

## ***“Cycle of Opportunity”***

During 1976 Robert Black, the infamous convicted child sex killer got a job with a London Firm as a van driver delivering posters all over the United Kingdom and he would regularly do the London to Edinburgh runs over the next 14 years. It is during this period that he was actively engaged in the abduction rape and murder of young teenagers and preteen girls.

Whether April Fabb was one of his earlier victims is not known but her disappearance some nine years prior to the disappearance of Genette Tate and the murder of Jennifer Cardy in 1981 has glaring similarities. Black at that time was living in London having been released from a Falkirk Borstal after one year for child abuse having previously committed an attempted murder on a seven year old girl during 1963 when he was aged 17. He did not hold a driving licence at this time but importantly he did incur traffic convictions prior to the acquisition of one and it is known that he had access to at least 4 vehicles at various times during that period:

A White Hillman Imp.

A Blue Vauxhall Victor.

A Green Ford Zephyr.

A Blue Ford Anglia.

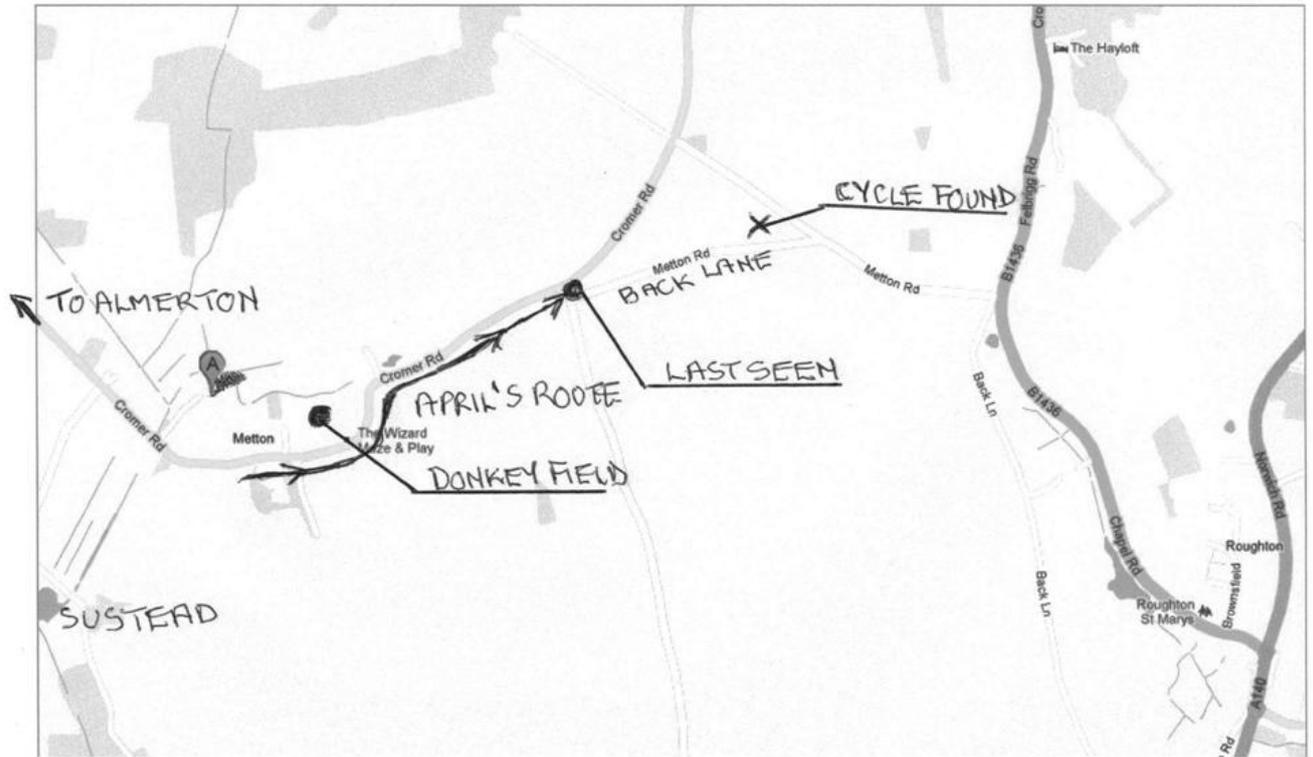
Black was aged 23 at the time of April Fabb's abduction and disappearance. It was also reported in the press after his 1990's conviction that Black had visited Norfolk on a regular basis.

### ***“April Fabb”***



On Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1969 the day after Easter Monday I worked a late turn foot beat at King's Lynn when one of Norfolk's biggest mysteries occurred during that afternoon. April Fabb a shy thirteen year old a few days off her fourteenth birthday and on her Easter school holidays set off from her home at Metton which is close to Cromer to cycle the two miles to her Sister's home in Roughton near Cromer to give her Brother In Law a packet of cigarettes as a birthday present for his birthday on Easter Monday, but she never made it along that country lane.

She was seen at 2.06pm that afternoon cycling along and stopped by a field containing a donkey where she met 2 girls who were playing with the donkey and April joined them briefly before continuing her journey. She was last seen at 2.12pm by a Land Rover driver about to turn right into Back Lane towards Roughton; just 3 minutes later her Blue and White cycle was found lying on its side where it had been thrown over a six foot high bank into a field in Back Lane.



***April's fateful last journey***



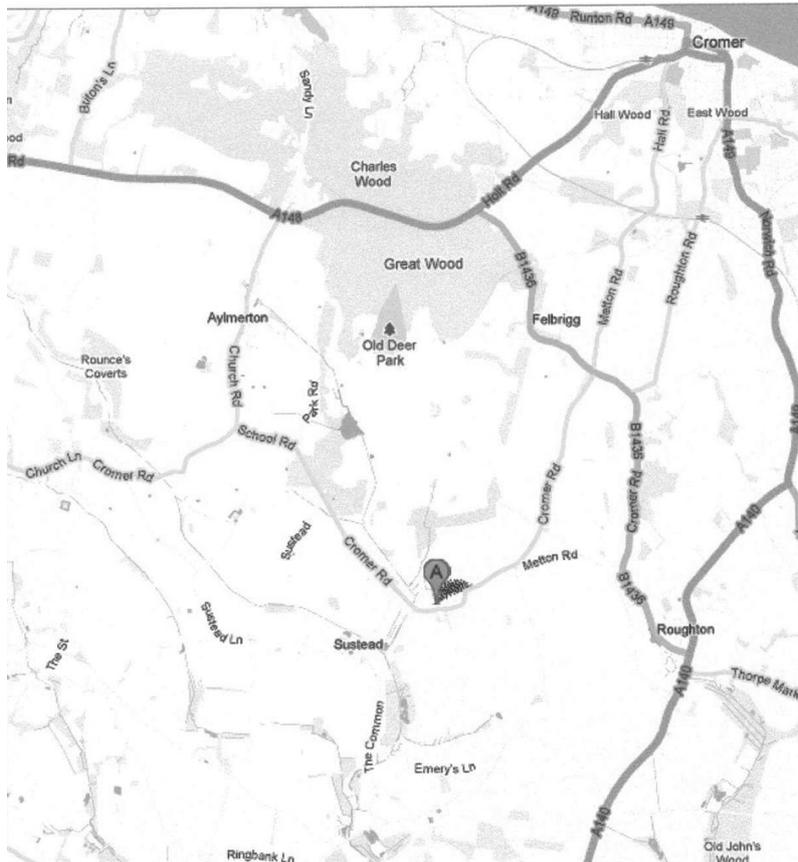
***A view along Back Lane heading towards Roughton***

