

**25p**  
 LESS THAN THE  
 DAILY MIRROR

SHOWBIZ SENSATION



Sibling revelry  
 .. Moksi & Oti

SEE  
 PAGE 5



Vin  
 stunt  
 horror

SEE  
 PAGE 11

**OTI'S SISTER IS  
 STRICTLY JUDGE**

**FANTASIST 'NICK' GUILTY**

**WITCH-HUNT**

● **Liar triggered VIP paedo probe**



Fury .. Hogan-Howe, left,  
 Watson and Beech, right



By ROBIN PERRIE & MIKE SULLIVAN

**FANTASIST** Carl Beech was facing jail last night for his VIP paedophile lies - as furious victims blasted cops and Labour's Tom Watson over the scandal.  
 Beech, 51, cost the taxpayer £4million with his bogus claims of rape and murder committed by politicians, military top brass and security service chiefs.  
 Beech - known as "Nick" before his anonymity was taken away by a judge - was yesterday convicted of perverting the course of justice after a ten-week trial.  
 The Met, headed at the time by Lord Hogan-Howe, was accused last night of presiding over a "total and utter cock-up". Beech was  
 Continued on Page Two

**WHITEWASH**

● **But cops & Watson dodge rap**

# WITCH-HUNT LIAR

Continued from Page One  
also convicted of fraudulently claiming compensation after lying he had been abused by disgraced TV personality Jimmy Savile.

As he was hauled off to cells to await sentencing:

- EX-MP Harvey Proctor — who had been accused of rape and murder — laid into the Metropolitan Police and slammed them as “lapdogs”;
- THE son of another victim, Lord Janner, dubbed

Fantasia... Beech



Labour's deputy leader Mr Watson “Britain's chief paedophile finder” and said: “He should resign.”;

● MR Watson desperately tried to defend his role in the scandal — but failed to pacify his accusers;

● THERE was fury over the police watchdog's decision to clear cops of blame without them ever being interviewed;

● THE mother of one of paedophile Beech's victims said he was “sick”;

● MORE details of Beech's escape to Sweden emerged, where he

posed as a wealthy bed and breakfast owner in a remote village;

● BEECH'S lies about his childhood of trauma were exposed — in reality he enjoyed a comfortable, middle-class upbringing;

● IT was revealed that he was obsessed with Ford Mustangs and made his fraudulent compo claim just so he could buy one;

● THE police probe into Beech's claims involved one officer travelling to Australia.

Cops eventually scrapped the Operation Midland probe into his allegations, before investigating

Beech himself. In November 2016 officers raided the rented three-bed semi he shared with his teenage son in Gloucester.

They seized a number of computer devices and found hundreds of sickening pictures of child abuse.

At first he denied being responsible — and even hinted it was all down to his son before going on the run.

Beech, a former Care Quality Commission inspector, will be sentenced at Newcastle crown court on Friday.

He will also be sentenced for possession of child abuse images, voyeurism and fleeing to Sweden.



Winner... Swinson

## Lib Dem chief call to rivals

By MATT DATHAN

JO Swinson issued a “come and join us” plea to Tory and Labour MPs yesterday after being unveiled as the first female Lib Dem leader.

She romped to victory over rival Sir Ed Davey, winning nearly two-thirds of the members' votes.

And she said: “As your leader, I will do whatever it takes to stop Brexit.”

Ms Swinson made a direct appeal to Tory MPs who want to stop Brexit and Labour moderates despairing at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.

She also hinted she would be prepared to take the Lib Dems back into coalition, saying: “This is the time for working together, not the time for tribalism.”

She said the Lib Dems should be aiming to win the next general election.

## BID TO EASE GP AND A&E WAITS

# THE PHARMACIST WILL SEE YOU NOW

By SHAUN WOOLLER

**MILLIONS** of sick Brits will be offered same-day appointments with pharmacists to ease pressure on A&Es and GPs.

Health chiefs say waiting rooms are clogged by patients with minor illnesses such as colds, earache and sore throats. These can often be treated quickly with over-the-counter medication sold by highly-trained chemists in shops such as Boots and Lloyds.

But many wait hours to be seen in A&E or weeks to secure an appointment with

## Sick seen same day

their family doctor. The NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service could treat 20million people a year.

Anyone phoning NHS 111 over minor conditions will be offered a booked appointment at their pharmacy.

