental right to be informed.”

According to an RSF survey of more than 90 countries, nearly 41% of distribution breaches occur at the moment of sale. As the final intermediary between the newspaper and its reader, the newspaper vendor may also be the target of the last attempt to restrict the flow of information. The methods deployed may be spectacular. In Congo-Brazzaville and Equatorial Guinea, newstand managers have seen police seize entire newspaper issues to burn them.

Transportation throughout the country is another crucial phase in the print media distribution chain, one that offers an additional opportunity to restrict the circulation of independent and opposition media. According to RSF’s survey, more than 22% of distribution violations occur while newspapers are being transported from the presses to the point of sale. In Nigeria and Indian-administered Kashmir or Pakistan, the authorities don’t shrink from ordering the police or army to intercept newspaper distribution trucks and seize their cargoes.

The longer the route to the point of sale, the greater the opportunities for obstruction. Sometimes it is on religious grounds, as with the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, which was banned in many Muslim countries in 2015. On other occasions it is on purely political grounds, as the French newsweekly Jeune Afrique found in Algeria, where its importation has been blocked in recent months.

The printing stage may also prove to be a fateful point in the production process. For some opposition newspapers, censorship occurs just before they are printed. This is the case in Egypt, where a state-linked printing company may refuse to print an entire newspaper issue unless a certain story that will upset the government is withdrawn. And in Gabon, the entire content of newspaper issues have been replaced by bogus content just as they are being printed, without the publisher knowing. And when it is too late to change content before printing, it is easy to confiscate entire issues as they come off the presses when an oligarch or an intelligence agency is all powerful.

More insidiously, the monopolies or the control that governments or powerful media groups may exercise over printing and distribution also enable them to control the print media by giving them the de facto power to impose laws or prices. They may even decide, as in Venezuela and Nicaragua, which print media are allowed access to what is an essential input – newsprint. In many Muslim countries in 2015. On other occasions it is on purely political grounds, as the French newsweekly Jeune Afrique found in Algeria, where its importation has been blocked in recent months.

The printing stage may also prove to be a fateful point in the production process. For some opposition newspapers, censorship occurs just before they are printed. This is the case in Egypt, where a state-linked printing company may refuse to print an entire newspaper issue unless a certain story that will upset the government is withdrawn. And in Gabon, the entire content of newspaper issues have been replaced by bogus content just as they are being printed, without the publisher knowing. And when it is too late to change content before printing, it is easy to confiscate entire issues as they come off the presses when an oligarch or an intelligence agency is all powerful.

More insidiously, the monopolies or the control that governments or powerful media groups may exercise over printing and distribution also enable them to control the print media by giving them the de facto power to impose laws or prices. They may even decide, as in Venezuela and Nicaragua, which print media are allowed access to what is an essential input – newsprint. In the end, regardless of the ways and means, interfering in distribution usually has the same goal – to prevent a newspaper from being read.

Autumn events at former PM’s home

Arundells, the former home of Prime Minister Edward Heath in the Salisbury Cathedral Close, has announced its events programme for the autumn. The programme reflects the eclectic mix that is Arundells – the arts, sailing history, politics and international relations.

The line-up features several major political speakers including former NATO secretary-general George Robertson, the BBC’s Nick Robinson and the Government’s key independent source of advice on climate change, John Gummer (Lord Deben). For historians, the programme includes the father of British psephology, speaking shortly after his 95th birthday, Sir David Butler, in conversation with journalist and author Michael Crick.

For lovers of painting there is a talk with Carole Cuneo about her father, artist Terence Cuneo. A season of sublime music by Carole Cuneo about her father, artist Michael Crick. A season of sublime music by Carole Cuneo about her father, artist Michael Crick.

Butler, in conversation with journalist and author Michael Crick. For further details please go to www.arundells.org or telephone 01722 331440.

People and From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe. In 1959 Lawrence Vambe was awarded an MBE, which he received from Her Majesty The Queen. He was a strong supporter of the Commonwealth and was one of the founders of the Zimbabwe-Britain Society. Throughout his life he was a devoted Roman Catholic.

Liz Justice, a Past-President of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, said: “Lawrence Vambe was one of the Commonwealth’s great journalists, authors and historians. He should be an inspiration to us all.”

Hence the need and urgency to lift the veil on practices that threaten our fundamental right to be informed.”

Edward Heath is the only British Prime Minister to have won a major international sporting trophy - the 1971 Admiral’s Cup - in which he skippered the British team to victory. This year marks the 50th anniversary of an earlier success when he sailed his yacht Morning Cloud to victory in the gruelling Sydney to Hobart race. This is being celebrated by a special exhibition at Arundells this year.

For further details please go to www.arundells.org or telephone 01722 331440.

Continued from 3
Still nobody charged for the street shooting of Lyra McKee

I
t is more than six months since investigative journalist and author Lyra McKee was murdered while reporting on riots in Northern Ireland on Thursday April 18, 2019.

The exhaustive inquiry by the Police Service in Northern Ireland (PSNI) has resulted in the arrest and charging of two men with rioting and petrol bomb offences as part of the investigation. But no one has yet been charged and put on trial for her murder.

The crime prevention charity, Crimestoppers, has offered a reward of up to £10,000 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the killing. PSNI announced it would offer anonymity to any witnesses who came forward with information.

Lyra McKee was 29 years old and had been an editor for the news site Mediagazer. She had recently moved to Derry/Londonderry from Belfast to be with her partner, Sara Canning, who worked as a nurse at Altnagelvin Hospital, where Lyra was taken after being shot.

For many years her journalism had focused on community conflict and the legacy of “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland. The Times described her as a “passionate journalist and campaigner who examined the legacy of the Troubles and spoke fearlessly of being gay in Northern Ireland.”

Her reputation widened following her TED presentation in 2017 when she argued that changing religious teaching on LGBT people will literally save lives. She said the fight for LGBT equality is a fight for hearts and minds.

A single gunman

McKee was standing close to a police vehicle on April 18 when she was wounded by a single gunman firing shots. He can be seen in CCTV taken on the night, but his face is not identifiable.

She died from her injuries after being taken to hospital.

The international NGO Committee to Protect Journalists, based in New York City, confirmed that she was the first journalist to be killed in the United Kingdom since 2001.

Her funeral at St Anne’s Anglican Cathedral, Belfast, on April 24, was attended by leaders of British and Irish politics. They included the then British Prime Minister, Theresa May, Irish President Michael D. Higgins, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, DUP leader Arlene Foster, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald and Vice President Michelle O’Neill, and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

A mural dedicated to her has been painted in Belfast.

The funeral will be particularly remembered for the contribution of the priest, Martin Magill, who addressed the mourners: “I commend our political leaders for standing together in Creggan on Good Friday,” (the day after the shooting) “I am, however, left with a question: Why in God’s name does it take the death of a 29-year-old woman, with her whole life in front of her, to get us to this point?”

These words were followed by a standing ovation in the Cathedral and among the crowds listening outside.

It is believed Lyra McKee’s death is the first time a professional journalist has been killed covering a riot, or public order event in the United Kingdom.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists issued a statement afterwards: “Our deepest condolences and heart-felt sympathy go out to Lyra McKee’s family, friends and professional colleagues. Reporters Without Borders have just reported a world media freedom climate where hatred of journalists degenerating into violence is contributing to an increase in fear. That fear is tragically present in the United Kingdom.”

There was no evidence that McKee was personally targeted for the violence or had been killed because of some gesture of violence aimed at the media. Her death was claimed as “an accident” by the paramilitary group of dissident Republicans who call themselves The New IRA.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said: “The UK remained one of the worst-ranked Western European countries in the World Press Freedom Index, largely due to a heavy-handed approach towards the press, often in the name of national security.”

Catastrophic blow

The CIoJ said: “This shocking murder of a journalist while simply doing her job is a catastrophic blow to media freedom.”

Her death prompted a joint statement from the leaders of Northern Ireland’s five main political parties: “The murder of Lyra McKee is first and foremost a devastating loss for her grieving partner, family and friends, and our thoughts are with them at this awful time. Lyra’s murder was also an attack on all the people of this community, an attack on the peace and democratic processes. It was a pointless and futile act to destroy the progress made over the last 20 years, which has the overwhelming support of people everywhere. We are united in rejecting those responsible for this heinous crime. They have no support in the community, must be brought to justice and should disband immediately.”

The killing of journalists while carrying out their work is very rare in the UK. The last such death was that of another investigative reporter from Northern Ireland, Martin O’Hagan, who was shot dead in 2001 while working for the Sunday World. He was 51 years old, and like McKee, an active member of the National Union of Journalists.

The Guardian reported that O’Hagan’s “exposé of a republican and loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland” and it is believed he had been killed in retaliation for writing a series of articles alleging the involvement of a loyalist paramilitary group in drug dealing.

Five men were arrested and sent for trial in September 2008 for his murder. None were convicted.

It would appear that Lyra McKee’s misfortune was being in the wrong place at the wrong time. She was within a group of people close to police vehicles when she published her last tweet.

The fact remains that she died in these horrendous circumstances because she was working as a journalist. She may have been wearing a protective vest as shown in the video released by the police, but she did not appear to have any head protection.

The Guardian’s obituary on Lyra by Tim Crook said that she was at the scene of the riot in the republican Creggan area of the city as part of research she was conducting into the dangers of frontline journalism. She had been due to speak at an Amnesty International event next month on the perils of reporting conflict.

Tim Crook
Are YouTubers journalists?

I can imagine that there will be gasps of indignation that such an outrageous suggestion should be made.

First of all, a definition. A YouTuber is someone whose main or only output is on YouTube where their personalized sub-pages can be viewed by anyone.

Think about what a YouTuber does. Many provide videos purely for entertainment – music, dancing, animal antics, porn and so forth. But many others are creating content and tailoring it to an audience who want to see news about specific areas of interest like sports, fashion or travel, instructional videos, book and film reviews, material for children, cartoons, education and political comment.

YouTubers make a living from this. Some are just scratching around and some – such as Felix Kjellberg aka PewDiePie identified by Forbes magazine as getting $12 million a year – earn a great deal indeed. People like Kjellberg are freelance but others work for regular channels such as 5-minute Crafts with 60 million subscribers.

The cash comes from advertising linked to the individual’s channel. The most popular channels earn the most as advertisers want sites where more people see the ads. (advertorials) or payments from viewers through payment websites.

If you substitute “newspaper”, “magazine”, “radio station” or “TV station” for YouTube, these subject areas, the range of earnings and the method of generating cash are identical to what can be read on paper or heard and seen over the airwaves.

Many YouTubers do exactly the same as print or broadcast journalists but with their output reaching their readership/audience via a different platform.

Just like journalists, YouTubers have to keep at it. If a site fails to maintain a certain level of audience and thus advertising income, Google (which owns YouTube) takes the site off the monetising scheme. The YouTuber is effectively sacked. She or he can continue to post but will no longer earn anything from her or his work.

