



THE FUTURE IS HERE! THE FUTURE IS NOW!

December 2020

Index

President's letter P1

AGM in brief P2

Workshops summary P2

Exam results P5

Caveat Emptor P6

Unusual words P7

Nostalgia Nook to 1910 P7

Present day Letter from the Government P14

Lighthearted Corner P16

Website update P17

Renewal Notice P18

Members' input needed P19

Obituaries P25

Council details P27

From the President's Desk....



<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/furnishings/resolute-desk.htm>

As I write this in mid-November, I hope everyone is keeping safe and well in this second national lockdown. In contrast to March, many of us will have been working remotely from home. The STT side of business was certainly quicker to get on board, as remote working has been a feature of STT for a number of years now, but HMCTS and the arbitration world has really settled in with remote hearings. Forthcoming vaccines aside, the way we work has changed and working from home is likely to continue for quite some considerable time. Cost savings and a reduced carbon footprint are a plus, as well as not losing potential working time and income to travelling and jetlag! Of course, it's not ideal, especially if someone on the call has a bad connection or parties keep interrupting each other.

If anybody has any amusing anecdotes (anonymised) from a video call or other remote proceeding they would be willing to share, please let the Secretary know.





Our first virtual AGM was well attended and went very smoothly from a technical point of view, though some Council members did go to Telford, near the Iron Bridge, to meet up in person.

The AGM is always a great place to meet up with other reporters and may be the only occasion some of us get to see each other every year, so it was wonderful to see all the attendees. Whether we end up having to do fully virtual next year remains to be seen but we will be making the remote platform available for attendance in future AGMs.



We also conducted examinations online for the first time. This was rather more challenging from a logistical point of view. Whilst largely a successful exercise, candidates provided feedback on the experience which we will certainly take into account should online testing continue. I'm hoping we will be able to go back to in-person testing, certainly for the QRR. See later on for those who



Our workshops were well-attended and are now online for you to view.

<https://bivr.org.uk/product/agm-2020-workshops/>

These are free if you paid to attend one or more on 19 September. Just email the Secretary for the coupon code. CPD is available.

We welcomed a new member on to Council, Melanie (Mel) Ball at the AGM and whilst Mel, we are assured, is keeping well, we report at the end of this Bugle the sad news that her partner Steve has recently succumbed to the dreadful Covid-19. We send our condolences to Mel and look forward to her participation on BIVR Council when she feels able to resume.

We have, sadly, to report on two colleagues who have passed away one due to Covid-19. Details at the end of this Bugle. We wish all our members well. Keep safe.

President

AGM in brief

Your President, Georgina Ford, was re-elected to serve for a further year.

The transcripts of the EGM, held on 12 September 2020, and the AGM will be sent along with this Bugle. Be sure to Read All About It!





Workshops

Lucy Beresford started us off with a talk about [COPING DURING COVID CONFIDENTLY](#).



Lucy Beresford - Lucy is a broadcaster, presenter, writer, psychotherapist, award-winning campaigner, and TEDx speaker. Lucy hosts #MindOverMatterMondays on Insta Live, 'Late Nights with Lucy' on TalkRADIO, and the Big Lunch podcast with comedian Elis James. She is a regular panellist on Jeremy Vine on Channel 5, and reviews #TomorrowsPapersToday every month on the BBC News Channel.

[MIGHTY MACRO METHODS](#)



Parallel software workshops were held for Advantage's Eclipse CAT and Stenograph's Case CATalyst, delivered by Keith Vincent and Pam Szczecinski respectively. There are separate handouts for each of these, so please email sec.bivr@gmail.com to get your copy for when you watch the webinar.

Keith Vincent



BIVR also welcomed Keith back to British shores, even if only virtually. If you're an Eclipse user, you will have heard the voice of Keith, the creator of over 300 Visualizer movies since 2002. These movies are fundamental to the Eclipse Help system. Keith is a freelance court reporter from Houston, Texas, and has been a leader in the development of Eclipse (along with head programmer Jeremy Thorne, of course), since 1992. You may also know Keith from the free "e-Tips" that he and Wil Wilcox have written and shared since 2001.

Pam Szczecinski



BIVR welcomed back Pam, who is an authorised Stenograph trainer with over 30 years' experience. Pam has trained captioners, CART providers, scopists, teachers and students throughout the world including England, Ireland, Australia, Canada, USA, the Bahamas and many parts of Africa. Her experience also includes courtroom setup and training of reporters for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal, War Crimes trials. She has leant her knowledge in aiding the setup of court reporting school programs in Cyprus, the Virgin Islands, and the US.





Then two Council members, Orla and Georgina.

ZEN ZOOM ZONE

Orla Pearson – who mostly talked about the threat of artificial intelligence (AI) – showed us how we beat them hands-down and that it need not be a threat at all! If you don't believe me, just check out our Lighthearted Corner towards the end of this edition! That webinar alone is worth seeing again or paying to see it for the first time. Orla answered a lot of the questions we are often asked. Sec.

Georgina Ford – who talked to us about setting up Zoom. Sadly, her session was only audio recorded. Georgina hopes to re-video-record it for us later and when she does it will be added to the AGM webinars (at no extra cost!).

Tori Pittman - [INTERSTENO – INTERESTING, INTERNATIONAL & INVITING](#)



Tori Pittman - A court reporter, scopist, mentor, software trainer, a self-confessed convention junkie, foodie, friend, and travel freak, Tori has her fingers in a lot of pies. A long-time advocate of Intersteno, Tori has competed in various categories of Intersteno competitions. Tori gave us a whistle-stop tour of what it's like to mix with like-minded individuals from all over the world, using all manner of keyboards, and compete in what's sometimes likened to the Olympics for keyboards.

