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Lyra McKee

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It's not often that an event shakes our profession, our union and society as powerfully as the tragic death of Lyra McKee.

A young, inspirational journalist from Belfast, lost her life while covering riots in the Creggan area of Derry. Lyra became a journalist in the post peace agreement era in Northern Ireland and in many ways was a symbol of the new Ireland. She campaigned for Northern Ireland's LGBTQ community and used her own coming out story to support others. She was a staunch NUJ member and well known in her Belfast branch.

At 29 she had been named as one of 30 European journalists under 30 to watch. She gave a prestigious Ted talk two years ago following the Orlando gay nightclub shootings in 2016. She had signed a two-book deal with Faber with the first book about children and young men who went missing in the Troubles due out next year.

The NUJ has worked with the family to create a fund in Lyra's name and the family said that they have been inundated with requests to stage events in her name. Everyone wants Lyra's legacy to inspire other passionate journalists. #WeStandWithLyra

Christine

Christine Buckley
Editor

@mschrisbuckley

Editor
journalist@nuj.org.uk
Design
Surgerycreations.com
info@surgerycreations.com
Advertising
Melanie Richards
Tel: 07494975239
ads@journalistmagazine.co.uk
Print
Warners
www.warners.co.uk
Distribution
GB Mail
www.gb-mail.co.uk

NUJ
72 Acton Street
London WC1X 9NB
info@nuj.org.uk
www.nuj.org.uk
Tel: 020 7843 3700
Manchester office
nujmanchester@nuj.org.uk
Glasgow office
nujscotland@nuj.org.uk
Dublin office
info@nuj.ie
ISSN: 0022-5541



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2019 PSNI



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Tributes and vigils mark the loss of Lyra McKee

TRIBUTES HAVE poured in from around the world for Lyra McKee, the Northern Irish journalist and NUJ member who was killed by a dissident Republican gunman while she was covering a riot in Derry just before Easter.

Vigils were held by journalists in Ireland, the UK and in other countries for Lyra who was 29 and was seen by many as one of the rising stars of investigative journalism. She had a two-book commission with Faber with *The Lost Boys*, an investigation into children and young men who disappeared during the Troubles, due out next year. She had been named by Forbes as one of 30 European journalists aged under 30 to watch and she had given a prestigious Ted talk.

The New IRA, the small dissident group which continues to use violence, apologised for Lyra's death which happened in the staunchly republican area of the Creggan in Derry. Lyra died the night before Good Friday and was due to speak at a World Press Freedom event in early May.

Lyra's funeral in Belfast, her home city, was attended by the Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Irish President Michael D Higgins, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Northern Ireland Secretary Karen Bradley, leader of the Labour



Party Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Arlene Foster, and leader of Sinn Féin Mary Lou MacDonald. Michelle Stanistreet, NUJ general secretary and Seamus Dooley, NUJ Irish secretary, also attended the service which was led by clergy from the Catholic and Protestant churches.

The NUJ held a guard of honour for Lyra's coffin to go into St Anne's Cathedral.

Lyra is survived by her partner Sara Canning; her mother Joan and five siblings Gary, Joan, Nichola, David and Mary. Her family has set up a fundraising page in her memory:

<https://www.gofundme.com/in-memory-of-lyra-mckee/donate>

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The NUJ held a guard of honour for Lyra's coffin to go into St Anne's Cathedral.

BRYAN MEADE

inbrief...

IPSO RULES AGAINST BORIS JOHNSON

The press regulator IPSO ruled that Boris Johnson breached accuracy guidelines in his Daily Telegraph column when he claimed a no-deal Brexit was the preferred option for leaving the EU 'by some margin'. The column was published on January 7 and was trailed on the front page.

ITN EXPECTS STABLE NEWS REVENUES

ITN's broadcast news revenues increased slightly to £88.9 million in 2018, up from £87.8 million the year before. The company, which makes the ITV News, Channel 4 News and 5 News programmes, said its news revenue is expected to remain consistent in 2019.

PAXMAN WRITES FOR SAGA MAGAZINE

The former *Newsnight* presenter Jeremy Paxman has been made a columnist at the over-50s magazine *Saga*. The title is being relaunched by editor Louise Robinson who took over in February. She edited the *Sunday Express* supplement *S Magazine* for more than 13 years until 2015.

HERALD SCALES DOWN TO TABLOID

The Herald weekly series in Surrey and Hampshire has switched from broadsheet to tabloid after 127 years in print. The price of the Tindle-owned titles has also risen from 60p to 80p, in what the publisher said was only its second price increase in 10 years.

NUJ ACTIVIST MONICA FOOT DIES

Monica Foot died peacefully in Bristol on April 26. She was 80. Her funeral will be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Sunday May 26 - 10.50 for 11am start. All welcome. Monica was a print and TV journalist and worked as press officer for Labour and Equity and was a long-standing member of the NUJ executive council. She was a lifelong member of the NUJ.

Bid for recognition at Vice UK

NUJ MEMBERS at Vice UK, the online news and features service, have written to the company seeking union recognition.

The union said it welcomed the growth in NUJ membership at the company and was supporting the chapel in organising talks to gain

recognition, which would give the journalists the right to negotiate pay and other conditions with the management.

The Vice chapel said: "After several months of organising, we – the editorial, production, and post-production staff of Vice UK

– are proud to have built a strong and active Vice UK union chapel. With majority support in all three departments, and strong NUJ membership, we have decided again to petition Vice UK management for formal union recognition."



More cuts at JPI Media newspapers

JPI MEDIA, which owns the *i* and the *Scotsman* and many other regional titles, is planning to cut up to 70 full-time editorial roles across the UK.

It is thought that the *i*, the only national title in the stable, will be exempt from the cuts.

Sixty of the proposed redundancies will fall across JPI Media's 170 regional titles, which include dailies the *Yorkshire Post*, *Yorkshire Evening Post*, *Sunderland Echo*, *Belfast*

Newsletter, and *The News in Portsmouth*. Ten more jobs are at risk across *Scotsman* titles which include the *Scotsman*, the *Edinburgh Evening News* and *Scotland on Sunday*.

The cuts follow another round of 20 redundancies in community reporting at the publisher earlier this year. Those reductions were made as JPI Media took on 19 community reporters as part of a scheme operated by Facebook.

inbrief...

MAITLIS AT THE HELM OF BBC'S NEWSNIGHT

Emily Maitlis has become the lead presenter for BBC Newsnight, with Radio 5 Live's Emma Barnett joining an all-woman team alongside Kirsty Wark and editor Esmé Wren. Maitlis replaces Evan Davis, who moved to present Radio 4's PM programme when long-serving presenter Eddie Mair moved to LBC.

MOVE FOR 'SKETCH WRITER OF THINGS'

The Times' Patrick Kidd has moved into a senior writer role at The Times after Quentin Letts took up the political sketch writer job that Kidd had previously held. Kidd has described himself as a "sketch writer of things other than politics" since Letts arrived at the paper.

TELEGRAPH EXPANDS ITS LUXURY BRAND

The Telegraph is expanding its luxury lifestyle brand. Sasha Slater, head of magazines, is developing a membership programme and new digital offerings as part of Telegraph Luxury. She is no longer editing the Telegraph Magazine and has been replaced there by Marianne Jones, editor of Stella.

ECONOMIST REVAMPS LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

The Economist has relaunched its bi-monthly lifestyle publication 1843 (named after the year in which the current affairs magazine was founded). It says it aims to bring the rigour of the magazine to the areas of design, food and style.

JPI MEDIA SHAKES UP ITS INVESTIGATIONS

JPI Media has reorganised its investigations team that works across the i and regional titles, appointing Claire Wilde as dedicated news editor. She is responsible for editing data and investigations at the publisher, working with a team of 10 reporters and correspondents from national and regional newspapers.

Union backs Dublin's University Times over investigation approach

THE NUJ'S ethics council has strongly defended the professional standards of The University Times, an independent newspaper published in association with Trinity College Dublin Students' Union.

Council chair Professor Chris Frost described the way editorial staff investigated the practice of a secretive male-only society at the college, Dublin as being "beyond reproach and consistent with the highest professional standards of public interest, investigative journalism".

The investigation into activities by members of the Knights of Campanile was published in the March 19 edition of the newspaper.

University Times reporters stood close to the apartment of the society's president and said that they overheard taunts, jeers and degrading insults as an initiation ritual was conducted.

As a result of the investigation, The University Times was accused of breaching ethical standards by the editor of rival newspaper Trinity News, while the students'

union called a referendum that could starve the newspaper out of existence.

Chris Frost expressed grave concern at the basis for the referendum and warned that forcing the newspaper to close would

undermine the reputations of student journalism and of Trinity College Dublin.

Frost is the former Head of Journalism at Liverpool John Moores University. He was chair of the Association for Journalism Education, which represents most schools of journalism in the UK and Ireland's higher education institutions.

A recording device was left outside the apartment. Editor Eleanor O'Mahony says it was intended for verification purposes – the door was wedged open and the ceremony was audible from the corridor.

Chris Frost said: "It is perfectly acceptable journalism to use a tape recorder to record conversations that can be heard in a corridor. The overriding public interest is obvious, given that this is a high-profile society with a long history and large membership."



The overriding public interest is obvious, given that this is a high-profile society with a long history and large membership

**Chris Frost,
NUJ Ethics Council chair**

Backing for documentary makers'

A LARGE number of supporters backed Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey outside a Belfast court hearing in March.

The journalists were arrested and put on bail in August following their documentary No Stone Unturned on the murder of six men in Loughinisland.

NUJ Irish secretary Seamus Dooley and Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International's Northern Ireland programme director spoke at the event. Alison Millar, Irish Congress of Trade Unions vice president, also attended.

Lawyers representing Trevor and Barry challenged the search warrants and argued there was no evidence in the public interest to support the redactions made to the search warrant applications by Durham Constabulary and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

A battle journalism must win, Page 10



KEVIN COOPER

Welcome for Irish news group takeover

IRELAND'S LARGEST newspaper group – Independent News and Media – has been sold to Belgium's Mediahuis. The NUJ has welcomed the

€145.6 million (£125.2 million) sale of the publisher of the Irish Independent and Sunday Independent, the Belfast Telegraph and many regional titles. Séamus

Dooley, NUJ Irish Secretary, said it "ends speculation about the future of the company. That uncertainty, against the backdrop of boardroom battles and the

surveillance of employees on the instruction of senior executives, has undermined the confidence of staff and been extremely damaging to morale."

TUC women call for equal pay and opportunities

MOTIONS CALLING for action against the pay and pensions gap dominated the TUC's Women's conference.

Delegates unanimously backed the NUJ's call for the development of opportunities for women in photography via mentoring schemes, scholarships and grants.

The conference was held as the TUC published analysis that showed the gender pay gap means that women work for nothing for two calendar months of the year.

The UK gap stands at 17.9 per cent, which means that women effectively work without pay for the first 65 days of the year until Women's Pay Day on 6 March. In the information and communications industry, women must wait until 18 March.

Frances O'Grady, TUC general secretary, told the conference: "The UK has one of the worst gender pay gaps in Europe – and at current rates of progress it will take another

60 years for this gap to close.

"Making employers publish information on their gaps is a start, but it's nowhere near enough. Employers must be legally required to explain how they'll tackle pay inequality at their workplaces and advertise jobs on a more flexible basis."



The NUJ's motion on the gender imbalance among photographers and videographers pointed out that only 15 per cent were women.

Natasha Hirst, the first woman chair of the NUJ's Photographers' Council, said ethical photojournalism was essential to hold power to account and to reflect society.

"It is crucial that we have a diversity of voices in photojournalism. We need opportunities for a wide range of women, from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds with experience of disability, poverty and oppression in a variety of forms," she said

"Photography is a traditionally male-dominated industry, and this means the stories being told are framed largely by men."



