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# DRUGS DEAL KILLER CAGED

Judge brands murderer as 'callous, dangerous and ruthless'

By Paul Giles

southend@yellowad.co.uk

A MAN who murdered an acquaintance in a flat in Braintree last year following a row over drugs is starting a life sentence.

Luke Eva, aged 25, from Avondale Road, Leigh, was found guilty of killing Michael Haastrup, by a jury at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday, February 16.

His Honourable Judge Charles Grattwicke, sentenced Eva on Wednesday, February 18, to a minimum of 23 years behind bars for the murder as well as a further 18 months to run concurrently for possession of an offensive weapon.

Mr Haastrup, 24, who lived in Southend, died in Broomfield Hospital after he was stabbed in the chest with a kitchen knife, following a disturbance at a flat in Crossing Road, Braintree, on April 16 last year.

Detective chief inspector Mark Hall of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, led the investigation into the murder.

Speaking after the sentencing he said Luke Eva had gone to the flat



**SENTENCE: Luke Eva**

armed with a knife.

Mr Hall said: "His actions had fatal consequences and he will be paying the price for those actions.

"He took away a young man's life and he will serve many years in prison.

"This sentence will not bring Michael back, but will give his family and friends solace that justice has been served.

"This case illustrates the deadly



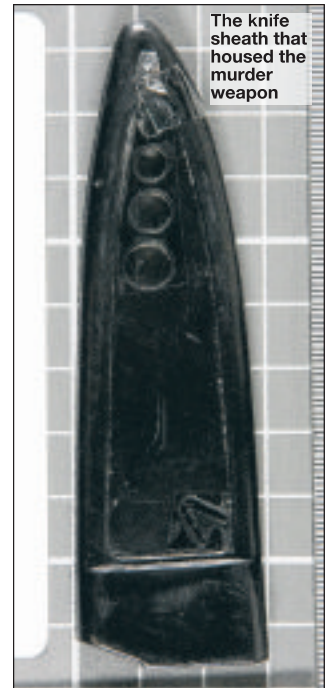
**VICTIM: Michael Haastrup**

impact that drugs and knife crime can have on families, societies and the local community.

When sentencing Eva, judge Charles Grattwicke, described Mr Haastrup's murder as a "savagely and brutal killing".

He said: "You showed no remorse at the time or during the trial.

"You are a callous, dangerous and ruthless individual."



The knife sheath that housed the murder weapon

## Rescue plan for eroding cliffs at Esplanade

SOUTHEND'S eroding cliffs could be saved by a £1.25 development plan.

Swedish development firm Redab is proposing a rescue package to stabilise land slippage.

The offer coincides with an application to redevelop the Esplanade pub, which adjoins the cliffs.

Redab bought the site last year.

Southend Council's head of enterprise, tourism and economic development, Cllr Graham Longley, said the deal could be beneficial for the town if it meets planning guidelines.

He said: "We are delighted to see that major developers and investors are increas-

ingly spotting the potential Southend offers and we welcome proposals which would help the borough continue to expand what it offers to residents and visitors.

"We look forward to working closely with these developers to ensure a suitable development for this site."

● Turn to page 6 for more.

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## Arts group set to leave its mark



**VISION:** Ben Stagg, of Stagg Architects, left, Cloris Brian Antin and Judith McMahon, CO Pettiness, of Reeba, and Colette Bailey, of Southend Metal Culture, with a model of the proposed Esplanade scheme  
Photo by Mark Cleveland

PLANS to create a visual attraction which could help to lure thousands of visitors to Southend were unveiled last week.

Redab Properties, the developers behind the bid to build a block of 24 flats on the site of the Esplanade Pub, hopes its development will also include a 10m x 5m mural on the side of the building.

The company has teamed up with Southend Metal Culture to look at ways to reflect the green credentials of the Esplanade building.

Colette Bailey, chief executive of Southend Metal, said: "The company is prepared to offer a realistic budget which would allow us to commission a world renowned artist to undertake the work. This would mean that we would create an artwork that

would be a landmark piece and attract interest from all the parts of the world. Not only would this be good for Southend, but would also form a key part of a proposed series of works along the Thames Estuary that Metal is working towards for the future."

The proposed mural would be painted on the east side of the building and be visible to anyone walking on the seafront from the pier.

Redab's managing director CG Pettersson said he was delighted to have Metal involved. He said: "We have made a strong commitment to Southend and are pleased to be working with local people. We are also looking forward to working with an artist of international stature that will help attract visitors to the town and boost its economy."



**NEW-LOOK:** A computer-generated image of the flats proposed for the Esplanade pub site in Southend

## Developers' £1.25m to shore up cliffs in plan for 'green' flats

MORE than £1million has been put forward by developers Redab Properties to help shore up subsidising cliffs in Southend.

The Swedish firm, which bought the Esplanade pub last year, has proposed £1.25m to stabilise cliff slippage behind the development.

It has proposed to carry out the work to save Southend Council money and instead of offering social housing at the apartment block.

Architect Ben Stagg, of Stagg Architects, said the cliffs would be tree-lined and offer a garden

area to apartment buyers.

He said: "We will go for wooden beams on the outside that will give a soft edge to the development and add greenery for residents."

Redab boss CG Pettersson said essential piling would be required to stabilise the cliff area.

He said: "Subject to planning approval, the piling will be handled to cause the least amount of disruption to residents."

"Redab is committed to the environment and fully supports Southend Council in its bid to

increase the use of renewable energy.

"Our new scheme has been designed to be environmentally friendly and we hope it will set the standard for similar developments in the future in other parts of the town."

The proposed £15million development could see 24 apartments built on the site.

This would include a 7,000 sq ft restaurant and an underground car park with 25 spaces.

Solar panels, recycled rainwater and ground-sourced heating are also proposed.

What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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