

**Materials for PCC seminar at Chat &  
Pick Me Up magazines, July 2011**

# PCC Seminar

## Cases



## ACCURACY

### Case 1

Mr Paul Burrell complained that an article headlined "Burrell: I had sex with Diana", was in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Code.

The article reported the claim by Ron Cosgrove, the complainant's brother-in-law, that Mr Burrell had once revealed he had had sex with Princess Diana. Mr Burrell strongly disputed the central allegation in the article. He said that the sole basis for the allegation was Mr Cosgrove's claim that the complainant confided the secret to him in a pub in 1993, and denied that such a conversation had occurred.

While accepting that the PCC could not determine whether the conversation had taken place, Mr Burrell said the newspaper had failed in its duty to take care not to publish inaccurate information. It had not investigated Mr Cosgrove's claims properly; for instance, it had not put them to the complainant for his comment before publication. Moreover, readers would be misled by the lack of a denial from him. Mr Burrell argued that the claim by Mr Cosgrove was inherently improbable and likely to be motivated by the financial reward offered by the newspaper.

The newspaper said it had three sources at the time of publication. The first was a confidential source, a former associate of Mr Burrell, who approached the newspaper several months before the story was published. Months later, and entirely separately, Mr Cosgrove volunteered his account. His version of events was tested several times in interview, and he swore an affidavit in support of his position. Mr Cosgrove's son, Stephen, indicated that he had heard the story himself from Mr Burrell at a later event.

The newspaper said it did not seek to publish Mr Burrell's denial at the time, because he was a self-confessed and notorious liar. In any case his denials were widely carried in other media. The newspaper was also concerned that the complainant would – if he had been made aware of the story – have obtained an undeserved injunction from an emergency judge. It was willing to append Mr Burrell's denial to its online article.

# NEWS OF THE WORLD

June 15, 2008 In paper By mobile Online notw.co.uk 95p

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**WORLD EXCLUSIVE**

# BURRELL: I



# HAD SEX



# WITH DIANA

**Sick boast exposed by**  
**his wife's BROTHER**

**DISGRACED** royal butler Paul Burrell has plumbed shocking new depths of treachery, with vile boasts that he secretly **BEDDED** Princess Diana. The slimy flunky bragged to his wife's brother Ron Cosgrove that he was on call for her. 24/7. Ron told us: "Burrell

**BY ROBERT JOYSON**  
ROYAL EDITOR  
said Diana was so demanding. And he told me he'd caught the Queen naked." Ron also reveals that after Diana's death the butler spirited THREE bin liners out of Kensington Palace and hid them in his mother-in-law's attic.

**Braggs about catching**  
**QUEEN in the NUDE**

**FULL SHOCKING STORY: PAGES 4, 5, 6 & 7**

# BURRELL'S TWISTED LIES: Diana loves me ..we even did it in the bath

**EXCLUSIVE**  
ROBERT JOBSON  
RYAN SABEY

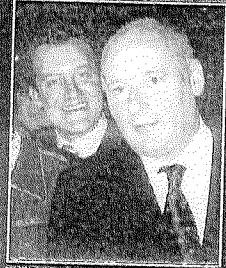
**DYAL** flunky Paul Burrell stunned his wife's other Ron Cagrove with sensational claims at he was Princess Diana's secret LOVER.

Millions of the tragic princess's fans worldwide will be raged at the creepy butler's boast that he had to keep with her round-the-clock demands for "kinky" sex. And disgusted relative Ron-the-son-of-Burrell's close family circle speak out—today tells all, including how the slimy rat's scandalous adultery and lies have heaped grace and ridicule on them all. Ron said: "That man has shamed and made a fool out of my sister-in-law. The final straw came when I was caught on video admitting we had had sex. I never see him again."

### Disgusted

"He clearly had something on his mind so we went to the Paul of Bolles for a few pints. Then during a conversation he suddenly tells me he's been having a sexual relationship with Princess Diana. "He said they did it in the bedroom, the bath, everywhere. He aimed Diana liked to be dominating. "Paul told me that he'd get a call from Diana in the middle of the night specifically to have sex with her. He said she was very sexually demanding—a bit kinky—here his words—and if you worked for the princess you worked for her 24/7. "I told him if it was true I was disgusted with him because he was married to my sister and cheating on her with another woman. But he didn't see that as a problem. He just replied, 'Yes, but it IS the princess.' I was dumbfounded. I couldn't believe what he was telling me. "He said, 'It's something I've got to do. Like it was part of my duties.' "Incredibly Paul then boasted that he and Diana were IN LOVE with each other. "His face was deadpan and he said 'I'm serious.' I said, 'You're kidding!' I thought he was in a fantasy world. But he insisted it was the truth."

"It was clear he wanted to get all his chest for some reason. I'm not sure if it was just to be 'bleeded' of the secrecy or simply to brag about it, it was like he just had a full body. "Friends and family knew all about how Diana called Paul her 'Paul'. "But that day he told me how he has a snigger every time people mention it, because they didn't know the REAL meaning referred to sex. "Paul told me how it all started. He said, 'Diana used to confide in me that she was very lonely, that Charles was very cold. Their relation-



SECRETLY Burrell hosted to in-law Ron



STRAIN SHOWS Burrell in America



KEEPING UP APPEARANCES: Paul & Maria press for divorce

# Princess rang me in middle of the night & begged for sex

ship wasn't very loving and basically he was crap in the sack. Paul was completely infatuated with her. He said, 'I'd do anything with her.' "Since then Maria herself has told me about Diana ringing Paul in the middle of the night demanding he get over to Kensington Palace. "At the pub Paul said, 'If she called at five in the morning you'd have to be there.' "So I said, 'You're in bed with my sister and Diana would ring you and you'd go up there?' He said, 'Yes.' "Coburne said, 'I said, 'You'd go up there and \*\*\*\* her. He said, 'Yeah.'"

Ron said he thinks his sister Maria suspected the relationship between Diana and Paul had moved on from that of master and servant. He added: "I think Maria turned a blind eye to loads of things. My sister is the salt of the earth but she married an \*\*\*\*hole, a complete waster. "He even repeated his boasts about sex with Diana the following year at a family party to celebrate Maria's 40th birthday—

and that was witnessed by another relative." Before Maria begged Paul to resign from his post as he had been offered a string of positions with celebrities including Kevin Costner, Tom Hanks, Mel Gibson and Tom Cruise. "But he refused to leave his royal duties which started

to put a strain on their marriage. Ron recalled Burrell later came to him in tears, claiming Diana's demands on him had eased off because she had not and fallen for heart surgeon Dr Hasnat Khan. Ron said: "When Diana started seeing the doctor Paul became jealous because he was back being the butler, not the lover he claimed to be—and he didn't like it. "He even came to me moaning about it. He was upset and felt she'd just dropped him. He was now surplus to requirements in the bedroom and he was irritated by it." Ron is

convinced his inside knowledge clears up a mystery set by Burrell at the end of his first book of memoirs, A Royal Duty. The final page ends with a tease that there is still one big secret to be divulged. Burrell writes: "What's the secret? Sorry. That's between the butler and the princess." But Ron told us: "I think the great secret was his big boast to me that he'd been having it away with Diana. "But if Burrell's sick brags about Diana were lies, he still found other

ways to be unfaithful to loyal Maria. Angry Ron revealed that his sister's 24-year marriage to Burrell became a sexless sham, a cover for his secret gay flings. "For much of the year they live separate lives in an ocean apart. Maria lives at their home in Farnham, Cheshire, running the family flower shop in nearby Holt. "I'm A Celebrity star Burrell is based in Florida, jogging his tacky lines of royal-style crockery, furniture and jewellery. "Everyone knows—family, friends, everyone—what he's up to. I told Maria she should get herself

checked out for AIDS." To keep up the pretence of a wonderful family life, crafty Burrell dedicated his first book to Maria and their boys, Alexander, 23, and Nicholas, 10. In the prologue he gushed: "Thank you first and foremost my wife, Maria, and my sons. "We have all shared a traumatic time, and your constant love, support and understanding continue to make me the proudest husband and father." Ron added: "Paul also tried to win over the British public by going into the jungle on I'm A Celebrity but

he never won a place in the heart of the nation. "Although Maria puts up with things I think she's at the end of her tether now. "She's very good at covering things up. But she's a glorified stivvy at the end of the day. "Paul can be gone two or three weeks without phoning. Then he'll just ring up and say, 'How's the shop doing?' "But really he doesn't want anything to do with the shop any more. It's been in Maria's name since April. "And while she's over here looking after business she's out of his hair. "My sister turns a blind eye to his close relationship with his openly gay neighbours Ron Ruff and Chuck Webb, who are also his business associates in America. "Now Ron fears Maria will be left with nothing from Burrell's estimated £25 million fortune if they split. He said: "She's been told that many times, but she won't listen. I think she's accepted that she'll be happy with the Cheshire properties. I don't think she's in line for any of this cash. "But for all his millions and his camp bravado, Burrell lives in fear, said Ron. "He's paranoid." "He believes Diana was murdered. "I remember once he came in the shop saying she was BURELLIALLY bumped off because she was going with a guy who was Muslim and could have had his child. He was talking about Dodi Fayed. "And now he's convinced the 'grey coat brigade'—the secret services—are out to get HIM or set him up in some way because of all the secrets he knows about the royal family."

Robert Jobson@natv.co.uk



failed. He'll NEVER win a place in the heart of the nation. "Although Maria puts up with things I think she's at the end of her tether now. "She's very good at covering things up. But she's a glorified stivvy at the end of the day. "Paul can be gone two or three weeks without phoning. Then he'll just ring up and say, 'How's the shop doing?' "But really he doesn't want anything to do with the shop any more. It's been in Maria's name since April. "And while she's over here looking after business she's out of his hair. "My sister turns a blind eye to his close relationship with his openly gay neighbours Ron Ruff and Chuck Webb, who are also his business associates in America. "Now Ron fears Maria will be left with nothing from Burrell's estimated £25 million fortune if they split. He said: "She's been told that many times, but she won't listen. I think she's accepted that she'll be happy with the Cheshire properties. I don't think she's in line for any of this cash. "But for all his millions and his camp bravado, Burrell lives in fear, said Ron. "He's paranoid." "He believes Diana was murdered. "I remember once he came in the shop saying she was BURELLIALLY bumped off because she was going with a guy who was Muslim and could have had his child. He was talking about Dodi Fayed. "And now he's convinced the 'grey coat brigade'—the secret services—are out to get HIM or set him up in some way because of all the secrets he knows about the royal family."

### Tramper

"Just in case, he told us he's written everything down and it's all locked away in a secret vault. I think it's in America. "Burrell's already shaky credibility received a huge knock when Lord Justice Scott Baker branded him a "liar" and "shabby" following his discredited evidence at the inquest into the death of Diana. "Shortly afterwards the snake was captured on film telling TV producer Paul Khuller he had not told the "whole truth" to the court and had given the jury some "red herrings". "Ron said THAT was the clincher that convinced him he MUST finally speak out about his tricky brother-in-law. "When he lied in court it was just typical of him," fumed Ron. "He's only interested in having a camera in his face. "He always wanted to be the number one in everything. He would do anything to be at the top and tramper over the others to make sure he got there. "Now he's talking about going on Panorama or ITV to make him look goody-goody again. "But he's no goody-goody. I don't think any of the family want him back here again. "Certain celebrities have come out of the closet in the past like his close friend Michael Barrymore. "Well that's what Burrell should do now because all he's doing is making me a sister look a fool. "He is what he is. An out and out gay and that's it. He always was and always will be. "We have all shared a traumatic time, and your constant love, support and understanding continue to make me the proudest husband and father." Ron added: "Paul also tried to win over the British public by going into the jungle on I'm A Celebrity but

BIN BAGS IN THE ATTIC: PAGES 6-7

## **PRIVACY (Online Resources)**

### **Case 2**

A woman complained that an article headlined "Oh please, stop this twit from Tweeting, someone" intruded into her privacy in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported that the complainant - a civil servant who worked for the Department for Transport - had been using the micro-blogging website, Twitter, to describe aspects of her job and her feelings towards her work. The newspaper considered some of her comments to be inappropriate.

The article referred to the fact that the complainant had in her tweets: described the leader of a course she was doing (as part of her job) as "mental"; said that she was "struggling with a wine-induced hangover" at work; and, again at work, told how she was "feeling rather tired - would much prefer going home". In addition, the article pointed to a number of tweets that were political in nature: a complaining reference to a Conservative MP who was a prominent critic of Whitehall waste; a re-tweet of a Labour MP's attack on government "spin"; and a reference to the complainant's acquaintance with Sally Bercow.

The complainant said her activities on Twitter and other social networking sites (she also had a blog and had uploaded pictures of herself on Flickr) were private. While it was true in theory that anybody could view the information she had posted online, she argued that she had a "reasonable expectation that my messages...would be published only to my followers". Only her 700 or so followers could see the full context of her messages. Others would only find her account by actively searching for her, which seemed an unlikely thing for most people to do, and would only see messages she had posted, not those she was responding to. Her Twitter account and her blog (neither of which were anonymous) both included clear disclaimers that the views expressed were personal opinions and were not representative of her employer...She argued that there were thousands of public sector workers who regularly use Twitter in and out of office hours. She could not understand why she had been targeted.

The newspaper disputed that it had invaded the complainant's privacy. She was openly posting messages about many aspects of her life, including her job. The material could be read by anybody; she had not limited her Twitter account to those officially "following" her.

In any case, there was an ongoing debate about the use of social media, which the newspaper was entitled to take part in. Since the civil service code requires that public servants should not, by their personal statements, call into doubt the impartiality of the civil service, it was quite legitimate for the newspaper to highlight this particular case.

The complainant said she was fully compliant with the civil service code. As a result of the newspaper's article, she had taken the decision - reluctantly - to lock her Twitter stream so it could not be viewed by anybody apart from her followers.

**S**OCIAL network site Twitter, which is increasingly landing its users in legal difficulties for posting foolish remarks, may soon claim another victim.

A Whitehall official has been Tweeting about her drunkenness, boasting about how pointless she thinks some of her work is and how much she dislikes the Government's deficit reduction.