And if the pilot scheme proves successful, it will be expanded to include referrals from GPs and A&Es. It is estimated up to six per cent of GP consultations — 20million a year — could be safely transferred to a pharmacist.

Pharmacists undergo five years of training, giving them

expert knowledge of medicines. But they will receive training to identify cases of sepsis, patients at risk of suicide and heart disease.

Their expanded role is part of a five-year contract struck between their trade body and the Health Department.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said: “Pharmacies are a vital and trusted part of our NHS.

And this five-year deal will ensure more people get support in the most appropriate setting, which in turn will relieve pressure on the wider health service.”

NHS chief pharmaceutical officer Keith Ridge said: “This deal provides the accessible and convenient health care the public want.”

Prof Helen Stokes-Lampard, of the Royal College of GPs, said: “Pharmacists must not be seen as substitutes for GPs — so efforts to recruit and retain existing GPs must be redoubled.”

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Jab... pharmacist at work

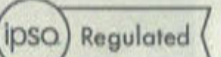
**AILMENTS THEY COULD TREAT**

- Insect bites
- Constipation
- Earache
- Mouth ulcers
- Skin rash

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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## Migrants all at sea

SAJID Javid said more than 1,000 migrants tried to cross the Channel this year and just a handful have been sent back.

Crossings since January are twice the figure for the whole of last year.

The Home Secretary said in 2019 “there has been 1,150 attempts”. He said 725 arrived in the UK and 425 were intercepted in France.

Only 562 attempted it in the whole of 2018.

He told MPs that just 53 have been returned.

## PAY RISE FURY

THERESA May was yesterday accused of short-changing public sector workers despite a £1.4billion pay rise for teachers, soldiers and the police.

Low-paid soldiers, sailors and airmen will get as much as six per cent, while teachers will get 2.75 per cent or an average £1,000 jump.

But the Treasury admitted the money would come from “existing” budgets in government departments.

The National Education Union stormed: “The Government is loading further costs of £280million on schools.”

## HUAWEI 5G IS NOW ON HOLD

**MINISTERS** have dodged making a decision on whether to let Huawei work on Britain's 5G networks. They want to see if the Chinese firm is on a US trade blacklist.

## DOCS CUT TIME

ONE in three senior NHS doctors are cutting overtime and weekend work in a row over pensions, officials say. Some GPs and consultants have quit, meaning more patients face possibly fatal delays for ops and scans.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock is to consult over proposals to change NHS pension rules. He said: “Too many of our most experienced clinicians are reducing hours or leaving the NHS early due to frustrations over pensions.”

The British Medical Association warned that the proposals would do little to improve the “ridiculous, but serious” crisis many NHS doctors were facing.



sky NEWS HD WEATHER with NAZANEEN GHAFAR

**TODAY:** Much of the country will have a dry day with plenty of sunshine. But there will be a growing risk of showers in the South West later.  
**TONIGHT:** In the evening, many areas will be dry with sunny skies. But heavy showers are likely to develop across south-west England and south Wales.  
**OUTLOOK:** Tomorrow will be dry and hot with long spells of sunshine in the South. Northern areas will be mostly cloudy with thundery showers in the morning. Thursday will be hot and sunny for many, too. Showers in the North West. Gentle winds.

WED 29°

THU 35°

FRI 24°

### EVENS

Put any numbers from 1 to 9 in the squares, so each row and column equals totals in circles. Digits cannot be repeated in a row or column and only even numbers go in shaded squares.

			10
			13
			17
			24
16	27	11	10

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### Today's birthdays

HARRY Potter star DANIEL RADCLIFFE, 30, left, cricket great GRAHAM GOOCH, 66, right, guitar hero SLASH, 54, True Detective's WOODY HARRELSON, 58, Travis frontman FRAN HEALY, 46, and Destiny's Child singer MICHELLE WILLIAMS, 39.

# 'NICK' GUILTY FURY AT BUNGLERS CONNED BY SICK FANTASIST

By ROBIN PERRIE, MIKE SULLIVAN and CHRIS POLLARD

**MET officers who fell for Carl Beech's lies about a murderous VIP paedophile ring were yesterday accused of incompetence and astonishing gullibility.**

Beech, whose fantasies triggered a multi-million pound Scotland Yard inquiry that smeared innocent public figures, was yesterday found guilty of perverting justice.

