**The Rachel Nickell Case**

In 1992, 21-year-old Rachel Nickell was stabbed 47 times and sexually assaulted in a frenzied attack on Wimbledon common.  Her 2-year-old son was the only witness  Police launched a massive manhunt and enlisted criminal profiler Paul Britton to help with the enquiry.  The investigation quickly targeted Colin Stagg, a local man who often walked his dog on the common and fitted the offender profile Britton had drawn up.  Under Britton’s direction the Metropolitan Police instigated a “honey trap”.  Over the course of 5 months, an undercover policewoman pursued Stagg, feigning a romantic interest in him and tried to get him to confess to Rachel’s murder.  When the case eventually came to court, the judge threw it out - the only link between Stagg and Rachel’s death was Britton’s profile and the expensive undercover police operation.

In 2008, following examination of new forensic evidence, Robert Napper was convicted of Rachel’s murder.  It turned out that Napper had been ruled out of the Rachel Nickell enquiry at an early stage because he was several inches taller than the profile.