

# 'He will kill again'

A monster had taken my little brother, now we faced a fight to stop another family suffering. But would anyone listen?

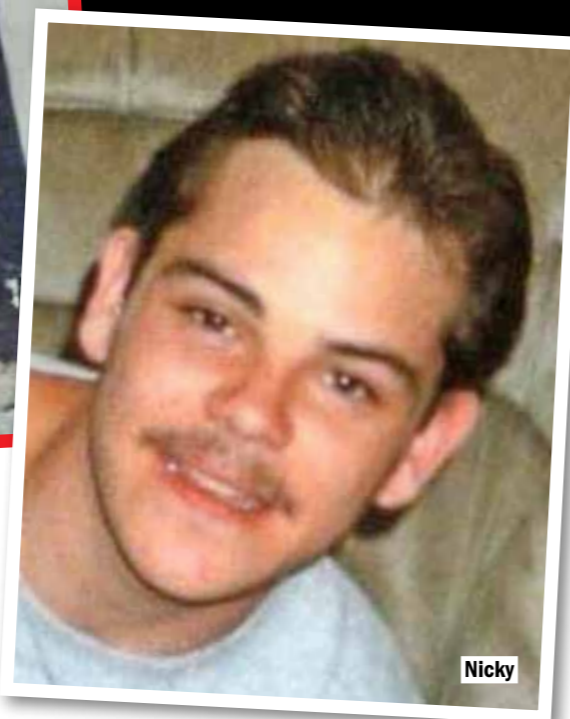
By Melanie Huxley, 53



Ryan, me, Gemma and Nicky

Arriving at my mum Gaynor's house I found my brother Nicky peering out of the living room window. 'I can't let you in,' he said, cracking up. 'Mum's gone to town and locked me in!' 'What's she like?' I chuckled. I didn't have a key either, so we both just shrugged and laughed some more. 'I'm sure Mum won't be long. Catch you when I manage to escape,' he said, before he kissed me through the window. My little brother was a loveable rogue who lit up any room he walked into. Mum had raised us, and our brother and sister Ryan and Gemma, single-handed, and it had made us all really close. We looked out for each other and for Mum too. I knew Nicky would probably go round to his friend Glen's house later. He lived just a few doors down from Mum's and

they'd sit up late setting the world to rights over a few drinks. So as I headed home, I thought I'd catch up with him later in the week. But in the early hours of the morning I was woken by Mum ringing me. 'Glen's house is on fire,' she said. I sat up in bed and panic raced through me. 'Mum, did Nicky come home last night?' I asked. 'He didn't, love,' she cried. 'I think he's in there.' We met on the street and watched helplessly as firefighters battled the blaze. Once it was out, investigators moved in and all we could do was wait. I kept hoping that Nicky would suddenly turn up and wonder what all the fuss was about. But it was the police



Nicky

'Did Nicky come home last night?'

who came to Mum's door. 'Nicky and Glen were in the house,' an officer said. 'We've charged Glen's brother Brian with their murders.' Nicky's body had been so badly burned they'd had to identify him from his patriotic tattoos – a Welsh dragon and a daffodil. But a post mortem found he'd died from a head injury. He was just 27. Devastated, we clung to each other, sobbing. At Nicky's funeral, we did our best to support Mum, but her heart was broken. In time, Brian Whitelock, 34, appeared at Swansea Crown

Court and denied two counts of murder. The court heard he'd been drinking with Nicky and Glen and, when a row broke out, he'd bludgeoned Nicky to death with a hammer, smashing in his face and skull. Whitelock had then put on a blonde wig, walked to a nearby petrol station, and bought a can of petrol. Back at Glen's he'd poured it over Nicky, then set the house alight to cover up his crime. He'd then fled the burning house, leaving his own brother Glen asleep upstairs. He had died from smoke inhalation. Whitelock told police he'd left the house before any killing took place, then changed his story again when he was told about the CCTV footage, trying to pin the murder and fire on his dead brother. Thankfully, the jury saw through all of his wicked lies and found him guilty of Nicky's murder and Glen's manslaughter. We watched as he was jailed for life, but he showed no remorse, never apologising for taking Nicky's life so violently. For us, no sentence would ever be enough. Nicky's murder



Brian Whitelock

destroyed us. Seeing Mum so heartbroken was hardest of all. Over the following years, we rallied round to support her. But at every family gathering and celebration, there was someone missing. Then one day, Mum called and said, 'Brian's been released on licence.' 'You're kidding,' I replied. Although we'd known this day would come, it felt too soon. We were shocked to find out the Parole Board deemed him to be at low risk of committing another serious offence. Despite strict conditions being placed on him, including drug testing and restrictions on areas he could visit, just knowing he was out there filled us with dread. And soon, people began telling us Brian had been buying drugs and straying into those banned areas. Mum even called the probation service to tell them. 'They just told me to call 999

if he approaches us,' she said. We felt helpless and totally disregarded. After that, we kept calling whenever we discovered he'd broken his bail conditions, but nothing ever happened. And when he was recalled to prison soon after for attacking a shop worker, we wrote to the Parole Board urging them to deny his re-release and warning them that he would commit another horrific offence. 'There's no way that monster has been rehabilitated,' I fumed. But our pleas were completely ignored and a year on, he was released and given his own flat in Swansea. Then one day I got a message from a friend that made my blood run cold. I knew word would spread fast, so I called Mum before someone else did. 'Brian's been arrested again for murder,' I told her. For a moment she fell silent as she took it in. Then she said what I'd been thinking. 'We

knew this would happen,' she said. 'We knew he'd kill again.' By now 20 years had passed since Nicky's murder, but all the emotions we'd experienced rushed back in. It was like losing him all over again. This time the victim was his neighbour, Wendy Buckney, 71, and knowing exactly what her family must be going through our hearts went out to them. Although we'd warned this would happen, the last thing we'd wanted was to be right. In time, Brian Whitelock, now 57, appeared at Swansea Crown Court again, and denied murder. The court heard he'd been moved into a flat opposite Wendy following his release. She'd employed him to do odd jobs for her after telling her sister, 'everyone deserves a second chance.'

'She was begging me to stop'

Despite describing kind-hearted Wendy as like a second mum to him, Whitelock had tortured, then brutally murdered her in her own home after flying into a violent rage. She'd been so badly injured, her family weren't allowed to see her to say goodbye. The pain of that was something we knew all too well. On his arrest Whitelock told the officer, 'It looks like I f\*\*\*ing tortured her, I literally have. She was begging me to stop.'

of the incident and claimed that he was suffering from a brain injury at the time. But it took jurors less than half an hour to find him guilty of Wendy's murder. In solidarity with Wendy's family, we went together to see him sentenced and applause broke out in the courtroom when he was given a whole life sentence – which meant he'd never be released from jail. But while we're glad the monster that took our Nicky is behind bars where he belongs, as a family we're still angry. If we'd been listened to, Wendy would be alive today. We're absolutely heartbroken that another family is going through the same hell as us because this monster was put back on the streets after being deemed to be low risk. That to us is truly unforgivable.

● The Ministry of Justice said a serious further offence review was underway and a Parole Board spokesperson said, 'One case is one tragedy too many and we take these extremely seriously. Where this happens, the Parole Board is committed to doing everything it can to learn the lessons that will help prevent further tragedies.'



Wendy Buckney



My sister Gemma, Mum and me

By Danielle Lett and Jane Cohen. Picture South Wales Police