

1. MAJOR INCIDENTS AND POLICING DIARY

MURDER / ATTEMPTED MURDER

1.1 SERIOUS ASSAULT - TOTNES

On 25th September 2009, police were called to Warland, Totnes to a report of a female in the street, with a head injury. It was quickly established that the woman had been seriously assaulted. She was taken to Torbay hospital for treatment to significant head injuries.

A 55-year-old man was arrested and charged with Attempted Murder on 28th September. He was remanded into custody and will appear before Plymouth Crown Court for a plea and directional hearing in December.

1.2 STABBING - LOOE

On 25th September, police were called to a disturbance in West Looe, involving a male armed with a knife. Upon arrival, officers found that a 19-year-old local male had been detained by members of the public and a knife recovered.

A 21-year-old male suffered a minor cut to his chest and one of the males who detained the offender sustained a minor hand injury.

The 19-year-old man was arrested and later charged with both Attempted Murder and Possession of an Offensive Weapon.

He was remanded into custody and his next court appearance for a plea and directional hearing is due on 15th December 2009.

1.3 ATTEMPTED MURDER - YEALMPTON

On 28th September, a man was arrested following a serious assault on a woman who was out walking her dog.

The 49-year-old woman suffered a number of puncture wounds to her shoulder in the incident on Bowden Hill, Yealmpton. A second male victim was punched in the face during the incident.

A 33-year-old man was arrested and later charged with Attempted Murder, Actual Bodily Harm and being concerned with the Production of Cannabis. He has been remanded into custody at HMP Exeter and is due to appear before Plymouth Crown Court on 11th January 2010.

1.4 MURDER OF BABY - PLYMOUTH

On 1st November, a three-month-old baby boy from the St. Judes area of the city was admitted to Derriford Hospital having sustained life threatening, non-accidental injuries.

Two people were initially arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm. A 25-year-old local man was later charged with Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent to the infant.

Sadly the baby boy died from his injuries on 24th November and this investigation has been escalated to a full murder enquiry.

Police are liaising with child protection agencies in Plymouth and are working closely with the family.

The man is currently being held on remand awaiting his next court appearance.

1.5 FATAL FIRE – BODMIN

On 5th November, police were called to a fire in Wallace Road, Bodmin.

A 59-year-old woman died at the scene. A 17-year-old boy managed to escape from the property. He was taken to Treliske Hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation and later released.

On 6th November following a joint investigation by the fire service, the police and an external forensic scientist, the remains of a discharged firework was found inside the doorway area of the house.

On 9th November, three people were arrested on suspicion of murder in connection with the fatal fire, an 18-year-old man and two 17-year-old males. They were later charged with Manslaughter.

All three have been remanded into custody awaiting their next court appearance at Truro Crown Court on 12th February 2010.

SERIOUS ASSAULT

1.6 SEXUAL OFFENCES - NEWTON ABBOT

Police charged a 55-year-old man with several counts of rape and sexual assault to a child in Newton Abbot. The offences took place between 1995 and 1998 when the victim was aged between 11 and 15 years old.

On 21st September the man was charged with a total of nine offences including four Rapes of a female under 16, three Indecent Assaults on a girl under 16 and two Indecent Assaults on a girl under 14 years. He has been released on bail with conditions imposed and is next due to appear before court on 12th April 2010.

1.7 FIREARMS WARRANT - TRURO

On 22nd September, a 53-year-old man from Ladock, near Truro was arrested following the execution of a firearms warrant.

The man was later charged with offences of Possession of a Prohibited Firearm, Possession of Indecent Images of Children and an Indecent Assault on a Female.

An application was made to remand the man into custody in order to investigate similar sexual offences that occurred in Wigan during the 1980s.

The man appeared before Truro Magistrates Court on 28th September having been charged with a further 7 offences including Rape and Sexual Assaults. He was remanded into custody to await his next court hearing in January 2010.

1.8 ASSAULT - CHARLESTOWN

On 29th September, a 50-year-old male brandishing a kitchen knife stabbed a 58-year-old male, working at the Harbourside Pub in Charlestown, in the arm. The assailant was arrested and later charged with Wounding with Intent.

The man was remanded into custody and is due to appear before court on 18th December 2009.

1.9 ASSAULT - PLYMOUTH

On 25th October, police were called to a report of a large disorder in Langley Crescent, Southway.

Officers found a 25-year-old local man had received four serious, but non-life threatening stab wounds during the disorder. He was taken to Derriford hospital for treatment.

Two local males one 18-year-old and one 16-year-old were arrested on suspicion of assault causing grievous bodily harm and were released on police bail to return to Charles Cross Police Station on 21st January 2010.

ASSAULT ON POLICE

1.10 OFFICER ASSAULTED - PLYMOUTH

Two people were arrested after a Police Officer was assaulted in Plymouth.

Officers were called to a house in Whiteleigh on 18th October after receiving reports of a disturbance.

In the process of being arrested, a 41-year-old man lashed out at a male officer, causing grazing to his lip and above his left eye. A 42-year-old woman then attempted to free the suspect.

Both the man and the woman were arrested on suspicion of causing affray and were released on Police bail to return to Charles Cross Police Station on 7th December 2009.

