

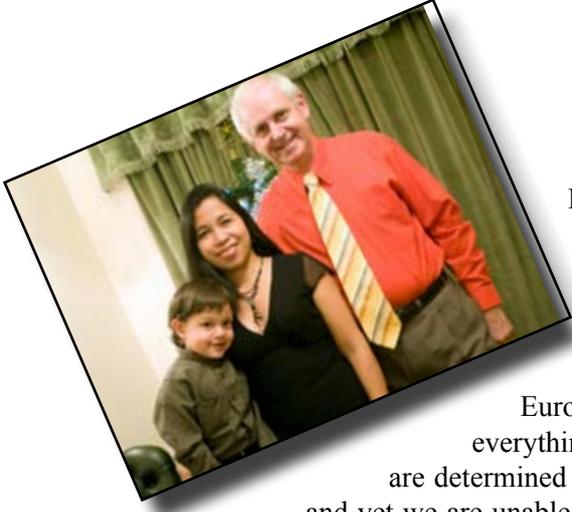
Northern news

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

FEBRUARY 2009



Editorial Ramblings



In a recent discussion with one of my colleagues, he said that he thought I was no longer 'British'. Of course that made me think, and as a result I realised that it was not a matter of me being no longer 'British', but that Britain is no longer 'British'. Britain has lost its identity along with the common sense, honesty and integrity that was once characteristic of the British people. Britain is now a puppet country that is manipulated by American politicians and European laws and controls instead of being the world leader it once was, in almost everything. Britain has become a paradise for criminals and a refuge for terrorists who are determined to see it's complete and utter destruction and bring about radical Islamisation and yet we are unable to do anything in because of *Human Rights*. What rights do the real 'British' people have? NONE! Not only that, but our health service and education systems are in tatters, and crime is escalating through the roof because even serious criminals know they can get away with their evil deeds. On the next page is a report published in our local paper about a crime committed to our next-door neighbour! Somewhat close to home! The daughter of one of the cleaning ladies who works in my office, was mugged and robbed recently on the main road near our home. Is it any wonder I want out of here? (That is, if I can get out - see article on pages 11-13). Britain never used to be like this. It used to be the best country in the world. It is the country that has changed - NOT ME! In fact, as a nation, Britain is completely finished - destroyed. GREAT BRITAIN is no more. RIP. How sad (and angry) that makes me feel.

I was delighted to receive an e-mail from one of our friends that read: *By the way, I meant to say too - I really appreciated the piece in the newsletter re: the Climate change -- for a change! - a bit of balance on that one!!*

As most of you will remember, I've been including comment on the lies being promulgated about man-made climate change in this publication for some time, and have added many links to web-sites that support my view that the only reason we are being subjected to stories about human effects on the world's climate is because many people - and large corporations - are making fortunes out of it. The scientific evidence that these alarmists use to brainwash the general population and bring about changes in the world's laws have been proven to be gross exaggerations, lies and fabrications, and yet the vast majority of politicians sign on to it. Why? Whilst many politicians may be ignorant and too lazy to find out the real facts, the main reason is corruption on a huge scale - and not only in the political arena, but also in certain scientific circles too. Particularly those scientists who need government money to keep their research programmes funded. I will keep banging the drum on this issue and keep doing my research and passing it on to you - as I have with this edition. I hope you make time to read what I've included in this magazine as well as the links to various supporting documents and the video.



Photograph above: Alan with Paul and Emily, on the Quantock Hills - Three generations of the 'Cook' family.
Cover photograph: 2015hrs on 2 February. The orange street lamps cast an eerie glow on the snow. Taken from our bedroom window.

Gang of three in savage assault

A man was in hospital today with serious injuries following a brutal attack in his Wolverhampton home.

A three-strong gang burst into the victim's detached bungalow in Dudding Road, Goldthorn Park, off Wolverhampton Road East, at around 8pm last night.

The men got in through the back of the house and pounced on the man. He suffered head and facial injuries during a sustained beating before the trio, believed to be an Asian man and two black men, fled.

The victim was today recovering in New Cross Hospital and has serious but not life-threatening injuries. The motive for the attack is unclear and police inquiries were continuing today.

Neighbours said police had also been called to the

road on Sunday to investigate a car parked suspiciously in the street.

Two Mercedes cars stood outside the bungalow that was being guarded by a policeman today. West Midlands Police spokesman Steve Garey said this afternoon: "We can confirm that we are investigating an incident that occurred last night in Dudding Road."

Anybody with information that might help the inquiry is asked to ring West Midlands Police on 0845 113 5000 and ask to speak to officers at Bilston Street police station.