His victims and their families blasted the Met's botched Operation Midland described by one ex-detective as a "total cock-up".

Deputy Labour leader Tom Watson was also accused of fuelling a witch-hunt by making Parliamentary speeches to bolster Beech's lurid accusations.

*Ex-MP Harvey Proctor, 72, whose house was raided over Beech's claims he murdered a boy, said: "Tom Watson gave oxygen to his claims. He put pressure on the police to act on Beech's fantasies."*

"It's time for him to apologise to me and everyone named in this truly disgraceful chapter in the history of British policing.

"It is time for the torchlight to take a closer look at Mr Watson."

Mr Proctor also blasted the police and Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Met Commissioner who launched Operation Midland.

He said: "The Metropolitan Police were lapdogs to Mr Watson's crude dog whistle. The Met should also apologise for squandering millions with incompetence and negligence."

Also wrongly accused was Labour peer Lord Janner, who died in 2015. His son Daniel Janner QC said: "Tom Watson should resign."

"He appointed himself Britain's chief paedophile hunter and created a moral panic."

*Convicted paedophile Beech, 51, was yesterday found guilty at Newcastle crown court of perverting justice. He was also found guilty of fraud over compensation claims relating to abuse allegations.*

The former nurse and social services inspector will be sentenced on Friday.

Vicar's son Beech, father of a teenage son, dreamed up his tales of rape, torture and murder when the Jimmy Savile scandal broke.

At the time, in late 2012, his 20-year marriage had ended and he was deeply in debt.

He told a counsellor he had been abused as a child by Savile – and logged a claim for compensation.

Beech was interviewed but officers found his story unconvincing. So he invented new allegations – claiming he was one of many young victims of a secret VIP paedophile ring.

Beech said these men kidnapped and raped boys in the 1970s and 80s. He said three boys were murdered – one victim being deliberately run over in the street.

Among the alleged abusers were prominent Tories, former PM Edward Heath, ex-Home Secretary Leon Brittan and MP Proctor.

Beech also named former Army chief Field Marshal Lord Bramall, ex-M16 head Sir Maurice Oldfield and ex-M15 chief Sir Michael Hanley. He claimed he was passed on to the ring by stepfather Raymond Beech, the first to abuse him.

Beech started writing an internet blog about his "experiences". They were picked up by online journalists – and brought to the attentions of Watson.

In 2014 Watson met Beech, whose allegations became wider – including a claim Proctor tied a boy to a table, raped him and then stabbed him to death.

A Sunday newspaper published his allegations using the pseudonym "Nick."

In October 2014 Beech

# The liar, the witch-hunt ...and the perv probe

## ● COPS RUINED LIVES ● WATSON 'MUST GO'



Guilty... fantasist Carl Beech, aka 'Nick'

was interviewed by the Met and Operation Midland was a launched. Detective Superintendent Kenny McDonald publicly described "Nick's" claims as "credible and true" – despite the fact they had not been fully investigated.

Officers raided the homes of Brittan, who was to die before his name was cleared, Proctor and Lord Bramall. Twenty officers worked full-time for 16 months on the case. They took 370 witness statements, launched 1,700 actions and produced 1,860 documents. Not a single arrest was made.

In 2016 Operation Midland was scrapped. Northumbria Police were tasked to investigate Beech himself and discovered gaping holes in his story which the Met failed to find. *Ex-Met detective superintendent Michael Hames said of Operation Midland: "It was a total and utter cock-up. What I find extraordinary is how the police believed the lies told by Beech."*

But yesterday it emerged the officers who led Operation Midland were cleared of blame without ever being interviewed.

### THE BELIEVERS



**LABOUR MP TOM WATSON**  
LABOUR'S deputy leader told Parliament in 2012 about a paedophile network with links to government. Had to apologise to Lord Brittan's family for calling him "evil". Beech's victims have called for him to resign.



**POLICE CHIEF HOGAN-HOWE**  
THE Met Commissioner was in charge at the height of Operation Midland and had to apologise to those accused by Beech. A probe cleared him of any personal blame over the botched investigation.



**DETECTIVE KEN McDONALD**  
DET Supt McDonald had day-to-day charge of Midland probe. He called Beech's claims "credible and true" even before officers investigated them. He had health problems and retired weeks before Beech's trial.



