

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL
CIVIL DIVISION
BETWEEN

(1) STEPHANE PARIS
(2) ANGEL GARDEN

Applicants/Claimants

-and-

(1) ANDREW LEWIS
(2) MELANIE BYNG

Respondents/Defendants

EVIDENCE FROM ORIGINAL DISCLOSURE

Dr Andrew Lewis
Hazelwood Cottage
Gurney Slade
Radstock BA3 4TQ

Thursday, 2nd of May 2013

Dear Andy

We wrote to you some months ago attempting to persuade you to address the defamatory comments you have made about us and suggesting that you may have made these actions against us due to misinformation regarding ourselves that you had received from third parties. Your answer was to publish a response to the effect that you would respond to any legal representative of ours by telling them to fuck off.

Therefore, in line with the pre-action protocol for defamation we are again respectfully asking you to please either substantiate your allegations about us or publicly withdraw them.

Our letter requesting your attention to the libellous material you have written was published online by you on Posterous in November 2012 - lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris - and republished just a few days ago (according to two tweets you posted on the 28th of April), on your blog - www.quackometer.net/blog/2012/11/angel-garden-and-steve-paris.html.

The defamation includes unsubstantiated personal allegations against us in tweets stating that we have malice in our hearts, have told terrible lies about Melanie Byng, have tried to lose friends their jobs, as detailed in our last appeal to you to try and sort this out amicably.

There is plenty of evidence that you have spread these types of unsubstantiated allegations around, and the evidence is supported also by the fact that people regularly block us for no apparent reason often publishing tweets saying things like "Andy was right about you", while you go from city to city professing to be giving all the relevant information parents need on Steiner - i.e. attempting to occupy the centre of the debate, which you surmised in your posterous post that we "appear" to be trying to do.

These personal defamatory comments are not only unlawful and clearly designed to damage our reputation, but such prejudicial statements about parents coming out of nasty situations in Steiner education are also clearly at odds with your claimed views about Steiner schools, including the many statements you make that people who put forward the views of those you term "quacks" are actually using "false balance" (in fact you have republished what you said in November *after* the school has signed legally binding statements that corroborated our version of events).

It seems incredible that these two positions could be held by the same person, and we note that such inconsistency appears to be one of the things that amazes you yourself about adherents of Steiner for example that may love anthroposophy whilst acknowledging that their relatives have been killed by homeopathy.

The stress of undertaking such an action as we have with any institution is obviously substantial as we note that you acknowledge in regard to others attempting to hold dissembling institutions to account.

Yet any knock-on effect on our own children of your collusion with the attempts of friends of yours to undermine our actions appears not to register with you - in spite of the fact that we have tried to inform you about it and that you have been and continue to be traveling all over the country expressing your concern for children due to Steiner education.

Instead you appear to happily express these two incompatible points of view, i.e. that Steiner schools generally are less than honest, but that the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School, which has now made several important and legally binding admissions about their failure to deal with bullying, and which also happens to be the National HQ for NZ Steiner schools, may have been justified in expelling the children of parents attempting to address the unchecked bullying, which you yourself refer to in your treatment of Steiner.

It certainly points to your particular position on this situation, including your outright defamation of us, being simply because of your personal group allegiances and not because the arguments or points of view hold any merit in themselves as evidenced by the fact that you do not appear to have made a single effort to find out the truth before making such damaging statements to third parties about people you do not personally know at all. As noted above, even your rude response to our earlier polite request for retraction and resolution, which acknowledged that you may have simply been misled, was published.

Therefore we suggest, for the last time, that you agree to discuss with us how to undo and rectify this nasty situation, and suggest that you are well-placed to allow the facts concerning parents who have succeeded in publicly holding a Steiner school to account over unchecked bullying to be part of the information that any parents considering such an education for their own children might "need to know".

Andy, please think about this. We are returning to the UK where we will be much better able to address the issues with you. Whatever the Byng's reasons for introducing initiatives that they couldn't see through, or take responsibility for, it is exceptionally easy to prove that it happened, and that all these offers made were because my mum was dying - perhaps they just didn't realise how stressful that might be.... Although that obviously sounds impossible, especially considering that Richard Byng is a Senior mental health lecturer, we were and are always prepared to seek resolution.

What we're certainly not prepared to do is to let that mistake of the Byngs' ruin our own reputation, through malicious untruths *or* to deprive people of knowledge of a Human Rights settlement by a Steiner school over bullying any further.

We therefore give you fair notice that having asked you several times to be reasonable and honest in this matter, we will make every effort at our disposal to get you to address the untruthful way you are treating us, while you yourself are demonstrably seeking to dominate the moral high-ground in public debate on Steiner.

Andy, you're a savvy bloke, and a canny wordsmith. Let's sort this matter out now through diplomacy before we are forced, to protect our reputations, to take actions that will make that option unavailable.

We believe, however difficult it may seem given the entrenched views of some of your acquaintances, that you are up to this job, and we do mean that sincerely, as well as being aware that protocol demands that we make every effort to try and persuade you to willingly retract your unsubstantiated defamatory allegations against us and settle this matter in order to avoid possible legal action.

Should you choose to engage, you will find us ready and willing to negotiate a way out of any further hostility, and this would be our preferred avenue, especially given the struggle we've just finished with the school, with its effects on our family, as well as the necessity to come back to the UK, all of which is highly stressful.

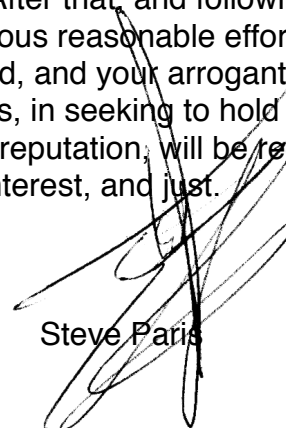
Please respond to this letter by email, by the 8th of May. After that, and following this final plea for reasonableness and honesty, and given our previous reasonable efforts to settle this matter amicably, even to allow that you've been misled, and your arrogant response to those efforts, we hope that any subsequent actions of ours, in seeking to hold you accountable for attempting to undermine and defame our reputation, will be recognised by the relevant authorities as inevitable, firmly in the public interest, and just.

Yours sincerely

Angel Garden



Steve Paris





Andy Lewis <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>

SITP

3 messages

Jo Torres

16 July 2013 10:30

To: "andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com" <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>

Hi Andy!

Really looking forward to tonight, is there anything you need me to bring like a laptop? If so could you send me an attachment with any presentations so I can make sure my laptop isn't going to have a hissy fit about it?! Projector, mic etc are all sorted anyway.

What time are you getting into Plymouth? Are you driving or training, if training let me know when you get in and I'll come meet you at the station!

Cheers me dear, see you soon!

Jo

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Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>

16 July 2013 10:58

To: Jo Torres

Hi Jo

I have all I need - so see you there. Will be driving.

