

Cop backs jail attack

EXCLUSIVE
by Ben Endley

THE detective who led the hunt for Milly Dowler's killer has praised an inmate who attacked the monster in prison.

Retired Chief Inspector Colin Sutton described Levi Bellfield's attacker as a "decent enough" person for carrying out the assault.

Triple-murderer Bellfield suffered minor injuries in 2009 when a con

slashed him across the face with an improvised weapon in Wakefield jail, W Yorks.

DCI Sutton, 53, wrote on a blog: "There are some gen-



SLASHED: Bellfield

uine hard men in there who, whatever they had done to be put away, were still decent enough to take exception to Bellfield killing young girls, beating up women and raping anyone he fancied.

"It was only a matter of time before somebody took him on. It isn't right, but it also isn't surprising."

Former nightclub bouncer Bellfield is serving a whole-life term for murdering three girls including 13-year-old Milly.

He sparked public outrage last week when he won a £4,500 payout over the attack in Wakefield jail, W Yorks.

DCI Sutton, 53, wrote on a blog: "There are some gen-

Shipman's couch sale

A MEDICAL couch used by Britain's worst serial killer Dr Harold Shipman is for sale for £10,000.

Marjorie Chakravarti, 72, got the couch in 1992 from a GP centre in Todmorden, West Yorks, where Shipman began his lethal career.

Marjorie said: "I bought it for £20 to help with diplomas I was studying for. "It's been in my shed for years and I want rid of it."

The ex-nursing sister from Huddersfield, who has put the couch on eBay, never met Shipman.

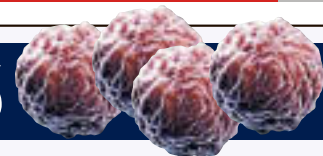
The GP, thought to have killed up to 250 patients, hanged himself in jail in 2004 aged 57, four years after murder convictions.

Sticky finish

STUDENT Jack Sexty of Stoke broke a world record finishing the Manchester Marathon's 26 miles on a POGO STICK in 16 hours.

CHARITY COURIER WHO SPEEDS AROUND WORLD DELIVERING VITAL STEM CELLS

It's wonderful to think I could save the life of a child



LIFE'S IN THE BAG
Courier Peter boards a flight from Frankfurt to London



PROUD RECORD: Postcard display traces his travels



READY TO GO: Vital stem cells at lab

SUNDAY PEOPLE
Reader Offers

GARDENING

THE ULTIMATE ZERO GRAVITY CHAIR

Buy two recliners for just £99.99

There's nothing like relaxing in the summer sun, and now you can do so in complete comfort with our great range of garden essentials. The open weave design of the recliner chair, combined with the head rest, provides perfect hammock-like comfort and the locks on the wooden arms allow you to secure the chair in place while you relax. Measuring (l) 182 x (w) 65 x (h) 113cm, it folds down to 93 x 68 x 16cm. For the new season, we have also introduced a deluxe version offering you even greater comfort. With the same great features as the standard version, the xl model features a wider seat and is 75cm in width. Only £69.99 or buy two for £119.99.



Navy	D5971 Standard D7032 XL
Green	D5970 Standard D7031 XL
Grey	D5972 Standard D7033 XL
Black	D5973 Standard D7034 XL

0844 448 2470 Quoting 38589

www.PeopleReaderOffers.co.uk

Calls cost 5 pence per minute from a standard BT landline. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Airflo Ltd, with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.

ALTERNATIVELY COMPLETE THE COUPON IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND SEND IT TO:
SUNDAY PEOPLE OFFER (38589), PO BOX 87, BRECON LD3 3BE

Title(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)	Initial	Surname	CODE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Address						
Postcode						
DoB						
Email						
Tel No (For queries only)						
Card No.						
3 Digit Security No.						
Valid						
Expiry						
Maestro Issue No.						

I enclose my cheque/PO for the amount of £... crossed and made payable to "BVG-AIRFLO LTD" Name and address on the back please. Or debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £... Maestro 16+Nos

GRAND TOTAL £395.00

38589

EXCLUSIVE

by Pamela Owen

WITH the clock ticking and a life in his hands, Peter Hodes set out to dash the 10,000 miles from Australia to Manchester – in 42 hours.

He was clutching a box containing stem cells, vital in the treatment of leukaemia and blood cancer, as he raced to catch the plane.

After two long-haul flights via Kuala Lumpur, Peter reached London Heathrow, crossed the capital by Tube and boarded a train.

A desperately ill child was waiting at a Manchester hospital and doctors were counting on 68-year-old Peter's precious cargo arriving fresh.

Peter, who is one of Britain's busiest stem cell couriers, recalled: "From picking them up to handing them over took 37 hours.

