

## Wikipedia – Murder of Mark Anthony Tildesley

**Mark Anthony Tildesley** (31 August 1976 – 1 June 1984) was an [English](#) schoolboy who disappeared, at the age of seven, on 1 June 1984, whilst visiting a fair in his home town of [Wokingham](#) in [Berkshire](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup>

A widespread search was promptly conducted in the Wokingham area, involving both police officers and [British Army](#) soldiers. But no trace of Tildesley was ever discovered.<sup>[3]</sup>

As part of the investigation a national poster campaign was launched, with one displayed in every police station in the country. Tildesley's disappearance was publicised in the local *Wokingham Times* and also featured prominently in national newspapers. *The Times*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Mirror* all covered the story, and the case appeared in *ITV's Thames News*. The disappearance was mentioned on the first ever episode of *BBC Crimewatch UK* in 1984, and a full reconstruction was aired on the same programme a year later. Despite a huge public response, however, these efforts brought little concrete evidence.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1989 Tildesley's disappearance was linked to the Operation Orchid investigation into missing children. As part of this operation, in 1990 it emerged that, on the night he disappeared, Tildesley had been abducted, drugged, tortured, raped and murdered by a [London](#)-based paedophile gang, led by [Sidney Cooke](#). Another man named Leslie Bailey was charged with murder in 1991 and the following year was given two [life sentences](#). He was himself murdered in prison in 1993.<sup>[5][6][clarification needed]</sup>

A memorial service was held and a memorial bench was placed at the entrance to the fairground site. A headstone was also placed in a nearby burial ground.<sup>[7]</sup>

Tildesley's body has never been found and the murder is Wokingham's most notorious unsolved crime.<sup>[7]</sup> [Thames Valley Police](#) initially thought his body was buried within a mile of Wellington Road in Wokingham, the location of the fair from which he was abducted, but they now believe that his body was probably buried in a shallow grave on abandoned farmland.<sup>[8][clarification needed]</sup>

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## Background and disappearance[[edit](#)]



The location of Berkshire within the United Kingdom

## Mark Tildesley[[edit](#)]



The entrance to Rose Court, off Rose Street, where the Tildesleys lived

Mark Anthony Tildesley was born on 31 August 1976 in Berkshire to John Tildesley (1932 – 2005) and Lavinia Rachel Gwladys Tildesley (19 December 1935 – 9 January 2011).<sup>[4]</sup>

Tildesley had a brother, Christopher, who was born in 1963, and a sister, Christina (born 1959), who had moved out of the family home to live in nearby [Finchampstead](#) with her husband Ted and their daughter Mary, who was born in 1981.<sup>[4]</sup>

The Tildesleys lived at Number 1 Rose Court, off Rose Street, in Wokingham town centre. It was a combination of a small semi-detached cottage and an adjoining bungalow annexe (the bungalow annexe has since been demolished and re-built as a separate house called 1a Rose Court as of 2010, leaving the original cottage as a mid-terrace).<sup>[4]</sup>

Tildesley was a seven-year-old schoolboy who was a Year 3 pupil of the Palmer C of E Junior School (since 2009 the [All Saints CE \(Aided\) Primary School](#)) in Norreys Avenue in Wokingham.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **Half-term holiday**[\[edit\]](#)

On 25 May 1984, the Palmer Junior School had broken up for its summer half-term holiday.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Frank Ayers Fun Fair, which came to the Carnival Field off Wellington Road in Wokingham four times a year (now the site of the [Carnival Pool](#) indoor swimming pool which opened in 1992 and now forms part of the Carnival Leisure Park),<sup>[2]</sup> had come again during that holiday week.<sup>[10]</sup><sup>[*clarification needed*]</sup>

Tildesley was desperate to go but he did not have enough money to do so. His pocket money was only 30p a week, so he supplemented this that week by putting trolleys from [Tesco](#) in Denmark Street (now an [Argos](#) and a Cleaver restaurant)<sup>[11]</sup> back to where they belonged, thus collecting their customers' abandoned 10p deposits.<sup>[10]</sup>

### **Frank Ayers Fun Fair**[\[edit\]](#)

At the end of the week, on the afternoon of 1 June 1984, Tildesley had met a man outside the Candy Shop in Denmark Street (which has also since closed and which was located 20 yards up from the then Tesco site) who gave him a 50p coin to buy some sweets with. The shop assistant

who had served Tildesley many times before, Margaret Hickman, thought it was odd as he usually only paid in 10p pieces. The man said that he was going to the fair later that day and that he would pay for him to go on the dodgems that evening.<sup>[10][12]</sup>