**THE EXARO NEWS AGENCY**  
BEECH'S claims of abuse on an obscure blog were highlighted by little-known news agency Exaro part-owned by Jerome Booth, right. Beech named some abusers after a reporter showed him photos of prominent men.



Grotesque... paedophile Beech takes a selfie

# SMEARED IN DEATH AS PAEDO

### THE VICTIMS

By ROBIN PERRIE, CHRIS POLLARD, MIKE SULLIVAN and MARTIN BECKFORD

CARL Beech's lurid allegations of rape, murder and torture left a string of victims in their wake.

He had claimed a dozen high-profile figures from the worlds of politics, the military and the secret services abused him for nine years until he was 16.

He accused former MP Harvey Proctor of raping a boy and stabbing him to death. Police spent 15 hours searching his home on the back of the false allegations. Mr Proctor wept in court as he gave evidence at his accuser's trial and blasted his claims as "balderdash".

He said allegations he was a member of a VIP sex ring were "wrong, malicious, false, horrendous".

Fantasist Beech also accused ex-Prime Minister Ted Heath of abusing him on his yacht, Morning Cloud. He died in 2005 aged 89.

In court, Mr Proctor rubbished claims the pair had abused boys together, saying they hated each other. He told the trial Heath would be "disgusted at having to cross my path – the feeling was mutual".

Beech also accused Britain's most senior living Army officer – 95-year-old Lord Bramall – of abusing him.

He said he was raped in barracks, woodland and Imber village on Salisbury Plain, Wilts, where the Army conducts live firing training.

Lord Bramall was too frail to attend court but the jury heard he told officers the allegations were "preposterous" and "monstrous".

He laughed at suggestions he attended abuse parties with Jimmy Savile, describing the disgraced radio and TV star as "the most odious man I have ever seen". His wife Dorothy Bramall died before he was told he faced no further action.

Former Home Secretary Lord Brittan also died before his name was cleared after Beech accused him of raping him while holding his head under water. The late Lord Janner was also falsely accused.

Beech made his first claims of abuse against Jimmy Savile in 2012 although Wiltshire Police logged it as "undetected" due to a lack of evidence. His story was later picked up by an online investigations agency and published in a Sunday paper.

He met Metropolitan Police officers for the first time in October 2014 and Operation Midland was launched the following month.

The homes of Mr Proctor, Lord Brittan and Lord Bramall were searched and Beech pocketed £22,000 in compensation.

The probe was running out of steam by January 2016 and was closed that March with no arrests. But in November that year cops raided Beech's home and found child abuse images on his computers.

He travelled to Sweden in February 2018 and later went on the run before being extradited back to the UK to face trial.

Beech's groundless claims were not the only ones made against VIPs in the aftermath of the Savile scandal. The police watchdog oversaw investigations into 37 cases of alleged cover-ups of child sexual abuse by establishment figures. None resulted in any prosecutions.



No action... Lord Brittan



Yacht claim... Ted Heath



Accused... Lord Janner



Court tears... Mr Proctor



Frail... Lord Bramall

# 'NICK' GUILTY

# EXCLUSIVE: LAIR OF THE LIAR WHO FLED COPS



ÖVERKALIX

● **Fugitive bought up luxury hut in Lapland**

● **He paid for it with cash from taxpayers**

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

Sights... Beech promised 'dancing lights'

EXCLUSIVE from CHRIS POLLARD in Överkalix, Sweden

**SEX-abuse liar Carl Beech fled to a remote village in Lapland and posed as a luxury guesthouse proprietor to dodge justice.**

The fugitive, who had swindled £22,000 compensation from the UK taxpayer, conned locals into believing he was a successful businessman.

With an international arrest warrant hanging over him, Beech bought a secluded woodland cabin for £17,000 and spent months turning it into a fairytale cottage.

But the brazen conman ran up debts of at least £13,000 with traders - and mysteriously refused to pose in any photos with friendly locals - before vanishing.

One said after he was rearrested: "I had a feeling something fishy was going on."

Beech skipped bail in February last year after cops failed to monitor him as he awaited trial on a string of child sex offences.

He caught a train to Paris then travelled 2,000 miles to the village of Överkalix - population 900 - in Swedish Lapland.

There he planned to open a luxury Arctic Circle guesthouse, called 86 Degrees North, with views of the Northern Lights.