Douglas Zweizig [THE THREE Ds – DELIGHTFUL DRINKIES WITH DOUGIE](#)



Doug began his career in 1989 as a freelance court reporter, with a small amount of CART work added into the mix, something which he found most rewarding. In 2001, Doug began as an official court reporter in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court. After many rewarding years there, he accepted a position in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, where he is currently working. Doug is instrumental in helping students and working reporters to progress in the profession regardless of where they are on their reporting path.

Doug has many an NCRA speed and/or realtime contests under his belt, holding five NCRA speed medals:

2005, 2011, 2012, 2017 NCRA RT contest, third place overall;

2018 NCRA RT contest, second place overall;

2006, 2015, 2019 NCRA RT contest, 1st place/champion;

NCRA speed contest - 2012, third place overall; 2015, fourth place overall.

Doug joined a number of our BIVR Afternoon Teas whilst in lockdown and we were delighted that he joined us for a few drinks to end our AGM, and shared his experiences with us. You can still meet up on the webinar and virtually chink your glasses with a champion!





All the workshops were well-received by members who included these comments in the chat box:

Thank you so much for your hard work, Council;

Thanks, Council, for organising the AGM. Loved it via zoom! Didn't have to get up at 5am to travel! :)

I second that ... both actually.

Sunday 20 September 2020 – examinations day.

This was a first for us and them. Two people took, and passed, their Scoping accreditation examination.



Well done to Mary Krelle and Alice Stewart for passing our first ever Scoping examination.

We also held QRR examinations and are pleased to report that three members passed at higher speeds.



QRR2 (180-200 wpm) - congratulations to Katy Ryder; and

QRR3 (200-220 wpm) - congratulations to Amanda Bavin and

Louise Pepper.

Well done to all three for passing, with 98% realtime accuracy, a 5-minute passage read at those variable speeds when the acoustics over the internet were actually not that good. You are a credit to our profession. Sec.





Caveat Emptor - A timely warning from Alan Bell:

Caseviewnet Users Beware

Like many of us, I have a Caseviewnet Session Code for providing remote realtime, and we're all using that more nowadays. My licence was due to expire on 20 October. I have known this date since I renewed the licence last year. However, in mid-September I received an e-mail from Stenograph telling me my licence was due to expire on 7 October. I knew this was wrong, so I checked. The About page on Case Catalyst clearly showed 20 October as the expiry date.

That's not all, though. I was particularly sensitive to the wrong date because this is not the first time this had happened to me. The first time was three years ago. I was at a deposition on a Saturday morning in London. The client had booked realtime for remote viewing. I began setup as usual. I always aim to be in my seat at least one hour before a job starts, so no sweat. Except, I could not connect to the Caseviewnet server. I tried restarting everything a couple of times, then checked the licence. It showed it had expired, but I was sure I was okay for at least another week. Somewhat exasperated, I thought, fine, just renew. Here's the thing. At 8.30am on a Saturday morning in London, I was a good 5 hours ahead of working time in the States. Moreover, it transpired they didn't even do renewals on a Saturday at all. For some unaccountable reason, at that time they were manually checking renewals, even if the credit card details were good. Therefore, on that occasion, I was unable to provide the booked service, and consequently earned significantly less than I should have done.

I emailed Karen Peck and once she was involved, I received an assurance that this would never happen again.

The whole point of this article is to urge all who use Caseviewnet session codes to check your expiry dates. They do say on their website that your renewal begins on the date you renew, so if you renew when they send you the reminder, that means you're doing yourself out of a month of service you have already paid for – and paid quite a lot to boot. Over the course of 12 years, you could actually be paying for 13 years! Alan Bell





Unusual words

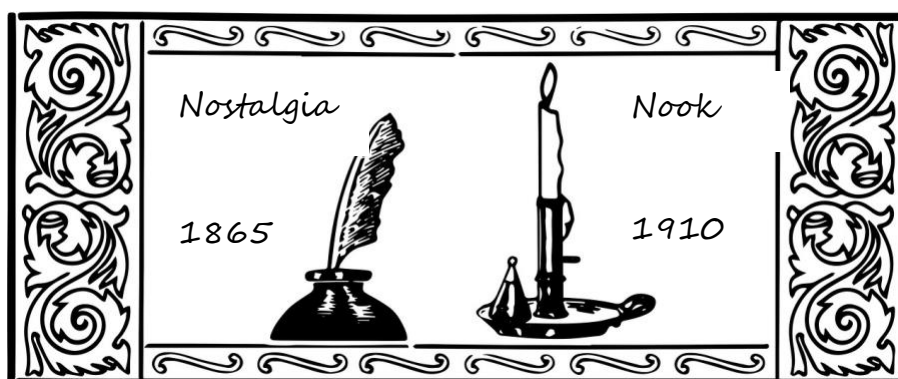
Mispronunciation – (or, shades of Ronnie Barker: Pismronunciation!)

Once again, this year BIVR is being asked by Matt Dunne-Miles of DELIBERATE PR to help them compile a list of new words which are mispronounced. With such a dreadful year of Coronavirus, Covid-19 and the various Cummings and goings, can you help?

They have put together a SurveyMonkey, which may be more helpful as the answers will go directly to them. This is also on BIVR's private Facebook group.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M8H5BYK>

Otherwise, please email sec.bivr@gmail.com with your examples.



More extracts from our archive of Annual Reports.

There is a small press cutting pasted on the last page of the 1901 Annual Report:

The following notice was to-day issued in the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division:—Shorthand Notes. —Misunderstandings frequently arising as to the parties' being able to obtain transcripts of the official notes, it is hereby announced (1) that a full note is taken by the official shorthand writer in every case tried in this division, and (2) that under the terms of his appointment, parties, as heretofore, can (either during or at the close of such trial), on application to him, obtain a transcript of such note, or any part thereof, on the usual terms, should they so desire.—P. H. JEUSE, President. Nov. 29, 1901.





