OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

First of all a big ‘thank you’ to you all for your patience over our delayed communication regarding Campaign activities during 2013. We have been confronted with two major hurdles this year, first of all the lack of sufficient funding to meet the costs of producing and mailing an issue of our Courtesy Call magazine (please take time to read Edward Thomas’ ‘Cashing In’ column in this issue); and, secondly, a spate of health problems besetting several of our Campaign Officers and Council members. However, these problems have not prevented the day-to-day activities of the Campaign which can be evidenced by our now busy website (Congratulations Robert Zarywacz!) and the increasing ‘traffic’ using our tweeter and Facebook facilities. Media interest also remains busy with regular radio interviews and national press coverage on issues of the day.

As with nearly every other charity in the country, funding is a major problem and has been an item on the Agenda for the 1st June Annual General Meeting and the 25th July Executive Meeting. From those deliberations it is clear that we must increase our membership if the Campaign is to continue its work – WORK WE CONSIDER VITAL IF COURTESY AND RESPECT IS TO TRIUMPH OVER OBSCENITY, SELFISHNESS AND GREED.

You can help by completing the enclosed questionnaire which will enable the Campaign to issue Press Releases based on your answers to the media (newspapers, radio and television). The more questions you can answer the more ammunition we can fire. This will see us living up to our new National status with statements that will have impact. We thank you in anticipation for your support.

PGF (Chairman)

PS The changes to our list of Officers, Council Members and Regional Executives following the AGM (and reflecting health issues resulting in some enforced retirements) are listed on page 3 of this issue. We welcome any offers to fill the vacant posts indicated. If you want to discuss what is involved please phone HQ on 020 8330 3707 (weekday mornings). Thank you.

In March the Campaign Chairman and Secretary visited the Melcombe Primary School in Fulham to give a talk and present a Certificate to the pupils. At this mixed-faith school we were very impressed with the behaviour of the children and the dedication of the staff. Above JIM KENNEDY has pictured the school’s Head Teacher – the inspirational South African WAYNE LEEING – introducing Chairman PETER G FOOT to the children at morning assembly.

(A picture of the Certificate presentation is included in this issue).

Some of the Campaign’s Annual General Meeting attendees pose for this happy picture on 1st June at London’s Club for Acts and Actors. Pictured (l to r) are member ERIC FOWLER, Olympic Volunteer Games-maker DOROTHY MDOE, Councillor ROBERT ZARYWACZ, member HAROULLA PSARAS, Councillor ANNE LING, Patron DIANA MORAN, member CLIFFORD MATTHEWS and Councillor PAUL SMITH. Front row (l to r) are Olympic Volunteer Games-maker ANN SKIDMORE, Vice-Chairman DAVID WILLIAMS, Councillor VANESSA BOND, Chairman PETER G FOOT, Administrator GILLIAN ROBERTS and Councillor MARY DOYLE. Patron DOUG McKENZIE took the picture.

AGM ATTENDANCE – THERE IN SPIRIT!

With membership spread throughout the UK – and not forgetting our loyal members in other far-flung parts of the world – we are never going to find a venue location that is convenient for everyone. Nevertheless, with over 80 apologies for non-attendance was a very pleasant surprise. As a lot of these ‘phoned HQ personally it certainly pleased the Chairman as it afforded him the opportunity to speak to members who had long been just names on a database label. Amongst the comments were:

DR N BHUVANENDRAN..."customer service sadly lacking in many stores/manners are good in New Zealand and Canada/ would like to see annual regional meetings organised".

ROSEMARY BRITT..."would like a supply of Campaign stickers to use".

ROSEMARY DABBS..."I would be happy to give talks on Courtesy".

SANDRA ARTHURS..."I am very keen to give talks about the Campaign".

JON DUUS JENSON..."My pet hate is seeing litter dropped in the street".

OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS TALK TO AGM

ANN SKIDMORE and DOROTHY MDOE (just two of the 70,000 Olympic Games-makers) attended our AGM and took part in an enlightening question-and-answer session. They confirmed that the 70,000 were chosen from the 250,000 who applied for the voluntary work. They clearly enjoyed the experience immensely.

‘Courtesey Call’ photographs by DOUG McKENZIE

‘number one in showbusiness’

TALKS and AFTER-MEAL SPEECHES

4 George Lane • Hayes • Kent BR2 7LQ
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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR COURTESY

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EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS

Public Transport Spokesperson

COUNCILLOR PETER CRESSWELL

COUNCILLOR MARY DOYLE

PR Officer

COUNCILLOR PHIL KING

COUNCILLOR ANNE LING

COUNCILLOR PAUL SMITH

COUNCILLOR ROBERT ZARYWACZ

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• GREATER LONDON
  Regional Executive -
  PETER G FOOT
  c/o Surbiton H.Q.
PATRON HIGHLIGHTS

DAVE DENNISON has provided us with stocks of his books – ‘A gift for an idiot’ and ‘A gift from an idiot’ (adult humour) and ‘Clip Cheesecake and the Majestic Beans’ and ‘Clip Cheesecake meets Beanie’ (tales for children) – to sell for the benefit of Campaign funds. Ideal Christmas gifts of course!

