

# Help jail man who killed mum

February 21, 2007

OUR Sun Justice campaign is looking to right society's wrongs – from dodgy dealers to shameful court decisions.

If you know of an injustice, we want to hear from you.

Today **IAN HEPBURN** looks at the sickening case of a mother whose knife-wielding killer will spend just **ONE YEAR** in jail after sentencing.

OUTRAGED cop Paul Whitehurst is threatening to quit his job over the pathetic jail sentence handed down to his mother's savage killer.

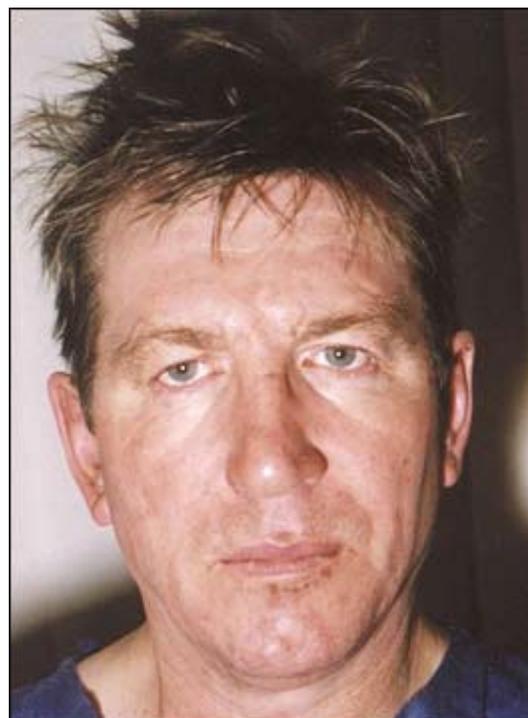
Businesswoman Pauline Smith was slaughtered on Christmas Day 2005 after being knifed eight times.

She was stabbed twice in the neck, with one of the wounds dragging down several inches. She was knifed in the back with such ferocity that her rib was sliced in two and her lung punctured.

Pauline, 53, who had a ceramics business, suffered a series of injuries to her chest and stomach. A pathologist said one injury could only have happened as she was struck while lying on the floor.

Her husband Robert Smith, 51, a fitter at the time, admitted in court that he took the knife from a drawer and confronted Pauline with it at the height of a row.

Then as she lay dying in the lounge of the couple's home in Stone, Staffs, Smith made no attempt to call for help.



Knifeman ... but only three years jail for Smith

#### Also in Sun Justice

- [The Sun Says](#)
- ['I want to find who killed Paul'](#)
- [Killer driver escaped from jail](#)

[FULL SUN JUSTICE INDEX >>](#)

#### RELATED WEBSITES

- [Sun Justice](#)

#### TOP DISCUSSIONS

- [Huntley: should he rot in jail?](#)
- [Why are kids knifing each other?](#)
- [Right that Freddie was axed?](#)
- [Ricky right to end Extras?](#)

[SEE ALL DISCUSSIONS](#)

## Suffered injustice?

DO you have a case The Sun can expose?

It could be rogue traders ripping you off, the law letting you down or a crime going unpunished.

Call: **0207 782 4079**

Email: [yourjustice@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:yourjustice@the-sun.co.uk)

Instead he walked out. Police were only alerted 15 hours later when he turned up sobbing at his mother's house and claimed he had knifed Pauline accidentally.

Smith went on trial for murder at Wolverhampton Crown Court in June last year. He was acquitted but found guilty of manslaughter.

He was jailed for just **three years**. But he will serve only half his sentence — 18 months — and have a further six months deducted for the time he was on remand.

It is now predicted he will be stepping to freedom through the gates of Birmingham's Winson Green jail this

June.

*Father-of-two Paul, 35, a constable with Warwickshire Police for eight years, told Sun Justice: "This is not justice for me and my family. It is a slap in the face.*

"I am considering giving up my job over this. The case has opened my eyes to how poorly victims of crime are treated.

"The sentence for manslaughter can be life in some cases and used to mean 20 or 30 years.

"To jail him for three years and allow him to walk free after 12 months is an insult to my mother's memory. I saw a case recently where a girl glassed another in a pub, causing grievous bodily harm. She got four years.