An article about the “stenographic art” is printed in the 1901 Annual Report:

THE EVOLUTION OF SHORTHAND.

On November 6th an interesting lecture on the Evolution of Shorthand was delivered in Belfast by Mr. E. J. Beattie, principal of the Belfast Shorthand Institute.

The lecturer commenced by pointing out that the Egyptians were not unfamiliar with the art. It was affirmed, he said, that shorthand was known and practised from the reign of Ptolemy Lagus (323 B.C.) down to the time of the celebrated Queen Cleopatra (29 B.C.), when Egypt had eclipsed every other part of the world in science, art, and commerce, and it was said that the illustrious Xenophon took down shorthand notes of the discourses of the famous Socrates in the year 450 B.C. Having referred to the origin of shorthand, the lecturer said that almost 200 alphabets, ancient and modern, were known, of which about 50 were now in use. These were all developments from the primitive Phœnician alphabet, which was itself derived from the Egyptian hieroglyphics. Various systems came in for a detailed explanation, especially the first of which there is any authentic record, namely, that of Tiro, a freeman of Cicero, the Roman Consul, about 60 B.C. This system embraced all the principles of the stenographic art as now practised, and attempts had been made to evolve an alphabet from the Tironian notes, but the characters were really signs for words, and the component parts had no fixed alphabetic value. There was an old

folio in existence containing a collection of 13,000 of these signs, and it could well be imagined what must have been the mental labour necessary to commit them to memory. In the era of the first emperors there were shorthand schools in Rome, and possibly this systematic cultivation of the art brought forth good results: in fact, anyone who occupied a position at all in Roman society was not without his private stenographer. The Tironian system was improved and enlarged upon by several, beginning with Seneca, who added about 5,000 characters, down to Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, who put the finishing stroke to it. Ultimately the art became displeasing to the great Justinian, who forbade its use, and termed it writing by riddles and short cut riddles of signs. From this period it rapidly declined until about 1497 A.D., when the people were so ignorant of the matter that shorthand was confounded with the Armenian or diabolical characters, and those who attempted the practice of it were burnt at the stake, or cited before the Holy Inquisition and punished in some equally severe manner. The history of the stenographic art in this country began at an earlier period than had been ascribed to it. One John Tilbury, a monk, produced the first English alphabet of a stenographic nature about 1180. Dr. Timothy Bright was entitled to the honour of having been the author of the first published system of shorthand in the English language, and this was followed by a system by a London clergyman named the Rev. John Willis, in 1602, which he named the “Art of Stenography.” From the time of Willis down to the Victorian era more than 200 systems of English shorthand had made their appearance, based upon the common alphabet. Comments were then made on Thomas Skelton's system in 1620, on those of Rich, of William Mason in the 17th century, and of Thomas Gurney, and last, but by no means least, on that of Sir Isaac Pitman. The lecturer then went on to give an exposition of the principles which underlie Pitman's system, and, in conclusion, spoke of the many advantages derived from the study of shorthand.

Also in the 1901 Annual Report:

MEMORY AND SHORTHAND.

The Academy, speaking of the effect produced on the memory by the use of shorthand, says:—

“Shorthand is another aid to accuracy of repetition upon which one can look with only a modified approval. We do not deny that it is useful. It enables men of modest intellect to do necessary work which otherwise would fall upon men of great intellect. It makes for economy in what may be called the mental capacity of the nation, and therefore for progress. Still, we cannot but suspect that shorthand must arrest the cerebral development of those who use it. It must leave the memory unexercised, and therefore frail. Saith Francis Bacon: It is a ridiculous thing, and fit for a satire to persons of judgment, to see what shifts these formalists have, and what prospectives to make superficialities to seem body that hath depth and bulk.” Memory is an instinct, a faculty, not an art; and, instead of being strengthened, it will be seriously demoralised by any attempt to assist it by artificial means.”

They were knocking us even then. Sec.





Sadly, each year the annual report lists, at the beginning, those who have passed away. I include them as the names are familiar to many of us in the firms (agencies) still existing today:

The 20th Annual Report, dated March 1902, begins with recording the passing of two members, John Carter (on 22 June 1901) and John William Cooke (on 24 November 1901). We have their photos in our archives.



John Carter, taken 1898



John William Cooke
Initialed 20.4.98 (i.e., 1898)

“On 5 September 1902 Mr James Drover Barnett. On 26 July 1904 Mr Edward Morton Walsh. However, the vacancy left by his passing was filled by Mr A E E Walsh. On 7 February 1904 Mr William Hibbit passed away.”



J D Barnett 1894



E Morton Walsh



Mr William Hibbit

(Photos from BIVR archives.)





From the 22nd Annual Report, dated March 1904, I note the following:

“The Council have been in communication with the officials of the Royal Courts on the subject of improved accommodation for shorthand writers taking notes, and they are pleased to record that in some of the Courts the shorthand writers’ seats have been raised. It is hoped that further facilities of a similar nature will be accorded during the ensuing year.”

In the 23rd Annual Report , dated April 1905, the following interesting note appears:

“During the past year a question of considerable importance to the profession was decided in the Law Courts. A member of this Institute, Mr William Cocks, sought to recover from a solicitor payment for transcript ordered and supplied. The action was defended on the ground that there was no personal liability on the part of the Solicitor, but Mr Justice Channell held that the Solicitor was liable. A printed copy of the Judgment was sent to each member of the Institute.”

