

JANET CUNLIFFE - LEVENSON INQUIRY

MODULE 2

By Mirror

15 Aug 2007 00:00

Police chief blast for parents

Police chief blasts mums and dads who 'turn a blind eye' to their kids' drinking, fighting and violent antisocial behaviour.

A police chief last night blamed parents and cheap booze for turning hordes of teenagers into violent thugs.

Peter Fahy said adults who turn a blind eye as youngsters roam streets tanked up on drink are as much at fault for the lawlessness blighting towns as the jobs themselves.

The Cheshire chief constable spoke out after three youths appeared in court charged with the murder of a dad-of-three.

Garry Newlove was kicked and beaten to death as he tackled a gang smashing up equipment outside his home in Warrington.

In a rare outburst for a police chief, Mr Fahy said: "Parents should be the key to tackling this problem.

"They are responsible for their children, and that responsibility is not abdicated when they become teenagers.

"Parents need to provide an understanding of what is right and wrong, a sense of social responsibility and guidance through these key years.

"This is sometimes forgotten by parents. Most of the bad behaviour is fuelled by alcohol, much of it supplied by adults... including some parents. I know a hard core of parents turn a blind eye to the fact that their youngsters are out there, drinking under age and congregating in places where they cause nuisance to others.

"All parents have a responsibility to make sure we eradicate the problems caused by groups of youths who intimidate and threaten people going about their lawful business.

The police cannot do it alone.

"Young males in particular are far more aggressive and prone to use violence when drinking.

"Alcohol is too cheap, too readily available and too strong.

"Young people cannot handle it. Seizing alcohol is often of limited use when those young people can get more so easily."

And speaking about brave Mr Newlove's actions in tackling the jobs that have been terrorising parts of Warrington, he added: "We cannot have a society where adults feel scared to go out and challenge youngsters up to no good.

"This just breeds fear and isolation."

Mr Fahy said his officers are locked in a war against the behaviour of boozed-up young thugs across the county.

He added: "On estates and in villages, groups of young people gather, sometimes in large numbers and officers constantly break them up, seize alcohol, take names and send letters home to parents.

"More officers on the streets working with the local council has significantly reduced criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

"But there is still a long way to go." A security guard who lives near victim Garry's home aidrunkn teens make life hell in the area. The stocky 36-year-old, known only as Alan, told how he confronted a gang trying to steal a bench, only for a weedy 15-year-old to scream in his face: "I'll f***ing cut you up." He then threatened to burn down his house with his wife in it.

Alan said: "I can look after myself, but even I would think twice about confronting teenagers again."

Garry Newlove's family came face to face with his alleged killers yesterday. His brother Keith, brother-in-law and two nephews sat yards from the dock where two brothers aged 15 and a 16-year-old were charged with murder.

The mothers of the accused wept in packed Runcorn youth court, Cheshire, as the boys spoke only to confirm their names, ages and addresses in Wigan, Lancs, and Warrington, Cheshire.

Prosecutor Joanne Parsons said Mr Newlove died of a haemorrhage caused by a hard blow.

Roger Allanson, defending the brothers, said they denied the charge. All three were remanded to appear again on Monday.