By the way, not sure if you were aware, but my Bath talk was disrupted by Angel Garden and Steve Paris. They have been harassing me for over a year and are as mad as cheese. I thought they lived in new zealand but showed up in Bath to 'serve papers on me'. Idiots. But. They may show up in Plymouth. They are now living in Bristol. Wanted to warn you. I do not want them allowed admittance and will not speak if they are there. Their behaviour is quite disturbing and they may try to film or record or disrupt in some way. I hope you understand.

Regards

Andy

[Quoted text hidden]

Jo Torres

16 July 2013 11:32

To: Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>

Hi Andy,

That's fab I'll see you there! I've been extensively briefed on Angel and Steve via Melanie, I'll do my best, but I don't know them so it might be a case of pointing them out if they show up and I can ask them to leave. You know the venue, so there's a good chance there will be people there just eating, hope you get what I mean. If it's any reassurance, Mike, my other half, was a bouncer for years so is well versed in efficient removal of crazies.

What were they serving you papers with/for? Mental...

Anyway, really looking forward to this evening, not sure if I mentioned we don't start proceedings until at least 7.30pm these days, less of a rush! See you later,



Search Twitter

**Andy Lewis**

@lecanardnoir



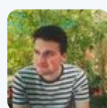
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@tswyatt The important thing to grasp is that they are part of an esoteric cult. What they say to the public differs from internal beliefs.

Reply Retweet Favorite More

1:17 PM - 14 Jun 2013

Reply to @lecanardnoir @tswyatt

**Tim Wyatt** @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013

@lecanardnoir Well we would need documentary evidence of that being the case for our local Steiners before we could print it obviously.

Details

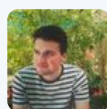
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**Andy Lewis** @lecanardnoir · 14 Jun 2013

@tswyatt And that is how they will get away with it. No one will call them out. It requires too much work to expose them!

Details

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**Tim Wyatt** @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013

@lecanardnoir See it from our perspective for a second. Very under-staffed and busy local newspaper. Hard to do long-term investigation.

Details

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**Tim Wyatt** @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013

@lecanardnoir If a local Steiner school could be proven to be discouraging vaccination I would love nothing more than to expose it.


Details


Reply Retweet Favorite More


**Andy Lewis** @lecanardnoir · 14 Jun 2013


@tswyatt I know. I know. But that does not mean you can print misleading articles with people getting upset.


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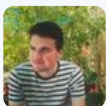

Tim Wyatt @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013
@lecanardnoir I see your point. If I was writing it I hope I would have dug around online a bit more to present a range of views.
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Tim Wyatt @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013
@lecanardnoir Ultimately, If Steiners are that bad, your beef should be with Ofsted and DfE who are happily approving them.
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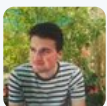

Tim Wyatt @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013
@lecanardnoir Or maybe find a newspaper that isn't hemorrhaging money and can afford to pay its reporters to investigate haha ;)
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More

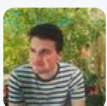

Andy Lewis @lecanardnoir · 14 Jun 2013
@tswyatt Great! But very hard to do. A sting would be the only option.
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Andy Lewis @lecanardnoir · 14 Jun 2013
@tswyatt Bed time reading. Ex Steiner Teacher whistleblows: won a court action trying to silence him a few weeks back qako.me/13Vcec8
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Tim Wyatt @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013
@lecanardnoir Probably. Sadly PCC rules mean you can't do a speculative secret recording etc. Must already have some evidence of wrongdoing.
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Andy Lewis @lecanardnoir · 14 Jun 2013
@tswyatt You will get your evidence when the new school is riddled with measles!
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Tim Wyatt @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013
@lecanardnoir Well let's hope not but if they are it would be great to expose it and hold them to account.
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Tim Wyatt @tswyatt · 14 Jun 2013
@lecanardnoir Must get back to work but will read up later. Thanks.
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Steve Paris @sjparis · 14 Jun 2013
@tswyatt u want documentary evidence? Steiner school says they offer "safe,

natural, peaceful haven" yet one expelled kids 4 being bullied.

Details

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Steve Paris @sjparis · 14 Jun 2013

@tswyatt interesting what Andy says re too much work to expose Steiner schools: we did it, he knows it, but doesn't tell others about it.

Details

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Steve Paris @sjparis · 14 Jun 2013

@tswyatt sadly u won't find that: they neither encourage nor disprove. It's all down to the parents

Details

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3:14 pm

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Detail





Simon @Flatsquid

[@frozenwarning](#) She's fucking mental & I don't use the term lightly having the unfortunate experience of talking to her in person.

0 Faves

0 Retweets

31/12/2014 at 2:56 pm

via **Twitter Web Client**











In Reply to...



FW @frozenwarning

1h

[@Amazonnewsmedia](#) No, you've been ignorant and bullying for months. Fairly typical quack















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Ben Butler jailed for murdering daughter Ellie after custody battle

🕒 21 June 2016 | [London](#)

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Ben Butler had a conviction for shaking Ellie when she was a baby quashed

A father who murdered his six-year-old daughter just 11 months after she was returned to his care following a custody battle has been jailed.

Ben Butler, 36, inflicted catastrophic head injuries upon Ellie while looking after her at their home in Sutton, south-west London, in October 2013.

