



Police search Templeton Woods in 1980 following the discoveries of the bodies of Carol Lannen, top, and Elizabeth McCabe.

# Fresh link to murders in Templeton Woods

**EXCLUSIVE:** Cold case expert links World's End killer to unsolved Tayside deaths

**GRAEME STRACHAN**

A cold case expert has claimed Dundee women Carol Lannen and Elizabeth McCabe were killed by World's End murderer Angus Sinclair.

Ex-police intelligence officer Chris Clark investigated the unsolved Templeton Woods

killings while researching a new book about Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe's "secret murders".

The murders of part-time prostitute Carol and nursery nurse Elizabeth in 1979 and 1980 were previously included in a secret investigation into possible Yorkshire Ripper attacks in 1996.

While Mr Clark ruled out a link to Sutcliffe, his dossier of evidence points to serial killer and rapist Angus Sinclair ultimately being the man responsible.

He said both Dundee murders bore hallmarks of Sinclair's previous killings with regards to the circumstances of their deaths, the methods used and missing personal items.

The Dundee murders initially formed part of the Operation Trinity investigations that ultimately led to the conviction of Sinclair for the World's End pub murders in Edinburgh.

No additional charges have so far been brought against Sinclair.

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## UNSOLVED CRIMES

# Author links World's End

## Former police officer is confident Angus Sinclair is Templeton Woods culprit



**EXCLUSIVE  
BY GRAEME  
STRACHAN**

A former police intelligence officer has claimed that World's End killer Angus Sinclair was also responsible for two notorious unsolved murders in Tayside.

Chris Clark and journalist Tim Tate investigated unsolved cases from across the UK for a new book about Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe's "secret murders".

Mr Clark, who served with the police from 1966 to 1994, believes Sutcliffe did kill in Scotland while working as a long-distance lorry driver but ruled out a link to the Dundee murders.

However, Mr Clark said his evidence points to the man responsible being serial killer and rapist Angus Sinclair, who was jailed for 37 years in November 2014 for the World's End murders in 1977.

The body of 20-year-old Elizabeth McCabe was discovered in Templeton Woods on the outskirts of Dundee in 1980 – only 150 yards from where the corpse of Carol Lannen, 18, was found almost a year before.

Vincent Simpson was tried for the murder of Elizabeth McCabe in 2007 but walked free from the High Court in Edinburgh after the jury returned a not guilty verdict.

Speaking exclusively to The Courier, Mr Clark said: "I am familiar with the murders of Carol Lannen and Elizabeth McCabe as I spent some time researching them.

"My own feelings are that a serial killer was responsible.

"Vincent Simpson wouldn't fit that bill because there was no evidence that he had murdered before or since.

"The police should instead be focusing their attention on Angus Sinclair."

Sinclair raped and strangled 17-year-olds Helen Scott and Christine Eadie after a night out at the World's End pub on Edinburgh's Royal Mile in October 1977.

Mr Clark said: "Sinclair had a campervan which he took away on weekend and holiday fishing trips with brother-in-law Gordon Hamilton.

"On Monday November 19 1978

17-year-old Mary Gallagher was murdered and her body found at the foot of a 20ft wall near a footpath crossing waste ground between Flemington Street and Edgefauld Road in Springburn, Glasgow.

"Sinclair held a knife to her back, made her take off her clothes, strangled her with the leg of her trousers, raped her and slit her throat three times.

"Her handbag was missing.

"Sinclair would not be caught for another 23 years.

"On Wednesday March 21 1979 the strangled and naked body of Carol Lannen was found in Templeton Woods close to Clatto Reservoir, which is a popular fishing venue.

"Her handbag and clothing would later be discovered some 80 miles away washed up on the riverbank of the River Don near Kintore, a popular salmon and trout river.

"On February 26 1980, almost a year after the murder of Carol Lannen, came the discovery of 20-year-old trainee nurse Elizabeth McCabe's naked strangled body in Templeton Woods just 150 yards from Carol Lannen's murder.

"It would appear that she had been choked to death with her own blue jumper, which was similar to the Mary Gallagher method.

"Her handbag and shoes were later found thrown away some three miles away in Cobden Street, on the route to the River Tay and the Tay Bridge.

"My personal thoughts are that these are Sinclair's crimes," Mr Clark concluded.

Detective Superintendent Bobby Hendren, of Police Scotland's Homicide Governance and Review, told The Courier: "The murders of Carol Lannen and Elizabeth McCabe initially formed part of the Operation Trinity investigations that led ultimately to the conviction of Angus Sinclair for the World's End murders.

"In both cases all investigative opportunities were explored and there were no charges brought in relation to the Dundee murders.