Courtesy of the *Express and Star* ©

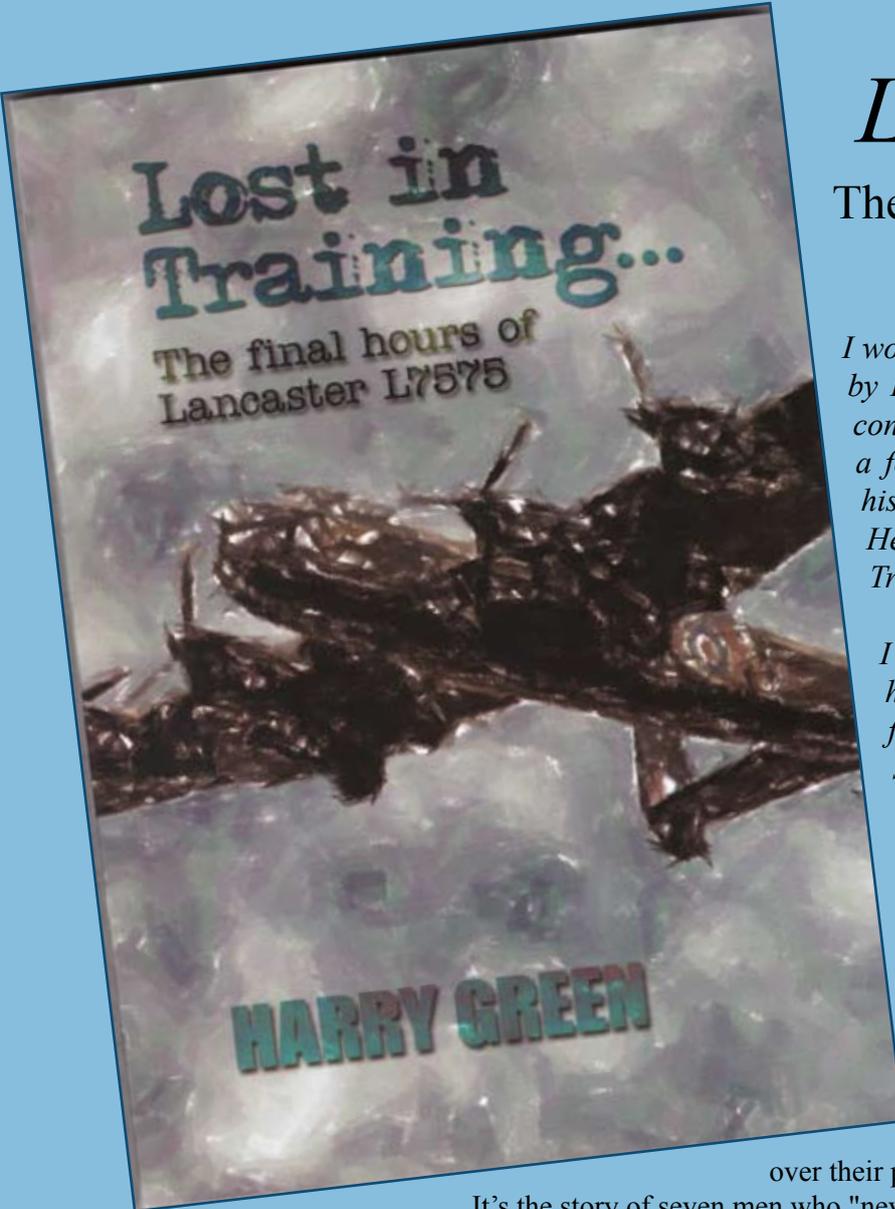
At Paul and Julie's

26 - 28 February 2009

We had a really super weekend at Paul and Julie's new home in Somerset. We hadn't seen them since the end of August - far too long a time. It was great to see just how much grand-daughter, Emily had grown. We went walking on the Quantock Hills, from where we enjoyed some spectacular views. We are now looking forward to seeing another grand-child, as Julie is due to deliver one imminently - see next issue!

Left: Alan with Emily. Below: Grace with Emily and John. Btm. Left: Julie. Btm. Right: Paul and Emily





Lost In Training

The final hours of Lancaster L7575

by Harry Green

I would like to introduce you to this wonderful book by Harry Green - not least because I am a minor contributor, in as much as I have passed on to Harry a few of the stories my late father told me about his experiences when he was stationed at Upper Heyford 'Crash 'Drome' - 16 OTU (Operational Training Unit) during World War II.

I know that my father would have been proud to have been recognised for the service he, and his former colleagues in the RAF Fire and Rescue section, gave to this country - the unsung heroes of the RAF during the war who saved many lives and in so doing placed themselves in tremendous peril from fire and exploding ammunition as well as other hazards. I really hope that you will buy this book as a tribute to these heroes.

Most World War Two books about Bomber Command deal with the experiences of the men who went into combat and usually skip lightly over their period of training. This book is different.

