

New evidence casts doubt over conviction in case says nephew

# Public back call for new Murrell probe

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By Chris Burn

A packed public meeting has unanimously backed a call for a new inquiry to be launched into the murder of Hilda Murrell in Shrewsbury more than 25 years ago.

About 100 people gathered at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, last night for a talk by Miss Murrell's nephew Commander Robert Green about the death of the 78-year-old in 1984.



Crowds at a talk by Robert Green where he called for an inquiry into the death of his aunt Hilda Murrell

An audience, including former friends and colleagues of Miss Murrell, as well as people who had known Andrew George, the man convicted of her killing, all voted in favour of a new commission of inquiry into the controversial case.

Mr Green, who lives in New Zealand, read extracts from his new book on the murder called A Thorn in Their Side, and took questions from members of the public as part of the evening.

New footage of Miss Murrell that was taken in 1949 in Shrewsbury in her garden nursery was also shown to the public for the first time.

## Stabbed

Mr Green said new DNA evidence published in his book casts doubt on the conviction of George, who is serving a life sentence after being convicted of Miss Murrell's abduction and murder following a five-week trial in 2005.

The 78-year-old was abducted from her home and later found dead in a copse close to Haughmond Hill, near Shrewsbury, in March 1984.

She had been repeatedly stabbed, but a postmortem examination concluded she died of hypothermia.

Michael Mansfield QC, one of Britain's most famous lawyers and the most high-profile supporter of the campaign for a new public inquiry, had been due to attend the event but had to pull out shortly beforehand due to a meeting with judges over a separate case.

But a statement by Mr Mansfield was read out by broadcaster Chris Eldon Lee, who chaired the event. It said the book raises serious and substantial doubts about the criminal investigations to date.



Kate Dewes and her husband Robert Green with his book A Thorn In Their Side

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## Top lawyer to talk in county on Murrell murder

### QC will call for new inquest

One of Britain's most famous lawyers is to talk about the murder of Shrewsbury pensioner Hilda Murrell at a special event in the town.

Michael Mansfield QC, whose high profile cases have included the Birmingham Six Appeal, the Stephen Lawrence murder, the Bloody Sunday inquiry and the Princess Diana inquest, will be appearing at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust on Wednesday for the talk.

He will be sharing a platform with Miss Murrell's nephew Robert Green, who is launching a new book about the case called A Thorn in Their Side: The Hilda Murrell Murder.

Mr Green claimed the book would present 'explosive new evidence about this suspicious and bizarre case'.



Victim - Hilda Murrell

**Report by Chris Burn**  
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The author claims that new evidence published in his book casts doubt on the conviction of Andrew George, the man serving a life sentence after being convicted of Miss Murrell's abduction and murder following a five-week trial in 2005.

Broadcaster Chris Eldon Lee, who is chairing the event, said: "The reason why Mr Mansfield is attending is due to him lending his authority and weight to the Hilda Murrell case."

Mr Eldon Lee said Mr Mansfield, who has written the foreword to A Thorn in Their Side, would be adding to calls for a reopening of her inquest, as well as the launch of a new inquiry

into the affair. Mr Eldon Lee said: "His reputation is impeccable with the Birmingham Six and Princess Diana cases."

The 78-year-old was abducted from her Shrewsbury home and later found dead in a copse in the shadow of Haughmond Hill in 1984.

## Stabbed

She had been repeatedly stabbed, although a post-mortem concluded she died of hypothermia.

At the talk in Shrewsbury, there will also be a showing of some rare colour footage of Miss Murrell that was recorded in 1949.

The talk will start at 7pm. For more information, visit [www.hildamurrell.org](http://www.hildamurrell.org)



Michael Mansfield QC