

THE ARCHER



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ISSN 1361-3952 **20p**
July 1999 No. 75

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Tormented by Guilt

Senior Treasury Official, Michael Parsonage, 51, bludgeoned his wife to death last November while depressed and tormented with guilt over an affair with a colleague, the Old Bailey heard on 14 June.

Oxford educated Mr Parsonage was "in turmoil" when he killed his wife Carole, 50, with a claw hammer on the doorstep of their Durham Road home. He admitted to manslaughter, after his plea of not guilty to murder was accepted, on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The court heard that five hours before the attack Mr Parsonage had sought help from the psychiatric unit at Barnet General Hospital. Unfortunately, the junior doctor who saw him had been hoodwinked by Mr Parsonage as to the extent of his medical condition and allowed him to go home. His wife, who believed he should

have been admitted as an in-patient, rang the hospital just before she was attacked to say that he was pacing the house and refusing to go to bed.

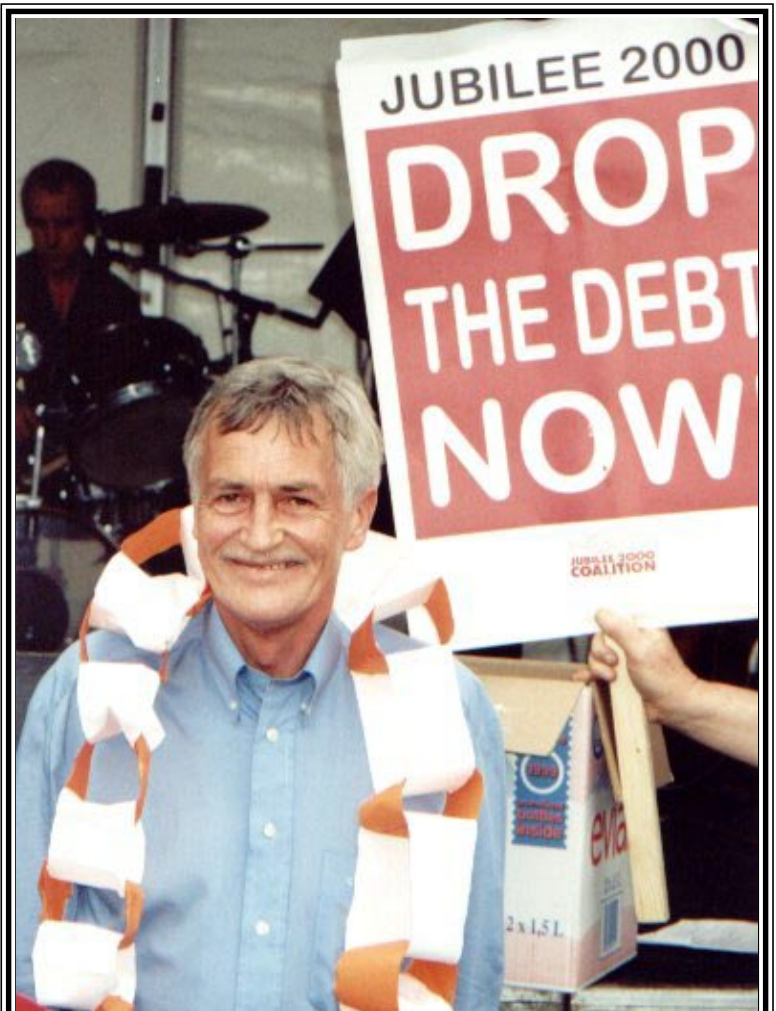
The prosecuting counsel told the court that it was almost certain that Mr Parsonage had armed himself with the hammer while his wife was on the phone and attacked her as the call drew to an end. He then ran out of the house, wearing only his pyjamas, towards the High Road where he ran into the path of a greengrocers' van and was critically injured.

The court heard that Mr Parsonage had first met his wife when they were both students at Oxford, but both had gone on to marry other people. After their respective marriages ended they began a relationship and married in 1994. Parsonage, who had worked for the treasury since

1973, was described as kind, reliable and highly intelligent. However, in 1998 he began an affair with a married colleague and, after a trip with her to Australia, he began to feel guilty and obsessed with the idea that his wife would find out.

In the following months he became increasingly anxious and agitated before eventually confessing to his wife that he had had an "inappropriate relationship". Depressed and feeling that he was living a "double life" he became more and more withdrawn. When interviewed by the police he said that on the day of the attack he had been in a "highly charged state of anxiety, panic and not in control of myself".

Mr Parsonage was remanded to a psychiatric unit at Ealing Hospital for further reports and will be sentenced on 30 July.



Rudi Vis MP demonstrating his support for Jubilee 2000 at the East Finchley Community Festival. See the centre pages for our full festival review. Photo by David Tupman

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Fortis Green Crossing

There is a public meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at 7 pm on 20 July as part of the ongoing campaign for a crossing on Fortis Green.

Anyone who is interested in the campaign for a crossing is urged to attend.

Tube tragedy

A 44-year-old man from Ballards Lane fell in front of a southbound Northern Line train recently and received severe limb injuries.

It is not known whether or not it was an accident but a British Transport Police spokesperson said that there is a strong possibility that the man jumped.

A specialist fire unit, similar to one that was axed from Finchley fire station last year, travelled from Euston to free the man, taking 20 minutes to arrive.

He was then transported by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital where he had his left foot and part of his left arm amputated and is now in a stable condition.

The incident is not being treated as suspicious by police.

Marathon leg-end

Did Tom the Butcher's man break his own London Marathon record this year?



Pay up or else...Bobby Staples photo by Erini Rodis

Sadly, no. It was the last three miles that did for him. Bobby Staples was going well until a leg muscle strain added about half an hour to his time. He finished in just over four hours, and raised more than £1,000 for the North London Hospice.

If you promised to sponsor Bobby, please come up with the cash. As yet, not everyone has. He's done his bit to help the Hospice. Now they're waiting for you.

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