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We welcome enquiries from any member of the public interested in and supportive of FACT's work, including academics, lawyers, politicians, journalists, students and any involved in the care of children and vulnerable adults, in either a professional or voluntary capacity.

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Whilst we are unable to give legal advice we do give support to professionals and volunteers in positions of trust facing false allegations, charges and/or convictions, or those found innocent but suffering problems resulting from any associated public hysteria & rumour. We also give support to family members and friends. Calls cost around 5p per minute from a BT landline, but may vary on other networks and could be much higher from a mobile phone.

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Forthcoming Events & Committee Meetings

28th September, 2019, FACT AGM & Conference
23rd November, 2019, Committee Meeting
12th October, United Against Injustice Conference, Liverpool.
   FACT is participating - Details on website: http://www.unitedagainstinjustice.com
25th January, 2020, Committee Meeting
28th March, Committee Meeting
21st March, Service of Encouragement & Support,
   St James’, Piccadilly, London
16th May, 2020, FACT Spring Conference
20th June, Committee Meeting in London
10th October, 2020 FACT Conference
21st November, 2020, Committee Meeting

Venue: St Luke’s Conference Centre, Birmingham unless otherwise notified
A Word from our Chairman
Nicholas Griffin

Dear members and supporters

As always there is a lot happening which I want to update you about.

**FACT** continues to be extremely well supported and is growing stronger and stronger by the month. We have a lot of experience, dedication and expertise on the national committee and a lot of committed supporters backing us up. Our committee members and volunteers are working hard to achieve change and increase support for victims. A lot of our team are still in the depths of their own trauma yet reaching out to help others and working for a better world. We are continuing to look at what is going on today as well as what we need to do to safeguard the future.

**The Carl Beech Trial**

You will no doubt be aware of one of the lead stories in the media, the Carl Beech trial and his conviction for making false allegations. Notably it ran as the lead story on the BBC in the final weeks even ahead of Brexit and the contest for Prime minister! It's about time we got that sort of priority for such a mega serious issue.

Our own Simon Warr has been attending the trial and has written a superb account of the absolute depths and depravity of Carl Beech, demonstrating the type of person the police, politicians and the media associate themselves with. It is an extraordinary example of just how unbelievable and shocking it is that our justice system and highly paid professionals/politicians are prepared to lose touch with reality and their own morals to run with the crowd and to further their careers. Has our country lost the type of people we need as true leaders and professionals who are able to stand by ethics and to do the right thing for the right reason? We of course already know what is going on but hopefully this case has raised greater awareness among the public of just how crazy it has become.

This case alone should open the flood gates for politicians to face up to their responsibilities and accept not only that false allegations exist but that they cause irrecoverable damage. Simon’s blog ([The Warr Zone](http://thewarrzone.blogspot.com/)) of the trial and broader view of what is going on is a must read at:

An extract from Simon’s blog is on page 31 of this magazine.

Simon can also be heard on the Jeremy Vine Radio 2 show on iplayer, broadcast on 23rd July 2019 speaking about the case. You must listen! Sincere thanks to Simon for all he is doing.

**The Victoria Derbyshire TV Programme**

More positive attention in the media as our President Sister Frances, Simon Warr and long standing FACT supporter Dr Ros Burnett of Oxford University were invited to speak about false allegations on the television.

**The APPG inquiry**

Last year **FACT** made a submission to the newly formed All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Miscarriages of Justice. A **FACT** representative has been attending meetings at Parliament and reporting back to the National Committee. They recently announced the formation of The Westminster Commission on Miscarriages of Justice. It is focusing on the role of the CCRC (Criminal Cases Review Commission) and is calling for submissions of evidence of its effectiveness. I quote:

**The scope of the Inquiry:**

**Call for Written Evidence**

Given that there are serious misgivings expressed in the legal profession, and amongst commentators and academics, about the remit of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) and its ability to deal with cases of miscarriages of justice, and given that perceptions of injustice within the criminal justice system are as damaging to public confidence as actual cases of injustice, the Commission will inquire into:

1. The ability of the CCRC, as currently set up, to deal effectively with alleged miscarriages of justice;

2. Whether statutory or other changes might be needed to assist the CCRC to carry out its function, including:

   (i) The CCRC’s relationship with the Court of Appeal with particular reference to the current test for referring cases to it (the ‘real possibility’ test);

   (ii) The remit, composition, structure and funding of the CCRC;

The extent to which the CCRC’s role is hampered...
by failings or issues elsewhere in the criminal justice system; and make recommendations.

**FACT** will be making a submission and I would ask that if you have experiences good or bad about how the CCRC have dealt with your case you email me direct at Factchairman@outlook.com. The submission is limited to 3000 words so we will precis and cover as much as we can as an organisation. We strongly recommend you make your own submission as an individual if you can. Please mention you are a **FACT** member/supporter.

**Structural changes to make FACT even stronger**

Following the massive support from members and supporters to finance our restructuring into a registered charity I am pleased to let you know we have now set up the new limited company as the 1rst step covered in my last update. At our most recent committee meeting we had lengthy discussion about names to put forward as all previous attempts to register something close to **FACT** were not accepted by Companies House. We were advised that it is possible to have an official legal registered company name and to use a different operating name. Just as many large charities do. So the name we decide on and which was accepted by Companies house is: *Supporting Victims of Unfounded Allegations of Abuse Limited*. **Our day to day operational name will remain as FACT**. I envisage it will be very rare we ever refer to ourselves as anything other than **FACT**. The full official name will only be for documents and for legal matters like bank accounts, contracts and dare I hope, employment contracts! So there will be little change visible to the public or members as the name **FACT**, the logo, Twitter, Facebook, FACTion, and website remain almost the same with just some minor yne tuning. We also felt the official name would help when applying for grants in the future as it already goes a long way in conveying what we do. The official name will also help with the Charity registration.

We have been granted an exemption from having to use Limited or Ltd after the name because of the pending charity registration.

The company formation has taken place with Jean-Paul of Sherrards solicitors as sole Director and Sherrards secretarial services Ltd acting as company secretary. These are the two officers accepted as a minimum in law for a limited company to exist. They will resign when we are ready to step in which is a standard way of doing things.

What's next - Jean-Paul will prepare a draft of a new governing document for the company, known as a memorandum and articles of association, which will set out our aims and objects and at the same time will be compatible with charity law. It will later replace the basic one used to form the company. We will have our input to the draft until we and Jean-Paul are all happy with it and satisfied it will meet the Charity Commissioners approval without it hindering or restricting our day to day work and enabling us to achieve our goals. We will also not lose sight of the importance to ensure the company is structured to achieve our goals should we ever decide to part company with the Charity Commission/government.

The committee is currently considering who from our number will become Directors and Company Secretary. Bearing in mind these people must also be acceptable under Charity legislation to become Trustees. This will only be individuals currently, or in the future, elected to the committee by the members.

**The Scandal of Government funding which fuels False Allegations – Bribery?**

Another significant part of the scandal surrounding the official denial that false allegations are a reality and their drive to increase allegations and convictions at any cost is government funding of financial compensation to accusers, regardless of whether the accused has been found guilty by a court or not! Money paid out just on the basis of an unfounded accusation. Unbelievable! A word you will hear me use often. Enormous sums of public money, yours and my tax money, paid by the government to false accusers. One of our members, Jeremy Dunning-Davies, has carried out extensive research and we have published his incredibly shocking findings on the **FACT** website. Financial incentives are a major contributor to false allegations and must be stopped. Prepare to be shocked and read the full article on page 23 of this magazine.

Thank you to everyone for not giving up and together we are moving forward. Let's not let our society, country or world be wrecked by corrupted and mismanaged justice systems.

Nicholas Griffin
FACT Chairman
Moving Forward
The Results of FACT’s Coping Strategies Questionnaire
by John Chatwin, Webmaster & Committee Member

I am acutely aware that for many people the title of this presentation, ‘Moving Forward’ may seem irrelevant. You may have only just been wrongfully accused and be in a state of shock. You may be facing prosecution and be fearful for your future or you may have been convicted and you are now struggling to salvage something out of the wreckage.

Many FACT members have been in the same situation. Ros Burnett, Naomi-Ellen Speechley and Carolyn Hoyle of Oxford University published a landmark paper¹ describing the suffering of the wrongly accused. This is one of the first hand descriptions of the pain experienced.

“I went into a state of shock for some weeks after my arrest... I suffered from depression, suicidal thoughts, self-harming, fear, immense anger against the police and my accuser, and anger at the lack of support from anyone in authority ...”¹

After the dust settles, some will be left with an enduring, raging anger. They may be angry with the accuser, the police and the justice system and angry with those who had abandoned them when they most needed help. How could anyone cope with such powerful and self-destructive emotions?

To discover the answer we released a questionnaire 18 months ago. We asked four questions.

1. What helped you cope when the allegation was first made?
2. What has helped you in the longer term?
3. If you sought help from any professionals, (health workers, faith leaders etc.) how helpful did you find them?
4. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

43 people responded, 33 of these were the victims of wrongful allegations and eight were their partners or spouses.


It was striking that in the short term most people gained their support from their family and friends. Those that for some reason were denied this support must have suffered greatly.
I felt completely alone . . . I couldn’t talk to [my husband] as he needed my strength. I couldn’t talk to my family or friends as I had been told to keep absolute secrecy.”

Expert specialized legal advice was the second most commonly cited source of support, followed by help from GPs, faith communities and FACT.

In the longer term friends and family still topped the league table and FACT climbed to second place, presumably because more people had found out about its existence. The accused and their families gained strength by starting to take control of the situation instead of being swept along by the tide of events. They helped their solicitors prepare their defence, or found out what they could about their accuser. They read widely about the phenomenon of false allegations in general and about false memories. Some became active in campaigning for change in the justice system.

Another coping strategy was to develop techniques to control anxiety and despair. For example, some respondents tried to compartmentalize their anxieties in a separate part of their mind or they agreed to limit the amount of time each day when they would talk about their situation. Others found ways to distract their minds from the constant stress by engaging in other activities such as exercise and sport, creative outlets, voluntary activities, work or watching TV or listening to music. Specialist expert legal support was vital, and it was particularly important that any legal team believed in the innocence of the accused.

Responses to the question about the support or otherwise of professionals indicated that the most helpful were family doctors. 18 said they were helped by their GPs and only one commented that their doctor could have been more supportive. However, while faith leaders and counsellors could also be very supportive, they could feel obliged to break confidentiality and involve other authorities such as safeguarding teams or even the police. Clearly it’s vital to check the confidentiality policies of counsellors and faith leaders before sharing sensitive information with them.

The final question asked for general comments. There were themes running through the replies. The justice system was biased in favour of the complainant. Being the victim of a wrongful allegation had enduring long lasting consequences.

“We are different, we are permanently damaged and although the scars are fading slightly, we cannot see a time that they will be completely gone.”

There was an overwhelming impression that there was a lack of support from any official body.