It's the story of seven men who "never fired a shot in anger". They had undertaken all the trials and tribulations of training and were about to enter the air campaign over Berlin in late 1943, a time when the casualty rate in Bomber Command was at its highest (in fact, many who trained alongside them would lose their lives in combat shortly afterwards).

But the seven crew members of Lancaster L7575 gave their lives just the same, and became part of a shocking statistic ~ the 5,327 airmen killed during air-crew training in World War II.

The War brought together men from different countries and backgrounds; men who, in normal circumstances, would never have met. This is the story of seven such men, their family backgrounds, their training and how they eventually got together as a crew to fly an aircraft.

It is also the story of the aircraft they flew on that last night of their lives, Lancaster L7575, and the famous mission in which it had previously taken part; of the ground crew who serviced it and the indispensable role they played and of the rescue services who did so much in the most difficult of circumstances. We learn what the men did with their time off, on the bases, visiting local towns and on leave and of the Hertfordshire village of Colney Heath, that for one dismal autumn night was struck by the horror of war, to the eternal grief of one particular family and the lasting memory of many others.

Then there's the mysterious cause of the accident. How far can we rely on the official report ~ or was there an entirely different reason?

Finally, this book is dedicated to the unsung heroes of Bomber Command ~ those who died during the training process. They must never be forgotten. They gave their lives and should be remembered along with the rest.

This is the story of seven such men...

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Lost in Training (ISBN 1-84683-066-4), is published by Woodfield Publishing Ltd.

Their web site is at URL: <http://www.woodfieldpublishing.co.uk>

Here you can read a review of the book and can, if you wish, purchase the book on line. It is a 160 page paperback retailing at £9.95p but is available in other currencies at the latest exchange rate.

Despite the hot air, the Antarctic is not warming up!

A deeply flawed new report will be cited ad nauseam by everyone from the BBC to Al Gore.

**By Christopher Booker in the *Daily Telegraph*
01 February 2009**

The measures being proposed to meet what President Obama last week called the need to "roll back the spectre of a warming planet" threaten to land us with the most colossal bill mankind has ever faced. It might therefore seem peculiarly important that we can trust the science on which all the alarm over global warming is based, But nothing has been more disconcerting in this respect than the methods used by promoters of the warming cause over the years to plug some of the glaring holes in their scientific argument.

Another example last week was the much-publicised claim, contradicting all previous evidence, that Antarctica, the world's coldest continent, is in fact warming up, Antarctica has long been a major embarrassment to the warmists. Al Gore and co may have wanted to scare us that the continent which contains 90 per cent of all the ice on the planet is heating up, because that would be the source of all the meltwater which they claim will raise sea levels by 20 feet.

However, to provide all their pictures of ice-shelves "the size of Texas" calving off into the sea, they have had to draw on one tiny region of the continent, the Antarctic Peninsula – the only part that has been warming. The vast mass of Antarctica, all satellite evidence has shown, has been getting colder over the past 30 years. Last year's sea-ice cover was 30 per cent above average.

So it predictably made headlines across the world last week when a new study, from a team led by Professor Eric Steig, claimed to prove that the Antarctic has been heating up after all. As on similar occasions in the past, all the usual supporters of the cause were called in to whoop up its historic importance. The paper was published in *Nature* and heavily promoted by the BBC. This, crowded journalists such as *Newsweek's* Sharon Begley, would really be one in the eye for the "deniers" and "contrarians".

But then a good many experts began to examine just what new evidence had been used to justify this dramatic finding. It turned out that it was produced by a computer model based on combining the satellite evidence since 1979 with temperature readings from surface weather stations.

The problem with Antarctica, though, is that has so few weather stations. So what the computer had been programmed to do, by a formula not yet revealed, was to estimate the data those missing weather stations would have come up with if they had existed. In other words, while confirming that the satellite data have indeed shown the Antarctic as cooling since 1979, the study relied ultimately

on pure guesswork, to show that in the past 50 years the continent has warmed – by just one degree Fahrenheit.

One of the first to express astonishment was Dr Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a convinced believer in global warming, who wryly observed "it is hard to make data where none exists". A disbelieving Ross Hayes, an atmospheric scientist who has often visited the Antarctic for Nasa, sent Professor Steig a caustic email ending: "with statistics you can make numbers go to any conclusion you want. It saddens me to see members of the scientific community do this for media coverage."

But it was also noticed that among the members of Steig's team was Michael Mann, author of the "hockey stick", the most celebrated of all attempts by the warmists to rewrite the scientific evidence to promote their cause. The greatest of all embarrassments for the believers in man-made global warming was the well-established fact that the world was significantly warmer in the Middle Ages than it is now. "We must get rid of the Mediaeval Warm Period," as one contributor to the IPCC famously said in an unguarded moment. It was Dr Mann who duly obliged by getting his computer-model to produce a graph shaped like hockey stick, eliminating the mediaeval warming and showing recent temperatures curving up to an unprecedented high.

