



Ex-cop: I know Ripper. I've got inside his head. He killed Judith

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MIKE LOCKLEY
Sunday Mercury Writer

A FORMER police intelligence officer says he has uncovered hard evidence linking the 46-year-old unsolved murder of a Midland schoolgirl to one of Britain's most notorious serial killers.

Following painstaking research, Chris Clark is convinced that the Yorkshire Ripper is responsible for the death of Judith Roberts, just 14 when her body was found on the outskirts of Tamworth.

It is, he says, one of the murders the Ripper got away with.

The 73-year-old - who spent 30 years with the Norfolk force - has spent years studying links between the unsolved crime and Peter Sutcliffe, who was given a life sentence in 1981 for the murder of 13 women, and the attempted murder of seven more.

Chris, co-author of 2015 book *Yorkshire Ripper: The Secret Murders*, has spoken out after the Sunday Mercury recently reported on similarities between Judith's murder and The Ripper's killing spree.

He has, he says, uncovered even stronger ties to Sutcliffe, who blamed voices from God for his

bloodlust. "This has all the hallmarks of the Yorkshire Ripper," Chris, from County Durham, said.

"If they knew then what is known today, I have no doubt detectives would have concluded it was his work.

"I know the Yorkshire Ripper, I have got inside his head. He targeted Judith."

He is calling for Staffordshire Police to treat Sutcliffe, now 72 and destined to die behind bars, as a prime suspect.

Judith cycled from her Wigginton, Warwickshire, home after a minor tiff over wearing make-up. Her battered body was found on wasteland on June 7, 1972.

Soldier Andrew Evans was wrongly convicted of the crime and served 25 years before winning his freedom. Evans, just 17 when arrested, received close to £1 million in compensation.

Certainly, the report into Judith's death by Home Office pathologist Scholtz Barendo Van-Der-Merwe has uncomfortable echoes of The Ripper's modus operandi.

The report states: "A pile of hedge clippings was visible through a gap in the weeds and grass. This almost totally obscured the body, of which only a hand was visible."

The body of Yvonne Pearson,



killed by monster Sutcliffe in 1977, was hidden under turf close to Drummond's mill, Bradford. She was discovered two months later when a passer-by spotted a protruding hand.

"The site where the body lay was relatively orderly and gave the appearance that it had been placed there fairly carefully and that it had been pushed under the hedge feet first."

Posing victims was a Ripper trademark. Detectives first came across the macabre ceremony when investigating the death of 18-year-old legal student Jackie Ansell-Lamb, found on Cheshire farmland in 1970.

Details of the state of Judith's clothing, which the Sunday Mercury has chosen not to describe here, match those of Ripper victim Irene Richardson, 28, who was discovered on Soldiers Field, Leeds, in 1976.

Her injuries, which the Mercury has also decided not to detail, led detectives to speculate the wounds had been caused by a sharpened Phillips screwdriver.

Such a weapon was an ever-present part of Sutcliffe's arsenal. Josephine Whitaker, a 19-year-old building society clerk, killed in Halifax on April 4, 1979, was one of the many repeatedly stabbed with a screwdriver.