April would not complete this journey her cycle finished up in the field to the left

Two vehicles were in the area during the material time were never traced they were a vaguely described grey car and a newish looking Red Mini with new type reflective number plates, now the latter should have turned up as reflective number plates were not law until nearly four years later the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1973. But it is possible that this vehicle could have been a brand new unregistered vehicle off the production line and being driven to a garage on Red On White “Stop On Sight” Garage Showroom Trade Plates, which comprised of 3 numbers and up to 3 letters e.g. 123ABC.



***A 1964 Austin Mini***



***Metton's Geographical Location Note The A140 & A148 And Interlinking Roads***

Full details of April's story and the hunt for her are in a book written and dedicated to her memory and tests the original investigation by one of my ex bosses retired Detective Chief Superintendent Maurice Morson who inherited the outstanding enquiry from Det Chief Superintendent Reg Lester during 1983 when Reg retired; it is entitled "The Lost Years".

Up until the time of April Fabb's disappearance and the next decade when Robert Black was on the prowl it was a rarity for children to be abducted and murdered. Any reports of children being enticed into vehicles was regarded by all East Anglian and other Police Forces as "high alert" action and subsequent transmissions of intelligence to neighbouring Forces. Jeanne (who is now my Wife) was nearly such a statistic and on this occasion certain members of Cambridgeshire Constabulary let her and the system down big-time.

### ***Strange encounters of a sinister kind***

Again in a glaringly similar set of circumstances to the disappearances of April Fabb, Genette Tate and Jennifer Cardy something nearly happened to Jeanne which traumatised her and affects her to this day and one that she has never come to terms with. During the early summer of 1971 Jeanne was a shy just turned fifteen year old under-developed girl who would easily pass for a ten year old. On one hot Sunday morning during June or July she cycled from her home in Offord D'Arcy situated between Huntingdon and St Neots in Cambridgeshire with her swimming bag the some five miles to the open-air baths at St Neots via the quiet and seldom used by strangers B1043 road as it is by-passed by the A1 Great North Road. One village en-route is that of Great Paxton situated just off the main A1 and some 50 miles from London. After her swim Jeanne during the middle afternoon retraced her route back home for tea and when she was about a mile into her journey and close to the outskirts of Great Paxton she came across a dog lead lying in the carriageway and being an animal lover stopped to look at it.

It is quite apparent to me looking back that the lead had been deliberately planted there as a lure in order to distract her attention. She then became aware of a man in a Blue Mini travelling in the opposite direction slowing down and stopped opposite her staring at her legs.

Jeanne started cycling fast towards Great Paxton and the vehicle came back behind her and passed very slowly. She saw it pull sharply at an angle into a field entrance and the driver get out and walk to the rear offside and stand by the vehicle. She describes him as a small thin faced man. She was by now panic stricken and instinctively cycled furiously past the parked vehicle on the

off-side of the road. She then went into the driveway of the first house that she came to and there was no one in. Jeanne then got back on her bike and cycled into Great Paxton. Her would be abductor had obviously by now been scared off thinking that she lived there. Jeanne still hysterical knocked on a cottage door in Great Paxton and reported the incident to the lady occupant and a bit later her husband took Jeanne and her bike home to her parents and the police were called.

The Modus Operandi or Method Used bore all of the hallmarks employed in the later series of abductions and/or murders committed by the likes of Robert Black.

As far as Black goes no photos have been released to the public as to how he looked then.

As far as the Mini was concerned it was dark Blue in colour and either a Saloon or more probably a Mini Van. The significant fact that Jeanne remembered was that the index plate contained 777 in the makeup this could so easily have been narrowed down and there was a good chance that had the police taken the matter seriously and the details passed to all of their Divisions and Surrounding Forces via Radio, Telex and other circulations that the offender would have been traced and may well have solved other outstanding enquiries.



***Mini Saloon***

***Mini Van***

Going from 1960 the registration number or index plate would have been made up of three letters three numbers and no suffix, i.e.:

1960: ???777.

From 1963 and so on it would have been made up thus:

1963: ???777A.

1964: ???777B.

1965: ???777C.

1966: ???777D.

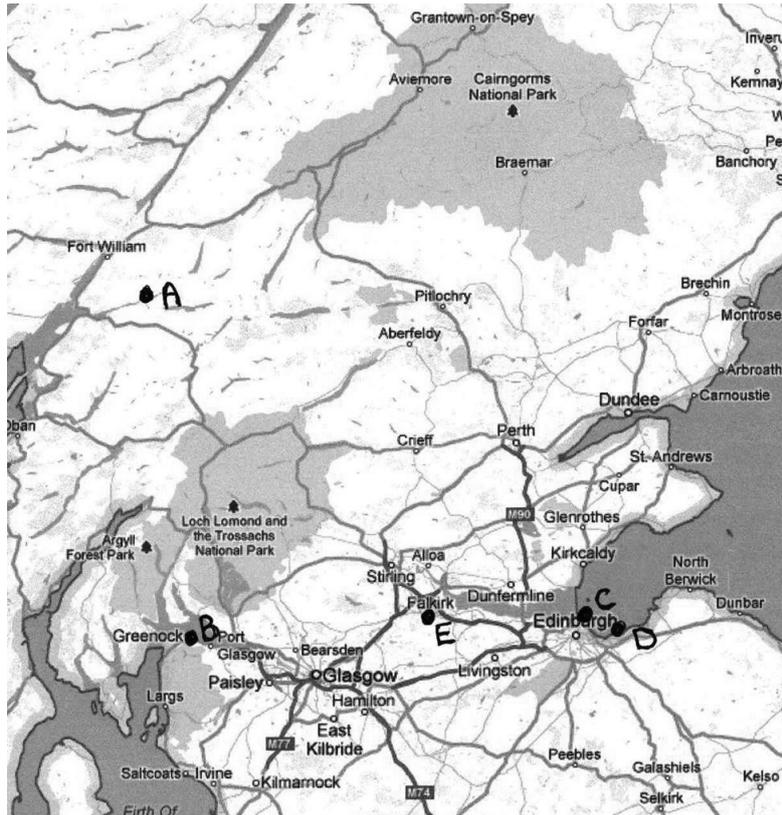
1967: ???777E.