"I have a window of just 42 hours to make the delivery. Any delay and

I'd have been in trouble. I was exhausted by the end. But the feeling when I hand over those stem cells is wonderful.

"On that occasion in January last year it was for a child. It's marvellous thinking that I could save a life."

Peter is one of 44 Anthony Nolan volunteers whose work includes transporting stem cells – the body's building blocks which help renew other cells – taken from the bone marrow of donors.

His dramatic races against time have so far helped 87 life-saving bone marrow transplants take place.

The charity was started by Shirley Nolan in 1974 and named after her son Anthony, who suffered from a blood disorder.

It started the world's first register to match donors with patients.

Peter said: "As a courier I never know who the donor is, or the recipient. In many ways that's better, because it can be too emotive.

"But there are times when I am delivering to a children's hospital

and it is then obvious the recipient is a child. It is so wonderful to think I am making a difference."

South African-born Peter lives in Camden, North London, with his partner Helene, 43, and runs a business helping people get to grips with computers and the internet.

He was inspired to charity work after giving a kidney to save the life of his friend Livia Prior in 2006.

Choking back tears, he explained: "I remember the wonderful feeling I had when I woke up and realised what I'd done."

Intensive

Two years later Peter, by now donating blood, read about the Anthony Nolan organisation. He began dedicating some of his spare time speaking to children about the importance of stem cell donation.

But the more he learnt, the more he wanted to get involved.

And two years ago he was invited to become a courier.

Fifty of the 87 trips he has made

since being trained have been abroad, to 32 different destinations in Germany, Poland, Belgium, Israel, Portugal and America. But new couriers learn the ropes on local deliveries.

Volunteers are taught how to handle the cells and the importance of using only public transport and how to tackle the sometimes daunting task of working out logistics in foreign countries.

Peter said: "It sounds like a cushy number but it's far from it. We have intensive training.

"We are never allowed to use private transport, like a car.

"Imagine, while I am carrying stem cells my car goes into a ditch and I'm not discovered for 40 hours.

"Stem cells have a life of only 72 hours from harvest to transplant. We can only carry them in the box for 42 hours, because we have two ice packs and they only last that length of time.

"I remember the first trip vividly. I had to take cells from University College hospital in Central London to Hammersmith in West London."

Peter has never been late on any of

his deliveries but his ingenuity has often been tested. He credits the kindness of strangers, often airline staff.

He explained: "Airlines on the whole are wonderful. I always make sure to tell them I've got stem cells.

"I always try to book a seat as near the front as possible. We can't afford to travel club class but if I know I need to get off a plane urgently, I always ask if there is a seat I can be moved to when we are about to land. Invariably they say, 'With pleasure'."

On a flight to London from Hanover, Germany, last month, Peter had 20

minutes to get off the plane and board a National Express coach. He had to reach Woking, Surrey, and take a train to Southampton, where hospital staff were waiting for the cells.

As soon as he boarded the British Airways plane, he told cabin crew about his mission.

He was warned they expected a delay in London – but the pilot radioed Heathrow and asked air-traffic control to make sure they landed on time.

Peter recalled: "Coming into London can be a nightmare. Sometimes you can circle for 20 minutes before land-

ing. But on this occasion I made it to the Southampton train with two minutes to spare. They were desperate for those stem cells. I phoned BA next day to thank that crew."

One of his most challenging trips came in June 2013 when his Anthony Nolan bosses sent him to Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

Grounded

After collecting his stem cells, he returned to the airport to be told Hurricane Andrea had grounded all flights in Washington, where he was heading for a connection to the UK.

Peter said: "I put my box on the counter and said, 'These stem cells are urgently needed in the UK. Please help me get them there quickly.'"

The woman airline worker sprang into action and found an alternative route via Newark, New Jersey.

Peter then had to dash to the plane, which was ready for take off. He said: "There was the problem of getting through security. I am not allowed to put the box through an X-ray machine.

I've also got all sorts of paperwork, so it's not straightforward. All the time I could hear them calling for the last passenger on the flight. I got there to find it was a tiny plane with no room to put my box in an overhead locker. It ended up between the two pilots.

"In Newark I had to run through the rain for the Heathrow flight. But I arrived at the hospital in Oxford two hours earlier than expected. What a wonderful lady at that airport."

Peter has clocked up more than 67,000 air miles and enjoys travelling. But he wishes his trips could be more local. Sadly, he has to go abroad because the British are poor donors.

He said: "Nearly half of stem cell transplants in this country come from German donors. Our register contains only just over half a million people. In Germany they have 4.7 million.

"We desperately need to get more people on our stem cell register."

■ **Anthony Nolan is the official charity of today's Virgin Money London Marathon.**

pamela.owen@people.co.uk