

Battle of Epping Forest  
by 1970s Prog Rock group Genesis

Taken from a news story concerning two rival gangs fighting over east-end protection rights.

Along the forest road, there's hundreds of cars - luxury cars.  
Each has got it's load of convertible bars, cutlery cars -  
superscars!

For today is the day when they sort it out, sort it out,  
'cos they disagree on a gangland boundary.

They disagree on a gangland boundary.

There's willy wright and his boys -

One helluva noise, that's billy's boys!

With fully-fashioned mugs, that's little john's thugs,

The barking slugs - supersmugs!

For today is the day when they sort it out, sort it out,

Yes these christian soldiers fight to protect the poor.

East end heroes got to score in...

The battle of epping forest,

Yes it's the battle of epping forest,

Right outside your door.

You ain't seen nothing like it.

No, you ain't seen nothing like it,

Not since the civil war.

Coming over the hill are the boys of bill,

And johnny's lads stand very still.

With the thumpire's shout, they all start to clout

- there's no guns in this gentleman's bout.

Georgie moves in on the outside left

With a chain flying round his head;

And harold demure, from art literature,

Nips up the nearest tree.

(here come the cavalry!)

Amidst the battle roar,

Accountants keep the score: 10-4.

They've never been alone, after getting a radiophone.

The bluebells are ringing for sweetmeal sam, real ham,

Handing out bread and jam just like any picnic.

It's 5-4 on william wright; he made his pile on derby night.

When billy was a kid, walking the streets,  
The other kids hid - so they did!  
And now, after working hard in security trade, he's got it made.  
The shops that need aid are those that haven't paid.  
I do my double-show quick! said mick the prick, fresh out the  
nick.  
I sell cheap holiday. the minute they leave,  
Then a visit I pay - and does it pay!  
And his friend, liquid len by name,  
Of wine, women and wandsworth fame,  
Said I'm breaking the legs of the bastard that got me framed!  
They called me the reverend when I entered the church  
unstained;  
My employers have changed but the name has remained.  
It all began when I went on a tour,  
Hoping to find some furniture.  
I followed a sign - it said beautiful chest.  
It led to a lady who showed me her best.  
She was taken by surprise when I quickly closed my eyes.  
So she rang the bell, and quick as hell  
Bob the nob came out on his job  
To see what the trouble was.  
Louise, is the reverend hard to please?  
You're telling me!  
Perhaps, sir, if it's not too late.  
We could interest you in our old-fashioned staffordshire plate?  
Oh no, not me, I'm a man of repute.  
But the devil caught hold of my soul and a voice called out shoot!  
To save my steeple, I visited people;  
For this I'd gone when I met little john.  
His name came, I understood,  
When the judge said you're a robbing hood.  
He told me of his strange foundation,  
Conceived on sight of the woodstock nation;  
He'd had to hide his reputation.  
When poor, 'twas salvation from door to door.  
But now, with a pin-up guru every week,  
It's love, peace & truth incorporated for all who seek.  
He employed me as a karma-ma-mechanic, with overall charms.  
His hands were then fit to receive, receive alms.  
That's why we're in

The battle of epping forest,  
Yes it's the battle of epping forest,  
Right outside your door.  
We guard your souls for peanuts,  
And we guard your shops and houses  
For just a little more.  
In with a left hook is the bethnal green butcher,  
But he's countered on the right by mick's chain-gang fight,  
And liquid len, with his smashed bottle men,  
Is lobbing bob the nob across the gob.  
With his kisser in a mess, bob seems under stress,  
But jones the jug hits len right in the mug;  
And harold demure, who's still not quite sure,  
Fires acorns from out of his sling.  
(here come the cavalry!)  
Up, up above the crowd,  
Inside their silver cloud, done proud,  
The bold and brazen brass, seen darkly through the glass.  
The butler's got jam on his rolls; roy doles out the lot,  
With tea from a silver pot just like any picnic.  
Along the forest road, it's the end of the day  
And the clouds roll away.  
Each has got it's load - they'll come out for the count  
At the break-in of day.  
When the limos return for their final review, it's all thru'  
- all they can see is the morning goo.  
There's no-one left alive - must be draw.  
So the blackcap barons toss a coin to settle the score.