This instantly became the warmists' chief icon, made the centrepiece of the IPCC's 2001 report. But Mann's selective use of data and the flaws in his computer model were then so devastatingly torn apart that it has become the most comprehensively discredited artefact in the history of science.

The fact that Dr Mann is again behind the new study on Antarctica is, alas, all part of an ongoing pattern. But this will not prevent the paper being cited ad nauseam by everyone from the BBC to Al Gore, when he shortly addresses the US Senate and carries on advising President Obama behind the scenes on how to roll back that "spectre of a warming planet". So, regardless of the science, and until the politicians finally wake up to how they have been duped, what threatens to become the most costly flight from reality in history will continue to roll remorselessly on its way.

Not the least shocking news of the week was the revelation by that admirable body the Taxpayers Alliance that last year the number of "middle managers" in Britain's local authorities rose by a staggering 22 percent. Birmingham City Council alone has more than 1,000 officials earning over £50,000 a year. All over Britain senior council officials are now earning salaries which 10 years ago would have seemed unthinkable.

Future historians will doubtless find it highly significant that just when Britain's economy was about to collapse, an already hopelessly bloated public sector was expanding faster than ever. One of the more dramatic changes in British life over the past two decades has been how, aided by their counterparts in Whitehall and Brussels, the officials who run our local authorities have become separated from the communities they used to serve. Floating free of political control, they have become a new privileged class, able to dictate their own salaries and extend their own empires, paid for by a public to whom they are no longer accountable.

But if this gulf has already become wide enough, how much more glaring is it going to become now that the private sector is shrinking so fast? Already last year an astonishing 2.5 million people were in court for failing or being unable to pay ever soaring council taxes. Tellingly, the only response of the Local Government Association to these latest revelations was plaintively to point out that as many as "2,700" council jobs have already been lost in the economic downturn. But outside those walls three million may soon be out of work. Who will then be left to pay for those salaries and pensions that our new privilegentsia have arranged for themselves?

* How appropriate that Kenneth Clarke should become "shadow" to Business Secretary Peter Mandelson. As fervent "Europeans", both men know that almost all the policies of the ministry laughably renamed the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are now decided at "European level". There is therefore hardly any job left for them to do. Mr Clarke will be free to continue advising Centaurus, one of the largest hedge funds in Europe. Lord Mandelson can carry on running the Labour Party, But the last thing either will want to admit is that all the powers they claim or seek to exercise have been handed over to Brussels.

* The Government last week announced that in March it is to sell off 25 million "carbon credits". These European Union Allowances permit industry and electricity companies to continue emitting CO₂, ultimately paid for by all of us through our electricity bills. Last summer, when these permits were trading at 31 euros each, this sale might have raised more than £500 million pounds, Today, however, thanks to the economic meltdown creating a surplus of credits no longer needed, their value is dropping so fast that Mr Darling will be lucky to get £100 million. That should help reduce our electricity bills – even though Mr Darling will merely have to extract the cash from us in other ways.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/4332784/Despite-the-hot-air-the-Antarctic-is-not-warming-up.html>

"Scare" *Video from Heartland*

"Scare," a two-minute video highlighting the scare tactics of global-warming alarmists, has made its debut on the Internet.

The video is available at Heartland's Web site, on YouTube

Heartland released the video in the wake of former vice president Al Gore's claim before a U.S. Senate committee January 28 that "scientists are practically screaming from the rooftops" about the threat of global warming.

The first part of "Scare" shows President Barack Obama asserting that "the science is settled" on global warming and alarmist predictions of death and destruction. The voice-over suggests some of the alarmist propaganda is backed by "corporations heavily invested in so-called green technology."

With video footage of social and political unrest flashing, the video warns that the "cost of force-feeding these technologies into every corner of our lives could bankrupt a world already teetering on financial ruin."

The second half of the video features several science-based facts about climate change, including that the Earth has been cooling in recent years and global temperatures have been warmer than today for most of the past 10,000 years.

It concludes by inviting viewers to attend the International Conference on Climate Change, where they can learn the Earth isn't in crisis, and the presenters "have the science to prove it."

"This is a provocative video on one of the most important public policy issues of day," said Joseph Bast, president of The Heartland Institute. "Heartland has distributed more than 1 million videos and books presenting scientific and economic facts that show global warming is not a crisis. We hope this video and the conference it is helping to promote are the final stake in the heart of global warming alarmism."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvLt3nU14W4>
and
<http://www.heartland.org/>

2008 was the year man-made global warming was disproved

Looking back over my columns of the past 12 months, one of their major themes was neatly encapsulated by two recent items from *The Daily Telegraph*.