After eating dinner, at just after 5:30pm, Tildesley left his home at Number 1 Rose Court, off Rose Street, on his most treasured possession, a second-hand gold [Raleigh Tomahawk](#) bike, to make the half-a-mile journey to the fair, which would open at 6pm that evening. He promised to be back home by 7:30pm, saying "*Don't worry mum, I won't be late*". On his way to the fair, he met with two of his friends who were in the town at the time. However, they wanted to go back home first and then go to the fair later so Tildesley decided to go to the fair alone immediately. This was the last time anyone who knew Tildesley well saw him alive.<sup>[10][12]</sup>

## **Reported missing**[\[edit\]](#)

At 7:30pm, the time at which Tildesley had promised to return home, he had still not arrived. At 8pm, his parents went down to the fair to find him. However, all they could find was his bike chained to railings near to the entrance of the Carnival Field where the fair was being held.<sup>[10]</sup>

Having spent an hour searching around the fairground site to no avail, Tildesley's parents returned home with his bike, to find his brother Christopher watching television but no trace of their missing son.<sup>[4]</sup>

At 10pm, Mrs Tildesley phoned the local police, to report Tildesley missing and to ask if they had heard anything, but they had not and they recommended she phone back in an hour. In the meantime, she phoned his sister Christina in [Finchampstead](#), and Christina's husband Ted also went over to the Carnival Field to search for him without any success.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Searches and public appeals**[\[edit\]](#)

### **Initial search**[\[edit\]](#)

[Thames Valley Police](#) undertook an intensive and thorough search of the Wokingham area.<sup>[3]</sup>

This included using a helicopter, searching the Carnival Field site with loud hailer appeals, as well as searching nearby rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Heat seeking equipment was also borrowed from the [Metropolitan Police](#), which could detect dead bodies.<sup>[4]</sup>

Every worker and stall holder at the Frank Ayers Fun Fair was questioned the day after Tildesley went missing.<sup>[4]</sup>

Wokingham town centre's 29 streets, consisting of 960 shops, businesses and houses, had to be covered by officers on a door-to-door basis.<sup>[4]</sup>

On the following weekend of 9 – 10 June 1984, 15 policemen and two tracker dogs teamed up with 100 soldiers from the [Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers](#) training battalion in

[Arborfield Garrison](#) to search the south side of Wokingham, from Barkham Road through to [Amen Corner](#), which proved unproductive.<sup>[3]</sup>

Two weeks after the disappearance, Detective Superintendent Roger Nicklin had to concede that the police still had “*absolutely no idea about Mark’s disappearance*”.<sup>[3]</sup>

A train driver on the [Guildford](#) to [Reading](#) line reported seeing a fox carrying what looked like a child’s arm in its mouth, but three weeks later this turned out to be animal bones.<sup>[10]</sup>

A strong smell of decomposed flesh was also reported in the nearby village of [Crowthorne](#), but this turned out to be rotten sheep.<sup>[4]</sup>

No trace of Tildesley was ever discovered.<sup>[13]</sup>

## National appeals[[edit](#)]

In addition to a national poster campaign being launched, with every police station in the country displaying one, Tildesley's disappearance not only appeared in the regional *Wokingham Times*, but it was also featured heavily in national news coverage at the time. *The Times*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Mirror* all wrote about the story, and the case was also covered in *ITV's Thames News*.<sup>[4]</sup>

On 7 June 1984 Tildesley's disappearance was mentioned on the first ever episode of the newly launched *BBC* television series *Crimewatch UK*, a programme which reconstructs major unsolved crimes with a view to gaining information from members of the public.<sup>[4]</sup>

These first appeals resulted in 400 calls being made to the police by members of the general public.<sup>[3]</sup>

Shortly after Tildesley’s disappearance, several witnesses reported seeing a boy who fitted his description being dragged away forcefully against his will away from the fairground site by a Stooping Man between 7pm and 8pm that evening. Further sightings were at the nearby Cockpit Footpath on the corner of Denmark Street and Langborough Road (where the current Wokingham Library which opened in 1996 now stands) as well as at Number 9 and Number 51 Langborough Road.<sup>[12][14]</sup>