“No support, practical, emotional, financial, therapeutic etc. has been offered or provided for me, my husband, my daughter . . . by any of the authorities , yet without the things we have sought out ourselves we would most likely have cracked under the strain”

A summary of the coping strategies distilled from the answers to this questionnaire is available for download on our website in the Resources and Support section (https://factuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Strategies-for-coping-emotionally-after-a-wrongful-allegation-of-child-sexual-abuse.pdf.)

Finally, we need to remember that the wrongfully accused have suffered an injury no less serious and perhaps even more life changing than the loss of a limb. Yet victims of wrongful allegations have to bear their invisible wounds in private; few will praise them for their courage in the face of adversity, few will help them along their way. FACT exists so that the wounded do not have to face the journey alone.

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Thank you very much for inviting me. It is a privilege to address you. I admire the work of FACT and I am proud to be a member.

I have followed your example and established a new pressure group. FAIR: Falsely Accused Individuals for Reform. FAIR's work is different from yours. It is a pressure group for law reform. It does not and cannot offer support to individual cases. So, I hope we will work together in tandem.

I am a defence QC. But over the last 7 years with my late father's case, I have learnt far more than the preceding 30 years at the Bar. Because my family have been at the receiving end. His case like that of other prominent people has hit the headlines. But there are many comparisons with less well known cases, up and down the country. The story of my father's case and others, like Sir Edward Heath, Harvey Proctor, Paul Gambaccini and other prominent figures, must be told.

As Sir Richard Henriques wrote in his report on Operation Midland.

"prominent people...are more vulnerable to false complaints than others...They are vulnerable to compensation seekers, attention seekers, and those with mental health problems. The internet provides the information and detail to support a false allegation.

Entertainers are particularly vulnerable to false allegations meeting, as they do, literally thousands of attention seeking fans who provoke a degree of familiarity which may be exaggerated or misconstrued in their recollection many years later.
Deceased persons are particularly vulnerable as allegations cannot be answered.

So, I use my late father’s case as one such example. It mirrors other cases. The most notable being Sir Edward Heath. In Sir Edward’s case there was one central false accuser. That was followed by a highly publicised press conference in Salisbury. And along came 30 so-called victims who made complaints.

Although Sir Edward was dead, there followed a 2-year police investigation; after which, the Chief Constable of Wiltshire, Mike Veal claimed that he was “120% convinced” that Edward Heath was a paedophile; and had he been alive would have been interviewed under caution.

No doubt, given the weight of numbers, and the CPS policy under Alison Saunders, he would have been charged.

Since then, as you know, the allegations have unravelled. They were a combination of fantasists and opportunists, and no one believes a word of it. In a strange quirk of fate Heath’s parents were next door neighbours of my grandparents in Broadstairs. Had it been known the twitter conspiracy theorists would have had a field day.

My father’s case followed the precise same pattern. One central complainant. A highly publicised search. 30 plus other so-called victims jumping on the bandwagon. Allegations of an establishment cover-up. A man too ill to be interviewed; not dead yet; but brain dead. And like Heath died an innocent man, never convicted of an offence.

My father was a successful barrister before he was elected as MP for Leicester West in 1970. He was happily married for over 40 years. And had three children. He became an effective, high profile back bencher.

He was also kind and generous, to young and old, male and female. He took the deprived under his wing. This stemmed from his army days as a war crimes investigator. He worked in the kinderheim at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. His role was the rehabilitation and mentoring of gravely damaged child survivors of the holocaust. This experience haunted him for the rest of his life. It accounted for his attitude throughout his life to underprivileged children from broken homes.

We met many such children over the years. One such person who I will call Mike, as he retains the protection of anonymity. In 1975, Mike was then aged about 15. My sisters and I recall him. He was in care in Leicester.
As a family all of us looked after him for a few months. But when he repeatedly stole from us, we had to say goodbye.

No more was thought about him for the next 16 years. Until 1991. In 1991 a Leicester Care home manager called Frank Beck was charged with horrendous sexual offences. He was tried; convicted and received 3 life sentences. Beck’s defence at trial was that he was not the abuser, but Janner was. Beck relied on his star witness Mike. But their lies were exposed in the prosecution’s cross-examination. Mike and Beck were disbelieved by the jury.

The jury were right because important things have since emerged about Mike.

**Firstly,** we now know that he himself was an abuser of children when in the care of Beck. So, Beck blackmailed him into giving evidence for him.

**Secondly,** Mike was not only dishonest, but in 2002 was himself convicted of abusing a boy and received 4 years sentence of imprisonment.

**Thirdly,** shortly after Beck’s conviction, my father later received a letter from Beck’s former cell mate. His name was Norman Newell. It is signiﬁcant. He wrote a statement to the police. He was on remand with Beck in prison. And I quote only part of it:

“He told me he was going to drag all the top people in.
I asked him what he meant and he said he’d got one of the kids to say that Greville Janner had taken him to Scotland and buggered him.
I told him that it was dangerous bringing politics into it and asked if it was true.

He said no, but it would throw the light off him.”

After the Beck trial, my father made a statement in the House of Commons during which he said:

“Janner was not the abuser. As a Member of Parliament, I am now well placed to fight back. That would not have applied to any of our constituents or to any other citizens placed by law in this impossible and unjust situation.”

As far as we were concerned that was that. The end of an ugly chapter.

In 1997, my father was made a Peer.

**20th December 2013**

**The Police Came Again**

Then fast forward to 2013. On 20th December 2013 his London flat was searched by 18 Leicester police ofﬁcers who turned up without any warning at 7.00 am. He was 85 years old suffering from very serious dementia. He was near to death.

My mother had died 10 years previously and he was living alone with a full-time carer. He was very frightened.

The police advertised the search, trawling for others to come forward in order to provide corroboration to the unsustainable without weight of numbers.

He was obviously far too ill to be interviewed or unable to refute Mike’s allegations and fresh allegations by his fellow collaborators and erstwhile care home friends. That didn’t put the police off; any more than in the
Heath case. On the contrary, following the very same pattern in the Sir Cliff: Richard and Heath cases, the police advertised the search, trawling for others to come forward in order to provide corroboration to the unsustainable without weight of numbers.

The accused became, in Sir Cliff Richard’s words, “live bait” and the allegations came quick & fast

The accused becoming in Sir Cliff’s graphic words: “live bait” and the allegations came thick and fast. There was no assessment of the claims or sifting. They included the following:

Rape at the Carlton club. Yes, the Carlton club. He was a Labour MP.

An allegation of rape by a woman who later issued proceedings for damages from the security of Newark Mental Institution - locked facility.

An allegation of rape and torture over an entire weekend in a London hotel. The police failed to ask us for his passport. Had they done so, they would have seen that he was in Australia that weekend.

An allegation by a man who claimed my father always abused him in the presence of another politician. That politician is still alive and is a former cabinet minister. I will not name him.

These allegations of rape and torture were of course wholly out of character.

My father was man of exemplary impeccable character of the highest repute; very high profile, very much in the public eye, in Leicester where all the allegations stem from.

To show how insane the investigation had become, in June 2014 the Leicester police telephoned me to ask if I had been sexually abused by my father. I told them I had not and they could save themselves the train fare. Yet they insisted on sending down a specialist team to ask the same question.

Finally, in 2015 the then DPP Alison Saunders announced that he was too ill to be tried. That was no surprise. What was a surprise was her mishandling of the statement she then put out. Essentially, she claimed the evidence was strong against him. Yet she plainly had failed to examine critical exculpatory material, which ultimately led to the collapse of all the civil claims.

The Media and civil solicitors

The press then had a field day claiming the rape of justice. This was fuelled by the civil solicitors. In flooded the civil letters before action. The solicitors needed the DPP’s decision to be overturned. They wanted facts to be found by a jury – the procedure following a finding of incapacity: findings of fact although not amounting to a conviction, persuasive before a judge in a subsequent civil trial.

So, the solicitors put in an application for a victim’s review of the decision. And with the weight of the press behind them, the decision was overturned.

This led to the sad spectacle in August 2015 of my father being dragged to Westminster Magistrates court, doubly incontinent, weeks from death. The request for a video link to his home was turned down.
No doubt to the extreme annoyance of the civil solicitors, and the false accusers, my father inconveniently died on 19th December 2015.

That was a few weeks before the fact-finding exercise in the Crown Court was to have taken place. That did not end the civil claims. Those continued against the Estate. 9 issued High Court Claims. 33 letters before action. All banking on a settlement; confident that the limitation period would be a hurdle which could be overcome.

By now we had that clear exculpatory evidence:

1. None complained against my father when in care, although they complained against others.
2. Not a single word against my father in any social service file of any claimant.
4. Some plainly pure fantasy.
5. None, other than Mike, came forward in 1991 during the Beck trial to claim abuse by my father but waited until the prospect of easy civil pickings came along decades later.
6. All had a track record of convictions for serious dishonesty; and in many cases drugs and violence.

All the claims issued were dropped and the remaining claims fell like dominoes.

For my family there was at last some justice.

However, we still had IICSA the beleaguered Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, previously known as the Goddard inquiry. The inquiry was set up in the wake of the hysteria whipped up by Tom Watson MP and others. It centred on the lurid allegations of Nick and concentrated on Leon Brittan.

Goddard was a New Zealand judge and the Inquiry’s third chairman. She had decided in 2015 that my father’s case merited a whole strand. The only individual with a strand to himself. The others being institutions like the Roman Catholic Church and Westminster.

The inquiry was set up by Parliament to deal with institutional failings. He was many things; but so far as I am aware, he was not an institution. He could not answer back from the grave, allegations being made in public without the benefit of cross-examination.

But Goddard’s successor, Jay still refused drop the strand despite the civil proceedings collapsing. And we now face a three week Kafkaesque hearing starting on 3rd February next year. Inevitable character assassination which discredits the work of the inquiry and genuine allegations and victims.

Lord Campbell-Savours, no personal friend of my father, has repeatedly described the strand in the Lords, as an affront to justice which hints of anti-Semitism.
Implications

Finally, what wider implications does my father's and other such cases have?

1. There is now a wider recognition that fraudulent civil claims are being made riding on the back of the post-Savile frenzy. That opportunist fantasists do actually exist.

2. There must be change in the terminology used by the police and CPS. Complainants only become victims following convictions.

3. There has to be an end to believing all complaints are true.

As Sir Richard Henriques said in his report:

"Requiring an investigator to believe a complaint which may or may not be true is a recipe for injustice. It is a policy which perverts our system of justice."

4. We need a law to provide for anonymity for those accused of sexual offences until charge. That will put an end to the catastrophic consequences of early publication of a suspect's name. It will end highly publicised searches. It will protect the reputations of all innocent suspects from the stigma of a false sexual allegation. It will provide balance given the complainant's identity is protected.

FAIR
Falsely Accused Individuals for Reform

That is what we are campaigning for in FAIR, with the help of Harvey Proctor, Paul Gambaccini, Sir Cliff Richard, Stephen Fry, academics and lawyers.

Sir Cliff is launching a parliamentary petition on 1st July. We need 100,000 signatures to secure a debate. The petition can be found at:

https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/247912

Finally, these false claims can and must be fought in the name of justice and to preserve the good names of those falsely accused, dead or alive.

