



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Soham police officers face child pornography charges



Brian Stevens

Nothing demonstrates the depths to which society has sunk more than the news of the arrest of two police officers involved in the Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells murder investigation, and their appearing in court in connection with child pornography offences. They were Detective Constable Brian Stevens, 41, and PC Antony Goodridge, 34.

Both officers are accused of “inciting others to distribute indecent photographs of children”. They have been suspended from duty. Police have seized two computers - believed to come from each man’s home - for analysis.

Police have stressed the child pornography charges are completely unrelated to the case of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells, who disappeared from the village of Soham in Cambridgeshire on 4th August. Their bodies were found in a nature reserve seven miles from their homes two weeks later. School caretaker Ian Huntley has been charged with their murder. His girlfriend, 25-year-old Maxine Carr - who was a teaching assistant at the girls’ primary school - has been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Detective Constable Stevens worked as a family liaison officer and was assigned to the Chapman family during the hunt to find Holly and Jessica. He also read aloud a poem, written by a friend of the family of Jessica Chapman, at a memorial service held at Ely Cathedral.

The officers were arrested by detectives from the West Midlands Police, participating in Operation Ore, the UK branch of a global FBI-led operation codenamed Operation Candyman.

The FBI operation has so far identified thousands of internet paedophile suspects around the world, including several thousand in the UK. It has been disclosed that suspicions about these two officers had been aroused and Cambridge police had been informed that their names had come up as a result of the FBI investigation almost a month before the Soham case. Apparently, nothing was done immediately about the matter.