“In 1905 the position of Official Shorthand-writers at the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, that had been occupied for many years by Messrs Barnett & Buckler, having become vacant... they took the opportunity of bringing to the notice of the city authorities the existence and objects of the Institute... and eventually a contract was entered into under which the taking of a verbatim note officially at the Central Criminal Court was entrusted, as from the 5th March, 1906, to Mr George Walpole.”

In the 25th Annual Report, dated 26 March 1907:

“At the beginning of Michaelmas Sittings it was found that owing to the requirements of the Lords Justices and their Clerks in Appeal Court II., it is impractical to take notes at the Registrar’s table. As a result of representations made by the Council, the shorthand writers’ seats were considerably raised during the Christmas vacation, and the difficulties of the position have been to some extent diminished.”





The 1905 Annual Report contains a page from the *Pitman's Journal* (15 July 1905) which I reproduce here:

15 July 1905

Pitman's Journal.

545

A VETERAN REPORTER.

By ALEXANDER PATERSON, F.J.I.

A few weeks ago I made casual allusion to Mr William Hibbit, a veteran London reporter who began professional work so long ago as 1828, and who aided J. H. Cooke in reading the proofs of his edition of Samuel Taylor's system in 1832. I felt interested in such a veteran, who must have then been over ninety years of age, and made some inquiries respecting him. While I was prosecuting these inquiries I learned through my original informant, Mr A. T. Wright, of the firm of Edgar, Counsell, and Wright, shorthand writers, 22 Chancery lane, London, W.C., that Mr Hibbit passed away on 7th April last, and I have since been waiting in the hope of seeing some biographical notice of his life. None from the pens of any of his London colleagues or others has so far appeared, and, unwilling that such a long life should be allowed to remain unrecorded, I wrote to Mr Wright, who has most promptly and courteously placed a few facts at my disposal, with permission to use them as I might deem best. This I have now pleasure in doing.

William Hibbit was born on the 8th April, 1813, in Charles street, Soho square, London, and had he lived another day he would have completed his ninety-second year. He was thus, it will be seen, three months the junior of the late Sir Isaac Pitman. In May, 1828, he was placed apprentice with Mr Joseph Augustus Dowling, shorthand writer of Chancery lane, who was also a member of the Bar, Middle Temple. This arrangement lasted only a short time, as on the 12th December, 1829, Mr J. A. Dowling died by his own hand. The Dowlings were members of a rather celebrated family in reporting and legal circles, their reputation in London press circles being somewhat akin to that of the Busseys of a later generation. One of them, Vincent, was for many years sporting editor of *Bell's Life in London*, and being a barrister, with the rank of serjeant-at-law, was latterly rewarded with a County Court judgeship, his circuit comprising part of North Yorkshire and several townships in the adjoining county of Durham. He was noted not merely as a sound lawyer, but as an expert judge, the whole of his notes being taken in shorthand. But I am wandering from my subject. On the 22nd February, 1830, Mr Hibbit was apprenticed to Mr John Henry Cooke, shorthand writer, of Cooke's court, Carey street, Chancery lane, who was afterwards called to the Bar. It was during this apprenticeship that Cooke published his edition of Taylor's system. Mr Hibbit remained with J. H. Cooke until 1838, when he started in the profession on his own account. Old papers show that he took an active interest in the several attempts made to form a shorthand writers' association, and was, Mr Wright thinks, a member of each society from 1849 to the present Incorporated Institute, of which he remained a member to the day of his death. He was a member of the Council of the Institute from 1884 to 1891, and in 1889 was president. In his active note-taking days he went the South-Eastern Circuit, and in London and on circuit took his full share of the work, taking all varieties and under the varying conditions that come within the experience of the professional shorthand writer. One part of his particular experience that he always referred to with much satisfaction was the taking of the proceedings on a Railway Bill before a committee of which T. B. Macaulay, afterwards Lord Macaulay, was chairman. Mr Hibbit was a gentleman who never obtruded himself much on the public notice. He is named in Anderson's "History" as a member of the firm of Hibbit and Sanders, shorthand writers, Bell yard, the system used being Taylor's, and he was courteously alluded to as a veteran stenographer by the late Mr Thomas Allen Reed at the Shorthand Congress of 1887. Shorthand writers deserve

to have their memories held in grateful remembrance. They come very prominently before the public, yet they are themselves the most modest of men, and it is but few of them that ever leave a record of the place and date of their birth.

"Mr Hibbit was," adds Mr Wright, "a delightful old man with a marvellous memory and full of anecdotes, particularly of the great actors and actresses of his early life. Of one actor, Munden, I fancy, was his name—he cherished many memories, and he had a fine collection of theatrical prints. But we play our little parts and walk off to be forgotten as soon as the curtain rises for a new piece. Who spares a thought for Munden now? And which of us has builded better than Munden a memorial that will live to sustain our memory?" *

Appended to the last report of the Shorthand Writers' Institute is the following note: "Since this report was in type, the Council have heard with deep regret of the death of Mr William Hibbit, which took place on Friday, 7th April, 1905. He was a member of the Institute from its foundation down to the time of his death, and President in 1889. Although in recent years he was unable to attend the Courts, he will be long remembered as a genial companion and sympathetic friend."

Note the reference to "stenographer" and the Shorthand Congress of 1887.





In 1907 the Institute reported:

"The action of Government Departments in reducing the rate of remuneration for shorthand writers in connection with Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees and Inquiries is of considerable importance to the Members. The decision of the Treasury to impose a lower scale of payment was apparently based upon the offer of 'a well-known firm' to do this work on the terms now prescribed. The Council would strongly urge Members not to assist any policy that must not only be seriously prejudicial to the interests of the whole profession, but also tend to lower their standard of efficiency."

A newspaper cutting from "The People" 26 April 1908 is pasted in the 1909 Annual Report, dated 3 March 1910, refers to adequate pay and "bodgers"!