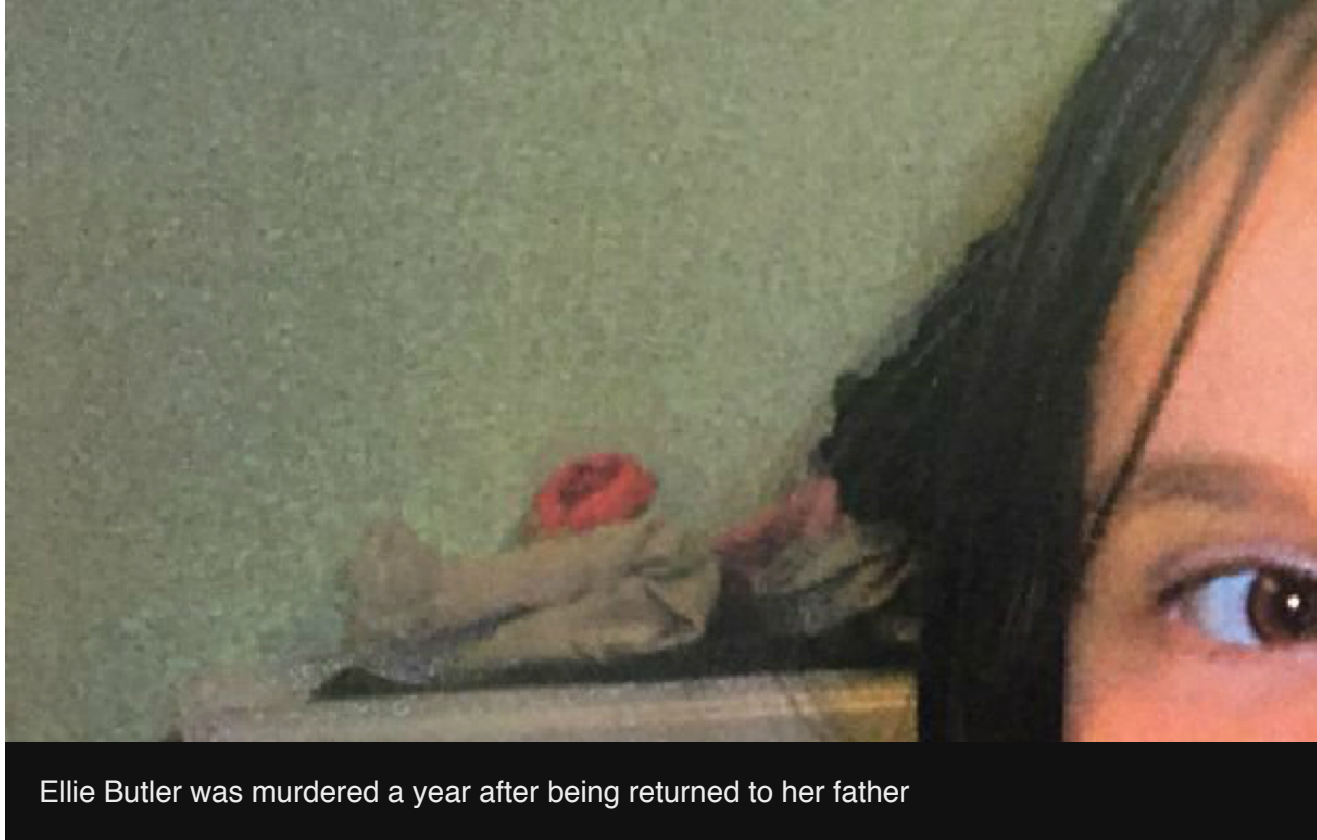
He was also found guilty of child cruelty over a shoulder injury, as was Ellie's mother Jennie Gray.

He was jailed for a minimum of 23 years. Gray was jailed for 42 months.

Gray, a graphic designer, had admitted perverting the course of justice.

The exonerated father who went on to kill

More on this story on BBC London Live



Ellie Butler was murdered a year after being returned to her father

Following the guilty verdict at the Old Bailey, Butler shouted out: "I'll fight for the rest of my life - unbelievable," before adding: "I want to be sentenced now so I can fight in the Appeal Court."

He added: "I will fight forever to prove this wrong. My daughter was jumping in the house. I'm 100% not guilty."

Gray said: "Big mistake. Spend another 10 years proving you wrong."



quashed on appeal.

The couple then won a High Court judgement to have Ellie returned to their care in 2012.

Mrs Justice Hogg had sided with Butler despite objections from police, social services and Ellie's maternal grandfather, Neal Gray.

At the time, Mr Gray - who had cared for Ellie since she was a baby - had allegedly warned the judge she would have "blood on your hands".

A **serious case review** found Sutton Children Services felt "powerless to act" following the High Court's ruling.

It found Mrs Justice Hogg's ruling in the Family Court went much further than simply quashing Butler's previous conviction and had exonerated him, as, in her eyes, he was a victim of a miscarriage of justice.

That had the effect of telling social services to "back off" - despite social workers' concerns about returning Ellie to her parents, the review concluded.

A spokesman for the Judiciary said: "If a judge errs in law or on the facts, the remedy is to appeal."

To refer a judge's decision to an extra-judicial body would be incompatible with the principle of judicial independence."

Alex Clark, headteacher of Avenue Primary Academy in Sutton which Ellie attended for 10 months before she died, said school staff had concerns about the family and had offered the parents help which they did not accept.

He said Butler and Gray would not meet teachers to discuss why Ellie had missed periods from school.

"Generally, they were very difficult to work with. When we asked questions they sometimes became angry and defensive and on two occasions Jennie Gray made reference to her solicitor.

'Infantile and sentimentalised fantasy'

In sentencing Butler, Judge Mr Justice Wilkie told him: "You are a self-absorbed, ill-tempered, violent and domineering man who... regarded your children and your partner as trophies, having no role other than to fit in with your infantile and sentimentalised fantasy of family life with you as the patriarch whose every whim was to be responded to."



Ellie Butler had been living with grandparents before she was returned to Butler and Gray

Jurors were told Butler battered his daughter to death in a volcanic loss of temper.

He did not call 999 for two hours and instead called Jennie Gray back from work in the City of London.

They then concocted an elaborate plot to destroy evidence and stage the scene of an accidental fall before alerting the ambulance service.

'Grotesque charade'

The couple even involved Ellie's younger sibling by sending the child into a room on the pretext of fetching Ellie for cake, jurors were told.

The child can be heard on the 999 call saying Ellie "won't wake up".

Mr Justice Wilkie told a sobbing Gray that she may have been "exceptionally naive and stupid" to believe Butler and take part in the cover-up.

He added: "You played your full part in the grotesque charade that was the 999 call whilst subjecting your dead daughter to the indignity of pointless CPR when you knew full well she had been dead for two hours."



Ellie's grandmother Linda Gray died on 19 April - the first day of the murder trial - but the news was kept from Jennie Gray until sentencing at her father's request.

In a joint statement, written ahead of the trial, Ellie's grandparents said they had struggled to come to terms with the "shock and horror" of her death.

"Ellie was a very beautiful, bubbly and intelligent little girl who always had a smile on her face and even at such a young age she was nobody's fool. She was our life and she gave so much pleasure to us and our family too. How we all miss her."

Without referring directly to their daughter or Butler throughout the statement, they said: "We did not realise that some people could be so wicked."