He bought a property overlooking the Kalix River, plus five small outbuildings, for around £17,000.

He also planned to buy a large house across the road plus several cabins by the riverside, including a luxury villa for his mum.

Former hospital manager Beech, 51, even ran two Facebook pages and an Instagram account to promote his plan.

Local tradesmen were hired to help, including plumber Patrik Elemalm, 47, who installed a new bathroom and renovated the pipework for £4,500.

Patrik said: "He seemed very odd. I always wondered why an Englishman would want to buy a house in Överkalix. This is a very quiet and secluded community."

Beech had evaded UK cops but knew a criminal trial was pending.

Patrik went on: "One day he came in ranting we were taking too long. He was furious, very rude and aggressive. I had to send another workman to calm him."

He said he then "vanished like a ghost", ignoring repeated requests to pay, adding: "I can't afford to lose this kind of money."

Carpenter Pär Andersson, 48, is owed £8,500 for "a lot of work" on the bathroom, corridor and bedrooms. He said: "It seemed very strange he was here."

"We've had people from other countries move here, but never an Englishman of his age. He said he had been to Överkalix on holiday and fell in love with it."

"At some point his mother came and she wanted us to build her a luxury cabin. She wanted us to go



MOMENT-HIS CLAIMS FELL-APART

Ex-hospital manager Beech being interviewed by police in January 2016

# THE COMPO CABIN

ahead with it straight away." But Pär said it cost £85,000 and Beech had to settle the original bill first. He went on: "I was right to be cautious. It will be very difficult to get my money back."

Beech used various names to hide his identity, including Andersson, Karlsson and Oskar - and posted updates on his "business". He wrote in February: "Follow us on an exciting journey to create 86 Degrees North bed and breakfast in the heart of Swedish Lapland."

Future guests were invited to "see the various activities you can do and meet the local wildlife", including lynx, moose and reindeer. He added: "When we open, come and stay, see for yourself."

On April 2 he wrote: "The Northern Lights have been dancing around the sky for the last three nights. Just amazing every time you see them, so lucky."

He also quipped on another occasion: "I don't need therapy, I just need Sweden."

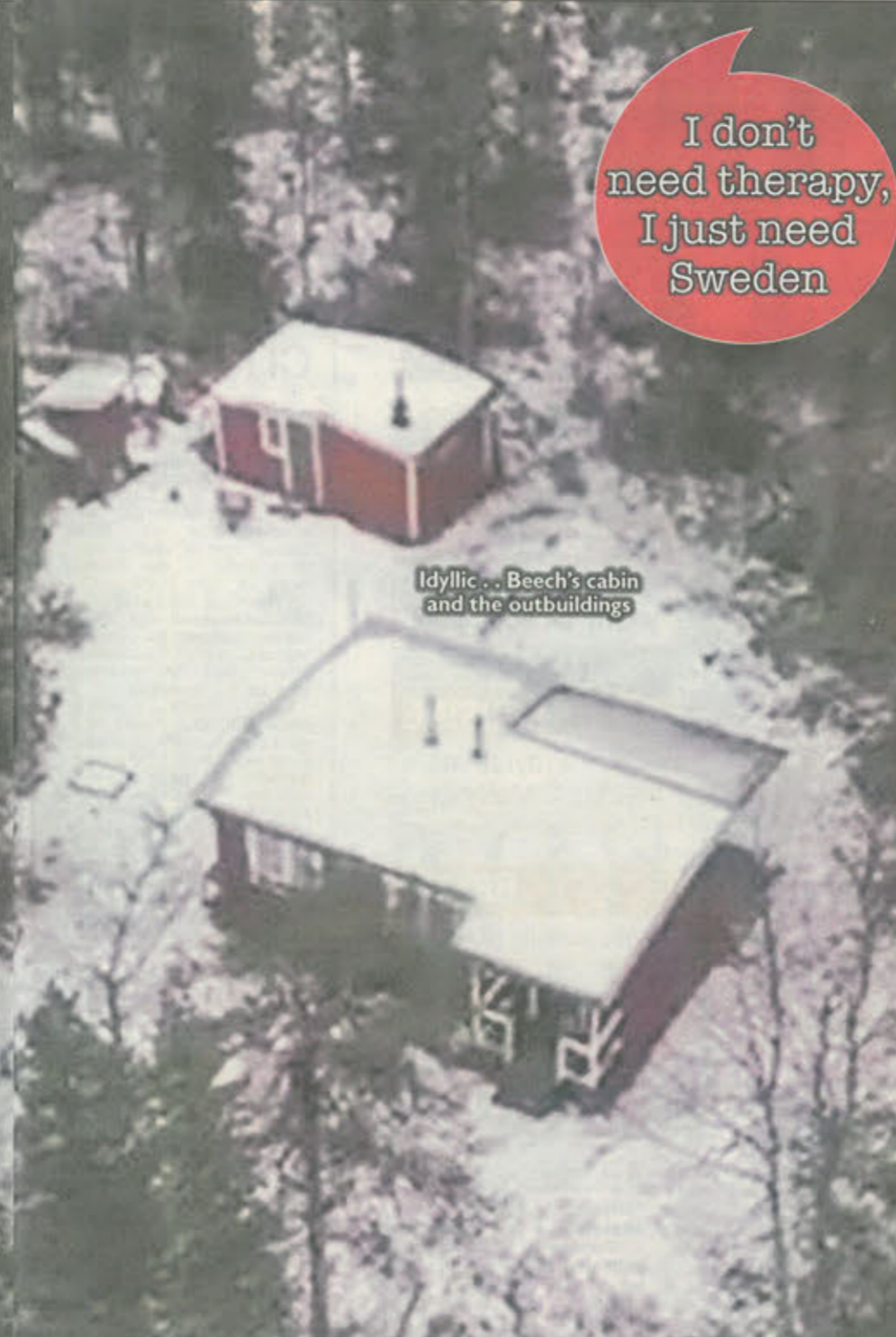
On April 30 he posted pictures of a bonfire festival in Överkalix, writing: "Great to see a thriving community spirit."

