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Keith Borer
CONSULTANTS



THIS ISSUE

Farewell to Fingerprint Expert, Catherine Tweedy

Meet the team: Karen Caramiello

Coronavirus: business update

CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS UPDATE

KBC is able to progress many reports, through a paper-based review of evidence and in-house examinations. We are able to request copies of laboratory notes, photographs, data downloads and imagery, without the need to visit a scene or laboratory. Some RTA scene examinations and laboratory-based drugs examinations have been possible, too. Exhibits can be couriered and examined in our facilities. Contact us to see how we can help!

NEXT STEPS

We're here and ready to help when the Courts and cases start to flood in again. We aim to get estimates to you within one working day and can often work to tight deadlines. Please contact the Durham or Huntingdon office with your new instructions.

CATHERINE TWEEDY, FINGERPRINT EXPERT, TO RETIRE

After almost 25 years, Keith Borer Consultants' first fingerprint expert, Catherine Tweedy, has decided to hang up her powdering brush. Catherine was never one to shy away from a challenge or look at the century-old world of fingerprint evidence in a different light.

Early in her career, it became apparent to Catherine that the core research one might assume had been done in the world of fingerprints, just wasn't there. For example, she regularly came across opinions on how long a fingerprint would last, including comments such as "the mark was fresh" and "no longer than a few weeks" - but in reality she couldn't find a body of research literature to support or refute this.

As a result, Catherine undertook her own empirical testing. She took five different types of plastic bag: sandwich bags, snap-seal bags, heavy duty food bags, take away bags and carrier bags. She placed fingerprints on them made from sweat from recently washed hands and from sebaceous secretions formed by wiping the forehead, which tends to be more greasy. The plastic bags were placed into larger paper bags and stored in a cupboard, where they were checked after 6 weeks, 12 weeks, 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years and 7 years 10 months.

She found that all of the bags had a least one fingerprint mark suitable for identification after 6 weeks, and all but the heavy duty food bags had at least one identifiable mark up to a year. For the carrier bags and take away bags she found identifiable marks up to 7 years 10 months. The results were published in the Florida Chapter International Association of Identification Newsletter, April-June 2010.

Catherine's contribution to research was a starting block, yet basic fingerprint questions like "how long will a fingerprint last?" still remain poorly understood and sparsely researched by the fingerprint community even today, despite it being so critical to so many cases.

We would like to thank Catherine for her valuable contribution to the development of fingerprint procedures within Keith Borer Consultants and her involvement with the wider fingerprint community over the decades and to wish her well for the next chapter in her life, with husband John.

An opportunity to meet some of our team...

KAREN CARAMIELLO



How long have you been a forensic scientist?

I have been a forensic scientist since 1993, when I joined the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory having gained an MSc in Forensic Science from King's College, University of London. In 1998, I transferred to the Forensic Science Service Huntingdon Laboratory and during my time in these laboratories, I specialised in the scientific examination of handwriting and documents. I joined Keith Borer Consultants in January 2020.

What cases do you find most interesting?

The cases I complete comprise a mixture of criminal, civil and private instructions, which can involve anything from examining a single signature on a Will, to hundreds of documents in a large, complex fraud case. Regardless of who instructs me, the cases that are most satisfying are those where I feel I have made a difference.

What are your specialisms?

I specialise in the scientific examination of handwriting and signatures on documents, such as dealer's lists, letters, Wills, receipts or mortgage applications, in order to determine their authorship. I also specialise in the examination of documents for indented impression of writing, alterations, forgery and their method of production.

@KBCalison

You can follow Keith Borer Consultants on Twitter for up to date details of CPD training seminars for solicitors and barristers, links to news articles and case excerpts that may be useful to your case.



CrimeLine CPD Podcasts

If you are a CrimeLine subscriber, you can catch up with the experts at KBC in a series of forensic podcasts. Topics include cloud computing, fingerprints, cannabis, indecent imagery, DNA, fire investigation and handwriting analysis. Look out for new podcasts being added to the series. You'll find them under CPD.



SERVICES

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Keep an eye out for a new website! The Handwriting and Signature Comparison team in Huntingdon will soon have it's very own website, highlighting the full range of their accredited services to private individuals, as well as solicitors and barristers.

