

NEWS



■ Judith Roberts and top left, Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe. Opposite, former police officer Chris Clark and the Mercury's story two weeks ago

SUTCLIFFE'S 12-YEAR REIGN OF TERROR

PETER Sutcliffe, like Jack the Ripper some 90 years earlier, terrorised England.

In 1969, Sutcliffe committed his first attack on a woman. It was not until six years later that he took his first life.

In October 1975, Sutcliffe killed 28-year-old Wilma McCann, a mother-of-four.

In January 1976, Emily Jackson, a 42-year-old prostitute, was attacked with a hammer, then stabbed dozens of times with a sharpened screwdriver.

In early 1977, Sutcliffe resumed his murder spree: another prostitute, killed with a hammer and a sharp object.

Two months later, yet another murdered prostitute was discovered in the city of Bradford.

Sutcliffe now had no control over his blood lust.

Incredibly, he was interviewed NINE times during police investigations.

He was finally snared in January 1981, when he was discovered in a driveway with a prostitute in his car.

Officers found a knife, hammer and rope at the scene.

The mass murderer claimed God had commanded him to kill prostitutes.

■ Geography points to the sadist, despite the murder scene being many miles from his usual Yorkshire lair.

At the time of Judith's death, Sutcliffe was working night-shifts at Bingley Televisions, near Bradford. His then fiancée, Sonia, training to be a teacher in London, was being treated in hospital on the very day of Judith's death.

Sutcliffe was regularly making the long drive to see her. In the days before the M42, he would have travelled down the M1, then exited at Ashby. The route took him within a handful of miles of the crime scene.

■ For those dashes to the hospital, Sutcliffe used his future mother-in-law's grey Ford Escort. Three eye-witnesses reported seeing Judith tailed by a grey Ford Escort.

Chris gives short shrift to claims that the Ripper only targeted prostitutes: those victims who were not in the sex industry were mistaken as vice girls by the monster.

"He did not target prostitutes, he targeted women," added Chris. "That was a myth perpetrated by the press at the time.

"He stalked women who were available.

"Prostitutes were available and very accessible because they would voluntarily get in his car."

What police said...

IN 2015, Chris sent a 72-page letter to Staffordshire Police outlining a prima facie case against Sutcliffe for Judith's murder.

He received the following response from Detective Chief Inspector David Giles:

"I have read your remarks and opinion pointing out some similar features with the murders carried out by Peter Sutcliffe.

"The investigation has been subject to a number of formal independent reviews since the wrongful conviction and acquittal of Andrew Evans. Serious investigations of this nature remain under scrutiny and when new information becomes available it is examined in the context of the overall case, and every opportunity is exploited to bring offenders to justice.

"Unfortunately, the information you have drawn attention to does not present such an opportunity. It is important to stress in this and other similar cases that there are surviving family members who we all need to consider because irresponsible reporting can cause unnecessary distress to those connected to the victims.

"Staffordshire Police would urge all reporting on this case to share its victims-focussed approach to avoid the damaging effect such publicity can have."

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