DAVID HAMILTON and DIANA MORAN present their own programmes each week on The Wireless (AgeUK) radio station – superb musical fare played by David and wonderful health and keep-fit tips from Diana.

DOUG McKENZIE hopes to have photographed in his 60 years as the leading show-biz photographer (and what tales he has to tell about the famous!) JUNE WHITFIELD gave a wonderful account of her magnificent career when our Treasurer Edward Thomas interviewed her in front of a packed Congress Theatre in Eastbourne on 16 September. June was the guest of the Ashridge Circle, the long established body of which Edward was appointed Chairman last year.

LORD SACKS of ALDGATE retired from his post as The Chief Rabbi during September. We thank Jonathan Sacks for his past support for our Campaign.

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

Join or renew your membership online

The latest feature on the Campaign web site is the facility to join or renew your membership online. Individual members or groups can complete a membership form, then pay with a debit or credit card or with a PayPal account. Payment is handled entirely by PayPal so the Campaign for Courtesy does not see or store your card details, making it a very secure way to pay.

If you would like to set up recurring payments so that your membership renews automatically each year, you can now do this with a PayPal account. If you don’t have a PayPal account, the process helps you to set one up as you go along.

We are now also accepting membership subscriptions from businesses and organisations. Businesses with up to 10 employees pay £25.00 per year, those with 11 to 50 pay £75.00 and those with 51 to 999 employees pay £150.00. Large organisations with 1,000 employees or more pay £500.00.

You can still send applications or renewals by post, although online payment enables us to offer a wider range of subscription methods.

The Campaign needs to attract more new members to fund our activities, so if you do know anyone who you think will want to join us, please send them a link to campaignforcourtesy.org.uk

Like and share courtesy online

The Campaign’s new web site enables us to publish news and information regularly. If you have any news or items about courtesy suitable for publication, please email them to Robert Zarywacz at courtesy@campaignforcourtesy.org.uk

Have you encountered exceptional courtesy in a shop or restaurant? Do you know young people who demonstrate exceptional courtesy? Is there a specific issue that you think needs publicising? Courtesy affects every aspect of everyone’s lives so there is much to talk about.

The Campaign for Courtesy is also now on Facebook, Twitter and Google+ – you can find the links to all these services at campaignforcourtesy.org.uk

LEGACIES FOR THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR COURTESY

You probably have a number of causes and people whom you want to benefit when you pass on.

How about leaving a portion of money to the perpetuation of a nicer, kinder, politer world?

The National Campaign for Courtesy would welcome any bequest – large or small – so do think about remembering us in your Will.

NEW MEMBERS

NEIL COPPENDALE - Shoreham-by-sea
MRS MARGARET ELLIS-PARKER - Surbiton
HARRY GAFAN - Borehamwood
BARBARA MCCOY – Grantham
MRS MARY E PERRYMAN – Oxford

Website

www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk
A WARNING AND A CALL TO ARMS

Straight talking time. Only a fraction of the membership was present at the AGM to hear about the serious financial situation faced by the National Campaign for Courtesy. For the purposes of the meeting I drew on records taking the Society back to October 2010 followed by a period of some two and a half years thereafter. Over such period we gained 41 new members but lost 111 members, with no more than 13 of those deceased. That provided a net loss of 70 during that time.

Our current total membership stands at 350, of whom 119 pay no subscriptions by virtue of their voucher or life membership status. It therefore follows that if trends were to continue, we would have 166 paying members by October 2015 and 96 by April 2018. Furthermore, it should be noted that a large number of our members are in the upper age bracket (some write to me to point out they are in their 90s), so the death rate is likely to increase more rapidly.

I have researched those lost members to assess how many were full members paying £20, concessionary members paying £7.50, and life members paying £20, £7.50, and £50 respectively based on the above figures, and have excluded all ‘one-off’ donations. The object was to calculate the total income loss and then to assess the likely loss in the future per annum. Based on the findings, I have estimated an annual loss of £478.

In addition to subscriptions there are two other areas of income. The first is that of donations, which vary substantially. Reliability should therefore not be placed on this source in assessing any plans. I have excluded all ‘one-off’ donations; those occasioned from patrons, legacies (only one in the last three years and nominal at that), GEMotoring Assist, and the Society of Oddfellows. Of the rest, largely from our members, I have taken a yearly average based on donations from October 2010. The average annual figure is £625.

The second of the two areas, Income Tax reclaim, is likewise not to be relied on as the amount has decreased over the years partly because of less take-up on invitation, loss of members who had gifted their subscriptions, and because of government tax changes. The average annual income from this source over the last three years is £235.

The total income this year, based on the above figures, and only if all things remain equal, taking together likely subscriptions, donations and Income Tax reclaim, is £3,875. The total expenditure, allowing for the production of no more than ONE edition of Courtesy Call in the year, is likely to be £3,364. That would provide for a surplus of ££51. It will have been noted, however, that we can expect to lose in the region of £478 each year owing to an annual net loss of membership.

The inevitable conclusion, therefore, is that in these financial circumstances and in the absence of radical change, the National Campaign for Courtesy would no longer face a viable future.