Gray had admitted perverting the course of justice



MET POLICE

The couple had tried to cover up the death by lying to police

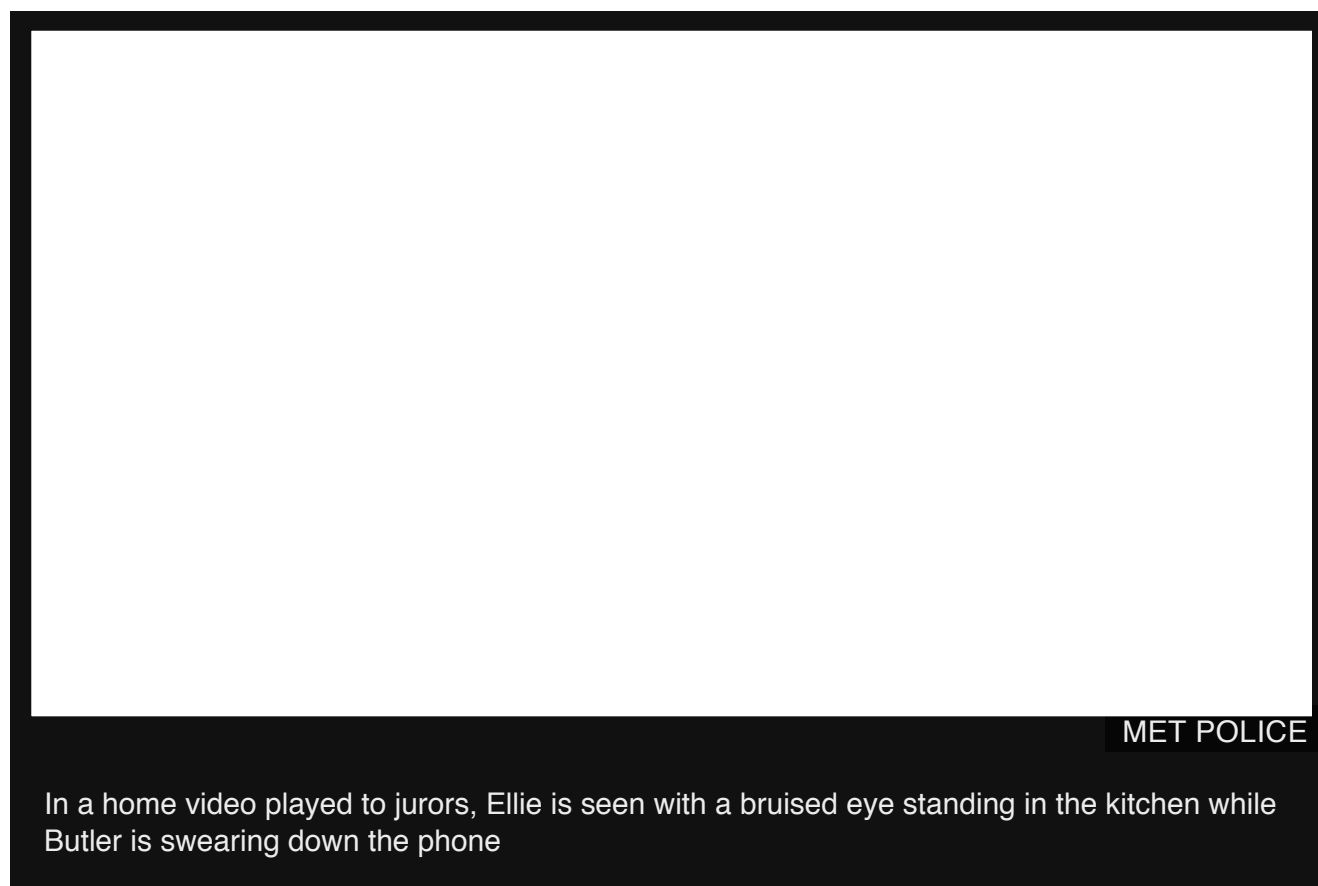
The court heard harrowing evidence of a toxic family life dominated by a man described in court as "angry, overbearing and manipulative".

Butler had a "volatile temper" which could "explode at any time".

In the months leading up to Ellie's death he sent hundreds of abusive and threatening texts to Gray containing the most obscene and vile language, often directed at Ellie and a younger sibling.

Jurors heard how he frequently beat Gray up and threw her out onto the streets.

A video clip played in court also showed him swearing aggressively on a phone call in the family kitchen in front of Ellie.



Malcolm McHaffie, deputy chief crown prosecutor for CPS London, said: "Ellie Butler was murdered in her home, where she should have felt safe, by her violent father who should have loved and protected her.

"We may never know exactly what happened in the last few hours of Ellie's life, but the CPS built a strong case to show that her death was the result of deliberate violence by Butler."

Timeline

- February 2007: At six weeks old and in the sole care of her father, Ellie was found to be "suddenly soft and limp". Scans showed she had serious injuries.
- June 2007: Ellie was placed in the care of her grandparents.
- January 2008: The Family Court found that, on the balance of probability, Butler caused Ellie's injuries and Gray failed to protect her.
- March 2009: Butler was convicted of grievous bodily harm and sentenced to 18 months in prison. He had a history of offending and violence.
- June 2010: His criminal conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal on the basis of new medical evidence.
- July 2012: The Family Court overturned an order which protected Ellie from her parents. It exonerated Butler and said that any injury caused to Ellie was "purely accidental".
- An independent social work agency was appointed to replace Sutton Council's social workers to oversee the children being returned to their parents.
- The children were not subject to any court orders which had an effect of preventing agencies (social workers, child protection, schools etc) from having any further involvement.
- November 2012: Ellie was returned to her parents' care.
- October 2013: Ellie was murdered.

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Ben Butler: The exonerated father who went on to kill

21 June 2016

Particulars of malice

73.1. Both Defendants are very strongly of the belief that Steiner schools are not a safe environment for children, and are manipulative and not to be trusted. Both Defendants have repeatedly described them as a “cult” (eg, the First Defendant on 14 June 2013: *“the important thing to grasp is that [Steiner schools] are part of an esoteric cult. What they say to the public differs from internal beliefs.”*)

73.2. The First Defendant has repeatedly written of how Steiner schools have a bizarre and dangerous approach to bullying, believing that it should be left unchecked, and of how they seek to vilify those who speak out against them:

73.2.1. On 5 November 2012 (a mere four days before publishing the malicious allegation), he wrote the following on his blog:

“The [sic] are consistent reports of how Steiner Schools have a laissez faire attitude to problems such as bullying within schools. [...] Karmic influences need to be worked out and if a child is being bullied then intervention may interfere with the child’s destiny.”

73.2.2. On 26 December 2012, he tweeted:

“WTF! Appalling video evidence of unchecked bullying within Waldorf Steiner School environment. <http://vimeo.com/56109384>”

73.2.3. On 19 March 2013, writing on his blog:

“It is a common complaint that bullying goes unchecked as their [sic] is a belief that the bullied and the bullier and [sic] reversing roles from previous incarnations and these karmic issues must be worked out by the children.”

73.2.4. On 13 May 2014, he tweeted:

“Meltdown at Scottish Steiner School after bullying claims and cash crisis”

73.2.5. On 20 May 2014, he tweeted:



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51

**L.D. @twoddle123** · 23 Jul 2013

@lecanardnoir Yes I do. But I ascribe a much more real and profound reality to ideas than you do. We are ideas and so are medicinal plants

Details

Reply Retweet Favorite More

**Andy Lewis**

@lecanardnoir



Follow

@twoddle123 of course you do. I am bound to a reality dictated by evidence and rationality.