1968: ???777F.

1969: ???777G.

1970: ???777H.

I have fully categorised Black's crimes and what others he is suspected for in a separate article but having a vested interest in the above two matters I will delve further into Black's timeline here but with only having information gathered from the public domain.



***Places of interest in Scotland applicable to Robert Black***

- A. Kinlochleven where he grew up and later returned in the mid 1966/67 age 19/20 to Appin Road and committed an indecent assault on a 6 year old.
- B. Greenock where he was a butcher's delivery boy age 16 during 1963 and committed offence amounting to attempted murder of 8 year old in Air raid shelter.
- C. Musselburgh where he was in a Children's Home from 1959 until 1962 aged 12 years to 15 years.
- D. Portobello age 8/9 went to swimming baths 1955/6. Returned and abducted Caroline Hogg from a fun fair during 1983.
- E. Falkirk went to a Children's Home and Grammar School age 11 during 1958 and part of 1959.

Robert Black was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 1947 at Grangemouth, about 20 miles from Edinburgh on the Firth of Forth in Scotland he was given up at birth for fostering and placed in care by Social Services; he shares his Birthday with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. During October 1947 at age 6 months he was fostered out to Jack and Margaret Tulip in Kinlochleven near Glencoe in the West Highlands where he lived for the next decade. At the age of 5 Jack Tulip died and Black had recurring nightmares which ended in him bed wetting and a beating; at school he was known as “Smelly Robbie Tulip” and being a loner he resented the other children and got into scrapes and bullied the younger and more vulnerable kids.

His first sexual experience was when he was only 5 during 1952 and he later vividly recalled himself and a little girl undressing and looking at each other’s sexual parts and during 1954 at the age of 7 he remembers at Highland Dance classes being far more interested in lying on the floor and looking up girl’s skirts than dancing. He would also watch his foster mother getting out at night to use the potty under the bed and would see her hairy private parts; smooth hairless vaginas held a far more appeal. During 1955 at the age of 8 while looking after a neighbour’s baby he took off her nappy to look at her vagina during this time both vaginas and anuses fascinated him and he was obsessed with discovering how big they could expand and how much they could hold.

Margaret Tulip died during 1958 when Black was 11 and he was deprived of a mother for the second time he was moved to Redding Children’s Home near Falkirk and he went to West quarter Primary School near Falkirk, Stirlingshire,

to the north-east of Glasgow .The following photograph is the face of a later serial sex murderer of children.



***Robert Black Age 11***

At 11+ he went to Musselburgh Grammar a Secondary Education school in Scotland and was slightly above average academically but he was very keen on football, billiards, table tennis, weight lifting, swimming and athletics. It was during this time that his fascination with sex and particularly with the vagina, finally drove him across the line from childhood experimentation to criminal behaviour. The fascination with the secret of birth the hidden contents of the womb was clearly exacerbated by the loss of a second mother. When he was age 12 during 1959 Black made his first inept attempt at rape. He told Ray Wyre who later interviewed him in prison: "Me and two other boys went to a field with a girl the same age. We took her knickers off lifted her skirt and tried

to put our penises in.” Finding that they couldn’t complete the act of penetration the boys contented themselves instead with touching the girl’s vagina. When Ray Wyre later asked Black if she had consented to this he told Wyre: “I was forcing her like, you know.” The incident came to light and the authorities decided that Black would be better suited to a home with stricter discipline and an all-male environment.

Black was then moved to Red House in Musselburgh at some time during 1959 and he was to stay there until he left school at age 15 during the end of the summer term of 1962; during this time he was homosexually abused by a male member of staff since deceased. Even before his time at Red House Black had associated sex with dominance and submission and now it was firmly cemented in his mind; and he concluded that it was acceptable to take what you wanted without regard to other people’s feelings. Black obtained a place and went to Musselburgh Grammar School he was slightly above average academically but it was sport that he was really interested in, especially football swimming and athletics. He often walked from Musselburgh to nearby Portobello where there were two swimming pools in which he would practice. Over 20 years later a little girl Caroline Hogg was to be abducted from Portobello and later murdered; her house was on the route between the two swimming pools.

In the summer of 1962 when Black was 15 he left Red House and his time was up at Musselburgh School. The authorities arranged for him to get a job as a Butcher’s delivery boy on a trade bike and also a room to rent in a Boy’s Home in Greenock. He later admitted to Ray Wyre that while he was doing his delivery rounds he molested 30 or 40 girls. He said “If there was a girl on her

own in the flats where I was delivering I'd like sit down and talk to her for a few minutes like you know, and try and touch her, I sometimes succeeded sometimes not." Amazingly none of this behaviour seems to have been reported and it was not until a year later that Black's first conviction came about otherwise he would have been incarcerated and coupled with the Social Services previous knowledge he would not have been at large to prey on his next victim and subsequent ones.

Sometime during 1963 when Black was 16 he went into a local park in Greenock and watched children playing, until one 7 year old was left isolated on her own and he befriended her and gained her trust (like some 20 years later with Caroline Hogg) and gave her a push on the swings. He then told her that he had some kittens and would she like to see them the little girl trustingly went with him as he led her to a deserted air raid shelter, passing a policeman on the way. In the air raid shelter he strangled the girl until she was unconscious and then proceeded to molest her whilst he was masturbating and ejaculated over her. He later told Ray Wyre "I took her inside and I held her down on the ground with my hand round her throat...I must have half-strangled her or something because she was unconscious...When she was quiet I took her knickers off and I lifted her up so as I was holding her behind her knees and her vagina was wide open and I poked my finger in there once."

Most importantly when we look at his later necrophilic crimes that he was convicted of, her lack of consciousness far from detracting from his pleasure, enhanced it. When he left the girl in that derelict building he didn't know or care whether she was unconscious or dead. She was later found wandering

the streets with a ruptured hymen, bleeding, crying and confused but the next day she managed to identify the astonished Black who had left her for dead. Once again the Judiciary let a lot of Black's future victims down when he went to Court on 25 June 1963 charged not with Indecent Assault and Attempted Murder but for lewd and libidinous behaviour. A naïve psychiatric report had been prepared for the Court who said the event was an isolated one! Highly unlikely to recur or mar Black's normal development!