*"The People".
26th April, 1908.*

On March 31st 1902 there was a Resolution to increase the annual subscription to 30s. (£1 10s. 0d.) (£1.50p for those not familiar with pre-decimalisation currency.) Sec.

There is a request in the archives to the Treasury, dated 7 April 1908, for a daily attendance fee of £1.1s.0d (one guinea – £1.05p) and transcripts at 8d. (just over 3½p) a folio (72 words) for one copy. Further copies at 1½ d. per folio. Remember they had to be retyped from the file copy, not re-transcribed!

My first attendance fee in January 1972 was £6 per day, (Walpoles at the Old Bailey). Due to a recession there had been no fees increase for four years. It went up to £8 a day later in the year.

Again, for those not familiar with decimalisation (15 February 1971) there were 240 pence to the pound, so it was 2.4 old pence to one new penny. Sec.

Shorthand Again.

A nice little quarrel is brewing just now over the employment of shorthand writers under the Criminal Appeal Act which has just come into force. Now, the judges and officials of the court are civil servants, and I should like to know why the stenographers cannot be similarly placed. As it is, the Treasury has succeeded in getting the members of the Law Courts Institute of Shorthand Writers to go on strike owing to alleged stinginess in the matter of pay. This is the question: "Is a shorthand writer who is capable of accurately recording law cases adequately paid on £1 a day and 8d. a folio for transcript?" Personally, I do not think he is, for he is no machine. To do that work properly he must be a very smart human being. On the other hand the Union of Journalists does not appear to be in sympathy with the protesters, and it looks as if there may be a competition for places. That, of course, will mean reduction of pay, and consequent reduction of status. It would be a pity, for the status of the shorthand writer in the service is bad enough already. The authorities, who themselves have no idea what shorthand is, get it into their heads that the man who does it is just like a gramophone which cannot help recording every sound, and that he can grind out the result without necessarily understanding what it is all about. An official once told me as much, and added that a shorthand writer was no good if he could not take down and transcribe notes in an unknown language. How can shorthand writers expect to get proper recognition in a service which treats permanent officials like that?

Their Own Fault.

Of course, most of the trouble in the service is due to the shorthand writers. Many consider themselves qualified to do anything from a note to a lecture, when they can barely stagger along at 80 words a minute. You might as well expect a dray horse to win a Derby as to do hard technical work with only that rate behind you. But the officials do not realise this; they only know that they have a shorthand writer, and they believe he can go like the wind. It is only when they have been sadly let in over some serious work that they become sceptical and believe all shorthand writers to be incompetent—frauds, worthless. If they themselves were competent as officials they would know how to discriminate between a capable man and a bodger.





In the 27th Annual Report, dated 20 March 1909, it was reported:

“RECEPTION OF FRENCH STENOGRAPHERS. – Several important French Stenographic Societies having decided to visit the Franco-British Exhibition, arrangements were made for their reception, and a contribution to the expenses was voted by the Council. The reception on the 13th July was attended by Members of the Institute.”

and

SHORTHAND CONGRESS. – The Ninth International Shorthand Congress was held at Darmstadt in August, and a small donation was sent to the expenses of the Congress.”

This was the original name of Intersteno!

<http://www.intersteno.org/docs/archive/Intersteno-125Years-History.pdf> Sec.

In the 1909 Annual Report is the following press cutting is attached from The Yorkshire Times about the passing of Mr Thomas Meredith:

THE YORKSHIRE POST
FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1909.

NISI PRIUS COURT.

(Before Mr. Justice Grantham.)

THE DEATH OF MR. THOMAS MEREDITH.

Before the commencement of business his Lordship remarked: I am very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Mr. Meredith, who has been a shorthand writer for, I am told, over forty years on this Circuit. As long as I have had the honour of coming here, I have had the pleasure of seeing him sitting below, and I never know any one of that profession who more justly earned the respect of all in our profession, than did Mr. Meredith. He was always civil and obliging, and if any question arose as to what had been said in any evidence that had been given, he was always ready to assist the Judge and to tell the Court quite accurately and correctly what he had recorded. I must say that it sometimes passes my comprehension how shorthand writers are able to disentangle the somewhat tangled expressions, even of Judges, to say nothing of counsel, and perhaps still more of witnesses, particularly when they are under cross-examination by counsel; and yet Mr. Meredith was always “on the spot,” and always accurately recorded everything, however hot and weary most of us were during the lengthened proceedings in the City of Leeds. It was with very great regret that I heard that he was dead. I am very sorry that I am obliged to make these remarks in consequence of his death, but very glad to be able to do so in the spirit in which I have, because he was a man whom I very much respected.

Mr. W. J. Waugh, K.C., said that on behalf of the Bar he endorsed every word his Lordship had said with regard to Mr. Meredith. “Personally,” he proceeded, “I deeply regret his death. He was, as your Lordship says, always courteous, and always kind, and no matter what trials he had in the way of taking down what the witnesses said and the questions that counsel put, he was always ready and accurate. I believe that he has been associated with this Circuit ever since the Assizes were first held at Leeds, and he has continuously been at Leeds, certainly ever since I joined the Circuit until within the last Assizes or two. His death is to be very much deplored, and I am quite sure that every word your Lordship has uttered finds sympathy both on the part of the members of the Bar, and of the members of the other branch of the profession to which we belong.”





To bring us back to the present, the Government is keen that we know what we have to do regarding Brexit. In case it is of assistance, I append below the two-page document received from them. Sec.



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

British Institute of Verbatim Reporters
73 Alicia Gardens
Harrow
Middlesex
HA3 8JD



01808
004852375

**YOU NEED
TO ACT
NOW**

November 2020

ARE YOU READY FOR NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS WITH THE EU?