Now if YouTubers can be considered as journalists, likewise they could be considered for membership of the Institute. Over the years the CIoj has sometimes been slow to extend its membership aspirations. It was well into the 1930s before radio journalists were accepted. Photographers had to wait until the 1940s. PR practitioners were allowed to apply in the 1990s.

Bloggers and vloggers only in the 21st century.

There are thought to be over 100,000 YouTubers in the UK. Not all are creating and publishing content that would appear to be journalistic but many are. With print circulation continuing to sink and employment within it likewise, perhaps it is time to try and recruit among the YouTuber fraternity.

The Institute’s Charter specifies one of its objects as “The ascertainment of the law and practice relating to all things connected with the Journalistic profession and the exercise of supervision over its Members when engaged in professional duties.” The Bye-Laws specify who may apply for membership and Bye-Law 10 states: “The Council shall have power by Standing Order or otherwise to make such regulations as from time to time they may find desirable with regard to the methods of election or rejection of candidates for membership.”

Thus, there appears no legal impediment to a YouTuber applying provided Council considers it appropriate. In a hallowed body like the Chartered Institute of Journalists, sentiment and tradition may be the obstacles.

Frederick Girton

IPI returns to its New York City roots

The International Press Institute (IPI), the global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists for press freedom, will hold its 2020 World Congress in New York City from September 10 to 12, 2020. The Congress is IPI’s flagship global forum on press freedom and independent journalism.

On the occasion of the organization’s 70th anniversary, IPI is honoured to be hosted by Columbia University and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. IPI was founded at Columbia in 1950 by 34 editors from 15 countries to defend journalistic quality and independence.

Established in the aftermath of World War II, IPI was founded on the belief that a free press will contribute to a better world. Today, with members in nearly 100 countries, IPI brings together media representatives from digital, print and broadcast outlets to address press freedom challenges and to promote independent journalism as a core pillar of democracy.

The 2020 Congress will see IPI members and other leading editors, journalists, media executives and experts from all over the world gather in New York for two-and-a-half days of engaging discussions, roundtables, workshops and Q&A sessions addressing key questions for today’s journalism.

The World Congress is IPI’s flagship event and a top international forum for issues related to media freedom and quality journalism, gathering together hundreds of leading media professionals from across the globe.

Pre-registration and first draft of the programme will be available soon. Check the website www.ipi.media for details.

“The fact that our network stood the test of time is a testament to the importance of our mission and our fight for media freedom wherever it is threatened,” IPI Executive Board Chair Markus Spillmann, the former editor-in-chief of Switzerland’s Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ), said. “Returning to New York just weeks before the United States presidential election puts us at the right place at the right time to debate the challenges facing journalism and to celebrate our accomplishments.”
George Orwell, the journalist and Nineteen Eighty Four

By Prof. Tim Crook

George Orwell, whose real name was Eric Arthur Blair, is generally famous for being the author of Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty Four. Both novels are undoubtedly among the most famous works of English fiction with a political edge to have been published in the last one hundred years.

Orwell’s next claim to fame is as an essayist. “A Hanging” and “Shooting an Elephant” are iconic. There remains something of a debate about whether those articles or essays were journalism, or fiction. Did he actually go along and watch an execution in Burma when he was working there as an Imperial policeman? And, in the same role, did he shoot the elephant, who did not need shooting?

His biographers are divided about whether the first-person accounts were the product of imagination, transposing himself into the witnessing of others, or verifiable and reliable documentary journalism. What is less well-known is that Eric Arthur Blair, aka George Orwell, was a very hard-working journalist.

Orwell spent most of his life writing features and reviews, and worked as a literary editor for Tribune. It could be argued that the two years he had at the BBC during the Second World War were in the journalistic role of a producer and, in that position, he certainly wrote and presented news commentaries.

Totalitarian horrors

The year 2019 represents 70 years since the publication of his Dystopian satire Nineteen Eighty Four. Orwell was very self-effacing and self-deprecating about what turned out to be his last major work of fiction, and which has sold many millions of copies. A Google search of the novel brings up 7,730,000 results.

He was also rather anxious that he had “balled it up”. He was sensitive perhaps to his own insecurities as a writer, a profession he had struggled to be successful in.

To what extent is Nineteen Eighty Four a journalistic novel? What can be said is that in addition to the massive amount of journalism Orwell wrote, there is a considerable amount of the journalistic addressed and present in his fiction.

Throughout the Nineteen Eighty Four text he is constantly confronting and satirising the anxieties and concerns of his time. This includes the horrors of totalitarianism in the wake of the rise and fall of the Nazi terror and genocidal regime in Germany, and the enduring hegemony of Joseph Stalin’s Soviet Union.

He fully challenges the misuse, corruption and perversion of language through journalism, propaganda and media communication. This influential and seminal novel was a continuation and culmination of what all his writing had done whether poetry, essay, review or novelistic prose.

As a political and journalistic author, George Orwell was continually exploring and addressing the acute political, social and cultural issues of news and current affairs. It can be argued that he did so with such power and impact in 1949 that its resonance and relevance have continued beyond the year of the novel’s title to the present day.

His very first publication, as a child, “Awake!, Young Men of England”, in October 1914, was a patriotic poem that confronted emotionally the cause of Great Britain’s involvement in the First World War.

The journalistic resonance is fully memorialised by the fact it was published in a weekly newspaper The Henley and South Oxfordshire Standard, which at the time of writing is still in publication with an online presence.

It was the style for all kinds of newspapers at that time for the front page to be covered in classified advertising. The Christmas edition for 1912 had a prominent notice for children: “Nothing pleases the young ones so much, as good pure home-made Sweets. Once tried, you will never be without them. For a Children’s Christmas treat they cannot be beaten- J. Bond, Manufacturer, 88, London Street, and Covered Market (Saturdays), Reading.”

Eric Arthur Blair was only eleven years old in 1914, and nine in 1912. Although he may have been sucking sweets, there is no doubt he had already begun to chew over the troubles of the world.

Avid reader

He was an avid reader of H.G. Wells and George Bernard Shaw, two highly political writers. It is both charming and prescient that in the first stanza the young Orwell exhorted: “Oh! Give me the strength of the lion, The Wisdom of Reynard the fox.”

These are certainly two qualities needed for anyone wishing to embark on a life of journalism and writing.

Orwell’s first biographer Bernard Crick said that his first piece of journalism was a feature called “A Farthing Newspaper” in G.K.’s Weekly published at the end of December 1928. It was “an ironic account of a French Right-wing attempt to produce a nearly-free newspaper” that was “crisply and colloquially written.”

Crick said his early journalism was much “closer to his mature style than were his early novels.” He wrote a few more articles in French for the small radical journal Le Progrès civique which seemed to have quickly shut down when short of funds and circulation.

Orwell’s other biographers, Michael Shelden, D.J. Taylor, Gordon Bowker and Jeffrey Meyers, all acknowledge the importance of journalism in his writing life.

Before Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty Four, writing for newspapers and periodicals such as Adelphi, Horizon, The Observer, The Manchester Evening News, Partisan Review, Time and Tide and Tribune all put food on his table and complemented his fictional and documentary authorship of books for Gollancz, and Secker and Warburg.

It was when he was literary editor at the left-wing Tribune that he produced the scores of articles for his “As I Please” column between December 1943 and April 1947. His social observations have become maxims of the English language.

His comment that “if you climb to the top of the hill in Greenwich Park, you can have the mild thrill of standing exactly on Longitude 0°, and you can also examine the ugliest building in the world” is certainly not proudly displayed anywhere in the Greenwich Observatory.

Looking through photographs in the New Year’s Honours List, Orwell noticed “the quite exceptional ugliness and vulgarity of the faces displayed there.” He wrote that extreme nationalists such as Napoleon, Hitler and Stalin “tend not to belong to the nation that they idealise.”
strict and regular deadlines for mainstream newspapers such as The Observer and Manchester Evening News.

The commission to cover the state of Europe just after the Second World War was the initiative of Orwell’s friend David Astor, then editor of The Observer. Fourteen articles of around 1,000 words each were filed to the Observer and five to the Manchester Evening News.

But Jeffrey Meyers shares a consensus among Orwell’s biographers that Orwell’s newspaper reporting seemed “curiously flat, lifeless and impersonal.”

Richard Keeble is kinder in his conclusions after close analysis of the output of Orwell’s work as a foreign war correspondent in Germany and France. He thinks Orwell came back with more than the .32 Colt revolver lent to him by Ernest Hemingway in Paris. He credits Orwell with writing that has “vitality and power” as well as being “uncertain and troubled.”

Whereas Orwell had been comfortable with political and cultural opinion in comment columns and reviewing, he had difficulty moving from the subjective to the objective tradition. Keeble said he kept shifting between different positions: newcomer, eye witness and overhearer of other people’s conversations.

Orwell’s fiction in Nineteen Eighty Four and his essay writing have lasted as major journalistic talking points of the present day. The Observer columnist Nick Cohen quoted Orwell as the fulcrum of his column in The Observer on May 5, 2019: “Remember Orwell’s chilling warning to boot-licking propagandists…”

Cohen was advancing the view that: “Arguments on the left are less to do with ideology, more with the lure of the gang.”

He finished his piece with an Orwellian flourish and quotation from the Tribune column "As I Please" on September 1, 1944: “a message to English leftwing journalists and intellectuals generally: ‘Do remember that dishonesty and cowardice always have to be paid for. Don’t imagine that for years on end you can make yourself the boot-licking propagandist of the Soviet regime, or any other regime, and then suddenly return to mental decency. Once a whore, always a whore.’”

Who remembers the Journalist’s Handbook?


Well, I would never describe myself as a “top journalist” – barely even a journalist these days – nevertheless I used to be on the free circulation of this delightful publication.

It was a 96-page, A5 magazine in soft card covers, originally a quarterly and latterly a half-yearly publication. Initially it was published by Carrick Media until 2003, then Standfirst took over but from the same address. The back half was devoted to a useful collection of “Sources of Information” from learned societies to trade associations, trade unions to lobby groups.

The front half was given over to short articles about journalists and journalism. It drew contributions from many well-known writers including Simon Hoggart, Quentin Letts, Anthony Howard, Jon Snow and many others with voices from the past such as Keith Waterhouse and Bill Deedes. The late Frank Keating, long-time Sports Editor as Keith Waterhouse and Bill Deedes. The many others with voices from the past such as Simon Hoggart, Quentin Letts, Anthony Howard, Jon Snow and many others with voices from the past such as Keith Waterhouse and Bill Deedes. The late Frank Keating, long-time Sports Editor as well could never be printed, but didn’t have the heart to send back.”

Professor Richard Keeble has examined in detail Orwell’s only time working as a traditional reporter and having to meet deadlines and regular deadlines for mainstream newspapers such as The Observer and Manchester Evening News.

The commission to cover the state of Europe just after the Second World War was the initiative of Orwell’s friend David Astor, then editor of The Observer. Fourteen articles of around 1,000 words each were filed to the Observer and five to the Manchester Evening News.

But Jeffrey Meyers shares a consensus among Orwell’s biographers that Orwell’s newspaper reporting seemed “curiously flat, lifeless and impersonal.”

