A THORN IN THEIR SIDE: The Hilda Murrell Murder

By Robert Green

This is Robert Green’s extraordinary story of his 27-year pursuit of the truth about how and why his 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 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 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.

Foreword by Michael Mansfield QC: ‘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... 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”.’

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.
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