

RSPCA MEMBERS'



# WATCHDOG

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## The Secret Society cont

In the last newsletter number 90, we questioned whether the rumour concerning the remarks of Mr Davies on Radio 5 on 2 January 2002 were true. We are grateful to Mr Davies for sending a tape of the programme. We are publishing a transcript of the relevant part of the tape below.

"Nicky Campbell

and where are you coming from Mark, what organisation are you a member of?

Mark

Well, I've switched to Animal Aid. I'm also a member of the BUAV and the NAVS. both...

Nicky Campbell

BUAV, sorry, British Union of Agricultural Vivisectionists, I don't know, wait, wait wait.

Mark

No, I mean, for the abolition of vivisection.

Nicky Campbell

Abolition of vivisection, right.

Mark

That's right,

Nicky Campbell

Are these... are these... would you characterise these as extreme groups, Peter Davies?

Peter Davies

No. They perhaps take a stronger line than we do... on a number of issues. I... I'm just interested whether Mark's got any practical alternative. I... the only answer I ever get from... from people like some of those he's mentioned, not all of them, is that there should be no farming. These are militant vegetarians and vegans who believe that the only way to stop cruelty on farms is to ban farm animals, not to have any and that we should become a vegetarian eating country and then there wouldn't be any cruelty. Well, that's fine, but there's, sort of, 98 percent of the population of this country eat meat and dairy produce. We are a practical society we take on board the responsibility for the 186 million animals that are born

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every year onto farms and we want to raise their lifetime standards..."

**Comment.** Our only comment is to quote once again from Leonardo Da Vinci (1452 - 1519 Italian painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, scientist poet and musician).

"I have from an early age abjured the use of meat and the time will come when men such as I will look upon the murder of animals as they now look upon the murder of men."

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*The Animals' Friend*, July, 1894.

### THE SOLIDARITY OF SIN

One great difficulty with which we have to contend in our efforts to suppress Vivisection arises from what I may term the solidarity of sin. Have you not often observed how one kind of wickedness is perpetually being put forward as an excuse for another? Here is an example. In a "Review" which at one time had a large circulation, there appeared many years ago an attack upon those who banded themselves together to get rid of drunkenness. Why, it was asked, did they not attack the Opium Traffic in India instead of the Liquor Traffic at home? Now, however, that an earnest effort is being made to stop the Opium Trade in India, the promoters of the agitation are twitted with the prevalence of drunkenness in England. Just in the same way when we demand the prohibition of cruelties to animals in the name of Science, we are reminded of the cruelties committed upon them in the interests of Sport. Well, we probably have no manner of sympathies with these cruelties, but if we try to prevent them, we shall probably be reminded of those which are committed in the pursuit of Science. One form of iniquity is advanced as a reason why we leave another to flourish. Is there then to be no improvement? Are we never to begin to get rid of vice? Is all moral progress to be stopped because there is much that is amiss in this world? Are we to do nothing because there is so much to do? Are cultured English gentlemen in cold blood to go on inflicting agonies of pain on sentient beings, because a number of others thoughtlessly find delight in killing and maiming inferior animals? Is a new horror to be tolerated because an old one exists?

REV. PREB. H. N. GRIER, M.A.

### ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

In 1998 former Council member Dorothy Adams obtained information regarding RSPCA policy on Animal Experimentation.

The information is most interesting dating from 1824 until 1991.

It seems that with the increase in bureaucracy the original impetus to get animal experimentation stopped has been weakened.

Between 1832 and 1913 alone there are 161 references to animal experimentation in Society minutes.

We have only been able to include a few of the references. We hope you will find them interesting.

#### Original Prospectus 1824

Reference is made, in the original prospectus of the SPCA, to vivisection, in 1824

#### First Reference to Vivisection in SPCA Minute Book 1832

Richard Martin wrote to the SPCA as follows:

"....As to the dissection of living animals, it is to my mind too revolting to be palliated by any excuse that science may be enlarged or empowered by so detestable a means. Pray submit my opinion to those Gentlemen that have taken the pains to prepare the Bill Mr Mackinnon is to present..."

