

Deadly row between strangers on a train

Lee Pomeroy, 51, wanted to spend some quality time with his son but was stabbed to death on a train

By Martin Evans and Yohannes Lowe

WHEN Lee Pomeroy and his teenage son boarded the 1.01pm train from Guildford London Road to Waterloo, they were going for a trip to London for some "quality time" together.

But by the time the train reached its next stop – only four minutes later – the 51-year-old IT consultant lay dying from a stab wound to the neck.

The father of one had exchanged words with another man as they boarded the train, and almost immediately the argument escalated into extreme violence.

British Transport Police (BTP) confirmed that the victim and his attacker were not known to one another and said the attack had been unprovoked.

The suspect fled the train when it pulled into Clandon station at 1.05pm, leading to a manhunt across Surrey.

A man and woman were arrested early yesterday morning at an address in Farnham and were being questioned in connection with the incident.

The man was arrested on suspicion of murder while the 27-year-old woman, who was said by locals to be a mother of one, was being questioned on suspicion of assisting an offender.

Neighbours in the same block said they had experienced problems with anti-social behaviour from the couple

'We attended that address on Nov 29. We've had other calls since. There is a dispute between neighbours'



Left, police search property in Willbury Road, Farnham, where the suspect and a woman were arrested. Above Svetlana Pomeroy, wife of Lee Pomeroy, was too upset to comment on the events

PAUL GROVER, JULIAN SIMMONDS FOR THE TELEGRAPH

in the past and had reported the matter to the police.

Grant Christy, who lives in the same block, said: "At six they smashed the door down, woke me up immediately, obviously."

"I heard the police shouting, 'put your hands up, turn around', all that sort of thing and then it went quiet. "They led her out first with the kid, barefoot, put her in a police wagon over there, then a few minutes later they pulled him out handcuffed."

A second resident: "They have only just moved in. Just a few months ago. He wasn't there to begin with, he moved in after she did."

A Surrey Police spokesman said: "We attended that address on Nov 29. We've had other calls since. There is an ongoing dispute between neighbours. It's unrelated to the BTP investigation."

Revealing more details about what had unfolded on the lunchtime commuter service, BTP Asst Chief Constable



Flowers left at Horsley station in tribute to Lee Pomeroy, right



Sean O'Callaghan said the incident had taken less than five minutes and appeared to have erupted following a "verbal discussion".

He said: "That discussion lasted three to four minutes, it moved through one carriage from where they first boarded into another carriage, and that argument escalated to the unprovoked

violent attack that sadly resulted in the death."

Mr Pomeroy, who would have celebrated his 52nd birthday yesterday, had planned the day with his son in order to spend some "quality time" with him, according to his family. Mr Pomeroy's wife, Svetlana, was said to be too upset to comment and that the

boy was said to have been left deeply traumatised by what he had witnessed. It is understood Mr Pomeroy moved away from his son as the row escalated but then his attacker produced a knife and Mr Pomeroy received a fatal wound to his neck.

After his attacker fled at Clandon, the train moved off before the alarm could be raised, and it was only when it arrived at Horsley station four minutes later that police and ambulance crews were alerted.

By the time paramedics arrived Mr Pomeroy had lost a huge amount of blood and suffered a fatal heart attack.

A female passenger, who asked not to be named, said: "There was a lot of blood everywhere in the carriage. I don't think the poor chap stood a chance"

'There was a lot of blood everywhere in the carriage. I don't think the poor chap stood a chance'

their colleagues from British Transport Police as a huge search was mounted for the killer.

The hunt was initially concentrated on the fields and lanes around Clandon after several villagers reported seeing a suspicious-looking man wandering around.

Helicopters carrying heat seeking cameras and specially trained sniffer dogs joining in the search, but as darkness fell the suspect remained at large.

Locals were warned not to approach the suspect, who was described as a black man, around 6ft tall, with a bald head and beard wearing a black tracksuit and white trainers.

The search continued throughout the night but it was scaled back at around 6am yesterday when police announced they had made two arrests in Farnham, around 15 miles away from where the stabbing took place.

The suspects continued to be questioned last night.

Rural residents suffer as police struggle to crack country cases

By Patrick Scott and Martin Evans

POLICE are losing the fight against violence, burglary and anti-social behaviour in Britain's rural communities.

Far from the large conurbations and urban areas, it is the residents of the shires that often get the worst service from the UK's struggling forces.

A breakdown of crime and justice outcomes in local districts, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, discloses that the place with the poorest record for catching burglars in the country last year was the Cotswold District Council region of Gloucestershire.