Reply Retweet Favorite More

8:02 PM - 23 Jul 2013

Reply to @lecanardnoir @twoddle123

**L.D. @twoddle123** · 23 Jul 2013

@lecanardnoir Good for you. I like to think that of myself too, except my evidence includes phenomena not captured by atomic theory

Details

Reply Retweet Favorite More

**Andy Lewis @lecanardnoir** · 23 Jul 2013

@twoddle123 You havent said what sort of evidence this is (bar 'meditation') and how this evidence would support your ideas. Please go ahead

Details

Reply Retweet Favorite More

**L.D. @twoddle123** · 23 Jul 2013

@lecanardnoir Being able to see what plants would have a beneficial impact on which individual patient -- ask a good homeopath to show you

Details

Reply Retweet Favorite More

**:guy-andré::chapman: @SceptiGuy** · 23 Jul 2013

RT @twoddle123 @lecanardnoir Being able to see what plants would have a beneficial impact on which individual patient << Based on invention

Details

Reply Retweet Favorite More



Andy Lewis
@lecanardnoir



 Follow

@EdzardHonest more than willing to hear other viewpoints. Especially those based on some evidence. Do you have that example or not?

 South Gloucestershire

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5:50 PM - 15 Dec 2013

Reply to @lecanardnoir @EdzardHonest

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lecanardnoir

Detail

10/11/2012 at 5:39 AM

via web

@lecanardnoir So that's what the beef with you and Steve is about. Blatant egoising. I've now blocked him.



Tom Armstrong
@goatamongsheep



In reply to...



Andy Lewis

3d

Some annoying issues on the interweb. qako.me/SI8XZa

flatsquid

Detail

10/11/2012 at 11:16 AM

via Twitter for Android

@Skepticat_UK

@Amazonnewsmedia @sjparis

Andy was right. You're one very troubled individual.



Simon Hughes
@Flatsquid



In reply to...



Skepticat

3d

Lying, bullying, threatening...how do Angel Garden aka **@Amazonnewsmedia** and **@sjparis** sleep at night?

defamation because it isn't, or account for why you have colluded in this campaign of covert victimisation against whistle blowers whilst overtly pretending to address Steiner issues. [48]

27. As noted above, the Claimants would follow my Twitter timeline to see who was interacting with me and then push their own defamatory allegations against me towards those people. I interpreted the above excerpt from their letter as a threat to continue to stalk me and harass me with the use of third parties and so I thought that by publishing their letter any such third party may better understand the dispute between us.

28. The Claimants object to certain sections of the blog post, which was originally posted on Posterous in November 2012 and subsequently moved to Quackometer in April 2013 when I migrated some of the posts from Posterous after its closure. The blog post in its entirety is attached at [45 - 49]. I note that the blog post had 301 page views at the time the original Particulars of Claim were served on me (although a significant number of these may be from the Claimants themselves or prompted by this legal action). When I moved the post after the closure of Posterous I did not put it on the Quackometer's home page (which receives a lot of traffic), nor did I go through the usual promotion of new post in other channels. Typically, a new post on the Quackometer will quickly receive thousands of page views. This post has never received this amount and is indeed the least viewed blog post on my site by a large margin. As far as I was concerned, I was just moving the post to a new platform with the same purpose as originally intended in April 2013.

29. In particular the Claimants object to the passage:

They claim their children were expelled because they were being bullied. I understand the school says it was because of the parents' behaviour...Since, February, I have ignored and filetered [sic] out their constant harassment by blog, tweet and video, both of myself and of others. [45]

30. It is dismaying to see the Claimants claim that it is not true and defamatory that the Titirangi School stated that the reason the children's places were withdrawn was because of their parent's behaviour and that they claim I acted out of malice by making the statements I did in the blog post about the school's actions. The Claimants now suggest that I could have had no honest belief in this matter and that I wrote it to damage them.

31. On the contrary, I truly believed on the evidence before me, and continue to believe that the summary of the dispute in the blog post is correct for the reason set out in the following paragraphs:

>>> >>>>> it is like to feel normal etc. - this is just how my mother talks,
>>> >>>>> and
>>> >>>>> as
>>> >>>>> you know nothing is wrong with her. She recently had some other
>>> >>>>> surgery,
>>> >>>>> which, of course, did not work and she is in more pain than ever. Or
>>> >>>>> something like that.

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> Date: Mon, 28 Jan 2013 22:02:40 +0000

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> Subject: Re: comment from angel?

>>> >>>>> From: melanie.byng@gmail.com

>>> >>>>> To: zzzooney@gmail.com

>>> >>>>> CC:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> oh and her 'disability' is annoying but not that bad - in fact she
>>> >>>>> told

>>> >>>>> me she had to ham it up to get her disability parking permit. We've
>>>>> already

>>> >>>>> discussed this by email but at this altitude it needs to be said
>>> >>>>> again

>>> >>>>> *rolls eyes*

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 10:00 PM, Melanie Byng
>>> >>>>> wrote:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> Diana, you've said some very sensible things (as usual). Standing
>>> >>>>> back

>>> >>>>> and peering at this through my reading glasses I also think Angel
>>> >>>>> may

>>> >>>>> be

>>> >>>>> drunk.

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 9:51 PM, Melanie Byng
>>>>> wrote:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> I hope she tells them to stop, she's done nothing to deserve it.

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 9:47 PM, alicia h. wrote:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> I thought that too!! It looked as though he actually conversed with
>>> >>>>> her, and that Angel did (via one or both of her accounts), but

>>> >>>>> really

>>> >>>>> there was no conversation!

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On 28 January 2013 22:45, Diana Winters

>>> >>>>> wrote:

>>> >>>>> > Yes - I had a lot of trouble following their conversations at
>>> >>>>> > first,

>>> >>>>> > because

>>> >>>>> > I kept thinking I was missing all the replies. One tweet from

on me in the comments, and because she was making it very clear that she expects ex-Steiner parents to use their own identities to 'whistle-blow' re bad experiences at Steiner schools. If not, she feels pressure should be brought to bear on these families to 'come clean'. It's of course very difficult to make a documentary if no one will tell their stories in public. For us, and for the Waldorf Critics in the States, this makes their project a potential danger to vulnerable individuals. None of us will promote their work.

Of course their accusations (many, manically expressed) involve people preventing their documentary, hurting children in the process. Angel even accuses me of 'grooming' her daughter (who I didn't even meet) presumably because I suggested Sands as a possibility and then withdrew my support. You can imagine how it feels to be accused of 'grooming' a little girl. And then to have these accusations sent to journalists (one of whom forwarded an email asking me what I would like him to do about it). Ignoring is the best thing.

So if they do appear on the quackometer, please just check that they don't use the opportunity to attack Waldorf Critics, Alicia, Lovelyhorse (Sam) or myself, because it has nothing to do with Steiner schools. They would be far more relevant commenting after a post about yams, or astrologers, or people calling themselves ludicrous names like 'Rainbow Star-child' or 'Angel Garden', or how psychopaths are initially charming.

