

The smiles that hid long reign of sex attacks by Caldicott teachers



Middle row from left: Ian McFadyen, Nick Clegg, the unnamed joint head boy and Chris Sheasby at Caldicott in 1979. Mr Clegg and Mr Sheasby were not abused and there is no evidence that any of the other boys in the photograph were either

Standing shoulder to shoulder for their annual school photograph, four young friends smile into the camera as they pose for an image that will one day tell a tale of dreams fulfilled and betrayed.

One boy became Deputy Prime Minister, another played rugby for England. They were not sexually abused by their teachers at Caldicott School.

Yet their two companions were, and one is central to a story that reveals how easily such crimes mutate into an abusive cycle that spreads from school to school.

The 1979 photograph shows Nick Clegg, second from the left. On the far right is Chris Sheasby, a former England rugby union international. Between them stands a pupil who would become, one year later, joint head boy with Mr Clegg. He has given evidence in court of his abuse by one teacher at the Buckinghamshire school. Police and prosecutors also wanted to charge Peter Wright, the school's headmaster, with offences against him. They were blocked by a court.

Wright, found guilty this week of 12 offences against another five Caldicott boys between 1959 and 1971, was originally charged ten years ago with sex offences against former pupils. The prosecution was terminated by a judge who ruled that it would be unfair to put him on trial, largely because the alleged offences happened so long ago.

He is the fourth former teacher at the school to be convicted, belatedly, of sex crimes against pupils. A fifth died before he could be charged and a sixth was acquitted after a retrial.

The fourth boy in the photograph, on the far left, is Ian McFadyen. At the age of 11 he was regularly raped by Caldicott's deputy headmaster, George Hill, who later committed suicide. Another member of staff, John Addrison, 54, is serving a five-year prison sentence for offences against six children, including Mr McFadyen.

Addrison was himself a former Caldicott pupil. He appears in a 1971 photograph standing next to ten-year-old Alastair Rolfe who, by 1973, was being systematically raped by a science teacher, Martin Carson. Thirty years later, Carson was jailed after admitting buggery and indecent assault against Mr Rolfe and another boy. After leaving Caldicott, Addrison went to a leading independent school for five years.

He completed his secondary education and returned in 1978, aged 19, to spend a year at his former prep school as a student teacher. He has admitted four sex offences during that year against two boys. Each took place during sessions of English tuition in the school library. Mr McFadyen, who was scarred by years of abuse at the hands of Addrison and Hill, was expelled from his secondary school. By his 20s, he was a homeless drug addict, sleeping rough. His student abuser completed his gap year, went to university and qualified as a teacher. Addrison taught initially in Kenya, at a school where Keith Geddes, another ex-Caldicott teacher, was the deputy headmaster.

Earlier this year, Mr Geddes, 71, was found not guilty of five counts of sexual abuse against pupils at Caldicott, including Mr McFadyen. He taught at the school in the early 1970s, when Addrison was one of his pupils.

Addrison's next job, aged 26, was as a history teacher at a Catholic prep school, Moor Park, in Ludlow. He arrived in 1985 and left suddenly, three years later, after being caught at night in a boys' dormitory.

Derek Henderson, the school's then headmaster, was informed. He dismissed the 29-year-old after sending him to see a school governor who was a friend of the Addrison family. He left the school, promising that he would not teach again. No child protection authorities were informed of the incident. The whole affair was hushed up. It would be 24 years before he was held to account for his crimes at Caldicott and Moor Park.

At his sentencing last September, for offences against two Caldicott pupils and four boys at Moor Park, Aylesbury Crown Court was told, in mitigation, that Addrison had himself been sexually abused during his school days.

Mr Clegg said yesterday that he was stunned to realise he been entirely unaware that "horrific abuse" was happening during his Caldicott years. "It's very unsettling to know that this kind of abuse can go on and yet an appearance of normality can be maintained. The school seemed entirely normal to the rest of us."

2 comments



Brian Edwards ▾

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Ian Mcfadyen

2 days ago

Believe me , it is more than possible. I am not here to defend anyone, but for over 25 years I thought I was the only one being hurt. These people were expert in their grooming of us and our parents. As an adult and with the advantage of hindsight it is easy to look back and see all the signs and triggers. But please remember we were little boys, who at that age were not sexualised. Well some of the lucky ones anyway.

I have lived with this secret for decades feeling I was the only one, with suspicions that others may be involved . But without proof is this something you would feel comfortable accusing respected teachers of?

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Jessica Stevenson

2 days ago

How can Nick Clegg have known nothing, when the boy to his right and the boy to his left were both being so horribly sexually abused?

The company that made the film about this has put it back up online, it can be watched at <http://truevisiontv.com/films/details/97/chosen>

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