Surrey Constabulary History

'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

1 June 2016

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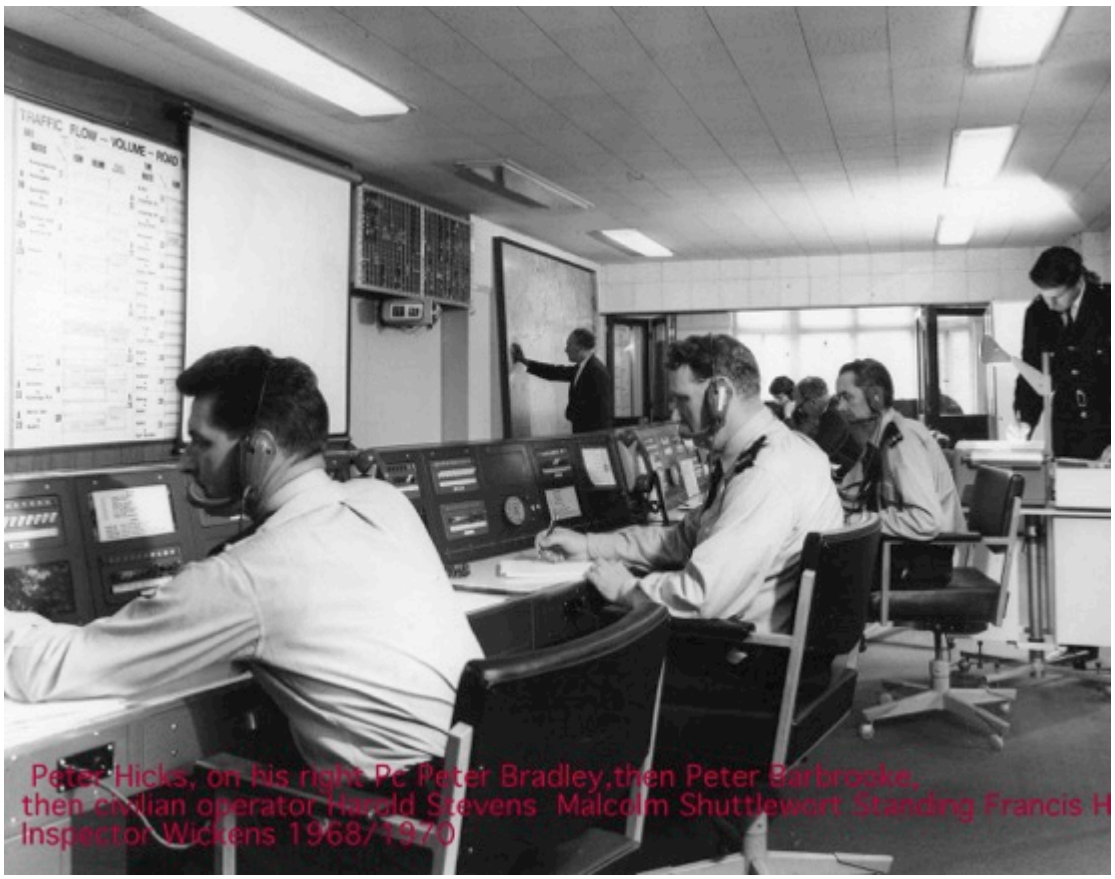


Contents

General Office 1958 Paddy Swain died 21 April 2016, Frank Chilmaid, Albert Tobin, Peter Bradley (not GO) died May 2016, Bob Watford, Bob Cozens, Dave Chatt

Fred James retirement: Date uncertain probably early 1970s. The late editor of O and B Martin Field far right, Graham Hardy, Ray Elvy, Derek Durant, Robin Penn, Ian Clinging, Colin Bridger and (perhaps) Ian Henderson or Derek Harding, Steve Firman

GEORGE RETIRES AFTER 39 YEARS WITH THE FORCE

George Ball, a clerical officer employed at headquarters and himself a former serving police officer, has recently retired having been employed with the service for some 39 years.

George joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1937 having previously served for seven years in the Scots Guards. At the outbreak of war he rejoined the guards, returning to the police in 1941.

As a constable George served at Godalming, Haslemere, Thorpe, Chobham, and Guildford. In 1950 he became employed in the recruiting office and in 1955 was promoted to Sergeant in charge of the Department. He continued to serve as the force recruiting officer until his retirement as a police officer in 1966. He then undertook employment as a clerical officer in this same department where he has since remained.

Throughout his career George has been a keen sportsman. He regularly represented the force at football and cricket, having also been the force secretary for both sports. He was responsible for arranging many of the police cricket tours. He is also a keen snooker player.

As a retirement presentation at Mount Browne, George received a car radio from his colleagues together with a photograph album containing a potted history of his police career.

George lives in Guildford with his wife Joan and his ten year old son Andrew.

In the picture George receives his gifts from the Chief Constable.

1975[1]

Peter May

Sandgate Police Training Centre

In my search for a picture of my training course (1961) I Googled Sandgate Police Training Centre and came up with a Flickr site which showed a picture collection of a Charles Abbott (Kent Police) including a picture of course 118 C1 in 1954/55, This included Surrey Officers: Egerton, Corbett, Ware, Haynes and Pentecost.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/22420011@N05/2890036289

[1] Off Beat 1975

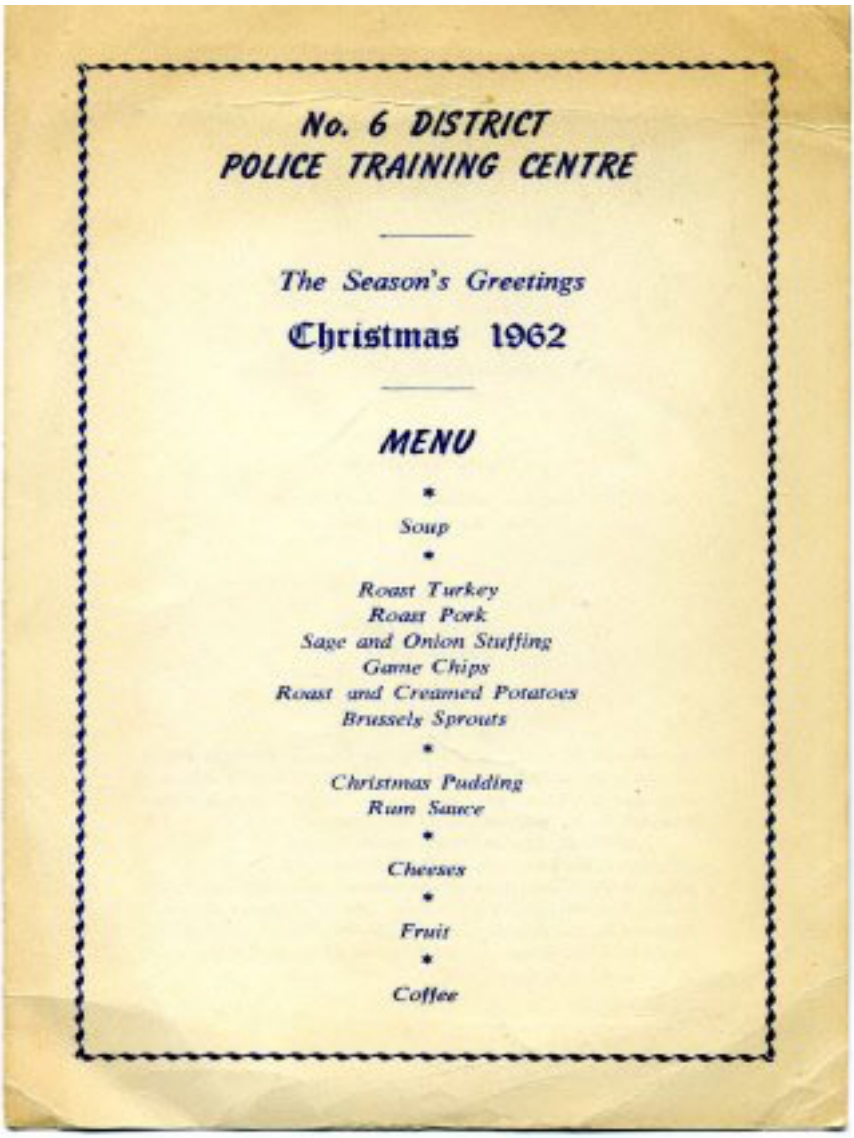
No 6
District Police Training Centre Sandgate

1962

ACC Rowe Surrey Constabulary early 1970s

1961

1962 Christmas Dinner at Sandgate



No. 6 DISTRICT
POLICE TRAINING CENTRE

The Season's Greetings

Christmas 1962

MENU

*

Soup

*

Roast Turkey
Roast Pork
Sage and Onion Stuffing
Game Chips
Roast and Creamed Potatoes
Brussels Sprouts

*

Christmas Pudding
Rum Sauce

*

Cheeses

*

Fruit

*

Coffee

Chief Inspector Catherine Mary Mackenzye

From **Bob Watford** retired Surrey Constabulary now a resident close to Pitlochry

Pitlochry, Perthshire Scotland showing the memorial gravestone for Chief Inspector Catherine Mary Mackenzie formerly of Surrey Constabulary

Also showing a memorial plaque from Surrey Constabulary Women Police.