Last year there were 293 residential burglaries reported in the area – which includes the towns of Cirencester, Bourton-on-the-Water and Chipping Campden – but a suspect was identified in just 10 of those cases, representing a success rate of just 3.5 per cent.

The next-worst area for burglary was Barnet in north London, with just over 5 per cent of cases solved, followed by Sandwell in the West Midlands with a clear-up rate of just over 6 per cent.

But the largely rural areas of East Lindsey District Council in Lincolnshire and Uttlesford in Essex – which includes the town of Saffron Walden – were also among the top 10 worst-performing areas, with clear-up rates well below 10 per cent in 2017.

Areas such as North Tyneside saw suspects identified in almost 40 per cent of burglaries. Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria had a success rate of 35 per cent while Gateshead's was 31 per cent.

Last year *The Telegraph* revealed an upmarket corner of Surrey had the highest burglary rate per head of population. The GU3 postcode, which includes parts of west Guildford as well as the military town of Pirbright and villages like Fairlands, overtook Redbridge in East London.

The Gloucestershire force's budget

Getting away with it The leafy burglary hotspots

Area	Police force	Residential burglaries 2017-18	% ending with no suspect identified
Cotswold	Gloucestershire	283	96.59
Barnet	Metropolitan	1,989	94.8
Sandwell	West Midlands	1,620	93.97
East Herts	Hertfordshire	369	93.89
Harrow	Metropolitan	1,203	93.84
Enfield	Metropolitan	1,483	93.51
East Lindsey	Lincolnshire	458	93.47
Uttlesford	Essex	286	93.46
Richmond	Metropolitan	1,055	93.45
Solihull	West Midlands	1,344	93.4

SOURCE: HOME OFFICE

has been cut by around £30million since 2010 and it has lost almost 250 officers. It has also been asked to find £6million savings in the next three years.

When intruders stole £100,000 of jewellery from the Churchdown home of 96-year-old Molly Luke, it was left up to her niece to turn detective. The



Chipping Campden was among the Cotswold towns to suffer from a low clear-up rate for burglaries

partially blind and deaf pensioner confronted the intruder, who fled.

Mrs Luke's niece, Kelly Denham-Reid, said: "The thing that really irritated me was that there was virtually no feedback from the police. I had to chase them up to find out what was happening."

"In the end I started to make my own inquiries because I did not feel enough was being done. I went to the local

pawnbrokers and spoke to the neighbours to see if they had CCTV. These are all things the police should have been doing, but the attitude was 'we won't catch them'."

The Cotswold District Council region also has the worst figures in the country for catching car thieves. Of the 55 thefts reported across the area last year, not a single person was charged.

The areas of East Hampshire, the Vale of White Horse in Oxfordshire and Waverley in Surrey also performed badly.

Remote and rural areas also often fared worse than urban counterparts in other categories. Ribbles Valley in Lancashire recorded 46 reports of criminal damage in 2017 but no one was charged.

In the Epsom and Ewell area of Surrey there were 123 such offences with just one charge, while in Mid Sussex 170 incidents led to only two charges.

Rochford in Essex was the district with worst clear-up figures for assault in England and Wales, with charges brought in three out of 374 cases.

Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire were national black spots for shoplifting.

Just one in three have no fears about crime

By Joshua Wilson

ONLY a third of Britons are confident they will not become a victim of crime in the next year, figures suggest.

Burglary was named as the crime people were most worried about, followed by violence and theft.

Women were more concerned than men, with just 30 per cent confident they would not be affected.

The rate of crime in the UK has risen,

with Home Office data showing there were 5.6million offences reported in the last year.

But while crime has been increasing, the number of people brought to justice has been in steady decline.

Violent crime in particular has sharply increased in England and Wales, having risen every year since 2013, when police recorded 600,000 offences, to almost 1.5million in the year to June 2018 – a 144 per cent rise.

Research from polling company D-CYFOR said 14 per cent of the British public believed they were likely to become a victim of crime, with a further 52 per cent uncertain whether they would be affected. Just 33 per cent believed they would be unaffected.

The polling also revealed that eight in 10 wanted more police on the streets, and of these more than two in five said they wanted to see an increase of at least 5,000 front-line officers.

pause
and imagine how amazing a few days at Forest Holidays could be.

From marshmallow toasting to woodland den building, surround yourself with nature in an eco-sensitive cabin in the heart of Britain's most beautiful forests. Wander the woods, explore historic villages and even unwind in your very own hot tub. Book early for best availability and prices from just £335*
At Forest Holidays, freedom awaits.

Book now at forestholidays.co.uk or call 03300 948 409

forest holidays

*Pricing relates to midweek stays between 4 November to 19 December 2019 across all locations