

A THORN IN THEIR SIDE: The Hilda Murrell Murder

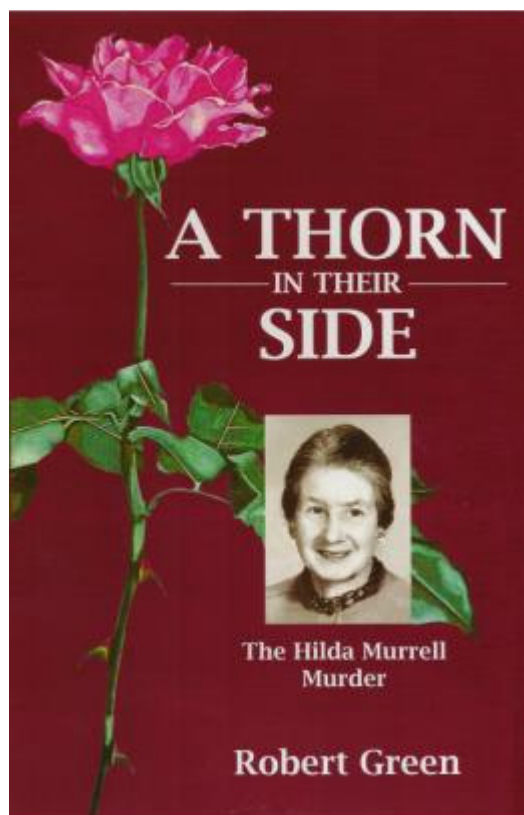
By Robert Green

The extraordinary story of a 27-year pursuit of the truth about how and why Robert Green's aunt Hilda Murrell, a noted English rose grower turned anti-nuclear campaigner, was found brutally murdered outside her home town of Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Aged 78, she had just gained approval to testify at the first British planning inquiry into a new nuclear power plant at Sizewell, Suffolk.

The police theory that a lone, panicking burglar robbed and abducted Hilda in her own car for petty cash erupted into a sensational political conspiracy around Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's plans for nuclear energy, and the controversial sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* in the 1982 Falklands War.

The police took until 2005 to secure the conviction of Andrew George as Hilda's unlikely murderer – in 1984 a 16-year-old foster home truant who could not drive. Former Royal Navy Commander Robert Green has uncovered explosive new evidence, not presented at George's trial, which should have acquitted him.

As the current British government presses to replace nuclear power plants and weapons, despite the nuclear catastrophe in Japan, this deeply disturbing saga about a distinguished British woman and law-abiding patriot and her devoted, tenacious nephew is powerfully topical.



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www.hildamurrell.org

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***A Thorn in Their Side: The Hilda Murrell Murder* by Robert Green**

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The Author

Robert Green served for twenty years in the Royal Navy from 1962-1982. As a Fleet Air Arm Observer/bombardier-navigator, he flew in Buccaneer nuclear strike aircraft and anti-submarine helicopters. Commander Green's final appointment was as Staff Officer (Intelligence) to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet. He took voluntary redundancy in 1981 and was released after the 1982 Falklands War. The 1984 murder of his aunt Hilda Murrell led him to examine and then challenge the hazards of nuclear electricity generation – and nuclear weapons. He is now co-director, with his wife Dr Kate Dewes ONZM, of the Disarmament & Security Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand. His previous book, *Security Without Nuclear Deterrence*, was published in 2010.

Reviews

“I feel exhilaration in reading this book... driving it all is a profound sense of love: for the best that a country can be, when it is not hijacked on the high seas by the tawdry pirates of political expediency and business profit. And above all, with love for a woman who was kind to the young man who was her nephew, who listened and talked to him in the kitchen, writing him letters as he was growing into maturity, who showed him the power of a single voice, who saw a great anguish, and a wrong, and dared to speak.” *Fiona Farrell, New Zealand author and poet*

“This is a tale of mystery and intrigue which touches all our lives. Carefully researched and lovingly told, you cannot remain unmoved. The questions come thick and fast. There is always another stone to be overturned. Far more than a ‘whodunnit’, it is also a ‘why’ and ‘what dunnit’. Echoes of the death of Dr David Kelly. It is a story which uncovers the life-threatening risks that have to be endured by a few for the many who ‘dare not speak’.” *Michael Mansfield QC*

“You couldn’t make it up, as they say. A spy story to rival anything by John le Carré or Ian Fleming... a former Royal Navy Commander in charge of nuclear weapons, and his prominent Kiwi peace campaigner wife, blow the lid off this and many other British security scandals in an explosive tell-all book printed up in complete secrecy at the dead of night... a gripping read.” *John McCrone, The Press, Christchurch New Zealand*

“An informative read crammed with information that screams for action... paints a clear picture of a scenario that must be looked at by way of some kind of Inquiry.” *Gary Murray, ex-MI5 agent*

“...a window on to a mysterious and still unsatisfactorily explained cold case involving nuclear power, war crimes, the death of a prominent English rose grower and her determined nephew.” *Simon Cunliffe, Otago Daily Times*