Richard Keeble is kinder in his conclusions after close analysis of the output of Orwell’s work as a foreign war correspondent in Germany and France. He thinks Orwell came back with more than the .32 Colt revolver lent to him by Ernest Hemingway in Paris. He credits Orwell with writing that has “vitality and power” as well as being “uncertain and troubled.”

Whereas Orwell had been comfortable with political and cultural opinion in comment columns and reviewing, he had difficulty moving from the subjective to the objective tradition. Keeble said he kept shifting between different positions: newcomer, eye witness and overhearer of other people’s conversations.

Orwell’s fiction in Nineteen Eighty Four and his essay writing have lasted as major journalistic talking points of the present day. The Observer columnist Nick Cohen quoted Orwell as the fulcrum of his column in The Observer on May 5, 2019: “Remember Orwell’s chilling warning to boot-licking propagandists…”

Cohen was advancing the view that: “Arguments on the left are less to do with ideology, more with the lure of the gang.”

He finished his piece with an Orwellian flourish and quotation from the Tribune column “As I Please” on September 1, 1944: “a message to English leftwing journalists and intellectuals generally: ‘Do remember that dishonesty and cowardice always have to be paid for. Don’t imagine that for years on end you can make yourself the boot-licking propagandist of the Soviet regime, or any other regime, and then suddenly return to mental decency. Once a whore, always a whore.’”

Who remembers the Journalist’s Handbook?


Well, I would never describe myself as a “top journalist” – barely even a journalist these days – nevertheless I used to be on the free circulation of this delightful publication.

It was a 96-page, A5 magazine in soft card covers, originally a quarterly and latterly a half-yearly publication. Initially it was published by Carrick Media until 2003, then Standfirst took over but from the same address. The back half was devoted to a useful collection of “Sources of Information” from learned societies to trade associations, trade unions to lobby groups.

The front half was given over to short articles about journalists and journalism. It drew contributions from many well-known writers including Simon Hoggart, Quentin Letts, Anthony Howard, Jon Snow and many others with voices from the past such as Keith Waterhouse and Bill Deedes. The late Frank Keating, long-time Sports Editor as The Guardian was a regular with witty offerings such as a review of NIBs, headline writing, subbing on the stone, and the sad demise of the bond ‘twixt journalists and booze. Of great amusement were the reminiscences of first introductions to journalism. Here were indictments of the lazy, disreputable and, sometimes, downright dishonest behaviour of the Press.

“No my first morning I was appointed film critic...I was not required actually to see any films. I spent most nights at the local dog track phoning over the results...between races I reviewed the films from PR puffs sent by the distributors and realised that journalism was not all it seemed,” was recalled by Kenneth Roy.

In 1995, the late Paul Foot wrote a spirited call under the headline, “Bring Back the NUJ.” He described how a fight broke out among journalists in Glasgow (!) representing the Daily Record, Scottish Daily Express and Scottish Daily Mail over an “exclusive” with a released prisoner. Later, a meeting at the local NUJ office between the warring parties saw the elected officials smooth and calm the fevered atmosphere. Foot reported that a resolution was passed blaming the brawl on the circulation war in the city. He said that a reform which “would at a stroke improve our newspapers” was “the revival of the NUJ as a force in newspaper offices.”

Another series of pieces were of 24 hours between races I reviewed the films from PR puffs sent by the distributors and realised that journalism was not all it seemed,” was recalled by Kenneth Roy.

In 1995, the late Paul Foot wrote a spirited call under the headline, “Bring Back the NUJ.” He described how a fight broke out among journalists in Glasgow (!) representing the Daily Record, Scottish Daily Express and Scottish Daily Mail over an “exclusive” with a released prisoner. Later, a meeting at the local NUJ office between the warring parties saw the elected officials smooth and calm the fevered atmosphere. Foot reported that a resolution was passed blaming the brawl on the circulation war in the city. He said that a reform which “would at a stroke improve our newspapers” was “the revival of the NUJ as a force in newspaper offices.”

Another series of pieces were of 24 hours over the results...between races I reviewed the films from PR puffs sent by the distributors and realised that journalism was not all it seemed,” was recalled by Kenneth Roy.

In 1995, the late Paul Foot wrote a spirited call under the headline, “Bring Back the NUJ.” He described how a fight broke out among journalists in Glasgow (!) representing the Daily Record, Scottish Daily Express and Scottish Daily Mail over an “exclusive” with a released prisoner. Later, a meeting at the local NUJ office between the warring parties saw the elected officials smooth and calm the fevered atmosphere. Foot reported that a resolution was passed blaming the brawl on the circulation war in the city. He said that a reform which “would at a stroke improve our newspapers” was “the revival of the NUJ as a force in newspaper offices.”

Another series of pieces were of 24 hours over the results...between races I reviewed the films from PR puffs sent by the distributors and realised that journalism was not all it seemed,” was recalled by Kenneth Roy.

In 1995, the late Paul Foot wrote a spirited call under the headline, “Bring Back the NUJ.” He described how a fight broke out among journalists in Glasgow (!) representing the Daily Record, Scottish Daily Express and Scottish Daily Mail over an “exclusive” with a released prisoner. Later, a meeting at the local NUJ office between the warring parties saw the elected officials smooth and calm the fevered atmosphere. Foot reported that a resolution was passed blaming the brawl on the circulation war in the city. He said that a reform which “would at a stroke improve our newspapers” was “the revival of the NUJ as a force in newspaper offices.”

Another series of pieces were of 24 hours over the results...between races I reviewed the films from PR puffs sent by the distributors and realised that journalism was not all it seemed,” was recalled by Kenneth Roy.

In 1995, the late Paul Foot wrote a spirited call under the headline, “Bring Back the NUJ.” He described how a fight broke out among journalists in Glasgow (!) representing the Daily Record, Scottish Daily Express and Scottish Daily Mail over an “exclusive” with a released prisoner. Later, a meeting at the local NUJ office between the warring parties saw the elected officials smooth and calm the fevered atmosphere. Foot reported that a resolution was passed blaming the brawl on the circulation war in the city. He said that a reform which “would at a stroke improve our newspapers” was “the revival of the NUJ as a force in newspaper offices.”

Another series of pieces were of 24 hours over the results...between races I reviewed the films from PR puffs sent by the distributors and realised that journalism was not all it seemed,” was recalled by Kenneth Roy.
Embedded in Borneo

By Anthony Rowley

I wouldn’t presume to join those intrepid colleagues who have been formally “embedded” with military forces in conflict situations, but my experiences in a rather off-the-beaten-track war zone 50 years ago might at least provide a little amusement. It all happened in the 1960s at the start of my journalistic career when I was a reporter on the staff of the Birmingham Post, at that time one of Britain’s better provincial daily newspapers.

The then editor, David Hopkinson, called me into his office one day and told me that he had an assignment for me in “another place whose name begins with ‘B’”. Since it was obviously not Birmingham, I supposed it would be a nearby town such as Bilston, Brierley Hill or Blackheath. No, said Hopkinson, “we want you to go to Borneo” – for several weeks.

I was, shall we say, somewhat taken aback. My knowledge of Borneo from schoolboy days was that it was the home of “wild men” – head-hunting Dayak tribes to be more precise. But it did at least sound like a relief from covering City Hall politics in Birmingham (though those could be pretty wild at times).

Britain had at that time landed itself in a war with President Soekarno’s Indonesia, after amalgamating what was formerly known as British Borneo (Sarawak and Sabah) into Malaysia and calling it East Malaysia, even though Borneo was contiguous with Indonesia and a thousand miles away from the Malaysian mainland.

Forgotten war

Soekarno responded by confronting Malaysia in a conflict known accordingly as the “Confrontation” in English or “Konfrontasi” in Indonesian. This was a dragged-out war of attrition, with many British and Commonwealth troops being killed or injured and it became known as the “forgotten war” as the British public seemed neither to know or care much about it. Reporters such as myself were invited by the British Army (in my case 42 Commando, Royal Marines) to go out on patrol.

After what seemed like an eternity of jungle heat so it was almost relief to be told we arrived at a Dayak long house. Visiting a jungle community) was getting married the pin!

The first couple of days were not what I thought covering a war would be all about. A familiarisation tour of Singapore, a few games of squash, liberal quantities of gin and tonic in the Mess Bar and even a party to which charming young ladies from the British Embassy and stewardesses from the then British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) were invited. I began to think about enlisting in the Army, or at least of becoming a legitimate war correspondent. There was a British Army (in my case 42 Commando, Royal Marines) to go out on patrol. That way, if we came under fire fewer were likely to be hit.

No voice communication allowed, only hand signals, and each man was told to look over his shoulder from time to time and check whether everything was okay behind him. So, when I suddenly heard a crashing in the jungle nearby there was no calling for help. I reached for my rifle, ready to pump 36 rounds into the “enemy” but it turned out to be a wild pig that was even more alarmed at the sight of me than I was of it.

Labyrinth of tunnels

The then editor, David Hopkinson, called me into his office one day and told me that he had an assignment for me in “another place whose name begins with ‘B’”. Since it was obviously not Birmingham, I supposed it would be a nearby town such as Bilston, Brierley Hill or Blackheath. No, said Hopkinson, “we want you to go to Borneo” – for several weeks.

I was, shall we say, somewhat taken aback. My knowledge of Borneo from schoolboy days was that it was the home of “wild men” – head-hunting Dayak tribes to be more precise. But it did at least sound like a relief from covering City Hall politics in Birmingham (though those could be pretty wild at times).

Britain had at that time landed itself in a war with President Soekarno’s Indonesia, after amalgamating what was formerly known as British Borneo (Sarawak and Sabah) into Malaysia and calling it East Malaysia, even though Borneo was contiguous with Indonesia and a thousand miles away from the Malaysian mainland.

Forgotten war

Soekarno responded by confronting Malaysia in a conflict known accordingly as the “Confrontation” in English or “Konfrontasi” in Indonesian. This was a dragged-out war of attrition, with many British and Commonwealth troops being killed or injured and it became known as the “forgotten war” as the British public seemed neither to know or care much about it. Reporters such as myself were invited by the British Army (in my case 42 Commando, Royal Marines) to go out on patrol.

After what seemed like an eternity of jungle heat so it was almost relief to be told we arrived at a Dayak long house. Visiting a jungle community) was getting married the pin!

The first couple of days were not what I thought covering a war would be all about. A familiarisation tour of Singapore, a few games of squash, liberal quantities of gin and tonic in the Mess Bar and even a party to which charming young ladies from the British Embassy and stewardesses from the then British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) were invited. I began to think about enlisting in the Army, or at least of becoming a legitimate war correspondent. There was a British Army (in my case 42 Commando, Royal Marines) to go out on patrol. That way, if we came under fire fewer were likely to be hit.

No voice communication allowed, only hand signals, and each man was told to look over his shoulder from time to time and check whether everything was okay behind him. So, when I suddenly heard a crashing in the jungle nearby there was no calling for help. I reached for my rifle, ready to pump 36 rounds into the “enemy” but it turned out to be a wild pig that was even more alarmed at the sight of me than I was of it.

