

JANET CUNLIFFE Submission 1

THE TIMES Tuesday August 14, 2007

Ne

A daughter's last letter to father killed tackling gang of vandals



► Man suffered head injuries in gang attack

► He had complained about youth disorder

Lucy Bannerman

A devastated young daughter has paid tribute to the father she lost after he was beaten to death by a gang of youths.

The family of Garry Newlove, 47, released a letter from his daughter Amy, who is believed to be 12, which was written as he was dying in hospital.

She wrote: "I can't get across 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."

Mr Newlove was attacked on Friday night after a gang of youths vandalised a mechanical digger parked in a neighbour's drive in Warrington, Cheshire, and his car window was smashed. He suffered head injuries and died at Warrington Hospital on Sunday afternoon.

Mr Newlove, a sales manager who had previously survived stomach cancer, had been due to go to Lanzarote on holiday tomorrow with his wife, Helen, and their three daughters, Zoe, believed to be 19, Danielle, 16, and Amy.

Mr Newlove had met police officers in May to discuss problems with youth disorder in his area. Detective Chief Inspector Martin Cleworth, of Cheshire Police, said: "Mr Newlove had gone outside when his car was vandalised. He did what any of us would do in those circumstances. He was set upon and sustained several injuries including an injury to his head, which is most likely the cause of death."

"We do believe that the youths were drinking, although there is no evidence to suggest drug use. We have identified members of the group, some of whom have had previous dealings with police, and we are appealing for others to come forward."

"The officers involved are as sickened as anybody would be. Mr Newlove is a very active, very much well-respected member of the community."

He added: "This is an absolutely tragic incident and I would appeal to any young people who may have knowledge about what happened to think about this as if it was their father or their brother. How would they feel?" Mike Roscoe, a work colleague who has known Mr Newlove for 30

To daddy

I am unable to see you right now as you are to ill but I know you can fight this as you are a strong, loving man who I know loves me no matter what I am asking you to be strong and don't give in as I love you too much to believe that you won't go without a fight. I had a dream last night that you woke up & you were fine except you didn't know me at all if that did happen & you didn't know me I would still try to help you remember I will stick by you while you are in hospital & I will take care of mummy I can't get across to you how much I will miss you & I don't know what I would do without you You have always been there for me when I am down & you always put a smile on my face (even if it is a rubbish joke) You mean the world to me & 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. I hope you can hear me right now as I hope it will give you more strenght & determination as to wake up. I thought I saw mummy newlove's face in the TV last night and I keep seeing her I know she is here with you looking out for you & is probably offering comfortes or thortons takee I love you with all my heart so please don't give in. We are all taking care of you and mummy. We will deeply miss you & I want you to know you are the best dad anyone can ask for. I love you so much & I do hope you can fight this. I love you! from your darling daughter who loves you so much & from the whole family! WE LOVE YOU!!

DO NOT GIVE IN!! XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Amy Newlove's letter to her father, Garry, above left, as he lay dying. The family was to go on holiday tomorrow

years, said: "They were your typical, happy family. I spoke to Helen yesterday and she is distraught. There's no other word for it."

Derek Lockie, local neighbourhood inspector for Cheshire Police, said that Mr Newlove had proposed setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and had sent out letters to all his neighbours.

Inspector Lockie said: "There have been a dozen reported incidents of disorder in Mr Newlove's road this year. The area is a cut through to a

shopping precinct where you do get youths, and that is where most of the calls come from. There has been an increase in the number of uniformed officers patrolling the area."

There was a bunch of flowers outside Mr Newlove's home yesterday. The card read: "A true hero. Trying to take our street back. Standing up for what is right. God bless."

Next to the house is a railway bridge under which, neighbours said, the youths would congregate.

Vera Flynn, 69, who has lived next

to the bridge for 30 years, said: "The police came and asked me about it but I never saw anything. I don't leave my house after dark because of the gangs."

"The kids are always under the bridge messing about and if you say anything you get a mouthful. They are drinking, taking drugs, and I just don't want to leave my house because of it."

Three teenagers were charged last night with the murder of Mr Newlove. Two 15-year-olds and a 16-year-old will appear before magistrates at Runcorn today.

Students usii year to save

Research suggests g numbers of students their gap years to bi savings for universit an attempt to reduc debt (Alexandra Fra Graduate debt, aft six years, has droppe first time. Those lea university this summ average debt of £12, 6 per cent on 2006. NatWest Student M Matters says. But ur who started at unive year with the introd new fee regime can owe nearly £17,500 t they leave, says Pusi online university gui

McCann trad

The campaign to fin McCann has applied and European tradet protect its fundrais and print promotion applications, which v May 13, seek to prot "Madeleine's Fund: I Stone Unturned". T application also seek for the provision of s services and advice f affected by missing c

Breast prize c

Plastic surgeons have radio competition the breast enhancement. The British Associati Aesthetic Plastic Sur that it was "unbeliev dangerous and highl for Juice FM in Liver Nadine Pude, 27, the increase her A-cup to defence Juice FM sai five entrants had bee fit after a psycholog

Baby-snatche

Police are hunting fo who tried to snatch a she was being pushd by her mother. A mai woman attempted to four-month-old child apparently random in the mother crossed to Police said that the 3t mother had fended th was left "horrified anc traumatised" on Sund in Leigh, Greater Mar

Rail victim ide

Police have confirmed body found in underg a railway line is that e Coombs, 17, from Dov Essex, who disappear night out with friends on July 27. Her body i close to Manningtree, Essex. Earlier police s was thought to have b a train. Dental records to confirm her identit coroner has been info

Legionnaires'

An outbreak of legion disease in Dudley, Wes that claimed a woman' left four other people i appears to be under ce no further cases were r woman in her fifties di Tuesday after contract respiratory illness, pron cooling towers and wef air-conditioning system taken out of action fo spreading the infection.