Sorry about the length. All the best to you and your family,

Melanie.

Andy Lewis <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>
To: Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

31 January 2012 18:33

Hi Melanie

Got the email.

On a train now with low connectivity. So briefly. Not going to tolerate people using my post discussion for anything other than that. Sounds horrific. We ought to chat on the phone soon. My post is going slow. Work. babies. Procrastination. Usual problems.

A

X

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>
To: Andy Lewis <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>

31 January 2012 18:39

cheers. I feel a lot better now you're informed.

I understand all those things - especially babies. It's not an easy subject either. My number is

thank you. Mx

[Quoted text hidden]

Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>
To: Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

1 February 2012 23:02

I am sure you will have picked up that they are attacking me pre-emptively!

http://www.amazonnewsmedia.com/ANM/ANM/Entries/2012/2/2_Is_home_birth_quackery.html

I am glad I checked who they were before responding.

[Quoted text hidden]

Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>
To: Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>

1 February 2012 23:08

xxx

On Fri, Jan 13, 2012 at 11:11 AM, wrote:
sorry, fell asleep last night and had to whizz out this morning for food so only just read your replies.

Will reply properly later but agree, I think ignoring her is the only way, so teeth gritting it is!

xx

On 12 January 2012 22:59, Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com> wrote:
Try not to make it more important than it is, I know it's hard.

Angel has a borderline personality disorder. This is a clinical judgement, not a personal opinion. It isn't simply depression. It makes her very dangerous, but luckily for us and sadly for others the danger is to those close to her. If she were your boss (always possible) she could make your life very difficult, but she doesn't have any power base. She is completely ineffectual unless we give in to her. We can't do that, because apart from anything else she is likely to misrepresent and manipulate others. It's quite likely she'll end up in serious trouble and possibly in prison - if she sends enough threatening texts, libels or threatens to blackmail the wrong person. Stand back and let her get on with it.

Obviously I wish I hadn't met her, and even more that hadn't stayed with them, but he only wanted to learn some French! He did after all look after their children for a week - all week - and was quite cheerful even when it went wrong - it was their behaviour which led to us feeling afraid for his safety (realising - and this was after Richard had a lengthy phone conversation with her - that he could be in some danger). I don't know what you say to people after that - most people would have screamed and shouted. We withdrew. She sent me a text which was an attempt to blackmail me. I wrote to her and explained that I would not help her, and I asked her not to contact me.

It really didn't add up to much, once Joe was home. Even after all the silly stuff she wrote I was able to forget it by blocking and ignoring it. There are lots of people ranting on the internet. I am not going to communicate with her in any way. It is, as Alicia says, futile. I haven't wronged her, whatever happened to her happened years ago.

As far as Alicia's blog goes, Angel and Steve behaved very badly, they're nasty, deceitful and manipulative. Give your sympathy for people who deserve it. In fact it is best that none of us are involved with her project - who knows what they're doing.

Maybe the job is done and you can withdraw, at least if they haven't got it by now there seems little we can do. Block her, ignore her and she will have to find other things to do. You have no obligations at all to her in any way.

xxx

On Thu, Jan 12, 2012 at 8:32 PM, wrote:
thanks for all your thoughts, well I guess I shouldn't have responded to her the other day, what prompted me was that I saw she was jumping on the Frome hashtag and worried that people coming to this cold (as was) could mistakingly think we were all associated and jeopardise the conversation I was having with her on twitter. When I spoke with on the phone she asked me if I knew someone called Angel Garden, I kept it brief and said there had been a falling out between her and Melanie and that

This is Google's cache of <http://zooev.wordpress.com/2011/02/25/an-education-movement-that-doesnt-encourage-questions/>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 7 Dec 2012 03:05:54 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)
 Tip: To quickly find your search term on this page, press **Ctrl+F** or **⌘-F** (Mac) and use the find bar.

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an education movement that doesn't encourage questions

February 25, 2011 · by [alicia hamberg](#) · in [annat](#)

Update on September 22, 2011. I would very much like to warn people to get involved with the pair behind the Steinermentary project. I don't have the time to write more about it right now (see discussion threads), but I wish that nobody takes the post below as a sign of support for them or as a recommendation for people to get involved with them.

*

This is important. [<http://www.steinermentary.com/SM/Steinermentary.html>]*

The Steiner Movement's traditional get-out is the "not a good fit" kiss-off. And they feel very got at by people who "weren't a good fit" passing on information that contradicts that idea. Heaven forbid that people should make known the abusive treatment they received – even when public funding is imminent.

[...]

Perhaps it can only really be the testimony of ordinary people which can educate people about the unhealthy facets of the 'fastest growing alternative education movement in the world'.

People who dare to warn others of such dangers are even threatened on the internet and in other ways, and always painted as 'anti-Steiner'.

[...]

All negative feedback is used to create an impression of an innocent movement under attack by ignorant and envious detractors.

[...]

When you put that knowledge together with the fact that the Swedish Federation are alleged to have actually paid a well-known Steiner-bot to pose as a mum on Mumsnet in order to rubbish the claims of such people, people whose own ghastly experience has driven them to try and warn others, the extent of the cover-up starts to reveal itself.

[Link](#) to the Swedish waldorf federation! I think everybody needs to know which organization we're talking about. It's the official body organizing Swedish waldorf schools, our equivalent of AWSNA and SWSF. And, yes, they did in fact hire [him](#). But they don't want to admit to it, they don't want to take any responsibility for it. They don't want to stand up for their decision. Instead they hope people won't know who he is, and that nobody will know they hired him. To make matters worse, Swedish waldorf schools are wholly tax-funded, and has been for a couple of decades now. It's nice to know the money is going into worthwhile projects, like having critical voices shut up.

If waldorf schools think some people complain because they weren't a good fit, then waldorf schools need to improve their skills in detecting who's not a good fit. But they don't. They don't tell people that their child would be happier elsewhere. It's only when people criticize that the excuses appear. 'Oh, it wasn't for you, what a pity' — well, they didn't need nine years, as in my case, to understand this. If they had possessed only rudimentary perceptive gifts, they'd known this after two weeks.

Read the post!

* On September 3, 2011, I'm not so sure anymore that this project is worth paying attention to actually. And I think you should know this, if, by any chance, you happen upon this old post. Unfortunately, I made a mistake. I may have advertised this project in other posts too, but I can't possibly find them. Or do anything about it. So this has to be sufficient.



10 Comments



1. *margaret* · [February 26, 2011 - 12:20 am](#) ·

A — you are correct, within two weeks it is very obvious if a child is not a good fit within a classroom setting. Ethically and in the best interest of the child the teacher needs to have this discussion with the parent and other options should be discussed.