When I rang her department yesterday to tell them, there was a cold pause before someone promised to 'get back to me'. He never did.

Civil servants used to try to be impartial and discreet. Not so Sarah Baskerville, 'Team Leader in Corporate Finance Systems and Reporting Solutions' (what a title!) at the Department of Transport. Ms Baskerville, aka 'Baskers', is an incorrigible contributor to the internet. She belongs to numerous networking sites.

In the middle of a management course — paid for by us taxpayers to help her do her job better — she posted a Tweet promoting a Labour MP's attack on Downing

# QUENTIN LEWIS

ON SATURDAY

## Oh, please stop this twit from Tweeting

Street 'spin'. She later described the person who was taking the course as 'mental'. Charming.

Before the government cuts were announced to Parliament, Ms Baskerville was Tweeting about meetings concerning the fate of staff about to be displaced. All this was done, it should be

stressed, under her own name, with easy links to her workplace. She publishes photos of herself, too. Are there not some security issues here?

'Struggling with wine-induced hangover,' she Tweeted from work one day. There have been frequent references to her over-

imbining. Another day, shortly before the Comprehensive Spending Review, she complained after lunch about feeling 'rather tired — would much prefer going home'.

If she only spent her office hours working rather than Tweeting, she would no doubt be even more exhausted.

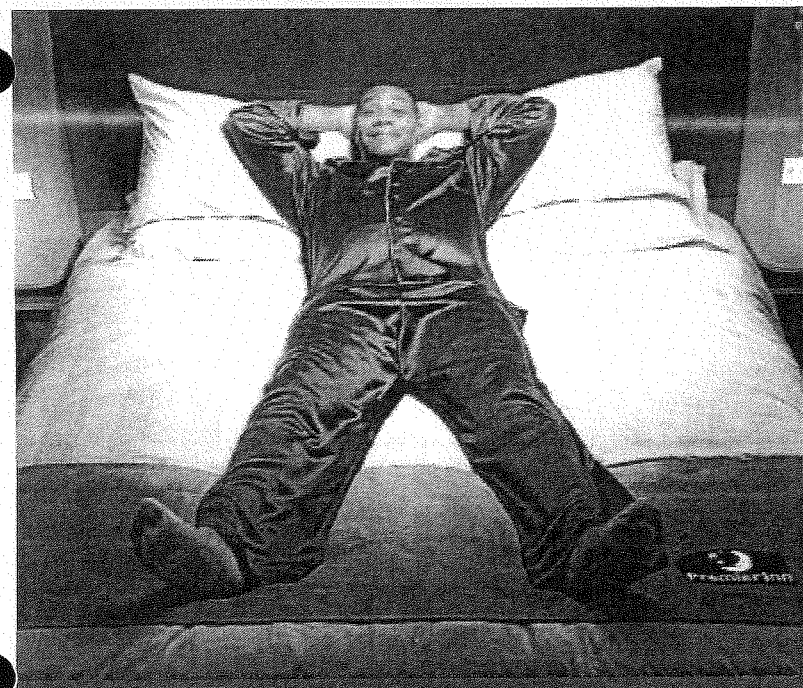
Her outpourings have included a complaining reference to Tory MP Douglas Carswell, a prominent critic of Whitehall waste. She claims to be an acquaintance of Sally Bercow, Labour-supporting wife of the supposedly impartial Commons Speaker. In one Tweet she looked forward to meeting Mrs Bercow for 'another coffee/muffin session, just so that I can laugh at your lack of apps on the iPhone'.

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond is one of the more serious members of the Cabinet. He is unlikely to be enchanted by Ms Baskerville or her witterings.

### TUCK IN, ED!



□ SWEET photo of the Miliband baby this week, but father Ed's appearance was more troubling. The Labour leader outed himself as one of those men who wears leisure shirts outside his trousers, without tucking them in. This may be all right for darts players such as Eric Bristow, but for a would-be Prime Minister it's not such a great look.



□ YET more new Tory MPs were this week made parliamentary private secretaries (PPS) to ministers, and the Whips seem to have been playing snap.

Nicholas Boles (Grantham) has been apportioned as PPS to fellow bachelor Nick Gibb, Schools Minister. Husky Anna Sourby (Broxtowe), voice like Lee Marvin, has been given to fog-horned smoker Simon Burns, Health Minister. Richard Graham (Gloucester), new PPS to the

Foreign Office's Lord Howell, used himself to do opaque things in the diplomatic service. Tragically, no promotion for Claire Perry (Devizes). All that effort in vain! She had a smart new hairdo this week, black as Quink ink. But I had better not tease our Claire lest her adviser Nicholas Soames (Con, Mid Sussex) challenge me to a duel. Watching her in the Commons recently, Soamesy emitted one throaty word: 'Magnificent!' I am sure he was referring only to the quality of her oratory.

### Crazy paving

WHEN is a pavement not a pavement? When highly-paid lawyers say so. Labour's Lord Peston rose in the House of Lords this week to discuss the scruffy 'peace camp' in Parliament Square. He wants to get rid of protester Brian Haw and his noisy mates.

Lord Peston, in his lovely lugubrious voice, said: 'What surrounds the square may look like a pavement and, if you fell on it, would feel like a pavement. But the High Court has announced that, as it does not "go" anywhere, it is not a pavement. That is one of the things that prevents the Metropolitan police from doing anything about these squatters.'

So: a pavement is a pavement only if it 'goes' somewhere? Can no circle or square 'go' anywhere? Lord Peston says: 'I spend my life looking at mathematical economics and this is turning into a consideration of infinity.' Think about infinity long enough and you go mad. As the High Court just proved.

□ CHRIS BRYANT (Rhondda) is among the most ardent of Labour MPs. So there was surprise when he failed to vote with the Opposition in a Commons division early on Monday night. Where could he be? Had he — gasp! — defected to the Tories? The truth was more prosaic. Mr Bryant was in the parliamentary gym, honing his abs (I must, I must, I must increase my bust). For some reason the electronic divestment bells there did not ring. I'm sure the Labour Whips will forgive him. Next year some time.



□ LEFT-WING comedian Bill Bailey should not expect too many fan letters from Roman Catholics. In yesterday's Mail I reviewed his latest one-man show in the West End, describing the way he mocks Christ and His stigmata. I did not have space to report that Mr Bailey also calls the Pope 'the sultan of abusers, the betrayer of trust, that creeping Bavarian glimp'.

The show is at Wyndhams Theatre, controlled by Sir Cameron Mackintosh. His company seems happy with the anti-Christian content. Nicholas Allott, who sits on the board of Cameron Mackintosh Ltd, was there on Tuesday, clapping like billy-oh.

Stephen Green of the pressure group Christian Voice said yesterday: 'I feel an act of Christian witness at Wyndhams coming on. Any excuse for evangelical outreach!'

### Burden of proof

SOMEONE ran up to me at Westminster, full of excitement. 'I've just seen Bill Gates! The world's richest man!'

Not quite. The chap she had seen was in fact Labour MP Richard Burden, who is as unlike a billionaire as one can probably imagine. But he does look quite like Mr Gates, it has to be admitted.



Bill Gates



Richard Burden

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## **PRIVACY**

### **Case 3**

Ms Allegra Versace Beck complained that an article in a celebrity magazine had intruded into her privacy in breach of Clause 3 of the Code. The article intrusively speculated about Ms Versace Beck's health and well-being, and was illustrated by photographs taken of her while shopping in London.

The magazine contended that the complainant – who was now 18 – was a public figure to a large extent, having been given a public role in the Versace company. She had been photographed on a public street and had not been harassed in any way. There was, therefore, no intrusion into her private life.



**Now** news

The outfit is grown-up but, at 18, Allegra has the stick-like body of a malnourished child

She was born into a gilded life

# Yes, you

## EXCLUSIVE

**T**hey say you can never be too rich or too thin but in the case of Allegra Versace Beck – who recently became half-owner of the £260 million Versace empire – the saying could scarcely be further from the truth. Fashion legend Gianni Versace, who was murdered seven years ago, left his beloved niece – the daughter of his sister Donatella – his share of the family business. She came into her fortune on her 18th birthday three months ago.

But if these extraordinary photos are anything to go by, becoming one of the world's richest teenagers has brought her little happiness. Snapped on and about shopping in London



She may be heiress to the Versace empire, but her clothes hang off her

But happiness proves elusive for Gianni Versace's niece

# Can be too rich and too thin

She's one of the richest teenagers on the planet, but Allegra Versace Beck – who inherited a £130 million stake in her late uncle's fashion empire three months ago – looks like the most miserable girl in the world

recently, Allegra appeared worryingly thin. 'She's so frail, she looked like a skeleton,' said a onlooker. 'Her limbs are like sticks and her head's way too big for her body – she seemed to cling on to her companion for physical support. She looked so unhappy that I couldn't help but feel sorry for her.'

So what's behind the unhappy appearance of the girl Gianni called his 'little princess'?

Allegra was just two days old when she attended her first Versace show and she's been mingling with the A-list ever since. She calls Sir Elton John 'uncle', took catwalk lessons from Naomi Campbell at the age of

nine and is close to the likes of Stella McCartney, Madonna and Victoria Beckham. As a child she was Gianni's clear favourite and often appeared on his arm at fashion shows.

But in 1997, when she was 11, this gilded existence came to an abrupt halt. Allegra turned on the TV during a homework break and saw a newflash reporting that Gianni had been gunned down by a madman outside his Miami mansion.

Donatella sent Allegra and her younger brother Daniel to a psychotherapist in the wake of the shooting. But the little girl was so traumatised that she blamed herself, saying that her uncle would never have been shot if only his favourite little girl had been with him. When the will was read, she cried: 'Why did Uncle Gianni choose me?'

Insiders say that the trauma has taken its toll. Since the murder she has become reclusive, turning her back on glitzy parties in favour of burying her head in history books. And there have been other problems to face – two months ago her mother was admitted to rehab to tackle her cocaine addiction, and the family business has been steadily plummeting in value since Gianni died.

Those close to Allegra say she has little interest in fashion. She recently declined a seat on the board, preferring to leave those

Next to a normal-sized woman, Allegra's slight stature looks all the more shocking



Her famous mother Donatella recently checked into rehab battle cocaine problems

decisions to other members her family, and she's enrolled on an English and drama course at New York University.

Allegra – to whom Gianni also left a palazzo in Milan, and on the shores of Lake Como, a large town house in Man-

and the M mansion where he killed – had confided to she dream of becoming a Hollywood star. But finally she may have

When the will was read, she cried: 'Why did Uncle Gianni choose me?'

a greater battle to face – against her dramatic weight loss.

Three years ago Donatella gave an unusually personal interview in which she spoke about how young girls fall prey to anorexia and admitted that she once battled an obsession with exercise. 'Take care of your body and looks one thing – sliding into obesity is quite another,' she said. 'All girls know all about diets... decide to reduce weight almost for fun. But at a certain point they can't stop.' Now it seems that her own daughter may have reached that point.

Allegra, meanwhile, says: 'What I like about acting is that you can be a different person every day.' As one of the richest – and thinnest – teenagers on the planet, she may find that a comfort. ■

Helen Ross



## **PRIVACY**

### **Case 4**

The Chief Executive of the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust, complained that an article headlined "Suicide pact" was intrusive in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) and Clause 8 (Hospitals) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The front-page article reported that three patients at a Birmingham psychiatric unit, Main House, had - several days before publication - attempted suicide over concerns about the future of the unit. They had subsequently been informed that Main House was indeed to be closed down, which prompted the...article. The article was accompanied by pixellated photographs of the patients being informed of the decision - said in the coverage to have been "supplied by the patients themselves via their psychiatrist" - in which they were shown to be distraught at the news.

The complainant said that the residents were extremely vulnerable adults to whom the Trust owed a duty of care: they were not in a position to give any clear consent for the taking and publication of these photographs, which had been taken inside Main House. The complainant argued that the newspaper should have obtained consent from not only the patients but also their respective carers, consultants and/or relatives before publication. Indeed, while there is some assumption under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 that patients have capacity to make their own choices, it is not automatically the case that they do and the newspaper should have sought further guidance from appropriate individuals. The Trust was now unable to assess retrospectively whether the patients had the capacity to make decisions about the photographs, but considered that they would not have had the capacity to make such a decision due to their vulnerability.

The complainant said that the photographs had also been taken in breach of patient confidentiality by a GP who worked with the patients once a week, and was not their consultant or primary carer. He had been dismissed following a disciplinary hearing and the case had been referred to the General Medical Council.

The newspaper said that the closure of Main House was a major local issue. When they received the photographs of the distressed patients they gave careful consideration to their publication. They felt justified in publishing for the following reasons: the photographs had been taken with the knowledge of the patients; they had been taken by a medical professional working with the patients; the patients, who were all adults, had given their consent for publication and were actively keen for them to be shown; and a parent of one of the patients had supported the use of the images. The newspaper added that they had taken steps to protect the identities of the patients by pixellating their faces.

The newspaper said that they had given a voice to mental health patients who said that they were being ignored and distressed by the sudden closure of the unit midway through a public consultation. They had received no complaints from the patients or their families directly.

# SUICIDE PACT

## Last cry for help of 3 mental health patients kicked out of home by NHS

### EXCLUSIVE

By Alison Dayani

THREE patients at a Birmingham psychiatric unit tried to kill themselves just days before they were evicted.

The suicide pact failed and now Main House in Northfield has closed down, leaving them living in the community.

The trio made a special request that the harrowing pictures of their despair are printed – to show the human impact of the decision to close their home.

FULL STORY: PAGE 3



## **CHILDREN**

### **Case 5**

A woman complained that an article headlined "Day of drama as bus ploughs into bridge", published in the Nottingham Evening Post on 12 December 2009, contained a photograph of her daughter which was published without consent in breach of Clause 6 (Children) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported that a bus full of primary school children on a day trip had crashed into a low railway bridge. The complainant objected to the inclusion in the coverage of a photograph of her daughter, together with numerous other children, being comforted by a policeman at the scene of the accident. Her daughter had been pictured in a clear state of distress and the complainant had not been asked for her consent for the photograph to appear. The child had been further upset by the publication of the image.