Note: Her mother died two years later and is buried at this plot.

Inspector Mackenzie meeting King George VI after receiving The Defence Medal.


IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
CATHERINE MARY
MACKENZIE

Bob Watford: The small memorial plaque from members of the women police of the Surrey Constabulary is quite visible but both gravestone and the plaque have been neglected some what and I wonder if Surrey Police may wish to spend a small amount to have it tidied up.

I have made some local enquiries but have not found any one who recollects her mother and family but will try some other avenues.

A MANSION at Mount Browne, near Guildford, is the new nerve centre for Surrey police activities. Here woman Police Inspector Mackenzie demonstrates the use of plaster casts of footprints.

1976 Long Hot Summer

1976 year of the long hot summer. The downside, however, were thousands of calls to the fire brigade and police reporting fires on commons throughout the county. Both services were working to full capacity and in many instances extra help was provided by the military, which used bulldozers and diggers to form firebreaks. The long hot summer of 1976 was a challenging time. The drought and hot weather brought a great many severe fires on the hills and heaths of Surrey. The demands on the Fire Service were so severe that they would only attend an incident if lives were in danger or if houses were imminently threatened. Covering such a vast area of woodland and open spaces on the sub-division the police would attend any reported fire and watch to see what if anything was threatened. Sometimes the Brigade would attend but the crew would be from the other side of the county, as they had no one else left. A particular fire late in the day resulted in a fire engine coming all the way from Caterham to the top of Pitch Hill. A major problem with the fires was the peat. If it caught fire, peat would smoulder for days if not weeks. The fire went deep into the ground and was virtually impossible to put out, and with a strong breeze would again burst into life. The village of Thursley close to Hankley was nearly destroyed by fire one afternoon during the drought. As the flames lapped across the heath-land and up to the edge of this very prosperous village with its large houses surrounded by the trees, the army arrived with huge earthmovers carrying bulldozers. Soldiers saved the day by driving the bulldozers straight off the back of the low-loaders and immediately towards the flames, cutting a fire break and stopping the every advancing wall of flame and smoke towards the houses. Very dramatic and not a little exciting except if it was your house!

Tony Forward: I was chief inspector at Camberley when there were heath fires all over the sub-division. The A322 Guildford to Bracknell Road had to be closed after flames jumped fifty-two feet across it to trees on the other side. Berkshire Fire Brigade had the services of an RAF helicopter that landed on Swindley's roundabout and went up every hour to see what was between the current fire-front and where it was expected to be in one hour. People, animals and vehicles were then removed from that area. Inspector Chris Rodgers from Chertsey Traffic Centre was in charge of road closures and diversions. He and I flew in the helicopter on some of its missions. Rodgers, keen for promotion, always sat well inside while I sat in the open doorway. I was sure that I could feel his feet pushing my back! Camberley was part of Farnham Division, commanded by Chief Superintendent Frank Trussler. He and I were at Deepcut Barracks when flames were getting close to the houses at the rear of the officers' married quarters. We knocked on all the doors and got the occupants to go to the Officer's Mess for safety. At one house, there was clean washing including babies' nappies on the line in the back garden. Nobody was in. The washing was getting dirty from the smuts in the air so I collected it and put it in the garden shed, where I found six Surrey Constabulary 'no waiting' cones! They were delivered anonymously to Camberley Police Station the next day. On one of the days, six PCs and I were using fire beaters to beat out flames alongside the A322 north of Bagshot. We had our jackets, ties and hats off and our faces were blackened from the ashes. A mobile refreshment van, normally doing trade in a lay-by on that road at Bagshot but now had no passing trade because the road was closed, pulled up beside us. We all had refreshing cold drinks and when I offered to pay, the driver said, "You

firemen can have them on me, you are doing a good job. I'll make the police pay; the bastards shut the road off!"

The late Tony May: 1975 and 1976 were renowned for their lack of rainfall resulting in the late summer (July /August) of 1976 being known as the' big drought' Temperatures exceeded 90F on six or seven days consecutively and the ground was tinder dry. Thick white and grey smoke lazily ascending into a steel blue sky just before midday signalled yet another common fire. West Surrey bore the brunt of these outbreaks. I was Section Sergeant at Haslemere with Sergeant John Stone, Sergeant John Boyes at Hindhead and Sergeant Colin White at Milford and we were responsible for the vast swathes of Hindhead, Thursley, Milford and Witley Commons mostly owned by the National Trust. Guildford Fire Brigade had its own problems with Wisley, Woking with Chobham, and Farnham with Frensham and Crooksbury Commons. There was also little help from Hampshire (Bramshott Common) and West Sussex (Woolbeding Commons) So it was the two engine retained Fire Brigade at Haslemere and the one engine part time Brigade at Godalming which shouldered responsibility. As a fire engine carries little water on it's own it was down to beating most the fires out by hand. There is no doubt that many of these fires were started deliberately, small groups of children innocently playing would appear but it was difficult to pin them down unless caught red handed with matches. The National Trust's feeble attempt at fire precautions was in one or two specific locations to place a couple of poles with a cross section at one end on which was tacked a flap with which to beat out the flames. These were entirely useless as they were so old they immediately fell to bits. The most common thing was to use a dead tree branch, which was just as effective. Our main priority was the free passage of traffic but on occasions, roads like the A3 had to be closed because of burning verges or zero visibility through the smoke. Dye House Lane in Thursley was a typical example; this dips and twists through the hamlet of Thursley towards Churt and was constantly encircled by fires.

The heath-land with its mainly heather, birch and spruce saplings was fairly easy to contain although the damage to wildlife (snakes, lizards, birds and rodents) was horrifying but when the fires spread to the blocks of coniferous pines it was reminiscent of the fires in South Australia and Western USA. A tree could be engulfed in seconds and it spread fanned by the wind at terrifying speeds. Thursley Common was used as a base camp for the Canadian Forces in World War Two and traces of it can still be found there. One incident which I still recall and send a shiver down me was when I foolishly drove deep into Thursley Common and found myself on the vast concrete parade square, suddenly I was trapped, and fire was advancing on three sides including the way I had come in. I knew that if I remained in the middle I would be unharmed (concrete doesn't burn) but it was some time before it was safe to drive rubber tyres back over red hot ground to safety. I eventually emerged half suffocated from smoke with my uniform reeking of it. In early September the Government appointed Denis Howell as the Minister for Drought, the day after this it rained and didn't stop for several weeks and that ended it.

Armed Robbery in Woking

1976 Friday 9 January: An **armed robbery** occurred at a garage in Woking. The attendant was badly assaulted by a masked man carrying a Luger type pistol who had

threatened to shoot him. The sum of £120 was stolen from the garage till. On Monday 12 January the same man entered a public house in Woking carrying a weapon seriously assaulting the licensee and his wife before fleeing. PCs Bailey and Redpath were on patrol in Goldsworth Road unaware of the incident when they saw a man dash into a shop doorway about a hundred yards from the pub. The officers followed the man and PC Redpath found him in the garden. As PC Bailey arrived with a torch he saw that the man was pointing a gun at the police shouting, "Get back or I will use the gun" before making his escape. Enquiries locally by detectives visiting known criminals found the suspect and he was arrested and charged appearing at the Old Bailey in May when he was sentenced to seven years. Judge King Hamilton said "PCs Bailey and Redpath behaved in accordance with the highest traditions of the police where courage has no boundaries". Both men received Chief Constable's commendations as did the two detectives Detective Constables Vernon Attwell and Terry Butcher.

Also commended are PC Richard Redpath, PC Brian Bailey, DC Vernon Attwell and DC Terence Butcher for the part they played in the arrest and prosecution of an offender for armed robbery.

On Friday, 9th January, 1976, an armed robbery occurred at a garage in Woking. The attendant was badly assaulted by a masked man, carrying a Luger-type pistol, who had threatened to shoot him. The sum of £120 was stolen from the garage till.

At 1 a.m. on Monday, 12th January, 1976, the same person entered a public house in Woking. Whilst carrying the same weapon he seriously assaulted the wife of the licensee and fled the premises after a struggle with the licensee who was also badly injured.

At this time PC's Bailey and Redpath were on normal patrol in Goldsworth Road, when, unaware of the incident, they saw the figure of a man dash into a shop doorway some one hundred yards from the public house. The officers followed the man and PC Redpath, after hearing the sound of heavy breathing, found him in the garden of the shop premises. PC Bailey then arrived at the scene and shone a torch on the offender who was seen to be pointing a gun at the officers. The man shouted at the officers, "Get back of I will use the gun". He then made good his escape.

On Monday, 12th January, 1976, Detective Constables Attwell and Butcher called at the home of an informant in an effort to gain information regarding the offences. They saw that the man had cuts on his hands and arrested him on suspicion of robbery.

On Thursday, 20th May, 1976, the offender appeared at the Central Criminal Court charged with numerous offences including robbery and wounding with intent. He pleaded guilty to all the offences and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. At the conclusion of the case His Honour Judge King-Hamilton said: "PC's Bailey and Redpath behaved in accordance with the highest traditions of the police where courage has no boundaries".