THE CAMPAIGN’S VITAL WORK

But it need not be like that. Given the vibrant personnel that have come onboard in the last two years, we could be in with a fighting chance. We have a sound website established now, thanks to the energetic Robert Zarywacz. We have the even more energetic Paul Smith, devoted to sportsmanship.

We also have more reason than ever to continue in existence. The same technology that has brought us the internet has made the same progress as that of the telephone. ‘And now for something completely different,’ the opening line of an editorial in The Economist stated in July, there is a less reassuring reason for the fall in crime other than the usually cited societal changes: better car alarms, DNA detection and CCTV adding to the chances of being caught. Increasingly, The Economist observes, criminals are migrating to the online world and crimes such as credit card fraud tend not to be picked up by traditional measures. ‘As policing adapts to the technological age, it’s as well to recall that criminals are doing so too.’

THE PROBLEMS WE FACE

The same is true of the ill-mannered. Some of the officers of the Campaign were hauled in by the Campaign for Courtesy last year owing to an annual net loss of £478. Based on the findings, I have estimated an annual loss of £478. The inevitable conclusion, therefore, is that in these financial circumstances and in the absence of radical change, the National Campaign for Courtesy would no longer face a viable future.

JACQUELINE’S MESSAGE....

What you SOUND like is as important as what you LOOK like and you can always INCREASE YOUR ATTRACTIVENESS.

THE PITFALLS LIMITING attractiveness are the TYPICAL TELL-TALE SIGNS OF A WEAKNESS - too many empty, trendy words crude, foul sublanguage/swearing sarcasm and childish, sulky retorts a shrill or a threatening tone, and making a rushed, irritating impression.

IN THE END IT IS THE PLEASANT-SOUNDING, EVEN-TEMPERED PEOPLE IN CONTROL OF AND AT EASE WITH THEMSELVES THAT OTHERS ARE MOST DRAWN TO. A calm, pleasant voice, vocabulary are all attractive.

Diaper? No problem. It can add texture and interest to a voice.

Member JACQUELINE DEEKS (Rustington, W. Sussex)

In September we received the sad news that our former Patron, singer JOAN REGAN had died aged 83. This so glamorous lady possessed the most beautiful singing voice which took her to the top of the hit parade throughout the 1950s and to bill-top many times at the London Palladium. For three years she hosted our own TV programme ‘Be My Guest’. In 2008 she was our guest at our AGM in Croydon when she charmed everyone and agreed to become a Patron for the Campaign.

JOAN REGAN

At the same time the tide seems to be turning over the assessment of Mary Whitehouse with support for her coming from the unlikeliest of quarters. Following publication of a new book about her during the summer, Time Out said: ‘For once we’re inclined to side with Mary’. From The Guardian came: ‘The upright, upright campaigner had a point’. The New Statesman declared: ‘Against all custom, Mary’s conceivable depravity is only a mouse click away, you can’t help wondering if Whitehouse was on to something’. And from Miss Julie Walters who portrayed Mary Whitehouse in a television film: ‘She had a point...and in retrospect I think we could have understood her much better’.

WE MUST COMMUNICATE

There is still a lot for this Campaign of ours to do. We want to get back to communicating with you much more and we are looking into the possibilities of cheaper, more regular newsletters. But we must have more members. It is now £50 for you to join. Go out and recruit more members, one for each of the 350 of us. What a difference that would make to our income. Do you know anybody with some sort of financial clout who would throw in a few hundred pounds, or a few thousand, and be glad to have their name emblazoned in association with our cause? If you look on our website you can see new members can now subscribe via PayPal. Three people have done so already, and you know what? They are all senior citizens. You don’t have to be a techno whiz kid to get thus involved. What about Gift Aid? Are you paying tax and are therefore entitled to a gift aid? Who could benefit us with your subs and donations and not doing so already? Let me know and I can send you a form. However, the few of us who make up the committee and meet every quarter to do what we can simply cannot do it all anymore. We need your practical help. How about it?
GEM Motoring Assist Press Releases

ROAD RAGE – WAVE IT GOODBYE
Road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist in co-operation with The National Campaign for Courtesy is urging motorists to ‘wave away’ road rage.

DAVID WILLIAMS, MBE - Chief Executive of GEM Motoring Assist and Vice-Chairman of the National Campaign for Courtesy said, “An appreciative or apologetic gesture can without doubt bring about a change in attitude from drivers around you. Acknowledging with a simple wave, any consideration directed at you or to apologise for making an error on the road will reduce incidents that can so often lead to hostile behaviour and crashes.” Mr Williams went on to say ‘Although the term ‘road rage’ is fairly new, hostile and discourteous behaviour on our roads is not. Indeed as long ago as1932 GEM was formed (under its original name of the Company of Veteran Motorists) partly to eliminate such ‘ungentlemanly and unsafe’ behaviour. GEM’s original slogan of the 3C’s – Care, Courtesy and Concentration – still represent the qualities needed by good, safe drivers today.

“Research has shown that the main factors identified as leading to road rage are stress, fatigue and frustration.” Mr Williams concluded by saying, “If drivers adopt a more courteous approach to their driving, these factors could be greatly reduced and maybe the problem of road rage could simply be waved away.”