There were also a number of conflicting sightings. A witness reported seeing a boy who looked like Tildesley sitting on the wall of the [Waitrose](#) car park in Rose Street with a bike similar to his at his side at 8:10pm on the evening of his disappearance. (The site is located almost directly opposite to the entrance to Rose Court where the Tildesleys lived and it is now occupied by a small [Marks & Spencer](#) store as a result of Waitrose having since relocated to a larger site in Rectory Road (opposite the then police station) in Wokingham in 1995). However, Tildesley's bike was actually found chained to railings at the entrance to the fairground site in Wellington Road half a mile away by his parents at exactly the same time.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Reconstructions[[edit](#)]

The day after the first *Crimewatch UK* broadcast, the police shot their first video reconstruction. A seven-year-old local boy dressed in clothes similar to those worn by Tildesley and was filmed around Rose Street including sitting on the wall of the [Waitrose](#) car park, and also at the fairground site as well. Whilst only a partial reconstruction, it did get a positive response.<sup>[3]</sup>

Two days before the first anniversary of Tildesley's disappearance, and with the Frank Ayers Fun Fair back on the Carnival Field in Wokingham, a second police reconstruction was filmed. These included shots in Rose Court, Rose Street, Broad Street, Denmark Street, the Carnival Field off Wellington Road and Langborough Road. Ten-year-old Paul Little played the part of Tildesley, whilst Peter Russell played the part of the Stopping Man. In the case's second appearance on the programme in just over a year, the footage was aired at 9:25pm on 13 June 1985 on the [BBC](#) television series *Crimewatch UK*. A full reconstruction of his last known moments was broadcast, in which Mrs Tildesley took part. Over 1,000 people called in with information, one of the highest volumes in *Crimewatch UK* history.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Success of appeals<sup>[edit]</sup>

Overall, the police received a huge public response with over 1,200 different individuals phoning in, who gave 2,500 potential leads, but little concrete evidence emerged. Crucially, [Thames Valley Police](#) never received any breakthroughs that would lead them to either Tildesley being found safe and well, or in the worst case scenario, to the identity of the perpetrator(s) and/or the recovery of his body.<sup>[7][16][17]</sup>

## Investigations<sup>[edit]</sup>

### Initial investigation<sup>[edit]</sup>



The attic storeroom of the then Wokingham Police Station was the original Tildesley incident office



Wokingham Baptist Church was used as a police meeting room during the Tildesley investigation

The initial investigation was led by Detective Constable Geoff Gilbert. Coincidentally, Gilbert knew Tildesley personally through his mother's job at the local Wokingham Police Station.<sup>[4]</sup>

From the start, Wokingham police were unprepared for such a major task. Only four officers were assigned to the case, as [Thames Valley Police](#) were short-staffed with many colleagues sorting out the [1984–1985 miners' strike](#). As Wokingham Police Station was too small, the attic storeroom was used as the incident office. The police also promptly set up a mobile office on the fairground site.<sup>[4]</sup>

By the first Sunday following his disappearance, 3 June 1984, they had to use the [Wokingham Baptist Church](#) on Milton Road in Wokingham (immediately behind the police station) as a meeting room.<sup>[4]</sup>

The next day after that, Mrs Tildesley said in the [Daily Express](#) *"I am sure somebody is holding him"*. However, Superintendent Alan Cussell conceded *"Mark may have been murdered"*.<sup>[18]</sup>

The police had to check that, given the age difference between Tildesley and his brother and sister, that he was in fact Mrs Tildesley's son and not Christina's. DC Gilbert was summoned to do this task, which Mrs Tildesley described as *"ridiculous"*.<sup>[4]</sup>

Tildesley's brother Christopher, who had had an argument with him earlier on the day of his disappearance, was initially the prime suspect. However, it soon became clear that this could not be the case.<sup>[4]</sup>

On 7 June 1984, the day of the first *Crimewatch UK* appeal, two anonymous calls came in to say that they suspected a fairground worker called Martin Earley was responsible for Tildesley's disappearance. He had worked for Frank Ayers for eleven years and was at the Wokingham Fun Fair on the night Tildesley went missing. He was arrested and confessed to Tildesley's abduction, saying that he had raped and murdered him at his caravan nearby, which fitted in with what a hypnotist had said was likely to have happened to Tildesley. However, he changed his story so many times that it became unreliable and detectives worked out that they had in fact got the wrong man.<sup>[4]</sup>

After six weeks, the case became so big that Thames Valley Police had to move the incident office from Wokingham 20 miles up the [M4 motorway](#) to [Sulhamstead](#) near [Newbury](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

