

FOR HILDA MURRELL MURDER...



VICTIM
Hilda was a leading anti-nuclear voice



THE SCENE
Hilda's car abandoned in a ditch



CONVICTED
Police photo of George in 2005



HER HOUSE
Hilda talked of mystery break-ins



BATTLES Hilda Murrell
21 years to find 'killer'

MARCH 21, 1984 Hilda Murrell abducted from Ravenscroft, 52 Sutton Road, Shrewsbury

MARCH 24 Hilda's body found in the Moat copse, Hunkington

MARCH 27-31 Andrew George, 16, is among suspects interviewed. Released as he did not fit the suspect's profile

DECEMBER 5 An inquest finds Hilda was killed unlawfully

DECEMBER 20 Labour MP Tam Dalyell claims in Parliament that British Intelligence was involved

MARCH 4, 1985 Police announce review of their handling of the case, but later refuse to release it

MARCH 14 Murder is covered on BBC's first Crimewatch show

JUNE 24 Journalist Judith Cook reveals claim by peace activist Laurens Otter that Hilda phoned him ahead of her abduction, wanting to give him sensitive papers to publish

1993 Former MI5 agent Gary Murray publishes *Enemies of the State*, with claims that a team linked to MI5 searched Hilda's house then abducted and killed her

MARCH 1994 Chief Constable John Stalker announces own probe, on the 10th anniversary

NOVEMBER 1994 TV show *Stalker Investigates* challenges time of Hilda's death

2001 Cold Case Review is initiated

JUNE 7, 2003 Andrew George charged with Hilda's murder

MARCH 21, 2004 George pleads not guilty

MAY 2005 He is convicted and given life, with parole considered after 15 years

JUNE 8, 2006 His appeal fails at London's Royal Courts of Justice

OCT OBER 2017 First parole bid is denied

JULY 18, 2022 Parole Board decides again not to release George

“She was sure she was being followed... she was not paranoid”

ROBERT GREEN HILDA'S NEPHEW ON AUNT'S FEARS

the trial: “What he did to her in the house indicated absolutely ruthless disregard for her wellbeing.”

Yet both MP Tam Dalyell and Robert declared the conviction unsafe. In March 2012, campaigning barrister Michael Mansfield QC said it was “perfectly clear that others were involved”.

He added: “The jury at Andrew George's trial were not made aware of this as far as I know.”

“The major suspects, if you like, are the security services – and it seems to me it is time that there was an investigation into their role in this matter.”

The QC also called for an inquiry into what MI5 knew about the case. The

conviction was referred to the Court of Appeal in 2006, which upheld the jury's original decision.

Despite the conviction and failed appeal, Robert maintains that George was not his aunt's killer.

Instead he believes George had gone there to burgle the house but got caught up in a State intelligence operation.

He said: “At the time of his arrest in 2003 he told his father that he had disturbed two men in Hilda's house who had put guns to his head and threatened to kill him – offering him £60,000 to keep his mouth shut.”

The startling information was known to George's legal team, but they chose not to disclose it to the jury. Robert

believes this is because a jury might find it hard to believe British agents would target a UK citizen.

Robert was close to Hilda, who had not married and had no children.

For many years she ran a successful rose-growing business, counting the Queen Mother among her customers.

THREATS

The award-winning horticulturist even had a rose named after her shortly before she was murdered.

In a last letter to Robert before her death, Hilda wrote about her fears for her safety. She had previously told of threats, a series of mystery break-ins, and fears she was under surveillance.

She also pleaded with Robert to get a

draft of her Sizewell report to a friend “just in case anything happens to me”.

Robert is adamant his “feisty” aunt, who was 5ft 7in, would not have been cowed by a teenager 5in shorter.

He said: “She was sure she was being followed and her mail was being tampered with. She was not paranoid.”

“Indeed, she had a crystal clear mind and was not apt to panic.”

Robert has now called for a Commission of Inquiry similar to the Hillsborough Independent Panel. He said: “This is an indictment of the judicial system.”

West Mercia Police said: “This investigation has been subject to previous reviews and there are no grounds for a reinvestigation at this time.”

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