Daniel Janner, QC
18 May 2019

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Our Origins

A Short History of FACT

by Brian Hudson

FACT has its roots in the decisions of various police forces in the UK to undertake historical investigations into alleged abuse in former children’s homes and residential schools.

The first to do this was the North Wales police force who began their inquiries in 1991. They were followed by Merseyside and Cheshire police. Within a decade virtually every police force in the UK was either undertaking retrospective investigations into alleged abuse, or planning to do so. In North Wales and in Liverpool the scale of the investigations was so great and misinformed that huge numbers of carers and teachers banded together for mutual support. The first support group was set up in North Wales in 1992.

In the late 1990s several people from Merseyside and surrounding area banded together following the decision of Merseyside and Cheshire police to establish Operation Care in which they trawled for allegations from former residents of care homes throughout the northwest. In late 1999 FACT was formed from these groups.

In the spring of 2000 hundreds attended the first ever FACT national conference held at St Helens. The huge numbers struck a chord with other carers and teachers throughout the UK in a similar position. Local activists were joined by concerned academics, lawyers, professionals and politicians.

As more individuals were accused and the injustices became more apparent other local groups and individual campaigns merged to form a powerful and respected national network, and an organisation to be reckoned with.

North Wales always featured highly in FACT through their campaigning for justice especially for Bryn Estyn staff. It was in late 2000 that John Rayfield, and Gail Saunders, of the friends of Derek Brushett got in contact. There was more publicity for FACT when Dave Jones (football manager) made his first appearance at Liverpool Crown Court, and campaign leaflets were distributed. Also on board was Chris Saltrese and Mark Barlow, two respected lawyers in this field.

Sir William Utting said:
“It may be that innocent people are being convicted, but we ought to be more worried about the guilty who might get away”

Events were unfolding at speed. On 15 February “Lost in Care” (the Waterhouse Report) was published, and Newsnight invited Chris Saltrese and Charlie Mills to take part. It was on that programme that Sir William Utting said: “It may be that innocent people are being convicted, but we ought to be more worried about the guilty who might get away.” Early 2000 FACT had the help of Claire Curtis-Thomas MP who had arranged a meeting at Portcullis House when FACT were able to present their concerns to a sympathetic Baroness Shirley Williams and others.

October 2001 saw the first publication of FACTion with Phil Fiddler as editor. In the same month the inaugural meeting of the All-Party Group on Abuse Investigations was formed and took place in Portcullis House.

Christmas vigils took place outside of prisons and by now 10 different prisons where targeted for this act of remembrance for those wrongly convicted.

2002 saw the formation of FACT North Wales and FACT South Wales as well as FACT North East. This was also the year of the Home Affairs Select Committee when FACT
Our Origins: A Short History of FACT by Brian Hudson - continued ...

was able to present their case to them, which in fact would lead to recommendations which, like the Henrques report, where never really implemented.

In 2003 we had some members cleared in the appeal courts. This was very welcome news.

In 2005 Richard Webster’s highly acclaimed work ‘The Secret of Bryn Estyn’ was published with a book launch at Portcullis house. It exposed flaws in this investigation and those in Merseyside and Cheshire.

In 2006 FACT called for a royal commission to look into false allegations. Letters were sent to all trade unions and all political parties.

2007 Surprisingly this was the year when it was suggested that FACT may become a national charity. After looking at all the pros and cons including changing the constitution is was decided at the time not to go ahead.

Women of FACT joined together and made stand up protests together with placards in Liverpool, London and in Scotland. There was also a protest at a Police Conference FACT supporters are asked to join our Annual Protest Vigil.

2008 FACT asked the All-Party Group on Abuse Investigations to consider implementing a five point plan:

- Investigative Practice
- Legal Barriers to success in the Appeal Court
- The Compensation and Blame Culture
- Prison and Parole Issues
- CRB Issues

2011 We sadly lost a friend and great supporter and contributor to FACT Richard Webster. Such was the depth and foresight of his work that his web site is still hosted.

Ian Booth was appointed secretary of FACT taking over from Michael Barnes

2012 The year of the Hillsborough tragedy. This featured in FACTion due to the exposure of police falsifying accounts.

This year FACT considered changing its name. Dr Ros Burnett gave an inspiring talk at the autumn conference and encouraged the adding of “and other professionals” to the FACT name.

2013 FACT made a submission to the review of the CCRC. Dr Ros Burnett prepared this. FACT signed up to twitter for the first time. David Rose gave an address to conference. FACT invited Ben Gunn to address conference, see: https://factuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Vol4-1-corrected-100713-1.pdf

2014 Saw the spring conference held at Oxford University. We had a new committee and new FACTion editor.

2015 The five year plan and the start of an attempt to get FACT recognised and registered as a national charity.

2016 We lose Mark Parry as our FACTion editor. We gain Sister Frances as our President

2017 FACT meets with the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in London

We probably have enough information over the years to sink a CPS battleship. Thousands of words have been written, malpractice exposed yet still it goes on. In FACTion over the years we have a massive amount of findings and on top of this we have recently acquired research papers from the late Bob Wolfenden and investigative
journalist who worked with Richard Webster on a number of issues.

One of our main concerns at present is how we can best give support. For many years we have hosted a helpline.

Michael, Horatio and others have taken care of this and it takes its toll on the individuals volunteering for this. At present we have McCormack Law courtesy of Andrew and Gavin on the helpline. We also have a number direct to the secretary which is also used frequently.

We have recently identified specific areas we offer help in, namely

Help with allegation during and after arrest
Help with trial process
Help in prisons
Help after prison

This needs to extend to families, housing and counselling.

If anyone wishes to volunteer to look into the past contributions and findings and put these together to make a definitive type document, then please let us know. Much of the material is in FACT on our website in previous issues of FACTion; to be found at the following link:

https://factuk.org/resources/newsletter/

We Believe You

Video

Produced by Patrick Graham & Matt Day

Those attending were able to watch the premier of the video/film. Titled ‘We Believe You’ This film is now on general release via YouTube. Send it far and wide. We need to honour and respect those who have been brave enough to take part in this and lay bare their feelings and experience.

To view the video

Just use the search facility on YouTube to find it
or if you are reading this on-line, just click on the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zwafn2NO0mw
Dear Conference, FACT members, and all those affected by false or wrongful allegations,

I intended to be here today to give a speech of truth, hope and the quest for justice.

Unfortunately, after being affected by false allegations for so long, and their “investigation” by police, not once but twice, I am still fighting for some form of justice and recognition of the damage done to innocent professionals. This, perpetrated by those purporting to be acting in the name of “child protection”, or as in my case, to “make up for past mistakes”, whether real or perceived.

In 2000 I was questioned in relation to an investigation into alleged abuse in children’s homes in the 1980’s. I was suspended from my profession of Child Protection Social Worker, as a result of police investigating abuse allegations dating from 1985, and returned to work with there being “insufficient evidence”, no charges and no further action, some 2 ½ years later. My MP at that time, Sir Edward Garnier QC, (now Lord Garnier) gave a speech at Westminster Hall, Oct 2002, about the plight I, and my wife, faced. This is available via Hansard.

In July 2015 I was again suspended from my post of Forensic Mental Health Social Worker (I had moved to adults after return to work in 2003, due to the stress and difficulties faced after the traumatic experiences of the initial investigation).....being told that police were investigating abuse allegations of an historic nature. I was told no detail for over two years. My employers dismissed me from my post for reasons of “cost and service impact” in July 2017. Police wrote a reply to a letter sent to Chief Constable by my solicitor, stating that CPS had decided no further action regarding allegations against me, but that the investigation continued. Employers were unaware of this communication, but when alerted by me, delayed the appeal hearing I had instigated against my dismissal.

After further delays, the appeal hearing finally took place, but employers were still unable to obtain sufficient clarity from police such that they upheld the original decision to dismiss.

Questions sent to the Chief Constable were answered in an abstruse and dismissive manner and with little of any substantial use to anyone trying to understand how an innocent person could be forced to endure such ostracism, and vilification. Further questions, seeking clarification, were passed by the Chief Constable to the Senior Investigating Officer, but before answers were given, the police decided to offer me a voluntary interview. I was happy to oblige and in fact had been asking why they had not spoken with me in the previous two years. I attended the interview and was met by a barrage of questions, and monologue, leaving me with the firm impression that the two officers believed the complainant and the allegations. One of the officers stated that he had spoken with the officer who had interviewed the complainant and was told by this person that he had a “gut feeling” and a “feeling in his stomach” that the complainant was telling the truth.

Within 5 days of this interview, police wrote to say that the CPS confirmed, again, that there was insufficient evidence and no further action.

The SIO eventually answered those further questions, but sadly, once again, there was little of any use in terms of understanding the harm and damage done, or justifying the consequences for me.

A complaint letter was sent to the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner), quoting the case of Curran vs Chief Constable of Humberside Police, with many concerns listed about how police had directed and orchestrated the meetings held with employers and LADO such that undue influence was brought to bear, resulting in a referral to DBS and employers deciding to dismiss. After several weeks, a meeting with a senior officer was held and seven months wasted as police continued to decide how to proceed. A further three months was taken up by an appointed DC from Police Standards preparing a statement, which was poorly written and did not reflect the seriousness of my complaints, it being factually inaccurate, chronologically out of order and requiring much to be re-written by myself.
The complaint has now, eventually, been referred to the IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct) and I await further communication regarding how progress, if any, is to be made. I do hope to attend a future conference: to give a fuller account and hopefully be able to report some form of resolution and conclusion.

You will hear today from Daniel Janner QC, son of Lord Janner, about how famous people are vulnerable to false allegations. Whilst, of course, this is always a possibility, we need to remember how those working in any caring professions, and indeed anyone, can be, and are, falsely accused. It is the unknown and not famous, some of whom have dedicated their lives and careers to caring for and supporting others, that are acutely susceptible to allegations made by those who may have something to gain, or seek recognition after a life unfulfilled or suffering from some form of mental illness or lack of well-being.

The relevance of the fact that the 2015 police investigation was as a result of criticism faced over how police dealt with allegations against Lord Janner is not lost on me, nor I suspect his son, Daniel.

In one conversation with Sir Edward Garnier (as was), we discussed just how unfortunate I had been: working in a home where once Frank Beck had worked and, with that, the suspicion and belief by police that they had uncovered something “big”, and then years later to be the subject of a complainant who had also alleged abuse by Lord Janner. Given that police were under scrutiny, not just locally, nationally, but also because of scrutiny within the report by Judge Henquies, plus the Janner strand within IICSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse), they sought to achieve some form of “result” and so avoid future criticism. As Sir Edward said, I was “collateral damage”.