JOINT CALL TO IMPROVE MANNERS ON THE MOVE
With tempers fraying in recent record-breaking summer temperatures the National Campaign for Courtesy and road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist are working together to encourage people using public transport to be polite and courteous to each other and to hard working employees of bus, rail and air services. Peter G Foot, Chairman of the Campaign for Courtesy said, “There is never a greater need for good humour and courtesy than when you are crushed by strangers in a late train. It is a bit of a test of character, but if we lose our composure the suffering is worse. It is a British tradition to treat people with respect in trying situations.”

Peter added, “Likewise drivers caught in traffic hold-ups must also ‘keep cool’ and avoid the frustration that can so easily lead to road rage and even crashes. Our joint venture with GEM Motoring Assist to encourage a more courteous approach by all travellers will hopefully make journeys both safer and more enjoyable.”

A courtesy code for drivers is available from GEM MOTORING ASSIST.
(see www.motoringassist.com)

DRIVERS URGED TO ‘TAKE A BREAK’ FOR COURTESY
Research has shown that drivers who are tired at the wheel are far more likely to be involved in ‘Road Rage’ incidents, and so the National Campaign for Courtesy are working in conjunction with road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist to encourage drivers to take more breaks when driving long distances.

DAVID WILLIAMS, MBE Vice-Chairman of the Campaign for Courtesy and Chief Executive of GEM Motoring Assist said, “In our fast moving and pressurised society drivers too often fail to adhere to the safety advice to take a break of about 10 - 15 minutes after every two hours of driving. Tiredness can easily lead to a loss of concentration which means the basic courtesy code of driving is ignored.

“We have produced a short video to explain to drivers the importance of not driving while fatigued and we hope that as many motorists as possible will watch the film and take on board the important life-saving messages given.”

UK REGIONAL EXECUTIVES AND REPRESENTATIVES WANTED
Enquiries 020 8330 3707

OUR CODE ...
• GOOD MANNERS
• RESPECT – for others and their property
• RESPECT – for yourself
• REJECTION OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A MEASURE OF MANNERS IN AMERICA
One of our American members JUDY VAUGHAN spotted and forwarded this article published in The Houston Chronicle in Texas. Thank you, Judy.

Where have our manners gone in today’s society?

Simple acts of respect and kindness can be hard to come across

By Celie S. Keeper
I have been thinking a lot lately about manners, which seem to have gone the way of the dodo bird.
What my mother used to call manners, by definition and by pounding into my young head, came to mean courtesy toward and respect for others, especially if the others were adults. That meant a polite hello to all my parents’ friends, even the lady with the skinny piano legs for whom I had to suppress a giggle.
A smile was expected to accompany the hello as though I was glad to see them. (I had trouble with that. These people hadn’t come to see me.) Further, I was to stand until all the grown ups had seated themselves. My folks did that, too, making sure their guests were comfortable. At that point, there was an offer of something cool to drink.
This was Houston long before air fans (what?), ceiling fans or air-conditioning blew in. Or it was wintertime, I helped take coats and purses into another room.
On those rare occasions when my family went out to a restaurant, usually a cafeteria (Weldons, the Forum or for special occasions, the Rice Hotel), I stayed in my seat during the meal. That’s what children did. I notice now that kids bolt from their seats, race around and holler a lot. Family restaurant dining has become a playground for the restless.
Then there was the “thank you” thing.
If a gift came for me from someone I would not be likely to see and to thank in person, I sat at the dining room table with note paper my mother and I had picked out at the dime store and wrote the obligatory note.
There were rules. I was to name the gift-givers, as in Dear Auntie This and Uncle That. Then I was to name the professed gift and say how much I would enjoy using (or wearing) it. A final “thank you” and “love” ended the ritual.
I addressed, licked, sealed and stamped the envelope and took it outside to the mailbox for our postman.
How could I, as an adult, possibly forget any of this manners lesson?
But today I hear friends complaining that they have sent wedding gifts to young couples and months later still no thank you. The gift may have been something selected from the bridal registry. It now falls on the giver to check with the store to make sure it was sent.
Am I out of line thinking that not acknowledging a gift from maybe one of your mother’s or father’s friends, clients or business associates is rude and thoughtless behavior?
Thinking back again, as a young person, when I rode a bus (or yes, even a street car on occasion) and an older person got on and could not find a seat, I was to give up mine for the older person. I notice this, too, has what? Gone out of style?
Being a woman of a certain age, I am on a cane these days. I don’t need to sit, but it is a welcome gesture if I am offered a seat.
Last week while I was waiting for a friend to pick me up, a youngish mother and two kids were seated on the only bench nearby. No such gesture was made. I was totally surprised and somewhat dismayed. It set this whole piece in motion.
Today, folks talk a lot about being disrespected by someone else. Maybe all they are asking for is to be shown a little courtesy.
Whatever happened to manners? Has our frenetic, self-absorbed society given up on kindness, respect and consideration of other?
My young children were subjected to all this mannerly imprinting by you. I believe it to be an important part of a parent’s job.
Perhaps somewhere out there a flock of courteous dodo birds is waiting politely to be summoned.
Keeper, a retired social worker, is in Houston writing.
While it is necessary to choose a London venue for our Annual General Meetings, the volume of apologies received has been amazing. Around eighty members ‘phoned through their apologies, the reasons for non-attendance ranging from holiday dates, distance, illness and incapacity to travel. However, it did provide a wonderful opportunity to talk to many members for the first time, thus gathering valuable feedback about members’ views about issues of courtesy.