He also thanked neighbour Christina Gäversten-Stål for "making me feel so welcome". She told The Sun: "He seemed very polite and I tried to introduce him to the local community."

"Then one day he said he was going with a friend to Norway on holiday, and never came back."

"I was shocked when I heard what he was accused of."

Beech, who was taking Swedish lessons, also introduced himself as Oskar to an Italian traveller, Claudio Comi.



Idyllic... Beech's cabin and the outbuildings

I don't need therapy, I just need Sweden

# HE WAS LYING SPITEFUL CHILD

EXCLUSIVE by CHRIS POLLARD ROBIN PERRIE and PAUL SIMS

CARL Beech grew up a "spiteful brat" who used lies and deceit to get his way, stepbrother Charles says.

Care worker Charles was 12 when in 1976 his dad Raymond Beech married Carl's mum Charmian, a vicar.

He said: "Carl was eight and very difficult to get on with. He was an only child and he'd always had his mother. Suddenly her attention was split and he resented it."

"He was a spoilt brat, he was sneaky. And he was a liar from day one."

"He was always doing spiteful little things and blaming them on us. His mother would always side with him."

Beech told police and his trial that Raymond, a major in the Royal Artillery, sexually abused him and then passed him on to a VIP paedophile ring, that included former PM Edward Heath.

Charles said: "The closest Carl ever got to Heath was seeing him on the telly."

"To suggest he was suffering childhood abuse and keeping quiet about it just seems ridiculous. He would whinge and whine about the smallest things."

"I can absolutely believe he has grown up to be an adult who would deceive and make stuff up for his own ends."

Charles is angry about the way police investigated the claims made against Raymond, who died in 1995.

He said: "Detectives came to my house on several occasions asking all sorts of questions. They also hassled my sisters."

"They asked lots of strange questions but never once did they ask, 'Did your father abuse you?'"

"We only found out what was going on because we read about it in The Sun."

"My father could be a difficult man. But he was not a child abuser."

Charmian split with Raymond after a few months of marriage. She and Beech moved from Wilton, Wilts, to Kingston-upon-Thames in South West London.

His mother continued to dote on him, buying him a dog and later a horse. There were also plenty of foreign holidays.

After school Beech trained as a nurse. In



'SPOILED BRAT'

Beech as a child. His mum doted on him

1988 he met fellow trainee Dawn Morgan, 19. They wed in 1992 and in 2002 they had a son, now 15. They divorced in 2012. Dawn told her ex's trial there were problems over "intimacy" and his personal hygiene.