The newspaper said that the accident had occurred in a public place in full view of a number of onlookers. An immediate investigation had been announced and it had spoken to a number of angry parents who were concerned about what had happened. While there had been a lot of discussion at the time as to whether the use of the image was justified, it had ultimately decided that the publication of the photograph was in the public interest, given that that the story related to an important matter of public health and safety. In addition, the fact that there were no serious injuries or fatalities had been an important factor in deciding to move forward to publication.

**notional plea  
for daughter**

The mother of a 19-year-old girl who lost her leg in a hit-and-run has made an emotional plea for information.

Chloe Jones, a second year student at Nottingham Trent University studying art and design, was hit by a car on Friday November 30 at about 1pm while walking along Nottingham Street.

It is believed a white Ford Transit van emerged from the road and hit a passing taxi, causing the taxi to lose control and hit Chloe.

The white van failed to stop at the scene and drove off into Arzon Place and then on to Arzon Street, turning into St Mary's Wells Road and then into Arzon Street.

The police have so far been unable to trace the driver of the white van.

Chloe's mum Lorraine Jones is appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident to contact the police.



**ACCIDENT:** Chloe Jones

Mrs Jones said: "I am asking the public for their help in tracing the driver of a white Ford Transit van, who caused the collision that forced my daughter Chloe to have her leg amputated. This is a very distressing time for my family and I have to watch Chloe, who is independent, full of life, with many plans for the future, lying in a hospital bed with her life in ruins."

"I am begging anyone who may have any information about the collision, no matter how small, to please contact the police urgently."

Chloe remains in hospital, where she continues to undergo further major surgery.

Detective Sergeant John McDonnell, from the crash investigation unit, said: "There may be someone out there with vital information that may lead us to the driver of the van."

It is thought the van was manufactured between 2000 and 2006 (a DVV registered plate to a 56' plate) with a sliding door to the rear side. The van is a short wheelbase model.

Call the crash investigation unit on 0300 300 9999, ext 2229.

**Sunday stop on Robin Hood line**

RAIL services on the Robin Hood line will stop off at Bulwell from tomorrow.

A Sunday service was introduced on the line between Nottingham and Worksop in December last year but it did not include a stop at Bulwell because it needed extra engineering work.

Some of this work has now been completed and trains can stop at Bulwell.

Coun Jane Urquhart, portfolio holder for transport and area working at Nottingham City Council, said:

"We recognise the introduction of the Sunday service at Bulwell as a good start but would hope to work with East Midlands Trains and Network Rail to ensure an improved service in the future."

David Horne, commercial director for East Midlands Trains, added: "It's great news that passengers travelling on this line will benefit from further improvements."

On December 13, we will be launching new services between Nottingham and Bulwell. Passengers on the line will benefit from a significantly improved railway."

Ten youngsters injured while others are left shocked after  
**Day of drama as bus**

A school bus full of children from Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell smashed into a railway bridge in Leicester, slicing the

**AN investigation is under way into how a double-decker bus carrying 52 Nottingham school children collided with a railway bridge in Leicester.**

The roof of the bus was almost sliced off in the impact of the crash, which happened at 10.20am yesterday.

It was carrying youngsters from Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell along with teachers and some parents.

Those on the bus were helped off it before standing in the road looking in horror at the wreckage.

Ten youngsters, aged nine and ten, were taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary with cuts and bruises before being released later.

The remaining 40 were returned to the school on a coach to meet their parents.

Parents of the injured children were taken on a coach to the hospital.

Ralph Surman, acting head of the school, speaking about the "terrible accident", said: "The local authority will launch an inquiry into what has happened. The police will be involved and we will fully co-operate with that."

"The emergency services have been outstanding and close contact has been kept with all of the families involved."

The pupils were on their way to the New Walk Museum in Leicester when the crash happened, close to the junction of Tigers Way and Lancaster Road.

A ten-year-old pupil who was on the bus said: "I was on the lower deck of the bus. It was horrible when it happened. I saw some of the children with blood on them."

A taxi driver who was following the bus said that when he saw it heading down the road towards the 12ft 3in bridge, he sounded his horn to attract the driver's attention, but the driver carried on.

Two fire engines attended and police closed Tigers Way towards the rugby stadium between Regent Road and the bridge.

**'Crying'**

Construction worker Craig Howard, 51, of Leicester, told how he pulled the driver from the wrecked bus.

"When I got on the bus I saw the driver shaking and crying," he said. "I helped the police carry him off. He looked really young. I wasn't feeling anything at the time - I just saw the crash and wanted to get the kids off."

The driver of the AOT Travel bus was spoken to by police but was not arrested.

Mike Rogers, owner of the bus company, said the driver was unhurt and a full internal investigation would be carried out into the incident.

"He phoned up to say he is all right but that's about it. I have not spoken to him fully," he said.

"That's all we know at the moment until we get him back. We just hope that all the children are OK."

Mr Rogers said the driver was experienced and had worked for the company for two spells, having recently returned a month ago. He added that the trip was a "one-off" job rather than a contract.

Parents and children involved in the crash are to be offered counselling to help them recover.

Coun David Mellan, portfolio holder for children's services at Nottingham City Council, said: "We have sent some of our services, including some experts, to provide support to the children and others involved."

"We have felt all along that the most important thing for us is that the children are reunited with their parents."

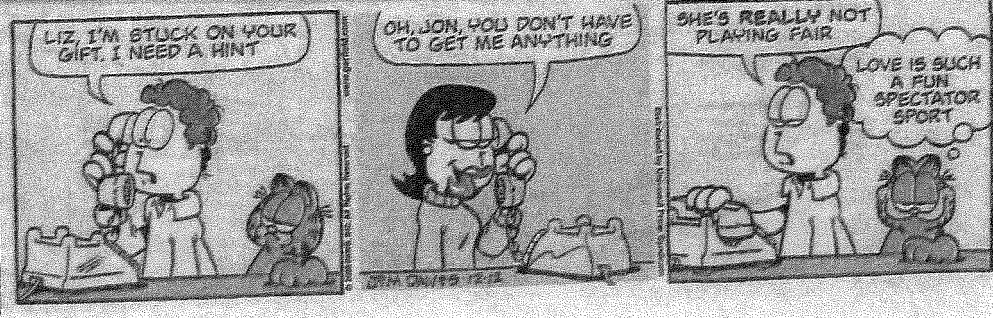
"What has happened is terrible but at the same time it is good there weren't any more serious injuries."

"The school have done an excellent job given the very challenging circumstances."

marcus.bacock@nottinghameveningpost.co.uk



**WORDS OF COMFORT:** A policeman speaks to shocked youngsters after the accident in Leicester. Below: All that was left of the bus and, right, police arrive at Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell.



**Borough's teens making music**

A MUSIC event for teenagers is taking place in Radcliffe-on-Trent on Sunday.

Rushcliffe Sound, a free event which showcases the musical talents of youngsters in the borough, takes place from 6.30pm to 9.30pm at The Grange Hall.

Young people will receive awards for their achievements this year, including accredited work undertaken through the county council's youth service.

# trip to museum ends as double-decker's roof is ripped off ploughs into bridge

roof off. Horrified parents rushed to the school after hearing the news. **MARCUS BOOCCOCK** reports.



RELIEF: Almasa Ali, 10, is reunited with her mum Fajida.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT ALEXANDER

## Tearful scenes at school as parents reunited with pupils

A MUM has told of her horror at hearing about a bus crash involving her daughter.

Fajida Parveen had an emotional reunion with ten-year-old Almasa Ali outside Centrell Primary School in Sulwell yesterday.

Almasa was one of 52 schoolchildren on a double-decker bus which crashed into a railway bridge in Leicester at 10.20am yesterday.

Ms Parveen heard about the smash while she was at work.

She said: "I had a call and was very shocked to hear what had happened. You don't expect to be hearing about your child being on a bus that crashes while on a trip."

The roof of the bus was ripped off in the impact of the crash.

Ms Parveen added: "I didn't know until later how bad the crash was."

"She is very traumatised. She has seen some horrible things, including children with blood on them."

"The most important thing for me right now is to get my daughter home."

Twelve of the children were taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary with minor injuries, while the remaining 40 came back to school on a coach.

They arrived back at around 3.16pm. Parents had been gathering at the school throughout the day to greet them.

The youngsters, aged nine and ten, were led straight into the school to be reunited with their parents.

Shortly after they came out with their parents, many looking very tearful. They all headed home.

Another parent, who didn't want to be named, said: "It is such a relief to have my son home."

"We have been through a terrible ordeal today. When you send your children on a school trip you don't prepare yourself for this kind of thing happening to them."

Suzy Williams, 30, was one of the first parents to arrive at the school as her ten-year-old son Kane was on the bus.

She said: "I am very relieved Kane is fine. I just want to see him then I'll be less anxious."

"I am turning about what has happened. You don't expect this to happen to your child when they are going on a school trip."

"I had a call earlier in the day to let me know what had happened. I have been in shock ever since."

## Group charged with 'robbery'

FIVE men have been charged after allegedly taking part in a robbery in Olterton this week.

A security guard alerted police on Wednesday saying he had been attacked and tied up at Boughton Industrial Estate, near Olterton.

Officers arrested five men in a vehicle a short distance away. The security guard was not seriously hurt in the incident.

Robert Camidge, 63, of Appleton Road, Blidworth, Mansfield, and Targuin James, 19, of Nugem Gardens, St Ann's, have both been charged with false imprisonment and robbery.

James Jackson, 20, of Twycross Road, Bestwood, is charged with false imprisonment, robbery and possession of a Class B drug. Two 16-year-old boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, have also been charged with false imprisonment and robbery.

The five appeared at Mansfield Magistrates Court yesterday and were remanded in custody until January 11.

## Mum of hanged girl, 8, in court

THE parents of an eight-year-old girl who was found hanged in her bedroom have appeared in court charged with child neglect.

Charlene Avenall died at her home in Moor Street, Mansfield, on September 12.

Her mother, Susan Moody, 24, and stepfather, Simon Moody, 32, were bailed by Mansfield magistrates until January 22.

## Festive fun at extravaganza

A CHRISTMAS extravaganza was taking place today in Bilborough.

People were invited to Harveyadden Sports Complex in Wignam Road to enjoy fair rides and fireworks from noon to 6pm.

Local bands and choirs are also performing.

## Meet the police over a coffee

POLICE are holding a coffee morning at the Bell Inn, Main Road, Smallley near Ilkeston, on Monday from 12.30pm, to meet residents of Smallley Mapperley and Shipley. To book a place call 0545 123 33 53.



## Wife denies call was about murder

GAMEREPEPE'S wife has denied asking "how and how much?" to have her husband killed, a court heard.

Susan Bacon, 55, said she terred her son, Michael, 21, asking about the cost of repairing her daughter-in-law's car.

But prosecutors allege the message was in fact to do with plans to have her husband Nigel Bacon murdered.

Mr Bacon, 50, died after being stabbed outside the couple's home, Keeper's Cot,

near Clumber Park, on November 26, 2008.

Peter Joyce QC, prosecuting, told a jury at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday that both Susan and Michael Bacon used "untraceable" phones in the weeks before Mr Bacon's death to arrange the killing.

Mr Joyce said Mrs Bacon's mobile phone records showed one of her handsets had been used to call co-accused Peter Jacques, who is alleged to have stabbed Mr Bacon.

But Mrs Bacon said she lost the phone on November 20, and denied using it to call Peter Jacques on the day of Mr Bacon's death.

Mr Joyce said: "If we look at the records we can see what has been going on between you and your son."

"You sent him a text asking how and how much?" and to "not make arrangements tonight."

Of the text, he said: "You were asking Michael just how was it going to be done."

Mr Bacon denied the claim and told the court she had nothing to do with her husband's death.

She said: "I wasn't in charge of a plot to get my husband beaten up or killed."

"It wasn't my idea. I wouldn't have harmed a hair on his body."

The prosecution alleges both Susan and Michael Bacon had been ringing people to find someone to murder Mr Bacon, who also ran a security company based in Mansfield Woodhouse.

However, Mr's Bacon told the court she had been ringing clients to try and drum up business for the company.

"With the economic climate as it was, I would have gone anywhere for work," she said.

The phone used to call Mr Jacques was found by police under decking in the garden of co-accused Sean Woodcock.

Mrs Bacon is charged with murder alongside Michael Bacon, of Wordsworth Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse, Sean Woodcock, 42, of Mapperley Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse and Peter Jacques, 22, of Charlemagne Street, Bosworth. They all deny the charge.

Proceeding

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LOTESAN

## **CHILDREN**

### **Case 6**

Carmarthenshire County Council complained to the Press Complaints Commission on behalf of a couple that an article headlined "My Maxine is not evil - mum", published in the South Wales Guardian on 4 August 2010, contained a photograph of their adopted child without consent in breach of Clause 6 (Children) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article was an interview with the mother of Maxine Williams, who had been convicted of murder in 2008. Ms Williams' mother had spoken about her daughter's appeal and about the adoption of her daughter's child as a result of the conviction. The article included a photograph of Ms Williams with the child, who was also named, taken when she was around 13 months old.

The complainants were the adoptive parents of the child, who was three years old at the time of publication. They had not given consent for the publication of the photograph, and had only been made aware of it when a third party - who had identified their child from the article - had alerted them. The publication of the article had caused distress and they were concerned about the future effect of publication on the child.

The newspaper said that the use of the photograph had been authorised by the child's biological mother and grandmother. The consequences of Ms Williams's crime and the actions of social services in the case were proper objects of public scrutiny, and the information included about the child had not been unduly intrusive. The newspaper offered to consult the complainants before republishing the child's picture until she reached the age of 16. The complainants wished for an assurance that neither the child's name nor her photograph would ever be republished.





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## Walked 520 miles? 10 more won't hurt!

