



(BOOK 14)

## **IN PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH**

**Author: Clive Driscoll**

Clive Driscoll served in the Metropolitan Police for 35 years, retiring in 2014. On retirement he had reached the rank of Detective Chief Inspector and his greatest achievement among many was bringing two of the gang that carried out the 1993 racist murder of Stephen Lawrence to justice. This was a challenge that took him five years to complete and one at which many more senior ranked detectives had failed dismally. Although the trial judge commended Clive for his work on the case, he did not receive the same measure of congratulations and honour from the top ranks of the Met Police. I suppose Clive had embarrassed some in high authority by doing what they had failed to do.

Clive entered the police service comparatively late having served for four years in the London Ambulance Service that brought him experience of some very demanding situations. An example of these is the “one under” incidents; suicides of people that throw themselves under an underground train creating an awful mess for the emergency services to clean up.

Once through basic training at Hendon, Clive adopted a ‘Dixon of Dock Green’ approach to being a ‘bobby’ on the beat. He firmly believed that successful policing was best achieved by talking to people and in doing so trying to build up trust. Rather than using a police car in which to patrol, Clive preferred a bike and he states in the book that pedalling his way to incidents often got him there before colleagues in panda cars or squad cars. Clive stuck to his belief that police officers must have lots of face-to-face contact with people throughout his long career.

Outstanding in his memory of his early days as a constable was his recollections of being there at the two Brixton riots and he expounds in his book the failures by the Met senior officers to deal more effectively with these serious breakdowns in law and order. For a time, Clive was placed in charge of a team involved in child protection and he and his colleagues compiled evidence against a list of people suspected of paedophilia. On the list was the name of a minister in Tony Blair’s government. Against his wishes, the list was revealed to others outside the team and soon after that the evidence mysteriously disappeared.

This is one of the best autobiographies that I have read in a long time.

**JOHN CRAIG**

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