VOL. 3 - No. 2

THE HERITAGE of FLEET STREET

LONDON 2021

he Sunday Times was founded by Henry White, a veteran journalist and publisher. He had owned The Independent Whig (1806-1821) and then founded The New Observer, shortly to be renamed The Independent Observer. He renamed his paper The Sunday Times to cash in on the name of The Times which was by then the leading newspaper in the country. The first issue was published on October 23, 1822.

The Sunday Times is known for the quality of its investigative journalism, design and editing, and for its coverage of British politics and the arts.

In 1841 it became the first UK newspaper to serialise a novel, William Harrison Ainsworth's St Paul's, which ran for the whole year. Subsequently it began to develop its strength in theatre reviews, leading to greater coverage of the arts in general. These remain two of the paper's greatest strengths to this day. Book serialisations have included the memoirs of Harold Wilson, Lord Mountbatten of Burma and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein as well as Andrew Morton's biography of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In 1975 the paper serialised the diaries of Richard Crossman, the Labour minister. They were published without prior clearance from the Cabinet Office, the first time this had happened. Some of these serialisations have been controversial such as that of Sypcatcher, Peter Wright's memoir and exposé of institutional failings in MI5.

The Sunday Times has a strong history in campaigning and investigative journalism. In 1963 it launched its Insight team,

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whose investigations have included Kim Philby, Bloody Sunday, the exposure of Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme, the revelation of links between international terrorism and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the "cash for questions" scandal in the House of Commons and corruption at the highest levels of international football. In 1989 the paper took up the cause of those who had been provided with Aidscontaminated blood by the National Health Service with the launch of The Forgotten Victims campaign. A number of these campaigns and investigations ran over many years, such as David Walsh's exposure of the cyclist Lance Armstrong as a doper.

At the same time, The Sunday Times has been a pioneer in increasing value for readers. In 1958 it added the Review section, pioneering the multisection Sunday newspaper. In 1962, The Sunday Times became the first UK newspaper to start its own colour magazine. More recent innovations have included The Funday Times, the first special section for young readers, Style magazine and Culture. The Rich List was first published in 1989.

In 1972 the paper launched its Thalidomide campaign, its most famous investigation. The Attorney General

issued a writ for contempt of court against the paper which lasted four years. The Sunday Times then asked the European Court of Human Rights to rule on the law of contempt used to suppress the publication of the story and in 1979 the court found in the paper's favour. The decision directly led to a radical reworking of Britain's contempt of court laws.

