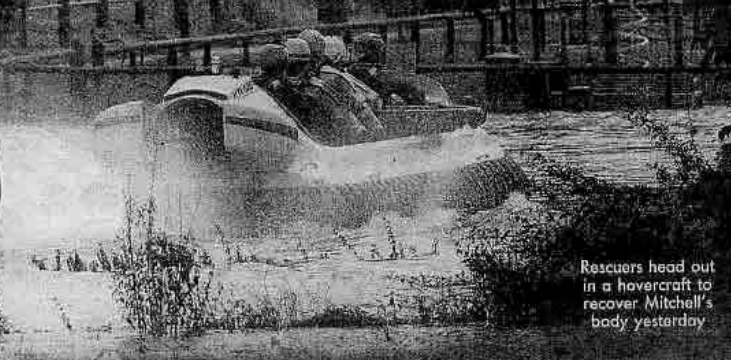


# FLOODED BRITAIN

# MISSING TEEN'S BODY IS FOUND



Flood victim Mitchell Taylor



Rescuers head out in a hovercraft to recover Mitchell's body yesterday

● **Grim discovery by hovercraft rescuers**

● **Police chief warns: Do NOT go out today**

Picture: ROLAND LEON

**A TEENAGER** about to start university was last night feared to be the third victim of the devastating floods swamping Britain.

A body, thought to be that of Mitchell Taylor, 19, was recovered by Italian volunteer rescuers from 10 feet of flood water covering playing fields in Tewkesbury, Glos.

Yesterday's grim find ends a seven-day wait for the barman's family who had not seen him since a night out last Saturday.

It follows the deaths of Bramwell Lane, 64, and his son Chris, 27, on Thursday. They were pumping out floodwater from the cellar of Tewkesbury Rugby Club when they were overcome by tides.

Last night police urged people to stay at home as more torrential downpours were expected. Forecasters predicted six to nine hours of heavy rain in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire overnight.

As the crisis continued, police asked motorists not to travel unless the journey was absolutely necessary. Supt Alex Drummond, of Gloucestershire Police, said: "We're now appealing for people to help us this weekend by avoiding non-essential journeys and

By **SIMON WRIGHT & KATE MANSEY** staying at home where possible. Last night Mitchell's mother, Jane, 44, was too distressed to talk about his death. He has three older brothers - Ross, who was with Mitchell the night he vanished, Andrew and Anthony.

Neighbour Susan McCabe said: "Jane is in pieces - she has been fearing the worst for days now and this is a terrible time for her."

"Mitchell is a lovely young man. He was due to go to Leicester University to study arts and drama in September and he was working at the local pub to get some money together before he went."

"Everyone takes a short cut across those playing fields. The trouble is that when it floods in Tewkesbury the water rises very quickly there."

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue spokesman Tally Giampa paid tribute to the Italian rescuers who located the partly-submerged body. The four-man crew, who speak little English, drove to Tewkesbury from Turin on Wednesday to help rescue efforts.

Mr Giampa said: "They are here as volunteers and their help has been greatly appreciated."

When the rain eventually stops, the clear-up is estimated to cost

a staggering \$6billion. Prime Minister Gordon Brown visited victims last week and pledged an extra £20million to boost defences.

Meanwhile the bogus fire chief who duped flood victims in Tewkesbury as he directed rescue efforts has been leading a fantasy life in his home city of Liverpool, it emerged last night.

Brian Jennings, 49, who was arrested last Wednesday, allegedly tricked neighbours into believing he worked for the fire brigade.

Neighbour Jean Smith, 47 said: "He told me was a fireman and I felt proud as punch that we had a public service worker on our block. But it did strike me that he was never clean shaven."

Another neighbour said: "One day he had a nail in the tyre of his Ford Fiesta and I advised him to go to a local dealer. But he told me, 'I don't need to bother because I am in the fire service and they will look after me'."

Another resident said: "He was too old to be a fireman. They need to be able to lift people. Don't they?"

Police and fire crews broke down his door with a battering ram and took away computers and a video recorder. "The commotion frightened the life out of us," said Jean.

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# WATER BILLS TO SOAR



Boss Young

**MILLIONS** of households face even higher water bills to pay for new flood defences.

The Environment Agency, already under attack for its handling of the flood crisis, says water companies will have to charge more to help protect homes and power supplies from future flooding.

The warning comes only weeks after Britain's water industry - which has imposed a series of inflation-busting price hikes on

By **STEPHEN HAYWARD**  
Consumer Correspondent

customers - announced £2billion a year profits. Average water bills have gone up 10 per cent to £12 a year since 2004.

Environment Agency boss Baroness Young yesterday said: "Climate change has come home to roost. Bills are going to have to go up, both because of drought and floods."

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