



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### The nation shocked and grieved



**Flowers from sympathisers**

There were few in the United Kingdom who did not follow the news of the abduction of the two little 10-year-old girls, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, of Soham in Cambridgeshire. For two weeks, from August 4th to 18th, there were many hundreds of thousands of people listening to news bulletins with increasing anxiety for the fate of the two youngsters whose faces had become so familiar via the media.

When the news of the discovery of their murdered bodies finally was announced, there was a sad and dreadful inevitability

about it. The hearts of the people of the United Kingdom were bowed in grief and sorrow for the parents and friends of the little girls. Not a few sighed for the nation as a whole that such wickedness could take place in our streets.

Ian Huntley, Soham village school caretaker, has been charged with the abduction and murder of Holly and Jessica, and his girlfriend, Maxine Carr, a former assistant teacher in the same school, was charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice. The links to Holly and Jessica's school have added anger to grief.

Such has been the public anger provoked by the murders that there has been a re-opening of the public debate on hanging as a punishment for murder. There is little doubt that public opinion in the wake of the murders would favour the reintroduction of capital punishment.