Perhaps within the Waldorf setting it may come down to two things:

1. The Waldorf teacher falsely perceives that he possesses a special 'knowing' and the child is better off in the Waldorf classroom despite what the parents may think. The teacher thus persuades the parent to keep the child enrolled.
2. Money (funding) for the seat to be filled.



2. *alicia h* · [February 26, 2011 - 12:28 am](#) ·

And it certainly shouldn't take years. The clues should be there pretty quickly, for anyone prepared to see them, and then teachers and parents must begin to plan a course of action. It takes a while to transfer anyway. And perhaps you want to wait and see if things will improve — but even if, not for years! To the next break, perhaps. If things aren't too bad, in which case transfer should be immediate.

I think both 1 & 2 are important factors. I also suspect that the teachers (and sometimes the parents) honestly think the kid would be worse off elsewhere. (Remember what waldorf teachers think of other education systems.) Or they don't think it's that bad at all. It's the child's responsibility to learn to be a good fit, it's the child's task to adapt. And from their perspective, this may seem really beneficial to the child.



3. *Diana* · [February 26, 2011 - 4:14 pm](#) ·

Wow, this *is* important! Can I put it on critics?

Yes, I think video is the right tool. Things might have been different for a lot of people, if a parent had come in with an easy-to-use, unobtrusive handheld videocam in certain classrooms, and filmed for just a few minutes before the teacher realized what was going on and had the person hauled out of the classroom. (The family would almost certainly then be asked to leave the school. But other families would know what was going on.)

Quite a few of the things that critics are accused of "making up," things we actually saw happen that Waldorf defenders believe we are lying about ... well, those debates would simply be over if people could see what happened with their own eyes.

We should remember that video can be misused and manipulated. We shouldn't necessarily take video footage at face value as immediately and obviously accurate and truthful. But it's certainly a powerful and important tool.

It could be extremely useful in custody cases or in cases where a noncustodial parent needs to convince a judge that the child should not be in this school.



4. *alicia h* · [February 26, 2011 - 5:12 pm](#) ·

'Can I put it on critics?'

Sure!

I'm more of a reading/writing person myself, but lots of other people seem to spend much time on youtube, so I suppose it's a very useful addition to other means of communication. I mean, there's a lot of junk on youtube, but there is a lot of written junk on websites too, so...



5. [alicia h](#) · [February 27, 2011 - 6:51 pm](#) ·

'Quite a few of the things that critics are accused of "making up," things we actually saw happen that Waldorf defenders believe we are lying about ... well, those debates would simply be over if people could see what happened with their own eyes.'

I suppose it depends on people actually having the presence to bring the camera and record stuff. I mean, if it's this kind of documentation we're talking about. That would be very good, but a rare occurrence. (I mean, there's a video thingy and a microphone on my DSLR camera, but I have no idea how to use it — I haven't even used it to film Mr Dog. I forget it's there. Maybe that's just me, though.)

Another use for it is, naturally, to create opinion somehow, like argue something the same way you'd do in a text. But in this case too, I prefer to read the arguments.

And as for reenactments of interviews, I think they had one or two of those on the website, I feel that... I don't have the patience. I mean, to me, they obviously had a manuscript to read from, and then I'd rather read the manuscript than listen to someone read it for me. (My father used to read to me from books when I was a kid, and I simply read quickly to the end of the page and waited and waited and waited for him to finally turn the page... absolutely silly.)

Again, that's me. I'm sure it's different for other people, they may prefer to watch or listen.

I very rarely do that. I don't listen to skeptic podcasts or anything else out there.

If I listen to something, or watch something, then I want it to be something I can't get any other way. Like, for example, the discussion between W Held, H Ullrich and H Zander that I listen to earlier today. It was long, and it does strain my ability to focus. But somehow it's worth it because you don't get to experience an exchange like that otherwise. If they had been reading from manuscripts, I'd said sod it and turned it off. I must be really interested in something to bother listening to it and there must be some merit to it being in the form of an audio or a video rather than as a text to read.

Like listening to Steffen talk. That was special.

I suppose other people may enjoy listening to someone read from a paper, but to me it's pointless, I'd rather read the stuff myself. It's much faster and less boring.

Thus, I don't have a clue what people say on such videos because generally I don't watch them. Which is a pity, because I'm sure they may have interesting things to say.

I also feel quite ashamed because everybody listens to these skeptic podcasts all the time and it's so fantastic... and I just don't see the point. I can't be bothered. Maybe there's lots of interesting stuff happening with these things, but it's like I don't *get* what the medium is about. I don't experience the benefits, because I don't see the point.

Did reading and writing become unfashionable?

I love pictures and I love text, but I'm not at all fond of moving pictures with speech and other sounds. Unless I have to, or (as I wrote) am really fanatically interested in something, it's not my thing.



6. [alicia h](#) · [February 27, 2011 - 7:33 pm](#) ·

Also, I feel like I don't care what's useful anymore; I haven't in a while, and I've probably said it already. I don't care about influencing or 'providing information', whatever that's supposed to be about. I'm so fed up with the entire question of — will this help to stop anthroposophists doing I-don't-know-what.

I know I *should* be thinking — oh modern parents like youtube and podcasts so I should be doing something on youtube or with podcasts because that's *useful*... But I'm not. If I considered usefulness at all, I wouldn't be doing anything. I would be paralyzed.

And I feel that all these parents and young people and teachers and politicians and everybody else who need something useful, something to influence their decisions, they're in such a different place than I am, and I can't tell them anything useful anyway, even if I wanted to.

I wish I didn't have this expectation hanging over me to be either pro or against all sorts of trivial things all the time. I wish it weren't always a question of promoting or opposing.



7. [falk](#) · [February 27, 2011 - 10:51 pm](#) ·

'I wish I didn't have this expectation hanging over me to be either pro or against all sorts of trivial things all the time. I wish it weren't always a question of promoting or opposing.'

Thoreau, in 'Walden' asks, 'must every[one] march to the same rhythm?'. I think you would like 'Walden'. It is about a man who 'marches' to his own rhythm, who decides what is right for himself and how he will live.

"I have a great deal of company in my house; especially in the morning, when nobody calls. Let me suggest a few comparisons, that some one may convey an idea of my situation. I am no more lonely than the loon in the pond that laughs so loud, or than Walden Pond itself. What company has that lonely lake, I pray? And yet it has not the blue devils, but the blue angels in it, in the azure tint of its waters..... I am no more lonely than a single mullein or dandelion in a pasture, or a bean leaf, or sorrel, or a horse-fly, or a bumblebee. I am no more lonely than the Mill Brook, or a weathercock, or the north star, or the south wind, or an April shower, or a January thaw, or the first spider in a new house."

<http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden05.html>



8. [alicia h](#) · [February 27, 2011 - 11:15 pm](#) ·

falk — Oh, yes, it's a lovely book — I haven't read all of it, but bits and pieces here and there.