Head-hunters

After what seemed like an eternity of trekking in the steaming heat (but was probably not much more than half an hour) we arrived at a Dayak long house. Visiting these during patrols was part of the Army’s “hearts and minds” campaign (the theory being you have to deal with head-hunters it’s wise to have them on your side rather than the enemy’s). These were the days before mass tourism so the “land Dayaks” were still living much as they had been for centuries. Each family occupied a kind of cell which fronted onto a long verandah in the raised wooden structure. There were nets outside each door, all containing collections of human skulls. It seemed impolitic to ask whose they were (or had been) but some of them looked white and relatively recent compared with more age-blackened ones.

It so happened that a grandson of the village chief (if that’s the right term in a jungle community) was getting married
and we were invited to the festivities. These began with a cock fight in which the two combatant birds had metal spurs tied to their legs and then went at each with incredible ferocity, half-flying and squawking loudly. Only when one of them was reduced to a bloody and lifeless heap of feathers was the combat declared over.

There were more treats to come. A young pig was brought, squealing loudly, to the verandah-squatting chief or ‘Pengarah’ by two young men who duly proceeded to cut its throat and then its belly before extracting the unfortunate animal’s liver and handing it to the Pengarah on a tin plate. He moved his fingers slowly over the still-steaming organ to read the omens and declared that his grandson’s wife would bear many children.

The wedding feast – rice cakes washed down with potent rice wine (arak and tuak) – over, our patrol lurched somewhat drunkenly off into the jungle again. If you want a quick cure for a hangover, I recommend this because you sweat so profusely on this kind of route march that you are sober again within minutes.

Infested

Wading through muddy rivers, we were warned not to swallow the water under any circumstances as it was infested with leptospirosis organisms that could result in death within 24 hours. I kept my mouth firmly shut but was grimly amused to see Dayak kids swimming in the river and playfully blowing out fountains of the water from their obviously immune open mouths.

Did I happen to have my dinner suit with me, I was asked in all seriousness the following day, because the Colonel of the Regiment was coming to dinner. As it happened, I did (no Englishman should ever neglect his wardrobe, even in Borneo). White table cloths and even Mess silver (I think) were laid out on long trestle tables in the jungle and we ate with due ceremony, interrupted only by attacks from huge insects that looked and sounded like flying electric razors.

After Sarawak, we flew to Peninsular Malaysia to take part in an assault landing on an East Coast beach from the British aircraft carrier Albion. The worst part of “Exercise Long Hop” was standing below decks in small groups or “sticks” in intense and oily heat, waiting to be airlifted by helicopter to the battle zone.

I came ashore feeling like one of the victors in the Battle of Dunkirk, except that the beach was deserted and there was no one to liberate. The “enemy” quickly emerged from the jungle, however, to spray us with (blank) fire. I am happy to report that our side emerged victorious, on points, and we couple of journalists were rewarded by being allowed to spend the night camping on the beach, swimming in the South China Sea and being cooked and catered for by Army personnel.

From there, the return journey was via a still very colonial Hong Kong where the Mid Levels addresses so sought after by bankers and brokers nowadays were almost entirely occupied by British Army barracks. I could never view Birmingham in quite the same light after that and the Far East called again some ten years later when I joined the Far Eastern Economic Review in Singapore and then Hong Kong, before coming on to Tokyo.

“Universal man”

What did I learn from what, looking back on it now, seems to have been a rather surrealistic experience? I learned, I suppose, that journalism should be about exposing oneself to areas somewhat more exotic than City Hall politics. A true journalist, as my later editor on The Times, William Rees Mogg once commented, ought to be able to write as fluently on spiritual or sporting affairs as on politics or economy — to be a kind of “universal man” (or woman) – someone who can interpret one group of specialists to another and keep open a dialogue among humanity.

In an age when journalism has gone the way of many other professions by producing limitless numbers of rather narrow specialists this is still sound advice, I think. 

The concert inspired some interesting reflections: the orchestra (with an element of multi-national players) from a Communist country, sustained by capitalism; the cheers and applause from the London audience, which probably gave little thought to what was happening in Britain’s old colony of Hong Kong; and the sense of a non-Western country embracing European high-culture at a time when our own country seems to echo constantly to the sound of pop or rap – forms of music which appear to be increasingly co-opted by our arts establishment. And as if to emphasise the weakening of “labels” for music, the Shanghai players concluded their visit with a Chinese traditional tune, arranged for full orchestra, and segued into the strains of Hey Jude by The Beatles – a moment savoured by players and concertgoers, alike.

Stuart Millson
Finding the truth in history: Achieving real freedom in access to state information

At the height of the Cold War, Britain’s pro-Moscow Communist Party of Great Britain had a home in the UK’s biggest and leading teacher training college. It held its annual London District congress there every year.

A Communist cell of extreme students and staff was also so disruptive it drove the chief of the University of London College in south London to resign early and flee to the north of England where he took up high orders.

At the same time the Communist President of the Student Union embezzled all of the college’s union funds to go on a six-month ideological jolly behind the Iron Curtain.

These are just some of the events in the history of Goldsmiths in New Cross, south east London, that attracted the attention of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch and the Security Service MI5.

They are all set out in the College archives and explicitly described in the memoirs of a former Warden of Goldsmiths, Sir Ross Chesterman, in his published book Golden Sunrise in 1996.

There are many other controversial events that took place at Goldsmiths during the turbulent and dramatic years of the twentieth century. Any historian researching and writing the history of Goldsmiths needs to ask if any Special Branch and MI5 files exist and whether these can be accessed to fully understand what they regarded then as subversive and extremist political activism.

It goes without saying that any continuing national security interest would be served by a proper public interest balancing exercise carried out by an independent court or tribunal. Such a remedy would appear to be the sensible way of running a freedom of information law in a democratic society.

The European Court of Human Rights at its highest Grand Chamber level in the case of Magyar Helsinki v Hungary at the end of 2016 seemed to think so. For the first time it established the legal principle in Article 10 Freedom of Expression that public watchdogs NGOs, journalists and academics have a standing right to state information.

Unfortunately, the UK’s government bodies, the Information Commissioner’s Office and so far, the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) does not seem to think so. There is a public interest balancing exercise possible in relation to historical Metropolitan Police Special Branch files. But the Met Police are sticking to a “neither confirm nor deny” position.

Public interest

A full Information Tribunal adjudication has been ‘stayed’ to wait for a ruling on accessing local government planning information at Kingston Council. That has nothing to do with journalism, research, or academic freedom of information rights.

Yet again the legal system weighs down, postpones or stymies urgent investigatory enquiry. Any chance of the information being released emerges long after the story has become stale news or in this case the published project has long been completed or frustrated.

The quest to see MI5 files on Goldsmiths staff and students has been pursued against the Home Office because the Home Secretary is the cabinet minister responsible for the Security Service.

Furthermore, before the Security Service Act 1989 legally constituted MI5 as a separate security service body, MI5 operated as a covert organisation in the Home Office infrastructure.

It is not possible to put in FOI requests to MI5 at Thames House because it does not recognise the Freedom of Information rights of anyone applying to them. It does not have to because the FOI legislation of 2000 specifically exempts and excludes MI5 and other intelligence organisations such as MI6, GCHQ, and our equivalent of a UK FBI – the National Crime Agency – from any FOI responsibilities.

This situation would appear to now make the Freedom of Information Act passed nearly 20 years ago incompatible with the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Goldsmiths case, backed by the Chartered Institute of Journalists, was fully argued before a Tribunal hearing in London on July 10 this year. As direct FOI requests cannot be put to MI5, it was submitted that the Home Office remains the state government body responsible for historical MI5 files and information before 1989.

But the Home Office, fully backed by the Information Commissioner, believe it should not provide access to the information requested. They say technically in law the Home Office did not hold the information asked for at the time the FOI request was made.

It is a tactic of ‘closing the gate’ on these information rights to a historical research project that simply wants to know what the Security Service MI5 continues to retain in its archives. It is in the public interest to see these files particularly if national security sensitivity has now faded and evaporated because they are so old.

The Information Tribunal fully supported the Home Office and ICO in its ruling. The presiding judge Alexandra Marks also refused leave to appeal. An application for leave to appeal is being put forward to the Upper Tribunal which is the equivalent of the High Court. The campaign and legal fight continue.

The Upper Tribunal is going to be asked to provide a proper legal remedy for the genuine freedom of information rights in this case. The policy of ‘closing the gate’ by allowing the Home Office to simply say it does not hold the information should not be sustainable after the ECHR decision in Magyar. This is because it should be obvious that the state does in fact hold the information or is certainly in a position to specifically say whether it does or not.

Direct access is being blocked by legislation and legal decision making that is trying to reverse what Article 10 should provide as a legal right to state information.

The 2016 Magyar case changed the jurisprudential environment by recognising a standing right to state information, thus serving democratic accountability and academic research.

This is an important test case and precedent. It needs to be pursued all the way up the legal system and may well be taken to Strasbourg as a full appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Tim Crook
Al Jazeera journalist held in Egypt

A journalist films the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul, Afghanistan

Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein has been imprisoned without trial in Egypt for more than two and a half years, regularly subjected to interrogation without a lawyer being present. His family were recently told that he would receive a conditional release but as The Journal goes to press he is still incarcerated and there is no sign of his being freed. His daughter, who had been preparing for his release, told Reporters Without Borders (RSF) that she had tried to visit him but was refused permission.

“As well as being cruel, the decision to keep Mahmoud Hussein in detention has no legal basis,” an RSF spokesperson told The Journal. “Bringing new charges against him and again depriving him of a lawyer underscores the arbitrary nature of his imprisonment. We call for his immediate release and the withdrawal of all charges against him.”

Hussein, an Egyptian national who works for the Al Jazeera Arabic television channel in Qatar, was arrested on arrival in Egypt on December 20, 2016, while on a personal visit to see his family. He was charged with “broadcasting false news with the aim of spreading chaos”. Already he has been held for over 1,000 days so his incarceration is clearly in breach of Egypt’s penal code which sets a maximum pre-trial detention period of 620 days for individuals being investigated for a felony.

Al Jazeera has condemned the “baseless accusations and trumped-up charges” levelled at their journalist.

Egypt is ranked 163rd out of 180 countries in RSF’s 2019 World Press Freedom Index.

“One of the world’s biggest prisons for journalists”

The press freedom situation in Egypt has become more and more alarming under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who engineered a second term as president in 2018. “Egypt is now one of the world’s biggest jailers of journalists”, says RSF. Some journalists spend years in detention without being charged or tried. Others have been sentenced to long jail terms or even life imprisonment in iniquitous mass trials. The authorities have orchestrated a “Sisification” of the media.

The Internet is the only place left where independently reported information can circulate, but more than 500 websites have been blocked in the last two years, and more and more people are being arrested because of their social network posts. In 2018, new cyber-crime and media laws enshrined government control over the media and made it possible to prosecute and imprison journalists and shut down websites for sharing independently reported information online.