2

[2] Off Beat

Special Constable Frederick Botley

From Ian Chadwick retired Surrey Constabulary

I have the national Fire Brigade Union (with Godstone clasp) and special constabulary medals awarded to Frederick Botley

I have managed to find very little beyond:

Fireman F Botley Godstone 1908

Silver National Fire Brigades Union Long Service Medal bar 'Twenty Years'

Unnamed reverse Hallmark for Birmingham 1917

Special Constabulary Long Service Medal bar 'The Great War 1914-18'

I have the following info relating to Frederick BOTLEY obtained from Ancestory;

1872 he was born in Westerham, Kent.
1894 married Eleanor Mary Bryant in Godstone.
1911 census shows the family living at Ivy Cottage Godstone and gives his occupation as Carter Estate. Other census returns give the same address.

1957 died in Southampton.

I have not been able to find out any information relating to his service at Godstone Fire Station or with the Special Constabulary, which I know was during WW1 due to clasp on his Special Constabulary medal. Due to where he was living I am assuming it would have been with the Surrey Constabulary.

Surrey CID 1976

Special Crime Patrol Unit (Burglary Squad)

1976 Marilyn Parsons: I was also on the Burglary Squad when it was first formed in 1976. Detective Chief Inspector Taffy Powell started it up. I am not sure how I got selected for it, but I was on CID at Woking at the time and DC Murphy and I had uncovered a lot of information and property with regard to burglaries, which we had used when setting up the squad. We were both seconded at Detective Constables from Woking along with a PC from Woking. There was a team of four to each group, a Detective Sergeant, two Detective Constables and a PC. Barry Siviers was one of the Detective Constables from SE division. Georgie Wilkinson Detective Sergeant from Addlestone, DC Bob Pratt, DC Martin Wise and PC Cliff Cox, Detective Sergeant Woodfield, DC Colin Ward, DC Charlie Emmett and PC Pengelley. We had a lot of success in the early days. I left in 1980 as I was expecting a baby and that was the end of my police career unfortunately, as women couldn't return part time it was all or nothing! We worked in pairs within a team of five. I worked with Bob Pratt mostly on George Wilkinson's team. Martin Wise worked with Cliff Cox. George Wilkinson was our Sergeant. Bob and I had a Beige Cortina with multi-force radios and we had car-to-car radio link. Graham Powell gave our jobs to us at our weekly squad meetings. They would be mostly vehicles seen near or around local burglaries where part indexes had been taken. We would house the cars and then the owners. They mostly always were in the Metropolitan Police area. We would sit on the suspects address for days following them when they left and gathering intelligence on their associates. We had to be careful about alerting the local police/CID, as I am afraid there were unscrupulous officers around at the time in the Metropolitan Police. This was 1976-80.

I can recall that there were situations where on occasions when we had arrested Met villains and had taken then into a Metropolitan Police Station, we would find that the local CID was not impressed. London based criminals did not understand that Surrey officers were not interested in bribes or a sweetener for "a bit of bail". If it was thought to be a good case the whole squad would end up following the suspects. It was a dawn till dusk operation for days on end some time, before anything happened.

We used to get very excited if they came down into Surrey whilst following them. On one occasion I can recall Bob and I were involved in incidents where we ended up getting the arrest. One of the other teams was tailing a pair of breakers who led them from Kent into Surrey into the Dorking area. I think one was called "Jack the Hat". They were in a mini. They drove around Dorking early evening with no obvious target in mind. They bought fish and chips and sat and eat them in a local car park and helped themselves to a large box and placed it in the car, we couldn't think why at the time. Then they parked up in the car park in West Street where all the antique shops are and went on a walk about. They took particular interest in a little antique shop in West Street and went around the back to see, we guessed, where they would get in. It was still daylight and eventually they wandered back to their car.

Bob and I sat in the car park watching them from our car; I think the term was that we "had the eyeball". I think we must have sat there at last three hours waiting for them to move. Meanwhile officers had been positioned around the back of the shop ready to pounce. The area was very dark and dimly lit. At about midnight they got out of the car and picked something up from the ground at the back of the car, and got their large cardboard box out of the back. They walked into West Street and crossed the road. We could see the front of the shop from our car and gave a radio alert to the officers around the back. The next scene was like something out of a movie. They threw the brick, they had picked up from the ground in the car park, through the front plate glass window of the shop, smashing the glass everywhere. The contents of the window display were scooped into the box they had taken with them. They then ran back across the road and got into their getaway car, a mini!

We were giving a blow-by-blow account to all and directed the officers from behind the shop to come into the car park. Somehow our dialogue was missed in the disruption and they ran from behind the shop into the street and saw whom they

thought were the culprits wandering up the road. They gave chase to a group of young lads, on a night out on their way home. Of course they started running when they saw the (plain clothes) officers chasing them. Meanwhile in the car park Bob and I were left to deal with the two trying to make a getaway. I was in the driving seat of the Cortina and I just drove head on with full headlights on into the path of the mini. Thankfully they stopped, very surprised. We jumped out and opened the car doors and I told Jack the Hat he was nicked. He said, "OK, it's a fair cop". Well, what else could he say? I just hoped that at court he would plead guilty as who would have believed he had said that on arrest?

I think it cleared up quite a few burglaries for the Metropolitan Police District and us. On another occasion a pair of breakers had been followed by one of the other teams into Surrey and ended up in the Fetcham area. When Bob and I joined them up the two were having a drink in the pub, which is now an old people's home. They obviously need some Dutch courage before their planned job. They left the pub and drove up a residential road behind the pub. They had sussed out one of the properties before the pub stop. A spotter was placed in the house opposite and he gave out a running commentary on what they were up to. They went around the back of the house and broke in through the kitchen door I think. They could then be seen to search very quickly and effectively the whole house for the type of property they were interested in. They then left the house as quickly as they had entered and got into their car and drove off.

Bob and I were static and followed them up to the roundabout at the top of Young Street. We were hoping that we could get a traffic car to stop them as soon as possible, but as luck would have it they were all tied up on something. They were definitely not going to be allowed to get away, so we kept up with them down Young Street, where they stopped at a hold up at Givons Grove roundabout. We jumped out of the car and opened their car doors. They had no idea they had been seen at all. The driver had the contents of what he had taken from the house in his lap, mostly carriage clocks and silver. They were caught red handed. Another good team effort and I believe it cleared up quite a few Surrey offences outstanding and some Metropolitan Police ones of course! I guess officers now are not allowed to work in this way under the RIPA laws, which is a great shame and of course the culprits do not come quietly now like these seasoned breakers used to. Almost gentlemen burglars a dying if not dead breed!

1979 Annual report: During the year the officers of the **SCP arrested 263** people and recovered property to the value of **£307,000.**[3]

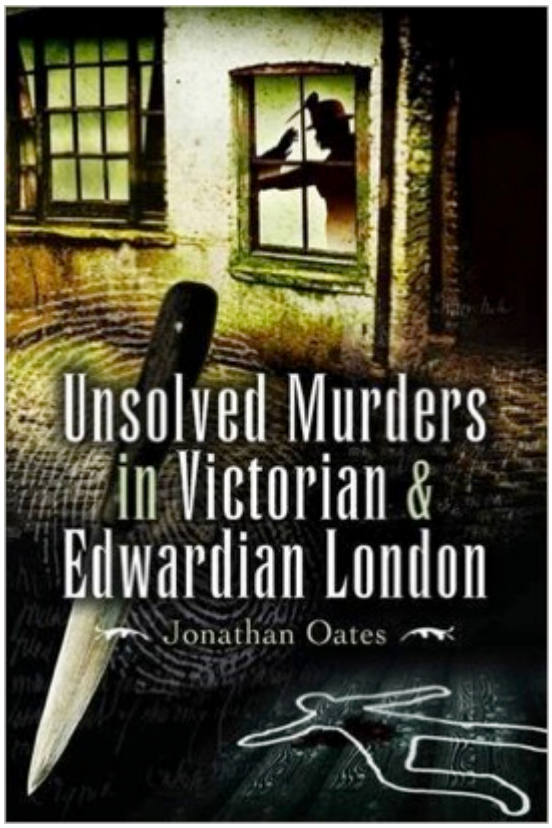
Operations Room

1976: A new era in **force communications** opened on 6 December 1976 with a purpose built operations room at headquarters. It replaced the old control room, which had been in existence since 1949. Police communications was at the front of

[3] Part 5 of The Working Life of the Surrey Constabulary

the computer revolution ensuring a transformation in making data immediately available to control room staff and officers on patrol.

Ray Elliott in the chair in 1980



Unsolved Murders in Victorian and Edwardian London

Paperback
Jonathan Oates
ISBN978 1 84563 045 4
Pen and Sword

Jonathan Oates is a prolific author of "True Crime" books using Metropolitan Police files at the National Archives, newspapers and published works.