Beech, later revealed as a paedophile, went on to work on a paediatric ward.

He was also a school governor and an NSPCC volunteer, who warned kids about the dangers of child abuse.

After taking NHS redundancy Beech got a job as an inspector of health and social services. Outside work he had started devoting his time to writing online about the abuse he claimed to have suffered.

# PERV FILMED LAD

THE mum of a lad who was spied on by Carl Beech said of the paedophile: "He's sick."

The pervert had rigged up a camera to make footage of the boy using the toilet.

Beech stored the video on his computer so he could watch it over and over again - alongside hundreds of child abuse images.

The mum of the teenager who was filmed said: "Carl was a

governor of two schools, had been an NHS nurse and was a single parent. He was trusted."

"There weren't any warning signs that he was a danger. To me, he was a good dad. That was the impression he gave. There was nothing unusual. I never had any concerns."

"The first time I knew anything was wrong was when CID said they had found images of my son on his phone and laptop. When I saw the pictures, reality set in. There were images of my son in his underwear and one of him using the toilet."

She added: "It has really affected my son. He's withdrawn and will not talk about it. They need to lock up Carl and throw away the key. I thought I could trust him. He isn't what you think. He's sick."



Remote spot... where Beech holed up

on him in August, and fled. He checked in to several cheap hostels in the Swedish city of Gothenburg under false names. He was eventually arrested at its central train station on October 1.

Vincent Van Uytven, who runs a holiday resort in Överkalix, was the only local to hear from Beech after his disappearance.

He messaged Vincent on August 16: "I'm just dealing with a few things and getting stressed."

Vincent said: "He said he would get back to me again later, but that was the last I heard. I had a feeling something fishy was going on."

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# THE Sun SAYS

## Paedo shame

**SHAME on the Met Police, its appalling former chief Bernard Hogan-Howe and the staggering incompetence of the cops who swallowed Carl Beech's warped fantasies.**

His preposterous lies always sounded like a round-up of the paedophile conspiracy theories which nutters circulate on the web. So they have proved.

What does it say about the calibre of our detectives that they were so gullible?

That they called his flawed, inconsistent claims "credible and true" before investigating them? That bosses blew £2.5million on Operation Midland only to find (surprise, surprise) zero evidence?

And that they put the men Beech falsely accused through sheer hell, along with their distressed families?

How has Hogan-Howe retired to the Lords when his Met career is solely remembered for the failures of Midland and Operation Elveden, the politically-driven and equally fruitless witch-hunt into innocent Sun journalists?

How, too, is Tom Watson still an MP today, let alone Labour's deputy leader?

It was he who in 2012 ignited a moral panic with his grandstanding allegation of "a powerful paedophile network linked to Parliament and No 10". It was drivel.

But Watson then indulged Beech, cynically promoting his lies about Tories including Leon Brittan, a blameless old man the MP disgracefully branded "as close to evil as any human could get".

It was a repugnant, baseless slur typical of this most unscrupulous and tribal of politicians. Watson let himself become "a vehicle for conspiracy theorists and a patsy for fake news", according to a lawyer for one accused former Tory.

He is a disgrace to our Parliament and should have no place in it.

Yet somehow Watson remains Labour moderates' great hope to save them from Corbyn and his racist extremists.

**God help them if he is all they have.**

## Duncan donut

**YOU won't have heard of Alan Duncan MP, which is what drives him mad.**

He is a pompous pipsqueak, insignificant yet monumentally self-important.

Yesterday, after quitting as a Tory minister, he launched a deranged attempt to stop Boris Johnson becoming PM.

Imagine it: A Tory flouncing out of Government trying to block a fellow Tory, elected by Tory MPs and members, because he doesn't like him.

Throwing his toys out of the pram, as with Brexit, because the vote went against him. Abandoning the Foreign Office amid multiple international crises because he must get **HIS** way.

What did we do to deserve these childish idiots at Westminster?

How did the Chancellor go from steadfastly backing Theresa May over "No Deal is better than a bad deal" to vowing to topple the Government if Boris carries out the same policy?

The Sun has no desire for an election.

**But the Tories could at least use it to boot out the juvenile, self-centred chancers destroying them from within.**

# LIAR WAS USED AS A POLITICAL TOOL

**IS there any phrase in the English language now as notorious as "credible and true"?**

Those were the words uttered by Det Supt Kenny McDonald as officers from the Metropolitan Police were let loose raiding the homes of elderly politicians searching for evidence to back up the allegations made by a mysterious man called "Nick".