FIREARMS

1.11 ARMED ROBBERY - PLYMOUTH

On 19th October, an armed robbery took place at the Camels Head Post Office in St. Budeaux, Plymouth. Two men entered the premises, one wearing a crash helmet and carrying a hammer. The other man was wearing a 'hoodie' and carrying a long barreled firearm, possibly an air rifle.

The men demanded money from the safe, the counter staff refused and the panic-alarm was activated. The two men left the post office after grabbing a few coins

Two men aged 22 and 20 were later arrested on suspicion of robbery and released on police bail until 11th December 2009.

DRUGS

1.12 DRUGS COURIERS SENTENCED

Two men were sent to prison after attempting to courier £24,000 worth of cocaine into Devon.

Andrew Blake, 26, of Bude in Cornwall, was arrested in November last year at Cullompton by officers from the Force's Road Crime Unit. He had £14,000 worth of cocaine in his car which, he had collected from Shaun Cunningham. He (Blake) was given a 21-month jail sentence after admitting one offense of Possession with Intent to Supply.

Shaun Cunningham, 22, of Deeside in Flintshire, was spotted in December 2008, in his own car and arrested on the A39 near Bideford. He had £10,000 worth of the drug and received a 30-month custodial sentence after admitting two charges of Possessing Cocaine with Intent to Supply.

They were both jailed at Exeter Crown Court.

A police spokesman said: "This excellent result demonstrates the work carried out by the Force's Road Crime Unit and CID officers who will continue to robustly disrupt the flow of illegal substances into Devon and Cornwall."

1.13 FAIL TO STOP – PLYMOUTH

On 14th October the driver of a white Citroen Berlingo van failed to stop when requested by police. The vehicle damaged five police vehicles, a Police Officer sustaining minor injuries and damage was caused to two private motor vehicles. When the vehicle was stopped a large quantity of suspected Class 'A' control drugs were seized.

Two men were arrested for offences relating to failing to stop for the police, dangerous driving, assault on police and possession with intent to supply of a considerable amount of controlled drugs, suspected to be Class 'A'.

One of the men aged 41 and from Fowey was later charged with Dangerous Driving and the Supply of Controlled Drugs (cocaine and amphetamine) and Possession of Cannabis. The second male, 38 from Plymouth, was charged with two offences of the Supply of Cocaine and Possession with Intent to Supply.

During the enquiry cocaine (2.2kg), amphetamine (1kg) and cannabis with a combined street value of £97,000 were seized.

Both men were remanded into custody and are due to appear via video link to court on 4th December 2009.

ARSON

1.14 ARSON - TORRINGTON

On 27th October, police received a report from the fire service asking for assistance at the scene of a fire in Fore Street, Torrington. Initial reports indicated four people might have been trapped.

A man and woman were rescued by the fire service from a second floor property whilst the two other people from a separate flat were later found safe and well.

Nobody suffered any injuries as a result of the fire.

A 38-year-old man from Torrington was arrested on suspicion of arson and assault. He was later released on police bail to return to Barnstaple Police Station on 16th December 2009.

ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

1.15 FATAL ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION - PLYMOUTH

On 3rd October a two vehicle road traffic collision occurred on Embankment Road, Plymouth. An 18-year-old female passenger in a Vauxhall Vectra died at the scene. The driver of the Vauxhall was taken to Derriford Hospital although his injuries were not considered life threatening, whilst the occupants of the other vehicle were uninjured. The road was closed for 9 hours whilst police carried out their investigations.

On 9th October, a 22-year-old man from Plympton was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. He appeared before Plymouth Magistrates Court on 12th November 2009 at which time the case was referred to Crown Court for 22nd February 2010.

1.16 FATAL ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION – EXETER

On 20th November a woman was in collision with a yellow HGV vehicle in Sidwell Street, Exeter.

The 90-year-old local woman was taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital where she later died.

The vehicle was stopped a short time later by the police on the A30 near the Daisymount junction. The 41-year-old driver, from Tiptree in Essex, was arrested on suspicion of causing death by driving without due care. He was released on police bail until 16th February 2010.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS/INCIDENTS

1.17 BROTHEL KEEPING - PLYMOUTH

Three people were arrested following the execution of three search warrants in Plymouth on 29th September.

Police visited three addresses in Crownhill in connection with an investigation into human trafficking, money laundering and brothel keeping.

Of those arrested, a 25 and a 24-year-old man were jointly charged with Controlling Prostitution for Gain, two counts of Trafficking Persons with the UK for Sexual Exploitation and Brothel Keeping.

They were remanded into custody whilst investigations continue.

The third person a 19-year-old woman was released on police bail to re-attend Charles Cross Police Station on 7th January 2010.

1.18 CASH SEIZURE ARRESTS M5 - EXETER

On 17th October, police attended the service station at Junction 30 of the M5 after the occupants of a car were seen to be acting suspiciously.

Officers searched the vehicle and found a large quantity of cash, believed to be in the region of £30,000.

A 31-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman, both from Plymouth, were arrested on suspicion of offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act. They were later released on police bail whilst investigations continue and are due to return to Heavitree Road Police Station, on 17th February 2010.