Photography is a traditionally male-dominated industry, and this means the stories being told are framed largely by men

Natasha Hirst
NUJ's Photographers' Council chair

NATASHA HIRST

inbrief...

DIMBLEBY TO TAKE NO MORE QUESTIONS

Jonathan Dimbleby will step down as host of BBC Radio 4's Any Questions? at the end of June after 32 years. He said: "It has been a great privilege to have been in this role for so long and in the great broadcasting institution which is the BBC." He is talking to the corporation about other projects.

UNSWORTH JOINS THE BBC'S BOARD

BBC director of news and current affairs Fran Unsworth has joined the corporation's board, the first new appointment since it was set up in 2017. She replaces deputy director general Anne Bulford who has left the BBC. Unsworth's news responsibilities remain unchanged.

TELEGRAPH STARTS WOMEN'S SPORT

The Telegraph has started a dedicated women's sport section and a monthly print supplement. Telegraph Women's Sport is staffed by editor Anna Kessel, deputy editor Vicki Hodges and two reporters. Contributors include sprinter Dina Asher-Smith and tennis coach Judy Murray.

FROM INDEPENDENT TO THE GOVERNMENT

The Independent's political editor is the Department for International Trade's new head of news. Joe Watts has led the title's Westminster coverage since August 2016, shortly after Britain voted to leave the European Union. He joined the Independent from the Evening Standard, where he was a political correspondent.

INVERDALE LEAVES BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

John Inverdale has left BBC Radio 5 Live after being a presenter at the station for 25 years since its launch in 1994. He did his last presenting stint for 5 Live in covering the Cheltenham Gold Cup horse race in March, but he will continue to work for BBC Sport.

Black workers discuss a rise in racism

THE LARGE rise in racism hate crime and far-right attacks because of Brexit and wider global trends were themes picked up by a succession of speakers at this year's TUC Black Workers' Conference

Brussels-based NUJ delegate Martin Todd said

racism in the European Union institutions was increasing. He said: "The situation has become worse since the accession of the eastern European countries, some which actively oppose the European Parliament's anti-discrimination agenda." An NUJ motion, passed

unanimously by conference, said the "frequent negative representation of minority groups within some quarters of the media industry" were linked to the discrimination faced by BME (black and ethnic minority) people and that more needed to be done to increase diversity

among journalists. Simon Hinds, proposing the motion, said the media's portrayal of Muslims after terrorist events had led to attacks on mosques and in Surrey a 19-year-old man was stabbed in what police described as a far-right attack.

Power to Mike's War Child triathlon

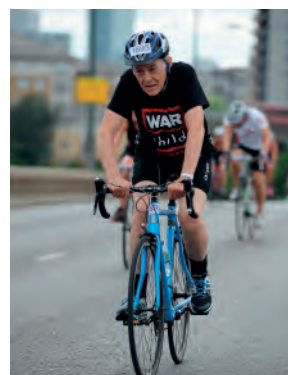
FORMER TUC communications officer and long-time NUJ member Mike Power is about to embark on his fifth and final triathlon for the charity War Child in memory of his father who was killed in action during the Normandy landings 75 years ago.

Mike is proud to be the oldest contestant in the July triathlon.

He said: "I never knew my Dad as I was born three months after he was killed, which is why as an aged 'war child' I'm so committed to raising money for the charity War Child."

If he reaches this year's fundraising target, he will have raised £20,000 over his five swims, bike rides and runs.

You can see Power's story on at www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUUpgeUvkQR4 and sponsor him at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mike-power9



inbrief...

A MILLION PAY FOR FT

The Financial Times has reached a paying readership of one million. The paper says the number has been achieved a year ahead of schedule. The FT introduced a paywall in 2002. Digital subscriptions now account for more than three-quarters of the FT's circulation and some 70 per cent of FT readers are outside the UK.

BUZZFEED'S GIBSON GOES TO NEW ROLE

Janine Gibson, who left her role as BuzzFeed UK editor-in-chief in January, has been appointed an assistant editor at the FT. She joined this month in the newly created role of special projects editor. She will report to editor Lionel Barber and work with news editor Matt Garrahan.

NEW STATESMAN'S LEWIS TO LEAVE

New Statesman associate editor Helen Lewis is leaving the weekly news magazine to join the Atlantic. Lewis has been at the title for eight years and recently took time out to write a book on feminism. She joins the Atlantic as a staff writer in July.

BROOKER ENDS HIS RUN OF 60 YEARS

Sunday Telegraph columnist Christopher Booker has left following 60 years at the Sunday and daily title. Booker, the first Private Eye editor, started at the Daily Telegraph in 1959 reviewing jazz and then became jazz critic at The Sunday Telegraph. In 1972, he started a column in Saturday's Telegraph before moving the Sunday title in 1990.

STEVEN SWINFORD GOES TO THE TIMES

Steven Swinford, the Telegraph's deputy political editor, is to move to The Times. He will replace The Times' deputy political editor Sam Coates, who joins Sky News this summer. Swinford has been in his current role since 2015 and has also worked at the Sunday Times.

'Salutary moment' as BBC faces major investigation into equal pay

THE EQUALITY and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has launched an investigation into equal pay at the BBC following complaints from female employees.

The commission said it had been in discussions with the BBC about staff pay for the past year and suspected that some women at the organisation had not received equal pay for equal work.

It said: "Having reviewed all the information received to date, we have therefore used our powers under the Equality Act to open an investigation which will relate to the BBC's historic policy and pay practices.

"The investigation will examine formal and informal pay grievances raised with the BBC by staff to determine if there has been unlawful pay discrimination and whether grievances have been adequately resolved."

Rebecca Hilsenrath, EHRC chief executive, said: "Paying men and women the same salary for the same job has been a legal requirement for almost 50 years. Every organisation should know we are fully

committed to ensuring employers comply with equal pay law."

The NUJ has dealt with more than 200 equal pay cases at the BBC, including that of Carrie Gracie, who received an apology from the corporation after quitting her job as China editor over her pay.

Michelle Stanistreet said: "This is a salutary moment for the BBC – putting its enquiries on to a statutory footing is a major step for the EHRC, particularly in light of

the intense engagement with the corporation there has been during the past year.

"The EHRC's starting point for this investigation – a suspicion that 'some women at the organisation have not received equal pay for equal work' – is, in the NUJ's view, a fact. It is quite clear from the NUJ's involvement – whether in the informal process, grievances or appeals, and potential tribunal claims – that pay inequity has been a reality at the corporation and that women have lost out in pay, pensions contributions and other terms and conditions.

"The BBC is our public service broadcaster and has a responsibility to lead the way on this vital issue."



The EHRC's starting point - a suspicion that 'some women at the BBC have not received equal pay for equal work' -- is, in the NUJ's view, a fact

Michelle Stanistreet
NUJ general secretary

Alarm over radio programmes' merger

BBC JOURNALISTS have warned that a planned merger of two key radio current affairs programmes – the World Service's Newshour and Radio 4's The World Tonight – will damage news coverage and undermine the distinctive voices of the programmes. The merger would result in the loss of six production jobs.

The plan is to have one production team and one presenter for both Newshour, which is on air between 8pm to 9.59pm, and The World Tonight, which is broadcast for 45 minutes at 10pm.

Journalists on the programmes said: "This is madness, unless the idea really is to throw The World Tonight under the bus. It would also do great damage to Newshour. The idea that one team can make two good and different evening news programmes with one presenter back to back is extraordinarily ill conceived and impractical."



Hayward wins at Welsh Media Awards

WILL HAYWARD, a reporter for Media Wales, won the two top honours at the 2019 Journalists' Charity Wales Media Awards.

He won Newspaper

Journalist of the Year as well as overall Journalist of the Year for his varied portfolio of work. The judges said he displayed all the attributes of a top

newspaper journalist.

They said Hayward showed forensic-style research, a personality that refused to give up despite being told time and time

again there was 'nothing to see here', and a writing style that was immediate, sharp and witty, drawing the reader in from start to end.

BRYAN MEADE



SASKO LAZARO



Honouring Lyra

ACROSS IRELAND, the UK and further afield the NUJ marked the death of Lyra McKee, the 29-year-old Belfast-born journalist who was killed in Derry by a dissident gunman. Vigils were held in many public places and workplaces.

Clockwise from top left: NUJ Irish Secretary Seamus Dooley joins Mairin Murray at the Good Friday vigil in Dublin's St Stephen's Green; Gerry Curran, NUJ national executive member and Seamus at Dublin City Gallery; politicians

including Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and UK Prime Minister Theresa May pay their respects at the funeral; 29 candles (one for each year of Lyra's life) at London's journalists' church – St Bride's in Fleet Street; Ireland's president Michael D. Higgins signing a book of condolence at Belfast City Hall with Cllr Deirdre Hargey, Lord Mayor of Belfast, and pictured standing in the centre Gerry Carson, chair of Belfast & District branch and joint Cathaoirleach of the Irish Executive Council with other guests; the NUJ Good Friday vigil in Derry's Guildhall Square; NUJ members forming a guard of honour at Lyra's funeral in St Anne's cathedral, Belfast as her coffin was taken into the service.

NUJ



PRESS EYE



GEORGE SWEENEY



NUJ



NUJ





Branch **roots**

A lot of spadework went into helping regrow the NUJ's Darlington branch. **Nic Mitchell** reports

Four decades after the great strike at the Northern Echo, NUJ members are meeting once again across the road in the Red Lion in Priestgate after the successful relaunch of the union's Darlington branch.

The similarities don't end there. For, as well as picking the venue used for the 1977 NUJ strike HQ, the branch is again showing the value of union solidarity across north-east England.

The groundwork was laid when NUJ activists met several times in late 2017 at the historical Lit & Phil library in Newcastle, under the auspices of national executive council member Adam Christie and northern regional organiser Chris Morley, to map a strategy to rebuild the union's organisation in the region.

Where once there had been nine branches between Berwick-upon-Tweed and Teesside, only two remained – Newcastle and the branch created from the merger of Sunderland, Shields &

Hartlepool. That left the southern flank of the region uncovered.

A spur to rebuilding the union structure came when membership secretary John Bailey of the Sunderland, Shields & Hartlepool branch reported handling new member referrals from journalists living as far away as the North Yorkshire coast and Tees Valley.

His branch asks applicants to attend at least one meeting. "But some were travelling two hours to reach Sunderland if using public transport at night. It was putting many off," he says.

So attention was focused on getting one – if not two – of the branches covering Darlington and Teesside back on their feet again.

Fortunately, the chapel at the Northern Echo and Darlington & Stockton Times was active and fighting redundancies.

Full-time official Chris Morley and mother of chapel Jackie Craft picked a date in late January last year for an inaugural meeting. The NUJ's Manchester office sent personal

At Darlington's clock tower, left to right: David Roberts, branch secretary; Andrew Douglas, chair; and Jackie Craft, Northern Echo MoC

//
As well as providing mutual support and advice, we're sharing new skills and best practice
//

invitations to all members in the branch's catchment area and invited activists from around the north-east, including those who had attended the Lit & Phil meetings.

Around 15 braved the weather and pledged support to reform the branch.

Former Northern Echo deputy news editor Andrew Douglas was elected branch chair at the next meeting and David Roberts, a former Northern Echo father of chapel, became branch secretary. Both work in public relations.

Douglas says: "It was tremendously important to me to retain my 30-year link with the NUJ after moving from newspapers into PR and we've a growing number of members doing just that.

"The branch has become an important social hub for people with shared interests to get together to maintain professional standards and workplace rights and to feel you're not alone."

Roberts says his previous NUJ role as FoC was incredibly draining and left little scope to do new things or be proactive in finding ways the union could support its members.

"Since the Darlington branch has restarted, I've found it's the perfect forum to support journalists and journalism, learn new things and meet people from different backgrounds. As the Echo workforce is shrinking, we're finding the branch is becoming much more diverse as ex-staffers take up new roles in freelancing or PR.