Summary: Unsolved crimes have a particular fascination, none more so than unsolved murders. The horror of the crime itself, the mystery surrounding it, the notion of a killer on the loose, the insight into primitive police work, the chance to speculate about the identity of the killer after so many years have passed - all these aspects of unsolved murder cases make them compelling reading. For this collection Jonathan Oates has selected over 20 varied and intriguing cases from the late 1830s to just before the Great War. Among them are the headless body found in a bag at Waterloo Bridge, the pregnant maid who was bludgeoned to death, the blackmailer whose corpse was discovered in the gutter, the shooting of the night watchman at the Cafe Royal, the barmaid whose corpse rode the train from Hounslow to Waterloo, the dead girl packed in a parcel, and the enigmatic case of Frances Coles, the Whitechapel prostitute who may have been Jack the Ripper's ultimate victim. Each of these case histories is recounted in precise, sometimes shocking detail. The

inadequacy of the detection and forensic techniques employed over a century ago is revealed, as is the corrupt and brutal side of life in the Victorian city.

Review: For those with a real interest in crime and detection they may find there are too many murders examined in the book resulting in sparse detail, which could be frustrating. For the casual reader there is enough information but they may be disheartened by man's inhumanity to man – or more likely to women! A concentration on fewer cases would be more rewarding for the reader who could then be exposed to the struggle to assemble evidence appropriate for placing before the Central Criminal Court. Many of the cases, a chapter for each, are recorded in similar books based around early murders within the Metropolitan Police District although the author says twenty five per cent of his cases have received no airing since contemporary press reports. It is not clear why these particular murders are included. It may be the archives and press provided sufficient information including reports of the inquest for these cases. Long before the Metropolitan Police murder cases were meticulously investigated working within all the constraints of a lack of scientific support and understanding. It could be argued what you never had would not be missed but there must have been many a detective who wished blood could be identified, that a hair could be shown to come from a particular person, a tear of clothing matched to the suspect and so on. They could not have dreamt of fingerprints or DNA or the many scientific and electronic advances made in the 20th century. And still there are unsolved murders.

People known to the victim, family, neighbours, or maybe drinking partners mainly commit murders. Then as now the most difficult to solve are stranger murders, random killings. Readers should be aware that the police may have been convinced of the identity of the killer but the evidence was just not substantive enough for a prosecution. These suspicions may be recorded in internal reports on the Metropolitan Police files at the National Archives but suspicions would not have been given during evidence at the coroner's inquest.

The population of Greater London grew from 2.2 - 7.2 million from 1841 to 1911 and inner London grew from 1.9 million in 1841 to 4.5 million in 1911. There were more "strangers", more rootless people, more alcohol and plenty of potential victims. Strangers in small towns and rural areas were easily identified and following a serious crime a quick arrest was often possible as the suspects made their way from the location to the next town on foot. Widespread circulation of wanted notices within hours was well established and frequently successful particularly when the rewards were high. The coming of the train made detection that much more difficult as urban criminals went into the countryside and small towns to commit robbery and burglary which sometimes resulted in murder or manslaughter. However, the electric telegraph resulted in the fast transmission of information leading to arrests when criminals left the train.

In small towns and rural areas the overwhelming majority of murders were fairly quickly detected with an arrest and soon a trial at the Assizes. It was in the cities where murders were more likely to remain undetected.

Inspector Aggs of the Metropolitan Police investigated the first murder featured in the book, that of Eliza Davies in 1837. The Metropolitan Police had existed for eight years and although there was no detective department, the term detective had not by then been used; a number of officers were gradually establishing a reputation as intelligent and thorough investigators. The force had been established as a preventative body and the Bow Street Principal Officers were to continue the investigation of serious crime along with the police from other central London courts. The reality that all crime could not be prevented soon struck home and the more intelligent officers were soon involved in investigations. PC Pegglar who had previously been involved in investigating a murder assisted the inspector. They worked extended hours over many weeks travelling extensively, falling out with the Commissioner over their expenses claim. (Just think of that – the Commissioner the head of a large and complex organisation making the time to check expense claims!) The murder was of a young barmaid and no substantiated links were made to any potential suspect although the case was to bubble up again a few years later. The police tried very hard to find the person responsible but without evidence identifying a suspect they were not likely to succeed.

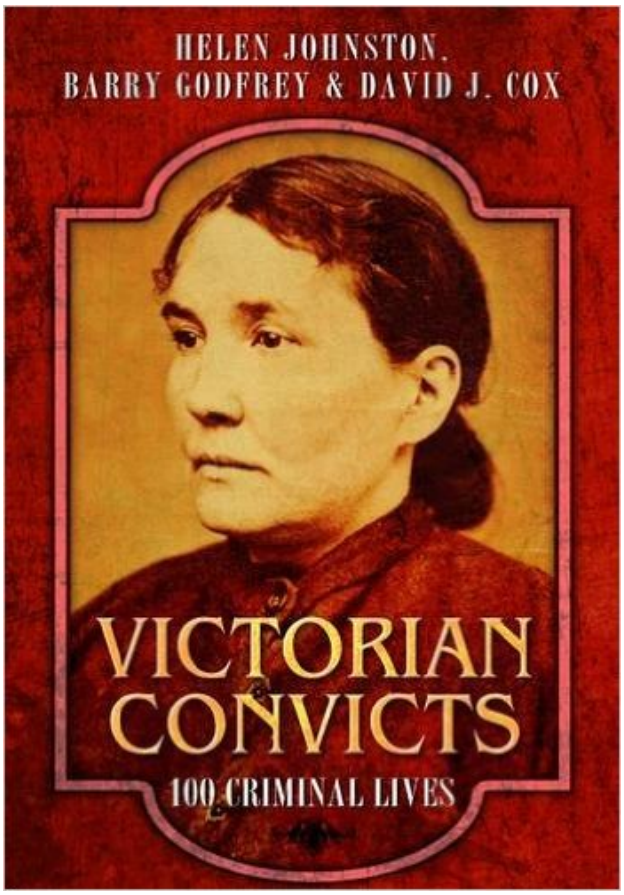
It was over 50 years before there was to be a significant game changer in crime investigation. In 1892 Inspector Eduardo Alvarez found bloody fingerprints at a murder scene in La Plata, Buenos Aires Province. The fingerprints were checked against those of the suspect, and those of the mother of the two murdered children, who accused her neighbour of killing them. The fingerprints matched the mother's and she confessed the first person to be convicted on the evidence of fingerprints. The first conviction in the UK using fingerprint evidence was not until 1905.

Though there was a concentration on detail by the investigating officers and thorough searches undertaken there was no scientific support at the scene, no means of ascertaining if the blood on the smock was even human; no way of obtaining evidence from abandoned weapons or from the victim's clothing. Shoe prints were the DNA of its day. Cordwainers making individual shoes, shaped to the feet. If the perpetrator was traced his shoes would be taken to the scene to see if they matched impressions found, careful measurements of feet were taken and every care taken to ensure continuity of evidence. Though this case involved a brutal attack with a knife, poisoning was often suspected following a murder. The Sale of Arsenic Act 1851 restricted sales to people over 21, known to the chemist or vouched for if less than £10 of uncoloured arsenic. One prominent scientist who sought traces of poison from bodies of suspected victims had been using copper gauze for an important test. Disastrously the gauze contained arsenic and he used this for 14 years. How many of his finds of arsenic were contaminated by his equipment?

Advances in microscopy and the finding that blood consists of red corpuscles white corpuscles, and a watery fluid prompted the thought that bloodstains might be identified under the microscope because of the characteristics shapes of the red cells. This eventually led to the discovery that all human blood is not of the same type; that they are divided into distinct groups, some of which are biologically incompatible. The concept that "Every contact leaves a trace" was years from being the detective's mantra mostly because the science had not evolved to the level it could be given as professional or expert evidence before a court. The magic of DNA was far into the future.

This is a book about murderers who got away with their crime within the Metropolitan Police District. But what would have happened had they been caught and convicted? Firstly if a mother was charged with killing her new born child the jury were always very reluctant to convict and if they were it was mostly for manslaughter and judges were more lenient than their reputations handed down would suggest. Great play was made about the independence of life of the child. The child was born dead. Infanticide was a charge often used against young mothers, which attracted a lesser punishment if any at all. If there were the slightest opportunity to return a verdict of manslaughter this verdict would be brought to avoid the jury considering themselves responsible for a hanging! Even if convicted of murder and sentenced to death a significant proportion, about 95%, were not executed but their punishment commuted to life imprisonment.

Given the limitation of too many cases and not enough detail this is a useful and interesting book for the general reader but the police historian may become irritated by the lack of detail of how the Victorians investigated serious crimes.



Victorian Convicts: 100 Criminal Lives

Helen Johnston (Author), Barry Godfrey (Author), David J Cox (Author)
Hardcover
ISBN 9781 47382 373 0
Pen and Sword True Crime

Summary: What was life like in the Victorian underworld who were the criminals, what crimes did they commit, how did they come to a criminal career, and what happened to them after they were released from prison? Victorian Convicts, by telling the stories of a hundred criminal men and women, gives the reader an insight into their families and social background, the conditions in which they lived, their relationships and working lives, and their offences. They reveal how these individuals were treated by the justice and penal system of 150 years ago, and how they were regarded by the wider world around them. Such a rare and authentic insight into life in and out of prison will be fascinating reading for anyone who is interested in the history of crime and criminals, in legal and prison history and in British society in the nineteenth century.