Urgent message from the Business Secretary

There is just over **a month to go** until the end of the transition period and there will be new rules to follow from 1 January 2021 onwards. As Business Secretary, I urge you to **ACT NOW** to avoid your business operations being interrupted when the transition period ends.

You can find out what you need to do by going to gov.uk/action-2021. The top actions you can take now to prepare are:

- 1. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain from 1 January 2021. Different rules will apply in Northern Ireland.**
Your business could face delays, disruption or administrative costs if you do not comply with new customs procedures from 1 January 2021.
- 2. If you are planning to recruit from overseas from 1 January 2021, you will need to register as a licensed visa sponsor.**
You may not be able to legally hire people from outside the UK if you do not have a licence. New employees from outside the UK will also need to meet new job, salary and language requirements. Irish citizens and those eligible under the EU Settlement Scheme are not affected.
- 3. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure your business is ready to sell them in the UK and EU.**
You may not be able to sell your goods in the UK and the EU from 1 January 2021 unless you act.
- 4. If you are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, check the latest guidance.**
At the end of the transition period, the Northern Ireland Protocol comes into force. There will be special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if you move goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland make sure you check the latest guidance at: gov.uk/northern-ireland-trade



GOV.UK/ACTION-2021

✓ Check
✓ Change
✓ Go

THE CHANGES CAN TAKE LONGER THAN YOU THINK, SO START TODAY

SSL-GEN





The Government is providing a range of support, including webinars to walk you through the changes. These are available to watch on demand at: [gov.uk/transition-webinars](https://www.gov.uk/transition-webinars). You should also check with your suppliers and customers that they are taking action.

These are challenging times, but the transition period is ending on 31 December 2020 and there will be **NO EXTENSION**. Unless you take action, there is a risk your business operations will be interrupted. The Government will be there to help you to take advantage of the many new opportunities that being an independent trading nation will bring.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy



SCAN TO LISTEN TO
OUR WEBINARS
[GOV.UK/TRANSITION-WEBINARS](https://www.gov.uk/transition-webinars)

✓ Check
✓ Change
✓ Go

No, this isn't part of the Government's letter, but there's such a lot of wasted white space, I just had to fill it with something more festive! Sec.



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Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

**NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS WITH
EUROPE START ON 01 JAN 2021**

THERE ARE ACTIONS YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS
TO TAKE NOW AT [GOV.UK/ACTION-2021](https://www.gov.uk/action-2021)

SSL-GEN





Lighthearted corner

From a recent Facebook post:

Comment from the Sec: We've owned up when we've made a boo-boo, so here's one for the AI brigade – bad language warning!



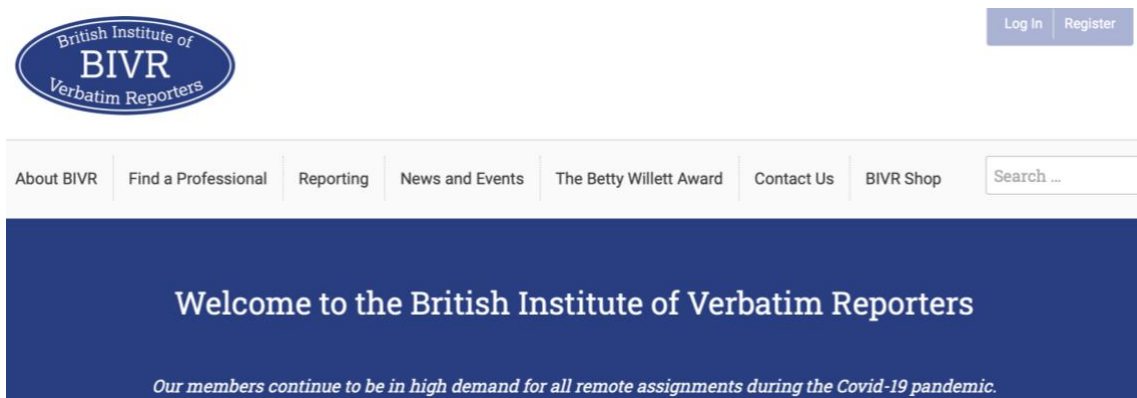
Since finding the above FB post, I have heard of a much worse one when a teacher was using Teams' own AI and a similar thing occurred in a biology lesson! Lots of giggles and a red-faced teacher when, of course, it wasn't her fault! Sec.