Naturally, members from all parts of the UK wished that our meetings take place in ‘their patch’ as an alternative to the capital. Many of us remember the meetings/seminar events we held so successfully in Eastbourne and Southport in 2008. But the level of our funds in recent years have prevented the staging of further such events which involve the costs of venue hire, catering and travel/overnight stay expenses for the attending officers.

However, now that we have Regional Executives appointed in most of the 20 English Regions, it has been suggested that members be encouraged to hold their own meetings. Member Jacqueline Deeks has expressed a desire to meet up with other members who live around the Littlehampton area of West Sussex. To this end, it has been proposed that we write to other members in that region inviting them to make contact with Jacqueline to see what can be arranged. Naturally, we will be pleased to hear from members in other regions who would like such communication between kindred spirits. It is clear that our cause can unite people and frequently result in positive and rewarding friendships.

CAMERON’S PLEDGE

In a BBC Radio 4 ‘Today’ programme on 3 May, presenter JOHN HUMPHRYS reminded the Prime Minister of his pledge to tackle the yah-boo exchanges in the House of Commons debates. DAVID CAMERON agreed that behaviour still had not improved particularly during the weekly Prime Minister’s Question-time sessions.
I swear we’re just as polite as ever

FROM footballers arguing with the ref to MPs shouting across the House of Commons, the world seems to be a coarser and less polite place.

Last week a report claimed three-quarters of the population think phones, laptops, tablets and the like have made us ruder.

Even the Scottish Government has come under fire, for an advertising campaign intended to encourage road users to be more polite which featured a rude hand gesture.

Gavin Sherriff spoke to Peter Foot, chairman of the National Campaign for Courtesy. As politely as he could, he asked Peter for The Honest Truth on whether we’re less courteous now.

HOW did the organisation begin?

The Polite Society was founded by Gregory, he’d returned from living abroad and was appalled by the deterioration in the UK’s manners.

But what that name was seen as being a bit too pious and it was changed. It started around Skype on Internet but we now have members all over the country.

WHO’s a part of the organisation?

There’s someone who has written about the greatest polite moments in sportsmanship and others talk about behaviour on public transport, and how to conduct yourself on the roads.

Newspapers, TV and radio stations ask for our views on breaking new stories – popular topics are things like swearing, spitting, littering, road rage, mobile phone abuse, offering seats to people on public transport and so on.

ARE we getting ruder?

No, and several surveys have backed

■ Gareth Bale.

that view. Things like the Olympics helped restore faith in human nature, and there are many more good people around than bad.

Unfortunately it’s the bad apples who grab the headlines. But we know as a campaign that we can win the battle and we believe we are winning it.

When you walk along the street and bump into people they’ll say sorry, and people do hold doors open for each other.

Did you help at the Olympics?

We provided guidance for the thousands of Games Makers who were greeting visitors to the 2012 London Olympics. It was all about treating people with courtesy and respect when they arrived.

It was a big thing for us and we were very pleased with the reaction they got. We’re hoping to be involved in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in a similar way.

IS road rage on the rise?

Yes, but look at the pressure people travelling are under. Even if your drive is pleasant you’re probably worrying about paying bills.

What can you do to combat road rage?

If you find yourself getting worked up, try counting to 10 before reacting — and keep your mobile switched off.

One radio presenter phoned me because on his drive to the studio he had let someone out of a side turning and they’d thanked him.

I asked if he’d let anyone else out and he said no, he was too annoyed. I pointed out that by behaving like that he wasn’t beating them, he was joining them — if he’d let someone else out, they’d probably have acknowledged him and he’d have felt better.

Is it important to thank people?

When we find people who have offered good service, we go along and present them with certificates.

I was travelling by train in London and on the platform 20 schoolboys stood side and said “after you”, letting me on the train first. When they got on they all put their sweet wrappers in the bin so I contacted their school to say how impressed I was.

I presented them with certificates at an assembly.

Are you concerned about swearing in everyday life?

We’re against swearing to a degree but we do understand that people let go the odd oath to relieve tension. What we can’t stand is when folk swear habitually in every sentence.

Do you tell people off for swearing?

My team, Fulham, were playing Huddersfield, so there were strangers sitting next to my usual seat. They were using the “F” word in every sentence.

I told them I’d spoil my enjoyment of the match and asked if they could refrain.

They looked at me, shrugged their shoulders and said they’d try. Then one of the regular fans behind me let rip with a volley of abuse against a Juventius player then saying “ops, sorry” and sitting down.

Everyone burst out laughing. It showed people can stop using those words if they choose to.

Should you give up seats for people you think are pregnant?

A few years ago I had a spat of calf about this. My attitude would be why not offer a seat to the lady — whether she looks pregnant or not. People will think you’re great for doing it, and if the woman in question is rude everyone on the bus or train will think more kindly of you than of her.