Review: One of the significant characteristics of the history of crime and policing is the subject opens many doors on “real life”, the reality of living for a major part of the population. This is not the history of the great and the good; those that dominated or

had a huge impact on the country. It was not just the criminal classes who get caught up in criminal activity but also there is an impact upon their own class as well as the more respectable working class. Crime impacts everyone in some way but if many of the people used in this study were your neighbours you would have a strong view on crime and punishment. By reading these biographies taken from across the country "all life is revealed", more Mayhew and Dickens than Jane Austin! A typical convict was Joseph Quarmby number 79 on the list. His life was a mess being convicted on a number of occasions for stealing stonemason's tools. Whilst in prison he rebelled against the rules and generally had a hard time. However having been released after many years behind bars he was again convicted and the local newspaper reported he wanted to return to prison as he was ill and he got better treatment in prison that outside. He was sentenced to six months.

For generations criminals were "exported" and lost to sight, forgotten to all but their families. The ending of transportation required 90 new or rebuilt prisons between 1842 and 1877 to take those sentenced post the Penal Servitude Act 1852.

It is not clear why those featured were selected for inclusion in the book. Entries are ordered alphabetically and include men and women who were convicted of a range of offences. A few of the 100 entries have a photograph of the convict. Not every convict was from the bottom strata of society. Samuel Ainge was a very successful businessman in the west Midlands who came on hard times and embezzled a great deal of money attracting five years penal servitude. The next case is a Norfolk involving a man described as a "bad character" who committed minor offences until charged with a felony, breaking into a shop and stealing meat, which resulted in a seven-year sentence. He was only to have one further conviction for being drunk when he was fined.

The ladies below were more persistent offenders

Mary Ann Murray, born 1856, Lambeth, London

From the age of 14 Mary had been in and out of the London courts for theft. Aged 18, she invited some sailors to a pub before drugging one of them and stealing his money. The arresting constable gave evidence that the women were well known for this kind of offence but other victims had been too drunk or drugged to give evidence. Mary was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. A year after her release she was convicted of theft and sentenced to 10 years.

The sentence had a significant psychological effect on her and she had fights with six prisoners, leading to solitary confinement. In 1883 she wrote to the Secretary of State asserting that she had worked hard in prison and that her brother would look after her. Her petition was refused. Three years later she was released with nine months left to serve.

Catherine Lindsay, born 1843, Liverpool

After a couple of short prison sentences for petty crimes, Catherine was sent to a juvenile reformatory for five years for "not being able to account for money". She went on to serve huge periods of time in prison, mainly for theft, including eight years' penal servitude for stealing a watch – a hefty sentence even by the strict standards of the day. She railed against incarceration and committed no fewer than 67 offences while in prison, including kicking her cell door, singing, shouting, insolence and destroying prison property. Within five years she had been sentenced to another seven years for stealing a second watch. She violently attacked another prisoner and was twice placed in a canvas dress (a form of straitjacket).

On release she stole a third watch. By this point her mental health was in decline. She was released on special licence in December 1886, changed her name and there is no further record of her or her fate.

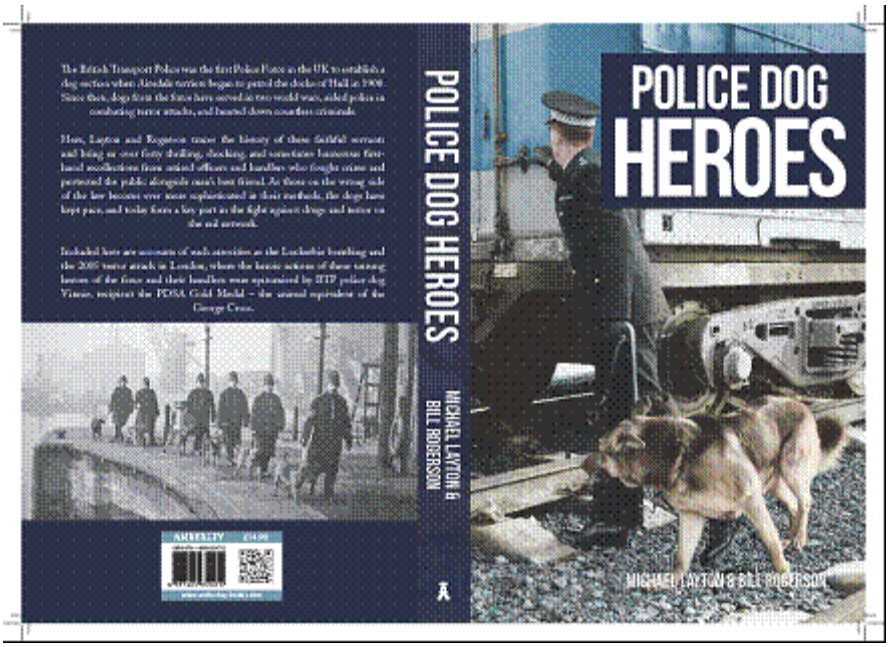
Elizabeth Dillon, born 1842, Birmingham

At the age of nine Elizabeth worked in a pin factory and 10 years later was making buttons when she was given an eight-day sentence for "riotous and indecent conduct" and vagrancy. Unfortunately these offences set the tone for the next two decades as Elizabeth committed several offences virtually every year; often riotous conduct but also assault, drunk and disorderly behaviour and theft.

In the 1870s she was imprisoned for streetwalking. In 1884 she pleaded guilty to stealing two pairs of trousers. The court said that although this was "a small theft in itself, it was impossible to do anything else than send her to prison for five years". A model prisoner, she was released after serving two-thirds of her sentence. Two years later she was charged with breaking 12 panes of glass after an altercation with Maria Smith and was carried from the dock loudly screaming at the complainant.

This is a far more interesting book than the title and sub heading 100 Criminal Lives may first appear to the general or specialist reader. In fact it is intriguing and very readable opening a window into the lives of so many unfortunates. If you have an interest in police history this work, particularly details of numerous convictions and what followed after the court case was concluded will be of interest. Meticulous research some cases reveals what happened to the prisoner once released and if they then behaved or returned to their former patterns of behaviour.

Police Dog Heroes – A History Of The British Transport Police Dog Section
By Mike Layton And Bill Rogerson



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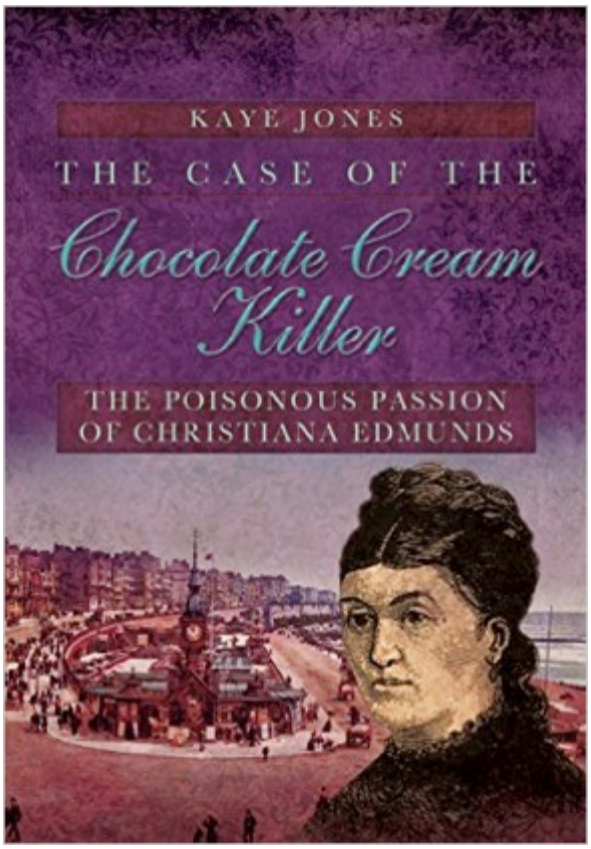
The British Transport Police was the first Police Force in the UK to establish a dog section when Airedale terriers began to patrol the docks of Hull in 1908. Since then, dogs from the force have served in two world wars, aided police in combating terror attacks, and hunted down countless criminals. Here, Layton and Rogerson traces the history of these faithful servants and bring us over forty thrilling, shocking, and sometimes humorous first-hand recollections from retired officers and handlers who fought crime and protected the public alongside man's best friend. As those on the wrong side of the law become ever more sophisticated in their methods, the dogs have kept pace, and today form a key part in the fight against drugs and terror on the rail network. Included here are accounts of such atrocities as the Lockerbie bombing and the 2005 terror attack in London, where the heroic actions of these unsung heroes of the force and their handlers were epitomised by BTP police dog Vinnie, recipient the PDSA Gold Medal – the animal equivalent of the George Cross.