"As well as providing mutual support and advice, we're sharing new skills and best practice and helping overworked chapel officers in a friendly and relaxing environment. I am finding it a positive experience," said Roberts.

Meetings are open to people throughout Teesside. Jackie Craft said: "As MoC I'm often asked if members can remain in the NUJ when they leave the Echo. The branch enables journalists to stay in touch and find out about unemployed status and reduced subs while seeking work. That helps prevent them dropping out."

Nic Mitchell is the north-east representative on the NUJ's Public Relations & Communications Council

The Darlington-Teesside Summer Solstice meeting & social night is Friday June 21 at the Red Lion 6.45pm, before going to Number Twenty 2 on Coniscliffe Road, Darlington, at 7.30pm. Contact DavidRoberts at djrfleece@hotmail.com

A lasting legacy for Lyra McKee



Bold journalism must continue to thrive, says **Michelle Stanistreet**

Atending the funeral of Lyra McKee, shot dead while covering riots in Derry on the eve of Good Friday, was the most distressing and moving duty I've performed as general secretary of the NUJ.

The NUJ turned out in force to pay our collective respects to Lyra, a member of Belfast & District Branch and a recent addition to the journalistic community in Derry, as did friends and colleagues who reflected the many different parts of her life and activism.

Also present were political leaders of all parties, sitting together in Belfast's St Anne's Cathedral amid what must surely have been its most diverse crowd ever – all united in shock and horror over the senseless murder of a 29-year-old woman of huge talent and, with everything to live for.

In a powerful speech that rightly made politicians in the rows in front of us squirm, Fr Martin Magill paid tribute to their collective response to the killing, and their appearance in the Creggan in the days earlier, but said it had also left him 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 to this point?"

It drew mourners to their feet in the longest standing ovation I've experienced and it was easy to imagine Lyra joining in the applause.

Addressing the politicians directly, Fr Magill tore into the correlation between paramilitary attacks and social degradation.

"The younger generation need jobs. They need a better health service and

education. They need a life – not a gun put in their hands," he said.

"As our politicians, we need you to be working together to make that happen so they will feel the peace process is working for them as well."

It was an inspiring speech, one that articulated a range of emotions felt by many present – deep outrage and sorrow that a special woman whose life was driven by equality, peace and tolerance, who was bursting with talent, wit and vitality, could be laid to waste and a fervent desire that her killing marks a turning point in life in northern Ireland.

Seeing the grief and love of Lyra's mum, siblings and partner Sara, it was heart-breaking to hear her big sister Nichola speak of the void Lyra's death has created for their family, not least for her nieces and nephews – she doted on them and they did on her.

For her NUJ family, the loss is felt throughout the union – from those who knew her personally and those, like me, who wish fervently that they had had the privilege.

NUJ colleagues in Belfast & District branch and in Derry have rallied around in amazing spirit. Journalists across the union – and around the world – have also responded brilliantly, sending in messages of support, organising vigils and sharing social media #WeStandWithLyra.

Many have discovered Lyra's lasting legacy – her writing and journalism. A fine journalist, she used personal experience to draw readers into examining broader, societal issues with great skill.

Most of her work appeared online. She worked for several US titles, as well as ones based on this side of the

Atlantic. Recognised as a fresh voice for Northern Ireland, Lyra was an exemplar of modern, committed journalism, dedicated to engaging with her audience, speaking truth to power and using reporting as a tool to change the world for the better.

Séamus Dooley, NUJ Irish secretary, and I worked with Lyra's friends in the hours after being woken with news of her murder, promoting a fundraising initiative to ensure funeral costs were covered and to create an opportunity to build a lasting legacy to her life. If her death prompts us to do one thing, it should be to consider what circumstances are necessary for more like her to thrive. We need more Lyras.

And we need to use this moment to remind ourselves, and our political leaders, about the global challenges facing media workers right now. Lyra's death highlights just how vulnerable people in our trade can be. According to the International Federation of Journalists, 95 media workers lost their lives during 2018.

The ability to report freely is being challenged and curtailed around the globe. Take Turkey, where more than 300 media workers are behind bars, detained on bogus terror-related offences. Our work to create safe environments in which bold journalism can flourish is needed more than ever.

What practical legacies we can help create in Lyra's memory will be guided by those closest to her. The greatest tribute we can pay her is to find ways to encourage and promote the kind of imaginative, revelatory and brave journalism for which she will be remembered.

The greatest tribute is to encourage and promote the kind of imaginative, revelatory and brave journalism for which she will be remembered

No Stone Unturned reporters need our support, writes **Ronan Brady**

A battle journalism has to win

British journalists arrested on trumped-up charges after exposing police collusion with a racist murder gang? Surely there would be outrage in the Cabinet and an angry phone call from the foreign secretary to the government concerned?

Sadly, if this had happened in the case of Barry McCaffrey and Trevor Birney, the British government would have been phoning itself to complain.

These two Belfast journalists revealed evidence showing police complicity with a sectarian murder spree in 1994. But the collusion did not end there. When McCaffrey and Birney conclusively proved the identities of the killers, they gave the police six months' notice that they were going to name them in a documentary. The police did nothing to warn the killers until the very day the documentary premiered.

Then the two journalists were arrested under the Official Secrets Act. The authorities alleged McCaffrey and Birney had stolen the leaked material and that had endangered the lives of the killers by naming them – even though the police could have injunctioned the programme if they genuinely feared loss of life.

The documentary No Stone Unturned is a meticulous exposure of the 1994 police 'investigation' into a massacre in a rural bar during a football match. It has appeared at a pivotal moment. Recently, more and more evidence has surfaced of Britain's role in the dirty war – cooperation between the police, the military and Loyalist terror gangs during the Troubles.

Birney believes he and his colleague were arrested to discourage such scrutiny: "That was all designed to send a chill factor to our colleagues and our friends and to the wider journalistic community: don't mess with the past in Northern Ireland."

McCaffrey warns "if we lose this case, we won't be the last. It sets a benchmark for what the police can do to other journalists."

The massacre at the Heights bar in Loughinisland, County Down, was truly savage. An Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) gunman entered the pub during a World Cup football match between the Republic of Ireland and Italy on June 18 1994. He sprayed the crowd from behind, killing six and seriously wounding five others, leaving blood, beer and broken glass everywhere. Then he made his getaway.

The victims' relatives were promised justice would be swift and thorough. In patrician tones, Northern Ireland secretary

Patrick Mayhew addressed the killers: "You are going to be caught, sooner or later. The RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] never give up." The senior investigating officer told Claire Rogan, the wife of one of the victims, that the RUC would leave "no stone unturned till we get the perpetrators of this".

McCaffrey was a local journalist at the time and it is the aftermath that really occupies the documentary he made with Birney and Alex Gibney, a US journalist. Because, as Rogan says on film: "I don't think they ever lifted a stone, never mind turned it."

No Stone Unturned exposes the extraordinarily botched police investigation. The RUC was given the getaway car – normally, such evidence would have been burned. Then the Czech murder weapon was found in a field nearby. There was a holdall with gloves, handguns and balaclava masks. Some arrests followed but the suspects were released.

Then came the IRA and the Loyalist ceasefires. Suddenly, in McCaffrey's words: "Loughinisland became something that you didn't talk about." Rogan explains that "time went on and we chose to stay quiet, because that was our nature".

Ten years after the atrocity, that changed and the silent

A guide to the acronyms

PONI (Police Ombudsman For Northern Ireland): the independent statutory body for complaints against the police service. It was set up in 2000 as a result of the peace process. There have been three police ombudsmen.

PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland): the police service since 2001. In 2001, all serving members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary were transferred to the PSNI.

Initially, trainees were recruited on a 50:50 Catholic: Protestant basis but this system was abolished a decade later. Catholics now make up 20 per cent of the membership and the PSNI is on a drive to increase that.

RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary): the police force of Northern Ireland from 1922 until 2001. Frequently accused of bias against the Nationalist community, it was replaced by the PSNI. The first PONI

found that there were incidents of collusion between the RUC and the Ulster Volunteer Force in the killing of a young Loyalist and that there was no reason to believe these were isolated.

UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force): a sectarian terror group responsible for around 500 deaths. Although its stated aim was to counter Republican violence and to 'maintain the Union', most of its victims have been civilian Catholics, chosen at random. The massacre at the Heights bar in Loughinisland was conducted by Ronnie Hawthorn on behalf of the UVF.



Left to right: Barry McCaffrey, Tom Watson, Labour's deputy leader and Trevor Birney

spoke out. They engaged Belfast solicitor Niall Murphy and it transpired that the getaway car – the most important piece of evidence – had been destroyed. A report by the police ombudsman in 2011 admitted evidence had been destroyed, but performed what Murphy described as ‘factual gymnastics’ to avoid using the word ‘collusion’.

Dr Michael Maguire took over as ombudsman in 2012, and took a more robust approach. His 2013 report showed that the senior investigating officer in the Loughinisland case had gone on a month's holidays after visiting the crime scene and promising a thorough investigation. Maguire describes how, within 24 hours, detectives already knew the identity of the killer – but did not arrest him until two months later.

Maguire also found that the papers from the case had been destroyed “because of an asbestos problem” at the police station where they were held. The senior investigating officer in the Loughinisland case refused to cooperate with Maguire and could not be forced to, as he had retired from the PSNI.

Collusion between the police and the killers was clearly identified by Maguire and his investigative team, although the killers were not. However, a 2008 document from the ombudsman's office, leaked to McCaffrey, proved to be key to Maguire's report.

McCaffrey also obtained an anonymous letter from someone admitting to involvement in the Loughinisland murder plot. It named the killers. The gunman was Ronnie Hawthorn. His assistant was Alan Taylor and their driver was Gorman McMullan. Barry later found that the letter was written by Hawthorn's wife, Hilary. The detail in her letter confirmed material in the leaked 2008 report.

The documentary also shows how the British state decided to fight the IRA using the UVF. The weapon used at Loughinisland was from a major arms shipment to the sectarian gang, overseen and protected by the British secret services. These weapons were later used for indiscriminate slaughter.

No Stone Unturned concludes by posing a dilemma

between peace and justice, wondering if the two are mutually exclusive. “Year after year, the past is set aside to make room for the future,” says Gibney, the narrator. What has happened to McCaffrey and Birney since the documentary aired suggests this is an understatement. Twenty years after the Good Friday Agreement, government officials are not just drawing a veil over uncongenial facts – they are actively attempting to criminalise two journalists.

“There isn't a day of our lives that isn't taken up by feeling we have to be constantly aware that we're the focus of a criminal investigation,” says Birney.

This is no exaggeration. He and McCaffrey are fighting the police investigation in the courts. But, should the Belfast judges side with the journalists, the prosecution has threatened to resort to public interest immunity certificates, treating McCaffrey and Birney as if they were terrorists. The prosecution has even hinted it may resort to the secret courts procedure, whereby defendants' legal teams are excluded and they are legally blindfolded.

This is clearly a battle journalism cannot afford to lose.

Hold a film screening and help

ORGANISE A showing of No Stone Unturned. It's easy. It can be rented from iTunes for £1 or bought from You Tube for €7.99. Show it on a laptop to friends or organise a larger event. Make sure to email campaigns@NUJ.org.uk if you are doing so.

Check NUJ Active for showings of No Stone Unturned in your area.

Get your MP to sign Early Day Motion 2091 on Loughinisland and the importance of journalism in the public interest. You can find it in the Early Day Motions section of the House of Commons website at <https://tinyurl.com/y38hxa38>. It's in the name of Conor McGinn MP.