***Fascists get 3 seats in Epping. Council responds with 'ethnic cleansing' of travellers. posted on Tue 15th June, 2004 by Pat***

The fascist BNP has failed to achieve their much hyped breakthrough in the Euro-elections, being largely snubbed by

the electorate. However, one exception to this trend was in Essex. Here the BNP won three seats on Epping Forest District Council. (Although even here they also lost their first recently gained Essex seat in Thurrock, as more voters begin to learn through experience).

But while still marginal, the BNP have been able to provoke a wave of officially sponsored 'ethnic cleansing' in Essex. In Epping this virulent fascist party have been trying to promote their sinister agenda vowing to "evict travellers/gypsies from private or council lands". Following the June 10th election the council is now collaborating with this agenda by stepping up its evictions of, and attacks on the local gypsy population of Epping Forrest.

Boosted by the BNP, the council is this week trying to move some people off their land Paynes Lane, Lower Nazeing, Essex . This land has been owned and lived on by the travellers for over 15 years!

This eviction follows years of harassment by the council. Paynes Lane residents have been denied water or electricity. The entrance to the lane was blocked off - preventing access by the emergency services.

Hitler's Nazis also exploited fear and ignorance of travelling people to gain power. European Roma and travelling people suffered the same extermination and concentration camps as Europe's Jewish population, alongside the continents gays, communists, freethinkers and Trades Unionists.

Today, across Europe, especially in Eastern Europe, Roma and travelling communities are once more increasingly persecuted and violently attacked by neo-Nazi groups and skinheads, as they are made scapegoats for the economic crisis.

Here, across East Anglia, the BNP have tried to exploit the fears of middle class residents worried about property prices. The media and local politicians encourage a succession of 'nimby' campaigns of racism towards travellers.

Many groups of travellers own their own land, and wish to live discreetly on it. They cause no more problems than any other community. But prejudice against travellers is a form of racism that government officials, local mainstream politicians and the media can often openly promote without being challenged.

This must change!

Stop the fascists! Defend the travellers!  
For Land and Liberty! People Not Profit!

GET DOWN TO PAYNES LANE, LOWER NAZEING,  
ESSEX . NEAR BROXBOURNE STATION . OFFER YOUR  
SOLIDARITY!

/

**Epping Forest Gump** - in which a slow-witted but charming simpleton decides, for some reason, to make a film about Epping Forest. Holds the accolade for being the only film in history that couldn't sell more than seven tickets to its own premiere.

6 October 1888. A letter was received at Commercial street police station. It was signed "Jack the Ripper," ...and spoke of having "several bottles of blood underground in Epping Forest."

### **Dick Turpin Fact or Fiction?**

From a cave in Epping Forest Dick Turpin, would ride out to rob almost every traveller, rich or poor, that had the misfortune to pass his hideout.

Elizabeth Jeffries had aided and abetted the murder of her uncle and was hanged in Epping Forest on Saturday the 28th of March.

'On Saturday night last, about seven o'clock, five rogues entered the house of Widow Shelley at Loughton in Essex, having pistols. and threatened to murder the old lady, if she would not tell them where her money lay, which she obstinately refusing for some time, they threatened to lay her across the fire, if she did not instantly tell them, which she would not do. But her son being in the room, and threatened to be murdered, cried out, he would tell them, if they would not murder his mother, and did, whereupon they went upstairs, and took near £100, a silver tankard, and other plate, and all manner of household goods. They afterwards went into the cellar and drank several bottles of ale and wine, and broiled some meat, ate the relicts of a filet of veal. While they were doing this, two of their gang went to Mr Turkles, a farmer, who rents one end of the widow's house, and robbed him of above £20, and then they all went off, taking two of the farmer's horses, to carry off their luggage, the horses were found on Sunday the following morning in Old Street, and stayed about three hours in the house.' The raid took place on 1 February 1735 and widow Shelly's house was in Traps Hill, Loughton.

### **Who knows the tatoed man?**

A MURDER investigation launched after a man was shot in the head in Epping Forest is being hampered because police still have no idea who he is.

Detectives have released pictures of "very distinctive" tattoos on the man's shoulder and upper arm in the hope that someone will recognise them.

It had been hoped the man could have been traced through his silver-coloured Rolex watch, but the watch has turned out to be an imitation.

Three men heard what they thought to be a gunshot early on Saturday and then saw two men, aged 20 to 25 and wearing white baseball caps, get into a black or dark-coloured car, similar to a Fiat Tipo, and drive off at speed from the gravel car park at Rushey Plain, off Wake Road,, High Beech, towards the Kings Oak pub.