Nick, it was claimed, had been abused by a paedophile ring of wealthy and powerful men in the 1970s and 1980s, including the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath.

On one occasion, he claimed Harvey Proctor, then a Conservative MP, had threatened to cut off his testicles with a pen knife, before being talked out of it by Heath.

One of Nick's pals had apparently been deliberately run down and killed by the gang in a warning to Nick not to make friends.

Now we know exactly how "credible and true" these allegations were. They were fantasies cooked up by Nick himself, cynically played in an atmosphere already high with emotion following the revelations in 2012 of Jimmy Saville's activities.

Yesterday, Carl Beech – to use Nick's real name – was convicted of fraud and perverting the course of justice after his tales were exposed as a total sham.

He had no injuries to suggest he had been abused in the way he described. He had never mentioned his supposed ordeal once to his former wife. His accounts simply did not add up and parts seemed to have been lifted from a misery memoir written by someone else.

### Attracting liars and fantasists

Pleasing though it is to see Beech convicted, he leaves a horrible trail of destruction in his path. Untold damage has been done to the lives of those he falsely accused. Lord Bramall, a Field Marshal who took part in the Normandy landings, saw his wife die with allegations still hanging over his head.

Lord Brittan, Home Secretary in Mrs Thatcher's government, died while under investigation, and his widow watched as their home was raided by police.

Harvey Proctor lost his home and his job when the allegations emerged.

That Beech is a despicable individual who deserves a long term in jail goes without saying. But there are plenty of others whose role in this affair leaves them in disgrace.

Obviously police have to investigate when allegations of child abuse are made, but the enthusiasm with which former Met Commissioner Lord Hogan-Howe threw resources into Operation Midland – the inquiry into Carl Beech's allegations – raises questions into just how objective some of our senior police officers are.

Surely it could not have taken long to establish that aspects of Beech's claims were outlandish. Yet police lavished £2.5million on the investigation, guided, it seems, by a doctrine that people claiming to be victims of sexual abuse must always be believed.

True, there was a time when genuine victims tended not to be believed, and in some cases were sent back to live with their abusers. That was a very great wrong but it cannot be righted by going to the opposite extreme and automatically believing the stories of people claiming to be victims, however fantastical they prove to be.

Yes, child abuse is a horrible crime which can scar its

# The only thing 'credible and true' about VIP claims is fact Tom Watson used them to boost career



SHAMEFUL... Labour's Tom Watson at the time of false paedo claims

By **ROSS CLARK**

victims for life but so, too, is making false allegations against innocent people. Sadly, this kind of behaviour has been encouraged through compensation schemes which seem to hand out money willy-nilly to anyone who makes a claim they were abused as a child. Unbelievably, Beech was awarded £22,000 in compensation for his supposed ordeal even before his claims were tested in court. He spent the money on a Ford Mustang. How can the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which handed over the money, not see that it is attracting liars and fantasists? But there is one figure in the Carl Beech scandal who deserves to be singled out for particular condemnation. When allegations about a

Westminster paedophile ring first came to light, Tom Watson – now Labour's deputy leader – leapt upon them with relish. He could see many of the names being touted as alleged abusers were Conservatives and sensed the opportunity to damage his opponents. He used Prime Minister's Questions as a forum to repeat allegations, and invited Beech to his Westminster office, politicising his claims and helping to put pressure on police to set up a wider inquiry. He called Lord Brittan "evil". He has at least apologised for those words, writing a letter to Lady Brittan, but for his wider role in Operation Midland he still refuses to say sorry. But a letter to Lady Brittan is not enough. If he had any

decency he would recognise the pain and havoc he has caused to innocent lives and resign as Labour's deputy leader – and as an MP, too. Daniel Janner QC, the late Lord Janner's son, put it best shortly after Beech was convicted yesterday. He said: "Tom Watson should resign. He appointed himself Britain's chief paedofinder general and created a moral panic. His motive was personal political advancement riding on a bandwagon of public frenzy which he had whipped up. He should hang his head in shame." Finally a statement in this sorry mess that is credible and true. ● Ross Clark is a columnist for The Spectator. See The Sun Says