Documents obtained as a result of my SAR (Subject Access Request) clearly show that police directed others and placed pressure on them, such that decisions were taken, based on a belief in the allegations with little or no consideration of the damage and consequences on an innocent professional and his family. Employers were told that the outcome of the current investigation would likely be very different to previous investigation. However when it became apparent this may not be the case police warned employers of “reputational damage” so continuing to keep pressure and influence on decisions to be made. The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) states in the notes that he did not update or share information with HCPC (Health Care Professionals Council) because he was of the opinion that a prosecution was likely, and was concerned they would share information with me, so jeopardising the “criminal investigation”. This opinion came from only one source: police. Police instructed others that I was not to be informed anything regarding the current investigation. It was 2 years after being suspended, that I discovered (in police reply to letter from my solicitor) that it was a review and re-investigation of the old allegations.

Records show pressure applied by police on LADO to make a decision regarding referral to DBS. The SIO and Deputy SIO, who had not attended the many meetings with employers, are quoted as saying that a referral should be made. Following a telephone conversation with the Deputy SIO, the details of which were not entered in the minutes/records, the LADO agreed to send out letters to others confirming a referral to DBS was to be made.

There are many other examples of undue influence and pressure applied, some of which I will expand upon when I attend a future conference. Suffice here to say that police have now, eventually, listed 13 separate complaints under category headings including: “oppressive conduct or harassment”, “improper disclosure of information”, “lack of fairness or impartiality” and “other neglect or failure in duty”.

I have been distressed, as have others, at the manner with which police have conducted themselves, in their pursuit of some sort of result, or at least in trying to ensure they make up for perceived past mistakes. The level of detailed or specific knowledge of police officers is of concern, the power and influence brought to bear on others is worrying but the overall impression is one of an out of control fear of criticism or scrutiny, such that justice is never served.

The lack of any proper conclusion to such investigations is something that must be addressed. Had police pursued complainants for wasting police
time or perverting the course of justice, as I had requested they do in 2002, they would not have found themselves some 15 years later re-investigating. To conclude with “insufficient evidence” and “no further action” serves no one. Either complainants have knowingly, maliciously or otherwise, made false allegations or there is an element of mental illness, and/or false memory, that has resulted in untrue allegations being made.

Until such an explanation is deduced and concluded, the purgatory continues.

In my case, there were no “new” allegations when police reviewed the previous investigation, but after visiting one complainant about allegations against Lord Janner, some months later, this person said they wished to speak to police. They then, apparently, gave further details of an allegation against me, already investigated in 2001. Police saw this as a green light to re-consider allegations against me, offer a voluntary interview and allow employers to believe there must be “something” and so continue with their dismissal decision.

Fortunately, the CPS were able to see, again, that there were serious concerns about how police had obtained, recorded and shared information, such that a ‘no further action’ decision was made within days of interview. There were examples of police interviewers putting words in the mouths of those making allegations, serious concerns about the validity, veracity or consistency of stories and lack of evidence or corroboration.

Similarly, the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) were able to see through the fog created by police and deduce that there was “no relevant conduct” and “no risk, current of future”. This of course begs the question whether I should have been suspended at all. This decision was, as with the DBS referral, heavily influenced by police. Records show police were concerned about the integrity of their investigation and that some of those with whom they wished to speak, or had made allegations, were now clients in the service where I worked (Forensic Mental Health). Even this reservation was nullified due to me, some years previously, having already highlighted the issue and refusing to work with any such persons, something recognised by police in the records.

There is clearly much for police to answer and from which they should learn, and encourage other police forces to understand. I can only hope that I will eventually be able to facilitate such learning and so prevent future damage and untold stress to innocent people. It is too late for me, far too late.

Thank you to all at FACT who have assisted and provided support over past few years. Special mention must go to Dr Ros Burnett and Mr Brian Hudson. Ros for her passion and diligence (a formidable combination) and Brian for listening and advising when I was at some of the worst lows.

All best to everyone, and I hope to see you at a future conference.
Recently in the Media

The Carl Beech alias (‘Nick’) Fallout

Stephen Nolan Radio Five Live Broadcast - 26 July 2019
Following on from the revelations from the Carl Beech (Nick) trial and the case concerning the Met police 5 live broadcast had a feature with Daniel Janner QC and Simon Warr. The link below will take you to the broadcast and the discussion begins at 35 minutes and 40 seconds into the broadcast and lasts 36 minutes.

To listen the show on BBC Sounds
Go to BBC Sounds and search for Stephen Nolan 26/07/2019
or if you are reading this on-line, just click on the link below:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00070yz

Victoria Derbyshire - BBC 2 - 26 July 2019
Also, following the Carl Beech verdict, Chloe Tilley, from the BBC Victoria Derbyshire programme included a look at ‘How Common are False Allegations or Wrongful Allegations’ Three of our members, Sister Frances Dominica, President of FACT, Dr Ros Burnett and Simon Warr, a FACT committee member with responsibilities for media and publicity, appeared on the show. The programme was shown on 26 June 2019 and featured on the BBC news website at:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49072066

To see the Victoria Derbyshire show on the BBC iPlayer
Go to BBC iPlayer and search for Victoria Derbyshire and look for the 26/07/19 episode, the relevant part of the show starts at 4 minutes and 15 seconds,
or if you are reading this on-line, just click on the link below:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00071jp/victoria-derbyshire-26072019

In addition and to correct what was said on the above Victoria Derbyshire programme:
With reference to the statement made by Peter Saunders on the above Victoria Derbyshire Show that ‘false allegations are only in a minority’ please see a dip sample of these listed on the Unfounded web site that show otherwise. https://www.unfounded.org.uk/case-examples

Institutional Racism in the Police
We would also like to draw your attention to The Justice Gap article featuring another FACT member who has been exposing racism and cover up in the same police force for some years now. Gurpal Virdi knows only too well how the police force can act and to add to his book exposures has contributed this to the Justice Gap site.

To read the article
To find the article go to The Justice Gap website, https://www.thejusticegap.com/
or if you are reading this on-line, just click the link below:
FACT AGM and Autumn Conference 2019

Saturday 28th September 2019
At St Luke's Conference Centre
Great Colmore Street, Birmingham, B15 2AT

Programme
(Subject to change)

All welcome, but only members allowed to vote at the morning session.
Alternatively, guest are welcome to arrive from 12.15 onwards.

Morning Session
10 am onwards   Tea & Coffee served
10.45           Annual General Meeting
12.00 - 1.00 pm Sandwich Lunch

Afternoon Session
1.00 pm         Notices and announcements
1.10            Guest Speakers & Discussion Session
2.20
Mark Newby (Solicitor)
Mark Barlow (Barrister)
These have represented several victims of false allegations
and have formed a successful Appeal team.
3.15            Refreshment Break
3.30
Discussion based on previous speakers
The speakers will form a panel willing to answer questions from the floor.

For further information contact
FACT secretary
83 Ducie Street, Manchester, M1 2J Q
Email: sec@factuk.org
FACT held its annual service of ‘Encouragement & Support’ at St James’s Church, Piccadilly, London, with the kind permission of Rev Lucy Winkett, a good friend of our President, Sister Frances Dominica. The service was prepared by members from FACT and attended by members of all faiths and none.

Brian Hudson, Secretary, welcomed people to the service and reflected upon the 20 years of service that FACT has given in supporting those who were and still are falsely accused.

One of the readings was the poem Invictus by William Ernest Henley, which he wrote in 1875 and which is printed below. This poem focuses on the human spirit and its ability to overcome adversity. For those who find themselves in dark and trying situations, such as our members have or still find themselves in, the passion and defiance voiced in this poem encourages them to dig deep and fight for their lives. It is a theme that Rev Lucy Winkett took up in her address.

Invictus
by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.
Welcome from Brian Hudson
Secretary of FACT

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to our 2019 service of encouragement and fellowship.

This gathering in the heart of our capital city and especially here at St James’s a church which welcomes one and all as part of its ministry. Their publicised approach making it clear that they are equally welcoming to single, partnered, straight, gay and transgender individuals, to those who struggle with a faith and those of a different or no faith, a very diverse approach indeed. It is a privilege to be here today.

Our aim today is help and recognise all those who have endured and struggle with the trauma of injustice and persecution. FACT acknowledges that we have a broken and prejudiced justice system which in some ways has become a victim of its own complexities and past unaddressed failings. It seems balance, perspective and common sense have been expunged and replaced by a conviction-seeking mentality which in a bid to ensure the biggest catch, can be easily compared to that of over and indiscriminate fishing in our vast oceans. For casting the net wide and deep without due care and concern has resulted in the innocent being swept up with the guilty and taking many good people away from society.

In my position as secretary of FACT I hear weekly of heart breaking examples from those whose lives have been torn apart by vindictive and untrue allegations which are either totally false or a serious mis-interpretation of the truth. Unfortunately for those accused they do not have the unlimited financial resources to mount an equal defence against these worldly accusations.

Unless one can afford the finest of solicitors and barristers the playing field of the courtroom is out of balance and in favour of the prosecution\’s assertions. Justice and relying on what was once called (and still is in some places) the best justice system in the world is no longer correct. An honest person cannot throw himself at the mercy of justice and hope the truth will emerge; it won\’t and it hasn\’t, otherwise we would not be here today. This annual gathering is testimony to the let down of our once revered system.
FACT is here to help those affected and it would be right to say infected by this failure of justice. This year we acknowledge 20 years of serving those who have been wrongly accused and trying to prevent others having the same experience. Letters and expressions of gratitude continually pour into fact. Many people have felt so alone in their dilemma and sensed a great feeling of shame and abandonment. Post-traumatic stress disorder, mental fatigue, paranoia and ill health are all too often the results of this failure to arrest the tide of false allegations and the subsequent wrongful convictions. Premature death and terminal illness for some, a life long torment for others. Once accused there is no escape this is something which stays with you for life and as mentioned at our last conference for years after your life has terminated. This is due to the non-erasable footprint which is left behind whether in people’s minds or on the World Wide Web. It was in 1872 that placing people in the town stocks or ordering them to be pilloried as a means of humiliation was outlawed and removed as a means of punishment in English law. Today almost 150 years later society has found longer lasting, extensive and destructive ways of humiliation, the media.

Today we shall be mindful of those currently incarcerated as a result of an erroneous allegation that has led to conviction. We shall remember all those who have lived good lives and contributed to society only to find society turned on them. Today we shall remember those elderly and suffering from illness in her majesty’s prisons who have been shown no compassion for their condition. We will show and share our understanding and empathy for those who are haunted daily by thoughts of injustice. For those who cannot get through a day without a reminder of the trauma which they have experienced. it cannot be shaken off. Many sometimes think they have done, and then, out of the blue something will happen that throws them right back. It could be an early morning visitor knocking on the door. It may be the sight of a prison transport van, a television documentary or an innocent remark in company. Those innocent people who have endured the burden of prison also then have to face the burden of the sex offender register. Barred for life from doing many things which help them form their life and have an identity. For from this there is no escape. for the rest of their life they have to yearly register and be mindful to inform police of any changes to address, holidays and appearance. Bank accounts, car registrations friends and family are all included in this information register. It is understandable then, how to many, this is the final straw that breaks them.