Instead of being imprisoned for a large number of years Black was given a suspended sentence as later events were to prove he should have been suspended from a rope.

Unlike the psychiatric report however the Social Services Probation Report viewed the incident as more serious and it was decided that Black should leave Greenock and return to Grangemouth to make a new start. Here he got a job with a Builder's Supply Company and rented a room with an older couple. He also met his only real girlfriend and he fell in love developed a sexual relationship with her and they decided to get engaged. After a few months he was devastated to find a letter sent by her telling him that it was over obviously she had become concerned for some reason about her Fiancé's sexual behaviour.

Great play was later made of the fact that Black was not driving until his Poster Delivery and Storage (PDS) job in 1976 which gave him the opportunity to travel far and wide to abduct and murder and various Senior Police Detectives seemed unaware of what I have since uncovered.

During 1964 at age 17 and some 12 years before the PDS job Black firstly drove as a delivery driver for the Glasgow Evening Times and then for John

Menzies newspaper and magazine Distributors. He probably drove for over 2 years from 1964 to 1966 and this would have given him the opportunity to drive over a wide area of Southern Scotland and who knows how many attempted abductions/indecent assaults were made by him on young girls during this period.

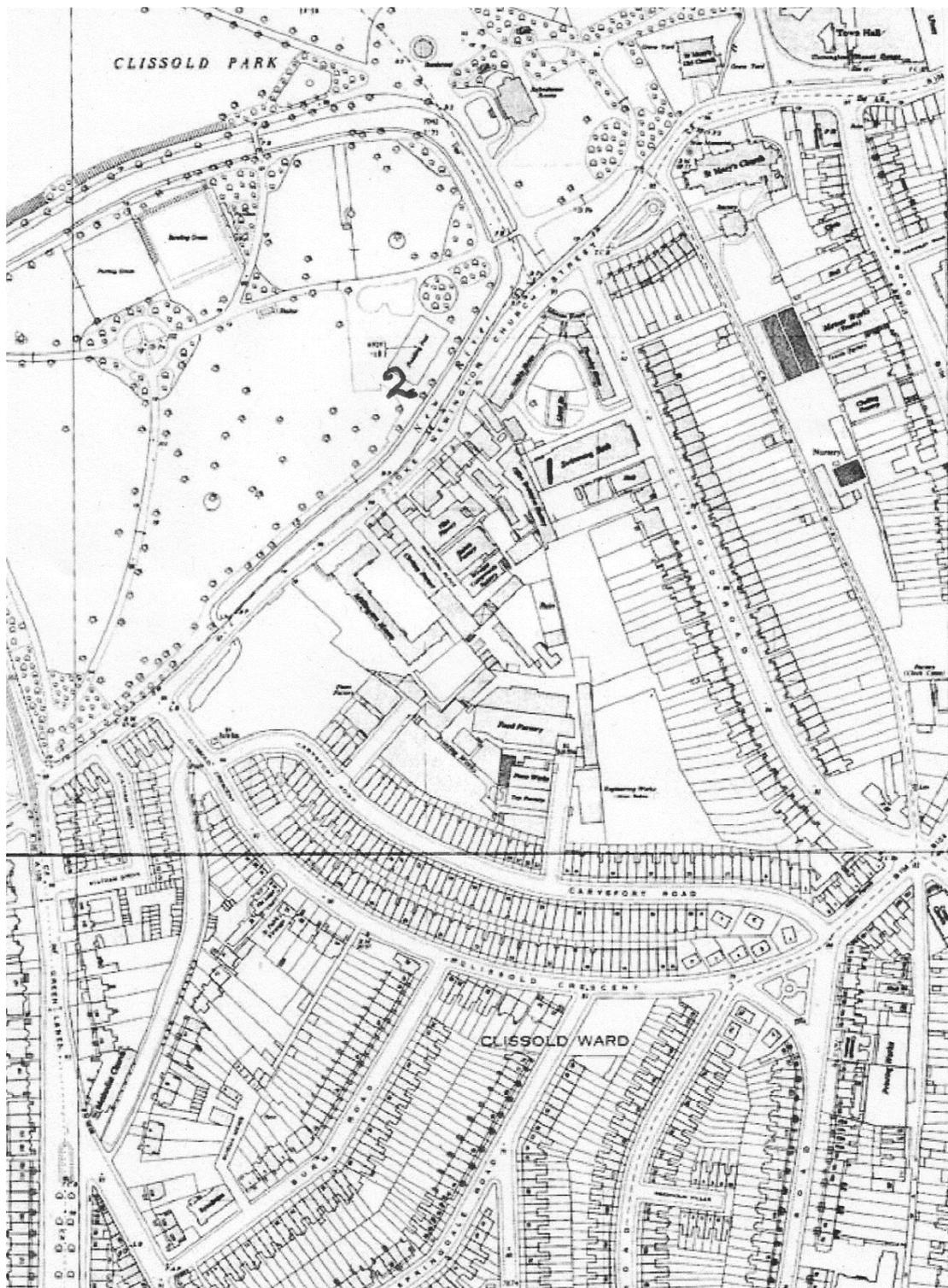
During 1966 at age 19 his continuing offending came to light when the 9 year old granddaughter of his landlord and landlady in Falkirk made a complaint to her parents that Black had molested her which included looking at touching and digital exploration inside her vagina. Again a lot of future victims were let down for the third time when it was felt that the girl had been through enough and Black was ordered to leave the rented accommodation. Gossip spread quickly in the small town of Falkirk and he was sacked from his job without reason and his place in the community undermined Black at age 19 then suddenly resurfaced in Kinlochleven some 100 miles from Falkirk the place of his boyhood upbringing that he had left some 8 years previously. The firm that he was then employed with won a contract to work in the area. He found lodgings in Appin Road with a family who had been friends with his Foster Mother. During this period Black was again employed as a driver and he was also a peeping tom and the village post woman caught him peering through a window at her sister.

However it was only a short time after his previous offending that Black again came to the attention of his new landlord and landlady. He had been carrying out the same unwanted sexual offending that had become commonplace for him when babysitting their 6 year old daughter and was carrying out the digital examination of her private parts. On this occasion the police were called and

arrived at a bar where he was drinking and arrested him and he was taken to the local police station. He admitted 3 specimen accounts and on 22 March 1967 a month before he was age 20, he was sent to Borstal for one year at Polmont near Grangemouth.