Are modern gadgets making us seem more curt with each other?

The language in emails is deplorable. I’ve had ones that finish with something like “best, Roger” and I wonder if they’re so short of time that they can’t type “best wishes”?

What do you make of the raucoous exchanges in Parliament?

There are choruses of “yah hoos” you wouldn’t experience in any school classroom. It’s appalling, and I’ve written to the Speaker, John Bercow, and all the party leaders.

Should highly-paid footballers behave better?

Yes, but who’s to blame for the silly money they’re paid? Young players have huge salaries but they aren’t mature enough to deal with it.

They don’t know how to behave — it’s awful the way some wrap up girlfriends or pinch each other’s wives.

That said, Gareth Bale has just become the most expensive player in the world — yet he seems to be one of the nicest young players around.
THE DARK SIDE OF TODAY’S COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The wonders of instant communication in use today are brilliant. But in business, such communication demands immediate responses. No time to count to ten and any hesitation can be construed as indecisive behaviour. Personal relationships can suffer from rushed responses. Little wonder then that our 21st Century lifestyle is stress-ridden.

While an increasing older generation pines for the past life that allowed time for meditation and contemplation, we are all expected to tolerate the unsociable dark-side of living in a world hell-bent on speed. Whether it is saving twenty minutes through a new London-to-Birmingham rail link or a serve-yourself supermarket checkout, everybody needs a stroll-in-the-park moment or a bird-song pause if stress is not to dominate our day.

It is a fact that mobile ‘phones dominate most hours of many people’s day. Indeed, when such people are out-and-about they are itching to communicate with someone and appear completely unaware of the presence of others or anything occurring around them. And why do they invariably look down at the floor/pavement? And why do many raise the decibel level of their so-interesting conversations? Recently, Darren Groom, a coffee shop owner proprietor in Norwich, refused to serve customers while they used their mobiles. He is to be applauded for his stance. Indeed, we should follow his example.

Note to Editor: The Greater London Authority has invited the National Campaign for Courtesy to support its 8,000 Olympic Volunteer Ambassadors in their work welcoming the vast throng of tourists arriving for the Olympic and Paralympics’ Games. See....

www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

- Individual .................. £20.00 p.a.
- Family ........................ £20.00 p.a.
- OAP ............................ £7.50 p.a.
- Life Membership .......... £200.00 p.a.
The wonderful work of Head Teacher WAYNE LEEMING and his staff at the Melcombe Primary School, Fulham was acknowledged by the Campaign last March when it received a richly deserved Campaign Certificate. Pictured are the school’s head boy and head girl proudly receiving the Certificate watched by Head Teacher WAYNE LEEMING and the Campaign Chairman.

(Photo: JIM KENNEDY)

Earlier this year, Campaign Chairman PETER G FOOT underwent MRI scans at the Kingston Hospital MRI Unit resulting in a hip replacement operation. The ‘ordeal’ proved to be a wonderful experience due to the professional treatment provided by a team of experts who clearly enjoyed their work. Later JIM KENNEDY was on hand to take the above picture of the Chairman taken with his happy team (which included Imaging Services Manager LINDA MESTRE (left), Radiographers RITA CAROCO (third from left) and FRANCES O’DONOGHUE (right); also pictured are the ever-smiling receptionists ANGELA TAYLOR, NICOLA HILL, MINA ROCHA and (lucky boy) ASHLEY OLLETT). Certificates were presented to Radiographers RITA CAROCO and FRANCES O’DONOGHUE; while LINDA MESTRE received a Certificate on behalf of her team.

Jewish Chronicle...3/5/13
Swearing: How @!** bad is it?

Swearing means something to everyone. We all swear. The average adult swears in real conversation at least once a day. In this study, the average number of swear words was six per call. The number of swear words has increased over time, with younger people using more swear words than older people. The study also found that the most common swear words were ‘f*ck’, ‘shit’, ‘damn’, and ‘ass’. The study found that swearing is a way of expressing anger or frustration, and it is often used as a way of getting attention. The study also found that swearing is a way of establishing dominance or asserting control.

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There are a number of reasons why we swear. We swear when we miss the bus, we swear when our team’s star striker misses a sitter and we sometimes swear for no reason whatsoever. It may be frowned upon, but can curing actually be good for us? ROSS McCGUINNESS investigates...

In your interview with Helen Mirren in Vanity magazine, she states that if she had children, the first words she would have taught a daughter would be ‘f**ck’. Well, if she listens to conversations she will note that the F-word is used nearly every other word by both males and females, mainly because of parental influence or due to poor command of the English language, which is a real trend in today’s society.

English is cursed by the F-word, Helen

Mail on Sunday
28/7/13

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G.V.S. Mangham, Tiptbury, Staffordshire

It may sound crude, but Helen’s right. Previous generations of women were expected to not say too much to a goon. It was their role to live the line and defer to men. Women should be able to feel right about standing up for themselves as men do, and if that means learning to swear at an early age, then so be it.

J. Bennis, London

Helen Mirren speaks with languished honesty. It only makes women do that.

Gernadine Mitchell, London

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Campaign for courtesy

The campaign for courtesy

The campaign for courtesy

Our code...
Regional Meetings?

While it is necessary to choose a London venue for our Annual General Meetings, the volume of apologies received has been amazing. Around eighty members phoned through their apologies, the reasons for non-attendance ranging from holiday dates, distance, illness and incapacity to travel. However, it did provide a wonderful opportunity to talk to many members for the first time, thus gathering valuable feedback about members’ views about issues of courtesy.

Naturally, members from all parts of the UK wished that our meetings take place in ‘their patch’ as an alternative to the capital. Many of us remember the meetings/seminar events we held so successfully in Eastbourne and Southport in 2008. But the level of our funds in recent years have prevented the staging of further such events which involve the costs of venue hire, catering and travel/overnight stay expenses for the attending officers.

However, now that we have Regional Executives appointed in most of the 20 English Regions, it has been suggested that members be encouraged to hold their own meetings. Member Jacqueline Deeks has expressed a desire to meet up with other members who live around the Littlehampton area of West Sussex. To this end, it has been proposed that we write to other members in that region inviting them to ‘make contact’ with Jacqueline to see what can be arranged. Naturally, we will be pleased to hear from members in other regions who would like such communication between kindred spirits. It is clear that our cause can unite people and frequently result in positive and rewarding friendships.

Regional Executives to replace Regional Officers in their respective posts of the South East, Central and Central South regions mean we must find Regional Executives to replace them. Also the regions of North and East remain vacant so far. Eventually it is hoped we will find candidates to represent Scotland and Wales.

Patrons: With the retirement of The Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks of Aldgate in September, our list of Patrons is reduced to the following:

MOIRA ANDERSON OBE
COLONEL JOHN BLASHFORD-SNELL OBE
ANN BRUZAC
WYN CALVIN MBE
JIMMY CRICKET
DAVE DENNISON
DAME BERYL GREY DBE
DAVID HAMILTON
BARONESS RACHAEL HEYHOE-FLINT OBE DL
ROY HUDD OBE
DOUG MCKENZIE
DIANA MORAN
ESTHER RANTZEN CBE
MARY ANN SEIGHART
JUNE WHITFIELD CBE

Central West – ELIZABETH HALL
Greater London – PETER G FOOT
South – MARY CHAMPION
West – TIM PRITCHARD
South West – ROBERT ZARYWACZ

Note: The retirement of Alan Bula, Philip Cole and Johnny Mans from their respective posts of the South East, Central and Central South regions means we must find Regional Executives to replace them. Also the regions of North and East remain vacant so far. Eventually it is hoped we will find candidates to represent Scotland and Wales.

Did you know that:

- Warring German and British soldiers played football together on Christmas Day
- A Palestinian kidnapper shared sporting kindness with a western hostage
- A heavyweight boxer carried his old adversary’s coffin and paid for his funeral
- An English sailor abandoned his dream of winning to save a Frenchman’s life
- A Czech Olympic runner secretly gave his gold medal to an opponent

“Read this book” Richard Dunwoody
“This book is wonderful” Paul McGinley
“Thought provoking & inspiring” Olympic Council of Ireland

Orders via website: www.GreatMomentsOfSportsmanship.com or via Amazon or bulk orders directly to paul@prsmith.org
Telephone enquiries: +44(0)20 8567 4659 or +44(0) 7747 116 123
PRESS COVERAGE

There has been extensive press coverage of the Campaign’s response to many courtesy issues raised by the press during the past year. Campaign members have also been instrumental in getting us valuable publicity – including RICHARD POPPLE’s excellent article on the Campaign’s history in the 2012 edition of the West Midlands Pension Fund Superlink magazine. Also, there was the Percy Bickerdyke column coverage of our Campaign Questionnaire in the Evergreen magazine. Swearing issues topped the list in the following national newspaper interviews:

- 14/7/12 Daily Telegraph (Hannah Furness)
- 14/7/12 Daily Express (Paul Jeeves)
- 14/7/12 Daily Mail (Lucy Thomson)
- 19/7/12 The Times (Damien Whitworth)
- 12/3/12 Daily Mirror (David Collins)
- 11/3/13 Daily Telegraph (Rosa Silverman)
- 11/3/13 Daily Express
- 12/3/13 Daily Mail

Two of our Eastbourne members JAN LYNTON and OLIVIA BREEZE were so impressed with the courteous service they received when visiting the Jo Malone Boutique in Brighton this summer that they immediately nominated two members of the staff for Campaign Certificates. Assistant Manager ELEISE LUCRAFT had suffered from Guillen Barre Syndrome paralysis in her youth but now gives time to discuss the condition to other sufferers. After undertaking a course at Beauty Base London, she moved on to doing freelance makeup photoshoots for Vogue magazine. Senior Stylist JIMMIE MILLIS was previously a men’s fashion model. A keen sportsman, Jimmie was a prize-winning show-jumper at Hickstead. Our picture shows Jimmie and Eleise holding their certificates after receiving them from Campaign member JAN LYNTON and Campaign Chairman PETER G FOOT.

(Photo c/o JAN LYNTON)

CAMPAIGN ON VOICE OF RUSSIA – SPITTING ISSUE

When two men challenged the £80 penalty charge for spitting in the street in September, the London Borough of Waltham Forest Council took them to court. The court found in the Council’s favour. Council enforcement officers are penalising litter and spitting offences in response to public demand claiming that the latter constitutes a genuine health hazard.

