

## **'That was the year that was'**

2004 saw Shirley enter the 8th year of her battle against SCRO on a high. In December Lord Wheatley had allowed her a hearing in the Court of Session against The Scottish Ministers and SCRO. The gloss was taken off this victory however when the Ministers decided to mount a last minute appeal.

As another year ends however we can now say that the system will be called to account in February of **next year**. The time for cover up and procrastination is coming to an end. The time is coming for the truth to be known.

For over 7 years Shirley and our family have been overwhelmed at the level of support from friends, family, supporters, fingerprint experts and complete strangers stopping us in the street. Without you we could never have kept going. Peace, health and happiness to you and yours in 2005 and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Let's dip into our diary of the year.**

### ***January to March:***

Following Lord Wheatley's judgement in December 2003 a decision was taken to keep a lower profile and prepare for Shirley's civil hearing in the Court of Session. A large number of witnesses had to be identified and there were continuing problems obtaining documentary evidence from the SCRO. There was however a sense that a final hurdle had been negotiated and that finally the truth would be revealed. The Scottish Minister's legal team still kept going with their appeal against Lord Wheatley's judgement and no-one could make any sense of this given his Lordship clearly stated that there was a case to be answered for malicious prosecution of Shirley in 1999.

A pattern was established where we had regular meetings with supporters like Mike Russell and Bill McFarlan and also MSP's Alex Neil, Fergus Ewing and Alisdair Morgan. The ever faithful media kept up their interest but we felt that with a court hearing imminent it was more important to prepare the case than go public.

This policy changed however when we realised there was no sign of the Minister's dropping their appeal and no court date had been fixed.

Reluctantly we prepared to go on the offensive yet again.

### ***10 March:***

Iain rushed to hospital with a police escort on the eve of a visit to Derby University to present Shirley's case. Spends 8 days in intensive care following a heart scare. A time for reflection and revaluation and a realisation that while no-one is immortal there is no more honourable battle than fighting for the ones we love. At the end of the day they are our only memorial.

### ***7 April:***

'A FORMER detective at the centre of a long-running controversy is to be pursued for £13,000 in legal costs incurred while she was suing Strathclyde Police. The move against former Detective Constable Shirley McKie was approved by the joint police board at a meeting in Glasgow City Chambers yesterday.'

<http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=728502004>

**11 April:**

**'First the pain and cruelty, now police go for broke'**

Susan Flockhart of the Sunday Herald argues there is little justice to be found in the Shirley McKie Case

<http://www.sundayherald.com/print41136>

**21 April:**

Iain writes to Willie Rae Chief Constable of Strathclyde for support

[http://shirleymckie.com/documents/WillieRae20April\\_000.pdf](http://shirleymckie.com/documents/WillieRae20April_000.pdf)

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/WillieRae220April.pdf>

**April/May:**

MSP's respond to our appeal for support.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/MSPReplies.pdf>

**18 May:**

**'Kirk demands justice for wronged policewoman facing legal bill'**

THE Church of Scotland is to campaign for justice on behalf of a former policewoman who was cleared of lying on oath during a trial. The General Assembly agreed to call on the Scottish Executive to ensure that Shirley McKie is treated justly.

<http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=567982004>

**31 May:**

**And still the letters of support come in.**

Dear Shirley,

It was good to see you being featured in yesterday's Sunday Herald. Scottish readership continually needs to be reminded of your case. My wife and I would want to assure you of our continued support for you, and firmly believe that good will overcome evil and truth will prevail. Do not lose sight of that but continue to believe that you will be vindicated.

Vicky Allan in her article quotes you, "I'm not religious, but I prayed — to whoever, anybody." That remark warmed my heart because you realise that there is a Power beyond ourselves in whom we can trust, and into whose care, we can totally submit every part of our lives. For that reason I am enclosing a Gideon New Testament & Psalms. We are members of the Gideon association, and in the placing of these Bibles in many, many locations, numerous reports have come back to us, telling of how the person had been directed to just the right words at a crucial time in their life. That being the case, could I ask you to look at page 4 and see some of the references given because I believe you will find the strength to keep going despite all the set-backs.

We look forward to the day when TRUTH will be acknowledged in your situation and you will be recognized for the stand you have taken.

With every good wish.