Upon his release sometime during 1968 Black now age 21 moved into a Probation Hostel in Glasgow and when he left there for two convictions against young girls there was no supervision and no follow up he disappeared from authorities view. After a brief period in a nearby bedsit and an arrest for loitering with intent to steal from Glasgow shops he had tired of his native Scotland where he was getting too well known to the police and public alike, so he headed south to the anonymity of London and firstly to Stamford Hill. There he first took a cheap bedsit in Bergholt Crescent and then shortly after he moved to another one in Albion Road, Stoke Newington a couple of miles further south; this was to become his bolt hole for the next 3 years and where his paedophile offending continued unabated and undetected.

At first he took up an attendant job on a six month trial at the nearby Clissold Road Swimming Pool just a five minute walk and a third of a mile from his digs, there he doubled as a life guard and it gave him an ideal opportunity to see little girls in their bathing suits and touch them.



Ordnance Survey map Clissold Road in 1952

Showing (1) Clissold Road Swimming Baths (2) Clissold Park Paddling Pool  
He supplemented the poor wages as an evening bar man at various local  
pubs in and around Church Street, Stoke Newington and bars became the  
centre of his limited social life either as a regular drinker or as an above

average amateur darts player at one of a dozen pubs scattered around Stoke Newington and he became a fixture of the area.

Some pub regulars took pity on the short at 5'7" athletic and articulate lonely odd young man who spoke with a "Sean Connery" Scottish accent and who had a very strong body odour and whose hair then was light brown thinning and rapidly receding. He was eventually sacked from the swimming pool job for poor time keeping as not surprisingly he couldn't get up in the mornings and he concentrated on bar work and other casual jobs.

During his early 20's and whilst living in Albion Road and doing casual work he was given a trial with Enfield Town FC but his poor eyesight let him down from becoming a professional and he concentrated on his swimming. Enfield Town Football Club then located at Southbury Road was adjacent to the main A10 out of London some 7 miles north of where Black lived.

Black continued to live in the bedsit from 1968 until the end of the summer in 1971 and he had a few casual jobs and during one spring he saw an advert for a job in an open air pool which he got and worked the whole summer season from May until September. This pool was most probably the one which was situated in Clissold Park less than a mile away from his digs where he would have been residing when April Fabb would go missing during the Easter Holidays of 1969 and the late spring/early summer of 1971 when Jeanne Twigden's attempted abduction occurred.

At the end of that employment he applied for a job at Hornsey Road Swimming Baths and worked there for a few years on alternating weeks of early and late shifts.



### ***Hornsey Road Swimming Baths***

During the autumn of 1971 Black after living there for the best part of 3 years suddenly became unhappy with his Albion Road accommodation had another landlady become concerned about Black's behaviour in the neighbourhood? He was playing darts in the Three Crowns pub in Stoke Newington when he met the couple who would provide him with a home for the next 21 years. Edward and Katherine Rayson were fellow Scots formerly of Musselburgh, where Black had been in a Children's Home and Black told them that he was unhappy with his digs in Albion Road. Katherine Rayson felt sorry for him and persuaded her husband to allow Black to move into their spare attic room and so he moved back to Stamford Hill and settled less than ½ mile a mile away from his original digs at Bergholt Crescent with the Rayson family of 5 boys and 2 girls in an attic room at 7 West Bank running up one side of Amhurst Park where he would remain until his arrest for abduction in 1990.



***Black's Attic bolt hole at 7 West Bank Stamford Hill***

Black continued his job as a lifeguard/attendant at Hornsey Road Swimming Pool Islington where he was sometimes able to go underneath the pool and remove the lights to look at little girls as they swam. At night he used to break into the baths and swim lengths-with a broom handle lodged up his anus. It wasn't long before Black became the subject of a complaint from a girl who claimed he had touched her up. The police were called but again luck was on Black's side and despite his previous sexual record astonishingly he was not arrested or charged with any offence although he was forced to leave. It was around this time that he had discovered child pornography being available at under counter premises and he had amassed a sizeable collection of the worst type of magazine and cine film (later video tape) child pornography imaginable. He used to go to a place near King's Cross to buy them and later made trips to Amsterdam and Denmark to obtain them. When he was arrested

during 1990 and his room searched the Metropolitan Police recovered over a hundred magazines as well as over 50 cine and video tapes.

Black was also a good barman and he earned the trust of one of his pub husband and wife employers and babysat their six children when they went out; occasionally he would take these children swimming at the local pool.

However most other parents who he came into contact with became uneasy about him in the company of their children after a short time. He drank in about a dozen other pubs in the Stoke Newington area during the 1970's. It would appear that he was also well known in that local area of London as when he was not working he was a regular member of one of a number of local darts teams.

Black was also a keen photographer and whilst living with the Rayson's at West Bank he had amassed an impressive array of photographic and video equipment and sometimes jokingly called him "David Bailey" a reference to a famous photographer of those times. It later transpired that one of his favourite pastimes was to go to the seaside or a playground which was frequented by young children and video them playing or take snap-shots of them; did he go to Cromer in Norfolk during 1969?

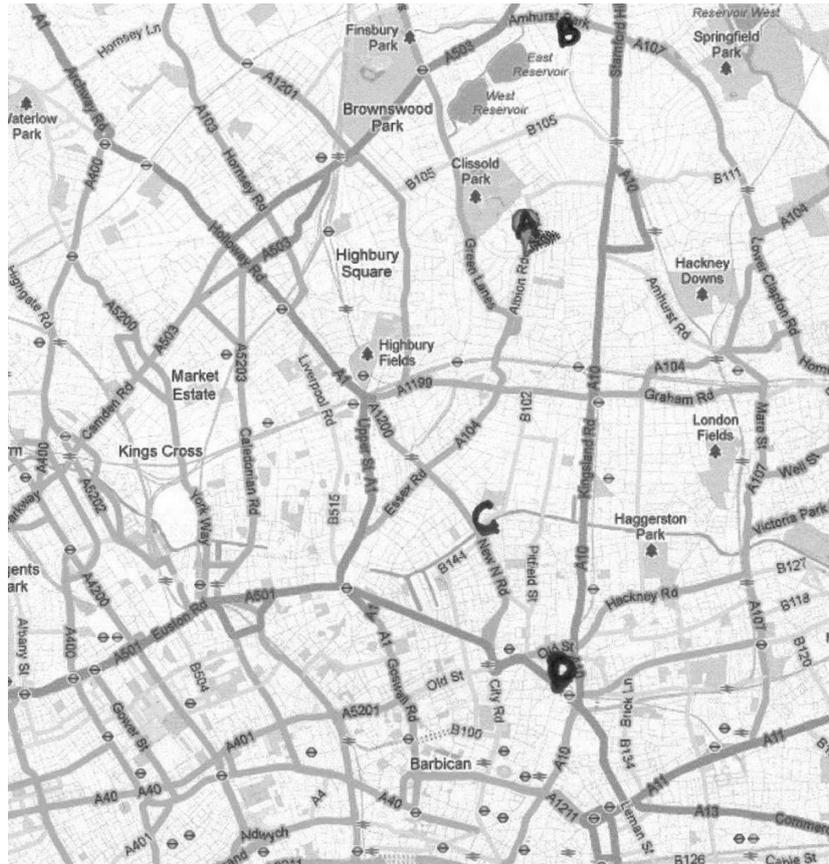
Further research reveals that Robert Black's former addresses are all located within a half mile of the main A10 which links London to King's Lynn in Norfolk where a further couple of miles up the A149 links with the main A148 direct to Cromer. The main A11 runs out of London only 2 miles south east which in those days before the M11 was built was the direct link to Norwich and where it terminates at Norwich this directly links with the A140 road to Roughton and Cromer.

Thirdly the A1 Great North Road runs out of London near to Highbury fields and only a mile from Albion Road this runs immediately adjacent to St Neots in Cambridgeshire on its way to Peterborough and the north. Similarly Albion Road is also strategically placed by the A10 and just a short distance to the south both the A1 and A11 link to it via London Wall and Houndsditch; so Black had 3 very significant main trunks roads right on his doorstep during 1969, 1970 and 1971.

Additionally if you take the A1 from London to Peterborough this links directly with the A15 and this will take you directly north via Lincoln to Scunthorpe where in 1973 a 9 year old by the name of Christine Markham disappeared.



***3 Significant Routes Out Of London***



**(A) Albion Road (B) 7 West Bank (C) The Baring Arms  
(D) Intersection of the A1 the A10 and the A11**

Significantly one of Black's convictions whilst living in London was on the 22 September 1972 at North London MC for stealing cars and going equipped with a bunch of keys this was some 4 years before gaining a driving licence and employment with Poster Dispatch & Storage during 1976 when he was driving their vans nationally and internationally. Black would have needed prior substantial driving experience and a good navigational knowledge, including that of the arterial roads out from and back into The Capital. The circumstances leading to Black's conviction was on the 26 August 1972 he was arrested by PC 356 "N" Robertson with a bunch of car keys and being carried in a stolen Ford Zephyr car and he admitted another similar offence; who was his co-accused? His antecedent sheet listed that he was a wood

machinist by trade and that he frequented the “Horse & Groom” Public House located at 105 Church Street, Stoke Newington since renamed “Auld Shillelagh”.

When Black was interviewed in Prison following his arrest during the 1990’s by Ray Wyre, a Sex Crime Counsellor he was described as being a small man no more than 5’7”, but powerfully built; just the sort of upper body strength needed to throw a cycle into a field.

The body odour had never left Black and to the Rayson children he became known amongst them as “Smelly Bob” but he appeared to take this title without resentment and he attended their family occasions over the years, including Christenings.

By the mid-70’s Black’s drinking establishments fetched a little further afield and they included the “Baring Arms” Pub in Baring Street N1 just a couple of miles away to the south of West Bank where he surfaced during 1977. Former World Champion darts player Eric Bristow knew him in those days, and I would have thought that there would be team photos including him and a lot of untapped information from the by now veteran regulars.

During 2012 I contacted the Hackney Gazette and on Friday 17 August 2012 they published the below report:

# Retired police officer appeals for information about Stamford Hill child killer

Sarah Ingrams, Reporter [mailto:sarah.ingrams@archant.co.uk] Friday, August 17, 2012

9:42 AM

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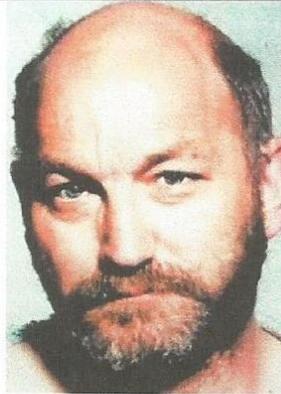
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A former police officer has appealed for information about serial child killer Robert Black's Hackney past after a hunch the attempted abduction of his wife when a schoolgirl was carried out by him.



To send a link to this page to a friend, you must be logged in.



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Child killer Robert Black

Chris Clark, a retired officer with the Norfolk Constabulary, believes Black, 65, serving 11 life sentences for the murder of four schoolgirls and suspected of other unsolved child disappearances, notably Genette Tate, is the perpetrator of the attempted kidnap of his wife, Jeanne, when she was 15.

He is attempting to create a timeline of delivery driver Black's life in Stamford Hill from the time he moved there in the late 1960s until his arrest in 1990.

Lucky

Black's victims include Susan Maxwell, 11, from Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland; Caroline Hogg, five, from Edinburgh and Sarah Harper, 10, from Leeds.



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Chris and Jeanne Clark in 2012

Last year he was found guilty of the murder of nine-year-old schoolgirl Jennifer Cardy, from Northern Ireland, in 1981.

Mr Clark believes he is responsible for earlier unsolved disappearances including 13-year-old April Fabb in Norfolk in 1969.

Jennifer Cardy's case is identical, he says, to the attempted abduction of his wife when she was confronted by a man in a blue Mini or Minivan as she cycled to the open air pool in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, in summer 1978.

Mr Clark said: "She was very lucky to survive. She was going to disappear that day and not be seen again. I'm doing this to get closure for my wife as well as for the other unsolved cases."

Mr Clark's research shows Black moved to Bergolt Crescent, Stamford Hill, from Scotland in 1968 as a 22-year-old. He moved to Albion Road and then to West Bank where he lived with a couple and their seven children until his arrest in 1990.

He is thought to have worked as an attendant or lifeguard at the old swimming pool on Clissold Road, Clissold Park Paddling Pool and later Hornsey Road Swimming Baths in the '70s.

He drank at the former Horse & Groom pub (now Auld Shillelagh) in Church Street, Stoke Newington and played for local darts teams.

"So many people knew him at that time. They didn't know he was a child killer, they just thought that he was an oddball," Mr Clark said.

"There would be a lot of people aged 50 plus who would have bumped into him and may remember something."

Mr Clark is particularly keen to hear whether Black had access to a motor vehicle at this time, in which he could have reached the crime scenes in Cambridge or Norfolk, as well as other information about Black in Hackney or photos.

If you have any information, email the Gazette at [hg.editorial@archant.co.uk](mailto:hg.editorial@archant.co.uk) or Mr Clark at [sirhcclark@btinternet.com](mailto:sirhcclark@btinternet.com)

As a result of the above article I had only one contact, however an important one as the following e-mail extracts portray:

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**Date:** Sunday, 2 September 2012, 12:08

Hello Chris,

As far as i can remember it was about 1983 when i saw Robert Black.

My local pub was The Red Lion as it was named back then in Church St, Stokenewington n16 & i had seen Black in there a few times, playing darts with the locals. One night i happened to be at the counter where he was sitting & i had a conversation with him. He told me a bit about himself, saying his name was Bob Black & how he was Scottish, i remember saying to him how his name was unusual as i had never known anyone to be named Black before. Talking about Scotland i mentioned about how terrible it was regarding the murder of Susan Maxwell, he agreed it was dreadful, & then went on to list a string of other murders & missing girls etc saying how they were equally as bad. Some of the names he mentioned i knew about from the newspapers but others i hadnt, & he said he was surprised that i didnt know about them, he seemed to be disappointed.

I would say he mentioned about 8 or 9 names one after the other, & i was surprised that he had such a close knowledge of these crimes, but then i assumed he was one of those people who takes an interest & studies about murders & missing girls etc in the news & i thought no more of it. One of the names was Jennete Tate which he dwelt on saying she was abducted off her bicycle, also Jennifer Cardy in Ireland & he mentioned another girl also in Ireland. Then April Fabb & a string of others which i cannot remember, i did remember some but because time has elapsed i have forgotten them. That was the only time that i had a proper conversation with him, other times i would see him there & i played darts with him once.

I lived in St Kildas Rd not far from Church St & also only 2 streets away from where he lived in West Bank, Stamford Hill, & i had 2 girls who used to play on the street with other local children outside our home, that was considered to be safe back then in those times. When i discovered about Black later on i thanked God that our children were ok. Regards,

John

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**Date:** Saturday, 29 September 2012, 17:47

Hello Chris, i didnt find out anything from the guys around Stamford Hill or Stokenewington, most of the people there now are of a different generation, those that would have met him are mostly gone to the happy hunting ground.

I used to live in Albion Rd when i was a teenager, lived at 207 for about 12 months in 1963/64 didnt see him then maybe he came there later to Albion Rd.

The names that he mentioned to me in the Bar, in his low soft voice were April Fabb, Genette Tate, Jennifer Cardy, Susan Maxwell, I think he mentioned a young girl in Essex ( cant think of her name) but i know she was murdered, & yes Christine Markham, i cant remember the names of the 2 girls in Ireland that he mentioned, & he also spoke of 3 or 4 more young girls just mentioning their names & saying how terrible it was that so many were murdered or missing.

It struck me straight away how it was very unusual for anyone to remember the names of these girls so well & the way in which he rattled them off, but again i would never have suspected him as he told me he lived in Stemford Hill & the girls were from areas mainly long distances away. He was a cool customer.

Regards John

With regard to the last e-mail it is quite significant that Black was talking during 1983 about the murder of 14 year old Suzanne Lawrence who was reported as a missing person during July 1979 and was last seen at a funfair in Highbury, London and thought to have run away with it, Highbury is very close to Robert Black's then haunts.

Her disappearance only made the local Romford area papers and her name was an unknown quantity until after Black's arrest during 1990, so there he is talking about her murder some 7 years before she became a known possible victim.

Further to that again Christine Markham who went missing during 1973 was not a household name during the 1980's outside of her native Scunthorpe.

Also Mary Boyle age 5 went missing on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1977 from Ballyshannon in Ireland, this story probably never made it to the British Mainland and this would be one of the Irish girls referred to.



***Susan Maxwell***

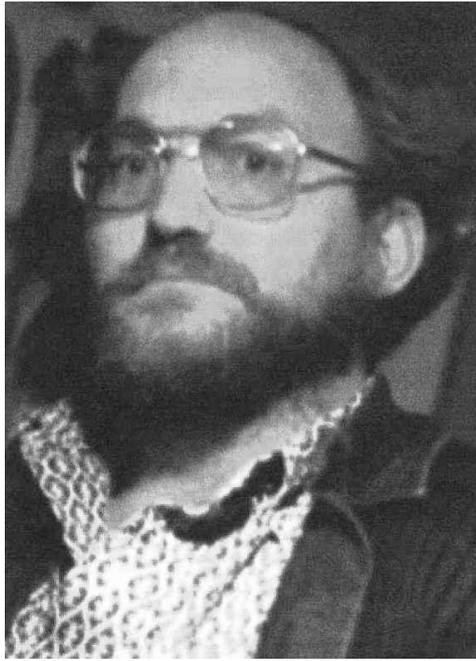
***Caroline Hogg***

***3 and 4 for Sarah Harper***

***Artist's impressions of men wanted in connection with the abduction of the three missing girls issued between 1982 and 1986***



***Robert Black 1982***



*Robert Black Circa 1985*

# WORLD PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: FAMILY DUPED BY EVIL CHILD KILLER

## Black was like a son, now I'd kill him

THESE are the pictures that show how evil child killer Robert Black duped his way into the heart of an ordinary family.

He always made a great fuss of their two pets, Minstrel the cat and Tina the dog, cuddling and stroking them.

Kathy and Eddie Rayson, unwittingly welcomed the twisted paedophile into their home — unaware he used it as a base for his sickening crimes.

They took pity on the lonely bachelor, a fellow Scot, and for 12 years treated him as their own son.

They invited him to family weddings and introduced him to the darts team at their local pub.

And in all innocence they allowed him to play with their five children



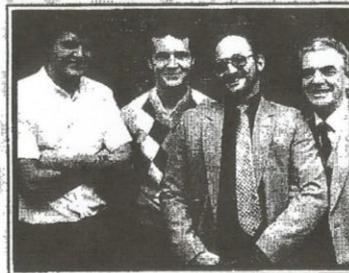
PERVERT PETER: Black gives the Raysons' cat a cuddle



DIRTY DANCER: Having fun at a christening



TWISTED PLAYER: Black shares a darts trophy



COCKY KILLER: Swaggering Black with friends

By MARK HOWARD

and grandchildren. Kathy, 71, said last night: "Rob treated me like the mother he never had. Now they say he could be killed in prison. If I'd known what he was up to, I'd have done it years ago."

### Attic

Black, 47, was last week jailed for 30 years for the 1980s murders of schoolgirls Susan Maxwell, 11, Sarah Kayser, 10, and Caroline Hogg, five.

Police believe the best-headed pervert may be responsible for TEN more child-killings.

Kathy rented an attic room to Black at the

home in Stamford Hill, north London, she and Eddie shared with two daughters and five sons.

She said: "What he did was disgusting. Just the thought of him playing with our children sickens me."

"I knew he used to get blue films from a local video store because he used to wave them under my nose and say 'look at what I've got'."

"But his only other interest seemed to be darts — so we never imagined how evil he could be."