Sign the Amnesty Petition in support of Trevor and Barry. You can find it in the Campaigns section of the NUJ website at www.nuj.org.uk/campaigns/no-stone-untuned

Only part of the

Ministers are keen to control how their work is covered by the media, and adopt various practices to do this, says **Neil Merrick**

It was a quiet Monday in August and, belatedly, the government launched its plan to cut rough sleeping. As expected, James Brokenshire, the housing and communities secretary, gave early morning TV and radio interviews, and national and local media eagerly reported how much the government was spending on homelessness.

Fine, you might think. Except the information put out by the media was not based on anything that reporters had seen in the homelessness strategy. Instead, the main source was a 'story' written by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The strategy itself did not become obvious until early afternoon. Journalists with the time to do this waded through the 77-page document to see if there was anything to add to the earlier headlines, but the day's news agenda had moved on.

Was this government manipulation of the media or just a cock-up by the ministry? Those of a suspicious nature did not have long to find out as, the following day, virtually the same thing happened again.

This time, it was a green paper on social housing, which attracted more interest than usual because of the Grenfell Tower fire. That featured on breakfast bulletins, but the green paper was published at around noon, slightly earlier than when the rough sleeping strategy had appeared the previous day.

Once again, it was game, set and match to the ministry. Headlines harvested and soundbites secured, ministers could sit back in the knowledge that the message had reached the right places in the way they wished, and any subsequent scrutiny by journalists would not attract much attention.

Peter Apps, deputy editor at Inside Housing, says last August was typical of the way the ministry tends to operate. "Every time there is a major policy announcement, it's briefed to a national newspaper that writes it up in a sympathetic way," he says.

Once a minister has appeared on TV or radio, a 'story' or statement is put out by press officers but this may omit vital detail. The magazine's policy is not to publish until reporters have seen the relevant document itself. That is what its readers, mostly housing professionals, expect.

But in the rush to be first with news and feed social media, this can be difficult. Why, asks Apps, do government departments not have documents and other material ready before ministers give interviews or make announcements?

Maybe they are hoping for a better reaction by only presenting a partial picture. If so, they often succeed. At last autumn's Conservative Party conference, Brokenshire unveiled the government's plan to ban combustible cladding on residential tower blocks following Grenfell.

A press statement by the MHCLG received a positive response from the housing sector, says Apps. But days later, when the policy emerged in full, the reaction was less favourable. "We had groups sending us a second reaction when they saw the detail," he says.

It is not only the MHCLG that is criticised for withholding information or putting out statements that exaggerate government performance. In October, the Department for Education was criticised by the UK Statistics Authority for reporting government spending on schools inaccurately.

Should we ever believe what we are told? National papers increasingly tend to publish statements from Whitehall press offices in full, while BBC reporters read out the government's position at the end of stories in the interests of balance.

But who checks when the Ministry of Justice describes the UK's legal aid system as the most expensive in the world, or the Home Office talks about the UK's 'proud tradition' of providing asylum to refugees?

Journalists who rub shoulders with MPs almost every day can also find it tricky to hold government to account.

The three-minute anti-hero on tour

WHEN PLYMOUTH Herald reporter Sam Blackledge had the opportunity to interview the prime minister during the 2017 general election, he was hoping for a scoop, or at least some meaningful quotes about the city.

Instead, Theresa May gave him what the Herald later described as 'three minutes of nothing'.

Already struggling to make much of an impact in the campaign, the prime minister was in true Maybot mode, responding to Blackledge's four questions with bland, almost insulting answers.

The prime minister's visit had been kept secret until the

night before. In the Herald newsroom, Blackledge's colleagues helped draw up four questions he would be allowed to raise at town's fish market. They need not have bothered.

The Herald later published the interview in full. Asked if she was becoming concerned, having visited a marginal constituency twice in six weeks, May replied: "I'm very clear that this is a

crucial election for this country."

Challenged to say how Brexit would benefit Plymouth, she responded: "I think there is a better future ahead for Plymouth and for the whole of the UK."

Blackledge later wondered whether he should have interrupted May or gone 'full angry Paxman' and walked away in protest.

He has since left the Herald for ITV, which refused to allow him to contribute to this article.

Online editor Edd Moore says the interview caused a 'ripple effect' across the UK, capturing the mood of the election. "There was no intention to do a hatchet job on the PM," he adds. "It was borne out of frustration."



RUSSELL HART / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

picture



TRINITY MIRROR / MIRRORPIX / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Christopher Hope, chair of the parliamentary lobby and assistant editor at the Daily Telegraph, says lobby correspondents have more access to ministers and special advisers but are still sometimes frustrated at how announcements are timed to deflect bad publicity.

If a critical report by backbench MPs or the National Audit Office is expected, the government may try to steer public opinion in its favour by announcing a change in policy related to the report or extra spending.

"It can confuse the news agenda, which can only cope with one message," explains Hope. "If the government is doing something, it normally trumps anything from a group of MPs."

In addition, ministers are less likely to hold press conferences or give lengthy interviews to newspapers and magazines. This is partly down to time, says another lobby correspondent.

Ministers are also aware that anything they say to broadcast media is less likely to be 'spun' or taken out of context, with the public sometimes able to see or hear an interview in its entirety.

Over the past 20 years, Whitehall press officers have become increasingly media savvy, says a special adviser during the last Labour government. But this does not necessarily mean they are biased towards the party in power. "Communication officers want to do a good job for their department," he says.

At the same time, adds the former spin doctor, journalists should not assume that press offices deliberately hold information back. There may have been last-minute wrangles between ministers or between Number 10 and the department concerned. "Often, it's incompetence," he says. "The document is just not finished."

Press officers are often keen to offer journalists a prepared quote, or written answers to questions submitted via email, but opportunities to put questions directly to the minister who is supposedly answering them are rare. "The answers are written by press officers," says the former special adviser. "The special adviser will then rewrite them, so they don't sound as if they come from a robot."

If holding the government to account is difficult at national level, it is more so away from Westminster. While regional journalists may have a good relationship with local MPs, a rare visit to the area by a cabinet minister or the prime minister is unlikely to result in much beyond a smile for the cameras.

The experience of the Plymouth Herald during the 2017 general election campaign (see box) illustrates the problem. Edd Moore, editor of the Herald's online edition, says the south-west is largely overlooked by the government, which makes Theresa May's unwillingness to take its questions seriously two years ago more disappointing.

"We feel massively under-represented and ignored by Westminster," says Moore. "Trying to get local issues addressed by senior MPs and cabinet ministers is a real issue."

Back in the Commons, Jim Pickard of the Financial Times says the problem is not new. "It's not always easy to hold the government to account because of the usual tricks of failing to respond properly, non-denial denials and evasiveness," he says. The answer lies in good journalism, including checking that ministers' claims have foundation and are not just soundbites.

Earlier this year, a claim by trade secretary Liam Fox that the UK was replicating EU trade deals with other countries before Brexit was proved wrong when the FT checked with the Department for Trade and Industry. "Ultimately, the government is held to account because you can judge its performance by results and statistics," says Pickard.

THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL

A Banksy artwork caused a frenzy and revealed a sharp local news deficit.

Rachel Howells reports

It was a week before Christmas when Port Talbot steelworker Ian Lewis's life became – in his own words – a nightmare. He had been scrolling through Facebook when he saw photographs of a graffiti mural on a local garage. It showed a boy playing in snow, which, from a different angle, was revealed to be ash falling from a bin on fire, a comment on the town's well-documented air quality issues. There was speculation it could be the handiwork of renowned street artist Banksy – and the garage belonged to Lewis.

"Nobody knew if it was a Banksy or not. It was all a bit exciting and fun at first," Lewis says.

In the following days, Banksy confirmed the work was his and the story went global. The mural was targeted by vandals and would-be thieves.

"I realised I needed security," Lewis says. He dipped into his savings to pay security contractors.

Many locals thought Lewis was lucky. Banksy's notoriety and the high prices of his work prompted some to stop him in the street with a gently mocking: "Here comes the millionaire."

Conversely, many people disliked the intrusion of 2,000 daily visitors during the following weeks, took offence at the mural's anti-industrial message or felt strongly that the artwork ought to stay in Port Talbot rather than be sold and moved away.

Lewis became the target of abuse, both online and in person, and was inundated with calls from journalists. He was signed off work with stress and it took a toll on his family and relationships.

Meanwhile, a Banksy appearing in his home town had piqued the interest of actor Michael Sheen.

"When Banksy confirmed it on his website, I tried to find out what was happening," he says. "It was on private property so not eligible for financial help. So then I contacted Ian."

Tony Colville works for Michael Sheen and was tasked with helping.

"Ian was under a huge amount of pressure," says Colville. "There was so much wrong information. Misleading press releases were going out from all kinds of places, then news reports were coming out – social media was going crazy. We were really worried about Ian. He was not coping."

However, Colville credits the BBC for its coverage. "A reporter from BBC Wales was really the only one who properly engaged with Ian. They did some great pieces, but they are Wales wide – they can't keep covering the ins and outs of such a local story. And I guess it's the same with Wales Online – they are looking for a wider audience."

The buzz of misinformation and rumour that surrounded Lewis is surely common to many ordinary people who become unwitting celebrities during an unfolding news story.

Academic research suggests that Port Talbot is one of a growing number of places classed as 'news black holes', and this gives rise to additional problems during a story like this.

I am familiar with that news black hole. In 2009, I was one of seven NUJ members who founded hyperlocal news service the Port Talbot Magnet, prompted by the closure of the town's weekly newspaper, the Port Talbot Guardian. I also began a PhD at Cardiff University to examine whether there was a democratic deficit in Port Talbot following the Guardian's closure.

My research found a steep reduction in local news provision. Since 1970, Port Talbot has lost more than 90 per cent of its journalists. Just one hard-working reporter now covers the (much-expanded) patch for Reach plc's WalesOnline/



IN THE WALL

South Wales Evening Post, compared with 11 who once reported on the town across five titles.

Since 2009, the town has also lost its council newspaper, its community radio station and, sadly, the Port Talbot Magnet, which became a casualty of the 2016 steel crisis and its impact on the local economy.

It is unsurprising that I found a decline in the amount of news being provided, together with the quality of the coverage.

Local people were affected. In the absence of local journalism, I found rumour, speculation and a heavy reliance on social media. Residents told me they were finding out about significant issues too late to react to them, and often not until they had physically bumped into information. Signs, protests, petitions, closed roads and even – yes! – graffiti, had all become important news sources.

Scrutiny of the powerful was also damaged. Journalists were far less likely to attend council meetings or magistrates' courts, and more likely to rely on press releases or official statements. Institutions were opaque and difficult for citizens to navigate. Even seasoned campaigners reported difficulties in getting questions answered, finding accountable people to complain to, and communicating widely any accurate information they were able to uncover.

The research provides strong evidence that the basic duties of journalism – to keep people informed and represent their views and to scrutinise those in power – have been compromised by the decline in local media.

Bethan Sayed, a regional Welsh Assembly member covering Port Talbot, chairs the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, which carried out an inquiry into news journalism last year. This recognised the impact of the decline in local media, and made recommendations, which included a £200,000 grant to help hyperlocal news start-ups in Wales.

When the Banksy turned up, she stepped in to support Lewis and saw the issues first hand.

"There was a lot of misinformation. I ended up writing an article for [current affairs blog] Nation.Cymru and tweeting. I got a lot of flak, but, at times, the only way we could get accurate information out was if I did it myself."

She is keenly aware of the lack of a local outlet for the kind of well-informed debate traditionally provided by local newspapers.

"Now the hysteria has died down, there's no space for discussion about the future of the Banksy, the future of art in the town, nor an ongoing focus on pollution and the issues the artwork raises. National reporters have lost interest and gone."

Sheen agrees: "It was obvious there was a growing sense of ownership of the Banksy in the town. If someone had been accurately reporting and reflecting opinions, the community would have had a stronger sense of what to do with it and, maybe, a better say in what happened to it."