On 16 August 1984 the [Metropolitan Police](#) called on another fairground worker, [Sidney Cooke](#), at his home in [London](#). One of his colleagues had alerted detectives at the Tildesley incident office about his suspicious behaviour towards young boys in the past. The police asked Cooke whether he was in Wokingham on the night Tildesley had vanished. He denied this and had an alibi. He claimed that he was working at a fair opposite [West Hendon](#) Police Station in [London](#) that night, and the fair owner, Rosie Gray, confirmed that Cooke was her employee. Cooke therefore remained on file but was eliminated as a suspect.<sup>[4]</sup>

By October 1984, with little new leads to go on, [Thames Valley Police](#) started to wind down their investigation into Tildesley's disappearance.<sup>[7]</sup>

Two-and-a-half years after this, on 29 April 1987, it emerged that there had been a number of attempted abductions of young children over the past six months in the Wokingham area. The police investigated whether these could be linked to Tildesley's disappearance, but this was eventually dismissed.<sup>[13]</sup><sup>[clarification needed]</sup>

## **Operation Orchid**<sup>[edit]</sup>

In 1989 the [Metropolitan Police](#) established Operation Orchid, an enquiry into the disappearance of missing children. This was led by Detective Chief Superintendent Roger Stoodley.<sup>[19]</sup> As part of this operation, in December 1990 they interviewed a convicted East London-based homosexual paedophile gang member called Leslie "*Catweazle*" Bailey, who had already been charged with two other murders, that of 14-year-old Jason Swift and six-year-old Barry Lewis, both of which occurred after Tildesley's disappearance.<sup>[5]</sup><sup>[6]</sup><sup>[20]</sup><sup>[21]</sup>

The police had obtained a hand drawn paper map and a hand written paper letter which had been given by Bailey to a fellow inmate at [Wandsworth Prison](#). The map showed where Tildesley had been killed, and the letter, which had been written by a cell-mate, was addressed to [Sidney Cooke](#), who was also another gang member, and who also knew about his murder.<sup>[5]</sup><sup>[6]</sup>

At this point, Bailey, who suffered from a mild learning disability which meant that he had limited understanding, confessed that his homosexual paedophile gang, whom the police had nicknamed the "*Dirty Dozen*", led by Cooke, from the Kingsmead Estate in [Hackney](#), had abducted, drugged, tortured, raped and murdered Tildesley on the night he disappeared. It was at this point that the police realised that the Stopping Man who had been frequently described in connection with his disappearance was in fact Cooke.<sup>[5]</sup><sup>[6]</sup>

## **"Mark's party"**<sup>[edit]</sup>

On the night of Tildesley's disappearance, Bailey had been asked by another member of the gang, his lover Lennie Smith, to drive him from Hackney to Wokingham, as there would be a party (of child sex abuse) in a caravan owned by Cooke located near to a fair.<sup>[12]</sup>



Upon arriving in Wokingham, Smith went into the fair to find Cooke and they came back to Bailey's white [Triumph 2000](#) car in Langborough Road, near to the fairground, with a young boy who was "*dragging back*", despite being enticed away from the fairground on the promise of a 50p bag of sweets. The young boy, Tildesley, had to be physically picked up and forced into the back of the car to get him in. With Bailey driving, Smith was in the front passenger seat, whilst Cooke was holding Tildesley back in the rear of the car. They then met a fourth man, a relative of Bailey known as "*Odd Bod*", (who had a mental age of an eight-year-old), at Cooke's blue and white caravan, which had lace curtains. This was located a short drive away past the relocated Tesco in Finchampstead Road (which had opened in 1998), on a field called "*The Moors*" on Evendons Lane, which is located in between the [Finchampstead](#) and [Barkham](#) areas of Wokingham.<sup>[12]</sup> After Cooke gave Tildesley a glass of milk laced with [muscle relaxant](#), of which he only drank half of it as he said it "*taste's funny*", the four men practised non-consensual anal intercourse with Tildesley, starting with Cooke and ending with Smith. After more muscle relaxant was applied directly down the boy's throat, the gang rape started again. Smith then forced a tablet into Tildesley's mouth before grabbing him by the throat. The party, referred to as "*Mark's party*" by Bailey, had already lasted for half an hour and Bailey stated he knew at this point that Tildesley was dead as he could not feel a pulse, but that Cooke had told him that he was fine and that he would take the boy home. This meant that it was likely that Tildesley was already dead before his parents even knew that he was missing.<sup>[15]</sup>

