



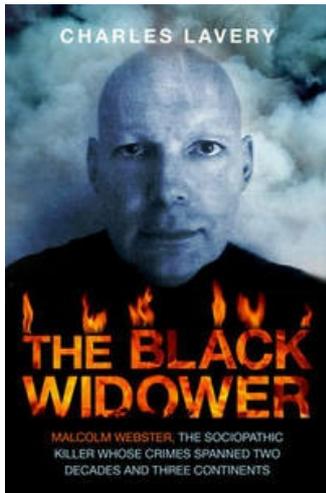
September 2012

First
Forensic Ltd

Forensic Focus - The newsletter of First Forensic

www.firstforensic.co.uk | admin@firstforensic.co.uk

Fame at last?



At First Forensic, we are proud of our impartiality and undertake work on behalf of the prosecution and the defence. This impartiality has been favorably commented on in court on several occasions.

In 2011, Andrew Wade, one of our directors carried out a "cold case review" and presented crucial expert evidence for the prosecution in the case of Malcom Webster, accused of murdering one of his wives in 1994, and the attempted murder of another in New Zealand. Andrew's evidence involved the interpretation of the damage to the burnt out car, a review of the witness evidence and an inspection and assessment of the original crash site. The original investigation had attributed the fire to an accidental cause. Andrew was able to show that the fire could not have occurred accidentally, as had previously been described by the defendant. This evidence proved to be a major factor in the guilty verdict.

Andrew's contribution to the case has been mentioned in a recently published book describing the story of Malcolm Webster called the "The Black Widower", by Charles Lavery.

[Read more on this story](#)

Did you know...?

- Petrol cannot be ignited on a hot surface such as a car manifold.
- The ignition of volatile vapours can leave "flamewash" on a suspect's clothing. This has microscopic features which can be located and identified by a knowledgeable expert, linking a suspect to an incident.
- Contrary to what is portrayed on television, there are no known authenticated incidents of petrol being ignited directly by a lit cigarette.

Our expertise includes

- Fire and explosion investigation, interpretation of burning damage and thermal injuries.
- Physical evidence: shoemarks, toolmarks, drugs packaging etc
- Fingerprints
- Contact traces: glass, paint, building and particulate materials
- Biological materials: DNA, blood, saliva, semen etc
- Documents
- Drugs

- Photography

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on admin@firstforensic.co.uk

Case Study – International theft

First Forensic were recently instructed in a case of a large theft from a container lorry. We examined security tags and were able to ascertain that they had been tampered with and re-assembled. Furthermore, we identified some adventitious material present; information which was of great significance to our client. We are currently undertaking research to further narrow down the identification of the material.



Case Study – Murder of Arlene Fraser

First Forensic were recently asked to review this case, involving the disappearance and murder of Arlene, who went missing in 1998. Nat Fraser, Arlene's husband, was found guilty of the murder in 2003, but the conviction was quashed and a retrial was ordered.

At the retrial in 2012, the prosecution alleged that he had disposed of Arlene's body in a burning car. We reviewed photographs and eye witness reports and provided expert evidence on the possible disposal and destruction of the car and body for the defence during the trial.

[Read more on this story](#)

First Forensic news in brief

- We have just received the results of the latest European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) trial, in which we maintained our 100% quality record. ENFSI is recognised as a pre-eminent voice and aims to ensure the quality of delivery and development of forensic science throughout Europe. This organisation produces quality assurance trials annually, publishing its results. First Forensic uses these trials as *part* of our quality assurance procedure, to ensure that the high quality of our work is maintained. For more information on the work of ENFSI, [click here](#).
 - First Forensic were recently successful in bidding for a place on the NPIA Next Generation Forensic Framework, meaning that we retain our position as a "preferred supplier" to police forces in England and Wales, and can bid for individual contracts issued by Police Authorities.
 - One of our research projects, on the discrimination potential for plastic gloves, commonly found at crime scenes has produced some very significant results which we are assessing with a view to publication in the near future.
 - Karen Wade has recently been officially appointed as a lead assessor for the Forensic Science Society's program of accreditation of individuals.
 - First Forensic will be exhibiting at the forthcoming "Arson in Mind" conference hosted by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. This event will be attended by several stakeholders including police and insurance investigators.
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At First Forensic we are experts in the analysis and interpretation of forensic evidence and may be able to provide the information you require to assist your client.

For more information or advice, please call us on 01606 74810, [email us](#) or visit www.firstforensic.co.uk

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