**By Christopher Booker in the *Daily Telegraph*
31 Decembers 2008**

The first, on May 21, headed “Climate change threat to Alpine ski resorts”, reported that the entire Alpine “winter sports industry” could soon “grind to a halt for lack of snow”. The second, on December 19, headed “The Alps have best snow conditions in a generation”, reported that this winter’s Alpine snowfalls “look set to beat all records by New Year’s Day”.

Easily one of the most important stories of 2008 has been all the evidence suggesting that this may be looked back on as the year when there was a turning point in the great worldwide panic over man-made global warming. Just when politicians in Europe and America have been adopting the most costly and damaging measures politicians have ever proposed, to combat this supposed menace, the tide has turned in three significant respects.

First, all over the world, temperatures have been dropping in a way wholly unpredicted by all those computer models which have been used as the main drivers of the scare. Last winter, as temperatures plummeted, many parts of the world had snowfalls on a scale not seen for decades. This winter, with the whole of Canada and half the US under snow, looks likely to be even worse. After several years flatlining, global temperatures have dropped sharply enough to cancel out much of their net rise in the 20th century.

Ever shriller and more frantic has become the insistence of the warmists, cheered on by their army of media groupies such as the BBC, that the last 10 years have been the “hottest in history” and that the North Pole would soon be ice-free – as the poles remain defiantly icebound and those polar bears fail to drown. All those hysterical predictions that we are seeing more droughts and hurricanes than ever before have infuriatingly failed to materialise.

Even the more cautious scientific acolytes of the official orthodoxy now admit that, thanks to “natural factors”

such as ocean currents, temperatures have failed to rise as predicted (although they plaintively assure us that this cooling effect is merely “masking the underlying warming trend”, and that the temperature rise will resume worse than ever by the middle of the next decade).

Secondly, 2008 was the year when any pretence that there was a “scientific consensus” in favour of man-made global warming collapsed. At long last, as in the Manhattan Declaration last March, hundreds of proper scientists, including many of the world’s most eminent climate experts, have been rallying to pour scorn on that “consensus” which was only a politically engineered artefact, based on ever more blatantly manipulated data and computer models programmed to produce no more than convenient fictions.

Thirdly, as banks collapsed and the global economy plunged into its worst recession for decades, harsh reality at last began to break in on those self-deluding dreams which have for so long possessed almost every politician in the western

world. As we saw in this month’s Poznan conference, when 10,000 politicians, officials and “environmentalists” gathered to plan next year’s “son of Kyoto” treaty in Copenhagen, panicking politicians are waking up to the fact that the world can no longer afford all those quixotic schemes for “combating climate change” with which they were so happy to indulge



Polar bear - Polar bears will be fine after all Photo: AP

themselves in more comfortable times.

Suddenly it has become rather less appealing that we should divert trillions of dollars, pounds and euros into the fantasy that we could reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 80 per cent. All those grandiose projects for “emissions trading”, “carbon capture”, building tens of thousands more useless wind turbines, switching vast areas of farmland from producing food to “biofuels”, are being exposed as no more than enormously damaging and futile gestures, costing astronomic sums we no longer possess.

As 2009 dawns, it is time we in Britain faced up to the genuine crisis now fast approaching from the fact that – unless we get on very soon with building enough proper power stations to fill our looming “energy gap” – within a few years our lights will go out and what remains of our economy will judder to a halt. After years of infantile displacement activity, it is high time our politicians – along with those of the EU and President Obama’s US – were brought back with a mighty jolt into contact with the real world.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/3982101/2008-was-the-year-man-made-global-warming-was-disproved.html>

Reference Reading about Global Warming

A Skeptic's Guide to Debunking Global Warming Alarmism -
Hot & Cold Media Spin Cycle: A Challenge to Journalists who
Cover Global Warming by United States Senator James Inhofe -
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

*[http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/2009/GlobalWarming/
GlobalWarming.pdf](http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/2009/GlobalWarming/GlobalWarming.pdf)*

*[http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/2009/GlobalWarming/
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U.S. Senate Minority Report Update: More Than 650
International Scientists Dissent Over Man-Made Global
Warming Claims - January 14, 2009.

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*[http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/2009/GlobalWarming/
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The Stasi Tactics of the BBC

by Melanie Phillips
from *The Daily Mail*
4 February 2009

Sometimes you have to pinch yourself to remember that Britain has historically always been the cradle of liberty. For today we seem to be sliding inexorably into a culture of control which would have been very familiar to the Stasi or the KGB.

Carol Thatcher, the daughter of former Prime Minister Lady Thatcher, now faces being banned from the BBC after reportedly referring to an unnamed tennis player as reminding her of a 'golliwog'.

Carol, who was crowned Queen of the Jungle in the 2005 reality series *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!*, has been a regular presenter on *The One Show* — a daily magazine programme on BBC One — for three years and is described as part of the family on the BBC website.

