

‘That was the year that was.’

WELL SETTLEMENT DAY IN FEBRUARY SEEMS A LONG WAY OFF AND STILL THE CONTROVERSY RAGES.

The **Parliamentary Enquiry** reports early in the New Year and while likely to fill many pages is unlikely to add to the sum total of our knowledge as to why what happened to Shirley, happened.

Mired in politics and personal self interest the enquiry was **fatally flawed** from the very beginning. Despite the best efforts of some members, a total failure to stick to its **remit**, call vital witnesses and put them on oath allowed certain ‘expert’ witnesses to continue to peddle their lies and innuendo.

Of course the usual **suspects** will be selected for criticism with the **SCRO management**, rightly in my opinion, getting it in the neck for their at best laissez-faire and at worst arrogant, bullying approach to management. There are likely to be a few ‘toe pokes’ at the **Executive**, the **Lord Advocate** and others charged with supervising SCRO’s work that are unlikely to inflict even superficial injury or lead to any lasting change.

This continuing failure by the Scottish government to address the fundamental issues thrown up over the past **10 years** is the main reason why Shirley and Iain are distancing themselves from the campaign for a public enquiry. If a new Executive sees fit to establish an enquiry we will of course co-operate but with little enthusiasm.

On the positive side **David Mulhern** has shown the determination to develop the new **Scottish Forensic Service** into a world class service and a fitting memorial to those Scottish experts who had the honesty and integrity to stand up

to the bullies within SCRO. To do this however he must cleanse the service of the discredited experts and force the Crown Office and Scottish Executive to recognise that until admitted the **'Marion Ross' misidentification** sits like an unexploded bomb waiting to undermine the new system.

April sees the launch of 'Shirley McKie. The Price of Innocence'. Analysis of court and enquiry written and oral evidence has thrown up some fascinating insights into what really happened in SCRO. It will make uncomfortable reading for a number of experts and their supporters and for political, police and other leaders who for over a decade have shown little enthusiasm for the truth to be revealed.

We enter 2007, as we did 2006, by responding to many **messages of goodwill** including this one from someone who has followed the case in all its twists and turns.

Dear Shirley and Mr McKie,

For many years I have sat transfixed to the television and to newspapers when there has been coverage of this outrageous miscarriage of justice.

Thank you both for having the strength of character to take on the state and all its tentacles of power. The fact that a public enquiry has never been held, is a matter of shame for everyone in Scotland.

I only became aware of this web site following the article in the Herald of 27th Dec 06 and feel ashamed of not being able to offer my support to you both sooner. However I am heartened by the

countless others who offered support and fully believed your side of the events surrounding this tragic case. You have never been alone.

You both have maintained your dignity throughout the trauma, the lies told have not diverted you. Your conduct has been a model for us all.

The most important issue now is that you enjoy your life.

The world is a beautiful place as well as a cruel one, filled with good and bad people. I sincerely hope that happiness comes to you both and that you fill your life with good people in wonderful places.

Yours sincerely

GYS Scotland

**And so say all of us!! Peace, health and happiness to
you and yours in 2007**