Sheen contacted me after the Port Talbot Magnet closed and our conversations led to him commissioning me to carry out more research – this time to look at innovative and sustainable ways of trying to solve Port Talbot's news deficit.

He explains: "I wanted to find out what ideas for sustainable journalism exist around the UK and the world, to explore those ideas and see what I could do to try to adapt them and bring something to Port Talbot."

The research is under way, but some things are already clear. The loss of local media, including the Port Talbot Magnet, shows we cannot go back to funding or reporting news in the old ways.

Many new models gaining traction around the world, funded by subscription or memberships, are redefining news reporting. The most successful are putting themselves on a more equal footing with communities, building trust and transparency, and forging partnerships with local people. A new kind of journalism is emerging.

Sheen says: "If people feel that power is not held to account, they don't have a voice or news can't be trusted, that leads to anger, frustration, fear. If we want any chance of having people's voices heard on the national stage, we need better representation of communities locally. The health of local journalism is central to that. We hope this research will point us in the right direction."

Rachel Howells is co-author of *Hyperlocal Journalism* (Routledge, 2018). Her research at bit.ly/2yNRz0X; follow her at @raehowells



Jonathan Sale looks at how 'matters in Rhodesia' led to the first newspaper headline – and fears an art may be lost

Have I got Evening News for you

Under the masthead there was a proud boast: "The Evening News has the largest circulation of any evening newspaper in the world." At least, it was until Wednesday July 8, 1896. The now defunct London newspaper, which older readers may remember because, like me, they made a few quid from the odd tip-off to the newsdesk, made history on that date. In the place of those usual 14 words were eight new ones: 'Matters in Rhodesia Grow Worse Instead of Better'. Yes, a sub could have sharpened it up: once one has stated that matters are deteriorating, a reader will get the general idea that they are not improving.

However, those were early days. This Rhodesian report has been hailed as Britain's first front-page headline above a news story. One could argue over the winner in this race; a rival paper had previously produced 'Many Happy Returns of the Day – Wedding of Professor Stuart MP' but this had little news value. Over in the US, the Chicago Times had introduced banner headlines nearly three years earlier, although these initially accompanied not news stories but editorials such as 'Let Congress Stop Talking and Act' – a fairly timeless theme.

The Evening News itself had been toying for two years with headlines but these tended to be of a mere two-column width. This new one was perched over five whole columns. And what a long-running story Rhodesia (as was) and Zimbabwe (as is) was to be.

However, the concept of the headline as a work of art and craft may be on the way out, according to one of the former editors whose brains I picked for this piece.

Readers drawn in by those pioneering eight words on that Thursday in July would have scanned the front page for the accompanying article on Rhodesian matters. The first column contains nothing but small ads for financial and

other services. The second column is similar, including an ad for 'wind pills' and another for 'distressing diseases of the skin', illustrated with a line drawing. The third column has an actual article but its subject is 'man-hunting' by police; one suspect has left clues that lead police to search for him in Paris but later sends them a mocking postcard from New York. An intriguing yarn but nothing about the Rhodesian crisis.

The fourth column brings 'Gossip of the Day', which is that Prince Charles of Denmark has been listening to parliamentary debates. On the Rhodesian crisis perhaps? No, on the Budget Bill. In the nibs: a German has invented small bombs which cyclists can chuck when dogged by dogs.

No joy in the fifth column, either. 'Our Short Story – a Whistling Girl' is two columns of women saying things like "I was such a goose just now." On the subject of geese, the final column, entitled 'Items concerning Events of the Day and Things in General' features the second reading of the Agricultural Rating Bill.

Page two of the four-page paper (a government tax on newspapers was calibrated according to the pagination, so they were very thin) brings us 'The Seamy Side. As Revealed at the London Police Courts' plus the final heats at the Henley races.

It is only on page three – more than halfway through the issue – that we reach the actual piece: 'Rhodesia. Grave news from Fort Salisbury. Zulus and Colonial Kaffirs are armed with assegais and spears, and enjoy the fighting.' Furthermore, 'Provisions of all kinds [are] at Famine Prices' to such an extent that one starving man killed and ate his pointer, giving a new meaning to the term dog food.



War, peace and other bloopers

"RUMINATING ABOUT great Daily Express headlines, one can't help reviving the biggest blooper of all," says Richard Addis, who edited the paper from 1995 to 1999.

"September 30th 1938 – and the giant single word 'Peace' across the top of page one."

Unfortunately the correct word would have been 'War', which, in the same month only a year later, Britain declared on Germany.

"I guess it makes my own worst bungle pale by comparison," he says.

That was to misspell a vital word when he was working for the Rome Daily American in 1990. 'Aradaft attacks US', it read in 72-point bold capitals. This must have been a surprise to

Yasser Arafat, who was under the impression that he was the perpetrator in question.

"My own most famous Express headline, of which I am rather ashamed now, was on Thursday 4th September 1997: 'Show us you care' over the photo of Her Maj." It was the first headline to sum up public rage at the supposed insensitivity of the Queen after Princess Diana died. The Washington Post followed it with a splash: 'Can the royals survive?' Well, Addis points out, "They did."





Looking
back to:
1896



whose previously secret identity was revealed by his neighbours.

Another of Jack's memorable headlines never appeared on newsprint – only on celluloid: “In ‘The Day the Earth Caught Fire’, much of it filmed in the offices of the Daily Express, two front pages are prepared – ‘World Saved’ and ‘World Doomed’ – because the film ends on a cliffhanger.” The page proofs with these messages bring the film to a close.

Trevor Grove, late of the Sunday Telegraph, was another former occupant of the editorial chair (the collective noun is a ‘splash’ of ex-editors) whom I asked about his high points in the history of headlines. He judged that the best Sun splash was ‘Bin Bagged’, printed when Osama Bin Laden was killed. He added, “My first journalistic job was at The Spectator. It included proof-reading the books pages. A review of a batch of sci-fi novels was marked ‘Heading to Come’. ‘Good one,’ I thought, and that’s how it appeared.”

In view of the nail-biting court battle under his editorship that they entailed, it is natural that Alan Rusbridger of The Guardian had ‘A Liar and a Cheat’ and ‘Aitken: He Lied and Lied and Lied’ in his list. He also gave a thumbs-up to the Mail’s ‘Murderers’ (ie of Stephen Lawrence) and a thumbs-down to ‘Enemies of the People’ (the judges who declared that Brexit required a Westminster vote). He gave an honourable – or perhaps dishonourable – mention to The Sun’s ‘Freddie Starr ate my Hamster’ and to ‘If Kinnock Wins Today Will the Last Person to Leave Britain Turn Out the Lights’. The less familiar but intriguing ‘Enough is Enough’ in 1968 was the attempt by the Mirror, or at least of chairman Cecil King, at a coup against the Labour government; in fact it was the whacky King who was axed.

Ian Jack suspects that these clever creations may, like The Evening News, be a dying breed: “An interesting development in headline writing is the change that online publishing and search engines have brought about. Headlines that use word play – the subeditor’s delight – have almost vanished. Now they need to reflect the bare essentials of the story, or a search engine won’t find them.”

He quotes The Sun’s famous example above its match report when Caley, aka Inverness Caledonian Thistle, thrashed Celtic: ‘Super Caley Go Ballistic Celtic are Atrocious’. (The Liverpool Echo had earlier referenced the same Mary Poppins tongue-twister but never mind.)

“My guess is that this would these days be rendered as ‘Shock Defeat for Celtic’ or something similar,” he concludes.

Pretty soon, it dawned on editors that the headline could be on the same page as the text it referred to and, even better, directly underneath. The front-page headline caught on and flourished. The Times was the prominent exception. Among the front pages displayed in the British Library’s excellent Newsroom is that of the 1805 issue of The Thunderer reporting on the Battle of Trafalgar. However, on a slow news day – ie, one without a spectacular nautical victory against the wicked French – the front page was devoid of anything of a topical or, indeed, editorial nature. This was still the case on May 2, 1966. The Times was then a broadsheet and its front page consisted entirely of small ads. Here were births (from Bennet to Wellington White) and deaths (two-thirds of a column – with readers dying like flies, no wonder action was called for). The same mixture can be seen on page two (wanted: manpower economist in Zambia). Pages three and four had sport and page five arts. It wasn’t until the sixth broadsheet page that the lead story popped up, top left: ‘AA Subscription Going Up.’ It was a modest display but at least bigger than the ‘Latest wills’ slot, bottom left. On May 3, the paper itself was the real news

for its readers. As a front-page poem to the now displaced ads for cooks and paying guests put it, ‘Page One on graver issues must brood.’ Above the fold alone, there were 11 stories. The rumour was that, at the Times daily conference, a tricky question had been posed: “What would a real newspaper lead on?” The answer came in its first front-page headline: ‘London to be new HQ for NATO.’ Again, these were early days. It was not quite as memorable as The Sun’s ‘Gotcha’ would be in 1982 or ‘Whose Finger?’ (on the nuclear trigger) with which the Daily Mirror had attacked Churchill in 1951 as a warmonger. These were the two headlines that sprang to Ian Jack’s mind when I asked the former editor of the Independent on Sunday about headlines which lingered in his memory. And he should know: “I won the headline writer of the year award in the British [now National] Press Awards in 1995 – but I can’t now remember what the headline was.” It deserves resurrecting here, although it wasn’t the Sindy’s lead story: ‘4,000 Moles in Blackburn, Lancashire’, which picked up on the Sergeant Pepper track, sat happily above a wonderful piece about a lottery winner from that town

Keeping the rubbish out of Brexit coverage



Conscience clause would protect journalists, says **Raymond Snoddy**

Peter Osborne, the Daily Mail's political columnist, has done a couple of remarkable things in his career, apart from making decent Dispatches programmes for Channel 4.

In 2015, he resigned from the Daily Telegraph in protest against the paper's coverage – or lack of coverage – of HSBC, calling this 'a fraud on its readers'.

His recent conversion from ardent Brexiteer to Remainer, announced on the OpenDemocracy website but amplified in personal appearances across the broadcast media, was even more remarkable.

Osborne pulled no punches, arguing that the economic case for Brexit had been destroyed, the UK had been turned into a laughing stock and it was time for a rethink.

Future generations would 'damn us' for what we were now doing.

Osborne is a famous and powerful columnist and has the luxury and freedom to be able to take strong public positions.

Whether such opinions can be combined permanently with his post on the pro-Brexit Daily Mail is less than clear.

For Osborne, it hardly matters. He could quickly find a new perch on a more compatible newspaper or earn lots of money as a freelance.

But what does the average journalist with a mortgage and family do when faced with having to create or process information that is demonstrably false involving the Brexit debate, one of the most important peacetime turning points for generations?

Boris Johnson, as often happens, provides the perfect example.

The Daily Telegraph told press regulator Ipso that Johnson's columns were 'comically polemical' and could not be read as in-depth analysis of factual matters.

In short, the Johnson claim that a majority of the population were perfectly happy with a no-deal Brexit was complete rubbish.

But what of the journalists who had to turn this rubbish into the paper's front page splash, almost certainly perfectly aware that the claim was nonsense?

The NUJ has been campaigning for a conscience clause to protect journalists who refuse to do anything that breaks its code of ethics.

It would enable journalists to resist threats or any inducements to influence, distort or suppress information or use unethical methods to pursue a story.

In all likelihood, we will soon be entering a highly divisive European election campaign, with the possibility of further months of disruption to come, perhaps culminating in either a second referendum or a confirmatory vote.

There is an urgent need for the conscience clause campaign to be restated in the context of Brexit and reinvigorated in advance of the coming storm.

Whatever your position in the referendum debate, such an important matter should not be decided on the basis of distorted or false information, or campaigns against immigrants, and journalists on the more committed papers will inevitably find themselves once more in the line of fire and deserve greater protection.

They should not be forced to lie or

mislead in what could easily become the ultimate fraud on their readers.