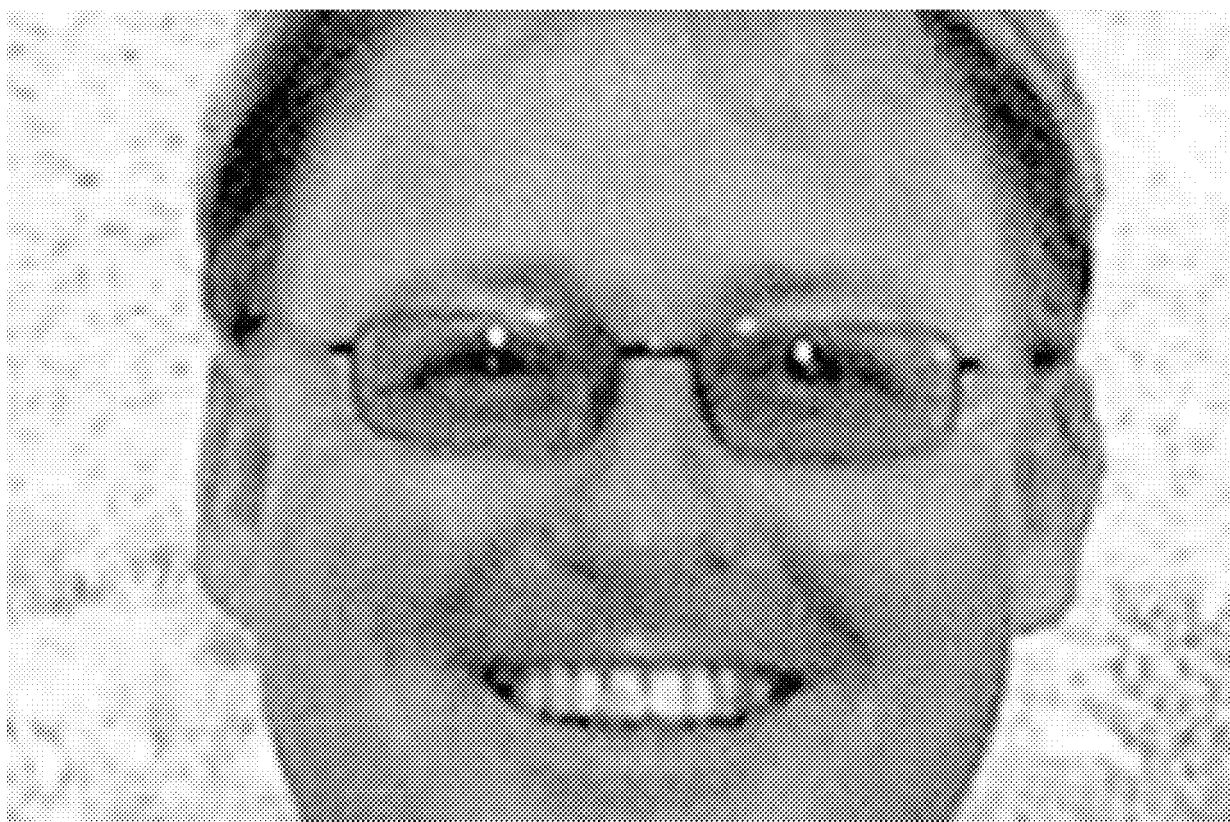
By Mirror

By Jan Disley

15 Aug 2007

Teens on Newlove murder charge

The family of Garry Newlove came face to face with his alleged killers yesterday.



Garry Newlove (PA)

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The mothers of the accused sat weeping in packed Runcorn youth court, Cheshire, as the boys spoke only to confirm their names, ages and addresses in Wigan, Lancs, and Warrington, Cheshire. Prosecutor Joanne Parsons told the court that Mr Newlove died of a haemorrhage caused by a hard blow behind the left ear.

Roger Allanson, defending the brothers, said they denied the charge.

His bail plea was refused and all three were remanded to secure accommodation to appear in Warrington youth court on Monday.

By Mirror.co.uk

15 Aug 2007 00:00

Looking for a fight

Brian Reade visits the streets of Padgate where Garry was killed



Brian Reade

You're not supposed to be kicked to death by a mob on a road like this. Pristine, suburban cul-de-sacs with well-tended flowerbeds, clipped lawns and gravel paths are supposed to be refuges from the nastiness and deprivation of our worst council estates.

A middle-class insurance policy against the ugly social problems that plague society's Forgotten People.

But today there is no hiding place from gratuitous violence. Today, we're all Forgotten People.

That's why Garry Newlove was kicked to death outside the wooden fence of his newly built detached home with hanging baskets and miniconifers, a testament to a proud man who thought he was doing right by his family.

There was an eerie silence hanging over Station Road North in the Warrington suburb of Padgate yesterday.

Two grim-faced men stood by the gate of the Newloves' home, where, behind drawn curtains, a mother and her three children were trying to mend each other's broken hearts.

A few yards away, at the place where the 47-year-old was set upon and killed by a mob of youths on Friday night, strangers arrived to lay wreaths, read the messages and mumble a prayer.