But yesterday the BBC threw her out by announcing in the wake of the 'golliwog' row that it now had 'no plans' to use her again in her regular presenting slot.

Let it be said loud and clear, racially offensive language is unacceptable. Ms Thatcher maintains, however, that she made merely a jokey remark.

Her friends say that all she did was to compare the player's hairstyle to the 'Robertson's Golly' which once adorned that company's jars of jam and marmalade.

But without knowing the context in which she made this remark — and the tone in which it was said — none of us can judge what to make of it. And that surely is the point.

For the really disturbing thing about this episode — unlike that involving Jonathan Ross, who deeply offended millions in public, had to have an apology dragged out of him and kept his £18 Million job — is not so much the remark itself but the fact that Carol Thatcher made it in private.

We can't gauge whether or not this really is a hanging offence or a trivial aside of no consequence, because she made the remark after several drinks in the show's hospitality room to the presenter Adrian Chiles, who is said to have been 'outraged' by it.

So outraged that it seems it is being used to hang her out to dry. But it was a remark made in the course of a private conversation — which has now been used to sack her after someone involved in that lighthearted banter passed it on to BBC executives in the form of a complaint.

It is the BBC's reaction which is really shocking and offensive, together with the behaviour of the person who

turned in Ms Thatcher (would they have done so if she'd had a different mother?) to the Corporation's commissars.

It is hard to think of anything more despicable than snitching like this on a private conversation. People say or do all kinds of things which are perfectly acceptable in the context of drinks with friends or colleagues, but which would cause a very different impression if they occurred in public.

If we were all to be treated in this way, how many of us would remain in our jobs? Is there anyone who can honestly claim never to have uttered an injudicious remark when sharing a drink with friends?

This is the whole point of privacy. The very essence of a liberal society is to acknowledge the distinction between public and private, and to tolerate in private what might not be acceptable in public.

To seek to enforce codes of behaviour in private relationships is totally coercive and illiberal. Yet that is precisely what has happened in the case of Carol Thatcher.

By reporting her remark to the BBC hierarchy — and who knows whether or not it was distorted or taken out of context in the lodging of this complaint — her disloyal and sneaky colleagues took an axe to her right to privacy.

The implications are deeply disturbing. For such behaviour means that no one can ever relax with colleagues for fear that one of them might go running to the boss to complain.

It destroys the freedom to speak in private for fear that this might be used to cast you into outer darkness for having a view which falls foul of some arbitrary definition of what is acceptable.

After all, no offence could possibly have been given to the unnamed tennis player or the public at large because the remark was not broadcast.

This is, in fact, the second time in just a few days in which someone has found herself facing the sack for behaviour which has caused no actual offence but where charges have been laid by officious colleagues enforcing an oppressive code of behaviour.

Community nurse Caroline Petrie offered to pray for an elderly patient who was being treated at home. The following day, Mrs Petrie was confronted over her offer by a nursing sister.

The day after that, she was told that she was suspended while disciplinary action would be taken against her which might lead to the sack.

But although the patient had turned down her offer of a prayer, she said she was not the slightest bit offended and certainly had not made a complaint.

As with Carol Thatcher, it was this nurse's colleagues who were offended that Mrs Petrie had transgressed codes of

‘equality and diversity’ — which apparently preclude a nurse offering the Christian solace of prayer (*Ed - She has since been re-instated to her position as nurse*).

And it was professional colleagues, both in that NHS Trust and in the BBC, who took it upon themselves to enforce those approved attitudes from which there can be no deviation.

Mr Ross’s offence is that in sick language he offended the elderly. Old, white, middle-class people don’t really count for much in the BBC mindset. Ms Thatcher’s alleged offence involved race — which to the BBC constitutes the most heinous crime of all.

Such political correctness is now the governing characteristic of public sector institutions such as the BBC and the NHS, along with an intelligentsia determined upon a draconian process of social engineering aimed at changing not just society but human nature itself.

Ostensibly designed to protect disadvantaged groups, it is actually all about advertising the moral purity of those who enforce it. It’s a dogma enforced with the zealotry of a secular inquisition and is profoundly totalitarian in character. Indeed, behaviour such as this has always been a key feature of police states and totalitarian regimes.

The Stasi or the KGB gained much of their power over the population they tyrannised by getting people to inform on each other, using such informers to bring forward evidence of ‘thought crimes’ from private or overheard conversations.

Such use of informers sets people against each other in a climate of permanent and corrosive suspicion. Destroying the trust which is the basis of relationships, it is thus a principal means of controlling the population.

In Communist regimes, Stasi and KGB informers and apparatchiks designated dissidents, religious believers and other free spirits as enemies of the state.