Whatever your starting position, it is an undeniable fact that in the referendum campaign the pro-Brexit press sold their readers an almost comically naive version of the likely joys of Brexit.

We were told that the UK held all the cards in the negotiations with the EU and nothing would be more simple than negotiating wonderful trade deals with the rest of the world. Those who warned that the Northern Ireland issue was politically insoluble were accused of scaremongering.

In a European election held in a state of political paralysis, what are those papers now going to tell their readers?

It would be nice to think that they, like Osborne, could have a rethink and admit, for goodness sake, that they might just have got it wrong.

This is very unlikely to happen. There is not going to be one of Kelvin MacKenzie's reverse ferrets.

So they will probably sail on peddling the same line whether it fits the facts or not, with serious consequences not just for journalists but for the papers themselves.

If they continue to mislead and suppress inconvenient facts, they will effectively make themselves utterly irrelevant to a younger generation who are disproportionately pro-European and already difficult to sell newspapers to at the best of times.

For journalists, arguing the case for a Brexit conscience clause is a matter of the greatest urgency particularly if there is to be a second vote in some form – one that could be even more bitter and divisive than the first.

Journalists should not be forced to lie or mislead in what could easily become the ultimate fraud on their readers

What made you become a journalist?

I went to Sussex University, which had a then cutting-edge approach involving doing bits of history, philosophy, literature, sociology, psychology and much else. I wrote a weekly essay on a subject I didn't quite understand – perfect preparation for upmarket weekly journalism.

What other job might you have done/have you done?

I applied to firms such as Ford and Unilever to work in marketing. But I told them at interview that they should be nationalised. They weren't ready for that.



NUJ & Me

Peter Wilby is a former editor of the Independent on Sunday and the New Statesman

**When did you join the NUJ and why?**

In 1968. An obvious thing for a Labour Party member to do.

Are many of your friends in the union?

Since most of my friends are journalists, I should hope all of them are NUJ members.

What is the worst place you've ever worked in?

Wapping, to which Rupert Murdoch moved the Times and Sunday Times (I was education correspondent at the latter) in 1986, sacking all the printers and clerical workers who had served the papers at their previous site. To work there, journalists had to cross picket lines. Some, calling

themselves 'refuseniks', refused to go. I joined them initially, then went, then left after a few months. That, I suppose, made me a 'confusenik'.

And the best?

The Independent in the first three years after its launch in 1986. It was a magical time as a new politically independent and, crucially,

proprietor-less newspaper steadily gained circulation until it was breathing down the necks of the Times and Guardian.

What advice would you give someone starting in journalism?

Make yourself an indispensable expert in at least one subject.

Who is your biggest hero?

Kingsley Martin, for surviving 29 years as New Statesman editor

And villain?

Whichever of the Barclay family is most responsible for ruining the Daily Telegraph.

Which six people (alive or dead) would you invite to a dinner party?

RH Tawney, Margaret Thatcher, Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, Rosa Luxembourg – and Joseph Heller who could make a comic novel out of such a riotous event.

**What was your earliest political thought?**

That something wasn't quite right about the British invading Egypt in 1956.

What are your hopes for journalism over the next five years?

That it survives.

And fears?

That it will be overwhelmed by fake news and penury.

How would you like to be remembered?

I shall be flattered if I am remembered at all.

NewStatesman

What's been the best moment of your career?

Becoming editor of the New Statesman in 1998, an ambition I had nurtured since I briefly worked as education correspondent for the magazine under Anthony Howard in the mid-1970s.



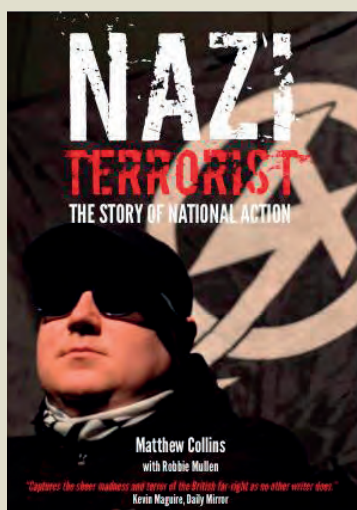
arts with attitude

Some of the best things to see and do with a bit of political bite

For listings email: arts@NUJ.org.uk

Theatre

A Nazi escapee and the police



"After a curry and a few pints, going to prison seemed like a good idea," says NUJ member and Nazi Terrorist author Matthew Collins.

"It was only after we sobered up we realised it wasn't, which is when we sought legal advice."

Collins and Nick Lowles, the chief executive of Hope not Hate, were trying to protect Robbie Mullen, a member of National Action who had turned on his former colleagues, later revealing a plot to murder MP Rosie Cooper.

The police believed National Action, which had been banned by then Home Secretary Amber Rudd in December 2016, had folded.

But Mullen's evidence proved them wrong and, when he went to Hope not Hate, the police were angry.

"London counterterrorism police were particularly pissed off with us," Collins tells Arts with Attitude.

"They said we broke the law by running a mole in a proscribed

organisation and weren't prepared to do any deals for him or us. They were humiliated. They shouted down the phone at Nick 'hand him over'. We were told if we didn't hand Robbie over, then Nick and I would face prosecution.

"We went to dinner and discussed it. We'd made Robbie a promise we wouldn't give him up without a deal and we stuck by that."

Collins has written a book – part thriller, part reference – about National Action, which he asked me to edit.

Like many journalists, he has received death threats from far-right activists – something he has lived with since writing his first book, *Hate*, about his own time working for the National Front.

"All of us at Hope not Hate operate under some kind of risk and these are heightened times because of the trials involving National Action," he says.

"The past two years have been particularly stressful but I've given up counting the number of times I've been personally threatened over the last 20 years.

"The biggest threat to doing my job reporting on the far right is the police not checking people's media credentials.

"I've lost count how many times some fascist screams 'I'm a journalist' and is allowed through the media cordon. I end up face-to-face with the very people I'm reporting on."

*** *Nazi Terrorist* is published by Hope not Hate and is available from <http://naziterrorist.com> £12.99**



by **Tim Lezard**

Festivals

Merthyr Rising
Merthyr Tydfil
24-26 May

This relatively new event on the festival calendar takes place on the anniversary of one of the first organised uprisings by UK workers when, in May 1831, South Wales coal miners protested at the lowering of their wages. The rebellion – the Merthyr Rising – spread to nearby towns and villages and was put down only when troops intervened. Twenty four protesters were killed and 26 were tried for their part in the revolt. This event is celebrated through a cultural festival of music, arts, political discussion and ideas.

This year's headliners are Shaun Ryder's Black Grape, Liverpool 1990s rock band Cast and American hip-hop artists Sugarhill Gang.
www.merthyrising.org.uk



Imagine
Edinburgh
15 May-2 June

One festival that's been around a little longer – 30 years, in fact – is Imagine. Located in Edinburgh, it's an event that promotes, develops and celebrates theatre and dance for children and young people.

This year sees a range of performances including a voyage from a retro kitchen into outer space, a truly invisible man and a journey into the home of a miniaturist.

You don't need to pack anything except your imagination.
<http://imagine.org.uk>



Exhibitions

Van Gogh and Britain
Tate Britain, London
Until 11 August

Hot on the heels of At Eternity's Gate (see the last edition of Arts with Attitude), Tate Britain is hosting an exhibition about Vincent Van Gogh's time in Britain.

He lived here for several years as a young man, walking the streets alone, dreaming of the future and falling in love with British culture (Dickens, Eliot, Constable).

This exhibition features some of his most famous works (including *Sunflowers*) as well as paintings by artists such as Francis Bacon who were inspired by him.

www.tate.org.uk

Books

Rule Britannia – Brexit and the End of Empire
Danny Dorling and Sally Tomlinson
Biteback Publishing

This wide-ranging analysis of Brexit is (so far) the only book published on the subject this year.

It is a call to leave behind the jingoistic ignorance of the past and build a fairer Britain because, despite the media narrative that Brexit was down to working-class Northerners, 52 per cent of people who voted Leave lived in the southern half of England.

"I think journalists pushed the northern working class line because they copied each other and there was



little to initially go on," Danny Dorling tells Arts with Attitude.

"I don't blame the media for the result. The BBC really did try to be fair in the run-up."

www.bitebackpublishing.com/books/rule-britannia

Theatre

Blueprint Medea

Finborough Theatre, London
Until 8 June

Penned by NUJ freelance member Julia Pascal and based on interviews with Kurdish fighters living in the UK, this play tells the tale of Medea.

Medea arrives in the UK on a forged passport and, after slipping through immigration, discovers how to exist on the margins of London life. She settles down and starts a family – then her world falls apart and her thoughts turn to revenge.

This play connects the classical and the contemporary to explores questions of

passion, war, cultural identity, women's freedom, sex, family and love.

www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk



Films

Tolkein

On national release

Starring Nicholas Hoult as JRR Tolkien and Lily Collins as his Gloucester-born wife, Edith, this biopic explores the formative years of the writer's artistic inspiration, leading to his famous Middle-earth novels.

www.foxsearchlight.com/tolkien/

Vita & Virginia

On national release from 21 July

Gemma Arterton stars as English socialite and novelist Vita Sackville-

Graffiti

Tagging in the Parisian night

SHOT IN one night, photojournalist Marc Vallée's new book, *Down and Up in Paris*, beautifully captures the shadowy world of graffiti writers.

Vallée takes us into their secretive world as, faces covered with hoodies, they go about their business tagging buildings and vehicles in the dead of night.

"I've spent years documenting the London and Paris graffiti scene," Marc tells Arts with Attitude.

"Building trust is essential so I'm reluctant to give too many background details about my

subjects. The bottom line is the writers trust me and that gives me access.

"Most Parisians aren't interested in a kid painting the side of a truck at 4am in the rain, and just walk by. Of course, the French state might take a different position.

"About halfway into shooting a very bourgeois Parisian pulled up on his top-end motorbike – one of those with two wheels at the front – and he fell over onto the street.

"He was drunk and the graffiti



writer and I lifted up the bike that was crushing him. We suggested that maybe he should park up and walk home – he didn't. And we went on our way."

A black-and-white masterpiece.

<https://marcvallee.co.uk/Down-and-Up-in-Paris>

West and Elizabeth Debicki as her lover Virginia Woolf.

Their romance overcomes all social boundaries, and touches on the patriarchy but, ultimately, Virginia's mental health as she struggles to cope with Vita's recklessness.

www.mirror-productions.com



Comedy

Jess Robinson: No Filter

On tour until 8 June

Multi award-winning Jess Robinson (The Last Leg, Dead Ringers, The Now Show and, erm, Britain's Got Talent) returns with a live band to provide spot-on musical comedy, vocal gymnastics and incredible celebrity impressions of Shakira and Streisand via Adele, Lady Gaga, Kate Bush, Marge Simpson and Theresa May.

www.jessrobinson.co.uk

Mark Steel: Everything's Going To Be Alright

On tour until 1 June

The star of BBC Radio 4's Mark Steel's In Town hits the road again, this time

reflecting on what's been a traumatic few years that's seen him go through a less-than-amicable divorce.

He cleverly intertwines the personal and the political, talking about how the explosion of hatred and anger seems to have come suddenly, but has been building up for a while without being noticed. A bit like Brexit.

<http://marksteelinfo.com/tour/>

Ireland: a Survivor's Guide International bar Wicklow Street From 11 June

A rollercoaster guide to Irish culture and customs, people and history, using physical comedy sketches, audience interaction and a box of strange props, this satirical show

takes you through the complete history of Ireland in seven minutes, touching on hurling and Irish music among other pleasures.

www.irelandasurvivorsguide.com



Music

Manic Street Preachers

On tour
May

I've seen the Manics only once since Richey vanished, and I love the way they leave a mic standing stage right, in case he rejoins them. Although I think their music has suffered since he left, no one else does, so join them touring This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours 20 years after it came out, in a series of intimate venues.

www.manicstreetpreachers.com



Music

Frickin' awesome women take the stage

THE FIRST bands have been announced for this year's Loud Women Fest, to be held at The Dome and the Boston Music Room in London on 14 September.