"Smith's sentence sends out a very poor message to society. It is absolutely no deterrent and will not make a person think twice before killing a wife in emotionally charged circumstances.

"We in the police try to serve the community. But the courts are letting down the community."

He went on: "It is true my mother could be a difficult person. My stepfather's family testified to seeing scratches on him over the course of their eight-year marriage and it is true my mother had a temper. But this cannot justify his actions on Christmas Day."

Smith suspected Pauline was having an affair in Bulgaria, where the couple owned a house and had business interests.

Paul said: "If my stepfather had been a decent person he would have called an ambulance to try to save my mother. This didn't happen. He wanted my mother dead and he got what he wanted.

"I tried to call my mum on Christmas Day and wish her a Happy Christmas.

"The one image that will forever colour my view of Christmas to come is of my mother lying on the floor with her life blood pumping out of her just feet away from the phone.

"Robert is a big, powerful man who was actively involved in the Territorial Army for years. If he felt threatened by her why didn't he just punch her and walk away?"

"There was no justification for him to stab her eight times. I believe he killed my mum because they were arguing over property in Bulgaria. I feel she may have been on the verge of leaving him, possibly to live there."

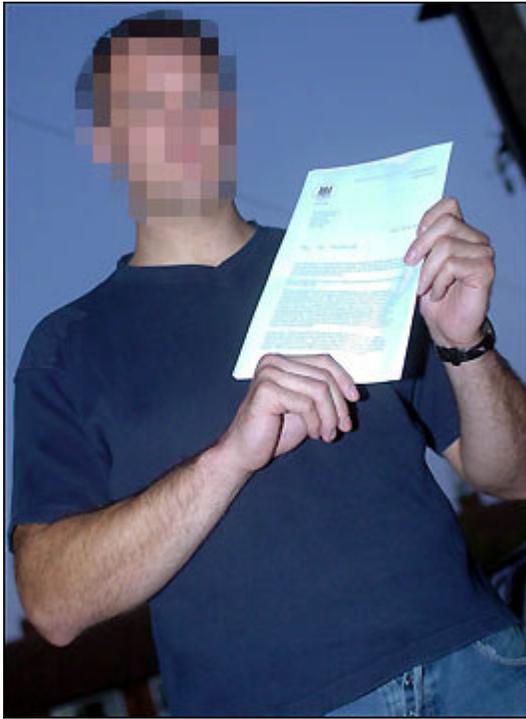
Both Paul and Smith are executors over his mother's will and Paul has already spent £6,000 paying solicitors' bills.

He said: "I am seeking clarification but he may be able to inherit from the estate.

"This seems ludicrous to me because he should not be allowed to profit from killing my mother."



**Victim ... Pauline died from eight appalling stab wounds**



**Anger ... son Paul with the letter from the Attorney General.**

**His face has been obscured for his own protection**

prisoner would be released at the halfway stage and any time he spent on remand would be deducted."

Paul wrote to Attorney General Lord Goldsmith asking him to refer Smith's case to the Court of Appeal for an extended sentence.

But in a shock reply the Attorney General wrote: "I have received specialist independent advice from a lawyer within my office and also the Treasury Council.

"Their view, with which I agreed, was that the sentence imposed was not unduly lenient."

He went on: "Like you, I find sentencing levels for manslaughter to be too low. But I am afraid that any change will come too late to affect Robert Smith's case."

Tony Blair replied to another letter: "The Government is determined to do all it can in law to ensure the criminal justice system achieves a better balance between the rights and interests of the accused and those of the victim. I agree with you that, for a variety of reasons, the rights of the accused have sometimes been given a greater priority."

A Prison Service spokesman said: "We can confirm that, with a three-year sentence, a

- **MAKE a difference – write to your MP today backing Paul Whitehurst's campaign to increase the sentence for his mother's killer.**

---

© 2006 News Group Newspapers Ltd. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack here. For other inquiries, Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. This website is published by a member of the News International Group. News International Limited, 1 Virginia St, London E98 1XY, is the holding company for the News International group and is registered in England No 81701. VAT number GB 243 8054 69