In politically correct Britain, BBC informers and NHS apparatchiks designate jovially gabby broadcasters and Christian nurses as enemies of society, to be summarily convicted by kangaroo courts of conformist bureaucrats and banished in opprobrium and disgust.

It’s all part of a wider trend. The police ‘hate crime’ division urges the public to inform on anyone who expresses an opinion they deem hateful to the usual range of disadvantaged groups.

An energy company invites children to become ‘climate cops’, reporting on parents, relatives and friends who leave TV sets on and commit other examples of ‘climate crime’.

It is this combination of lunacy and coercion which leads one to think that the land of those great apostles of free thinking, John Milton and John Locke, is fast turning into a nightmare straight out of the pages of George Orwell or Franz Kafka.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new?p=642>

and by the British Government!

by James Slack
from *The Daily Mail*
15 November 2007

Terror crackdown: Passengers forced to answer 53 questions BEFORE they travel

Travellers face price hikes and confusion after the Government unveiled plans to take up to 53 pieces of information from anyone entering or leaving Britain.

For every journey, security officials will want credit card details, holiday contact numbers, travel plans, email addresses, car numbers and even any previous missed flights.

Critics warned of mayhem at ports and airports when the system is introduced, beginning in earnest from mid-2009.

By 2014 every one of the predicted 305million passenger journeys in and out of the UK will be logged, with details stored about the passenger on every trip.

The scheme will apply to every way of leaving the country, whether by ferry, plane, or small aircraft. It would apply to a family having a day out in France by Eurotunnel, and even to a yachtsman leaving British waters during the day and returning to shore.

The measure applies equally to UK residents going abroad and foreigners travelling here.

The information will be stored for as long as the authorities believe it is useful, allowing them to build a complete picture of where a person has been over their lifetime, how they paid and the contact numbers of who they stayed with.

The Home Office, which yesterday signed a contract with U.S. company Raytheon Systems to run the computer system, said e-borders would help to keep terrorists and illegal immigrants out of the country.

For the first time since embarkation controls were scrapped in 1998, they will also have a more accurate picture of who is in the UK at any one time.

The personal information stored about every journey could prove vital in detecting a planned atrocity, officials insist.

But the majority - around 60 per cent - of the journeys logged will be made by Britons, mostly going on family holidays or business trips.

Ministers are also considering the creation of a list of "disruptive" passengers, so that authorities know in advance of any potential troublemaker, such as an abusive drunk.

David Marshall of the Association of British Travel Agents said: "We are staggered at the projected costs.

"It could also act as a disincentive to people wanting to travel, and we are sure that is not what the Government intends."

Phil Booth, of the NO2ID group, warned travellers would pay a "stealth tax" on travel to pay for the scheme.

He added: "This is a huge and utterly ridiculous quantity of personal information. This type of profiling will throw up many distressing errors and problems for innocent people.



The e-borders system will monitor every passenger travelling into or out of the country

"We have already seen planes turned around mid-flight because a passenger's surname matches that of somebody on a watch list.

"When the Government talks about e-borders, it gives the impression it is about keeping bad people out. In fact, it is a huge grab of personal information, and another move towards the database state."

A pilot of the "e-borders" technology, known as Project Semaphore, has already screened 29million passengers.

Immigration Minister Liam Byrne said: "Successful trials of the new system have already led to more than 1,000 criminals being caught and more than 15,000 people of concern being checked out by immigration, customs or the

police."

But Nick Clegg, Liberal Democrat Home Affairs spokesman, said: "The Government must not use legitimate fears or dangers to crop vast amounts of private information without proper safeguards."

John Tincey, of the Immigration Service Union, said: "The question is are there going to be the staff to respond to the information that is produced?

"In reality people could be missed. Potential terrorists could be coming through if there are not enough staff to check them."

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis said: "While e-borders could be a useful tool to secure our borders it will not be up and running for at least another seven years.

"And given the Government's woeful record on delivering IT based projects, it may well be over budget and over time.

"In the meantime our borders remain porous. The Government should take practical measures to secure our borders, such as answering our call to establish a dedicated UK border police force."

- Restrictions on hand luggage carried on to passenger planes will be lifted from January.

"Starting with several airports in the New Year, we will work with airport operators to ensure all UK airports are in a position to allow passengers to fly with more than one

item of hand luggage," Gordon Brown said.

The single bag rule was introduced in August last year after police said they foiled a plot to blow up U.S.-bound airliners.

It caused chaos at Heathrow Airport and drew complaints from airlines. Restrictions on carrying liquids are expected to continue.

Courtesy of the Daily Mail on Line at URL: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-493912/Terror-crackdown-Passengers-forced-answer-53-questions-BEFORE-travel.html> - published on 15 November 2007.