Loud Women is a DIY collective that champions

women in music by hosting live events they describe as "fun, friendly, and frickin' awesome".

Since they last appeared in Arts with Attitude, Loud Women have gone from strength to strength.

Founded by NUJ member Cassie Fox in 2015 as a response to wanting to play gigs where her band were not the only women in the green room, they now organise gigs in New York, Los Angeles and Australia.

The London line-up looks awesome, including Brighton garage rock gal pal duo ARXX, London alt-rock trio Hurtling, Norwich Riot Grrrrrls Peach Club, raging feminist post hardcore Petrol Girls, Second Hand Underpants from Turkey

and Atlanta-based female fusion indie rockers The Txlips Band.

All profits go to the artists, and any additional funds raised go to charities that help women.

<http://tinyurl.com/y37v3jnr>

Collect your royal flush

Freelances can earn extra money for work already published though collecting societies **Isabella Kaminski** explains

Having freelanced on and off for a decade, I'm well aware of how much fees have been degraded. So I'm always pleased when a deposit arrives in my bank account from the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) – an extra lump sum for work I've already done.

It was never quite clear to me how the system for distributing royalties worked, and I became aware that some fellow freelances did not even know they could make a claim.

Collecting societies sprung up in the 1970s as a response to the widespread use of photocopiers and the ensuing proliferation in copyright infringements. They were set up to manage and track the use of copyrighted works, and to ensure writers and publishers were being paid for the use of their works.

The role of these organisations has shifted slightly since with changes to technology and regulations. The 2016 EU directive on collective rights management in particular increased the onus on collecting societies to show how they collect money and to investigate how works are being used.

But their main goals remain the same. In the UK, the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) arranges collective secondary licences of copyrighted works on behalf of writers and other creative professionals. These are sold to schools, universities, libraries, government departments and businesses to cover the copying of published materials beyond 'fair use', for example extensive photocopying and internal reproduction.

Collecting societies take fees from these group licences or, occasionally, individual licences and distribute them

to their members. To make money, these non-profit organisations take a one-off fee or a cut of the royalties.

There are benefits to freelance journalists in joining a collecting society – it would be impractical or impossible to get the money from secondary licensing themselves. NUJ freelance organiser Pamela Morton says freelances should certainly be claiming this additional money.

Royalties can be claimed only for works where writers have retained some degree of copyright. These payments are not available to employees or freelancers who have signed their rights over. There are also time limits to making claims so the sooner you sign up, the better.

People who write for books and magazines with ISBN or ISSN can claim royalties through the ALCS; membership is free to those in the NUJ. Set up more than 40 years ago, the ALCS has more than 100,000 members. Last year, they received an average of £418 each, although this varied significantly depending on the work done and where it was published. Some people get four-figure sums.

Book authors can sign up to receive additional money for use of their books under the Public Lending Right.

Photographers (including those running picture libraries) and illustrators can get royalties through the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS), or its newer competitor Pictsel.

Newspapers are a trickier area. NLA Media Access is the main collecting society in this sector, but it is owned by publishers and most of its revenue goes directly to them.

Alan Geere, director of the NLA's

special contributors scheme, says publishers are responsible for distributing royalties to freelancers. Where individuals are due less than £100 or the contributor cannot be found, the money is donated to the Journalists' Charity.

The NUJ believes that most publishers do not do enough to identify and distribute royalties to freelancers. However, Geere says the scheme's biennial analysis of the newspaper sector shows most freelancers sign over secondary licensing rights to publishers, and adds that the NLA does not cover certain uses, such as syndication.

The royalty collection system is not perfect; writers and photographers have to inform societies about their work and it is nearly impossible to track everywhere an article or image has been used.

In addition, the online use of works without permission or payment is a significant issue for authors, according to the ALCS, which has been investing in copyright education programmes to increase awareness.

But royalties remain a valuable source of income for freelances. The money is already yours – it is just waiting for you to claim it.

Useful websites

Increase your skills ALCS

www.alcs.co.uk

DACS

www.dacs.org.uk

Public lending right

www.bl.uk/plr

NLA special contributors scheme

www.nlamediaaccess.com/default.aspx?tabid=210



Lyra McKee

“Make this stop. Please, you have to make it stop now.” As Theresa May and Leo Varadkar stood together in front of St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, waiting for the hearse to carry Lyra McKee to her resting place in Carnmoney, a distraught man walked over to them, made this quiet plea and moved on. The premiers glanced at one another and turned to face the grieving family.

The prime minister and taoiseach had earlier joined a lengthy standing ovation when Catholic priest Martin Magill, speaking in the city’s Protestant cathedral, asked “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 bring the region’s politicians together?

A few days earlier, party leaders had attended a vigil in the Creggan, in Derry city, where Lyra had been shot on April 18 while observing a riot. That gathering and the interdenominational nature of the packed funeral service were

testimony to Lyra’s gift for reaching out, bridging gaps, and challenging stale dogmas.

Lyra McKee, born in north Belfast in 1990, was only eight years old when the Good Friday Agreement laid down a pathway out of the morass of the Troubles. The promised land of equality, tolerance and parity of esteem was, as she documented in a journalistic career that began in her mid-teens, never fully realised. Though she planned to propose this month to the love of her life, Sara Canning from Derry, she knew that they were denied the right to marry in Northern Ireland. Lyra never gave up hope on that; Lyra was hope.

“It’s LEER-ah, actually”: a gentle correction that she must have issued thousands of times, because she seemed to know everyone. She had an astonishing knack for establishing friendships that should each have lasted a proper lifetime. Instead, we were robbed of this five-foot-nothing bundle of curiosity and optimism aged just 29. She then looked little older than the “14-year-old self” whom she addressed from a decade’s hindsight, in a moving blog post,

later turned into a film, about growing up gay in an intolerant society. Her older self reassured the ‘odd’ kid: “It’s going to be OK ... In a year’s time, you’re going to join a scheme that trains people your age to be journalists. You’ll have found your calling ... Keep hanging on, kid. It’s worth it. I love you.”

Lyra stayed in touch and in love with those who could not see that far ahead, and wrote about the epidemic of suicide among the ‘Good Friday generation’: 4,500 deaths since 1998, many more lost lives than in the Troubles. Her Belfast Telegraph piece on April 14 directly addressed troubled youngsters: “It gets better ... please, I beg you, live.”

After the springboard provided in her teens by the Headliners charity, of which she recently became a trustee, Lyra’s journalism focused on human stories about intolerance, injustice and loss; notably, the IRA killing of a Belfast MP, and the disappearance and probable murder of children from her own neighbourhood.

She used her vast reservoirs of charm on anyone who would talk to her; those on the receiving end of her phone calls might have to trade nuggets of information for the delight of hearing the latest gossip about mutual acquaintances.

It remains to be seen whether the

killing of Lyra, a member of Belfast and District Branch, can restore momentum to the stagnant politics of Northern Ireland. There is, at least, a thundering popular reproach to the leaders of the ‘republican’ group that showed its contempt for the *res publica* when it sent a youth out on a dark night to fire a handgun up a street full of people – an action that was likely to, was intended to, and did result in death.

The turnout of members of Irish NUJ branches, national officials and lay officers was sufficient to provide a 100-strong guard of honour as Lyra left on that final journey. Grizzled hacks shared the space with Lyra’s generation, many wearing items recalling the Harry Potter stories that Lyra so loved.

The GoFundMe appeal, initially intended to cover the family’s immediate expenses, has soared past £65,000 at the time of going to press. Please support it and ask your chapel or branch to contribute, so that we who cannot think of Lyra without a smile on her face, and in our hearts, can help Sara and Lyra’s family – her mother Joan, sisters Nichola, Mary and Joan, and brothers Gary and David – to mark the legacy of this beautiful young woman. We stand with Lyra.

Ciarán Ó Maoláin



Your Say...

inviting letters, comments, tweets



Please keep
comments to
200 words
maximum

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The Journalist
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London WC1X 9NB
Tweet to:
@mschrisbuckley

£30
prize
letter



TIM ELLIS

Offer under-30s what they want from a union

As the only NUJ member on a 10-reporter-strong desk on a national newspaper, I often get asked why I'm in the union. The other reporters are mainly in their 20s on modest wages and saving up for deposits on first properties.

They cannot understand why I pay hundreds of pounds a year in membership fees, and I struggle to tell them why, for them, it would make financial sense. I've explained how collective bargaining, for instance, is good for all us and the help the union can give in times of trouble. Thankfully, few of them have been through rounds of redundancies and so this aspect does not strike a chord either.

Has the union considered cut-price membership for under-30s as a way to get them through the door? I fear the reasons people used to join – to improve working conditions, promote freedom of the press and so on – are not enough. Like newspapers offering subscriptions with 2-for-1 cinema deals and free Fitbits, the NUJ should entice the next generation with things they actually want.

Sam Brodbeck
London

Once based on the area of journalism in which you worked, with the highest rates for those in national newspapers and broadcasting, the NUJ's subscription rates are now based on actual earnings – a move designed to introduce greater fairness and consistency for new recruits to the union. There is a minimum rate of just £10 a month for the lowest paid, provisions for members to apply for a further discount subject to eligibility and special deals for student members as they move into their first jobs or are trying to establish themselves in journalism. While we do not currently have a deal specifically for the under-30s, we do regularly offer special deals for people joining, particularly in areas where we are organising to build stronger chapels and gain recognition – vital ingredients to build collective strength and enable chapels to push for better wages and improve terms and conditions.

Michelle Stanistreet
NUJ general secretary

Open identity would end abuse on social media

Amid the rising tide of vitriolic abuse across social media, there have been few real breakthroughs in regulating hate speech. It occurs to me there is one step that would both reduce the volume of digital hatred and, perhaps, make it slightly easier for the police to act in extreme cases.

That would be to place the onus on Facebook and other outlets to insist

more forcefully on open identity of the person posting. The current system has only an IP address to go on. If users had to supply verifiable ID to be allowed the privilege of using social media outlets, then I would guess some 80 per cent would not risk making foul tweets and posts. The verification data could be kept out of view, but name and location should be visible.

There would be a great cost to the

social media giants to ensure systems could verify as much as possible. But, as with letters to the editor in the traditional media, in all cases anonymity would be discouraged.

It would also make it easier for the rather pedestrian police action against hate crimes to act to prosecute such glaring abuses of free speech.

Still, if the police can't even defend the offices of the attorney general from threatening thugs, then we may have a

long wait to see them catch out the social media hate-mongers.

Dave Siddall
Cumbria

First black team caption was not playing rugby

Michael O'Hare is right to point out that too many publications fail to differentiate between the two codes of rugby (Letters, March/April). However, I believe he is mistaken to claim rugby league gave Britain its first black captain of any national sports team.

That honour belongs to Guyana-born Andrew Watson, who was the world's first black footballer to be capped at international level. Remarkably, he captained Scotland on his international debut, a 6-1 victory over England at the Oval cricket ground in 1881.

Journalist readers may be interested to know that a crowdfunding scheme has recently been launched to fund a mural in memory of Watson at the site of the original Hampden Park.

David Petrie
Glasgow

Worked on Slough's old Evening Mail? Fancy a pint?

It's May 1969. Two of Britain's biggest newspaper groups – Westminster Press and Thomson Regional – have decided not to spill blood and fight a newspaper war on the streets of Slough and have agreed to go 50-50 on a new evening paper, the Evening Mail.

What seemed like half the Yorkshire press corps left the north and headed for Slough to show soppy southerners just how daily journalism is done. The pubs of Slough rang with northern accents and titles such as the Bradford Telegraph and Argus, Scarborough Evening News and Middlesbrough Evening Gazette were held up as simply the best.

