

## **1. MAJOR INCIDENTS AND POLICING DIARY**

### **MURDER / ATTEMPTED MURDER**

#### **1.1 DOUBLE MURDER ENQUIRY – TORQUAY**

On 11th January, officers attended an address in Warren Road, Torquay, after concern was expressed for the occupants of the property. On arrival, officers found the bodies of a man and a woman.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January a 28-year-old man, residing in Torquay, was arrested and charged with the Murder of the 72-year-old woman and 71-year-old man.

He appeared before Torquay Magistrates Court on 18<sup>th</sup> January and was remanded into custody. Another man was also arrested in connection with the incident and released on police bail pending further enquiries.

#### **1.2 HOUSE FIRE - NEWQUAY**

On 18<sup>th</sup> January, police were called to the scene of a house fire in Trevarrian, Newquay, by the fire service. It was reported that two people were still in the property at the time. A 10-year-old boy was removed from the fire and taken to Treliiske Hospital. His 44-year-old mother was found dead at the scene. The boy died later the same day in hospital.

A 47-year-old male suspect was transferred to Frenchay Hospital in Bristol. He was the pair's husband and father and died from his injuries on 26<sup>th</sup> January and at no stage was it possible for the police to interview him.

The police's investigation into the sequence of events continues but officers in the case are not looking for anyone else in connection with the enquiry.

### **ASSAULTS**

#### **1.3 TARKA TRAIL ASSAULTS**

Police received calls regarding three separate assaults on women around the Tarka Trail area in North Devon.

The first incident, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, involved a woman in her forties on the Tarka Trail near East the Water, Bideford. The woman was out walking her dog when a man approached her from behind, grabbed her bottom and then ran off.

The second incident occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> December, when a 14-year-old girl was in Old Barnstaple Road, East The Water, and she was approached from behind. The man grabbed her chest and ran off because she screamed.

The third incident, on 1<sup>st</sup> January, involved a 19-year-old woman who was in the car park of the old railway station in Bideford. She was approached from behind by a man who grabbed her, over her clothing. He was disturbed and ran from the scene.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January a 14-year-old male was arrested and charged with Sexual Assault on a Female. He admitted to four offences and was remanded into custody at a youth custody centre.

#### **1.4 SERIOUS ASSAULT - PLYMOUTH**

A 37-year-old man sustained severe head injuries following an altercation with another man outside the Ford Inn, Alexandra Road, Plymouth, on New Year's Day.

The injured Plymouth man was taken to Derriford Hospital and subsequently died on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

A 36-year-old man from Plymouth was arrested at the scene on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and released on bail. Following the injured man's death, he was arrested and charged with Involuntary Manslaughter before being released on police bail until his next appearance at Plymouth Crown Court on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

#### **1.5 ASSAULT ERNESETTLE - PLYMOUTH**

On 18<sup>th</sup> January, an assault occurred in the Ernesettle area of the city.

The victim, a 44-year-old Plymouth man, was left with a broken jaw and severe bruising to his face.

A 42-year-old Plymouth man was arrested on 19<sup>th</sup> January on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm. He was released on police bail to return to Charles Cross police station on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### **ASSAULT ON POLICE**

##### **1.6 ASSAULT ON POLICE - PAIGNTON**

On 28<sup>th</sup> December, a 47-year-old man, from Newton Abbot was arrested after assaulting a female police officer following an incident in Paignton.

Officers were called to a public house after three men who had been refused the sale of alcohol by staff, became unruly. When the police arrived the men became violent and the officer was punched in the face. The suspect was eventually subdued by the use of a taser. The assaulted officer was left with reddening and swelling to the area around her eye following the incident.

The man was later charged with Using Threatening Behaviour, Assault and Resisting Arrest.

The two other men arrested for being drunk and disorderly were a 27-year-old man from Newton Abbot who was given a penalty notice for disorder and a 25-year-old man from Newton Abbot who was cautioned.

A male from Newton Abbot appeared before magistrates on 14 January 2010 where he pleaded not guilty. A date for the trial is due to be set in the near future.

## **DRUGS**

### **1.7 DRUGS RAID KENNFORD - CHARGE**

More than £200,000.00 of suspected cannabis plants were discovered by police in a raid when a warrant was executed on a property at the Deer Park Business Centre, in Kennford, near Exeter.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December, as part of Operation Hyena, the Teignbridge Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Team and a Tactical Aid Group attended the isolated property and found a sophisticated cannabis production set up.