The men then heard noises and discovered the man lying on the ground just into the forest off the car park with serious head injuries. He was taken to Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, where he died at 4.20am on Saturday.

A post mortem revealed he died from a shotgun wound.

Detective Superintendent Colin Steele, who is leading the investigation, told the Guardian: "We have absolutely no idea why he has been killed but it would appear that he has been taken to a secluded area and has been murdered.

"I've no idea who else is involved so I can't say whether it's a gang, whether it's a family honour thing or drugs. It could be any of those things."

He added: "It appears the vehicle that took him to the site left the site after he was shot. That vehicle is still missing."

The victim is white, in his late 20s to early 30s, 5ft 9ins tall, with medium dark brown hair cropped to between a quarter and half an inch, clean shaven and with tattoos on his back and upper arm. He was wearing blue jeans, white socks, Adidas trainers and a Tommy Hilfinger zip-up top.

Detective Superintendent Kevin Macey said: "Despite extensive enquiries throughout the region, including London and other areas, we still do not know who the victim is, but I do believe he will be known to someone.

"I'm asking for the public's help. He may be a loved one or a neighbour who did not return home, or who is known to somebody in some other way. It's vital that we identify him. Once we've achieved that, other areas of enquiry will open up that may lead to the identity of the killers."

Anyone with any information about the murder - or who saw the vehicle after it left the High Beech area should ring the incident room on 01206 762122.

8:35am Saturday 23rd July 2005

A MAN shot in the head in Epping Forest was the victim of a "pre-planned cold-blooded execution", according to the detective leading the murder hunt.

Detective Superintendent Colin Steele told the Guardian there was a possibility the shooting, at point-blank range, could have been planned to such detail that the killers purposely drove to a shingle car park so they knew they would leave no tyre marks, which

could have given police some clues, as they made their quick getaway.

But into the second week of the murder investigation detectives still have no idea who the killers are - or who the victim is.

Police have taken the unusual step of issuing an air-brushed mortuary picture of the victim's face, and also computer-produced images of his tattoos in the hope that someone will recognise the man.

### **£20,000 to catch killers**

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of a man whose burned body was found in Epping Forest are offering a £20,000 reward.

A fifth person has been arrested by police investigating the death of Shah Afruj Ali, 40, whose body was found by walkers near Wake Valley Pond at about noon on Tuesday, February 15.

Police are awaiting the results of further tests after a post mortem failed to establish how he died.

### **the fate of the first Essex men was probably extinction.**

Dick Turpin, England's most famous highwayman, was an [Essex](#) man – and he was anything but a hero.

He spent some time living in [Epping](#) Forest, where he led a gang which attacked and robbed travellers along the road.

## **Criminal Justice Act, 1967**

Roy Jenkins replaced Sir Frank as Home Secretary in the later part of 1965 and later announced that he was:

*"actively considering the new legislation in relation to shotguns"*

By late June 1966 he announced that the latest in a long series of reviews were complete and reported to the House:

*"The type of shotgun which is freely available and which can be used without special exemption was considerably restricted under the Firearms Act. I must pay some regard to the burden of inspection which would be put on the police. The police do not consider that it would be right to make an extension at this time."*

However, in late September he announced that he was:

*"endeavouring to draw up plans to end the unrestricted purchase of shotguns."*

Which rather begs the question as to why the Home Secretary chose a course of action that was such a complete reversal of policy. The answer would appear to be tied to the brutal murder of three Metropolitan police officers more than a month earlier.

In middle of the afternoon on the 12th of August, a Metropolitan Police car approached a parked Vanguard estate in Baybrook Street, Hammersmith. DS Head and DC Wombell left their vehicle and walked toward the Vanguard, seated in the car Harry Roberts drew a revolver and shot them both dead. As he did so John Duddy leapt from the Vanguard and ran to the police car where he shot and killed the driver PC Fox.

John Duddy was soon arrested, along with other accomplices present at the murder scene. **Roberts was finally captured three months later, after living rough in Epping Forest.** The Shepherd's Bush affair, as the murders became known, and the three month man hunt for Roberts dominated the news and the appalling brutality of the attack aroused widespread public anger. At a memorial service for the slain officers a large crowd marched to Westminster Abbey carrying banners calling for the re-introduction of capital punishment. Roy Jenkins, who was bitterly opposed to the death penalty, came under great pressure from the media and public alike for the restoration of capital punishment.