53 QUESTIONS FOR TRAVELLERS

- 1 Full name
- 2 Gender
- 3 Date of birth
- 4 Nationality
- 5 Type of travel document
- 6 Travel document number
- 7 Issuing country of travel document
- 8 Expiry date
- 9 Registration of any vehicle used to travel
- 10 Place of birth
- 11 Issue date of travel
- 12 UK visa or entry clearance expiry date
- 13 Booking reference number
- 14 Date of reservation
- 15 Date(s) of intended travel
- 16 Passenger name (if different to full name)
- 17 Other passengers on same booking
- 18 Passenger's address
- 19 Form of payment, including any credit card number
- 20 Billing address
- 21 Contact numbers, including hotel or relative being visited
- 22 Travel itinerary and route
- 23 Frequent flyer information (miles flown and addresses)
- 24 Travel agency
- 25 Person at travel agent who made booking
- 26 Reference number of any shared booking
- 27 Status of booking e.g. confirmed, wait-listed
- 28 Details of passengers on booking with a different itinerary
- 29 E-mail address
- 30 Ticket number and date of issue
- 31 Any other information the ticket agent considers of interest
- 32 Number on ticket
- 33 Reserved seat number
- 34 Date ticket is issued
- 35 No show history
- 36 Bag tag numbers
- 37 Details of whether travel arrangements are 'flexible'
- 38 Names of any infants or staff in travelling party
- 39 Is traveller an unaccompanied minor?
- 40 Details of who made the booking
- 41 All historical changes to travel arrangements
- 42 Number of travellers in party
- 43 Seat information, including whether first class
- 44 Is the ticket one-way only?
- 45 Any other biographical information
- 46 Cost of fare
- 47 Check-in time
- 48 Actual seat number
- 49 How much luggage checked-in
- 50 Check-in agent's initials
- 51 Out-bound travel indicator
- 52 Where did journey begin, if not first-leg of trip
- 53 Group indicator of whether a party is a family or friends etc

Britain capitulates to terror

By Melanie Phillips

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If anyone had doubted the extent to which Britain has capitulated to Islamic terror, the banning of Geert Wilders a few hours ago should surely open their eyes. Wilders, the Dutch member of parliament who had made an uncompromising stand against the Koranic sources of Islamist extremism and violence,

due to give a screening of *Fitna*, his film on this subject, at the House of Lords on Thursday. This meeting had been postponed after Lord Ahmed had previously threatened the House of Lords authorities that he would bring a force of 10,000 Muslims to lay siege to the Lords if Wilders was allowed to speak. To their credit, the Lords authorities had stood firm and said extra police would be drafted in to meet this threat and the Wilders meeting should go ahead.

But now the government has announced that it is banning Wilders from the country. A letter from the Home Secretary's office to Wilders, delivered via the British embassy in the Hague, said:

...the Secretary of State is of the view that your presence in the UK would pose a genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat to one of the fundamental interests of society. The Secretary of State is satisfied that your statements about Muslims and their beliefs, as expressed in your film Fitna and elsewhere would threaten community harmony and therefore public security in the UK.

So let's get this straight. The British government allows people to march through British streets screaming support for Hamas, it allows Hizb ut Tahrir to recruit on campus for the jihad against Britain and the west, it takes no action against a Muslim peer who threatens mass intimidation of Parliament, but it bans from the country a member of parliament of a European democracy who wishes to address the British Parliament on the threat to life and liberty in the west from religious fascism.

It is he, not them, who is considered a 'serious threat to one

of the fundamental interests of society'. Why? Because the result of this stand for life and liberty against those who would destroy them might be an attack by violent thugs. The response is not to face down such a threat of violence but to capitulate to it instead.

It was the same reasoning that led the police on those pro-Hamas marches to confiscate the Israeli flag, on the grounds that it would provoke violence, while those screaming support for genocide and incitement against the Jews were allowed to do so. The reasoning was that the Israeli flag might provoke thuggery while the genocidal incitement would not. So those actually promoting aggression were allowed to do so while those who threatened no-one at all were repressed. And now a Dutch politician who doesn't threaten anyone is banned for telling unpalatable truths about those who do; while those who threaten life and liberty find that the more they do so, the more the British government will do exactly what they want, in the interests of 'community harmony'.

Wilders is a controversial politician, to be sure. But this is another fateful and defining issue for Britain's governing class as it continues to sleepwalk into cultural suicide. If British MPs do not raise hell about this banning order, if they go along with this spinelessness, if they fail to stand up for the principle that the British Parliament of all places must be free to hear what a fellow democratically elected politician has to say about one of the most difficult and urgent issues of our time, if they fail to hold the line against the threat of violence but capitulate to it instead, they will be signalling that Britain is no longer the cradle of freedom and democracy but its graveyard.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/3344161/britain-capitulates-to-terror.html>