Thank you for attending and giving voice and acknowledgment to those still incarcerated and to yourselves. Many here today continue to be affected by the stain which was placed upon them. This year FACT wants to focus more on help and support and our spring conference will be looking into this. We want people to live again. To find ways to cope and to have their self-esteem restored. We hope today is a step forward in that direction.
Main Address from Rev. Lucy Winkett
Rector of St James’s Piccadilly

The poem ‘Invictus’, that was just read, was made famous by Nelson Mandela, who found it a comfort and strength during his 27 years in prison. Invictus, of course it has now lent its names to the Invictus Games, for injured and disabled Service personnel, and the word, which simply means unconquered, has become synonymous with a feeling of triumph over adversity, and of resilience in the face of suffering. The man who wrote that poem, Invictus, was William Ernest Henley, a poet from Gloucester and a friend of Robert Louis Stevenson.

When Henley was a child, he had suffered tuberculosis of the bone and his leg was amputated below the knee by the famous surgeon of the day, Joseph Lister. William’s childhood was full of intense pain because of the treatment he had to endure, but his poetry often meditates on inner strength, inner resilience, in a life that was characterised by shocking and enduring pain.

Robert Louis Stevenson’s step son, Lloyd Osborne, described Henley as an adult as “a great, glowing, massive-shouldered fellow with a big red beard and a crutch; jovial, astoundingly clever, and with a laugh that rolled like music; he had an unimaginable fire and vitality; he swept one off one's feet”.

Not surprising then that he is reputedly the real-life model for Robert Louis Stevenson’s character Long John Silver, in his classic Treasure Island.

In responding to the scriptures for today, I take my cue from the ministry of Jesus, who I observe in the Gospels having quite distinct attitudes and differing responses to individuals and to structures and systems. (5.40) To individuals and as an individual, Jesus, it seems to me, came close, very close, and experienced the grief and the shame felt by human beings. Despite being part of occupied people, he healed the servant of one of the architects of his occupation, the Centurion. He dealt with individuals who were collaborators, tax collectors, as individuals with compassion. But, he practiced strong and irreducible, no-violent resistance to the occupation itself. To the system. The unjust occupation.

“My kingdom is not of this world,” he boldly said to Pilate. And in the resurrection garden, inhabited the
seed of the ultimate defiance in the face of unjust occupation. I wonder if being falsely accused would be akin to living under occupation? Sudden checkpoints are thrown up on familiar routes. Relationships tilt on their axis. Trust might be in short supply. You may start to believe that walls have ears. People become either collaborators or resisters. People become locked into a set of new identities, or victims, or accusers. A false accusation throws up a new set of walls, a new set of divisions and choices over a wide network of relationships. Relationships that once were settled and once you trusted in, but now are disrupted and sometimes have gone altogether.

It is not difficult to imagine then that patterns of fear and distress, perhaps shame, begin to settle in the mind. It’s part of the human condition that we all have our own, sometimes, occupied forces that can settle and stagnate our souls. And so, a spiritual question in the light of this scripture is to ask ourselves the question that is in the Gospels too, by what have I’ve been overrun? By fear, or desire of oblivion? What are the occupying forces in my life? Because we can then discover that we also have the capacity to be all of the people who play their part in the occupation. The Galilean soldiers, the collaborators, the occupying forces. The sincere and confused disciples hoping for better world and also the ones practicing non-violent stubborn resistance.

And a paradox that the psalms [psalmist] know about is that in the naming of our despair, just as we heard earlier in this service, just like the naming of the demons in the Gospels that happened time and time again - the naming of the despair and distress is the beginning of its dissolution. “My strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away”, we heard earlier.

A man who suffered a huge, personal and political pain who was consistently shamed and jailed unjustly is Desmond Tutu. And he said in 2005 “I am not optimistic, no, I am quite different. I’m hopeful. I am a prisoner of hope. In the world of course you have very bad people ... and they look like they are going to win. All of them, all of them, have bitten the dust”.

Desmond Tutu is a “prisoner of hope”. Overwhelming hope captured him and would not let him go, even in the deepest days of apartheid. He was living effectively under occupation. His example of living hopefully, even while we name and acknowledge so much distress in ourselves and others, is part of the Christian vocation. And as the mystics would tell us, sometimes this gentle, persistent nagging hope, is only detectable not when everything is going fine, but when we are engulfed or overrun by confusion or despair.

The whole topic of truth and forgiveness and grief is a complex one and not one that can be addressed effectively in one short talk. But those topics stalk our experience and stalk our lives. Like a thief in the night. What on earth can be said about them in a Christian context? I do believe that a Christian, even as a Christian, that there are things that cannot be resolved this side of death. We simply have to live alongside the possibility without ever making it our own.

But here I have found the Jewish philosopher Gillian Rose, very helpful. She was fond of repeating the wise saying of an early 20th century Orthodox monk, Silouan, who wrote this: “Keep your mind in hell and despair not”. As Gillian Rose was herself dying with cancer close to the end of her life, she interpreted this as saying what she thought of as the obligatory sickly-sweet serenity that is often taught in churches was in fact a false expectation and unkind. In fact, she called it a ‘counsel of despair which would keep the mind out of hell’. She preferred a bracing recognition that there is hell on earth and naming it and facing this reality is more truthful that pretending or wishing it away. She goes on, “The tradition is far kinder in its understanding, that to live, to love, is to be failed, to forgive, to fail, to be forgiven, for ever and for ever. (Love’s Work, p98)

The Christian vocation can help us in the honest naming of despair, as the psalms repeat. In the recognition that we as human beings have the capacity to be overrun. The recognition that sometimes we can feel that we are living under occupation. And also, that it is our vocation in the manner of Christ to practice resistance.

The Christian Gospel can help us to pray for the gift of what we might call ‘revolutionary patience’ and ‘stubborn hope’ in the love of God. Even in the midst of this messy and unmended world, knowing that as we wait for God, our collective vocation, as Gillian Rose helps us to see, is to live, to love, to be failed, to forgive, to fail, to be forgiven, for ever and for ever. Amen.
It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the passing of George Jensen. George was a larger than life character, a former Chairman of FACT North Wales, and for several years a former Chairman of the FACT National Committee. Right up to his death he was an ardent campaigner for the falsely accused, and kept in touch with many ex prisoners some of who attended his funeral. He was a regular attender at FACT conferences although in recent years ill health limited the occasions he could attend.

George was a very strong character. Wherever he went and whatever he did left a lasting impression on those around him. At times he could be argumentative and a little stubborn but deep down he was a bright, thoughtful and caring man. He was appalled by the way many of his staff were treated both by their employers and by the investigative agencies including the police.

At his funeral Michael Barnes, former National Secretary addressed those present many of whom were either past or present members of FACT or supported the work it does.

In his address Michael pointed out three standout characteristics of George.

The first was his unselfishness. From an early age he took an interest in youth work, and in particular, helping disadvantaged children. Eventually he became headmaster of one of Wales leading residential schools for deprived children. He was highly respected by staff, and was singled out by his employer for advanced training.

In his retirement George took a keen interest in criminal justice issues, often fighting causes that were unpopular at the time. Whenever injustice raised its ugly head George would often be at the forefront lobbying for change. He would frequently write letters to Parliamentarians, the press, relevant professionals, and would not take 'no' for an answer.

The second standout characteristic of George was courage. This courage was not just limited to him fighting injustice but was also a byword for how he faced personal difficulties, and in particular how he coped with re-occurring ill health and his impending death. Rarely did he complain despite being in considerable pain at times.

Whilst service to others and personal courage describe the essence of George he also had another quality - one which he will have placed as being of more importance than anything else. That was his faithfulness and he was a regular churchgoer for many years.

George was also a family man. He deeply loved his wife, their two children, numerous grandchildren and great grand children to whom we send our condolences for a life well lived.
One of the banes of our present-day society is the compensation culture which has developed in relatively recent years, partially with the active help of avaricious members of the legal profession and recently it has become apparent that the trend to claim compensation for a variety of extremely dubious reasons is very much on the increase. Nowhere is this more evident than in the compensation being granted in so many cases of alleged sexual abuse. Compensation being awarded to proven victims of abuse may be justifiable although, even then, non-financial compensation might be felt more appropriate but, when actual financial compensation is awarded, or when financial payment is promised, before any trial that is surely tantamount to bribery. There are primarily two forms of compensation being o’ered to alleged victims of such abuse.

Firstly, some alleged victims are offered large sums of money by the media for their stories after the trial of the accused abuser is completed. Although the money is apparently paid after the conclusion of any trial, the confirmed promise of such payment is present long before that trial. Some years ago judges would have deemed evidence from people on the receiving end of such payment as inadmissible and that is how it should be today. Obviously the promise of such payment places extra pressure on the alleged victim to continue with their story, however untrue, at all costs. As a result of such a situation people have been given lengthy jail sentences, with some sentences resulting in a person’s death in prison.

The second form is more important in some ways because, largely unknown to the general public, it is money coming out of the public purse and is a source being actively advocated by some legal firms. As may be seen on the internet by Googling ‘Sexual Assault Compensation’ several legal firms openly oer advice on this avenue, even going so far as to suggest estimates of the value of such compensation online for a person’s speciﬁc case. It is a worrying trend that these so-called ‘victims’ are encouraged by no-win-no-fee solicitors, who promise on their websites to be able to obtain compensation whether or not there ends up being a conviction. This is an obvious open invitation to corruption. This public money is paid out by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) and they guarantee lifetime anonymity to claimants. This means, of course, that no-one knows a person has been paid that compensation or how much. This surely means that any defence of an accused would be carried out without knowledge of the bribe that had been paid. It is also interesting to wonder if the actual Judge in a relevant court case is aware of any such payment having been paid; if not, it raises even more worrying queries about our once-envied legal system. It should also worry everyone that, according to the CICA itself, in any case brought before it, its decision will be based on the ‘balance of probabilities’. This is different from a criminal court which decides on the basis of ‘beyond reasonable doubt’. We do not need to wait for the outcome of a criminal trial if there is already enough information to
make a decision on your case, so you should never make that a reason for delaying your application.”

Hence, this oficial body is handing out public money after effectively prejudging a legal issue but using totally different criteria from the courts. The CICA does acknowledge that it can retrieve money given as compensation if the original claim is found to be fraudulent but how does it do this? It is almost impossible to believe it ever retrieves such money because the accused being found ‘Not Guilty’ certainly does not lead to money being taken back. In any case, if total lifetime anonymity of an alleged victim is ensured, no-one outside the CICA and the alleged victim’s immediate circle would ever know such money had been paid out. No; it seems this claim by the CICA must be dubious. It has emerged that the CICA has, in fact, retrieved money from eight recipients in the last ten years but one must wonder how this has come about and just how evidence of fraud on the part of those concerned was discovered given the seemingly total anonymity afforded alleged victims by the CICA itself?

