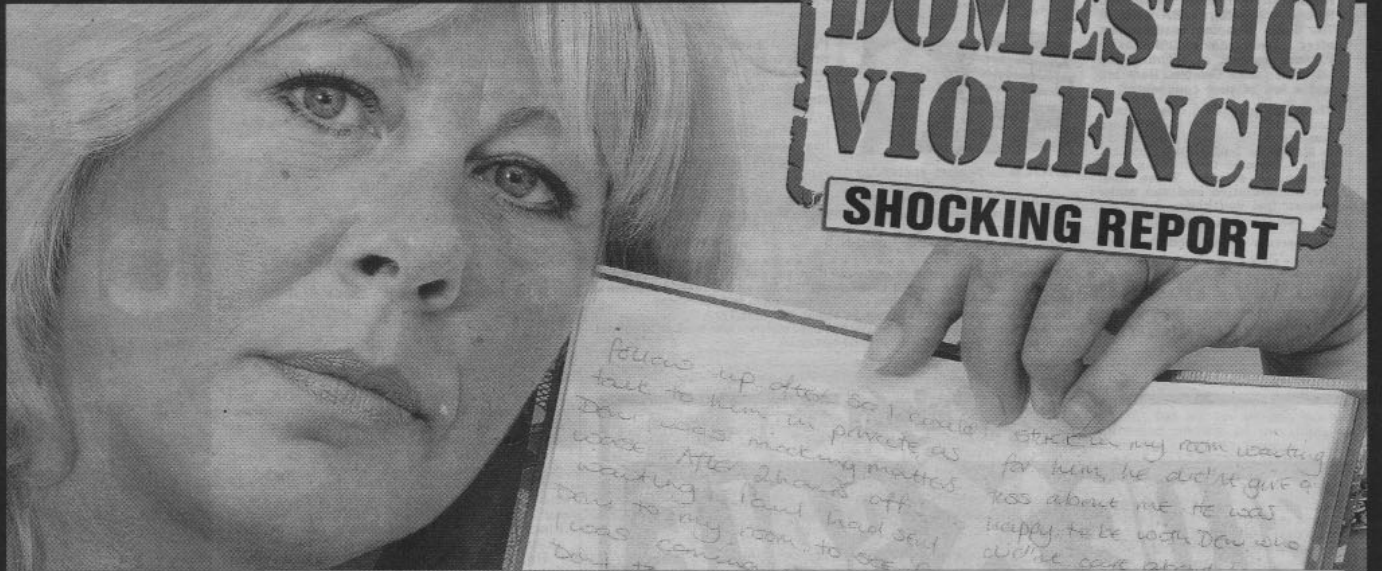


3-PAGE SPECIAL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SHOCKING REPORT



The diary of a battered wife

The Sun's shocking report on domestic violence was highlighted on GMTV yesterday. Viewers saw Claire Overton - whom we featured in our exposé - reveal her horrific scars as she urged victims to convict their abusers. Here, another victim, Karen Warnett, tells CHARLES YATES of the years she spent living in fear of beatings by her evil husband Paul Scott.

KAREN WARNETT suffered horrific abuse at the hands of her vicious ex.

Things got so bad during her terrifying marriage that she recorded the beatings in a diary.

Her intimate journal provides a traumatic log of domestic violence and emotional torture with which thousands of other victims of vicious husbands and lovers in Britain will empathise.

Karen was first punched by Paul on their honeymoon. It was only a few days into married life and a sign of things to come.

She was to suffer eight years of hell married to the alcoholic barman who would batter her whenever he felt like it.

Three years into her marriage the beatings became so regular Karen decided to keep her diary.

Karen, 43, said: "There were months of attacks when I didn't record anything."

"But I had reached a point where I thought it was best to write down what was happening."

It was through her first husband Ray, the father of her two children - James, 16 and Emily, 15 - that she met pub landlord Paul in the Eighties.

When Paul lost his job at a local boozer, Ray invited him to move in with his family.

It was during this time that Karen and Paul became friends. Karen said: "Nothing went on between us at that time. It

wasn't until five years later that we got together as a couple.

"I'd never seen any signs of his violence. If I'd seen that side of him I'd never have married him."

"I know there were times when the police were involved and I prevented it from going to court, but now I'd advise any women in an abusive relationship to

press charges. It was the best thing I ever did and helped to end it."

As a mum of two, Karen had felt trapped, not just physically, but financially by her bullying husband.

Karen said: "He ran up debts to pay for his drinking and gambling and used me as a human punchbag." Karen, who has now split from Paul, left

Tewkesbury, Glouce, to escape his violence after their house was repossessed.

Karen recalled her torment and said: "I was at my wits' end and I wanted to end my life. I even took some pills once."

"I was sick for days afterwards. Now I'm glad I failed."

"By November 2002 I was so sick of the abuse that I applied to the courts for a non-molestation order. The injunction was granted for three months and during that time I didn't suffer any beatings."

"He last attacked me early last year - months after I'd divorced him for unreasonable behaviour."

Punched

During that final, twisted assault Paul made Karen suffer terribly. "He broke my shoulder blade and severely bruised one of my ribs," she said.

"He forced my mobile phone into my mouth and punched me in the face. It was awful. I cried and cried with pain."

When the case went before magistrates in June 2003, Paul pleaded not guilty to common assault, but was convicted.

The court issued a six-month non-molestation order, he was made to do 100 hours community service, 18 months community rehabilitation and pay Karen 1,300 compensation.

Karen has now moved on with her life. She said: "I felt I had to suffer before I'd be free of him."

"My new man Michael is the exact opposite - a real man - I've never been happier."



FATEFUL DAY... Karen and Paul on their wedding day in 1993. Top, Karen today with her diary

Picture: MARC GIDDINGS

READ KAREN'S TRAGIC STORY - IN HER OWN WORDS - ON THE NEXT PAGES