AN EXHAUSTED pilgrim from Saron who averaged 17 miles a day in an epic 520-mile march across Spain was looking forward to putting his feet up when he arrived back in Swansea. But footsore Sid Whitworth was forced to hobble the last ten miles

home from Llanelli after an over-officious coach driver refused to drop him off at Cross Hands. "I was pretty miffed to say the least," a haggard-looking Sid, who trudged all night to get home to Saron, told the *Guardian*. "I didn't realise that

all National Express tickets have to be pre-booked through the Internet. "My ticket got me as far as Swansea and from there the bus travelled on to Cross Hands, just a couple of miles from my home. "The driver me offered

me an excess for £20 but I just didn't have enough money. Yes, I am annoyed with National Express - I am annoyed by their inflexibility." National Express was unavailable for comment. ● "The greatest thing I've ever done" - page 6



FOOTSORE: Sid Whitworth

## INSIDE THIS WEEK

- THE fight to save Ammanford court is going all the way to Downing Street after campaigners vowed to write to Prime Minister David Cameron - page 4
- LLANDYBIE community councillors have defended a colleague over BNP claims that his attendance record was "appalling" - page 4
- TEMPERS boiled over during a stormy meeting of Llandeilo town council when members clashed over the funding of a proposed pedestrian crossing - page 4
- THE hunt is on for a missing 1960s pop star last heard of living in the Amman Valley - page 7
- CARMARTHENSHIRE county council will "do its utmost" to ensure the cash-strapped Brynaman lido re-opens next year, deputy leader Kevin Madge has pledged. - page 13



VICTIM: Bernard Evans

# My Maxine is not evil - mum

By Steve Adams  
southwalesguardian.co.uk

THE mother of convicted Pantyffynnon murderer Maxine Williams is confident the 23-year-old will be released on appeal within the next few months.

Julie Edwards, of 57 Pantyffynnon Road, is adamant her daughter did not receive a fair trial in the run up to a 13-year sentence for the fatal stabbing of Bernard Evans at the family home in the early hours of January 22, 2008.

Speaking exclusively to the *Guardian*, Mrs Edwards claimed that the trial jury was unaware of the true events that led up to the 41-year-old's death.

"Maxine is not evil," said Mrs Edwards. "She is very sorry for what she did, but she had no choice.

"She has never once said she did not do it, but what she did, she did out of self defence and to protect me. She felt she had to do it.

"I would not be alive today if it was not for what Maxine did."

The Crown Court murder trial heard how Mrs Edwards

### EXCLUSIVE

had suffered years of domestic abuse at the hands of Bernard Evans.

"I was with him for four-and-a-half years and during that time I went through hell," she said.

"On that morning he had beaten me again and from there everything went out of control. It was like being in a horror movie."

Mrs Edwards is angry that she and son Wayne, aged just 15 at the time of the incident, were interviewed only hours after the fatal incident.

"We were still in shock," she said.

Maxine has telephoned her mother every day and written at least three letters each week since she was jailed in Durham Prison.

"She is coping very, very well," said Mrs Edwards, "and is positive about moving on with her life once she gets out.

"All her friends have been absolutely fantastic. They have been writing to her regularly and she is immensely grateful for all their support.

"She is very confident about her appeal and she cannot wait



IMPRISONED: Maxine Williams, pictured with her daughter Zoe Marie, who has been adopted.

to come home.

"I miss her so much. She has always been my rock."

Mrs Edwards is also deeply upset that following Maxine's conviction, grand-daughter Zoe Marie was adopted.

"Maxine has lost all contact with her daughter and I have lost my grand-daughter," said Mrs Edwards.

"Zoe Marie has been adopted and we have no idea where she is now.

"People have no idea how hurt and distressed this family has been.

"Even now it still effects us all massively.

"I don't care what the jury said, they got it wrong because they did not know the full story.

"Maxine is not evil and she does not want to be labelled a killer.

"She wants the real truth to come out and she wants to come home to her family."

LETTERS 25, TV 22-23, TRAP SHOW 8, SPORT 36-40

## **INTRUSION INTO GRIEF**

### **Case 7**

A man from Fife complained to the Press Complaints Commission through solicitors that an article headlined "Beaten, raped and brutalised", was inaccurate and misleading in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) and intruded into his family's grief in breach of Clause 5 (Intrusion into grief or shock).

The article was a woman's account of life with an abusive former partner, which referred to his conviction for the murder of the complainant's step-daughter. In addition to what the complainant said were unnecessarily graphic details, the complainant and his family were distressed by two images: a headshot of the victim and an uncaptioned staged photograph of a female body wrapped in bin liners, which was how the actual body was discovered. The piece had caused much distress on what was the first anniversary of the murder.

The magazine said that the details in the story had previously been referred to in court and were in the public domain. The article was about another of the man's victims, but the complainant's step-daughter's case was relevant as it showed the degree of violence the man was prepared to use. The magazine admitted that the photograph of the body should have been captioned to make clear that it was not an image of the victim. It sincerely regretted the distress the article had caused to the complainant's family.

KAREN'S SHOCKING TRUE STORY

He was a vile monster at home, but was he capable of murder?

SHOCK  
FACTOR  
9.9



Who'd be next?

by Karen Johnson, 37, from Scotland

I wouldn't have put anything past Davis

I'd known Davis Whitelaw a few weeks when he asked me along to a friend's 21st birthday party in May 1990. 'Can I stay the night?' he asked, back at mine afterwards.

'Alright,' I grinned. I was only 20. Davis was 29, so I assumed he'd be great in the sack. But upstairs, the sex was all about his pleasure, not mine.

Letting Davis into my bed made him think he could take control of my life. A few days later, he moved in. I hadn't asked him, but Davis wasn't a man you said 'no' to.

He went drinking most nights and always wanted sex when he got home.

If I wasn't working, he'd want sex four or five times a day.

If I refused, he'd hold me down and do it anyway.

Naively, I thought all men were like that.

But after a few months, I'd had enough. 'I'm not happy,' I told Davis. 'I'm going back to my dad's.'

'Oh you go then,' he sneered.

As I went for the door, he was up, quick as a flash.

Smack! I reeled from a slap to the face.

'I own you now, bitch,' he said. 'If you

As I opened the door, he threw me down the hall, punching and kicking me in the face and ribs

try to leave, I'll kill you.' Terrified, I agreed to stay. He made me promise to keep away from my family. My only relief was the time I spent at my job in a supermarket.

One night, I got in from a staff night out and Davis was waiting. As I opened the door, he threw me down the hall, punching and kicking me in the face and ribs.

'I'm leaving you, you bastard!' I screamed through the pain.

'You'll be six feet under first,' he roared, swinging another blow.

It took seven years for me to pluck up the courage to leave.

I was in a hostel for three months before Davis found me.

'Get packing. You're coming home,' he said.

'I'm not,' I protested. 'Yes, you are,' Davis hissed, pulling out a knife and holding it to my throat.

Back at the flat, I'd never felt so alone. Only his threats to kill my family made me stay.

The next year, I fell pregnant. Incidentally, when James was born in November 1998, Davis

mellowed. For three months, he shared the night feeds and even helped me around the house.

But there was no understanding about sex. You're supposed to wait six weeks after giving birth, but Davis insisted on having sex the minute I got home.

He soon lost interest in James and became aggressive again. I hoped our second child Susan,



James and Susan were terrified of him

born in July 2002, would have the same calming effect as James. But Davis wasn't interested in a girl.

'The kids were terrified of Davis. 'Please, Mummy, don't leave us,' they'd sob.

'Leave?' I was too browbeaten to go anywhere.

'Dave started beating the kids. 'Stop it!' I'd scream.

'I'll kill them if you don't shut it!' he'd snarl. So I did.

The torture got worse when Davis started pressing me to have a threesome with one of his mates.

'No way!' I said, horrified. But his mate was always lurking around the flat.

One night, I had a headache so I took some painkillers and went to bed. I expected Davis to complain, but he came over all sympathetic and brought me a cup of tea.

'It'll make you feel better,' he said. It was so sweet he must've put in four sugars, but I drank it anyway. In the morning, I woke to find

my pyjamas undone and my pants round my knees. Dread gripped me. 'Someone had had sex with me. But was it Davis, or his friend? I want to see my GP.

'It looks like you were drugged and raped last night,' she said. 'But from what you say, he's been raping you every night for 15 years.'

I was shocked. It'd never occurred to me that what Davis did was rape. He'd said it was his right and I didn't know any better.

But hearing it from my doctor, I realised she was right.

'He's a monster - I have to escape, I thought.

So I took the kids and fled to the police. They moved me to a safe house. But the kids needed their clothes and toys. So I gave my mate Liz a key and told her when Davis would be out. When she came back, her face was ashen.

'There are knives all over the place,' she stammered. She'd even seen a couple of

axes and a noose hanging from Susan's bedroom door.

'My God!' I gasped. 'What kind of psycho have I been living with? Then, in September last year, I heard that Davis had disappeared.

At the same time, Lisa Nelson, 26, a local girl with a heroin habit, also vanished. I knew Lisa. She used to come round to our flat.

'She's just looking for company,' Davis would say whenever I got home to find her there.

I didn't link the two going missing. But the police did...

'They came to see me in late September. They told me that Davis had called Lisa the night she vanished.

He'd booked her a cab to his place, and paid for it. After the taxi driver dropped her off, she was never

HE BEAT ME & THE KIDS

seen again. I shivered. He hadn't hurt Lisa... had he?

On 12 October, police entered Davis's flat. The cupboard in the hall was locked, and the key was nowhere to be found. They called in a joiner to open the cupboard.

What they found beggared belief. Behind a couple of old baskets was a large object wrapped in bin-bags.

It was Lisa's body. She'd been strangled with a ligature.

Terrified we'd be next, I installed a panic alarm at our house. Davis didn't have my address, but I wouldn't put anything past him.

Finally, 11 days later, the police rang to say Davis had handed himself in.

'Thank God!' I gasped. In May this year, Davis



Lisa Nelson had gone missing...

appeared at Aberdeen High Court.

He denied murder. He claimed Lisa had gone round and they'd had sex. Lisa then demanded money for a taxi. Davis said he didn't know how it happened, but they'd rowed and afterwards Lisa had ended up dead on the bed.

The jury took less than 90 minutes to convict him of Lisa's murder. He was jailed for life.

Three months on, I moved to a new town. I won't tell anyone where I live. I can't risk Davis finding out. Who knows what he's capable of? I try to make life good for the kids but we all bear the scars.

As for Lisa, I wonder if she'd be dead if I'd stayed with Davis.

Or would I have been my body that the police found? 'I'll never know. But one thing I do know - Davis Whitelaw is evil through and through.

© 'James' and 'Susan' are not their real names. Photos: Gill Buchanan/PA



SEX BEAST

Chat

## **REPORTING OF SUICIDE**

### **Case 8**

A woman complained to the Press Complaints Commission that an article contained excessive detail about a method of suicide in breach of Clause 5 (ii) (Intrusion into grief or shock) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported an inquest hearing into the death of a man who had taken his own life by inhaling helium. The piece noted that the man had bought a 'blow up balloon kit', which included 'helium canisters', and had died after 'inhaling too much' of the gas. The complainant said that this method of suicide was uncommon and that, by revealing such excessive detail, the newspaper was likely to encourage copycat suicides.

The newspaper said it was aware of the Code's requirements on reporting suicide and had sought to remove detail about the method used in this case, in order to limit the chance of others copying it. For instance, it had not reported how precisely the gas had been inhaled, or the quantity that would generally lead to death. In the context of a straightforward inquest report, the newspaper argued that it would have been improper and misleading not to have revealed the basic means by which the man had died.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Diabetic was depressed over his weight and relationship break-up

# Man used balloon kit to take his own life

**AN OBESE** man depressed about his weight and overcome with loneliness after a relationship break-up killed himself with a blow up balloon kit.

Tony Rodskjaer, pictured right, who weighed 25 stone, planned his suicide by writing his darkest thoughts in a "poignant" diary for months.

An inquest was told how the 57-year-old explored different ways to end his life and bought a balloon kit complete with helium canisters back in January.

But it was not until April 23 that he was found dead on his boat where he lived, having inhaled too much of the gas.

A neighbour called police who found his body and the diary which told how he had been feeling low

■ **By Tara Russell**

tara.russell@dailyecho.co.uk

since January. There were also suicide notes, cash and vouchers worth £300 as well as an A4 sheet of paper that said "Do not resuscitate".

Firefighters had to remove Mr Rodskjaer's body due to his weight, from his boat in Ocean Quay Marina in Belvidere Road.

PC Robert Hooks told Southampton Coroners' Court that Mr Rodskjaer was a large diabetic male who had split up with his partner last year and left his job due to his growing weight problem and diabetes. He was worried about his financial position and was smoking and drinking heavily.

A post-mortem revealed Mr Rodskjaer, who was half Finnish and half British, died from helium

inhalation although levels could not be tested because there are no labs in the UK that provide the service.

He was almost twice the drink-drive limit.

Recording a suicide verdict coroner Keith Wiseman, said Mr Rodskjaer was a man with a good sense of humour and a number of different abilities but said he was clearly depressed about what his life held for him.

He added that the diary was "a poignant document" because nobody was aware of his long planned death.

Speaking after the hearing, Mr Rodskjaer's ex girlfriend of 12 years, Joanne Gullivers, said: "He had charisma with a great sense of humour and was quick off the mark. He seemed to just have a mental block when it came to his weight. He struggled with that."