Journalists and human rights defenders are meanwhile banned from much of the Sinai region and from providing independent coverage of any military operation. Coverage of many economic subjects, including inflation and corruption, can also result in imprisonment. The foreign media are also targeted, with articles being blocked online or attacked by officials, and reporters being expelled or banned from visiting Egypt.

Call for priority to be given to journalists’ safety in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is still one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. In the last year alone, 17 journalists have been killed there in the line of duty. That’s why, during recent conciliation talks between the US government and the Afghan Taliban, the International Press Institute (IPI) urged the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, to make the safety of journalists an absolute priority.

IPI director Ravi Prasad said: “Reconciliation will be possible in the true sense when the people of Afghanistan are informed about the steps that you are taking to create peace and bring the Taliban to the mainstream of the national politics. Peace cannot be established without a free and independent media that can function devoid of intimidation and threat to the lives of journalists.”

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.
Malta announces public inquiry into journalist’s murder

A public inquiry will be held into the assassination of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. The announcement has been welcomed by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) as “a long overdue step towards justice for this heinous attack”. RSF has long advocated this measure, and underscores the need to ensure the full independence and impartiality of the inquiry, including through close scrutiny of the composition and actions of the Board of Inquiry.

Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb outside her home in Bidnija, Malta in October 2017. The announcement came just six days prior to the deadline set by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in a resolution adopted on June 26, giving the Maltese authorities a three-month window to establish an independent public inquiry.

Impartiality

The murdered journalist’s family reacted to the announcement, saying: “A Public Inquiry chaired by a respected former judge is what all right-minded people have been calling for since our mother’s and wife’s assassination. The Board will be unfit for purpose if the public has reason to doubt any of its wider members’ independence or impartiality.” RSF supports the family’s request for a meeting with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to discuss their concerns.

RSF director Rebecca Vincent said: “The establishment of a public inquiry is long overdue and is an essential step towards justice for the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia. This is the result of the sustained advocacy efforts of her family and civil society groups for nearly two years. But a public inquiry that lacks independence and impartiality will fool no one - and the goal remains full justice for this heinous assassination. We will remain vigilant and scrutinise the composition and actions of the Board of Inquiry, and act to hold the Maltese government to account for its international obligations.”

Caruana Galizia was Malta’s most prominent journalist, known for her public interest investigative reporting exposing corruption at the highest levels of government in Malta and beyond, including her reporting on the Panama Papers. Although three men have been arraigned in connection with her assassination, they have not yet been brought to trial, and there has been no further tangible progress in the criminal investigation. The masterminds behind this heinous attack continue to walk free nearly two years on.

In September, the Council of Europe’s Human Rights Commissioner Dunja Mijatovic published an exchange of letters with Malta’s prime minister and called for the dozens of posthumous defamation lawsuits that continue against Caruana Galizia to be withdrawn, and for the repeal of the provisions that allow for defamation cases to be passed to heirs. RSF has frequently highlighted the vexatious nature of these lawsuits as one of many forms of ongoing pressure against the family and others working towards justice for the assassination.

Malta is ranked 77th out of 180 countries in RSF’s 2019 World Press Freedom Index, after falling 32 places in two years.

Human rights activists targeted by Putin regime

Repressive laws, jailings, beatings by ‘unknown’ assailants, bank account freezes and smears in state media – these are among the wide range of measures used against human rights activists in Russia, according to a new report by Amnesty International.

Since Vladimir Putin’s return to the presidency in 2012, growing repression has had a crippling effect on human rights activists and their work. The publication, Unfair Game: Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Russia, outlines the measures the authorities have employed during the past seven years to restrict and obstruct human rights work in the country. These include the passing of new repressive laws, the persecution of specific human rights defenders, and condoning attacks on and threats to specific activists.

Russia’s LGBT activists and human rights defenders in Chechnya are among the most targeted. For example, Igor Kochetkov from St Petersburg, whose Russian LGBT Network exposed a widely-publicised purge against gay men in Chechnya, received death threats in January this year through a video that circulated widely on social media. To date there is no indication that police have effectively investigated the threats.

Meanwhile, since the head of the Chechen Memorial Human Rights Centre, Oyub Titiiev, was imprisoned for drug possession on politically-motivated charges in June, human rights work has become almost impossible in Chechnya, where many activists have abandoned their work and the few remaining activists operate mostly from remote locations.

Natalia Prilutskaya, of Amnesty International, told The Journal: “Human rights work in present-day Russia is like navigating a minefield. Every day poses a new threat, whether it’s severe beatings by ‘unknown’ assailants who will never been found, criminal prosecution and imprisonment for a crime that has never been committed, financial starvation through bank account freezes and extortionate fines, or intrusive state media attention targeting close relatives.”

Amnesty is calling on the Russian government “to end the reprisals and smear campaigns that have become their modus operandi, and to impartially and effectively investigate all crimes committed against human rights defenders. They should also repeal the excessively restrictive laws undermining the work of NGOs and abide by Russia’s international human rights obligations to protect those who protect others’ rights.”
Saudi, Vietnamese and Maltese journalists share Press Freedom Prize

International press freedom group Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has awarded its 2019 Press Freedom Prize jointly to Saudi journalist Eman al Nafjan, Vietnamese journalist Pham Doan Trang and Maltese journalist Caroline Muscat. The winners were announced in a ceremony held in Berlin on September 12.

Hosted by TV presenter and journalist Pinar Atalay, the ceremony was attended by many distinguished guests including Berlin mayor Michael Müller, former editor-in-chief of The Guardian Alan Rusbridger, Der Spiegel journalist Susanne Koelbl and former RSF Press Freedom Prize laureates Swati Chaturvedi, Can Dündar and Grigory Pasko.

The Prize for Courage, which is given to journalists, media or NGOs who demonstrate courage in the practice, defence or promotion of journalism, was awarded to Saudi journalist Eman al Nafjan. The founder of the SaudiWoman. me website and author of many articles in the international media including the Guardian and New York Times, Eman al Nafjan spearheaded the Saudi women’s campaign for the right to drive and against Saudi Arabia’s oppressive male guardianship system. Arrested along with other women’s rights activists in May last year, she was freed conditionally on March 28, 2019. According to the Saudi media, she is accused of endangering “national security”, maintaining “suspicious contacts with foreign entities” and being a “traitor” – for which she could be jailed for up to 20 years.

The Prize for Impact, which is given to journalists whose work has led to concrete improvements in journalistic freedom, independence and pluralism, or to an increase in awareness of these matters, was awarded to Vietnamese journalist and blogger Pham Doan Trang. She is the founder of Luat Khoa, an online magazine that specializes in providing information about legal issues, and she edits another, which helps Vietnamese citizens defend their rights and resist the Communist Party’s arbitrary rule. The author of many books including one defending the rights of Vietnam’s LGBT communities, she has been beaten by the police because of her work and was detained arbitrarily twice for several days in 2018.

The Prize for Independence, awarded to journalists for resisting financial, political, economic or religious pressure, went to Malta’s Caroline Muscat. After fellow Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was murdered in October 2017, she helped create The Shift News, an independent investigative news website committed to combatting corruption and defending press freedom in Malta. In this small island nation where most media outlets are subservient to the government, she has exposed many cases of corruption implicating local politicians. Although the repeated target of gag suits, The Shift News has refused to comply with content take-down demands from Henley & Partners, a British firm that advises governments on residence and citizenship-by-investment policy. She received an award from the European Commission in 2015 for her journalism.

Transcends borders

“Every year, award-winners are unable to attend because the leaders of their countries prevent them,” RSF Secretary-General Christophe Deloire said. “Two of this year’s three laureates have been unable to collect their awards personally, just as Berlin journalist Carl von Ossietzky was prevented from going to Oslo in 1936 to receive his Nobel Peace Prize, and Chinese freedom defender Liu Xiaobo was unable to go to Oslo in 2010, six years after being prevented from collecting his Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Prize. “These journalists, who should be honoured in their countries, are denied the freedom to travel and often their freedom, period. But their commitment transcends borders without the dictators being able to do anything to prevent it.”

Previous winners of RSF’s annual Press Freedom Prize, which was established in 1992 to help defend and promote journalism, include the renowned late Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, imprisoned Saudi blogger Raif Badawi and the embattled Turkish newspaper Cumhuriyet. Each award comes with 2,500 euros in prize money.

Globally, threats to journalists are the highest they have been in 10 years and, according to Freedom House, a mere 13% of the global population currently have access to a free press. UNESCO says that every day “in dozens of countries around the world, publications are censored, fined, suspended and closed down, while journalists, editors and publishers are harassed, attacked, detained and even murdered.”

This was the context in which the Foreign & Commonwealth Office last year launched a major international campaign to promote media freedom and which led the British government to co-host with their Canadian counterparts the world’s first Global Conference on Media Freedom. This was held in London in July 2019. The conference provided an opportunity to evaluate domestic and international developments, and bring some vision to how to defend media freedom and end impunity for those who commit crimes against journalists. The conference also saw the adoption of a “Global Pledge on Media Freedom” adopted by participating governments to counter threats to media freedom and to recognise that urgent action is needed both globally and locally.

More recently, London played host to another international gathering on the same subject. This was a seminar on “Media Freedom and the Protection of Journalists” which was held from September 9 to 11 at Portcullis House, Westminster, under the auspices of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which brought together parliamentarians from many different nations to discuss the matter in greater detail and to consider how parliaments world-wide can take the lead on defending freedom of the press.

If any reader would like more information on the findings of the IPU seminar please email them: bgipuseminar@parliament.uk.
UN urged to act against Turkish press clampdown

The United Nations is being urged to bring pressure to bear on Turkey to end its repressive policies against independent reporting and free speech. Article 19, the freedom of expression campaign group, has presented a petition to the UN Human Rights Council highlighting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s continuing crackdown on media, the imprisonment of dozens of journalists and closures of news media, and calling for restoration of the rule of law.

A representative of Article 19 delivered the following oral statement at the 42nd Session of the UNHRC:

It is now more than three years since the Turkish Government intensified its repressive crackdown against oppositional and dissenting voices in the country. This ongoing freedom of expression crisis demands the Council’s urgent attention.

Although the State of Emergency was lifted in July 2018, the sweeping emergency decrees that enabled the government to pursue its unprecedented crackdown against the media and civil society have now effectively been absorbed into the ordinary legal framework.

Since the 2016 coup attempt, at least 180 media outlets have been forcibly closed. Over 220,000 websites have been blocked. At least 132 journalists and media workers are behind bars, and hundreds more have been prosecuted as terrorists, solely for their journalistic work, in the absence of any credible or even individualised evidence.

The rule of law is being systematically dismantled. Trials are increasingly Kafkaesque as the executive’s grip on the judiciary has continued to tighten.

In modernising the constitution. A recent letter to the Financial Times, the MPs are backing the Electoral Reform Society’s call for a Constitutional Convention to reform how Westminster works and to democratise centralised and out-of-reach for millions of people – and citizens must be part of reshaping it after Brexit. This is a crucial call and it’s fantastic that MPs are stepping up to the plate, to demand a positive vision for our constitutional shape of our country.”

