

'That was the week that was!'

Most of this week was spent camped out in the 'loo' with updating www.shirleymckie.com an extremely low priority. As one of the many laid low by the 'sickness bug' my only goal was trying to wean myself from the 'Armitage Shanks'.

Monday opened with '**The Herald**' publishing my letter challenging the Law Society to act on the state of fingerprinting within Scotland and suggesting that they heed the recent criticism laid at the GMC's door re failure to act in the public interest. Not much response here but I find it happens that way with the Law Society. <http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/29625.html> .

A different reaction to the '**The Firm**' article, "**Forensic foul ups**". It is obvious that many associated with the legal profession read this magazine although I was amused (but not amazed) to hear that in some cases readers do so surreptitiously. Feedback from across the UK has been fascinating and it gives me hope that a magazine that is so obviously willing to challenge the legal establishment (and what better reason for reading it.) is flourishing. <http://www.firmmagazine.com/index.php>

Shirley's QC Andrew Smith was in action in the Court of Session again on Thursday attempting to gain access to SCRO and other witnesses who have so far refused to be interviewed or who have been prevented from giving a statement. As so often before delay was the order of the day. After an hour or so 'legal issues' forced an adjournment until the New Year. It would be fascinating to get an insight into the thought processes of the Scottish Ministers and their legal team as they deliver delay after delay. It is easy to become paranoiac and see every delay as personal rather than the workings of our, at times, moribund system of justice.

As the week progressed my somewhat jaded spirits were lifted by correspondence received from 'Friends of Shirley'. (<http://www.shirleymckie.com/friendsletters.htm>)

One harked back to May of this year when Shirley's case was debated at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: "*They are as representative a body of the people of Scotland as you will get and I hope you and your family continue to take strength and comfort from that day when the voice of the people of Scotland was raised in support of Shirley and the truth.*"

Another writes, "*After having spent some time viewing the fingerprints..... I had no hesitation in stating 'These two marks are NOT identical, and how anyone, let alone a Fingerprint Expert, can state that they were made by the same person, is totally beyond me. If Fingerprint Experts have previously stated that these fingerprints were made by the same person then they are at best totally incompetent or at worst corrupt'* ". And so say all of us!!

The week ended on a positive note, "*I have a feeling that 2005 will be a better year for both of you and those closest to you*". *This is our wish to all of you.*

19 December 2004