## **PAYMENT TO CRIMINALS**

### **Case 9**

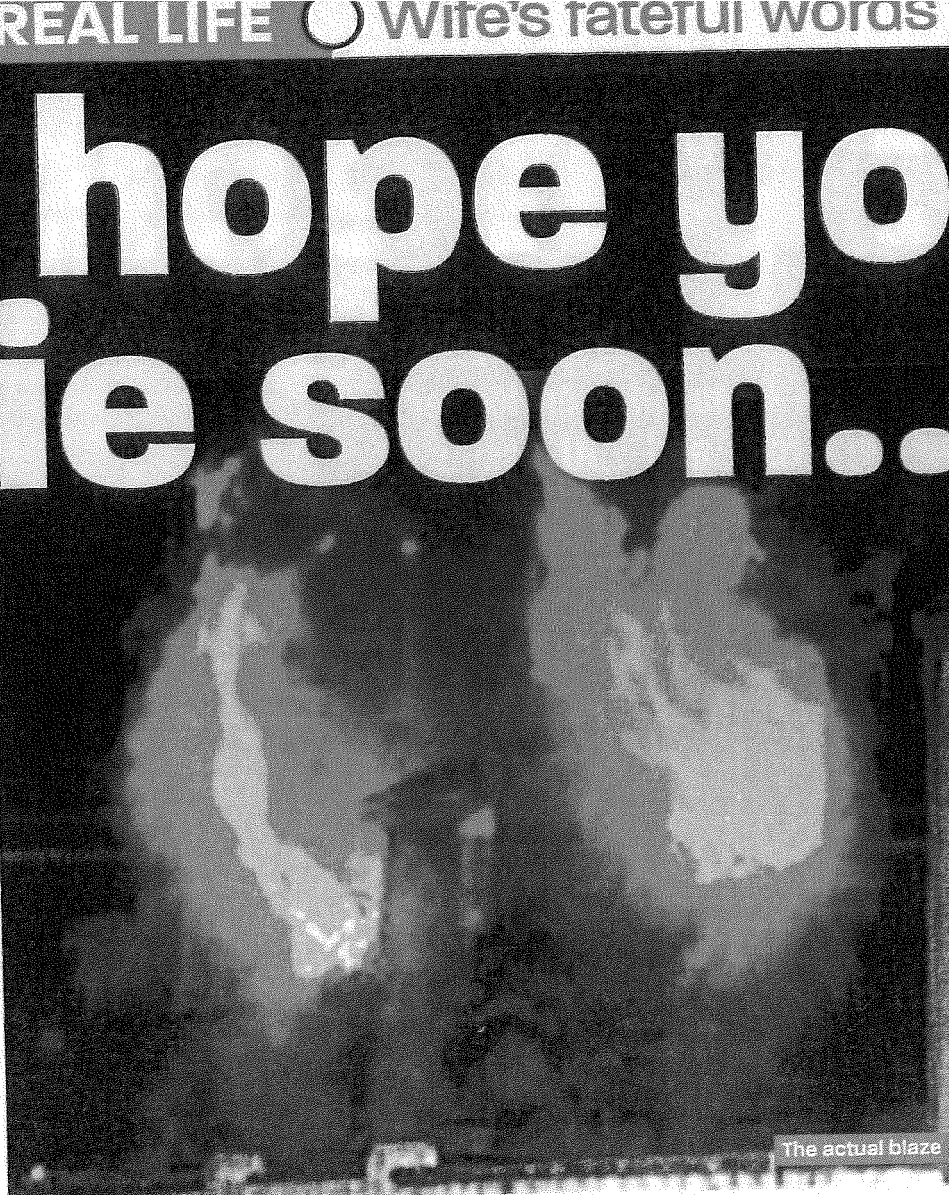
A woman complained to the Press Complaints Commission that a magazine had paid a relative of a criminal in breach of Clause 16 (Payment to criminals) of the editors' Code of Practice.

The complainant was the victim of an arson attack on her home for which Christine Chivers – whose story was published in the magazine on 28th August 2008 – pleaded guilty. The article included Ms Chivers' claim that despite this plea she was actually innocent of the crime. The complainant said that there was overwhelming evidence of Ms Chivers' guilt, and the magazine should not have allowed her to proclaim her innocence in return for money.

The magazine confirmed that it had paid £1,000 to Ms Chivers' daughter – who was responsible for raising her brother and sister in difficult circumstances – for the article. Ms Chivers herself had not therefore benefited. The article was in any case in the public interest, as it highlighted an alleged miscarriage of justice. Additionally, the article had not sought to exploit a particular crime, nor had it glorified or glamorised crime in general.

# 'I hope you die soon...'

It's a tale of love, betrayal and jealousy. But does that make Christine Walters guilty? Here, from behind bars, Christine, 42, tells her story



The actual blaze

I had just dished up dinner when my husband Andy strolled into the kitchen and said: 'You'll never guess who I heard from today.' He told me a name and I frowned at him. Andy went on: 'She's moved back to the area and wants to catch up. I'm going for a drink with her.' I wolfed down his food, then hurried out of the house. When he got home he said: 'You've got to come along next time, love. You'd

get on really well.' I said: 'We've never hit it off before.' But he invited Chrissy Wishart round and, to my surprise, we chatted and laughed. She said to me: 'It would be great if we could finally be friends.' I replied: 'Well, we're grown-ups now.' When I'd first met her,

20 years before, she'd had a crush on Andy and I hadn't liked her. But in the following few weeks I welcomed her help with my four children.

**'I wanted revenge'**

My five-year-old daughter Ceann had cystic fibrosis and needed a lot of care. Chrissy helped and babysat for me. She joined us on a visit to the seaside and came to the pub too. Then one day I heard Andy on the phone to her, saying: 'That's terrible. I'll be right over.'

He told me: 'Chrissy thinks someone's outside her house spying on her. I'm going to see that everything's OK.'

He went round once, then twice, and soon it became a regular trip. Sometimes he didn't get home until late.

On New Year's Eve we held a party. There was good music and the drink flowed. In the early hours, once everyone had left, Andy and I went to our bedroom. We found

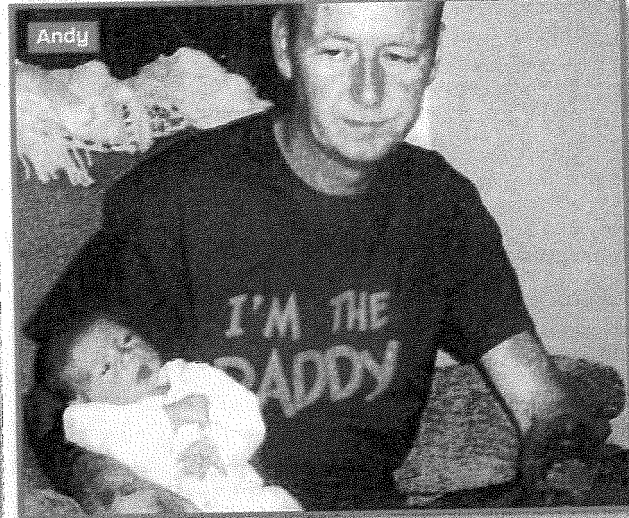
Chrissy curled up on one side of the bed. He said quietly: 'Let's not wake her.' I climbed in next to her so I was in the middle and Andy slept on the other side of me. Next morning I woke up and sat bolt upright. I was no longer in the middle of the bed. I was on the edge and Andy was in the middle. Lying on the other side of him was Chrissy. I woke Andy and said: 'How did this happen?' 'I don't know,' he said. 'She must have got up in the night and climbed back in where there was a space.'

When Chrissy woke up later that morning I heard her whispering to Andy on the landing. She left the house without saying goodbye to me.

I said to Andy: 'What are you both being so secretive about?' 'Nothing,' he snapped. We began to

argue about it. One night we had a huge row and I stormed out. After a while I rang his phone and it was switched off. I tried Chrissy and her mobile was off too. Their phones remained like that all night. Next day I dialled Andy again. The ringtone was one long note and I knew it was an international dialling tone. I hung up and called Chrissy's mobile. That ringtone was overseas too. Suddenly I realised how stupid I'd been to trust her. I grabbed my car key and drove to her place. Her housemate answered the door. I said: 'How long has been going on?' She replied: 'It's nothing to do with me. Speak to them yourself.'

I kept calling their mobiles. Eventually Chrissy answered. 'How could you do that to me?' I asked. She laughed. 'Oh, it was easy,' she replied. 'You married the man I wanted all those years ago. I wanted revenge. Everything just fell into place.' I said: 'What do you mean by that?' She said: 'Don't you see? We're together.'



Andy



Kallum, Andy, Ceann and ma

**'WE DID IT, MUM'**

Did she torch it?

# But I'm going to

Now Christine Chivers says she only admitted the crime to save herself from an even longer jail sentence. Read her story and YOU decide



After the fire

Me, in prison now



They'd slept with each other on New Year's Eve — two months earlier. I couldn't bring myself to ask whether it was at the party. Now they'd gone to Amsterdam.

I'd been married to Andy for 22 years. We'd been a couple for 27 years. I was in a state of shock.

Then Andy rang me.

He made a terrible mistake,' he told me. 'It's you I want to be with. You and the children. I'm coming home.'

He returned to me and I welcomed him back because I loved him. Then he ran away again with Chrissy, this time to Benidorm.

He kept ricocheting between us. When he was with me she sent him text

messages saying: *I love you.*

I didn't want her contacting Andy, so I'd reply: *I hate you. Leave us alone. I wish you were dead.*

Then her letters started arriving...

*Forever, you said. You won me over, darling. I'd give anything to hear your voice right now. I'd sell my soul to be in your arms...*

**'Those were just words'**

*We were good together and others would have learned to accept that.*

To try to cope with my feelings for Chrissy, I wrote down: *I hate her. I wish she were dead.*

'She's trying to ruin my life,' I told my friends. 'She's pure evil.'

Then Andy went back to her. In my emotionally

charged state, I sent a text message to both their phones: *I hope you die soon.*

As I broke down sobbing, I felt an arm around me. It belonged to my 19-year-old son Kyle.

Until then I'd concealed my feelings from my children. They loved their father. I hadn't wanted them to fall out with him.

But now I couldn't help myself. I wept in front of my son and said: 'I wish Chrissy could feel some of my pain. Then she would understand.'

I imagined Andy and Chrissy sleeping together and laughing at me behind my back.

'I wish she was dead,' I said. 'I wish she'd burn in hell. I could set fire to the bins outside her house.'

When I saw Kyle stare in horror, I muttered: 'Oh, no, son. I shouldn't have told you those things.'

The look on his face had scared me. I didn't want my children to suffer. I realised that I had to get away and clear my head.

I dashed upstairs and packed my things. That evening my brother-in-law came to collect me and my two younger children from my home in Oaken Copse Crescent,

Farnborough, Hampshire.

I waved goodbye to Kyle and my daughter Tanya, aged 21. Then we drove to his home more than 100 miles away in Wales.

Early next morning my mobile rang.

It was Andy, shouting: 'Well then, how much did it cost?'

'What?'

He said: 'How much did you pay someone to burn Chrissy's house down?'

I said: 'I don't know what you're talking about.'

'Oh yes you do,' he replied. 'Someone's burnt her house down.'

'Stop messing around, Andy,' I said, and hung up. I phoned Kyle and said: 'Someone's burnt Chrissy's house down.'

He said: 'I know, Mum...'

There was a pause before he added: 'My friends and I did it.'

I screamed.

He said: 'I only wanted to

start a small fire outside was supposed to scare but it went up so fast a got out of hand. There people upstairs, so I ba on the door to wake th and then we ran off.'

I started sobbing. 'Why, Kyle?' I asked 'You're going to be in s much trouble.'

'You said you wanted to feel the pain you die he told me. 'I wanted t scare her.'

'But those were just words,' I said. 'I would have acted on them.'

At the time of the fire Andy and Chrissy had been staying in a hotel. The three other occupants had been injured jumping in ter from windows.

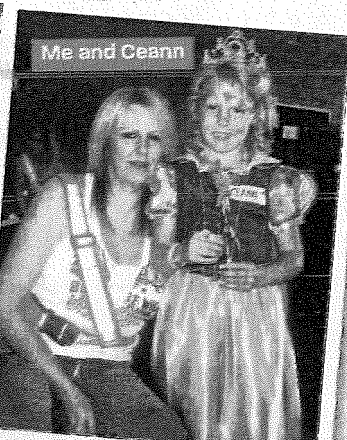
'I'm sorry, Mum,' Kyle said. 'I thought you wanted this...'

I said: 'I need time I think. I'll call you bac

As I put down the



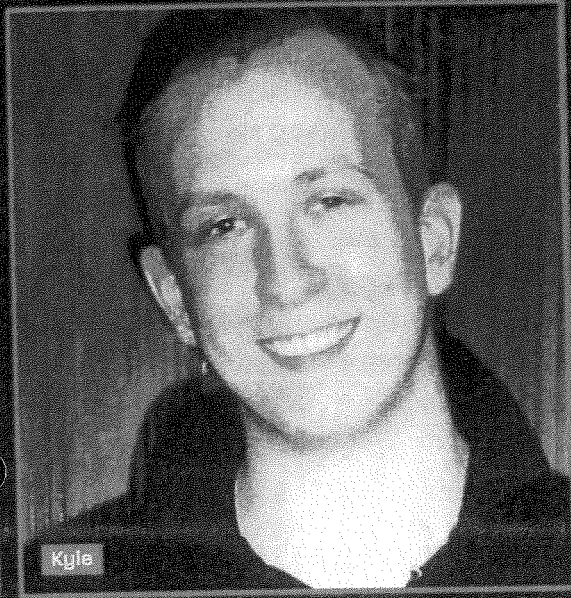
With Andy and Ceann



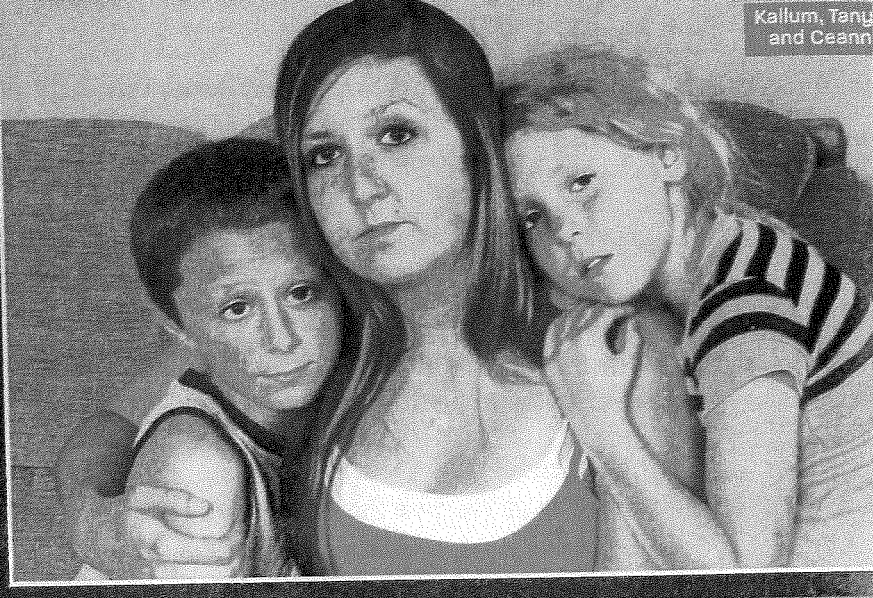
Me and Ceann



# plead guilty...



Kallum, Tanya and Ceann



phone, someone hammered on the front door. I opened it to a team of police officers. One said: 'Christine Chivers, we are arresting you on suspicion of committing arson with intent to endanger life.'