Amnesty International media awards

Amnesty International UK is inviting entries for its 28th annual Media Awards, recognizing the vital role that journalists play and the serious risks they face in highlighting human rights abuses around the world.

The closing date for entries is January 23, 2020 and the award ceremony will be held in London on Wednesday April 22, 2020. Entries must be from a media outlet based in the UK and published or broadcast for the first time in the UK between January 1 and December 31, 2019.

Award categories:

- News (written word)
- News (broadcast – TV or online audio/film)
- Radio & Podcasts
- Investigation
- Features
- Documentaries (TV & Film)
- Photojournalism
- Student Journalist
- Regional Media
- Digital Innovation
- The Gaby Rado Award for New Journalist
- Outstanding Impact Award
- Outstanding Impact Award

To encourage a wide range of entries, Amnesty International UK has established a sponsorship fund to support a limited number of entries from freelance journalists and filmmakers, as well as small digital and broadcast outlets. Entries to Regional Media, Photojournalism, Gaby Rado and Student Journalist categories are free.

For further information on criteria and eligibility, and how to enter, please contact Charlotte Lodge at Amnesty International UK, email: amnestymediaawards@keystone-group.co.uk, tel: 01453 872731.
Chartered Institute of Journalists
2019 AGM, London

DATE: Friday 25 October 2019
TIME: 12.00PM

The Institute’s Annual General Meeting and Conference will take place in London on Friday October 25, at The Reform Club, London SW1.

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

The day will start at 12.00pm with a buffet lunch, followed by the formal agenda at 12.30pm. Check online for the full programme, agenda, annual accounts and other agm documentation - www.cioj.org/AGM.

The Annual Report on the activities of the Institute through the last year, and accounts for the Institute and our charities, may be found on pages 19-24 of this Journal. They may also be found online at cioj.org/agm.

Election of Trustees
At this year’s AGM members will be asked to elect the trustees to the new Welfare Fund. This is one of the essential steps that needs to be taken in order to progress the setting up of the new fund.

Full details may be found in the next few pages of this Journal.

Please let Diane know if you wish to attend - memberservices@cioj.co.uk .

See all details at www.cioj.org/AGM
A year in review - 2018

The work of the CIoJ’s Council throughout 2018 was absorbed by two fundamental changes for the Institute. The first was the move from Dock Offices, Surrey Quays, and the second was the production of documents for the proposed new Welfare Fund (which would involve the merging of our Benevolent, Orphan and Pension Funds).

The sale of our unit in Dock Offices was completed in April 2018, which was a wrench after more than 30 years. Plans were put in motion to move the servicing elements of the Institute’s work online, so that the Institute could work as a ‘cloud’-based entity in the short-term. Following this, the search for new offices began, with a number of site visits being undertaken in London and the Home Counties. None of the properties visited seemed quite right for the Institute, and since then, market movements, exaggerated by Brexit uncertainty, encouraged Council to take the view that the purchase of new premises should not be rushed. We continue to search for suitable premises and when the right building is found members will be fully informed.

Work on the new draft trust deed for the Welfare Fund, alongside the new Standing Orders (Institute rules) was progressed with the help and support of past-president Norman Bartlett. Once a working draft was produced, it was sent to the Institute solicitors for the finishing touches and a compliance check. The documents were then submitted to the membership for their scrutiny. At the AGM in October 2018, members debated the documents, made amendments and then voted to accept the documents subject to an election of trustees and then final acceptance by the charity commission.

The difficulties being faced by our industry were never more evident than in 2018. The Journalists’ Charity was forced to close its nursing home, Pickering House in Dorking, Surrey, due to rising costs and lack of residents. Trinity Mirror Newspaper Group took over Express Newspaper Group from Northern and Shell, which resulted in numerous redundancies - the new group would be called Reach.

Dame Frances Cairncross conducted a review into ‘sustainable journalism’ as a result of the impact of internet-based media giants on the newspaper industry. The Institute highlighted the impact of the losses from advertising revenue which had been absorbed by the tech giants. On top of this, cost cutting by management had left many newspaper offices understaffed, which in turn threatened democratic accountability and the sustainability of quality journalism. The findings of the report, welcomed by the CIoJ, highlighted the need to underpin local journalism while addressing the damage of the online advertising drain.

The General Data Protection Regulations were implemented in the UK, and the Institute sought to keep members fully aware of areas of the new law which would impact on journalists.

FINANCE:

The sale of the lease on our Surrey Quays headquarters dominates the financial results for the year. If the profit from the sale is removed, the underlying figures reveal yet another challenging year for the Institute’s finances, with income dropping again. The drop is due, once again, to a fall in subscription income. The outgoing expenses have been managed in order to limit the impact of this reduced income.

The industry continues to struggle, with many local newspapers closing and with national media reducing their staff and freelance budgets. This trend is likely to continue as the industry adjusts to new technology and the way people source and read their news and information.

The disbursement to the IoJ (TU) was £75,600. This was an increase from 2017 (£63,000) and we continue to maintain a healthy balance in the TU account. However, even with this increased contribution, the fund shows a very small deficit for 2018 of £184.

The Institute’s charitable funds have supported members and their families with financial help totalling £65,033 (2017 - £41,465).

The Institute’s Council is confident that the organisation is able to continue to fulfil its obligations to its members over the coming year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Institute’s 2018 AGM took place at Canada Water Library, Surrey Quays, London SE16 on October 13.

Members discussed the draft trust document and new rules relating to the proposed new Welfare Fund. Both documents were accepted by the membership, which would allow the next stage of the charity merger to be progressed. Members also debated and approved a constitutional declaration on media freedom.

In the evening, members enjoyed an informal dinner.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES BOARD REPORT

The CIoJ’s Professional Practices Board (PPB) has campaigned on a wide range of journalism issues and threats to media freedom over the past year.

We aim to make a critical difference and impact on those areas neglected by other journalism NGOs and professional associations. This involves deploying specialist expertise and effort and we try our best to achieve reform, change and enlightenment.

Freedom of Information

The CIoJ has led a range of key legal moves to apply a ground-breaking ruling at the European Court of Human Rights in 2016, which recognised for the first time that there is a standing right under Article 10 Freedom of Expression for information held by the state about its citizens.

The Chair of the PPB has initiated and pursued four freedom of information requests, all of which have gone to the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) and beyond. In the last year, all of these cases have been pursued with considerable amounts of research, appeal preparation, submissions and in one case full advocacy at a London Tribunal Hearing.

Challenging the absolute exemption for historical files generated by security bodies

The Magyar Helsinki v Hungary case at Grand Chamber level in Strasbourg should mean that the UK government can no longer rely on absolute exemptions. Journalists and researchers investigating historical events need the FOI regime to carry out public interest balancing exercises. PPB Chair Tim Crock has pursued FOI requests for MI5 Security Service and Met Police Special Branch files in relation to his research and writing of the history of Goldsmiths, University of London. One appeal against the Met Police has been stayed at the Informational Tribunal hearing level while a test case is decided by a higher court. Another appeal against the Home Office for MI5 files was heard at a full Information Tribunal hearing in London on July 11. This is currently subject to an appeal process to the Upper Tribunal.

Another case seeking MI5 Security Service files of BBC writers and producers from the 1920s and 30s - some of whom were subject to MI5 BBC vetting - is to be heard at the Informational Tribunal late 2019/early 2020.

The Institute is, therefore, pursuing cutting edge and precedent creating cases that seek to advance UK FOI law so that journalists and researchers can in the future enjoy greater and fairer rights of access than they have now.

Challenging decision to exclude media and public for Mayor of London and GLA knife crime/murder crisis meetings

The Institute has been challenging through FOI the refusal to provide access to the legal advice that underpinned the exclusion of the media and public from two high public interest summit consultation meetings on knife crime murders convened by the Mayor of London and Greater London Authority during local Borough Council elections in 2018. The Institute has strongly argued that holding these meetings in private was unlawful and the usual legal-client privilege special protection no longer applies. A contested public Tribunal hearing into this case is being heard in London on November 26, 2019.

Protection of Sources

Robert Norman Case

PPB Chair, Professor Tim Crock, researched, wrote and submitted a powerful 23,000 word affidavit arguing that the prosecution and conviction of Met Police Operation Elveden whistleblowers was a breach of Article 10 protection of journalist source rights as well as a breach of Article 7 in that no proper law for such criminalisation of journalist and source communication had been passed either by Parliament or established by common law.

Robert Norman is a former prison officer at Belmarsh Prison who had been paid around £10,000 by the Daily Mirror over five years for stories on prison security and safety. He was arrested, prosecuted and jailed for the offence of misconduct in public office. This is a highly significant test case that will have a major bearing on the protection of journalist source law when the Strasbourg Court makes its decision (later...
A year in review - 2018 continued

in 2019).

Scrutiny of the Investigatory Powers Act

The PPB Chair has been applying pressure on the IPCO to improve its reporting on cases involving journalists' confidential data and protection of sources. The IPCO is a body that is supposed to oversee the operation of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

Unfortunately, when state investigation bodies apply for warrants for the communications data of journalists, the requests are decided in secret by judicial commissioners. The journalists and their sources are not entitled to know about the requests and have no right to make any representations. So far, the IPCO has only provided vague information about warrant requests from 2017 without identifying the specific number relating to journalists.

The PPB Chair has persuaded the IPCO to consider reporting more information about warrants that directly affect journalists and their sources.

CHARITIES:

At the Institute’s 2017 AGM, members had agreed to merge the Institute’s Benevolent, Orphan and Pension Funds subject to agreement of the final documents and approval of the Charity Commission. The matter returned to the 2018 AGM where members were able to scrutinise the draft trust deed and rules that would pertain to the new fund. Both documents were approved at the AGM and the next stage of the establishment of the Welfare Fund was authorised.

During the year, the Deeds of Appointment for all current Institute charities were updated to reflect the elected trustees.

As a result of newly implemented anti-money laundering regulations, all charitable funds have had to complete numerous forms and submit governing documents to our investment companies in order to comply. Despite the Institute submitting all relevant forms required by the regulations, one investment company held back dividend payments for 2018 until we had dealt with extra forms relating to that company’s administration process. The matter has since been resolved and back-dated dividend payments received. A formal complaint has subsequently been filed by the Institute with the financial ombudsman. In terms of functionality, the lack of dividend payments did not affect the working of our charities due to the funds that had been accumulated in previous years.

Orphan Fund

The Orphan Fund has continued to support young people and I am delighted to be able to share that has included the award of a university degree to one of our beneficiaries in the last 12 months.

I would urge all our members to remember that the Fund’s base is an insurance policy that if the worst happens, their children will continue to get money to help them meet the costs of living, education and support to achieve the best future opportunities possible. In the past year that has included computers, recreational support, art programmes and a wide range of activities above and beyond normal living costs and lessons. The close-knit community of the Cloj means we also have a very active ‘one phone-call away’ system to mentor our young people and provide them with a safe way of accessing urgent help or advice as and when it is needed. All our young people have openly praised this when we meet up for a chat each year and we remain open to hear what we can do to make their lives better.