The Case of the Chocolate Cream Killer

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Pen & Sword History (30 April 2016)

Language: English

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Summary: The trial which terminated yesterday...revealed one of the strangest and most horrible stories possibly ever told in a court of justice (Morning Post). When the news broke in 1871 of a series of mysterious poisonings in Brighton, shock and horror gripped the Victorian public. Even more disturbing was the revelation that the culprit was not a common criminal but rather a local 'lady of fortune' called Christiana Edmunds. From March 1871 Christiana had sent out dozens of poisoned chocolates and sweets to Brighton s residents. Her campaign resulted in the death of four-year-old holidaymaker Sidney Barker, and wounded countless others. Her arrest in August 1871 provoked such an emotional response from the local public that her trial was moved from Brighton to the Old Bailey. The prosecution anticipated an easy victory. Christiana had not confessed, but witnesses confirmed that she had purchased strychnine and their testimonies placed her at the scene of the crimes. She had a motive too, argued the prosecution; she was a scorned woman. Despite the best efforts of the defence, the jury took only one hour to convict her of the murder of Sidney Barker and the attempted murder of three others. In a last dramatic twist, Christiana was reprieved after being declared insane by the Home Office and lived out her days in Broadmoor. Alongside Christiana s case, the book will offer a snapshot of life in Brighton, one of Victorian England's busiest and most popular leisure resorts. However, this wholesome holiday destination also had a steamy underworld of sexual licence, which reached even seemingly secure middle-class young women.

The Author

Kaye Jones studied history at the University of Manchester and her dissertation on Victorian murderesses was published shortly after. She has written three titles for the History In An Hour series and is currently working on another book for Pen & Sword, which explores the hidden dangers of the Victorian workplace

Review: A work that is fully referenced and with a significant bibliography that ensures the tale is not some Victorian "penny dreadful" designed to shock but a work of some scholarship determined to get to an understanding of the dreadful deeds of Edmunds.

It was while she was living with her widowed mother in Brighton, in the late 1860s, that Edmunds became involved with the local doctor, Charles Beard. The nature of their relationship remains a source of controversy but, in the September of 1870, Edmunds poisoned his wife by giving her a poisoned chocolate cream. The following day, Mrs Beard became violently ill, but recovered. Dr Beard said later that he suspected Edmunds had poisoned his wife at that time, but did not act on his suspicion, due to a lack of proof and a concern over the taint of scandal.

In 1871, however, Edmunds began obtaining chocolate creams from the local confectioner, John Maynard. She took them home, laced them with strychnine, and returned them to the vendor. Maynard then sold them to the public, not knowing that they had been poisoned. Initially, Edmunds was obtaining the strychnine from a

local chemist, Isaac Garrett, on the pretence that she needed it to poison stray cats. In an attempt to cover her tracks, she began paying young boys to purchase them for her. By this time, several people in Brighton had become ill after eating the chocolates, but no one had connected the illnesses with the chocolates. However, in June 1871, 4-year-old Sidney Albert Barker, on holiday with his family, died as a result of eating chocolates from a shop called Maynard's. The Brighton coroner, David Black, ruled the death accidental. It was later confirmed that this was the only death from the poisoning.

After the young boy Sidney Barker ate the chocolate creams and died the doctor informed the police and Inspector William Gibbs of Brighton Police attended and took charge of the investigation. Like all police officers of that rank he was very experienced in dealing with the routine of police life but having a poisoning at the heart of his enquiry was most unusual. However, yet again it is clear that local police officers of the period were far more professional in their investigations than many an author gives credit for, especially in detective fiction where the amateur runs rings around the ignorant men of the police. This was rarely the case. To be sure there had been a poisoning Gibbs had to await the post mortem results, a procedure undertaken not unusually by the doctor who had attended the sick boy. The doctor was later to admit he had never before seen a case of strychnine poisoning. Doing his incompetent and inexperienced best there was nothing significant found and the Coroner then instructed that the stomach be removed and sent for analyses by experts. This was duly done and the sample bottled and handed to the inspector who took the bottle along with some chocolate creams to Dr Henry Leatherby who was to become the fourth most consulted examiner of the 19th century, giving evidence in twelve cases of poisoning. The chocolate creams taken for examination were those bought for and part eaten by the victim and a control sample of the creams bought by the inspector. Leatherby extracted samples and undertook two tests both proving positive for strychnine. Meanwhile in Brighton other people were being poisoned but the police were not informed.

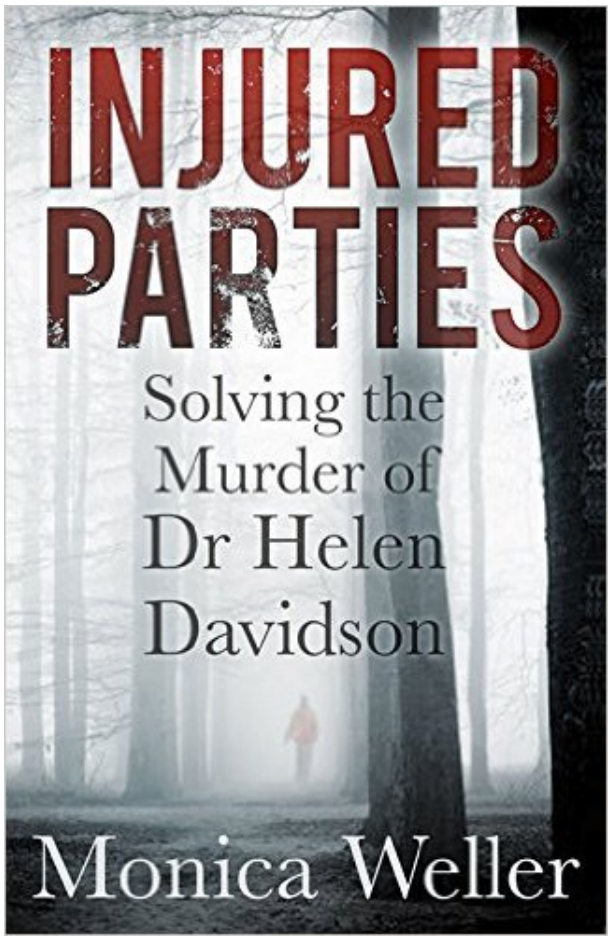
The adjourned inquest soon resumed and Dr Leatherby gave in evidence details of finding a quarter of a grain of strychnine in the boy, more than enough to kill a child. He also found traces of the poison in some of the chocolate creams. At this stage Edmunds was called to give evidence as she had established herself as a poisoning victim. Further evidence came from the shopkeeper who sold the creams and the manufacturer from London all bemused as to the origin of the poison. The coroner recommended to the jury that they find that Barker had died from strychnine poison but how he came to ingest it remained a mystery. This was the verdict the jury returned.

Gradually Inspector Gibbs was receiving other reports of poisoning and his enquiries revealed that in every case the victims mentioned meeting or seeing a woman of Edmund's description. Additional evidence of Edmund' involvement in the poisonings was that her handwriting matched a forged note used when strychnine was purchased. Edmunds went on a trip from Brighton and a number of parcels arrived anonymously at homes in the town containing cakes and other treats, which were eaten and symptoms

of poisoning followed. Some of the foodstuff was analysed and evidence of arsenic found and Inspector Gibbs informed. Another doctor called on the inspector to inform him a patient Christiana Edmunds had recently returned to Brighton and had been poisoned when eating fruit. Gibbs immediately went to Edmunds house where he found her pale a listlessly lying on a couch and announcing to him that she had been poisoned again. The inspector removed the address labels and notes sending them for handwriting analyses.

As the summer season progressed the police came under pressure and chief inspector of the Brighton Police George White took personal charge of the case and made a public appeal for information in the Brighton Gazette offering a £20 reward for the apprehension and conviction of the offender paid for by the Watch Committee. As information came in Gibbs obtained a warrant to arrest Edmunds and with his chief inspector the arrest was made and she was lodged in Lewes prison pending appearance before the magistrate where some evidence was given before the case was adjourned for a week with the suspect lodged again in the local prison. Gibbs and his colleagues now had to gather and present a complex story of poisoning and guilt with sufficient evidence to ensure a conviction at the Assizes in two months. The case was removed from Sussex Assizes to the Old Bailey. This was following high levels of local outrage and events such as burning an effigy of Edmunds on November 5th by Lewes Bonfire Society. Edmunds's trial began in January 1872, found guilty and sentenced to death, but this was commuted to life imprisonment due to her mental state. She spent the rest of her life in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, dying there in 1907.

Never underestimate the determination and commitment needed for the two years of research and delving that has gone on to produce the work. This book is well written, contains considerable information on poisoning and mental health and flows along at a cracking pace. It is an excellent read even if for those who do not normally spend time with “true crime.” Through the book life and society in Brighton come to life. This is an excellent book by a young writer making her way.



Injured Parties

By Monica Weller

ISBN: 9780750966955
Published: 12-05-2016 The History Press

Summary: On 9 November 1966, popular GP Dr Helen Davidson was battered to death in dense woodland while bird watching and exercising her dog a few miles from her Buckinghamshire home. Her body was found the next day, her eyes having been pushed into her skull. 'She had binoculars round her neck, spied illicit lovers, was spotted, and one or both of them killed her,' surmised Detective Chief Superintendent Jack 'Razor' Williams of New Scotland Yard. He had received fifty police commendations in his career, yet not one for a murder enquiry. Unsurprisingly, within weeks the police operation was wound down, Williams retired, and another cold case hit the statistics. Fifty years later, amateur sleuth and author Monica Weller set about solving the murder – without the help of the prohibited files. As she sifted the evidence, a number of suspects and sinister motives began to emerge; it was clear it was not a random killing after all. Weller uncovered secret passions, deep jealousies, unusual relationships and a victim with a dark past. Her persistence and dedication were dramatically rewarded when she uncovered the identity of the murderer – revealed here for the first time.

