As the jury re-entered the court to give their verdict Detective Chief Superintendent Baker felt like his heart would beat out of his chest. Having spent nearly 5 years on this case, he knew deep in his heart, bones and soul that Colin Pitchfork was guilty. He knew Pitchfork was guilty as much as he knew the sky is blue. The new scientific approach to DNA proved this beyond any reasonable doubt. The DNA proved that Pitchfork was definitely the man.

But this was the first time DNA had been used in murder case. Would the jury agree with the new science? The case itself was a truly horrific one. In 1983, in a small village outside Leicester, 15-year-old Lynda Mann was found by a lonely footpath, raped and strangled to death. DCS Baker had been in charge of the expensive police investigation that followed. After all, he was the highest ranking CID officer in his police force. This was a police force that had become ever more specialised. There were traffic officers, finger-printing experts, the Fraud Squad, the Anti-Terrorist Squad and of course his specialist area CID which was set up in the late 19th century. All police officers including constables were highly and regularly trained. They were well paid too.

His team used the latest technology to try and find the killer. They used the specialist forensics team to analyse forensic evidence found at the crime scene. They searched for fingerprint. They had police cars travelling around the area gathering evidence. They conducted a door to door enquiry with police officers on foot, knocking on each door in surrounding villages to piece together the clues. The officers kept in touch using police radios which were first introduced in 1910. All of this information was stored on new computers. The record keeping was now fantastic. They had records of vehicles and finger prints for the county at their fingertips. All of this was used in the vain hope that they could find Lynda Mann's killer. DCS Baker owed it to Lynda's parents.
But after a year of hard work, using the latest science and technology, to try and track down the murderer... nothing! His boss forced him to scale back the operation. The Government had spent more and more on policing in the 20th century. This has allowed policing to change so much and develop. But it wasn’t a bottomless pit of money. DCS Baker was devastated. He had tried absolutely everything. If they just gave him more time on this... hope seemed to be slipping away of ever getting justice for Lynda and her family.

Then, two years later, in 1986 another 15 year old Dawn Ashworth went missing. She was last seen just yards from where Lynda Mann’s body was found. DCS Baker was back on the case. The area was searched extensively and, after two days Dawn’s body was found. She too had been raped and strangled to death. DCS Baker was sure that the same man had committed both crimes. This murderer had to be found.

The police tried even more new tactics. They had previously used newspapers to highlight the Lynda Mann case. They now used TV. A Crimewatch special filming of Dawn’s last journey was made with an emotional appeal to the public. But still no new evidence came to light from this. They even asked the new Neighbour Watch schemes if they had seen anything at all in the surrounding areas - nothing!

DCI Baker realised that the usual routes of enquiry just weren’t working; they needed something else, and they needed it to work before the killer struck again. He realised that the answer could well lay in science. It offered them a last hope. He had heard of something called DNA, genetic fingerprinting. Could this help?

Baker visited Leicester University’s DNA scientist, Alec Jeffreys. Jeffrey’s agreed to help and, using forensic evidence quickly established the DNA code of this killer. They now knew the killers unique genetic make-up. No one has the same DNA fingerprint. Therefore they had the code of the killer!
Baker then vowed to conduct a massive DNA manhunt of all men aged 18-34 in the local area. Despite the vast expense, the Home Office eventually approved the operation - the testing was to be carried out by the Forensic Science Service.

It was agreed that the mass screening had to be voluntary; no-one could be compelled as this was against people’s human rights. In order for the manhunt to work, they needed the whole community to believe in the science and get behind the idea. Without the villagers' support and a high turnout, it just wouldn't work.

January 1st 1987: the first day of screening. Baker and Jeffreys and their teams of police and doctors wait with bated breath ... will they catch the killer?

Over 5000 men came forward to offer DNA samples and they still didn't get their man!? This was devastating. However, they did had the beginnings of a powerful DNA database.

What was needed was some old fashioned policing!

Finally, after 4 years, they had a lucky break. A woman comes forward to her local community policeman with new information. She overheard a conversation where Ian Kelly, revealed to fellow workers in a Leicester pub that he had obtained £200 for giving a DNA sample while pretending to be Colin Pitchfork - a baker. Pitchfork had paid Kelly so they couldn’t match his DNA.

Pitchfork was immediately arrested and a new DNA sample was taken. It matched that of the killer! DCS Baker finally had his man! Pitchfork went on to admit to the crimes.

The jury agreed. Pitchfork was found guilty of rape and murder. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison.