

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

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TODAY

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ver Formula One fiasco

promises n rules on y funding

ILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT

nd he took full responsibility. However, Mr Blair remained unrepentant both about the decision to allow a longer exemption to Formula One for a European-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, and about his decision to meet Bernie Ecclestone, the boss of Formula One, on October 16 when the government was considering ways of preventing the proposed ban from being a high-risk decision by Mr Blair to offer himself for an interview with John Humphrys on *BC's On the Record* programme.

‘We will learn the lessons. Out of the difficulties of the past week can come changes that make for a healthier democracy’
Tony Blair writes, page 22

was driven by fears that his strong personal standing with the public, Labour's biggest asset, was in danger of being damaged as a result of the row. Within Downing Street there is a regret that all the facts surrounding the Ecclestone donation, and the decision to turn down other gifts, were not released earlier, as some of Mr Blair's most ardent aides had recommended. Mr Blair admitted yesterday: "It could not have come out in dribs and drabs and we should have used on this earlier... I am sorry about this issue. I should have

realised it was going to blow up into this kind of importance but I have honestly done what I thought was best for the country all the way through."

There were also clear indications last night that the policy which has caused all the trouble could still be changed. Mr Blair made plain that the outcome on the tobacco ban would be decided in negotiations with the European Union, and there were hints that the proposed ten-year exemption for Formula One could eventually be lowered.

In spite of a robust performance, in which he emphasised time and again that he would never change a policy purely because a Labour Party donor would benefit, the Prime Minister failed to clear away all the confusion and doubts that have surrounded the saga.

In the interview Mr Blair said for the first time that he had decided not to accept a further donation from Mr Ecclestone, on top of the £1 million he had given in January, as soon as the Government decided that it would push for an exemption for Formula One.

He also admitted that he wrote to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, the day after the Ecclestone meeting saying that the position of sport and particularly Formula One would have to be protected. But he said that there was no conflict of interest at that time because the Government had not decided on the exemptions.

Mr Blair also said he was ready to publish the names of all Labour donors since 1992, provided the Conservatives did the same.

BBC interview, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 22



Kate Bushell: popular, talented and lively churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music

Murdered girl, 14, found in field by her father

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A FATHER found his 14-year-old daughter murdered in a field after she failed to return from walking a neighbour's dog.

Kate Bushell had been killed with a sharp instrument, probably a knife, and may have been sexually assaulted, the police said yesterday. The girl, described as "popular, talented and lively" by her headmaster, took the Jack Russell for an early evening walk near her home on the outskirts of Exeter on Saturday.

Her parents raised the alarm when she failed to return by nightfall. Jeremy Bushell was showing a policeman his daughter's likely route down a muddy lane 300 yards from their home when he found the fully clothed body in the field near a stile. A Home Office pathologist was last night trying to establish whether the schoolgirl had been sexually assaulted.

Detective Superintendent Michael Stephens, who is heading the inquiry, told a news conference: "This was a murder of a young innocent girl who was brutally killed just beside a residential area on the outskirts of Exeter."

Mr Stephens described Kate as a churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music. She played the piano, clarinet and saxophone and was a keen basketball player. She left home at 4.30pm, just as it was beginning to get dark, wearing a turquoise green kagoule and dark trousers and said she would be out no more than 20 minutes. It was the first time she had taken the dog out. Her parents telephoned the police at 6.44pm. At 7.35pm her father found the body with the dog near by.

Walk to death, page 3

audi nurse is spared ter death right waived

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

ish nurse Deborah
who was facing be-
for murder in Saudi
had her life spared
when the brother of

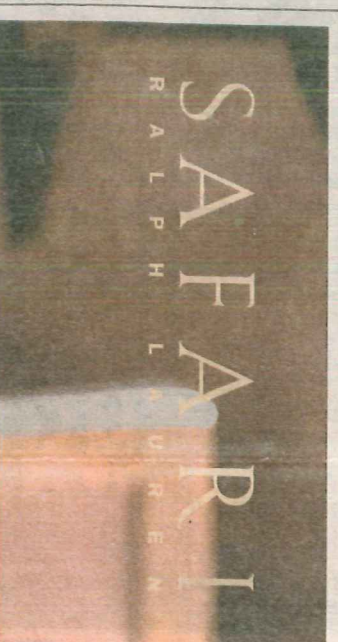
signed a waiver document and
hearing was attended by the
British Consul Lawson Ross
and his Australian counter-

by a large law firm in Australia.
lia. Most will go to a hospital
for women and children in
Adelaide, which will receive
A\$1 million in memory of Ms

Yeltsin emerges as Iraq peacemaker

BY IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has
replay of the Gulf War but a
battle against organised forces
of destruction.



Last walk of a friendly neighbour

Helpful pupil Kate was killed doing a good turn

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

DARKNESS was beginning to fall as Kate Bushnell put on her turquoise cagoule and told her parents she was going out for no more than 20 minutes to walk the neighbour's Jack Russell, Gemma.