It might be noted also that, as revealed via a freedom of information request, the CICA has paid out in excess of 302 million pounds in compensation to people under the age of 18 between 1996 and May 2017. In that time, the number of successful claims has increased quite dramatically, increasing threefold to almost two thousand in 1972 compared with the previous year and increasing to well over three thousand in 2009 and 2012. The CICA claims the average payment was just in excess of Â£1,000 but this is a somewhat meaningless average. It seems likely that the amounts awarded have increased in more recent years if one goes by the possible payments mentioned on the various legal web sites, some of which claim payments of Â£30,000 and more are being awarded now. If there has been a dramatic increase in the size of payments, it is not known when that occurred, although the increases in numbers from 2008 onwards would seem to suggest the increase occurred around that time. The figure of Â£30,000 would seem to bring such compensation into line with the amount supposedly promised before a trial by a newspaper to an accuser in a fairly recent high profile case.

In response to a more recent request filed under freedom of information, it is revealed by the CICA that the total amount of compensation paid to all claimants of sexual abuse over the last ten financial years is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>Â£40,239,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>Â£37,996,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>Â£44,424,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>Â£39,328,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>Â£41,393,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Â£35,576,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>Â£35,672,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Â£42,274,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Â£54,801,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>Â£71,376,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

leading to a grand total over the entire period mentioned of Â£443,084,735. It might be noticed that there is a definite increase in total payment during the last two years listed. However, there is no indication of the size of individual payments or of the number of claimants concerned. The increase in total payment does, though, raise again the question of how appropriate the payment of financial compensation is in cases where it is claimed that psychological stress has been suffered, rather than genuine physical harm.
Free counselling would be a far more appropriate compensation

It would seem the free counselling would be a far more appropriate compensation and such a course of action would remove the obvious temptation to lie to gain financial reward especially financial reward from a body which, by its own admission, adopts extremely lax methods of evaluation of individual cases.

Again the claim by the CICA to judge each case on a balance of probabilities argument must be regarded as extremely dubious and dangerous. What does balance of probabilities really mean? If someone makes an allegation, that is all it is an allegation! There is not really any such thing as a balance of probabilities involved here. The CICA argument is totally fallacious and steps must be taken immediately to put an end to this practice. It is dangerous also because a recent Director of Public Prosecutions advocates use of a balance of probabilities argument to decide cases in court, rather than the accepted beyond reasonable doubt approach. This second approach can, and does, lead to miscarriages of justice but the new proposal, which is obviously aimed at securing more convictions for rape, would lead to an untold number of such miscarriages as is clearly evident after a moment's thought. If there are several hundred allegations must we assume someone guilty? If there are only one hundred, are they still guilty? If only fifty? Where is the break-even point here? All the indications are that one allegation would be sufficient, in the eyes of some, to obtain a conviction and one wonders if production of actual evidence would play any part in this proposed new regime? (In passing it might be noted that, at least in most cases of historical sexual abuse, the presence of genuine hard evidence must be in short supply, with none present in many cases.) Would the next step be to dispense with a trial in cases of sexual assault? All would throw up their hands in horror that anyone could make such a suggestion but that is the logical conclusion to the trend of thought now being adopted by some who seem more concerned with the low number of convictions for rape than in sticking closely to proving a case beyond reasonable doubt.

It should be noted further that, in many recent cases which have come before the courts, the alleged offences have occurred many years ago as many as forty or more years in many cases and it follows that no truly concrete evidence can exist in at least the vast majority of such cases. Certainly, it is extremely doubtful that any forensic evidence still exists. Hence, any argument put forward by the prosecution must unless the defendant has pleaded guilty be on a balance of probabilities argument. It follows that guilty or innocent depends not on the production of actual evidence but on how silky tongued and persuasive a barrister can be. In such cases it is a blatant mockery to claim, even by implication, that a verdict has been reached on a beyond reasonable doubt basis. It must be remembered at this point also that, at least in some cases, a plea of guilty is entered purely because the police and the CPS have pressured the accused with a deal in which a lighter sentence is promised if such a plea is entered. There is little doubt that this approach has led, in some cases at least, to the gaoling of innocent people.

Names of potential compensation targets are passed around in prison

All of this serves to raise extremely serious questions about our entire legal establishment. It is found that names of potential targets are passed around in prisons, police and lawyers are thought to combine in doing this and, in the 90s, a leaflet was produced for potential accusers stating that they would receive a pay-out, whatever the outcome of any criminal proceedings. FACT has compiled actual evidence of this. This latter point, of course, is supported by the known present policy of CICA. One great danger of this scenario is that this sort of approach will be to people who, in the main, are
totally devoid of conscience and have no thought for the consequences of their actions; the effect on the accused and the accused’s family and friends simply will not be a matter of concern or interest, all that will matter will be money! It is highly likely that, if the lure of financial payment was totally removed, the number of accusations would fall dramatically. In the relatively few genuine cases, any compensation should be in the form of therapy to enable recovery from any trauma experienced.

In most of the really high-profile cases of recent years, uppermost in the minds of many, the real reason for the accusation, was the thought of how much money could be squeezed out of the accused. However, these people have been compensated for their trauma, although probably not adequately, but there are huge numbers who have suffered similarly but have received no recompense from our corrupt system; they are just lucky to have been found ‘not guilty’. Not being high profile, these people have merely been grateful not to have been unjustly and incorrectly incarcerated but have received nothing to compensate them for the anguish caused to them, their families and friends by vicious, money motivated accusers backed up and supported by an increasingly corrupt legal system. This evil system is being extended nowadays to the introduction of a second wave of compensation where no-win, no-fee solicitors pick up on past cases and make private claims for damages against individuals whether or not anyone has been found guilty of an offence. In one extreme case, the accused man was a widower and he died before his case even came to court. This did not prevent lawyers making a claim on his estate, which probably wasn’t very large, even though he left three orphaned children, one of whom was severely mentally disabled. The eventual outcome in this case is not known but the fact that such a claim took place at all surely indicates just how low some members of our legal profession are prepared to sink in the search for filthy lucre! However, in some other cases, people are being pursued for all their assets including homes, savings and even pensions but the situation is often more extreme because of a trial which found them guilty but possibly guilty only because of financial inducement paid out by the CICA.

Quite recently, it has been noted that the country does, in fact, have a Victims’ Commissioner; Dame Vera Baird (previously Baroness Newlove) but who are the ‘victims’ under consideration. If someone has been physically attacked and has the scars and bruises to prove it, there is little doubt but, in many cases the person erroneously termed the ‘victim’ is merely someone who has made an allegation. In these latter cases, the situation is just not clear cut! However, the police routinely say that, if an allegation is made against someone, the accuser will be believed and the accused arrested the police here blatantly ignoring their sworn duty to listen and investigate in an unbiased way! In the latest Victims Commissioner’s Annual Review, Baroness Newlove makes specific mention of child abuse. She may be referring to the high profile cases where gangs of offenders have been involved but, given the present climate, any remarks will be taken to include any case of alleged sexual assault. It is correct to ensure that compensation...
is paid immediately following a trial in cases of, for example, physical assault but it must be remembered that, in the cases of main concern here i dubiously founded cases of alleged sexual assault compensation is often paid before any trial, often if not always paid by CICA, a publicly funded body which, by its own admission, operates under its own set of rules which are far less stringent than those of any court. This is nonsensical and possibly effectively leads to illegal activities by the Crown in that such payment could very reasonably be seen as a bribe. Baroness Newlove also advocates involving Police and Crime Commissioners in the process of handing out compensation but can they be trusted to act correctly? Also and crucially, these well-meaning people must ask the vital question i who is the victim? - the lying girl who receives huge compensation for her lies or the poor unfortunate accused whose life and reputation are forever sullied and all for a handout of ýthy lucre distributed by an organisation that cannot distinguish fact from ýction? Before anything further is proposed by any of these well-meaning bodies, the people concerned should study Sir Richard Henriques 2016 report¹ in minute detail, learn from it and then i and only then i proceed with making suggestions for tackling the various issues concerned.

Police and Crime Commissioners must be independent of both the police i particularly senior officers i and their local CPS. In the past there have been examples where senior police and the local CPS seem to have almost colluded to gain a decision both wanted; there has been at least one example where a Chief Constable and his local CPS counterpart in replying to an important query used identical sentences i was this pure chance or collusion? The trouble is the doubt is there and will remain until this entire area is cleared up openly and effectively. Never again must people like Lord Bramall and Sir Cliff Richard, or the families of such as Lord Brittan and Lord Janner be put through the sort of living hell they must have experienced and never again must the like of the late Sir Edward Heath have their names dragged through the mud by senior police ocers who display on national television their lack of understanding of simple words like believe and openly trawl for more dlyewitnesses it is especially nauseating when the likes of Sir Edward are in no position to defend themselves. Equally, all those unknown people without high prole names must not be forgotten because, once you consider that category, the numbers increase enormously and these are all people who have received NO compensation even though, in most cases, their lying accusers have. One course of action which could reasonably be pursued as far as some very senior police ocers are concerned is for them to be dismissed sine die; after one or two such dismissals, it is quite likely that this vicious pursuit of innocent people would drop drastically.

Lambeth Children’s Homes Redress Scheme

From Lambeth’s website

‘Compensation payments to people who, as children, were abused or feared abuse at a Lambeth Children’s Home and/or Shirley Oaks Primary School.’

- More than 6 months - £10,000
- 3-6 months - £5,000
- More than 1 week - £2,500
- Less than a week - £1,000

‘Applicants who lived in a Specialist Unit will not need to provide written evidence to support their Application.’ for a Harm’s Way Payment.

The situation will not improve though if ludicrously dangerous initiatives, such as that in Lambeth, are pursued i the so-called Lambeth Children’s Homes Redress Scheme. This scheme deals with

applications for compensation payments to people who, as children, were abused or feared abuse at a Lambeth Children’s Home and/or Shirley Oaks Primary School and will be open to applications from 2 January 2018 until 1 January 2020. Seemingly the present council has been clear in taking responsibility for a historic failure to protect children in council care from the 1930s until the 1980s and 1990s. The Lambeth Children’s Homes Redress Scheme is the first of its kind in the country. The scheme was developed in consultation with survivors’ representatives and their legal advisors. It is estimated that the possible number of applications under the scheme could reach 3,000, so it must be wondered how much money has been put aside for all the probable payments? The predicted number of applicants is based on an independent actuarial assessment i.e. whatever that may mean! Since the scheme opened in January 2, 2018 there have been more than 700 applications for compensation made, as of August.

The dangers of this scheme are surely immediately apparent to all i.e. abused or feared abuse for example, promptly opens a huge can of worms; referring to a period starting in the 1930s opens another, since there is actual talk of survivors’ representatives being involved. Also, if people apply, what real hard evidence i.e. other than a possibly unfounded allegation i.e. is to be provided? How much is to go into the cavernous pockets of the legal advisers? No, it may be well meaning but this scheme can only serve to exacerbate an already explosive situation where people, especially men, will be targets more and more for those in search of easy money aided and abetted by unscrupulous lawyers. In all of these cases of alleged sexual abuse, if there is damage to a person, it will be psychological. As such, free counselling should be made available but financial compensation should never be on offer. Financial compensation is an immediate invitation for false claims backed by lawyers out to make large sums of money easily and so, should never be made available. In any case, logically, financial compensation can do nothing to ease genuine psychological trauma but proper professional counselling can!