Fifty years on, some of the now old Evening Mail hacks are still hanging around Thames Valley pubs wondering whatever happened to ... ? Trying desperately to remember the names of reporters, photographers and subs who shared some good times.

So, if you worked on the Evening Mail, fancy sharing a pint or two, filling the gaps in those fading memories and remembering some fun days on the



Mail patch in Slough, Hounslow, Staines or Uxbridge, get in contact with: Rick Evans (pictured above left with Paul Erlam): rick.m.evans@btopenworld.com; Peter Brown: onepeterbrown@hotmail.com or Jeff Wright: jeffrey.wright@virgin.net for a Windsor pub reunion in June.

Jeffrey Wright
Hampshire

Ignore market demands that stifle great art

Whether restless news journalists are advantageously positioned to write bestselling novels (From fact to fiction, March/April) is a question that was hardly settled by the careers of Dickens and Orwell, but certainly gains more traction in the era of topical thrillers intended for TV adaptation. In any case, the premise on which this is founded is aesthetically threadbare.

Journalists, declares Sandra Ireland, 'have to understand prevailing trends and the needs of the marketplace, which are also vital qualities for the fiction

writer'. They may be vital qualities for the writers of a certain fictive style of popular entertainment but, if all artistic works had been written to the conceptually limiting formula of such enterprises, there would have been no important art.

The great literary works confront a faulty world with the imaginative evidence of its injustices and frailties, and were not written with the publisher's balance-sheet in mind. A novel written to a commercial template is less a novel than a sales campaign. 'Some [journalists] find harnessing the imagination to summon up ideas on demand can be difficult,' Lynne Wallis reports. Perhaps the problem lies in the exercise of raking the barren ground for elusive 'ideas'.

Stuart Walton
Torquay

Kudos for fiction feature but check the captions

Thank you for Lynne Wallis's fascinating feature 'From fact to fiction' (March/April). Kudos to Lynne for an eye-catching subject: the ambition to write a novel, which, as Lynne rightly points out, appeals to so many journalists I know. (Kudos too to my Financial Times colleague Francesca Jakobi, whose excellent novel Bitter was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson last year).

Lynne's piece was enjoyable, well researched and had insightful quotes. However, there were a couple of errors. The most glaring was the headshot of Tom Wolfe labelled 'Martin Amis'. Also,

twitter feed

Tweet us your feedback: [@mschrisbuckley](https://twitter.com/mschrisbuckley)



- Ruth Addicott** (@RuthAddicott)
Press trips, photo shoots & poolside selfies – Is travel journalism in crisis? My article in The Journalist <https://bit.ly/2F5czpF>
[@mschrisbuckley](https://twitter.com/mschrisbuckley) #journalism #influencers #travelbloggers
- Rachel Broady** (@RachelBroady)
Replying to [@RuthAddicott](https://twitter.com/RuthAddicott) [@mschrisbuckley](https://twitter.com/mschrisbuckley)
I used this in a seminar the other day. The publication timing couldn't have been better for me!
- Patrick McFall** (@PatMcFall)
Good to see #JillyCooper sticking up for scribblers in [@mschrisbuckley](https://twitter.com/mschrisbuckley)'s the Journalist mag

Sandra Ireland's novel Bone Deep was referred to in the caption as her second but in the story as her third. It's a small error, but not one that will escape the sharp-eyed subeditors who make up much of your readership.

Paul Gould
Brighton

Toasting the bygone glory days of trebles all round

Anyone reading between the lines of the Hugh McIlvanney obit could probably guess the Observer's star sports scribe liked a glass or two. I learned this for a fact when I was at Punch (RIP) and

Miles Kington commissioned a review from him for our books pages.

After some weeks without any sign of Hugh or his copy, Miles set out on his bike for the paper's sports desk to extract it from the errant reviewer, only to be told that they couldn't find him either. It turned out that Hugh had just received his monthly expenses in folding cash and consequently couldn't be seen for dust. (For younger readers: those were the happy days when people used to drink during office hours – and papers paid expenses. Ed.)

Jonathan Sale
London

STEVE BELL

THE OWNERS

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and finally...

Playing politics, playground style



Where are the grown-ups? asks **Chris Proctor**

You're sitting quietly at your desk when Authority storms towards you in its usual state of deranged hysteria.

"Get yourself down to St Wilfred's Primary School right away! There's an argument going on in the playground between a boy called Jack (4¼) and girl named Bembe (4½).

"I want a full account. I want absolute accuracy. I want tight, informed copy. I want responsible, objective and serious reporting. Go!"

Expenses being what they are, you get to the school as quickly as you can by foot and bus. The tip-off was accurate. The antagonists, muddy-faced and grubby-kneed, stand each side of a puddle, wailing. A quick word of introduction, a flicked-open pad, a moment to borrow a pencil and you're on the case.

"He says I pulled tongues at him and I never. He said I was a snot gobbler."

"I never did! She started it. She said I'd wet my pants."

"Did not!"

"Did"

"Liar!"

"Bum's on fire!"

You sigh. It's not going to be easy to report this in a mature way. This must be one of the worst jobs around.

Well, then! You've obviously never been called upon to cover the proceedings of the US's House Oversight and Reform Committee (HOC). Compared with the HOC, the exchanges of the primary school pair are the very models of the Socratic method.

Recently, we were treated to a gala performance by the Overseers. The first character on stage was a hectoring aggressive man, reminiscent of Desperate Dan in appearance, stained with all manner of sordid allegations about unwanted sexual advances.

The facts are too grubby for esteemed members of the NUJ, but the allegations are that this fellow carefully focused his vision in a different direction as a team doctor and assaulted several thousand student wrestlers. He is the sort of man who interrupts opponents, smears rivals, denies climate change, mocks adversaries and opposes the Violence Against Women Act.

"Is this the defendant?" you ask yourself. No. This is Jim Jordan. He's one of the judges.

Giving evidence is a former chum of the US president, who in his opening remarks concedes: "I have lied, but I am not a liar." This is a splendid semantic but a rather poor introduction to a tribunal.

Having established his credentials, the chum, who we will call Michael Cohen, that being his name, gets down to business. Mr Trump, he asserts, told him to lie before he (Cohen) lied to Congress and Trump also lied about the Trump Moscow negotiations.

Trump retaliates. He says that Cohen was disbarred by the State Supreme Court for lying. He's lying to reduce the time he'll have to spend in prison. Also, Cohen said that he didn't want to work at the White House, which the president says is a lie as everyone knows.

Supporting the allegation by Cohen

that the president had been lying about money being passed to young ladies who might have been attracted to Mr Trump's charm or perhaps his wallet, one Jim Sciutto enters stage left bearing a copy of a cheque given by Trump to Cohen which he says was 'hush money'.

We breathe a sign of relief at Mr Sciutto's appearance, as he is a first-class human being: to wit, a journalist. He's an anchor at CNN. Clearly he has no vested interest. Except that he has a book – The Shadow War – coming out in May. The bigger this story gets, the larger his bank account grows. And, every time you get a comment, you get a plug for his book.

Meanwhile, Dunyasha Yetts, one of the wrestlers assaulted while Judge Jordan wasn't looking, says that he spoke to Jim about the sexual abuse. Jim denies this. Mr Yetts has no option other than to reveal his belief that Jim is 'a liar'.

By now, even the most principled journalist is reaching for the bottle. Yes, you are anxious to comply with the union's Code of Conduct. But this charges you to 'correct harmful inaccuracies'; and 'differentiate between fact and opinion'. It would take Solomon top form to even make a start.

At this point, you realise the entire HOC exercise has become existential. You can either think about types of reality which lie beyond conscious experience – or give up and request a transfer from news to the primary school desk, where discussion is more balanced and mature.

The first character on stage was a hectoring, aggressive man, reminiscent of Desperate Dan

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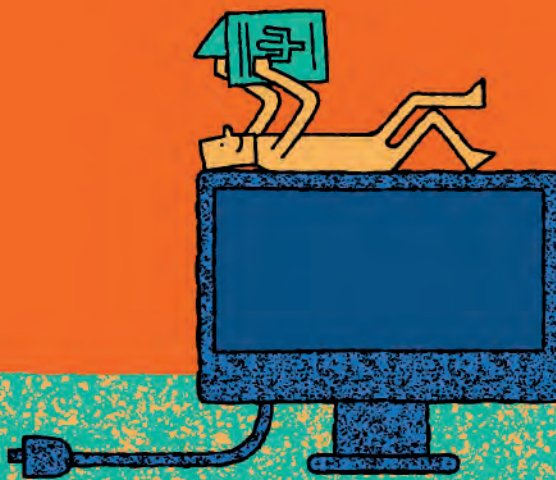
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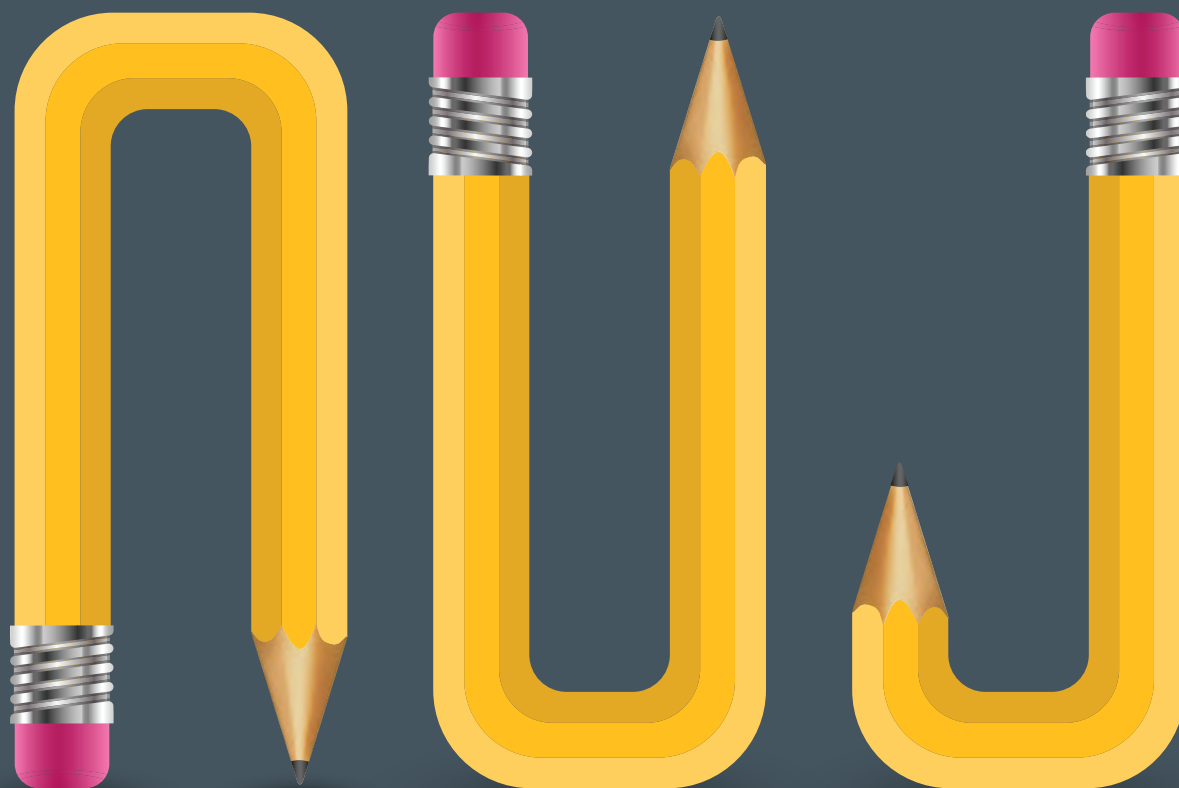


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