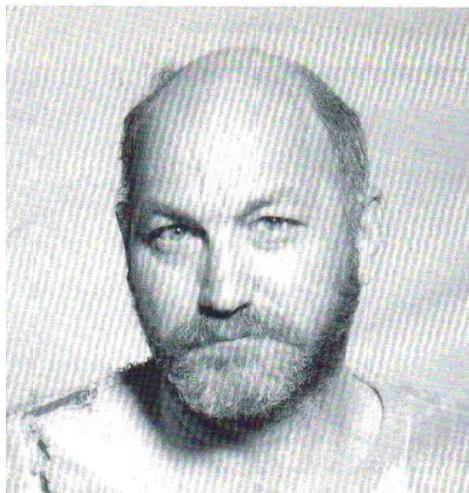
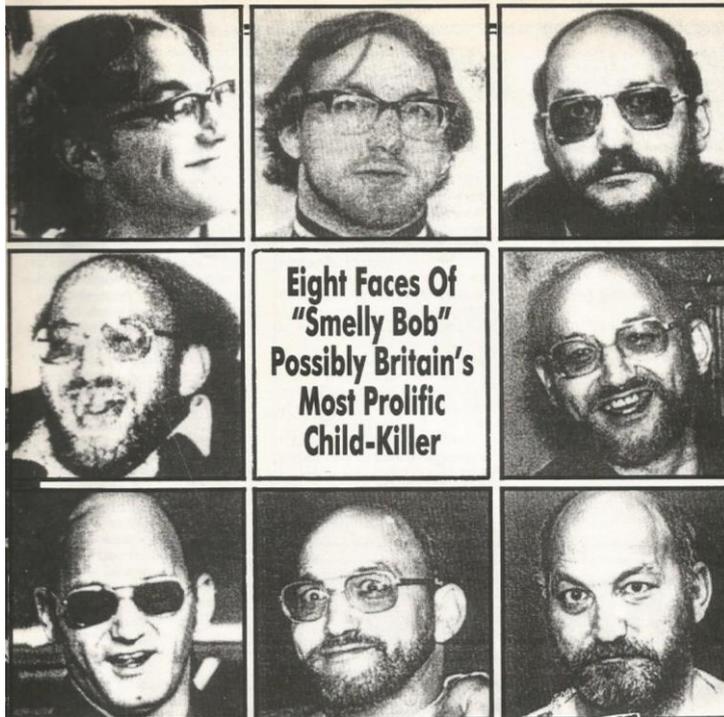
Kathy, 70, added: "I couldn't believe it when the police told us what he was charged with — it was like a thunderbolt. Until he was

arrested, he was just my friend and darts partner. He liked animals and kids, in fact he absolutely loved mine.

"He was very good with them and the grandchildren. At first, it worried me that

he might have interfered with them, but we now know he never touched them.

"No matter how crazy he may have been, he was too cunning to mess on his own doorstep."



*Robert Black 1990*

## Haunted by the memory of a close brush with Scotland's most evil serial killer

IT has taken Jeanne Clark four decades to come to terms with the terrifying fear that she could have been evil child killer Robert Black's first victim.



Jeanne Clark thinks there must be people who have photos of Robert Black as a young man []

She was a carefree 15-year-old, cycling home from an open-air swimming pool on a hot summer's day, when she encountered a well-built young man in a blue minivan.

He leered at her and then followed at a short distance, before suddenly driving ahead and pulling to the side of the road. He got out from behind the wheel and stood by the rear doors, and Jeanne had the sudden fear that he was planning to bundle her inside the vehicle.

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She believes she was only saved by her instinctive decision to cycle into the driveway of a nearby house, pretending it was where she lived.

Although Jeanne's parents reported the incident as soon as she got home they were told police could do nothing to trace the suspicious character.

**I looked about 10 but I was 15 and knew that was not right and that's probably what saved me**

Jeanne Clark

If they had, they might have stopped Black in his tracks before he went on to kill at least four little girls.

All of them were abducted in similar circumstances by the monstrous Scot, bundled into his van, sexually abused and murdered.

He has also been linked to at least two further disappearances.

Mrs Clark, who is married to a retired policeman, says she is "pretty certain" Black had marked her for death as she cycled towards her home in Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire, in 1971.

At the time, Black was a disturbed 24 year old who had fled his native Stirlingshire for London in the wake of a string of sexual offences.

At her comfortable home in Crook, County Durham, Mrs Clark says: "I was on my way home and saw a dog lead on the road and stopped to take a look. At the same time I saw this blue car or possibly a minivan drive towards me slowing down.

"I was wearing shorts, a light T-shirt and ankle socks and the way the man looked at my legs made me terrified.

"I looked about 10 but I was 15 and knew that was not right and that's probably what saved me.

"I took off as fast as I could but he turned around and drove slowly behind me for a while before speeding past me and pulling over by a field gate a couple of hundred yards away.

"He got out of the car and walked around it to stand by the back doors. I cycled as fast as I could to the other side of the road and the nearest driveway. He must have thought that was where I lived because he took off.

"When I got home I told my parents about it and they called the police but they said since nothing had happened they couldn't do anything about it."

Black's first confirmed victim was 11-year-old Susan Maxwell, who was abducted from Comhill-on-Tweed in Northumberland in July, 1982.

He also murdered Caroline Hogg, five, from Portobello, Edinburgh, in July, 1983, and Sarah Harper, 10, from Morley, Leeds, in March 1986.

However, he was only caught in 1990 after he was seen bundling a six-year-old girl into his van near Stow, Selkirkshire.

Last year, he also convicted of the abduction, rape and murder of nine-year-old Jennifer Cardy in County Antrim in July 1981.

In addition, he has been questioned over the disappearances of Genette Tate from Devon in 1978 and April Fabb from Norfolk in 1969.

Mrs Clark says: "There are too many similarities in all these cases and mine. For years I tried to tell myself it was not Black.

"It wasn't until recently that I realised just how much it had affected me. I'd been carrying this weight on my shoulders for 40 years and not a day has gone by that I've not thought of Genette thinking I should have been able to stop that from happening. Stop the other murders from happening.

"I used to be terrified of any car with 777 on the number plate because that's what the minivan or car that stopped for me had.

"Earlier this year I had counselling and all this came out. For the first time in my life I feel I am free of Black."

Her husband Chris is now conducting his own investigation into Black's time in London during the late Sixties and early Seventies.

He explains: "Attention has always been given to the delivery vans he drove since 1976. But we know he drove even before that.

"The question is what vehicles was he driving and would those vehicles been capable of taking him to Norfolk, where April Fabb went missing, and Cambridgeshire for Jeanne?"