The real underlying truth, though, is quite simply that signiﬁcant parts of our criminal justice system are unyt for purpose. Some senior people in the criminal justice system behave has if they do not even know the exact meaning of English words they use routinely i.e. for example, believe, victim, bribe, etc. The misuse of these words, such as calling all complainants victims, can have a disastrous consequences in relation to how people, especially the police, understand a situation; making prejudicial judgments of guilt (consciously or subconsciously) that blinkers any investigation before it has even begun. This is how dangerously ludicrous the present situation is.

The sooner real attention is paid to the recent report by Sir Richard Henriques the better, although little has been heard of this detailed, erudite report recently, making one wonder if its content is too embarrassing to be allowed a full public airing. In his report, Sir Richard may use slightly different language but he affirms the correctness of criticisms voiced for years by people, many of whom are not lawyers, concerned at the current state of our judicial system, especially at the conduct of police, CPS, magistrates’ courts and even the crown court i.e. for example, he lays great stress on the totally

1. Since this article was written the Telegraph on-line reported on the 6 August that the Met have agreed to release the full text of Sir Richard Henriques report.
incorrect use of the word 'victim' by all the above collections of people. This whole matter should be one of great concern to all interested in justice and should be addressed as a matter of extreme urgency by all senior members of the legal profession from the Lord Chief Justice down. Compensation is a huge part of this unýt for purpose system and it must be changed for the better now with the Law Society itself, together with the Bar Council, leading the way by putting an effective stop to the unhealthy practice of some legal firms advertising, as they do, means of gaining compensation for mere allegations. These two bodies should be concerned also with the moral standing of many of their members and this is something the controllers of our judiciary should examine also. If people behave in a totally immoral fashion in one area of their lives, why should they be assumed to behave totally morally in another? This is not a simple straightforward question which can be brushed under the carpet but is one which needs to be considered as a matter of extreme urgency if our legal system is to have any hope of living up to the reputation it once enjoyed. It goes without saying almost that the CICA must be reformed also because it too is clearly unýt for purpose but it may be wondered if it is a necessary body at all if its present mode of behaviour is any guide. Also, if Baroness Newlove has her way and more power is given to Police and Crime Commissioners, this would raise a further query about the need for this publicly funded body (the CICA) which seems to be handing compensation at will, whether it is correct to do so in individual cases or not and, since in its own words, it operates on a different set of rules as compared with our court system, it seems the need for this body has disappeared, if it ever did have any real place in the corrupt system.

An After thought
As a pure afterthought, it might be remembered that at a recent awards night, the actor, Laurence Fox, sported a tee-shirt with the slogan ‘Menism’ printed across its front. Menism was obviously meant to be the male equivalent of feminism but to exactly which aspect, or aspects, of that newly proposed ideology Mr. Fox was referring is not at issue. In the present context, however, it is a slogan which has very obvious meaning and relevance and could well be adopted as an antidote to the extremes of feminism which are helping fuel the topic under discussion here because, let’s be totally honest and admit that much of the fuel keeping this debate burning is the desire, promoted by extreme feminists, to have all men accused of rape convicted.

To be clear, those guilty of rape should be punished but they must be proved guilty first and by a system which seeks a verdict of guilty beyond reasonable doubt, not guilty on the balance of probabilities. Indeed, there must be at least some suspicion that this latter notion was put forward by a recent Director of Public Prosecutions merely to pander to those extreme feminists and gather for himself a little more personal support for any future career moves. It is, though, something which this country cannot afford to proceed any further.

Written for FACT by Jeremy Dunning-Davies
Prosecuting Carl Beech (alias ‘Nick’)

from Simon Warr’s Blog

http://thewarrzone.blogspot.com/

Well, it’s over. What should be seen as one of the most significant criminal prosecutions of the decade has finally ended with the conviction of Carl Beech, aka ‘Nick’, on twelve charges of perverting the course of justice and one of fraud. He has been found guilty as charged by a jury of his peers and now faces the prospect of what should be a very substantial sentence of imprisonment, given the utmost seriousness of his vile offences.

In fact, there cannot be many more heinous crimes than deliberately and falsely accusing innocent people of torture, rape and child murder. Yet, this is what Carl Beech – aka ‘Carl Survivor’, aka ‘Lucy Samuels’, aka ‘Sam Williams’, aka ‘Carl Andersson’, aka ‘Oskar Andersson’, aka ‘Samuel Karlsson’ – has done repeatedly in recent years, in a cruel attempt to get his grasping hands on a substantial tranche of compensation money to which he had absolutely no entitlement. The fraud conviction related to the £22,000 he fraudulently claimed from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), ostensibly to pay for professional counselling, which he immediately squandered on a luxury Ford Mustang Convertible car.

At length, in court one at Newcastle Crown Court, Beech’s ludicrous, cruel claims have been revealed to be what they are. His desppicable attempt to ride the historical sexual abuse gravy train has at long last hit the buffers. His trial exposed him to the world for what he really is: a loathsome liar obsessed with the topic of the abuse of children, a calculating fraudster and a man who is devoid of any form of moral compass. Utterly self-centred, to the point that he even attempted to throw his ex-wife and teenage son to the wolves, in a bid to blame them for some of his own vile, criminal, sexual perversions.

As someone who has become an active campaigner against the ‘you will be believed’ cult, and its close partner in encouraging crime, the compensation culture, which fuels the bogus sexual abuse industry by rewarding the most outrageous liars and fraudsters with sizeable cash payouts, I felt that I had a moral duty to attend the latter stages of the Beech trial in person. I wanted to see the man for myself – in the flesh – and to listen to the damning closing speech given by the prosecutor, Tony Badenoch QC.

I also took note of the valiant efforts of Beech’s counsel, Collingham Wood Thompson QC, to try to salvage something for his client. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the material he had to work with, the end result was hardly in doubt. Even in his own evidence, Beech had repeatedly been compelled to admit to having lied and lied again. Mr Thompson did his best to defend the indefensible, but it should be clear that no-one, other than Beech himself, is responsible for his own public annihilation.

‘Someone is Lying’

Moreover, I wanted to hear for myself – and to tweet to the wider world – the key points of the judge’s summing up and his directions to the jury. His Honour Sir James Goss QC was scrupulously fair in summarising the evidence that the jury had heard. In the end, as he rightly remarked, the whole case turned on one pivotal issue: that someone was lying. And, having heard details of the thorough police investigation into Beech and his plethora of lies and deceits and aliases, the members of the jury reached their verdicts: Beech guilty on every single count.

I thought I had experienced it all during the past seven years, since I myself was targeted by a couple of unscrupulous, lying chancers. Indeed, during this time, I’ve come across what can be described only as the dregs of society, people who think nothing of trashing the careers, indeed lives, of committed, hard working professionals for their own nefarious, utterly selfish ends. But what I listened to at Newcastle Crown Court during Beech’s trial has exposed a monster to surpass even those treacherous, greedy fantasists. Each time during the trial that the judge afforded us a break, I felt the need to take a shower, in a bid to cleanse myself of the wretched, sordid details I have just heard.

Already proven to be a devious paedophile himself at an earlier trial, Beech pleaded not guilty to twelve charges of perverting the course of justice after dragging the names of a host of totally innocent figures, comprising politicians and senior military officers, into his depraved, degenerate world, all in a bid for both financial recompense and also to assume some sort of heroic-figure status for himself. No doubt, had he succeeded in his imposture, a misery memoir book and profitable lecture tours would quickly have followed. The thought is enough to turn the stomach of even the most experienced hack.

It’s not within the scope of this blog to detail all the sordid, depraved activities of Carl Beech over the past few years but I am able to state with certainty that one wouldn’t need a degree in psychology, having watched him in the witness box delivering his
evidence, come to the conclusion Beech is ostensibly in an advanced state of sociopathy. Just suppose he had been traumatically abused as a child and had opened up about it, as he persistently claimed, and was then hauled into a court of law on the charge of lying through his teeth: adding insult to injury would be an understatement. Surely the man would have been hopping mad.

On the flip side, as has now been proven, if he were making claims in a court of law that were nothing more than the province of fantasy in extremis, you would expect the person in the dock to be highly emotional when giving his ‘evidence’, knowing it all to be a pack of lies which would wreck careers, potentially lives, of innocent men.

Yet, Beech stood and delivered his testimony with barely a hint of any emotion. No wonder they say it’s the sociopaths and the psychopaths who are most likely to deceive the lie detector test. On this evidence, Beech would certainly have done so!

**Beech the Paedophile**

This much is now certain: Carl Beech, disgraced ex-nurse and NHS executive – and a former school governor – is a convicted sexual abuser of children. He entered guilty pleas at his earlier trial (he could have hardly done otherwise), so there can be no rational doubt about his sordid offences.

He collected a vile library of child abuse images (some of them in category ‘A’, the worst category imaginable). He amassed videos of horrendous child abuse, the titles of which alone are enough to sicken any decent person. He spied on his neighbours’ children and covertly photographed them. And he betrayed the trust placed in every adult by the trust placed in every adult by the

At his trial in Newcastle, however, Beech asked the jury to believe that, despite the evidence of his own sexually warped nature and the plethora of lies he had admitted spinning over a period of years, that he himself was the real victim in all this. He maintained his claims to have been sexually and physically abused by a long list of men, many distinguished soldiers or politicians, as part of a so-called ‘VIP paedophile ring’. He continued to claim that he had witnessed young boys being raped and even murdered, regardless of the extensive police investigations that had exploded each and every one of his bizarre assertions.

**Liar, Fantasist, Fraudster**

In the end, it was a unanimous jury who found Beech guilty as charged. Its members had heard his evidence, as well as the testimony of the prosecution witnesses, and they reached their verdicts. Those twelve men and women in the jury box rejected the defence case that Beech genuinely, perhaps misguidedly, believed the claims that he’d made to the police to be the truth. They decided that, beyond reasonable doubt, he was a liar, a fantasist and a fraudster.

Beech could have entered a guilty plea. He could have spared some of his victims being forced to defend themselves in the witness box. He could have saved a substantial amount of public money being wasted during the trial – that is in addition to the more than two million pounds of public money already blown during Operation Midland, which was set up to investigate his lies and grandiose fantasies. He could have done the decent thing, but he didn’t.

However, it is also important to point out that Beech (and others of his ilk) has been enabled in his grotesque falsehoods and deceits by police and prosecutors, who were far too ready to believe even the most bizarre and unlikely of allegations. Who can forget the Met’s Detective Superintendent Kenny McDonald proclaiming to the world in December 2014 that: “Nick [their pseudonym for Beech] has been spoken to by experienced officers from the child abuse team and from the murder investigation team and they and I believe that what Nick is saying is credible and true, hence why we are pursuing the allegations that he has made.”

By September of the following year, the Met was left desperately trying to row back from one of the most damaging and expensive fiascos in modern policing history. Arguably, the lasting damage will be to public confidence in a police team that was so easily duped by liar Beech, who would lead them on, what was dubbed during his trial as, ‘a merry dance.’