She had volunteered so that the neighbours could go away for the weekend, a gesture friends said was typical of Kate who would go out of her way to help anyone. The route she took along Exwick Lane divides the private estate of modern red-brick boxes from the unspoilt countryside beyond.

Exwick is a sprawling suburb which meanders up the hillside on the other side of the river and railway line from Exeter city centre. At 4.30 on Saturday evening it would still have been possible to look out over the rooftops to the 11th-century cathedral of St Peter's.

When their daughter did not return Kate's parents became concerned. The murder team of 80 officers, who yesterday sealed off the lane where the body was found and began house to house inquiries, have little to go on. They do not know whether Kate's killer was lying in wait for a victim, had followed her from



Maddern: he said Kate was a model pupil

home or may even have arranged to meet her in the unit lane.

The headteacher of St Thomas's High School where Kate was a "model" pupil said it had been the 14-year-old's ultimate ambition to go to Oxford. Steve Maddern said: "Kate Bushnell certainly had the academic ability. She was a popular, talented and lively girl, and her murder hits at the core of our school."

More immediately, she had her debut with the school's basketball team to look forward to this week. She was also a member of the school

orchestra. Mr Maddern met Kate's parents yesterday afternoon. He described them as "distraught" and said: "One thing Kate's mother said to me was that you never had to remind her to do her homework. In fact she had done half of her weekend's homework before taking the dog for a walk."

A lone bouquet was tied to the gates of the 1,200 pupil high school with the words "Why? You will always be missed" written on a note attached to it.

Mr Maddern said: "Kate had a promising future and was a keen musician. She had a ready smile and was fun to be with, she was intelligent, co-operative and mature in her outlook. She was everything you could hope for in a student. Her loss will be felt throughout the school and we are making special assembly and counselling arrangements tomorrow to help students and staff come to terms with this dreadful tragedy."

"Students and staff will be shocked and numbed by this awful news and our hearts go out to Kate's family and friends who will be devastated by the loss of one so young who had everything to live for. We can only hope that the police catch whoever is responsible for this sickening crime as quickly as possible."

Prayers were said for her at the Sunday morning service held by the evangelical Isca Fellowship where the Bushnell family worship. Church elder Stephen Randall said: "Kate was the least likely girl I can imagine this happening to. Our reaction is one of pure horror." Mr Randall, 36, described how Kate was involved in raising funds for Bosnian charities and was a regular helper at the church which meets in a local school.

The family moved to their modern, three-bedroom detached home in Exwick seven years ago. Mr Bushnell is believed to have taken early retirement from his job with Devon county council's education department last year to devote his time to charitable work in Bosnia. Another neighbour said he had recently returned from an aid trip to the Balkans. By an unlikely



Police standing guard at the lane in Exwick, where Kate Bushnell, 14, was found murdered after walking a neighbour's dog. Below, flowers left at the scene, and the house to which the Bushells moved seven years ago



national training centre at Cleve House. Emma Browne, aged 14, one of Kate's best friends, laid flowers close to the spot where she was killed. She said: "I don't know how anyone could do something like this to Kate, she wouldn't harm anyone. It is such a shame because she was so brainy and she would have got very good GCSEs."

Other local youngsters said there had been rumours about people being chased down the

She would always help others and never do anything to put anyone else down. There have been rumours going around about the lane where she was killed. I would not have gone up there before this happened and I certainly will not do so now."

narrow lane last year and it had stayed away from it. Jill Daniel, a neighbour said: "I did not know the very well but I did see her walking a friend's dog while was walking my spaniel. I lane where she was killed very popular with dog walkers and leads down past the Blind Dog centre towards the fields."

Mother loses children on 'technicality'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has been ordered to uproot her children and take them to her estranged husband in France after he succeeded in using the Hague Convention on child abduction to secure their return. The children, aged 12 and 9, had only lived for nine months of their lives in France.

Helene Lawrence left New-aven on Friday to meet a High Court deadline for her to comply with the custody order normed by her husband. Normally the Hague Con-

made an application under the Hague Convention, although normally a custody order would not be granted where children had been resident in the country from which they had been removed for less than a year.

Mrs Lawrence, said yesterday that the children were devastated at having to leave school and their friends again. She is in touch with Reunite, the national council for abducted children, which is concerned that she fell foul of a

Missing girl, 13, may be on her way to Spain

By STEPHEN FARRELL

AIRPORTS and ports were put on alert yesterday for a 13-year-old girl believed to have met off with a customer she met at her mother's bar on the Costa del Sol.

Police fear Sally Claydon secretly kept in touch with the 47-year-old man known as Bruce after returning to her home in Harlow, Essex, from Fuengirola earlier this month. The blonde teenager vanished with her passport and summer clothes on Saturday. Sergeant Karen Brimmon, of

could be travelling in a white Transit van. "The indications are that she is leaving the country, possibly heading back to Spain," she said.

Sally's mother, Sharon Walsh, who ran the Captain Hook bar in Fuengirola before returning to Britain on November 3, is said to be distraught. Her daughter had met "Bruce" often in the bar but, unknown to her, had kept in touch after they returned to Britain on the same ferry. She discovered the relation-

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