An 18-year-old Vietnamese man was arrested at the property and subsequently charged with the production of a Class 'B' Drug Cannabis. He was remanded into custody to appear before Exeter Crown court on 29<sup>th</sup> January, where he received a twenty-month sentence.

Operation Hyena tackles organised criminality around the production and distribution of cannabis by organised crime groups. With 25 factories having been discovered and 12 people prosecuted over £2.5 Million of cannabis has been destroyed (as at December 2009).

### **1.8 CANNABIS FACTORY - EXETER**

On 27<sup>th</sup> December, as a result of suspicious activity in Christow Road, Marsh Barton, police located a cannabis factory under construction in one of the industrial units. Cannabis plants and equipment used in its cultivation were discovered

Three men were firstly arrested on 27<sup>th</sup> December and detained in Avon and Somerset in relation to this incident. The following day the three men, aged 17-years from Birmingham and 47 and 46-years, from Northampton, were arrested by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, in Exeter, for the production of a Class 'B' Drug Cannabis. They were all released on police bail and are due to return to Exeter on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

### **1.9 DRUGS WARRANT - ST JUDES**

On 30<sup>th</sup> December, officers from the neighbourhood policing team and targeted police team executed a drugs warrant at a property in the St. Judes area of the city. Officers seized Skunk Cannabis with an estimated street value of £34,000.00.

Two people were arrested at the property, a 23-year-old woman and a 22-year-old man. They were interviewed at Charles Cross police station before being released on police bail until 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## **1.10 ARREST AND SEIZURE OF MATURE CANNABIS - HONITON**

On 15<sup>th</sup> January, a silver Volkswagon Transporter van was stopped in the Honiton area. A search of the vehicle uncovered a large amount of equipment normally used for growing cannabis plants.

Two separate addresses were also searched and hydroponic sets were found containing in excess of 250 cannabis plants under various stages of growth.

A man, aged 40, and a woman, aged 30, who are assisting police with their enquiries have been bailed until 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS/INCIDENTS**

### **1.11 HOMOPHOBIC INCIDENT - PLYMOUTH**

On 21<sup>st</sup> December, a homophobic incident occurred at a restaurant in the city.

Three male suspects were alleged to have made homophobic verbal abuse and gestures at a restaurant in the Mutley area of the city.

Upon leaving the restaurant the suspects entered a taxi and beckoned the aggrieved towards them whilst still being aggressive and offensive. A subsequent fight broke out.

A female was alleged to have been punched in the face, whilst another was punched, and had her head kicked and stamped on whilst on the floor. They sustained minor injuries.

The suspects made off and were later detained by the police.

The three men, two aged 30, and one-aged 33, were interviewed and released on police bail pending further enquiries. They are due to re-attend Charles Cross police station on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

### **1.12 CLOSURE ORDER CALLINGTON**

Police in Callington have secured the first Closure Order in Cornwall under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 and Section 118 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, in relation to anti-social behaviour.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January, officers served official Closure Order notices on the tenants and landlord of an address in Callington, which prevented any other persons accessing the premises.

In November 2007 police started to receive complaints from local residents concerning various incidents of an anti-social nature emanating from the premises in question. Despite numerous attempts to curtail the problem no resolution was made.

The police sought legal advice following an escalation of the problem and invoked legislation under the act. This Act had previously been used to deal with premises commonly know as “crack house closure” but now it can be extended to include incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Following evidence at the court hearing before Liskeard Magistrates Court on 14<sup>th</sup> January, the Closure Order was ordered on the property for a period of three months meaning vacation of the property would start from 12:00 hours on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

### **1.13 CHILD SEX ABUSE CHARGES - PLYMOUTH**

Following investigations from April 2009, a 43-year-old Plymouth man was charged, on 20<sup>th</sup> January, with 18 offences of sexual assault on a boy under the age of 16, under Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and Sections 1 and 6 of the Protection of Children Act 1978. He was also charged with one offence of Attempted Rape.

### **1.14 FIRE AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL - PLYMOUTH**

On 19th January, emergency services were alerted to a fire at Holy Cross School in Beaumont Road, Plymouth.

All children and staff were safely evacuated from the school and praise was given to them both for their prompt action and professionalism shown in the evacuation.

The school and Health and Safety Executive are working closely with the police and other agencies to ensure the school can be re-opened as soon as possible and that minimum disruption is caused to the children and parents.

It is not clear whether the fire was accidental or deliberate.