**Yours sincerely,**

**A member of the public**

**26 July 2004:**

Iain writes to the members of the Strathclyde Joint Police Board:

*'As you will be aware on 24 June the Joint Police Board voted that a claim against Shirley in respect of Police legal expenses should be enforced. While your claim had legal standing the way it was enforced and subsequently publicised by Councillor McFadden displayed few signs of morality and integrity.'*

**20 September:**

#### **'Fingerprint row detective cleared by US forensics'**

NEW forensic technology from the United States has finally cleared Shirley McKie of leaving her fingerprint at a murder scene, according to one of the world's leading experts.

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=1105122004>

**12 October:**

Iain McKie debates with forensic scientists in Sheffield.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/ICARISConference.htm>

**14 October:**

'The Scottish Ministers have dropped their appeal against Shirley's civil hearing granted by Lord Wheatley last year. This opens the way for a full hearing of the facts in her case that will take place for 5 weeks starting in February 2006.'

<http://news.scotsman.com/glasgow.cfm?id=1199762004>

**15 October:**

#### **Fingerprint experts must explain error under oath**

SENIOR fingerprint experts will be forced to explain in court under oath why they mistakenly insisted a print found at a murder scene had been left by a police officer. Now, they will have to explain themselves at a five-week hearing to begin in February 2006 and could face criminal charges if it emerges that their misidentification was malicious.

<http://news.scotsman.com/glasgow.cfm?id=1199762004>

**18 October:**

- Iain writes an open letter to all MSP's seeking their support.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/LETTERTOALLMSP3.pdf>

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/MSPsupportlist4Nov.2004.pdf>

- Shirley and Iain nominated as 'The Herald' Campaigners of the Year

[http://www.scottishtv.co.uk/content/default.asp?page=s3\\_3\\_6](http://www.scottishtv.co.uk/content/default.asp?page=s3_3_6)

**27 October:**

**‘Judge for Yourself’**

A new book by L A Naylor contains an analysis of the Shirley McKie case.

“The relevant marks either belong to Shirley McKie and Marion Ross or they don’t. If they don’t.....then SCRO experts are either incompetent or criminal.”

<http://www.gazellebookservices.co.uk/ISBN/0954743709.htm>

**3 November 2004**

Iain McKie highlights recent correspondence with the Law Society under the heading – ‘The Law Society - a help or a hindrance?’

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/LawSociety.htm>

**8 November:**

Alex Neil MSP challenges the Lord Advocate who yet again hides behind the sub-judice rule.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/AlexNeilRelease.pdf>

**12 November:**

**‘Tribute to fingerprinting pioneer’**

‘Forensic experts from around the world have gathered in Ayrshire in tribute to the Scottish scientist who discovered that fingerprints are unique. Shirley McKie, who was wrongly accused of leaving her fingerprint at a murder scene, was among those at the ceremony.’

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4005589.stm>

**19 November:**

November News update

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/SHIRLEYMCKIEUPDATE.pdf>

**December 2004**

**‘Making her mark’**

‘International forensic experts gathered in Ayrshire recently for the unveiling of a memorial to Dr Henry Faulds, the Scottish scientist who made the breakthrough discovery that fingerprints are unique. Over one hundred and twenty years on from that discovery, fingerprint evidence continues to be regarded as infallible. Shirley and Iain McKie, who attended the ceremony, would not agree with Dr Faulds. For their eight year legal battle has challenged not just the science of fingerprint technology, but those responsible for processing fingerprint evidence and their superiors.’

**6 December:**

42 MSP's pledge their support

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/MSPsupportlist4Nov.2004.pdf>

**7 December:**

**'The Firm' - 'Forensic foul-ups'** – 'Shirley McKie speaks out to the law profession about the shocking miscarriage of justice that almost killed her.'

<http://www.firmmagazine.com/>

**26 December:**

### **COPS SNUB FINGERPRINT PIONEER'S MEMORIAL**

A MEMORIAL to the Scots inventor of fingerprinting has been unveiled - but police chiefs from his own country snubbed the event. Officers and dignitaries came from as far away as the USA for the unveiling of a statue to Henry Faulds in his home town of Beith, Ayrshire. But not a single member of the Scottish Police Service, Fingerprint Service or Criminal Records Office was there.

A police source said: 'Bosses feared the ceremony would be used by the McKies to embarrass the police.' A spokesman for the Scottish Criminal Records Office said: 'The date wasn't suitable. We intend to pay our own tribute to Henry Faulds in the fullness of time.'

[http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/tm\\_objectid=15012873&method=full&siteid=86024&headline=cops-snub-fingerprint-pioneer-s-memorial-name\\_page.html](http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/tm_objectid=15012873&method=full&siteid=86024&headline=cops-snub-fingerprint-pioneer-s-memorial-name_page.html)