**Believers and Enablers**

I believe that the sheer extent of the Beech deception was made possible only because of bad political and ideological decisions. Sir Keir Starmer, in his role as the Director of Public Prosecutions during the period 2008-2013, was an enthusiastic proponent of the ‘you will be believed’ dogma, as was his successor, Alison Saunders. This approach effectively discouraged police officers from investigating allegations of sexual offences in an even-handed way. It pre-empted proper detective work and reversed the burden of proof in sexual offences cases. Police often preferred to pass cases with little, if any, concrete evidence onto the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), content to let prosecutors authorise charges and then leave it to juries to guess who might be telling the truth. In particularly emotive trials – such as those for alleged rape or child abuse – this approach of charging with little, if any, real evidence was a recipe for wrongful convictions and miscarriages of justice.

In any sane world, Beech’s fantastic claims about a ‘murderous paedophile prime minister’ and a group of ruthless, brutal paedophiles, including senior military men of impeccable reputation, would have been given short shrift. However, in the febrile atmosphere that surrounded the multiple allegations made against the late Jimmy Savile, no-one wanted the role of the boy who called out the obvious deception in the legend of ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes’. So, Beech was left free to continue weaving his vast web of lies.
Yet, it was not just the police and CPS who indulged Beech’s vile fantasies. Certain sections of the national media were only too keen to jump onto the ‘VIP paedo’ scandal bandwagon. Lengthy features were churned out that gave unwarranted credence to the lies of Beech and others, such as ‘Darren’ (another warped fantasist, now utterly discredited). It is to be hoped at least some of the authors of this tosh now feel suitably humbled by the total destruction in court of Beech’s house of cards.

As Beech returns to his miserable prison cell – a convicted sex offender, a convicted perverter of the course of justice and a convicted fraudster – no doubt he will continue to see himself as the main victim in this disaster of his own making. During the week I sat in court watching him, I saw no evidence whatsoever that he had a shred of empathy for his many victims and their families. Lives and reputations have been tarnished, some who have given a lifetime of loyal service to this country. They all deserved so much better than to have become the innocent victims of the deceitful, cruel, manipulative Carl Beech and his shameless entourage of fantasists, chancers and believers. British justice failed the victims of the despicable Beech for far too long. Shame upon him and his enthusiastic supporters.

The Shame that was Exaro

And then there was the so-called Exaro news service, an online band of journalists, who often crossed the line from being objective reporters to enthusiastic believers in the grand VIP conspiracy theory. During the course of Beech’s trial, evidence was given concerning the role that specific members of the Exaro team played in promoting and pushing their star sources increasingly outlandish claims.

Indeed, we heard in court that it was Mark Conrad, one of Exaro’s reporters, who actually made the first contact with the police concerning Beech’s allegations. Likewise, evidence was given in court that Conrad also taught Beech in 2014 how to mask his identity online, use the TOR web browser and to communicate via the Proton Mail encrypted email service.

Beyond Exaro, Beech also amassed a hardcore group of cheerleaders and enthusiasts, who helped to give his allegations the oxygen of publicity, especially online, although public support from Tom Watson MP, currently Labour’s deputy leader, gave Beech’s noxious fantasies an unwarranted boost from a politician who was no doubt hoping that the ‘VIP paedo ring revelations’ could inflict serious damage on the Conservative Party. Will Mr Watson now make a public apology?

Beech’s most outrageous lies, that Britain’s ruling class was infiltrated by murderous kidnappers, torturers and paedophile rapists, found fertile ground among certain sections of the Twittersphere. Some of these ‘believers’ helped spread Beech’s lies because it all chimed with their own prejudices and fantasies. Their Twitter hashtag was #BelieveNick. Anyone daring to challenge this cult risked being smeared as a ‘paedo apologist’ – or worse.

To date, none of these online reputation vandals has been brought to justice for the serious harm they have done, although the example of the infamous ‘Hampstead troll’ Sabine McNeill – jailed for nine years for her vicious campaign of false allegations against innocent people – may provide some hope that at least the very worse of Beech’s twisted and malicious cheerleaders might yet face prosecution. Of course, Beech was the author of this vile, vicious scam, yet he was not alone in promoting it assiduously. There are several people in professional positions whose careers should now be ended in shame, if only to protect the public from their obsessions in the future.

History is the study of the past, in order to understand the present, and so prepare for the future. Let us hope that the story of the lying, selfish, ruthless paedophile Carl Beech is a lesson none of us should ever forget.

Carl Beech was duly sentenced to 18 years Imprisonment.

Comment

From a credible witness to a corrupt, dishonest paedophile. Carl Beech was supported by a prominent politician, the Met Police, Social workers and a plethora of journalists in his pursuit of fame and financial gain. He held the lives of people in his hands and would have sentenced them to eternal ruin and condemnation had he got away with his lies. No sentence can be harsh enough for this despicable act. Unfortunately he is but the tip of an iceberg, he is one who has been caught and investigated, thousands of others have got away with their lies and squandered their ill-gotten gains in the way Beech did. Will the police and cps now listen and open their eyes. Will they see this as a one off or let it be the start of a manhunt for others. They need to reverse the policy of believe, believe and believe again now and start investigating complaints from an impartial position. If they had done this with Beech then the two million pounds plus the cost of his own trial would have been saved and reputations left intact. They should also bring to account those who did believe him and ask them WHY. Why were his outrageous fantasies of murder, torture and sexual deviance taken seriously without a scrap of evidence? This must not be buried away but used to reverse the law of corroboration and the practice of guilty till proven innocent.

Brian Hudson
Secretary of FACT
Over the last 30 years, support groups for those accused of false accusations have worked tirelessly to provide advice and a shoulder for victims of unfounded allegations. The support groups include FASO, FACT, Accused.me and Safari. Whilst each group supports a wide range of different people and accusation, all the groups have a similar will to witness change to the British Legal System to better protect victims of false allegations and wrongful convictions.

Unfounded brings together the wide range of Groups that support victims of false allegations, to speak as one voice in the fight for justice. The Alliance is committed to working together to raise awareness and influence policy to improve services to victims of unfounded allegations and miscarriages of justice.

The initial aims of UNFOUNDED are:

- **Campaign** to get the recommendations of the Henriques Report implemented.
- **Raise the profile** of unfounded accusations to wider parties.
- **Strengthen** the position of victims of wrongful allegations in the criminal justice system.
- **Unified voice** to influence and engage with government and wider stakeholders.
- **Work together** in a positive and respectful way to improve outcomes for victims’ families.
- **Networking** across member organisations with swift communication of key information.

If you have any specific experience in political campaigning and would like to volunteer to help please contact Unfounded via our website: [http://www.unfounded.org.uk](http://www.unfounded.org.uk).

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**Richard Webster’s Website**

A reminder form FACT that this very important website is still online

Very sadly, Richard died in June 2011, after suffering heart failure during the night.

Richard researched and wrote about many of the issues central to FACT’s work. He was very far sighted and decades ahead in his realisation of the truth. He was also involved with FACT in the early days. His books ‘The Great Children’s Home Panic’ (1998) and ‘The Secret of Bryn Estyn’ (2005) are directly related to FACT and the devastating effect of false allegations on its members.

Richard’s friends would like to ensure that he is properly remembered and they want his work to remain readily available for others to read, hence the continuation of his website:

[www.richardwebster.net](http://www.richardwebster.net)
Also Supporting Victims of False Allegations

We are happy to introduce other organisations, where you may find additional information / support:

**accused.me.uk** - www.accused.me.uk

The Accused Me organisation help link you with others and provide advice if you are going through rape allegations. They also campaign to improve the investigation and detection of sexual crimes in the UK.

**B.F.M.S. - British False Memory Association** - www.bfms.org.uk

False memory: when a person is convinced a memory is true when it is not. Clinical evidence suggests it is more widespread than had previously been appreciated. Contact: Kevin Felsted - 0161 285 2583


SAFARI provide powerful and positive information to those who are in a position to make necessary changes in the UK’s investigative and judicial systems, those who have been affected by false accusations and those who have suffered from being pressurised into making false accusations.


A voluntary organisation that offers clear information, practical advice, and emotional support to anyone affected by false allegation of abuse. Contact - Margaret - 0844 335 1992

**P.A.F.A.A. - People Against False Accusations of Abuse** - http://www.pafaa.org.uk/

**S.O.F.A.P. - Support Organisation for Falsely Accused people**

The PAFAA and SOFAP website was set up in an effort to offer help and support to anyone who has been falsely accused of abuse of a sexual nature.

**F.A.H.S.A - Falsely Accused of Historic Sex Abuse** - http://www.falselyaccusedhsa.co.uk

My husband and I assumed that the fundamental principle of justice - innocent until proven guilty - was enshrined in British Law, our experience taught us otherwise.

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**Here to help. Not to Judge**

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- Intervention and representations wherever possible before interview to avoid the need for formal arrest and the consequences which follow from such arrest.
- Firm advice and help before and during interviews so clients are fully aware of rights and entitlements and able to make the best choices to protect reputations and minimise risk during investigation.
- Specialist representation and active defence where police proceed to prosecution.

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Ask for Alison Todd, Andrew Palazzo, Gavin Kendall or Max Anwar

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FACT is a not-for-profit organisation founded more than 19 years ago and is 100% run by volunteers.

Due to attitudes and changes in the law we are moving further away from the precept of innocent until proven guilty. Add to this a zero risk tolerance in employment and we find ourselves being called upon more and more to support those who have been falsely accused of abuse when working in positions of trust (including volunteers) who are maintaining their innocence or have been cleared. As an organisation we need more volunteers to help us respond to these calls for help and to enable us to provide first class support to the victims of false allegations and their families, as well as to seek changes to reverse that increase. We need skills and experience across a broad range of areas. Many of our volunteers bring with them skills and training they have gained through their careers and previous volunteering, or from their own personal experience of the devastating effects of false allegation and who want to use this to help others.

We do not provide legal assistance or attempt to influence the outcome of a case, instead we provide information, practical support and comfort during a very difficult time when the victim can feel very much on their own, vulnerable and shunned by society. Many of the effects of false allegations last for life.

Whilst FACT is a UK based organisation we recognise a spread of the problem worldwide and are often contacted from abroad.

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**How You Can Help?**

**MEMBERSHIP:**
If you aren’t already, become a member.

**WEBSITE:**
Sourcing and adding news and information

**TWITTER:**
Managing and writing

**MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS:**
Producing leaflets, Producing PowerPoint presentations,

**WRITING:**
For the website,
For FACTion
Preparing responses to government consultations
Open letters & press releases representing FACT’S opinion to governments and media

**EMAIL SUPPORT:**
Supporting individuals by email

**RESEARCH:**
Find out about a topic and keep our knowledge up to date i.e. DBS, employment law, Parliament, Issues in other counties

**FUNDRAISING:**
Writing grant applications. Finding funding sources

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:**
Supporting volunteers. Training and recruitment

**MANAGEMENT/COMMITTEE:**
These are not the only ways of helping.
If you would like further information please see inside front page for contact details.