It seems an appropriate moment to thank all our trustees and our Chief Executive Dominic Cooper for their financial management of the Fund which currently stands at £2.6m.

The combined Welfare Fund will incorporate this work very soon and we will ensure that our current beneficiaries, and all those involved, feel confident that our support will continue. This future will also help encourage new opportunities to support our members’ children in a more dynamic and rounded way.

Liz Justice, Chairman

Cloj Charities Committee

During the past year it has been my honour and privilege to serve as Chairman of the Institute’s Charities Committee. This embodies the committees of two Cloj charities, those of the Oak Hill & T P O’Connor Fund and the Pensions Fund. With the coming merger, the Pensions Fund will be absorbed by the new Welfare Fund but, because of differences in eligibility, the Oak Hill & T P O’Connor will continue its independent existence. Apart from Oak Hill, which at least in theory is open to all journalists anywhere, all are restricted to Institute members and their dependants. So, the dedicated and hard-working Oak Hill committee will continue to operate in tandem with the Welfare Fund.

When joining the Chartered Institute, members do not always realise that, among more immediate benefits, they are effectively taking out insurance against hardship. The Institute is indeed the most prestigious organisation in journalism, provides the most impressive credentials and professional help when and where it’s most needed, but it is in the unlikely event of harder times that membership of the organisation really matters. Should this happen to you, you may need and receive something more tangible than heartfelt sympathy. The Cloj Charities Committee worry that the relative scarcity of applications might not be entirely due to continued prosperity throughout the journalistic industry, both staff and freelance. Please remember that all grants are ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL and the recipients are known only to members of the Charities Committee.

That said, here are my formal reports for each charity for the recent year, with grateful thanks for their compilation to our inestimable CEO Dominic Cooper.

Pension Fund

During the year the Fund had incoming resources of £5,663 (2017 = £8,425). Expenditure during the year was £13,198 (2017 = £7,300). For reasons explained, income fell short of anticipated amount due to a dispute. Expenditure was much higher due to increased payments, two more pensioners and extra administrative charges because of legal expenses.

During the year there were eight pensioners in receipt of benefit. With the beneficiaries’ agreement, our overseas pensioners (the Cloj is a worldwide organisation) are paid quarterly and another half-yearly to minimise transaction costs.

Oak Hill & T P O’Connor Fund

During the year the Fund had incoming resources of £7,308 (2017 = £8,446). Expenditure during the year was £5,108 (2017 = £2,531). For reasons explained and in note 3 to these accounts, income fell short of anticipated amount due to a dispute.

During the year, grants were made to just three journalists (2017 = 7). But see my introductory notes above.

Kenneth J A Brookes LFCIJ, Chairman

Benevolent Fund

The call on support from the Benevolent Fund through the year was significantly more than in the previous few years. Conditions in the employment market place have become increasingly difficult for freelances and there have been numerous redundancies for staff journalists. This has meant that the need to support members has never been more profound. For the first time in many years the accounts show that the support provided to members exceeded the income from investments.

In all, the Fund supported a total of 6 members during 2018 (2017 – 4 members) with grants totalling £15,399 (2017 – £7,847). Two loans totalling £3,900 were also provided to members (one loan was provided in 2017 - £2,000).

During the year, the Fund’s Deed of Appointment was updated which inculcated an extra cost to the fund.

Incoming resources for 2018 were £13,683 (2017 - £12,922). The total value of the Fund decreased through the year to just over £283k (2017 - £526k).

Although the support provided, and the extra administration costs, exceeded income, the significant element in the overall decrease in value was the drop in the Fund’s investment valuation. Trustees are confident the resources that have built up in recent years will be sufficient to cover needs in the coming year.

Dominic Cooper, Trustee

DEATHS:

It is with great sadness that your Council reports the deaths of 11 members during the year. Among those who passed away were some significant stalwarts of the Institute, including Life Fellow Henry Douglas, Fellow Graham Whyte, members Harry Walton, Anthony Fry, Joy Myers, Michael Watts and Gordon Thomas.

Signed

Janice Shillum Bhend, President

Dominic Cooper, Chief Executive

25 September 2019
The following business was transacted:

1. The chairman of the Professional Practices Board (PPB), Tim Crook, delivered a report on the activities of the Board.

2. The General Secretary, Dominic Cooper, delivered his report on the support that had been provided to members over the last year and thanked the Board for its assistance through the year.

3. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Michael Hardware, moved that the audited accounts of the Institute of Journalists (TU) for 2017 be received and adopted.

4. Members then had a question and answer session with the PPB Chairman and the General Secretary.

5. The Chairman moved from the chair that all members nominated for the Board be elected. The following members were elected to serve for 2018/19: Tim Crook, Norman Bartlett, Adela Earlington, Andrew Kelly, Paul Leighton, Stuart Littelford and Prof. Yildirim. Tim Crook was re-elected Chairman.

Outcome: Carried

6. Reports by Chairmen of the Institute’s Charities:

   Liz Justice delivered a report on the activities of the Orphan Fund and moved that the 2017 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   Outcome: Carried

   Dominic Cooper delivered his report on the activities of the Benevolent Fund and moved that the 2017 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   Outcome: Carried

   Ken Brookes delivered his report on the activities of the Oak Hill and TP O’Connor Fund and moved that the 2017 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   Outcome: Carried

   Ken Brookes delivered his report on the activities of the Pension Fund and moved that the 2017 audited accounts of the Fund be received and adopted.

   Outcome: Carried

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

8. The President, Janice Shillum Bhend, took the Chair and delivered her presidential address.

9. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Michael Hardware moved that the audited accounts of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and its charities for 2017 be received and adopted.

   Outcome: Carried

10. The President moved that the 133rd report of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and the IoJ(TU) as submitted to the membership be received and adopted.

    Outcome: Carried

11. The President moved that Samuels be reappointed as the Institute’s accountant and auditors.

    Outcome: Carried

12. The President moved that Boyes Turner be reappointed as the Institute’s solicitors.

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

   Outcome: Carried

14. Resolution: Charities merger

   Proposed by Norman Bartlett on behalf of the Institute’s Council Revisit of a motions presented at the 2016 and 2017 AGM: Members were asked to vote on the proposed merger of the Institute’s Orphan, Benevolent and Pension Funds into the new Welfare Fund. The proposed new trust deed and the new standing orders were sent to all members ahead of the meeting, and copies were available on the day.

   Norman Bartlett proposed, seconded by Andrew Smith:

   Conference acknowledges that the Trust Deed prepared by the Institute’s legal advisors and reviewed by the Charities Commission provide the basis on which the merger of the Orphan, Benevolent and Pension Fund as previously agreed by conference in 2017 be proceeded with.

   Outcome: Carried with one abstention

15. Resolution: Constitutional declaration on media freedom

   Proposed by Tim Crook, seconded by Andrew Smith

   In view of five serious legal defeats since 2016 in the UK courts and European Courts on the failure to protect journalist confidentiality and source rights, The Chartered Institute of Journalists calls upon Parliament to legislate for a constitutional declaration of media freedom, and section 12 of the Human Rights Act to be reformed to oblige UK courts to give ‘democratic importance and priority’ rather than ‘particular regard’ when adjudicating issues where freedom of expression is in conflict with other rights.

   Background:

   The five rulings are:

   January 2016 English Court of Appeal Miranda v Home Office-Terrorism Act ruled inapplicable with Article 10 Human Rights in failing to provide adequate protection for journalists’ sources.

   December 2016, the European Court of Justice said the ‘indiscriminate’ collection of data under investigatory powers legislation was against EU law.

   January 2018 the English Court of Appeal ruled that in the light of the ECJ ruling Section 1 of the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014 was inconsistent with EU law.

   April 2018, the English High Court, in a judicial review of the new Investigatory Powers Act 2016, ruled that the retention and access to data without proper safeguards for journalistic confidentiality was contrary to EU law.

   September 2018, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that investigatory powers act legislation breached Article 8 journalistic confidentiality and Article 10 freedom of expression because of the chilling effect created by arbitrary state access to retained communications data.

   Outcome: Carried with three abstentions
The Chartered Institute of Journalists - audited accounts

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Chartered Institute of Journalists

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Chartered Institute of Journalists for the year ended 31st December 2018, which comprise the income statement, the balance sheets and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

This report is made solely to the Institute's members as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Institute's members those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Institute's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the Institute's affairs as at 31 December 2018 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Institute in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:
- the Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Council has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Institute's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information
The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Report of the Council, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Institute and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where our engagement letter requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Council
As explained more fully in the Statement of Council’s Responsibilities set out on page three, the Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council is responsible for assessing the Institute’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intends to liquidate the Institute or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Sam Narula (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Samuels LLP
Statutory Auditors 3 Locks Yard, High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1LT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOMING RESOURCES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities for generating funds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>107,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incoming resources</td>
<td>406,522</td>
<td>1,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</td>
<td>513,818</td>
<td>114,345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOURCES EXPENDED</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institute activities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>3,897</td>
<td>4,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling and Meeting</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>1,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIOJ (Trade Union)</td>
<td>5,316</td>
<td>2,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative costs</td>
<td>75,600</td>
<td>63,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>29,078</td>
<td>26,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL resources expended</td>
<td>120,299</td>
<td>113,755</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES | 393,519 | 590 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</td>
<td>71,728</td>
<td>71,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</td>
<td>465,247</td>
<td>71,728</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CIoJ - ORPHAN FUND
- audited accounts

NOTE: Full accounts, with auditors’ notes, and accounts for the Institute’s smaller charities may be obtained from head office. Copies will also be available on the day at the Institute’s AGM October 25

Quick look

During the year the value of the investments decreased by £283,406 (2017 £162,399 increase) due to market factors. Changes in valuation are not realised.

In 2018 the Fund had incoming resources of £112,248 (2017 = £108,477).

Expenditure during the year was £53,509 (2017 = £48,847).

During the year grants were made to three beneficiaries.

Orphan Fund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOMING RESOURCES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and legacies</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>111,248</td>
<td>108,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>112,248</td>
<td>108,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESOURCES EXPENDED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities</td>
<td>53,509</td>
<td>48,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53,509</td>
<td>48,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealised gains/(losses) on Investments</td>
<td>(283,406)</td>
<td>162,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</td>
<td>(224,667)</td>
<td>222,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</td>
<td>2,888,761</td>
<td>2,666,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</td>
<td>£2,664,094</td>
<td>£2,888,761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Full accounts, with auditors’ notes, and accounts for the Institute’s smaller charities may be obtained from head office. Copies will also be available on the day at the Institute’s AGM October 25

The CIoJ - BENEVOLENT FUND
- audited accounts

NOTE: Full accounts, with auditors’ notes, and accounts for the Institute’s smaller charities may be obtained from head office. Copies will also be available on the day at the Institute’s AGM October 25

Quick look

During the year the value of the investments decreased by £35,905 (2017 £18,206 increase) due to market factors. Changes in valuation are not realised.

In 2018 the Fund had incoming resources of £13,683 (2017: £12,922). The Fund made grants to 6 members (some in multiple tranches) totalling £15,399 and loans to two members totalling of £3,900. (2017: £7,847 and £2,000 respectively).