Review: The author believes she has solved a murder some 50 years after the initial enquiry led by one of New Scotland Yard's elite detective chief superintendents from C1 the Murder Squad, the head of Buckinghamshire CID, the resources of the Forensic Science Service and a forensic pathologist working as part of a team of some

of the most famous and successful professionals covering the home counties. Buckinghamshire was a small rural police force but had significant major enquiry experience following the Great Train Robbery just three years before.

The author's overarching thesis is, "There is evidence to show that the police adversely affected the outcome of the murder investigation because of their narrow-mindedness and flawed assumptions." That is a serious assertion against a team of experienced and dedicated senior police officers.

There are no footnotes so the reader does not known where some of the information comes from or when it was obtained. This is frustrating. It is therefore difficult at times to know what is fact, been told by a witness or is the writer's creativity. How can the claims of the author be tested?

This was a particularly brutal and motiveless murder and has the indications of a random victim which of course are the most difficult to detect. However, the central thrust of the book is that the victim and murderer knew each other, which may have been the case. No one can be certain.

It is easy to look back and suggest that a 1960s murder enquiry was bound to be inefficient and ineffective compared with modern standards. That was not so. Yes there were then as now undetected murders but not before considerable expertise, professionalism and sheer hard work were deployed. Police officers will understand the continuous slog and exertion required to deal with hundreds of actions to close down every line of enquiry. It is also understandable that from 50 years looking back, that there will be gaps in the documentation, and therefore the records of the investigation. When one considers the vast number of actions to be followed, the huge number of statements, the size of the card index, the volume of exhibits all generating mountains of paper, slimmed down over the years to fit the ever-reducing storage availability, it is a wonder anything survives. Closure of police stations, amalgamation of forces, the vast increase in workloads and the policy of file destruction after a number of years there does not need to be incompetence or a conspiracy to find that things are missing. The other considerable challenge is memory of events fifty years ago. Yes much can be remembered but it is incontrovertible that memory plays tricks, certainty may be misguided, detail garbled or misinterpreted. Anyone who gathers police memories to support historical truth knows how wary one has to be of certainty. Information is one source; intelligence or evidence requires at least two sources with a huge health warning on memory of long passed but often repeated events.

This does not of course mean the case papers and investigating officers reports do not exist but have not been seen by the author. Thames Valley Police have some records of the murder, HM Coroner, police legal advisers and the advisers of interested parties may well still hold copies of the files. If there were a strong suspect a full report

would have gone to the D of PP a part of the civil service whose papers may well be retained or at the National Archives. The problem is the archived papers may be closed for extended periods particularly if there are suspects who were not prosecuted.

So the challenge is can a photographer and former charity worker, joint author of one other book with the sister of Ruth Ellis, the last woman hung, solve this case when so many have failed? Among the revelations they uncovered in the first book is the theory that Ruth was being groomed by Stephen Ward who was involved in the controversial Profumo affair in the 60s, that she led a double life working for the secret service, and there was a "third man" who fired the shots that killed David Blakely. That book's findings are not without controversy!

So, what is the evidence for the revelations in Weller's latest book? It may be difficult to follow the evidence trail as at the start of the book: "For legal reasons, some names have had to be changed, some characters must remain unidentifiable, information cannot be attributed to main sources, and sometimes these sources have had to be deleted from the story. Identities have to be protected to avoid possible repercussions. However, the story remains true." What can be those repercussions after fifty years? Why also did a main contributor having made amendments to the manuscript about his memories, withdrew his assistance to the author. Why was that?

The victim GP Dr Helen Davidson parked her car and took her dog for a walk. She did not come home and the following day her body was found. She had been killed with one blow from a lump of charred poplar wood about two and a half feet long and her head and eyes badly mutilated after her death. Some clearance work had been underway and the charred wood was likely to be from the remains of a forester's bonfire and not brought to the scene.

Buckinghamshire was a small mostly rural police force with few murders and limited technical resources to deal with a complex murder so as was the practice, New Scotland Yard were informed and asked to provide the senior investigating officer. (There were also financial advantages as the Metropolitan Police came free if requested in the first 48 hours). Detective Chief Superintendent Williams (awarded 50 commendations) accompanied by Detective Sergeant Woods took charge of the investigation bringing with them Chief Inspector Napier of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Laboratory to head up the scientific response. Detective Superintendent Bowker and DCI Barrett from the local force joined Williams. This was a highly experienced team of detectives supported by the Murder Room with trained staff to handle all the incoming messages turning them into actions. A pool of detectives and police constables were assembled and worked, as the local Murder Squad, tasked to undertake all necessary enquiries to bring a particular piece of information to a satisfactory conclusion. Eliminate or prop it up to the SIO as a possible lead or at least inconsistency.

At the scene photographers would capture everything before the body was moved and scenes of crime officers would be the only people along with the pathologist to have access to the scene and the body. A search close to the scene would have been undertaken by local scenes of crime officers, or men from the Forensic Science Service looking for footprints, snags of clothing on undergrowth, abandoned clothing or anything else that may be connected to the crime.

One of the first actions in any murder enquiry would be to find out as much as possible about the victim as this information may well reveal some hidden aspect to a life that led to the murder. A similar exercise would have been undertaken to find out in the greatest detail, information on the husband. Retired Detective Sergeant Tony Dale recalling what happened 50 years ago says that this was not done. That is difficult to imagine, as such enquiries are fundamental to any murder enquiry and later in the book there is a reference from another retired officer who says it was!

It seems that the DCS Williams made public a view that using her binoculars the victim may have spotted some illicit lovers in the wood and as a result one or both murdered her. The author believes Williams the SIO was blinkered and had no other line of enquiry. Again this is difficult to believe. He may well have held this view, there may be reasons why he should express that view but it did not stop all sorts of lines of investigation being followed. The author has a long paragraph of questions of areas she believes should have been investigated. They may have been as on the following pages there are comments like “in private some senior police officers were convinced this was not a random murder.” “A police officer told my parents --- that this was not a random murder that they were convinced the killer was someone who knew Dr Davidson.” “This was a one off murder because they knew each other.” “ I knew one of the police well - he intimated they knew who had done it.” The pathologist told the author that the victim knew her killer. A doctor in the victim’s practice is said to have felt like a suspect and a charcoal burner working close to the scene was not surprisingly a suspect when the murder weapon was a part burn lump of wood. It seems some way from the Murder Squad concentrating on a courting couple.

Contrary to the view of the author, the police appear to have retained an open mind enough to gather 50 police officers for an extended search of the surrounding area looking for clues, including possibly, and it all must be possibly, a murder weapon. The author says, “They were obviously still looking for a murder weapon.” Was life that simple? They would recognise immediately the standard practice then and now for the need of a detailed widespread search. There is the need to find any abandoned clothing, evidence of anyone living or having spent time in the woods, signs of someone waiting i.e. cigarettes, trampled ground and yes a murder weapon. Was there evidence of the courting couple disturbed? Were there any contraceptives, used or wrappers? Was there a depression where people had been lying in the ground? Were any personal items dropped? It was November so they were hardy lovers! If there was

a single killer was he waiting for the victim or was he aroused with pornography abandoned at the scene when he became a murderer? A murder enquiry is not as narrow as the author believes.

It is clear that the author has not had access to the crime files. She tried but Thames Valley Police, who have policed Buckinghamshire since 1968, consider the case still open for investigation and will not discuss the detail. Does this infer that the case cannot be closed because they have no idea who killed the GP or is it because they have strong suspects and at the moment insufficient evidence. It could be that the file's release could be detrimental to the reputation of a number of people still living. The lack of access leads to difficulties of not knowing what lines of enquiry were followed during the initial investigation and since. This should not give carte blanche to pronounce that the whole enquiry was incompetent.

The author asks the question were homosexuals involved? Two thousand men were apparently interviewed she says but asks if the police sent anyone undercover to investigate the secret world of homosexuality in the area? Who says there were 2,000 and how were they identified so they could be interviewed? In a child's murder enquiry in Surrey in 1967 involving indecent activity known haunts were watched and practicing homosexuals traced and interviewed. It is difficult to believe that this did not happen in Buckinghamshire if it were, as it seems a major line of enquiry. One thing is certain once this dark side of 1960s life was investigated many prominent local people would be found to be involved along with others who had travelled some distance. It is not clear why so much time and resources were allocated to this line of enquiry unless the murder scene was known to be a meeting place for homosexual activity. That being the case the local GP would most likely have known this so why was she there at dusk on a winter's afternoon? Was she there to meet someone? Was she having an illicit affair as her husband possibly was? There is no way of knowing so speculation is pointless.

It is reasonable to suggest that the killer knew the area but it is not clear why the author believes it is an issue that he left the lump of wood used in the murder behind. Why would he have needed an accomplice to help dispose of blood stained clothing. "Someone he could trust. A wife?" Can a man without someone he could trust be better able to dispose of his clothing without any questions? Why would the murderer who probably picked up the wood at the scene want to take it away with him?