#### First SPCA Resolution Against Vivisection 1832

The first resolution passed by the SPCA Committee on vivisection was on 5 May 1832: "Resolved that the Society deprecating the cruel and unChristian practice of vivisection pledges itself to adopt every means of ascertaining the state of vivisection as now practised in London, and its vicinity and what evidence can be brought on the subject, to be produced on a future meeting of Parliament...."

Fifty five years later, there were signs of a weakening of the resolve to see the end of vivisection. At a May 1887 committee meeting letters against Dr Flemmings association with the vivisection party were read threatening to withdraw their support and future legacies unless he was removed. Dr Flemming tendered his resignation but a resolution was passed refusing to accept.

#### **Request by Members for Resignation of RSPCA President**

At the 27 June 1892 RSPCA Committee meeting three letters were read calling for the resignation of the President owing to his speech at the Annual Meeting being practically the abandonment of the preventing of cruelty to animals in laboratories. (In deviation from previous practice, Lord Aberdare's speech was not printed in the 1892 Annual

REPORT

#### **Royal Commission on Vivisection 1906 -1907**

The RSPCA gave evidence on 11/12/1907 about experiments that caused pain, laying down recommendations on how painful experiments should be performed.

Lady Cory's motion

#### **Suggested Campaign Against Experiments on Animals 1931**

At the 21 May 1931 Council meeting, Lady Cory moved "That owing to the enormous increase of appallingly cruel experiments on animals, this Society take immediate steps to rouse public opinion by a campaign of intense propaganda against vivisection." An amendment suggesting that publicity be left to the Anti Vivisection Societies was withdrawn and Lady Cory's motion was lost, 19 votes to 4

#### **Animal Research Liaison Council 1991**

At 3 July 1991 Council meeting a request was made for an RSPCA representative to sit on a body which included the Research Defence Society. Both Mr Ryder and Dr Jennings stressed the importance of being represented on the body partly because it was essential to maintain a dialogue with both sides of the industry and partly because of the likelihood that the Home Office could recognise a training course of licence holders under the Act, and ARLC could be the body to form a basis of that training. By a majority vote permission was granted

#### **Animal Research Liaison Council 1991**

At 18 September 1991 Council meeting the CSO reported that the ARLC had changed its name, to emphasise their concern with the animal rather than the research, and also adopted the slogan "Promoting best practice in laboratory animal science husbandry and welfare".

The view was put forward, by Mr Webb, Mr Kay and Mrs Nokes, that the ARLC was set up as a whitewash body and therefore very selective of the organisations to be represented on it. After further discussion it was agreed that the CSO point out to ARLC that the RSPCA was in doubt as to whether it should be represented on their body and that they need specific reasons why BUAV, NAVS and FRAME could not be represented in order to come to a final decision

At 30 October 1991 Council meeting the AEAC minutes were adopted. Nem con, the following recommendation was agreed:

"That the RSPCA continues to be involved with the Research Animal Liaison Council. The AEAC sees the RALC as a very important development from the point of view of bringing some order into the training programme for Licensees and for promoting RSPCA aims. As the Liaison Council has already been established, failure of RSPCA involvement could well result in loss of impetus."

# Stars shun RSPCA's search for new envoys

## Counting heads

	2002	2001	2000	Earlier
Labour	280,000	x	311,000	400,465 (1996)
Lib Dems	76,023	74,176	71,641	98,611 (1996)
Conservatives	330,000	x	318,000	350,000-400,000
Greens	5,000	4,000	x	3,500 (1996)
SNP	Figures are confidential			
Plaid Cymru	11,000	x	x	no previous figures
TUC	x	69 unions, 6.7m members	76 unions, 6.8m members	73 unions (1996) 6.7m members
Amnesty International	x	154,611	136,348	125,362 (1998)
Greenpeace	x	193,500	176,000	194,309 (1998)
Friends of the Earth	x	110,248	105,185	94,528 (1996)
CND (approx figures)	x	27-32,000	25-30,000	no previous figures
Stonewall	x	6,000	5,000	no previous figures
RSPB	1.19m	1.11m	1.4m	925,000 (1996)
RSPCA	x	49,760	54,000	29,504 (1996)
National Trust	2.8m	2.7m	x	2.29m (1996)