There were dozens of wreaths laid at the foot of a lamp-post, ironically bearing a Neighbourhood Watch sign. And the messages spoke for an entire nation sickened by this most pointless of deaths.

"To a true hero. Trying to take our streets back. Standing up for what is right," read one. "We do not know your family but your brave husband and dad did what most men would have done in these awful days when young thugs rule the streets," said another.

It worker Brian Koppe, 26, who lives on the same estate as the infamous gang, had come with his mother Susan Maguire to lay flowers and pay respects.

For Brian, it was a case of there, but for the grace of God, go I.

He said: "I knew this gang. To be honest we all do here and that's what is so gutting. They were well known to the police - many of them had Asbos.

"I've been in the pub watching football and they've come in and taunted me, trying to provoke you into coming outside so they can lay into you. A few of us chased them out once and they scattered.

"If it had been me on my own they'd probably have done to me what they did to this poor fella.

"Basically they're just scumbags. It was inevitable this would happen. Garry was just the unlucky one."

Mum Susan backed him up: "I've lived here since 1984 and it's a real nice area. But it only takes a few bad apples and things go downhill. They drag other kids into their evil ways.

"Their night out consists of drugs, White Lightning cider and then looking for a fight. It's got so that you can't leave your house at night."

The unremitting drizzle was in keeping with the mood of the people. Few were on the streets. Those who were shuffled along hastily, grim faced, keeping their thoughts and pain to themselves.

When I asked a middle-aged man walking his dog outside the Padgate Conservative Club, a few hundred yards from the murder scene, where all the youths were, he simply pointed behind him.

"The troublemakers don't live round here. They come in from outside and hang around this subway or the shopping mall, drinking and causing a nuisance," he said moving off quickly.

The shops he referred to are in a small square, consisting of a Chinese takeaway, flower shop, newsagents, pharmacy and off licence. With its recycling bins next to rows of well kept Astras and Fiestas, it could be anywhere in Britain.

At the Fearnhead Cross Community and Youth Centre, there were no youths to be seen. Inside, staff sat arms crossed, presumably lost in conversation about the murder that has rocked this community.

In the window was a poster which said: "Meet your local officers" above photos of four smiling policemen.

Oh how Garry Newlove wished he had met them on Friday night.

Instead he was just another forgotten man standing up for long forgotten values.

Heartbreak letter of hero's daughter

By Mirror

By Jan Disley 14/08/2007



Garry Newlove (PA)

He was the best dad in the world. And doting Amy Newlove was determined to tell him how much he meant to her... and how desperately she needed him to live.

So, as brave Garry Newlove, 47, lay fighting for his life in hospital after confronting a gang of vicious thugs outside their home, Amy, 12, poured out her feelings in a heartbreaking letter.

In it, she begged him not to die, saying: "I can't get across to you how much I will miss you and I don't know what I would do without you.

"You have always been there for me when I am down and you always put a smile on my face (even if it is a rubbish joke). You mean the world to me and I wouldn't change you for the world. When you get out of here I will be there with a big smile on my face."

Her poignant letter was released by Garry's grieving family yesterday - after he died from head injuries 36 hours after being horrifically kicked and beaten as he tried to protect his property.

The father-of-three was fatally injured at 10.45pm on Friday when he went outside to tackle louts who had just smashed the window of a digger parked in his driveway.

It is thought he tripped on the kerb - and was booted in the head as he fell. The thugs are believed to have filmed the sickening attack on their mobile phones.

Garry's distraught wife Helen, 44, slumped weeping by his side as neighbours and community police officers battled to revive him in Warrington, Cheshire. Emergency services were called and the youths fled. Some hid in nearby bushes and a police dog handler was brought in to track them down.

Eight were arrested that night and a ninth was picked up later. Yesterday, six suspects - aged 15 to 19 - were still in custody being questioned by murder squad detectives.

Garry was taken to Warrington General Hospital but died with his devastated family at his bedside on Sunday afternoon. He had been planning to set up a Home Watch security scheme and had already met with a community support officer and leafleted neighbours in Station Road North, Padgate.