'What?' I said. 'I haven't done anything.'

I kept saying it as a pair of handcuffs were slapped on my wrists and I was led to a police car.

Called back to my brother-in-law: 'Look after my children.'

Kallum, eight, and Ceann were still asleep.

I was taken to the police station and locked in a cell. Hours passed and I kept calling out: 'I haven't done anything. Please let me go.'

Finally I was interviewed. The officer said: 'Your son

Kyle has been charged with committing arson with intent to endanger life.'

I was crying.

The officer went on: 'We know you had something to do with it.'

'I didn't,' I protested. 'I swear it.'

He showed me a piece of paper. It was a scribbled note, saying: *I wish Chrissy were dead...*

He asked: 'Is that your handwriting?'

I nodded.

Next he showed me records of text messages I'd sent to Chrissy.

*I hope you die soon.*

The officer said: 'It doesn't look good, does it, Christine?'

Then he added: 'I am formally charging you with committing arson with intent to endanger life.'

'No way,' I said.

He continued: 'You will be remanded in custody

until your plea hearing.'

Screaming, I was led from the interview room, put in a van and taken to prison.

In the next few days I was allowed to take advice. I was told: 'Your notes and text messages describe your feelings of hate towards Christine Wishart, and the harm you wished she would suffer. That's evidence of your motive for starting the fire.'

I understood that if I pleaded guilty, I'd receive a sentence of between four and six years. If I pleaded not guilty and was convicted by the jury, I could go to prison for 15 years.

I had 12 hours to decide how to plea. Back in my cell, I cried all night.

The following day I declared: 'In my view, I don't have any choice other than to plead guilty.'

I would remain in prison until the court case.

After a week, Tanya visited with Kallum and Ceann. I told her: 'I'm going to plead guilty.'

'Mum, you didn't do it,' she said.

I replied: 'But they think I did. I can't risk 15 years in prison.'

I looked at my

children and said: 'Mummy's not a bad woman. I didn't do anything wrong.'

They said: 'We know.'

While I waited for the hearing, my children's visits were all that kept me going. I covered my cell in their photos and thought of them constantly.

Eventually the case began at Winchester Crown Court.

When I climbed into the dock it was the first time that I'd seen Kyle since

**I tried to reassure him**

everything had happened.

I stood next to my son.

The charge of arson with

intent to endanger life was quashed. Instead we both faced a charge of committing arson recklessly.

Asked how he pleaded, Kyle replied: 'Guilty.'

Then it was my turn. Like him, I said: 'Guilty.'

Kyle looked at me and started crying.

'Why, Mum?' he murmured.

I tried to reassure him but wasn't allowed to talk.

As the judge prepared to pass sentence, I glanced at the public gallery. Andy was there with Chrissy.

I held Kyle's hand tightly. We were sobbing.

Then the judge

addressed us.

Kyle was sentenced five and a half years in prison. I got six years.

Andy had tears run down his face and mou

*I'm so sorry. I love you*

*What can I do?*

All I could think abo

was Kyle. He had see

in a state of self-destruct

That was why he'd st

the fire. It was all my

There was time for quick hug goodbye, t

was taken to Send Pri

Woking, Surrey.

Kyle went to Readin

Prison, Berkshire.

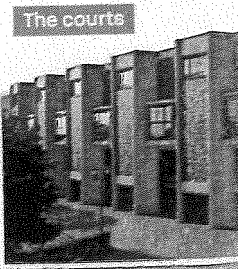
Now I've begun my sentence and am taki

one day at a time. I li

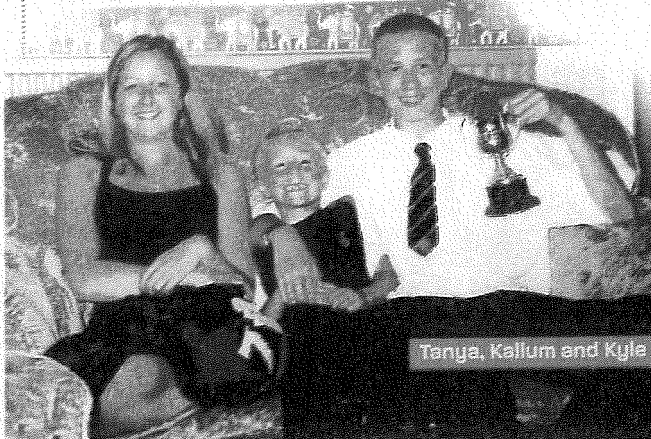
the visits from my ch

Andy is still seeing Chrissy. He writes to saying that he loves i

● *Take a Break gives that this is Christine's version of events and decision to plead guilty entirely her own. The no criticism of any at she received.*



The courts



Tanya, Kallum and Kyle

Edited by Rachel Williams. E-mail [tab.rachel@bauer.co.uk](mailto:tab.rachel@bauer.co.uk)

Take a Bre

## **COURT REPORTING ON CASES INVOLVING SEXUAL OFFENCES**

### **Case 11 (Hypothetical)**

A newspaper reported that a man had been convicted on charges of sexual activity with a child. The man was named in the article and the report was accompanied by a photograph. Copy for the report had been provided by a well-regarded, local news agency.

A woman complained to the PCC and said that her daughter, who was the victim in the case – and who was also the child of the convicted man – had effectively been identified by the article. She said that people had inferred that it might be her daughter because of the use of her husband's photo. However, any level of doubt was likely to have been removed because the article also included the following details:

- The gender of the victim
- Her age at the time the abuse began
- The period of the abuse, which was three years, and a reference to the abuse being 'very regular'
- A direct quote from the judge at the trial, who noted that the convicted man was not a 'predatory' offender who 'sought out' children to abuse.

The complainant said that she and her husband only had two children, a girl and a boy. They did not live close to relatives and, in any case, none of their close relatives had children of the same age as her daughter. In reality, people in the local community would automatically – and correctly – assume that the victim in the case was the daughter of the convicted man.

In defending its actions, the newspaper pointed out that the story had been provided by a reputable local agency, which regularly covered sensitive court hearings. There had been no special directions by the judge or by the police as to what material could be reported. It was quite legitimate to name the convicted man, while the report did not include the name of the victim or her relationship to the accused. The newspaper said that it had not identified the complainant's child.

# PCC Seminar

## Outcomes



## Case 1

### **Decision – Breach (complaint upheld)**

As it was not possible for the Commission to make a finding of fact as to whether the alleged conversation had ever taken place, its principal task was to consider whether the newspaper had taken care not to publish misleading information in the way it had presented the story. This boiled down to an assessment as to whether readers would have been misled by the omission of Mr Burrell's position on the matter, which was that he strongly denied either having had the conversation with Mr Cosgrove or ever having a sexual relationship with Princess Diana.

The newspaper had argued that it was not necessary to go to Mr Burrell for a comment before publication because his comments would have been worthless as he was a proven liar, and because it had three sources for the claim that he had boasted of a sexual relationship with his former employer.

The Commission has previously said that failure to contact the subjects of articles before publication – while not obligatory – may constitute a lack of care under Clause 1 in some circumstances. It has never said that people have no right ever to comment on a story, or to be offered a right of reply, if they have misled people in another context.

The Commission was also aware of the newspaper's concerns about an undeserved injunction being granted. However, it did not consider that this meant that the requirements of the Code did not apply. Given the nature of the story, and how the newspaper wished to present it, the inclusion of Mr Burrell's comments was necessary to avoid breaching the Code.

There were several reasons why the Commission considered that Mr Burrell's denial of the allegations should have been made clear in the article. The claims about him were significant and substantial, and published with great prominence. The information came from the recollection of a fifteen-year-old conversation, and was not corroborated on the record by anyone outside Mr Cosgrove's immediate family (as the earlier source remained anonymous). It was clear to the Commission in these circumstances that there was a strong likelihood that the omission of any denial from Mr Burrell may have misled readers into believing that he accepted Mr Cosgrove's allegations. Given the startling nature of the claims, and the narrow basis for them, the newspaper should have contacted the complainant and published his position on the matter. Readers could then have made their own assessment as to the value of his comments in the context of the piece and in light of his reputation. But they were not given this opportunity. Another way of dealing with the problem would have been to offer Mr Burrell a prompt and proportionate right of reply immediately following publication. The offer to include the denial on the website, made at the end of the PCC investigation, was neither prompt nor proportionate.

It has never been an absolute requirement for newspapers to contact those who are about to feature in articles. This would be impractical for a number of reasons: often there will be no dispute about the facts, or the information will be innocuous; the volume of people mentioned in straightforward stories would make it impossible; and legitimate investigations might on some

occasions be compromised by such a rule. However, in this case the newspaper made the wrong decision and the complaint was upheld.

**Case 2**

**Decision – No Breach (complaint rejected)**

The Commission has made a number of key rulings about the use by newspapers and magazines of material obtained from social networking sites. This was the first time it had considered a complaint about the republication of information originating from Twitter.

There was no dispute that the material posted by the complainant was open to public view, and could be accessed by anyone who wished to read it. Although there were 700 actual subscribers to the complainant's account, the potential audience was much greater. This was particularly the case as any message could be "re-tweeted" without the complainant's consent, or control, to a larger subscription list. This was a notable feature of Twitter. The publicly accessible nature of the information (for which the complainant was responsible) was a key consideration in the Commission's assessment as to whether it was private.

The Commission also had regard to the quality of the information (how personal it is), how it is used by the publication and whether there is a public interest. In this case, the Commission noted that the published material related directly to the complainant's professional life as a public servant. The newspaper was seeking to comment on the wisdom of civil servants using social media platforms, which may give rise to claims that it can conflict with their professional duties.

The Commission recognised that the complainant had been caused distress by the coverage of the newspaper, which was regrettable. However, taking into account all of the above factors, it did not consider that the material published by the newspaper constituted an unjustifiable intrusion into her privacy in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Code.

The Commission did not consider either that the article was misleading or distorted. It was accepted that the complainant had made the comments attributed to her. While the newspaper could have included more innocuous tweets, its failure to do so did not render the article misleading. The article constituted an argument by the journalist - with which some people clearly would disagree - that the actions of the complainant were inappropriate. Readers would recognise that he was using selected tweets to reinforce that argument. There was no breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) raised by this complaint.

**Case 3**

**Decision – Probable breach (complaint resolved)**

The complaint was resolved when the magazine published an agreed apology, in which it accepted that it should not have speculated about the complainant's health and well-being and apologised for the intrusion into her private life. The magazine also undertook not to repeat the article under complaint or republish the photographs complained about and not to publish in any format any further material concerning Ms Versace Beck's private life, health or general well-being (including photographs of her taken without her consent while engaged in private life activities and not at any public event) except where those matters have been put into the public domain by Ms Versace Beck or her representatives authorised by her to do so.

#### Case 4

##### **Decision – No Breach (complaint rejected)**

In making this decision the Commission wished to make clear that it took into consideration the many special circumstances of the case. While the Commission had not received a complaint from the individuals at the centre of the coverage, it decided that it was able to investigate a complaint from the NHS Trust, which was certainly a relevant party in the matter. In making this ruling, the Commission had to be particularly aware of the potentially competing positions of the Trust and the patients themselves, who were apparently content for publication to go ahead.

The protection of vulnerable individuals is at the heart of the Editors' Code and the question of intrusion in regard to patients at a mental health facility was clearly a serious matter. An attempt by the newspaper to ignore - or bypass - the terms of the Code, and compromise the welfare of patients, would be the subject of vigorous censure by the Commission. However, the Commission did not believe that the newspaper had made any such attempt on this occasion.

The key consideration for the Commission related to the question of appropriate consent. In normal circumstances, editors are rightly able to rely on the consent of affected parties to publish private information about them. In this case, the three patients at Main House had provided explicit consent (and apparent encouragement) for the publication of the images. However, the complainant had argued that this consent was insufficient, due to the vulnerable nature of the patients and concerns over their ability to make an informed decision.

This was an important point and one which the Commission weighed heavily. There were also two other significant factors, relating to the photographs, for it to bear in mind: they had been provided by a doctor, who was employed by the facility; and they had been pixellated by the newspaper to prevent identification of the patients (who had also not been named in the articles). There was a final issue relating to the public interest inherent in the story, which reported the closure of a mental health unit and its impact on the patients who lived there (which had even led the patients apparently to seek to take their own lives).

At this stage, it was not possible for the Commission (or indeed the Trust) to establish the specific capacity of the patients to offer informed consent about publication. The Commission did recognise, though, that legitimate concerns would exist about the patients' capacity in this area. This was something which the newspaper had a responsibility to take into account. The Commission considered that patients' consent on its own may not be sufficient always to justify publication.

In the Commission's view, it was the existence of the other factors that tipped the balance in favour of the newspaper's decision to publish: the involvement of the doctor; the decision to pixellate; and the public interest in the story as a whole. The Trust's position was that the doctor, who had provided the images, had acted inappropriately and in breach of his own professional standards. However, it did not necessarily follow that the newspaper, in making use of the images, had acted in breach of its own professional standards. At the time of publication, the newspaper had to be able to give weight to the fact that the image had been provided by a



medical professional, who was involved in the care of the patients. In any case, the newspaper had not published the photographs unaltered, but had ensured that the patients' identities were not revealed to a wide audience.

In all of these circumstances taken together, the Commission did not consider that the newspaper's actions represented a failure to respect the private lives of the patients in breach of either Clause 3 (Privacy) or Clause 8 (Hospitals) of the Code. This was not an easy decision, but the Commission in the end found that the newspaper had managed to balance its duty to behave responsibly towards vulnerable individuals with the need to cover a story of important public interest.

**Case 5**

**Decision – Breach (complaint upheld)**

Newspapers are entitled to publish stories and pictures of serious road accidents, which take place in public and often have wide-reaching consequences. In this case, it was not in doubt that the bus crash - which involved more than fifty schoolchildren - was a serious incident which raised important questions in regard to public health and safety. The Commission did not wish to interfere unnecessarily with the newspaper's right to report the matter, which it generally had done in a sensitive manner.