OFFICIAL FIGURES UNAVAILABLE. FIGURES FROM A SURVEY IN THE TIMES, JUNE 6 1997

By Valeria Elliott  
Countryside Editor

THE RSPCA has failed in its attempt to attract showbusiness celebrities to act as ambassadors for the charity.

Gerri Halliwell did not bother to reply to the invitation. Sir Elton John said that he was involved in too many other charities and Sir Cliff Richard said that he was scaling down his commitments to spend more time abroad. Even leading broadcasters such as Sir David Attenborough, the naturalist, and John Humphrys, of BBC Radio 4's *Today*, although flattered to be asked, said that they were involved with other charities.

Instead the charity has recruited vice-presidents from the arts, theatre, newspapers, academe and the Church. They include the actor Simon Callow, the columnist Nigel Dempster, the astronomer Sir Patrick Moore, the Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev Dominic Walker, and Sir Roy Strong, former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Some RSPCA members believe the charity has failed to attract the celebrities it wanted because of the publicity given to the way the RSPCA handled its internal changes, including stripping longstanding officials of their powers to accommodate the new ambassadors.

The *Times* reported last November that the RSPCA director-general, Peter Davies, had warned the society's council members that the publicity could lose the support of those invited to be vice-presidents. He was not available for comment yesterday.

Under the new rules the society's three longstanding vice-presidents, Bill Jordan, Angela Cope and Dame Janet

Fookes, are banned from attending or speaking at the RSPCA's council meetings. They can attend functions but are not expected to participate in policy debates or discussions about the running of the organisation.

Mrs Cope, 85, who works at the RSPCA's Putney Animal Hospital in southwest London, said yesterday: "I am very upset about all of this. I have worked as a volunteer and fundraiser for the RSPCA for 56 years. You can imagine my feelings and I am very hurt. I have not even been told who the new vice-presidents are and am now out on a limb.

"Frankly I can't understand what these new people are going to do. I want to know what they think of our policies. Do they know them? What are their attitudes?"

Dr Jordan, a veterinary scientist, has been critical of RSPCA policies on animal experiments and treatment of circus animals. Dame Janet has accepted the change, however.

Other public figures who have agreed to champion the RSPCA include Audrey Eyton, author of *The F Plan Diet*, Julian Richer, the entrepreneur who set up the Richer Sound hi-fi shops and Peter Singer, a leading animal rights philosopher.

The new vice-presidents have been asked to use their influence to promote the work of the charity, which raises between £60 million and £80 million a year. They will also be invited to attend events for new campaigns.

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said that it was delighted with the new recruits. They would be expected to join in any new campaign to persuade the Government to ban hunting with dogs, she said.

# membership loss

The treatment of Vice President Mrs Angela Cope has been shameful. She has worked long and hard for animals and has raised a lot of money. We echo her question - what exactly are the attitudes towards animals of the new Vice Presidents? A detailed description should be written in the Annual Report. Is it surprising that the RSPCA membership is plummeting if the Council and staff treat members as badly as they have treated Mrs Cope and Mr Jordan?

**A MEMBER WRITES**

" Yes,we must vote for members whose sole aim is to put animals at the top of the agenda and not waste (donated) money on human self -aggrandisement schemes, on witch hunts and on campaigns that fail the animals (e.g.Freedom Food.) Having removed the Declaration of Animal Rights from the policy booklet at the instigation of the Charity Commission,the RSPCA is weakened and powerless to abolish animal experiments and inherently cruel farming methods with their 'perceived' benefits to mankind. Nothing in this statement detracts from the aims of the RSPCA. There is no conflict between helping people and helping animals.