(all — Also, I'll just emphasize, for the record or something, that I didn't want to make it sound like I oppose youtube videos or audio files whatever others do. It's really good stuff, some of it. The little I know of. And I do think it's useful. Clearly, it must be, because people spend a lot of time watching video clips on the internet. I was merely, sort of, talking to myself as I was preparing supper earlier. About the problems adapting the old-fashioned steiner critic might have in an age of... I don't know... youtube? Everytime I hear stuff like, youtube, video clips, whatever multimedia-blaha, is the future... I shudder a bit.)



9. [Diana](#) · [February 28, 2011 - 1:47 pm](#) ·

I know what you mean, Alicia, though it's funny because I think of you as leading the way with the "new media" :) and here you are saying you don't really want to be bothered ... I know we're dinosaurs over on critics, talking mainly to each other because it's unlikely many Waldorf parents are actually reading that list.

As to the Steinermentary, I kind of wished I hadn't posted so enthusiastically about it without taking a closer look. I'm not at all keen on staged interviews. I think that's a questionable tactic, personally. I mean, there's nothing really wrong with it, since they're clear and upfront that it's staged, so it's not like it's deceptive. But I just don't think it's really a good thing. Compared to a real interview, a staged interview doesn't count for much, to me.



10. [alicia h](#) · [February 28, 2011 - 6:34 pm](#) ·

Yeah, the critics list is from an other era. It is a dinosaur. The skeleton of a dinosaur.

I suppose I'm into some things and not other. Like twitter, I really enjoy that. And blogging.

But I never understood, and never used, 'chats' and IRC and whatever that all was. I don't use my computer to make phone calls or play games on facebook and whatever is fashionable. I just don't have a clue, and figure there's enough to do anyway, so I stick to what I know...

I agree with you about the staged interviews, but I can't really object to it, since there's no deception going on. I think they're reading transcripts of real interviews, but still — I'd rather read the transcripts then. Or articles written based upon the interviews. I suppose the fake interview situation is going to be more persuasive than the transcripts would be (published as text), so there is some minor element of 'deceptive influence' right there.

please leave a howl, a bark, a growl, a tail-wag or a comment!

>>>

>>> On Tue, Aug 30, 2011 at 11:59 AM, alicia h. <zzzoocy@gmail.com> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Ouch. He, Steve, contacted me a few days ago. I'll forward the
>>>> discussion to you once I've emailed you this. I've actually found them
>>>> a bit difficult at those few times I've had anything to do with them
>>>> -- not that I've been able to, sort of, pinpoint what the trouble is
>>>> really. Some pretty odd requests. Weird expectations. I'll have to
>>>> read the LSN stuff, because I suppose that article is what he referred
>>>> to in the correspondence to me the other day.

>>>>

>>>> On 30 August 2011 12:13, Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com> wrote:

>>>>> hi Alicia -

>>>>> I don't intend to comment or interact with these people - (they just
>>>>> posted

>>>>> on the LSNetwork)

>>>>> They stayed here (they were looking at Sands School) and Joe went to
>>>>> stay

>>>>> with them in their house in France - supposedly to learn some French

>>>>> &

>>>>> help

>>>>> look after the children. No one spoke French to him and the dad left

>>>>> him

>>>>> with the kids for hours, there was barely any food - he wanted to

>>>>> come

>>>>> home

>>>>> - they didn't want to lose their free help and made it pretty

>>>>> difficult.

>>>>> At

>>>>> one point we were worried he wouldn't make it to the airport. They

>>>>> are

>>>>> dreadful people, frankly. I don't want this discussed AT ALL publicly

>>>>> of

>>>>> course but I suggest that you treat their advances with caution. I'm

>>>>> forwarding this to Diana in case they try to contact WC. I would urge

>>>>> anyone

>>>>> (including Pete) to be aware that they are not entirely trustworthy.

>>>>> x

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>



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www.civilappeals.gov.uk

www.justice.gov.uk

DATE 16 January 2017

YOUR REF:

OUR REF: 2017/PI/10083

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Paris & Anr -v- Lewis & Anr

Your papers were referred to the Master of the Civil Appeals Office who has directed the following:

It is not possible to include an application to set aside the judgment of HHJ Seys Llewellyn dated 4th February 2015. That decision has not been the subject of an application for permission to appeal to this court.


The only application which can be made by way of an application notice, is a second application to re-open the final decision of this court made by Lord Justice Simon on 22nd March 2016 in A2/2015/2839. The application notice should be amended to reflect this.

In order for such an application to be issued, the following documents must be filed:

1. Application notice x 2, suitably amended as above;
2. Completed Help with Fees form in respect of both applicants;
3. Paginated and indexed bundle in respect of the second application to re-open. Any fresh evidence, not seen by Lord Justice Simon when he determined the first application to re-open or the oral permission application, should be clearly marked as fresh evidence.
4. A copy of the bundle filed in support of the first application to re-open (A2/2015/2839A);
5. A copy of the original bundle which was before Lord Justice Simon at the oral hearing on 22nd March 2016.

Yours faithfully,

Mr John Hebden
Registry Office
civilappeals.registry@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

From: Civil Appeals - Registry civilappeals.registry@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk 
Subject: 201710083 CoA Letter [14-03-17(14.38)]
Date: 2 May 2017 at 11:02 am
To: anmletters@gmail.com

CA

Please find letter dated 14 March 2017 as requested.

With Regards

Ms S Pratt

This e-mail (and any attachment) is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail.

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DATE 14 March 2017

YOUR REF:

OUR REF: 2017/PI/10083

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Paris & Anr -v- Lewis & Anr

Your papers were referred to the Master of Civil Appeals who has asked me to inform you
Of the following:

I refer to the further papers filed in this matter. The applicants have not complied with the directions contained in the letter dated 16th January 2017 as they have filed three different application notices rather than the one application that they were directed that they could make. Each application is dealt with in turn below:

1. *Application to appeal re-inclusion of harassment claims.*
Although it is not clearly stated on the face of the application notice the decision appealed appears to be a decision made at pre-trial review on 2nd February 2015 by HHJ Seys Llewellyn sitting in the High Court. Assuming that is correct the application for permission to appeal that order must be made by appellant's notice (form N161). An appeal pack is enclosed. The application to appeal cannot be progressed by way of application notice. The application notice and papers in support must be removed from the bundle.
2. *Application to re-open permission to appeal*
This is the application that the direction of 16th January 2017 relates to.
3. *Application to recuse Lord Justice Simon*
4. *A formal application for recusal is not necessary. The application may remain in the bundles but will not be separately issued. It will be referred with the papers for consideration.*

In order for this matter to progress the application and supporting papers referred to at no. 1 above must be removed from the papers. The index should be amended to reflect that removal.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Watts
Registry Office
civilappeals.registry@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk