



FOOTSTEPS

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DATES

September 7th 2018:
Simon Bell is speaking at The Anglo-Polish Meeting
Shrewsbury, UK.
University Centre Shrewsbury

November 24th 2018:
Simon Bell is speaking at The Holodomor Commemoration
The Midlands
Coventry Cathedral

INTRO

Welcome to our first Newsletter. We plan to try and produce a Newsletter at least every two months, but if we have information we want to share sooner this may be more frequent. The Newsletter is just one more way for us to keep in touch with you, and to let you know about any developments within Footsteps and the work we are doing. It will also include information about partnership groups that we work alongside, that support us, and that we support. You will have noticed that we have been a lot more active in the last few months, and this has been reflected on our website and Facebook page. We have many interesting projects that we are involved with individually and as a team. We want to share these with you as soon as we have useful details. We see Footsteps as a community of likeminded and enthusiastic people who all want to remember the past and make a difference for today and the future. Footsteps exists and functions because of all of you.

Our team has expanded and has a broad range of members with a wide history of backgrounds and interests. We will provide introductions to each team member over the next few Newsletters. The two original founders of Footsteps who are still actively involved are Rainer and Simon. In this Newsletter they tell you a little bit about themselves.

RECOMMENDATIONS



ARTICLES

Article by Inga Jäger: Weimar between Light and Darkness

Introduction:

Weimar, the cultural city of poets and thinkers, located in the German Federal State of Thuringia, and the district of Buchenwald with its concentration camp on the Ettersberg mountain, can confront the visitors with the entire range of human possible deeds, which can lead to the highest heights in thinking as well as to the deepest demonic abyss in action. Being there I set myself the task of taking on both extremes, bringing them to my attention and also trying to endure them.

Read the whole article: [Click](#)

Article by Simon Bell: The Holodomor – A Forgotten Genocide

Introduction:

The Holodomor, also known as the 'Terror Famine' caused a devastating loss of life and damage to the communities of Ukraine in 1932-33. It has variously been attributed to famine that impacted upon wider regions of the Soviet Union, to policies of industrialisation and collectivisation, to poor management of resources and food by the Soviet regime, to forced procurement of grain, and to deliberate policies designed to oppress and starve the



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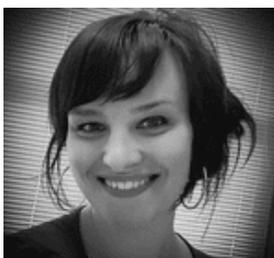
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peasants of Ukraine in order to enforce the will of Stalin and control a region deemed to be a seat of rebellion. The debate was somewhat suppressed during the Soviet era, and it is only since the middle of the 1980s that a more complete picture has emerged. This essay seeks to consider some of the available research and acknowledge that, based on accepted criteria, it was almost certainly a crime of genocide that appears to have eluded wider discussion. Read the whole article: [Click](#)

NEWS



In April Simone spoke with one of the project managers of Liberation Route Europe about potential future collaboration between ELR and Footsteps. It turned out Footsteps and ELR have a lot in common. The Liberation Route Europe is about bringing together national perspectives on the liberation of Europe to learn and share experiences and understanding, in order to create a unified awareness of the importance of freedom.

Next year ELR will start with some new projects across Europe. Off course we will be honoured to work together. For more information about ELR check there website: www.liberationroute.com



WORDS OF...



My Footsteps colleagues have asked that I provide a little bit of information about myself for those who follow the website and Facebook page. People who know me well are very aware that I am my least favourite subject to talk about, which will explain the lack of some more personal details.

I am a very happily married father of two adult sons. My world revolves around my family and they are my main focus in everything I do.

I worked for 37 years as a nurse in the UK. For 35 years I was a mental health nurse, and for 22 years I worked alongside the police, courts, prisons, probation, and other agencies in a role that required me to deal with many thousands of suspects, defendants, offenders and victims who were believed to have mental health problems. The first part of my mental health



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career was in old asylum care, and included looking after (amongst others) survivors of the Holocaust who had long-term mental health problems. The latter part of my career was spent dealing with every type of harm caused and experienced. It led me to question the black and white/good and evil simplicity with which the majority of people perceive crime and criminality. Most of those I dealt with had atrocious backgrounds of neglect and abuse that undoubtedly contributed to them becoming dysfunctional adults - indeed some had survived modern genocides. I learned quickly that beyond who, what, where, when and how, the most important question was why. This certainly impacted upon my view of genocide, hate crime, prejudice and intolerance. Why do some succumb to the rhetoric of hate? Why do societies tolerate such attitudes? Why are some victimized when they have done no wrong?

I strongly believe that we should constantly be questioning politicians, the media, mainstream and fringe press, the Internet, and other sources of information. We should consider the potential motives of those who promote hate and who allow, often insipidly, the gradual drip-feeding of intolerance to become a normalised torrent of hate. The consequences are invariably harmful to those less able to defend themselves. The rhetoric of hate in every genocide has been the same. The targets may change, but the language and the rationales used are always similar. We have a duty to those who have suffered and died in the past, and who suffer now. That duty is to stand against bigotry, and to try and promote a more tolerant, understanding and inclusive world.

I was in a position to be able to retire early from nursing in 2016. I am now in the final stages of a Master's Degree in Second World War Studies, which particularly focuses on conflict, societies and the Holocaust.

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to write and have published a couple of books- *Auschwitz-Birkenau: From Hell to Hope?* and *Tribalism* and *Prejudice: The Far-Right and Lessons from History*. More recently Rainer and I have collaborated together to produce a booklet entitled *A Kinship of Purpose*, which we see as a short manual of tolerance. I am proud to be one of the founders of Footsteps, and I hope that in our own small way we are making a difference, and we are helping others to do so too.

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