Why is the PM report repeatedly described as secret? It is a document that would be considered a part of the evidence. In fact the pathologist's evidence which he would provide at the inquest and any trial. It is not secret and to keep repeating this is to give the reader a false impression that something was being hidden, there was something to hide. It was not secret it was evidence which no doubt was given at the full inquest because there was no trial. "Why was blood splattering not mentioned in the press?" "Had the police suppressed the evidence?" Well there are some swift responses.

Firstly is it certain this was not known to the press and just not published by them? The police do not control what goes into the newspaper; it is the editor. It may have been considered too shocking to publish. The author may not understand that Police do withhold information deliberately. There are things only the perpetrator and the police know. This is essential to cut out those who admit murder when they were not involved. It also is good evidence if the suspect can tell you things only he could have known if he was the murderer. Beware using the press for accurate and comprehensive reports of crime; they often bear little relationship to the actuality.

It would be possible to go on and on like this. "Why did the police not consider that the victim's dog might not have bitten the suspect because he was known?" How does she know they did not? How does she know the dog did not bite the attacker? How can page after page of questioning the police role, motives and direction of the investigation be based on newspapers, supposition and fifty year old memories? "No mention in the newspapers of a lover's car park, why not?" The police would be well aware from local knowledge and patrolling officers. How can this become an issue? Again police do not control the press.

The following questions need clearer answers from the author. What was the killer doing in the woods when it was nearly dark on a November afternoon? Was he or she, there because he knew the victim visited the woods late on a Wednesday and he or she was there to kill her? Was the suspect alone? If the murder was premeditated, why the suspect did not bring a weapon with him or her to complete the task or was it a random, spontaneous event following some altercation? Did Dr Davidson meet her lover and there was some falling out that led to her death? It is possible to go on and on like this because there are no answers and it is very simple to raise a question as would have those detectives from the 1960s. Brainstorming is not a modern technique! And, what is a "Flying Squad forensic scientist" who anonymously contributes to the author's investigation? That is an uncommon term.

Garbett is the suspect suggested by the author who says the police never interviewed him. How is this known? The fifty-year retired detective was asked, and was there any written record checked to see if he was or was not? It seems a leap to say he was not interviewed. If as it is deduced he were an obvious suspect, why would he not be interviewed? How many other local men were not interviewed? He may not have fitted into the courting couple scenario but the police interviewed many others who did not. Had he been interviewed was there any evidence to link him to the scene and to the death? Without access to the the file this is not known. Was his house searched for blood stained clothing, was his work record for the day checked? It is not known.

Garbett was a disturbed man and from the book is with hindsight a strong suspect. His doctor held most of what was known about Garbett's mental condition in confidence. The doctor was to say following Garbett's suicide that he was the murderer. Such information is very unlikely to have been passed to the police even informally. The

GP believed Garbett held a great sense of guilt but would not say about what but he also had complex mental issues that led to his suicide some five years after the murder. He did not admit to the murder. Garbett may have been the man who killed Helen Davidson but the police would have had access to much of what has been written and it is not known what their views were or are.

It may be the police do not believe in Garbett's involvement as in 1980 an arrest was made associated with the murder but the outcome that intervention is not public knowledge. In 1986 a man referred to by The Times as a suspect returned from Australia and was convicted of an assault on an elderly man. In an interview about the Davidson murder in the Bucks Free Press in 1986 he said, "I have not pleaded innocent yet. I have not pleaded guilty yet. Time will tell. Destiny will tell. I have said to the coppers that I could have had a bloody blackout and I could have done it." Unfortunately neither of these arrests are researched or commented on by the author.

This will be a book that is likely to exasperate any police officer of the time and probably now. The constant postulating, hypothesizing and questioning when the answers cannot be known as to what action the police actually took. Sit down, think of a question, and add it to the manuscript when it is known the answer will not be forthcoming. Throw enough mud and some will stick! What were this team of experienced detectives, forensic officers, scenes of crime, supported by the murder room and about fifty men and probably women undertaking enquiries. An example is timing much doubted and criticised by the author. Why would the police be an hour out in their time scales? Is there not some certainty that a time line would be drawn up and statements obtained supporting each entry? Does the author really discover the more you know about the victim the closer you are to the murderer. This is a truism of murder investigation and in all probability one of the first actions to be undertaken by the Murder Squad. It is inconceivable that it was not. The talk of blinkered vision by the police in 1966 shows a huge lack of understanding. In fact the author then quotes a retired police officer's work that says clearly such background work was undertaken. Having relied on the long retired detective for information the author at the tail end of her book says over one issue "he may have unconsciously converted observations into fact." He may well have done, it does happen.

Then to finish it off, with shades of the Ruth Ellis work, there is the nonsense of aristocratic links, "did someone put the kibosh on the police investigations." "Were the police out of their depth because of the social divide?" "There was sufficient evidence she says for the police to arrest Garbutt." What exactly is that evidence, known at the time or whilst he was alive – not conjecture, not suspicion what is the evidence as this is what a court needs?

I hope the late Mr Garbutt is not maligned by this work, certainly the police of that generation are.

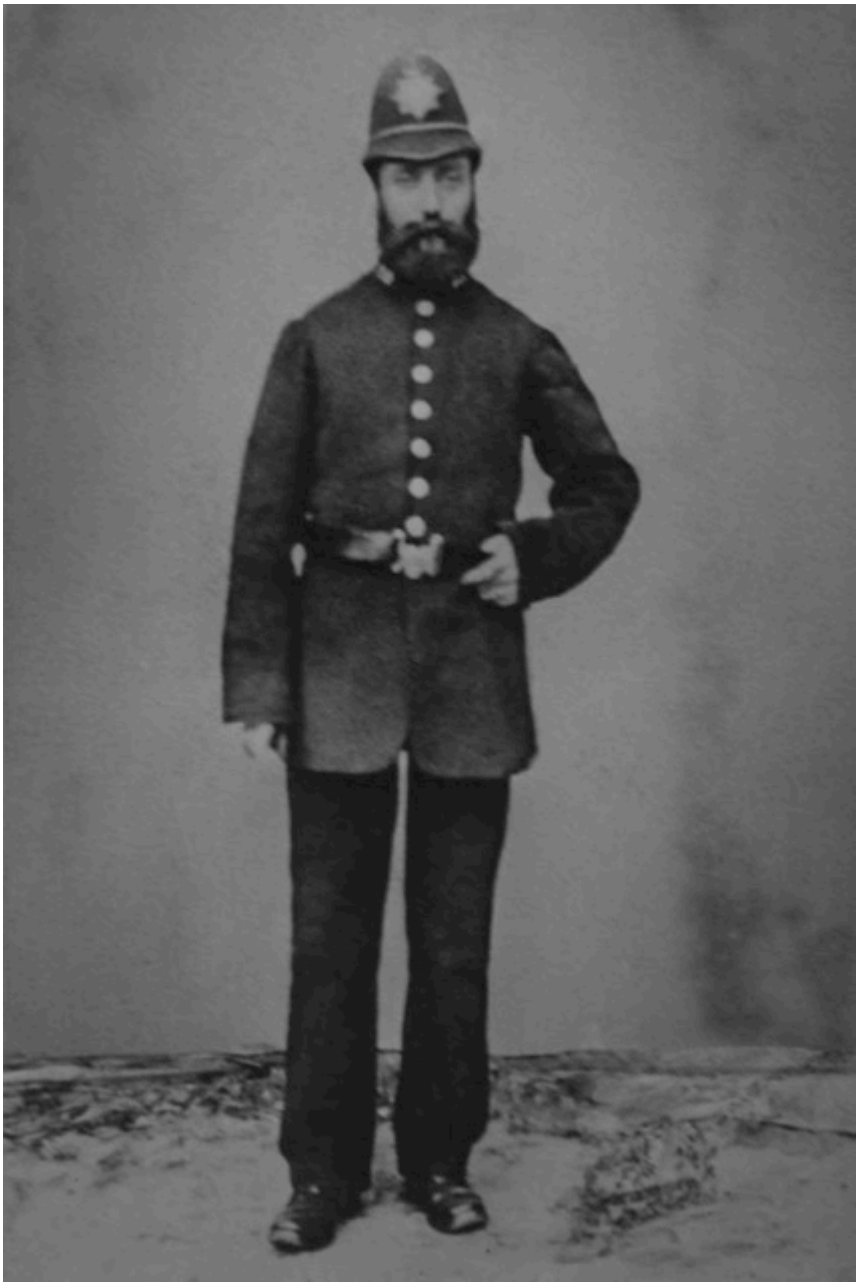
PC Thomas Hainge Metropolitan Police, Epsom

Ian Lewry

I have been looking at your website on the Surrey police and wondered if an old photo of my three times great grandfather would interest you. His name was Thomas Hainge was born in 1838, died in 1922 and was a policeman in Epsom. I am not sure of the date of the photo; I am guessing it is from the late Victorian era.

I know he was on duty when crowds turned out to welcome Lord Rosebery home with his bride (miss Rothchild) in about 1876 or 1878, to the Durdans in Epsom close to the town centre where Lord Rosebery lived.

Sorry the photo is a bit grainy but the original is about three inches high.



Metropolitan Police Highbury 1950s