After the party, Bailey drove Smith back to Hackney, arriving there after midnight. Before Bailey dropped Smith off at marshes, Smith said to Bailey that he would leave the disposal of the body to Cooke.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Unfinished investigation[[edit](#)]

The police received a "*Judge's Commendation*" for "*pursuing an honourable and sustained investigation*" which led to the eventual solving of the Tildesley case. However, the police admitted in public that the case had not been finished as Tildesley's body had not been found.<sup>[22]</sup>

In 2007 [Thames Valley Police](#) set up the Dedicated Review Team to re-investigate unsolved murders and serious sexual assaults over the previous 50 years, which included Tildesley's murder, but nothing has come of it.<sup>[23]</sup>

Tildesley is the "*Dirty Dozen*" ring's first known murder victim. However, in 2015, following media and political pressure, the police re-opened the case of 29 July 1981 (the day of the wedding of [Prince Charles](#) and [Lady Diana Spencer](#)) murder of seven-year-old Vishal Mehrotra near [East Putney tube station](#) in [London](#). The "*Dirty Dozen*" gang are being investigated in relation to this killing, which was more than three years earlier than the murder of Tildesley.<sup>[24]</sup>

Also in 2015 former Chief Superintendent Roger Stoodley said he feared a "*cover up*" by the [Metropolitan Police](#) over the Tildesley murder case itself. He maintained that there was sufficient evidence to prosecute Cooke over Tildesley's killing.<sup>[25]</sup>

Police started investigating [Sidney Cooke](#)'s potential involvement with the unsolved murders of nine other boys in 2015.<sup>[26]</sup>

## Legal proceedings[[edit](#)]

### Sidney Cooke[[edit](#)]

*Main article:* [Sidney Cooke](#)

Sidney Charles Cooke was born on 18 April 1927. In 1984 his occupation was that of a fairground worker.

Nicknamed Hissing Sid, he was described by [The Guardian](#) newspaper in 1999 as "Britain's most notorious paedophile".<sup>[27]</sup>

Cooke has never admitted playing any role in Tildesley's murder, despite a tiger key ring identical to the one owned by the boy being found in his repossessed dark coloured [Jaguar XJ](#) car in 1985, a year after Tildesley's disappearance.<sup>[51][61][28]</sup>

No charges were therefore brought against him as the [Crown Prosecution Service](#) felt that Bailey's confession was insufficient evidence for his case to result in a successful conviction.<sup>[6]</sup> In addition, the Crown Prosecution Service also declined to prosecute Cooke for Tildesley's murder as he was already in prison for the manslaughter of Jason Swift.<sup>[29]</sup>

### Leslie Bailey[[edit](#)]

Leslie Patrick Bailey seemed to be the only one of the gang who would admit to the murder of Tildesley.

Bailey suffered from a mild learning disability which meant that he had limited understanding.

When he was sent to trial for Tildesley's killing, he was already in prison for the 1985 killing of Jason Swift.

On 7 October 1993 Bailey was murdered by strangulation with a ligature in [Whitemoor Prison](#) in [Cambridgeshire](#).<sup>[30][31]</sup> The death was welcomed by the boy's parents.<sup>[30]</sup> Mr Tildesley said he would like to shake the murderer's hand, whilst Mrs Tildesley opened a bottle of wine to celebrate. It later emerged that Bailey had been murdered by two other inmates.<sup>[51][32][33]</sup>

### Lennie Smith[[edit](#)]

Leonard William Gilchrist Smith was born on 23 August 1954.

Smith has never admitted playing any role in Tildesley's murder.<sup>[51][61][28]</sup>

No charges were therefore brought against him as the [Crown Prosecution Service](#) felt that Bailey's confession was insufficient evidence for his case to result in a successful conviction.<sup>[6]</sup>

Smith has since died of [AIDS](#) in a secret unit in [Nottingham Prison](#) in 2006.<sup>[28]</sup> Once again, Mrs Tildesley responded by celebrating the news.<sup>[34]</sup>

## "Odd Bod"[\[edit\]](#)

A fourth man, mentioned by Bailey as part of the Operation Orchid investigation as being partly responsible for Tildesley's murder, was a relative of him. He was referred to as "*Odd Bod*" throughout the investigation.<sup>[4]</sup>

However, as "*Odd Bod*" had a mental age of an eight-year-old, he could not have his name disclosed or be charged, put on trial or sentenced in connection with Tildesley's killing.<sup>[4]</sup> No charges were therefore brought against him as the [Crown Prosecution Service](#) considered him to be too young for his case to result in a successful conviction.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Murder charges[\[edit\]](#)