The outstanding amount increased on the Charity’s loan book net of repayments to £11,475 (2017: £8,875).

The Trustees exercise discretion in their oversight of outstanding loans, recognising that the circumstances of some beneficiaries require the loans to be written down. The most recent loans to have been written down were in 2015.

Benevolent Fund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2* Investment income</td>
<td>12,334</td>
<td>12,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan repayments</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>13,683</td>
<td>12,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants (6 grants (2017 = 6))</td>
<td>15,399</td>
<td>7,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans (2 loans (2017 = 1))</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative charges</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous &amp; recharged Expenses</td>
<td>2,163</td>
<td>1,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,582</td>
<td>11,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOMING RESOURCES EXCEEDED RESOURCES EXPENDED</td>
<td>(9,899)</td>
<td>1,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealised changes in asset values</td>
<td>(35,905)</td>
<td>18,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in creditors</td>
<td>3,313</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in debtors</td>
<td>3,133</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</td>
<td>(42,491)</td>
<td>19,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPENING BALANCES</td>
<td>326,085</td>
<td>304,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUND BALANCES AT YEAR END</td>
<td>283,594</td>
<td>326,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CIoJ - PENSION FUND
- audited accounts

NOTE: Full accounts, with auditors’ notes, and accounts for the Institute’s smaller charities may be obtained from head office. Copies will also be available on the day at the Institute’s AGM October 25

Quick look
During the year the value of the investments decreased by £43,360 (2017 £12,692 increase) due to market factors. Changes in valuation are not realised.

In 2018 the Fund had incoming resources of £5,663 (2017 = £8,425).

Expenditure during the year was £13,198 (2017 = £7,300). Expenditure was much higher due to increased payments, two more pensioners and extra administration because of legal expenses.

During the year there were eight pensioners in receipt of benefit.

Pension Fund
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>5,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>5,663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **PAYMENTS** | |
| 2 Grants to 8 pensioners (2017: 5) | 10,030 | 5,690 |
| 3 Administrative charges | 3,169 | 1,610 |
| Trustees’ Expenses | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | 13,199 | 7,300 |

**INCOMING RESOURCES EXCEEDED RESOURCES EXPENDED**
(7,536) 1,125

**OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES**
Unrealised changes in asset values (43,360) 12,692
Creditors 2,360 0

**NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**
(48,536) 12,692

**OPENING BALANCES** 256,180 242,364
**FUND BALANCES AT YEAR END** 207,644 256,180

The CIoJ - OAKHILL & TP O’CONNOR FUND
- audited accounts

NOTE: Full accounts, with auditors’ notes, and accounts for the Institute’s smaller charities may be obtained from head office. Copies will also be available on the day at the Institute’s AGM October 25

Quick look
During the year the value of the investments decreased by £23,359 (2017 £13,929 increase) due to market factors. Changes in valuation are not realised.

In 2018 the Fund had incoming resources of £7,308 (2017 = £8,446).

Expenditure during the year was £5,108 (2017 = £2,531).

During the year, grants were made to three journalists (2017 = 7).

Oak Hill & TP O’Connor Fund
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>7,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td>7,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **PAYMENTS** | |
| Grants (3 grants (2017 = 7 grants)) | 2,950 | 1,461 |
| Administrative charges incl audit fee | 920 | 900 |
| Legal expenses | 1,176 | - |
| Trustees’ Expenses | 62 | 170 |
| **TOTAL** | 5,108 | 2,531 |

**INCOMING RESOURCES EXCEEDED RESOURCES EXPENDED**
2,200 6,025

**OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES**
Unrealised changes in asset values (23,359) 13,929
Movements - creditors/debtors 1,492 -

**NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**
(19,667) 19,954

**OPENING BALANCES** 240,799 220,845
**FUND BALANCES AT YEAR END** 221,132 240,799

£275,000 in essential support to members & their families in the past 5 years
CJoJ Welfare Fund elections

At this year’s AGM, members will be asked to elect the trustees for the new charitable fund that was approved by members last year. This is a vital part of setting up the new Welfare Fund. Those elected will have the responsibility of making sure that the new fund functions in accordance with the Trust Deed, and of caring for the fund’s investment portfolio. Those assets total in excess of £3.1 million.

Since the new fund will be an amalgamation of the Institute’s Benevolent, Orphan and Pension Funds, the Institute’s governing Council has taken the decision that continuity is essential to ensure the confidence of our beneficiaries.

The selected trustees will serve for an initial term of three, four and five years. At the end of each term the position of one trustee will be up for re-selection. Each subsequent term will be three years, and trustees will be selected at the AGM.

Nominees in alphabetical order:

Norman Bartlett

I have been a member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists for over 30 years, having joined in 1988. I began to be involved in its management when I became Secretary of Freelance Division in 1995 and then elected as Chairman two years later. I was elected to Council in 2003 and have been a member of Council since.

In the early 2000s, the finances of the Institute were in a parlous state. I was appointed by Council as Honorary Treasurer from 1 January 2004 to improve the situation. I played an important part in so doing first by identifying redundant and wasteful procedures that had grown over the years and then by careful management in resolving them. The finances were stabilised and transparency introduced to the accounts so that the Institute could exercise more meaningful management.

When I was elected Hon. Vice-President of the Institute and inducted as President in 2010, I relinquished my position as Hon. Treasurer of the Institute but continued in that role for the Orphan Fund. I had been invited to join the committee of the Orphan Fund a decade earlier in April 1999. Later the same year, on the death of the previous holder, I was asked to take on the task of Hon. Treasurer of the Fund.

I now serve on the committees of all the charities. I saw how having four separate ones involved unnecessary expense and failed to address all the needs of our members and dependents. Thus I began to campaign for the merging of the Institute’s charities. The result of the campaign, which has been supported by membership, is the Welfare Fund.

In summary I have been actively involved in the financial affairs of the Institute and its Charities for many years.

More than this, I have been involved in charitable activities outside the Institute as well.

I was a director of Essex Savers Credit Union (NetCUDA) for 5 years and was registered with the Financial Conduct Authority as an ‘Approved Person’ during that time. (reference NRB01053).

I am a Trustee of local charities including Chelmsford Royal Air Forces Association and Danbury Society.

I believe my record shows many years of vision, competence and integrity in my work with charities. I hope you agree and will vote for me as a Trustee of the reformed Welfare Fund charity.

Ken Brookes

As chairman and a senior trustee for a number of years of two of the Institute’s charities (the Pensions Fund and the Oak Hill & T P O’Connor Fund), I’ve been asked to say why I’d like to continue serving the Institute and its members. My response has to be that charitable works are an important function of an organisation like the Institute, and I hope I can continue to make a contribution.

In fact only one of these charities (the Pensions Fund) will become part of the Welfare Fund, which will serve and support only Institute members and their dependents. This excludes the Oak Hill and T P O’Connor because it’s open to all professional journalists, whether members of the Institute or not. The committee and trustees of the latter will continue to be appointed by the Council and its chairman to be elected by the committee itself, a dedicated group devoted to the wellbeing of fellow journalists. If appointed and elected, I’ll continue to serve to the best of my ability.

For those who don’t know me, I was chairman, hon secretary and vice-chairman of the Freelance Division (not all at the same time!) for well over 20 years, President 1983-84, Council member for more than 50 years and represent the CJoJ on the British Copyright Council (since 1975) and the Journalists’ Copyright Fund (of which I’m chairman, elected by NUJ and SoA members). And I’m still a working journalist.

The selected trustees will serve for an initial term of three, four and five years. At the end of each term the position of one trustee will be up for re-selection. Each subsequent term will be three years, and trustees will be selected at the AGM.
Liz Justice

I joined the CIoJ because I wanted to be part of the oldest professional body for journalists but, at the same time, I am keenly aware that all organisations need to have the flexibility to change as life is always on the move.

As a Past President, the elected current Chair of the Orphan Fund, part of our membership approval board and editor of our LinkedIn page, I can not emphasise enough that all those roles involve real life issues for the Institute to handle.

I will never forget hearing of members facing redundancy, or struggling through ill health (and many other chats involving long standing members) who were either reluctant to ask for help or unaware they could. Through the work of all our funds, our task is to support the members and their families through what is often very difficult and life-changing circumstances. That support may be help children through bereavement and schooling, or members taking up new training to re-skill when times have changed. In all we hope that with our encouragement the families of members are able to move on and make some happy memories.

While I can assure you the money from the Orphan Fund has been used effectively to support some young people, that did not stop me from speaking in support of the move at last year's AGM to combine the charities to better meet those far wider needs. I hope some traditions will survive and that the new body will quietly but quickly assess a members needs, as well as actively support our existing beneficiaries in the new system.

This is very important for our younger beneficiaries as I know from meeting them for lunch in July that our help is one of the reasons they are flourishing.

I hope, with your support, I can remain an active trustee to offer a warm embrace to our members - possibly even you or your family - to provide discreet but much needed help in the years to come.

Paul Leighton

I first began to understand the largely undersung but remarkable work of the Institute’s various welfare funds when I joined the Institute Orphan Fund in 1989. (Good grief! Have I really been actively involved that long?))

I had just been elected Vice-President and saw, at close quarters, the very thoughtful way in which the then Fund members went about supporting our beneficiaries. I have been a member of that Fund for most of those years since and believe it is one the most meaningful roles that Institute volunteers undertake.

Seeing past orphans supported and helped as they matured into young, and frequently very talented, adults has been - and continues to be - truly rewarding.

I have also served as a Trustee of the Benevolent Fund for a number of years, and most recently joined the Oakhill Fund committee, which I hope has given me a wider awareness of the needs of Institute members at what has become a very difficult time in the journalistic profession.

Members will know I have been hugely privileged to serve as Institute President on two occasions (1990 and 2014/15) and I am ready to continue putting my experience at the service of members, which is why I offer myself as a potential Trustee for our new Welfare Fund.

Harvey Thomas

• I have been a formal Trustee of the Orphan Fund since my Deed of Appointment in 1987.

• Along with many other senior members of the Institute (Henry Douglas, Cyril Bainbridge, Patricia Latham, Ken Brookes, Chris Underwood, Bill Tadd, Paul Leighton, John Gaselee, Roger Bush etc.), I was intensely involved in fundraising for the Orphans and in turning, through careful investment, the Fund from £200,000 into £2+ million.

• For many years I was Chairman of the London Region.

• For 12 years I was Director of Press for the Conservative Party and Political Secretary to the Prime Minister.

• I was one of the Trustees who met and negotiated with the Charity Commission to give the Orphan Fund the freedom, if Trustees thought it best, to assist financially some other Institute Charities.

• Having worked and supported the Institute’s Orphans for more than 30 years, they are a serious priority for me.

CIOJ Funds in numbers...

128 - years of support

£65,033 - total support provided in 2018 (£41,465 in 2017)

21 - people in receipt of support in 2018

£3.1m – the value of Institute charitable funds (more than £3.3m in total charitable fund valuations)

20 - families helped in 2018