However, it was clear that the complainant had not given her consent for the newspaper to either take or publish the photograph which showed her daughter in a state of distress. The subject matter of the close-up photograph certainly related to her welfare.

There may be occasions where the scale and gravity of the circumstances can mean that pictures of children can be published in the public interest without consent. In the specific circumstances of this case, the Commission did not consider that there was a sufficient public interest to justify the publication of the image. It accepted that the newspaper had thought carefully about whether to use the photograph, but the Commission considered that it was just the wrong side of the line on this occasion. The complaint was therefore upheld.

**Case 6**

**Decision – Breach (complaint upheld)**

The Commission agreed that the newspaper had been entitled to present the views of the child's grandmother on the subject of her removal from the family's care. There was a general public interest in debating the actions of public authorities in the case, to which the article contributed. In the Commission's view, the publication of the child's previous name was not intrusive in this context.

The Commission also had to consider the publication of the photograph. Clause 6 (ii) of the Editors' Code states that "a child under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consents".

The Commission took the view that the photograph, in the context of an article about the child's mother's conviction for murder and the impact of the adoption, clearly involved her welfare. The paper had not obtained the consent of the custodial parents prior to publication. The Commission noted that one person had apparently identified the child from the information in the article, which had caused anxiety to her adoptive parents. The Commission considered that there was a breach of Clause 6 (ii) here.

To justify such a breach, the Editors' Code requires an exceptional public interest to override the normally paramount interests of the child. In this instance, while the Commission recognised the general public interest in the story, it did not consider that there were exceptional public interest grounds specifically to justify the publication of the picture. The complaint was therefore upheld.

**Case 7**

**Decision – Breach (complaint upheld)**

The Commission considered that the magazine's failure to make clear to readers that the photograph was staged constituted a breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy). But of particular concern to the Commission was the fact that, in using the misleading picture near to the first anniversary of the death, the magazine had also shown a total disregard for the family of the dead woman. While the Commission normally considers the rules on grief and shock to have greatest relevance in the immediate aftermath of an incident, the magazine's cavalier approach in this instance constituted a clear breach of both the letter and spirit of Clause 5 of the Code. This was notwithstanding the fact that some of the information was legitimately in the public domain following a court case, and which the magazine was therefore entitled to publish. The complaints under both Clauses 1 and 5 were upheld.

**Case 8**

**Decision – No Breach (complaint rejected)**

The Commission has made several rulings under Clause 5 (ii) of the Editors' Code, which was introduced in 2006 specifically to deal with concerns about copycat suicides. The key part of this Clause relates to care being taken to prevent the publication of "excessive detail" about suicide methods.

In this case, even though it was a fairly uncommon method of suicide, the Commission did not consider that the newspaper had breached the terms of the Code. The newspaper was entitled to cover the inquest proceedings and to report the basic details of the method. Details about the precise apparatus that had been constructed - and how much gas had been inhaled - might well have been excessive in breach of the Code, but they had not been included. This was a difficult balancing act, but the Commission was satisfied that the newspaper had published a suitably limited level of detail.

As a result, while the Commission wishes newspapers to remain vigilant in this area, it did not uphold the complaint.

**Case 9**

**Decision – Breach (complaint upheld)**

Criminals and their associates should not generally profit from their crimes, so the Code forbids payments for stories which seek to exploit a particular crime unless there is a clear public interest.

In this case, the Commission considered that the article did not contain anything of sufficient public interest to justify the payment. The piece amounted to an explanation about why Ms Chivers had pleaded guilty to the crime, and seemed to try to justify the crime (whoever was responsible) by criticising the behaviour of the complainant, Christine Wishart. It did not point to any clear evidence of a miscarriage of justice, and it was not part of a campaign to have the conviction quashed. It said that Ms Chivers had pleaded guilty in order to reduce her sentence, as she had been told that there was a considerable body of evidence against her.

It was clear that the crime had been exploited for payment in breach of the Code, and there was no public interest to justify it. That was not to say that the magazine was prohibited from publishing Ms Chivers' story. But the decision to offer payment was misguided and the editor should have recognised that immediately. The complaint under Clause 16 was upheld.

**Case 10**

**Decision – Breach (complaint upheld)**

A case along the lines set out in the hypothetical summary would be upheld.

Clause 7 (Children in sex cases) of the Code of Practice makes clear that the press must not, even if legally free to do so, identify children under 16 who are victims of sex offences. It goes on to say that “care must be taken that nothing in the report implies the relationship between the accused and the child”. This is a deliberately stringent requirement. In cases where there is a familial relationship it is especially important, since information that seems insignificant at face value might allow readers who are acquainted with the abuser to work out the identity of the abused.

For a newspaper to rely for a defence on the fact that information has been provided by a reliable, external agency and that no reporting directions had been given by the police or court is inadequate



**PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION**

[www.pcc.org.uk](http://www.pcc.org.uk)



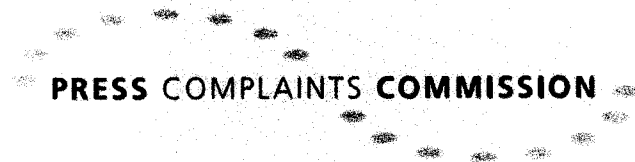
# The evolving PCC

<b>1995</b>		<b>2010</b>
2,508	COMPLAINTS	6,186
476	INVESTIGATIONS	1,204
0	DESIST NOTICES	100



# PCC Services

- Complaints handling
- Anti-harassment system
- Pre-publication work/proactive approaches
- Informal advice – at any time
- Training/Updates



# The Code of Practice

- 16 sections in total:
- Accuracy (cause of most complaints);
- Privacy (most controversial/complex area);
- Newsgathering (Code not just about what is published)





**S**OCIAL network site Twitter, which is increasingly landing its users in legal difficulties for posting foolish remarks, may soon claim another victim.

A Whitehall official has been Tweeting about her drunkenness, boasting about how pointless she thinks some of her work is and how much she dislikes the Government's deficit reduction.

When I rang her department yesterday to tell them, there was a cold pause before someone promised to 'get back' to me. He never did.

Civil servants used to try to be impartial and discreet. Not so Sarah Baskerville, Team Leader in Corporate Finance Systems and Reporting Solutions (what a title!) at the Department of Transport. Ms Baskerville, aka 'Baskies', is an inextinguishable contributor to the internet. She belongs to numerous networking sites.

In the middle of a management course — paid for by us taxpayers to help her do her job better — she posted a Tweet promoting a Labour MP's attack on Downing

# QUENTIN LETTS

ON SATURDAY

## Oh, please stop this twit from Tweeting

Street spin. She later described the person who was taking the course as 'mental'. Charming.

Before the government cuts were announced to Parliament, Ms Baskerville was Tweeting about meetings concerning the fate of staff about to be displaced. All this was done, it should be

stressed, under her own name, with easy links to her workplace. She publishes photos of herself, too. Are there not some security issues here?

"Struggling with wine-induced hangover," she Tweeted from work one day. There have been frequent references to her over-

insisting. Another day, shortly before the Comprehensive Spending Review, she complained after lunch about feeling 'rather tired' — would much prefer going home.

If she only spent her office hours working rather than Tweeting, she would no doubt be even more exhausted.

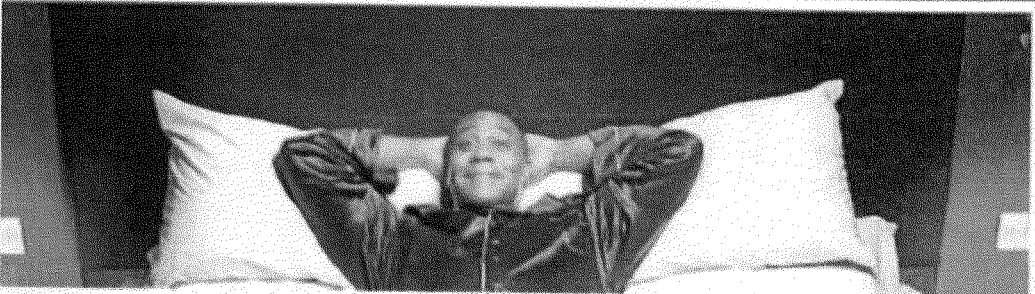
Her outpourings have included a complaining reference to Tory MP Douglas Carmichael, a prominent critic of Whitehall waste. She claims to be an acquaintance of Sally Bercom, Labour-supporting wife of the supposedly impartial Commons Speaker. In one Tweet she looked forward to meeting Mrs Bercom for "another coffee/sofa session, just so that I can laugh at your lack of apps on the iPhone."

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond is one of the more serious members of the Cabinet. He is unlikely to be enchanted by Ms Baskerville or her writings.

### TUCK IN, ED!

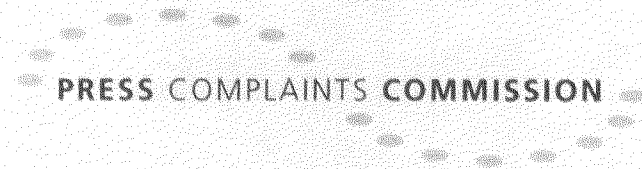


**SWEET** photo of the Miliband baby this week, but father Ed's appearance was more troubling. The Labour leader outdid himself as one of those men who wears leisure shirts outside his trousers, without tucking them in. This may be all right for darts players such as Eric Bristow, but for a would-be Prime Minister it's not such a great look.



“...it’s pretty much open season  
now...”

- Mainstream media must continue to recognise commitment to high standards
- Some things do not bear repeating
- The ‘public domain’ is not a straightforward excuse



Internet boasts of sex, drink and violence as youngsters hit 18

# ANNIVERSARY SHAME OF DUNBLANE SURVIVORS

**SCOTTISH  
EXCLUSIVE**

By Paula Murray

DUNBLANE survivors have "shamed" the memory of their dead peers with foul-mouthed boasts about sex, brawls and drink-fuelled antics as they reach adulthood.

A number of the youngsters, now 18, have posted shocking blogs and photographs of themselves on the Internet, 13 years after being sheltered from public view in the aftermath of the atrocity.

Sixteen pupils and their teacher died when gunman Thomas Hamilton burst into the gym at Dunblane Primary School and opened fire on March 13, 1996.

In the days and months that followed the survivors,  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



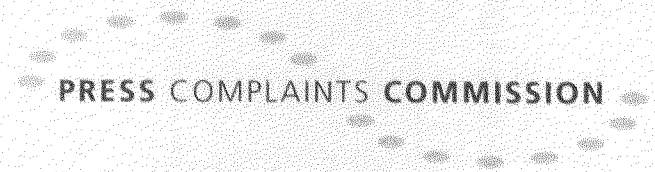
**Ramsay sw  
at the Que**

SEE PAGE 5

**PLUS GET TOMORROW'S DAILY EXPRESS FOR JUST 15p - VOUCHER ON PAGE**

# Questions to consider

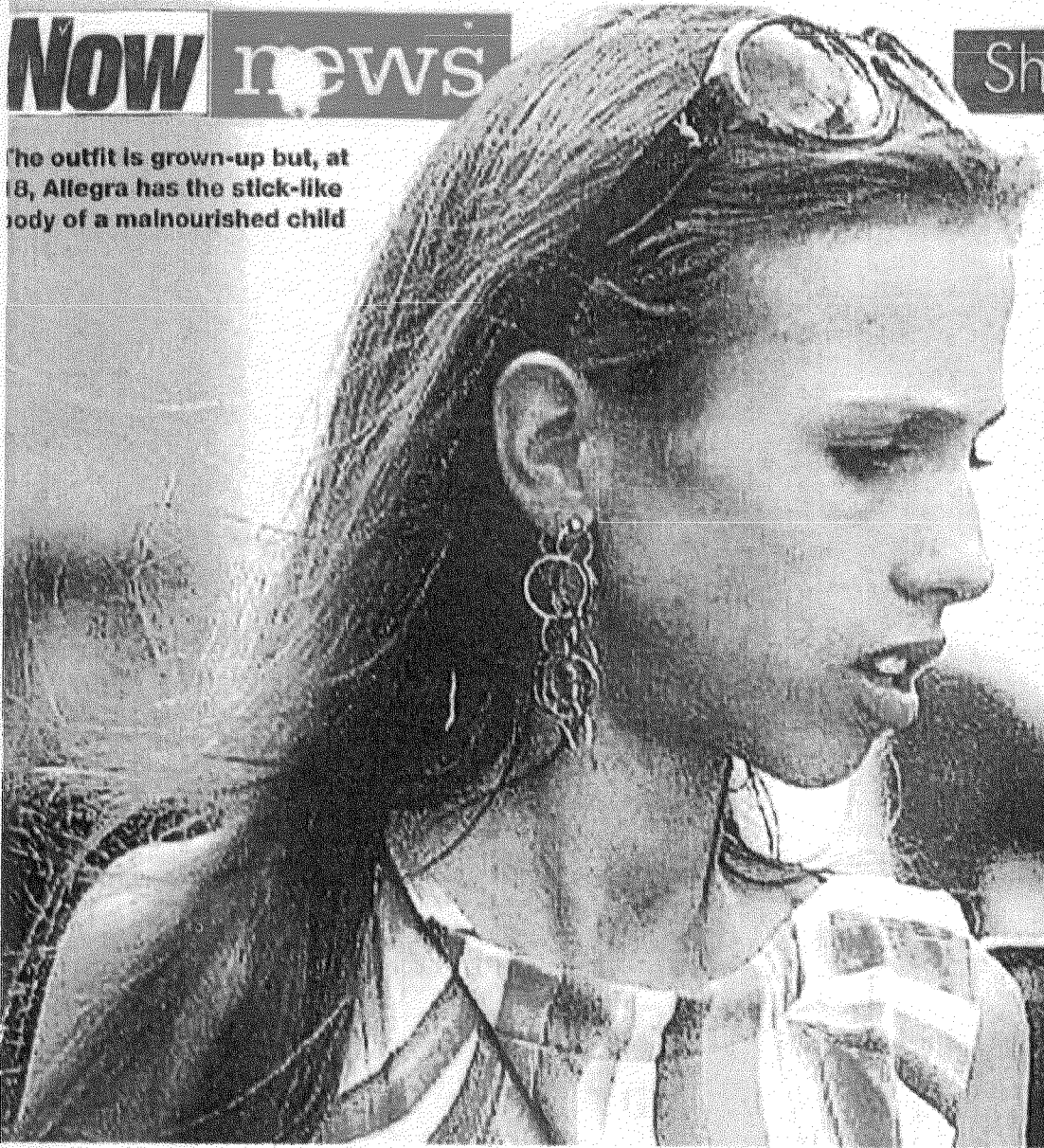
- How widely available is the information?
- Who uploaded the material?
- What settings have been used to protect privacy?
- What is the quality of the information (how personal is it; what is the context)?
- What is the public interest?
- How is the material presented?