On 25 September, Chairman Peter G Foot was interviewed on this issue by Simon Parker of The Voice of Russia radio station. This led to a four-handed debate in the station’s studio on 30 September which saw Peter joined by Waltham Forest Councillor CLYDE LOAKES, the Director of the Manifesto Group JOSIE APPLETON and ‘spitting expert’ ROSS COMBER from Plymouth University. The station’s TOM SPENDER chaired the debate. The Voice of Russia has worldwide coverage having stations in Moscow, New York and London. Special thanks go to the station’s ANNA FOMICHEVA and NIMA GREEN for their warm welcome and hospitality.

MEDIA FOCUS

‘CAMPAIGN ON THE AGENDA’

In June the Campaign was delighted to be invited to appear on the new radio station The Wireless-AgeUK. Our Patron MARTYN LEWIS that the Campaign’s activities should be featured on Martyn’s weekly ‘Agenda’ programme. As a result Chairman Peter G Foot was interviewed at the station’s studios near Tottenham Court Road in June, the interview being aired on the 19th and 23rd June. David – who along with another of our Patrons DIANA MORAN is a regular broadcaster for the station – was also able to plug the interview just prior to the Agenda programme. Thank you, David.

PRESS INTERVIEWS

The following list takes in interviews undertaken since our last list was published in the Winter 2011/2012 issue of Courtesy Call. The stations are listed in alphabetical order of location with the dates, name of interviewer and the initials of the interviewee – i.e. PGF (Peter G. Foot), ET (Edward Thomas) and RZ (Robert Zarywacz).

- BBC Radio WM Birmingham
  - 16/6/12...PGF/Adrian Goldberg
  - 11/3/13...PGF/Danny Kelly
  - 12/4/13...PGF/Danny Kelly
- BBC Radio Coventry
  - 3/7/13...ET/Shane O’Connor
- BBC Radio Devon
  - 26/10/12...PGF/Jo Loosmore
  - 26/10/12...PGF/Jo Loosemore
- BBC Radio Humberse and Lincolnshire
  - 17/6/12...PGF/Peter Levey
  - 7/12/12...PGF/Peter Levey
  - 26/6/13...DW/Peter Levey
  - 20/9/13...PGF/Andy Comfort
- BBC Radio Lancashire
  - 13/12/12...PGF/Alison Butterworth
  - 2/10/12...PGF/Toby Foster
- BBC Radio Leeds
  - 9/11/13...PGF/Liz Green
  - 3/7/13...PGF/Wes Butters
- BBC Radio Lincolnshire
  - 16/12/11...PGF/Rod Whiting
  - 16/12/11...PGF/Rod Whiting
- BBC Radio London
  - 19/7/12...PGF/Vanessa Feltz
  - 12/3/13...PGF/Eddie Lister
- BBC Radio Scotland
  - 24/1/12...PGF/Peter Levey
  - 14/7/12...PGF/Peter Levey
- BBC Radio Sheffield
  - 11/3/13 Daily Telegraph
  - 12/3/13 Daily Mail (Paul Sims)
  - 19/7/12 The Times (Damien Whitworth)
- BBC Radio Suffolk
  - 15/3/13...PGF/Andy May & Paul Young
- BBC Radio Tees
  - 26/9/13...PGF/Simon Parker
  - 30/9/13...PGF/Tom Spender
- BBC Radio Three Counties Radio (Luton)
  - 11/3/13...PGF/Robert Perroni
- BBC Radio Manchester
  - 11/4/12...PGF/Heather Scott
- BBC Radio Merseyside
  - 24/1/12...PGF/Sean Styles
  - 24/9/12...PGF/Jimmy Whiting
- BBC Radio Nottingham
  - 14/6/13...RC/Sarah Julian
- BBC Radio Scotland
  - 11/3/13...PGF/Bill Whiteford
  - 2/10/12...PGF/Toby Foster
- BBC Radio Sheffield
  - 12/3/13...PGF/Toby Foster
- BBC Radio Suffolk
  - 11/3/13...DW/Terry Baxter
- BBC Radio Tees
  - 15/3/13...PGF/Mike Parr
- UCB Christian Radio
  - 12/3/13...RC/Summer Hoogvliet
- BBC Radio Sheffield
  - 12/3/13...RC/Paul Hammond
- Voice of Russia Radio
  - 25/9/13...PGF/Simon Parker
  - 30/9/13...PGF/Tom Spender
- Voice of Russia Radio
  - 25/9/13...PGF/Simon Parker
  - 30/9/13...PGF/Tom Spender

CAMPAIGN FOR COURTESY

Members are invited to...

• EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
  - Thursday 6 February 2014 12.30am at Westminster Quaker Meeting House, 8 Hop Gardens, St. Martin’s Lane, London WC2N 4EH

• ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
  - Saturday 24 May 2014 12.30-5pm at Westminster Quaker Meeting House, 8 Hop Gardens, St. Martin’s Lane, London WC2N 4EH

Advance notice of attendance essential for catering purposes.