"As with all unresolved crimes, these two murder investigations are subject to periodic review and any new evidence identified by or brought to the police's attention will be fully investigated," he added.

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From the top: Angus Sinclair at the time of his conviction in 2014; Dundee victims Carol Lannen, left, and Elizabeth McCabe; Sinclair, left, as he was at the time of the World's End murders in 1977; former police intelligence officer, now author, Chris Clark.

# killer to Dundee murders



Police search Cobden Street, Dundee, in 1980 after Elizabeth McCabe's murder. Below: Carol Lannen's handbag is recovered from the banks of the River Don at Kintore, 80 miles away.



The World's End in Edinburgh. Picture: HEMEDIA.

## Man taken to trial in 2007 walked free after jury was unconvinced

The murder of Elizabeth McCabe came just 11 months after that of Carol Lannen, whose body was found just yards from the same spot in Templeton Woods.

What followed was the biggest criminal investigation in the history of Tayside Police as scores of officers scoured woodland and carried out door-to-door inquiries.

More than 7,000 people were interviewed over the course of the investigation and police visited every hotel, bed and breakfast and boarding house in the city.

Sixteen years after nursery nurse Miss McCabe's murder, Tayside Police instructed a review of both deaths following the reopening of the Bible John case in Glasgow.

The murders were also included in a secret investigation into possible Yorkshire Ripper attacks by then West Yorkshire Police Chief Constable Keith Hellawell.

A second review was undertaken in 1998 and the case was officially



A police photo-fit of the man last seen with Carol Lannen before her death in 1979.

reopened in 2004. It was then items of evidence were sent for DNA analysis at a Yorkshire laboratory.

An independent review of both cases by Professor Anthony Busuttill a year later concluded there were "marked differences" in the manner of deaths.

In July 2005 Tayside Police officers detained and cautioned Vincent Simpson at his home in Camberley, Surrey. Days later he appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court for the first time in connection with the death but the High Court trial did not begin at Edinburgh until October 2007.

Mr Simpson was set free after a seven-week trial when the jury returned a majority not guilty verdict.

Police said after the verdict they were not looking at any other suspects in the case, while Mr Simpson said in 2009 he was considering taking legal action against the force.

Miss McCabe's murder was the subject of a new review of the unsolved murder in 2012 in light of changes to the double jeopardy law.



Helen Scott, left, and Christine Eadie, both 17, whose bodies were found six miles apart at Gosford Beach and Haddington in 1977. Picture: PA.

## Suspected connection with Yorkshire Ripper's method

While researching his book, Chris Clark did find a connection between Peter Sutcliffe and the murder of Dawn Webster in Grangemouth.

He said: "Sutcliffe in 1979 admitted to his workmates at Clarks Transport that he was having an affair with a 35-year-old Scots divorcee who lived in a village near Glasgow.

"He met her in the Crown Bar in Holytown in Motherwell when he made a delivery to the Motherwell General Motors plant in 1979.

"He gave the woman the story that he was Peter Logan, a widower, who lived in a big house in Yorkshire and he also wrote romantic letters using his father's address for returns."

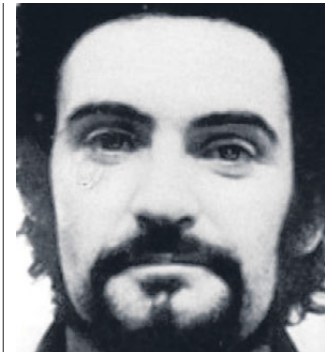
Dawn Webster was 18 and from Stenhousemuir. She went to a 21st birthday party on September 14 1979 at the ICI club in Grangemouth, which was the last place she was seen alive.

She vanished and her partially-stripped body was found 15 days later down an embankment off the M9 near Grangemouth.

"It would appear she was trying to hitch-hike back to Stenhousemuir," Mr Clark said.

"At the time the pathologist concluded she died of a heart attack following a blow or pressure to certain parts of her body but found no bruising.

"Sutcliffe in several of the cases we have highlighted used a garrote, which was a knotted length of rope.



Notorious serial killer Peter Sutcliffe.

"The only parts of the rope that come in contact with the neck are where the knots are, so there wouldn't be any rope burns.

"That was what he used in 1980 for one murder and one attempted murder, and I have highlighted that he also used this on several victims prior to the Ripper series."

Peter Sutcliffe was convicted of 13 murders and seven attempted murders in 1981.

However, a new book written by Mr Clark and Mr Tate claims those figures are just the tip of the iceberg.

Yorkshire Ripper: the Secret Murders claims that Sutcliffe was responsible for the murder of 35 women and a man.