I appreciate that you are very aware of all the controversy over 'rights' and and 'welfare'. Perhaps we have gone full circle again and need to promote 'rights.'

SUE DRAKE

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"What an interesting article on sheep. Not that I doubted their ability -indeed those creatures that we dub 'thick' are not- it is OUR ignorance that should make us weep."

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ISOBEL COWAN

**WARNINGS !**

" Since the attack on the World Trade Centre,Mr Blair has ordered that Britain's Internet Service Providers retain all E Mail traffic for at least one year for government use in the 'war against terrorism'. But who's to say that your and my E Mails won't be scrutinised for more sinister purposes." The Ecologist (Like handing on to the RSPCA Council? Ed)

If you are thinking that you will be treated according to the rule of natural justice or the Human Rights law by the RSPCA Council...HARD LUCK.

A ruling by Mr Justice Lightman (January 2001) states that the RSPCA is Not a public body so that it is not required to abide by the rules of natural justice and as the RSPCA is not a public authority the Human Rights Act does not apply.

"Why are people saying we shouldn't export trees? What do we grow forests for? To cut 'em down and sell 'em!"  
Michael Moore Former Director General of the World Trade Organization.

A HORRIFIC trade in apes and monkeys being sold as meat in Britain is threatening chimpanzees and gorillas with extinction, an *Observer* investigation reveals. The growing international trade in 'bushmeat' means the flesh of endangered animals is increasingly available from markets and shops in London and elsewhere in the country.

Scientists warn that the bushmeat trade has become so large that much of the wildlife in the forests of Central and West Africa is threatened with extinction within decades. One species of monkey - the Miss Waldron Red Colobus - was eaten to extinction last year, and conservationists say that, at the current rate of consumption,

gorillas, bonobos (pygmy chimps) and chimpanzees have only about 10 years left.

Despite repeated finds of bushmeat in freight and personal luggage, officials say they are virtually powerless to stop imports. Environmental health officers have no powers to investigate the sale of the meat and can act only if it is reported to them.

THE  
OBSERVER

24/2/02

#### FREEDOM FOOD

A new charity is to be launched on April 18 in London. The Vegetarian and Vegan Foundation (VVF) will be the only UK health charity that has as its sole remit the promotion of human health through the adoption of a plant based diet. Safeguarding children's health is the aim of VVF's launch campaign.

It is interesting that strong reference is made to the WHO 1991 Report in the VVF's Report. You will remember that we wrote about the WHO 1991 Report in the last newsletter and emphasised the repeated warnings about the dangers to humans of saturated fat and the inefficient use of land for intensive farming purposes.

FREEDOM FOOD is heavily involved in the intensive production of dairy products pigs, chickens, eggs, turkeys, and ducks - all foods that are fat containing.

If you would like further information about this new charity contact Laura Scott (MSc nutrition) 12, Queen Square, Brighton BN1 3FD.

#### COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It is more important than ever to elect Council members who will put animals "at the top of the agenda" and who will not waste valuable time with petty infighting and intolerant resolutions. We Urge you to support the re-election of DAVID MANSON whose questioning mind and dedication to animal welfare are valuable assets for the work of preventing cruelty to animals. We do not have a list of the other candidates but should you want to know our views when the candidates are known contact us on 01293 786166.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is a new book called Managing Britannia by Robert Protherough and John Pick about the way that the idea of management has come to take over organisations bringing its own ethos, rules and vocabulary and imposing them on organisations which worked well beforehand and wrecking them. Often the methods don't work and more highly paid managers are required to force through corporate planning. If you have ever complained about the bureaucracy in the corporately managed RSPCA and longed for lucid documentation - read the book (published by Edgeways Books.) Just to correct wrong information - RSPCA Members' Watchdog is sent to members WITHOUT CHARGE we reuse envelopes but welcome donations towards postage.

Our accounts are kept by Dave Wetton , Best wishes

THE WATCHDOGS (now four) Mr Page please note.