On 18 October 1991 Bailey, "*together with persons unknown*", was charged with the murder of Tildesley.<sup>[35]</sup>

## Trial[\[edit\]](#)

The Tildesley family kept away from the majority of the trial at Reading Crown Court.<sup>[4]</sup>

Bailey stood alone in connection with Tildesley's killing. It was very unusual in that the judge not only named Cooke and Smith, but also described in Court what he believed they had done to Tildesley, in their "*homosexual party*", despite neither of them having ever been charged in relation to the case.<sup>[4]</sup>

Equally unusual, was Bailey instructing his Defence Barrister to seek the maximum sentence possible, saying that he was "*surprised and disappointed*" and could not understand why Cooke and Smith were not in the dock with him.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Sentences[\[edit\]](#)

On 22 October 1992 Bailey pleaded guilty at Reading Crown Court to the lesser charge of manslaughter and one charge of buggery and received two life sentences on 9 December 1992.<sup>[36]</sup> On hearing the verdict, Mrs Tildesley responded by calling for the re-introduction of the death penalty, saying "He should have been hanged".

## Body[\[edit\]](#)

Tildesley's body has never been found.

Bailey claimed he did not know where Cooke had buried the body.<sup>[37]</sup> Cooke has indicated he knows where the body is buried, but refuses to tell the police, or the boy's family, the exact

location. Following the confession by Bailey to the murder, the police dug up "The Moors" field in Evendons Lane in March 1991, but they did not find anything.<sup>[38][39]</sup>

In May 1998 the police refused to re-question Cooke, in relation to Tildesley's murder, and to dig up a nearby golf course to search for his remains.<sup>[40]</sup>

In 2008 Cooke's former lover and cell-mate, on-the-run convicted paedophile David Patrick, claimed to know where Cooke had buried the boy, which he would reveal for the sum of £3,000. Police later dismissed the claim as false and an attempt to extort money from Tildesley's mother.<sup>[41]</sup>

In 2012 a fragment of human skull, discovered near Evendons Lane, was found not to be Tildesley's.<sup>[42]</sup>

Tildesley's body has never been found and the murder is Wokingham's most notorious unsolved crime.<sup>[2]</sup> [Thames Valley Police](#) initially thought his body was buried within a mile of Wellington Road in Wokingham, the location of the fair from which he was abducted, but they now believe that his body is buried in a shallow grave on abandoned farmland.<sup>[8][clarification needed][43]</sup>

## Aftermath and memorials<sup>[edit]</sup>

### Tildesley's bedroom<sup>[edit]</sup>

The boy's parents kept his bedroom exactly how it was the day he went missing, until Mrs Tildesley moved to nearby Langley Common Road in Barkham (further away than Evendons Lane), shortly after Mr Tildesley's death in 2005.<sup>[4][7]</sup>

### Memorial bench<sup>[edit]</sup>

Shortly after the boy's disappearance, a public memorial, that of a jade coloured bench, was erected exactly at the very spot where he was seen leaving the fairground by the general public. This can be seen directly to the right of the entrance to the Carnival Leisure Park on Wellington Road in Wokingham. A name plate on a plank of wood at the top of the bench reads "In Memory of MARK TILDESLEY".<sup>[32]</sup>

When Mrs Tildesley died in 2011, a second name plate was put on the bench, with her name on it, on the plank of wood directly beneath the one with the boy's name plate on, in remembrance of her.<sup>[37]</sup>

### Memorial service<sup>[edit]</sup>

A memorial service was held on 30 January 1993 at the Rose Street Methodist Church (now the [Wokingham Methodist Church](#)) in Rose Street in Wokingham (next to what is now the small [Marks & Spencer](#) store which was a [Waitrose](#) at the time of both Tildesley's disappearance and

murder in 1984 and the memorial service in 1993 and which is located on the other side of the road to the Tildesleys home in Rose Court).<sup>[1]</sup>

## Headstone[[edit](#)]



The Free Church Burial Ground is located adjacent to St Paul's Church in Reading Road in Wokingham

A headstone to Tildesley was erected, on 30 January 1993, at the Free Church Burial Ground on Reading Road in Wokingham. It reads "*IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARK ANTHONY TILDESLEY BORN 31 AUGUST 1976*".<sup>[1]</sup>

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder\\_of\\_Mark\\_Tildesley#.22Mark.27s\\_party.22](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_Mark_Tildesley#.22Mark.27s_party.22)