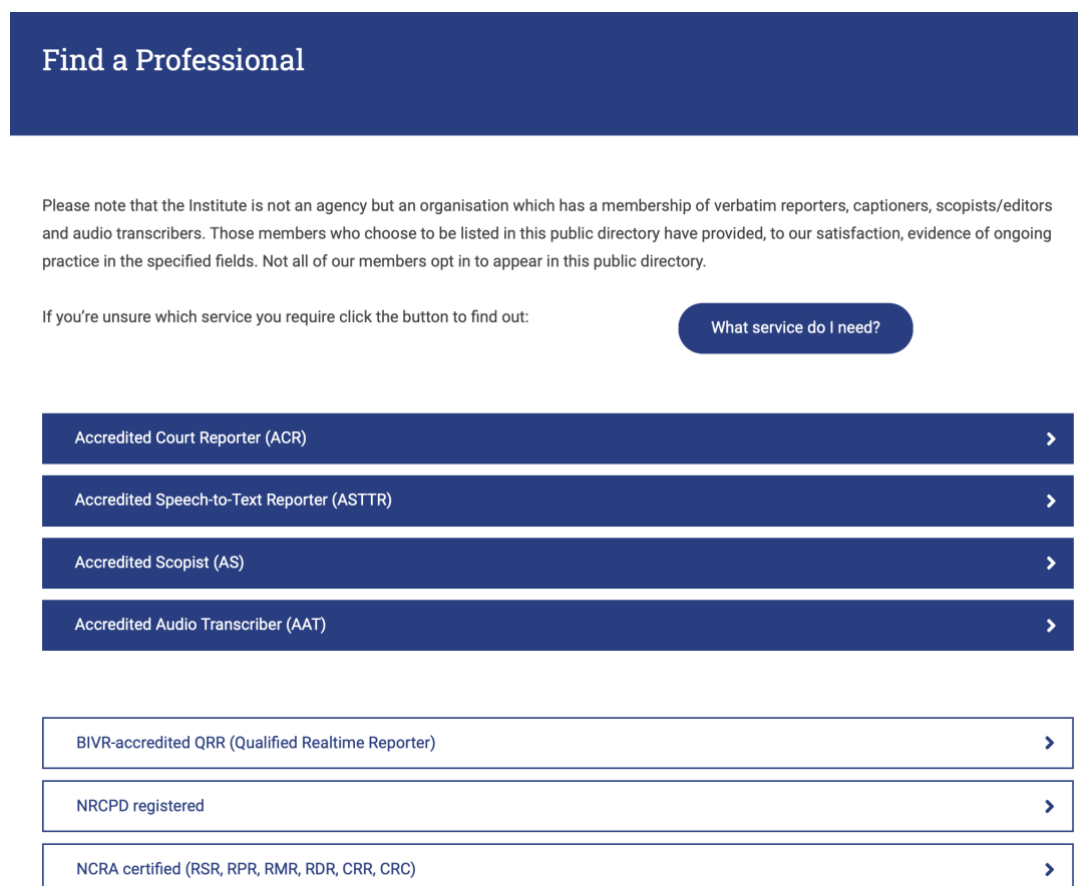


Our website is in the process of being updated. Some work has already been done.

Our reporter search has been renamed “Find a Professional” and there is a quite different look to it now. All to make it easier for a member of the public to find the reporter they need.



Please have a look at our new banners!





RENEWAL 2021



Annual subscriptions are due by 1st January 2021; however, I am asking if you could please renew by early/mid-December, if you can so that I may get the practising certificates/ID cards printed before TotalID goes off for its Christmas break and I can get them off to you in good time for 1 January 2021.

You may pay via our updated website <https://bivr.org.uk/my-account/> or use the BACs as previously.

Cater Allen Private Bank
Sort Code 16-57-10
Account No: 32972430



Fellows and Members £120.

“ “ paying half yearly: £65 now and £65 by 30 June 2021.

Bona fide Retired members £15.

Student members £20.



By cheque (payable to BIVR, please) by post to the registered address (at foot of Bugle.)

Please see note towards end regarding your professional history (previously called bio).

If you have not already done so, would practising members please supply a photo for your Practising Certificate/ID Card which we also wish to use on the Find a Professional section of our new website. Retired and/or Student members need not send a photo, though I'm happy to keep one on record.





Ideally, please, your photo should be of “studio” quality – and many took advantage of Lois’s photo booth in 2018 and 2019, so I have those already and they will be sufficient (unless, like me, you’ve grown out the hair tint!). We need a head-and-shoulders shot, without hats, please. By all means use your phone but be careful with a selfie as they tend to distort. Get someone else to take it against a plain background and email it to sec.bivr@gmail.com.



If any of your details have changed, such as your postal address, new mobile number, or website, please let me know. Ideally, please bring it to my attention in your email so that I don’t miss it! Also, please also let me know, in confidence, in a case of genuine hardship and I appreciate that this year has been difficult for some members.



It also helps us with our planning seminars, etc., to know which system and/or software you use, so could you confirm:

PEN / CAT / QRR / NON-CAT machine / (Steno / Palan) Other....

Word / Eclipse / Legende / Case CATalyst / Other....

Name:

Please let me have your professional history (formerly referred to as bio/profile) for your Find a Professional entry on our updated website. Written in the first person, this should tell people what it is that you do in the reporting world. This is not the time to be modest, but neither, of course, should you embellish. This professional history will be available for the public to see, so here is where you put your advert to the world to showcase your verbatim reporting qualifications,






including relevant degrees. Here also is the place to put whether you are able to deliver a transcript overnight, or offer a standard turnaround, or both. As I write this the website is being updated, as was mentioned at the AGM. You may notice that we have streamlined the website so that people can more easily navigate the site and find you and the unique service that you offer.

While we think we know what we mean by ticking “court reporting” in fact, there are very few people attending a courtroom these days who are actually taking a note of the proceedings and producing a transcript for use of the parties. There are some, but most are attending as an STT Reporter. If that is you, then you should only be ticking the box as an STT Reporter, not as a court reporter. An off-the-wall scenario: If you were providing STTR services at Addenbrookes Hospital, where they do open-heart surgery, that doesn’t mean you’re an open-heart surgeon! As I say, a bit off-the-wall, but hopefully you get what is meant.

Similarly, if you are attending a Public Inquiry as an STT Reporter, then that is the box you tick (STT) not the Public Inquiry one. Some of our members are attending Public Inquiries as the reporter, providing a transcript in that proceeding. Those members are entitled to tick the Public Inquiry box and, of course, provide the confirmatory competency information of that. The same applies to Parliamentary reporting.

Remember, you should only place a  against the field of work in which you are personally accredited by BIVR and/or for which you can provide evidence of competency/ongoing practice of work carried out by you during the last 12 months.

Here are the boxes for you to tick with an empty “competency” for you to complete. I will put the .pdf version on the BIVR website (minus the festive decorations) if you wish to print it up, complete it, scan it in and email back to me. sec.bivr@gmail.com.