# Now news

The outfit is grown-up but, at 18, Allegra has the stick-like body of a malnourished child



She was born into a gilded life

# Yes, you

## EXCLUSIVE

**T**hey say you can never be too rich or too thin, but in the case of Allegra Versace Beck – who recently became half-owner of the £260 million Versace empire – the saying could scarcely be further from the truth.

Fashion legend Gianni Versace, who was murdered seven years ago, left his beloved niece – the daughter of his sister Donatella – his share of the family business. She came into her fortune on her 18th birthday three months ago.

But if these extraordinary photos are anything to go by, becoming one of the world's richest teenagers has brought

# SUICIDE PACT

## Last cry for help of 3 mental health patients kicked out of home by NHS

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By Alison Dayani

**THREE patients at a Birmingham psychiatric unit tried to kill themselves just days before they were evicted.**

The suicide pact failed and now Main House in Northfield has closed down, leaving them living in the community.

The trio made a special request that the harrowing pictures of their despair are printed – to show the human impact of the decision to close their home.

**FULL STORY: PAGE 3**



PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION





VICTIM: Bernard Evans

# My Maxine is not evil - mum

By Steve Adams

southwalesguardian.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE

THE mother of convicted Pantyffynnon murderer Maxine Williams is confident the 23-year-old will be released on appeal within the next few months.

Julie Edwards, of 57 Pantyffynnon Road, is adamant her daughter did not receive a fair trial in the run up to a 13-year sentence for the fatal stabbing of Bernard Evans at the family home in the early hours of January 22, 2008.

Speaking exclusively to the *Guardian*, Mrs Edwards claimed that the trial jury was unaware of the true events that led up to the 41-year-old's death.

"Maxine is not evil," said Mrs Edwards. "She is very sorry for what she did, but she had no choice.

"She has never once said she did not do it, but what she did, she did out of self defence and to protect me. She felt she had to do it.

"I would not be alive today if it was not for what Maxine did."

The Crown Court murder trial heard how Mrs Edwards

had suffered years of domestic abuse at the hands of Bernard Evans.

"I was with him for four-and-a-half years and during that time I went through hell," she said.

"On that morning he had beaten me again and from there everything went out of control. It was like being in a horror movie."

Mrs Edwards is angry that she and son Wayne, aged just 15 at the time of the incident, were interviewed only hours after the fatal incident.

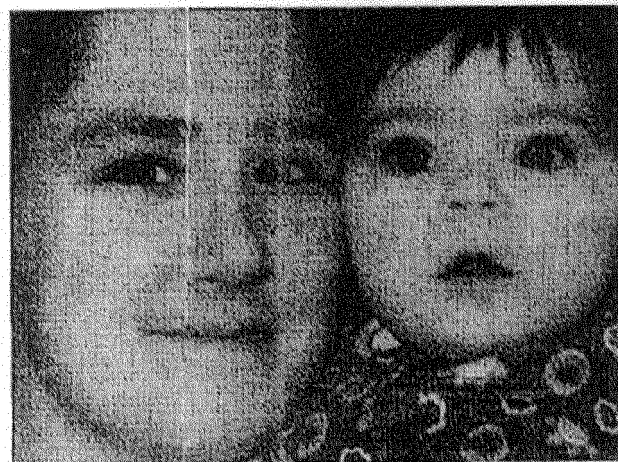
"We were still in shock," she said.

Maxine has telephoned her mother every day and written at least three letters each week since she was jailed in Durham Prison.

"She is coping very, very well," said Mrs Edwards, "and is positive about moving on with her life once she gets out.

"All her friends have been absolutely fantastic. They have been writing to her regularly and she is immensely grateful for all their support.

"She is very confident about her appeal and she cannot wait



IMPRISONED: Maxine Williams, pictured with her daughter Zoe Marie, who has been adopted.

to come home.

"I miss her so much. She has always been my rock."

Mrs Edwards is also deeply upset that following Maxine's conviction, grand-daughter Zoe Marie was adopted.

"Maxine has lost all contact with her daughter and I have lost my grand-daughter," said Mrs Edwards.

"Zoe Marie has been adopted and we have no idea where she is now.

"People have no idea how hurt and distressed this family has been.

"Even now it still affects us all massively.

"I don't care what the jury said, they got it wrong because they did not know the full story.

"Maxine is not evil and she does not want to be labelled a killer.

"She wants the real truth to come out and she wants to come home to her family."



**SOUTHAMPTON:** Diabetic was depressed over his weight and relationship break-up

# Man used balloon kit to take his own life

**AN OBESE** man depressed about his weight and overcome with loneliness after a relationship break-up killed himself with a blow up balloon kit.

Tony Rodskjaer, pictured right, who weighed 25 stone, planned his suicide by writing his darkest thoughts in a "poignant" diary for months.

An inquest was told how the 57-year-old explored different ways to end his life and bought a balloon kit complete with helium canisters back in January.

But it was not until April 23 that he was found dead on his boat where he lived, having inhaled too much of the gas.

A neighbour called police who found his body and the diary which told how he had been feeling low

■ **By Tara Russell**

t.russell@csjyechc.co.uk

since January. There were also suicide notes, cash and vouchers worth £200 as well as an A4 sheet of paper that said "Do not resuscitate".

Firefighters had to remove Mr Rodskjaer's body due to his weight, from his boat in Ocean Quay Marina in Belvidere Road.

PC Robert Hooks told Southampton Coroners' Court that Mr Rodskjaer was a large diabetic male who had split up with his partner last year and left his job due to his growing weight problem and diabetes. He was worried about his financial position and was smoking and drinking heavily.

A post-mortem revealed Mr Rodskjaer, who was half Finnish and half British, died from helium

inhalation although levels could not be tested because there are no labs in the UK that provide the services.

He was almost twice the drink-drive limit.

Recording a suicide verdict coroner Keith Wiseman, said Mr Rodskjaer was a man with a good sense of humour and a number of different abilities but said he was clearly depressed about what his life held for him.

He added that the diary was "a poignant document" because nobody was aware of his long planned death.

Speaking after the hearing, Mr Rodskjaer's ex girlfriend of 12 years, Joanne Gullivers, said: "He had charisma with a great sense of humour and was quick off the mark. He seemed to just have a mental block when it came to his weight. He st



PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

## Pill woman telephoned number to say goodbye

**Published Date:** 24 November 2009

**A grandmother found dead in her car on a busy road had taken a lethal cocktail of antidepressants and alcohol, an inquest heard.**

Margaret Piatt was discovered slumped in her red Ford Fiesta on Western Way, Fareham, by two concerned passers-by who dialled 999.

Officers who arrived at the scene at about 8.50am on May 1 found all of the car doors were open.

Mrs Piatt, 55,

ADVERTISEMENT

of Sandy Lane, Titchfield, had sent a text message from her mobile phone to an unknown number at 00.35am that morning saying goodbye.

Her handbag contained pill packets for 70 tablets of antidepressant Amitriptyline – but 63 were missing.

A Portsmouth inquest heard Mrs Piatt had previously suffered from anxiety and depression.

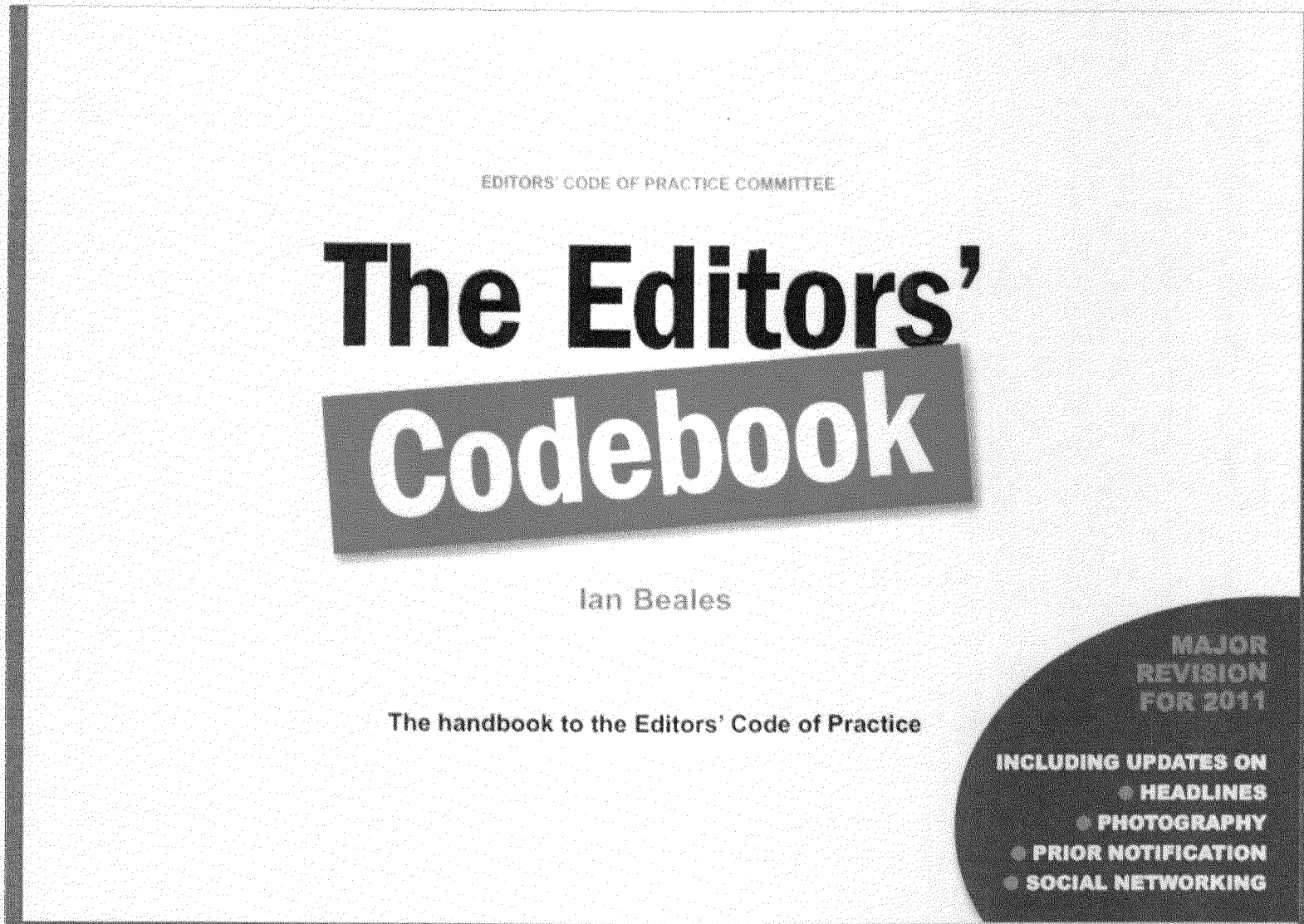
A post mortem examination revealed she had taken almost ten times the therapeutic dose of antidepressant Amitriptyline and was more than twice over the legal drink-drive limit.

In a statement Mrs Piatt's family said: 'She was a well loved and active member of her local community. Her passing was so sad and an enormous shock to us all.'

Recording a verdict that Mrs Piatt took her own life while depressed, Portsmouth and south-east Hampshire coroner David Horsley said: 'She had depression problems in the past and it seems most likely that it was coming to the fore again, even though she kept it hidden from everyone.'

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

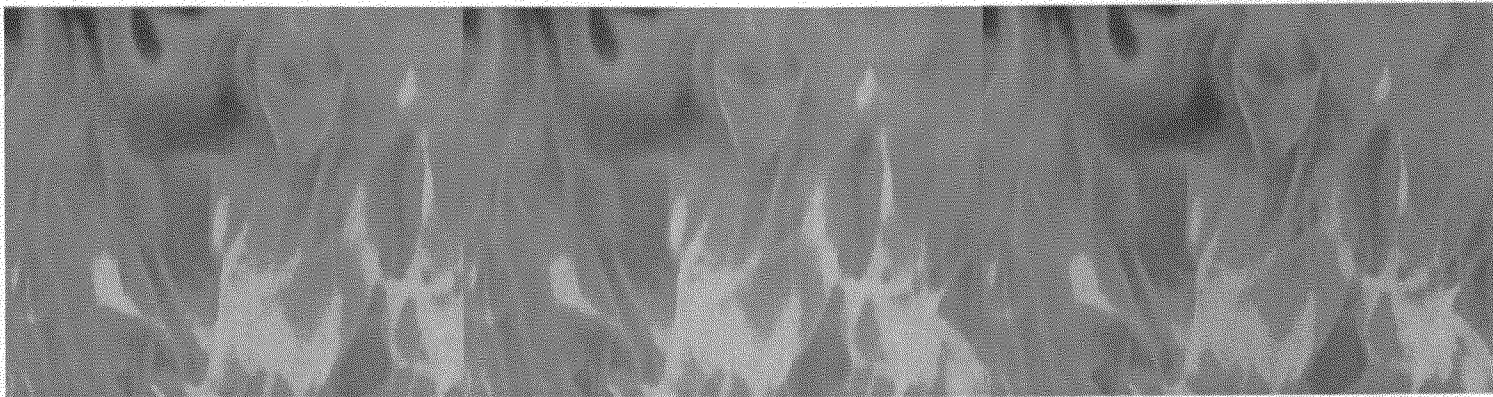
# Extra Guidance





• •

**'I HOPE YOU  
DIE SOON...'**



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