As this Bugle is in .pdf and it may not be possible for you to type in, please request a copy of this questionnaire, in Word. BIVR must receive a completed form if you wish to be on the BIVR search. Please **don’t** just write “as before”, but find a few moments to complete it.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you wish to be on the Find a Professional search on BIVR’s website? Yes, or No?

☐

Find a Professional (required)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you wish your details and competencies to appear in our public 'Find a Professional' database?





If “No”, there is no need for your to complete this questionnaire, but please email me to say that you do not wish to be on the Find a Professional search, so that I have it on record. Should you change your mind at any time, please email me for this questionnnaire so that you may complete it.

If “Yes”, please write, either “Yes”, or “No”, as appropriate, in each of the following boxes. For those boxes where you enter “Yes”, please complete your competency for that in the text box below the field of work. **NB: Double-click in the text box to add your text.** As you type the box should expand, or you can extend it by clicking on the corner dragging it to display all your text.

Please note, the detailed “competency” will NOT appear on the website. This is just for BIVR’s reference to prove it has done its due diligence. It is the “Biographical Info” (see later) that will appear on the website.

Accredited Court Reporter

☐

Arbitrations

☐

Legal and Regulatory

☐

Remote Verbatim Reporting

☐



US Depositions

☐

Other

☐

Please note that the “other relates to Parliamentary and/or Public Inquiries. Please confirm which, if any.

Accredited Speech-to-Text Reporter

☐

Broadcast Captioning

☐

STTR/Captioning - Onsite

☐



Accredited Scopist

☐

Accredited Audio

☐

☐ NRCPD Registered

☐

☐ NCRA Certified

☐

Locations (required)

Please select the general geographical areas in which you are willing to work.

UK

☐

EU

☐

Worldwide

☐

Biographical Info

Please note that this is where you include your other relevant educational qualifications, the “other” work that you are competent to provide not listed above, as well as whether you offer a standard or expedited turnaround for transcripts.





Please also confirm your name, email address mobile telephone number as well as your website (if you have a business one) for the Find a Professional search on the BIVR website.

Email

Mobile

Website

Ideally, I need these returned before 31 December 2020, along with your subscription, so that I may update the website and make you “active” on it.

A few members have expressed concern as to what to write about themselves in the biographical info. Think of it as if you were talking to a friend who asked you how got into this profession and you telling them when you started, how you have progressed and what you are currently doing. You don’t need to write an essay, but possibly more than bullet points.

The evidence of ongoing practice (for BIVR’s refence only) will be a few words about the work/s you have been doing over the last 12 months. This does need to be a separate document to the biographic info, please.

Only your professional biographic information will be on the public side of the website. The evidence of ongoing practice is BIVR doing its due diligence to ensure that the information we provide to members of the public is accurate.

Members who also run agencies, large or small, may include their website address, but only personal information about them and their qualifications should be on the site.

Find a Professional is a member benefit. By renewing and going on the directory, you agree not to pass any jobs received through Find a Professional to non-BIVR members, unless no suitably qualified BIVR member is available.





Obituary

Anne Robinson

We were sorry to learn from John Larking that Anne Robinson passed away on Thursday 10 September after a three-day stay in hospital in Glasgow following an illness that she had fought against whilst still working until the end aged 73.

Born 12 June 1947, Anne worked for many firms in England (DL Sellers & Co. Walpoles) and in Scotland for William Hodge & Pollock in her latter years and finally ourselves John Larking Verbatim Reporters.

She was great friend s with Elaine Goodyear with whom she kept in touch.

Anne learned pitman shorthand and typing at a young age and used the skill for the next 55 years. Anne was very close to her daughter Rose, and her husband Dougie, and beloved grandson Lewis and many colleagues in the same profession. John Larking

Margaret Wort

It was with sadness that we learned, from Darren Evetts, of the passing of Margaret Wort on 10 September 2020 after a short illness.

Following training with Stan Bate at Cater Walsh, Margaret began her Court Reporting career and subsequently formed Margaret Wort & Co.

Margaret Wort & Co was appointed by the Lord Chancellor's Department over 50 years ago to provide Official Shorthand Writers, first at Snaresbrook Crown Court, and subsequently provided Shorthand Writers, Stenographers, Loggers and transcription services at many Crown Courts in England and Wales until June 2017.

Throughout Margaret's career, she had an enviable repertoire, providing transcription services to the United Nations in Rome; the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg; Courts-Martials in Germany; Public Inquiries in Paris and Copenhagen; numerous English and Welsh Public and Private Inquires; as well as many other hearings, Conferences and Tribunals for the Public and Private Sectors.

Margaret will be fondly remembered by many friends and colleagues.





Ian Sinclair



It is with much sadness that I learned that Ian Sinclair died on 16 November in Preston Hospital of COVID-19, following another very serious short illness. He was 75.

Ian was well-known to many reporters, in the Manchester area and in London. He trained and worked in the courts around Manchester. He also worked on public inquiries and for the NMC in northern England, Wales and Scotland. Later, he worked on occasions in the House of Lords, FAO (in Rome), General Synod and at international courts and meetings.

Ian was a very professional Pitman writer who was always in demand for some of the most challenging work, especially where editing was required.

For many years he was a member of the Association of Professional Shorthand Writers (APSW) and of BIVR.

He will be greatly missed by friends, colleagues and his family near Manchester.

Grateful thanks to Lindsay Bickers for providing us with the above. Sec.

Steve Troman (pictured with Mel Ball in happier times)



We send our condolences to our member Mel on the passing of her partner Steve. May he Rest in Peace. Sec.





We are closing this Bugle with the same upbeat message that the President began it with:

Your President and the Council

wish you all a

Merry Christmas and a

Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and

Prosperous New Year.

BIVR DETAILS

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