

new s r e l e a s e



REF: 1349

January 8, 2010

JOINT MAJOR CRIME UNIT SECURES NEARLY 500 YEARS OF CUSTODIAL SENTENCES IN ONE YEAR

IT'S been a busy year for the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit – but a successful one with nearly 500 years of imprisonment handed down for convicted offenders.

The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit (B & H MCU) was established in November 2007, with the objective of improving resilience and response to major crimes across the two counties and has been heralded as a 'groundbreaking initiative' by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

The unit tackles cases of murder, manslaughter, work-related deaths, product contaminations, hit and runs, extortion, kidnap and blackmail.

It also contains the Cold Case Review Unit which looks at unsolved cases and conducts regular reviews of evidence.

Some of the case investigations began prior to the formation of the unit – but all the sentences occurred during the last 12 months (January 2009 to December 2009).

The sentencings total 488 years and eight months and include the following:

BEDFORDSHIRE:

LUTON

Operation Brindle

Operation Brindle was the case of two Polish brothers Waldemar Markuszewski, 43, and Andrzej Markuszewski, 46, who were murdered at their home in Dunsmore Road, Luton, in May 2005.

More follows...



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The offenders, Remigiusz Piotrowski, 24 and Marek Miazga, 41, of Brook Street, Luton, were found guilty of murder after two separate trials.

Piotrowski and Miazga were both given life sentences with a minimum of 25 years each.

Op Stratus

Zahir Ahmed, of Selborune Road, Luton, was sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment for murdering Czech National Klara Prokopcova, who was found with serious injuries at her home in John Street, Luton in November 2007.

Op Prez

On June 14, 2009, Jashbhai Patel, owner of Moons Newsagents, Park Street, Luton, was stabbed repeatedly and died shortly after at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. Richard Dettmer, 39, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to murder at Luton Crown Court. Judge John Bevan QC sentenced him to life imprisonment and said he must serve a minimum prison term of 31 years and six months.

HERTFORDSHIRE:**WATFORD****Operation Tun**

Painter and decorator David Driscoll died from a stab wound to the neck outside Filton House, Oxhey Drive, South Oxhey on Thursday, November 23, after a number of men burst into the flat looking for drugs.

Nathan Bruce, 23, of Harwood Court, Hoxton, was sentenced to 22 years for murder.

Leon Walsh, 22, of Whiston Road, Hackney, was jailed for 14 years for conspiracy to rob.

Raymond Agbugba-Cansie, 28, of Whippendell Road, Watford, was found guilty of manslaughter, robbery and possession of firearms and was sentenced to an indeterminate jail term with a minimum ten years before he becomes eligible for parole.

Thaimloll Conteh, 21, of Croyley Court, Hoxton, admitted conspiracy to rob and was sentenced to nine years in a Young Offenders Institute.

More follows...

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WELWYN HATFIELD

Operation Rondeau

Operation Rondeau was the investigation into the stabbing of two men at The University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, in November 2007.

Gabriel Mmieh, 21, of Acacia Road, Wood Green, has been convicted of causing grievous bodily harm to one of the victims and received 4 ½ years imprisonment.

Toheeb Adebayo, 20, of Brookfields, Enfield, has been convicted of Affray arising from the incident and received a sentence of nine months imprisonment suspended for two years - and 100 hours community punishment order.

Operation Boxty

The attempted murder of a 25 year old man on 10/11/2008 at Crop Common, Hatfield.

Elshod Saidov, 23, of Crop Common, Hatfield, pleaded guilty to causing Grievous Bodily Harm with intent and was sentenced to 6 years and 8 months imprisonment at St Albans Crown Court in September 2009.

STEVENAGE

Operation Boston

Charles Lovelock, 19, of Trigg Terrace, Stevenage, was found guilty of causing Grievous Bodily Harm to a 47 year old man at the Sopwell House Hotel in St Albans on September 19, 2008. He was sentenced to one year and four months imprisonment.

Op Protide

Christopher Cannin was sentenced to four years after pleading guilty to causing grievous bodily harm to a 26 year old man at an address in Shephall Way, Stevenage, on Friday, April 3.

WALTHAM CROSS

Operation Abolish

Samson Ogundipe, Tion Miller and Jermaine Nimoh were sentenced for the attempted murder of Jerome Bruce-De-Rouche, who was stabbed several times in Waltham Cross in July 2008.

More follows...

Ogundipe and Miller were both given indeterminate life sentences for public protection. Ogundipe is to serve eight and a half years and Miller to serve five and a half before they become eligible for parole. An indeterminate sentence means they cannot be released until the parole board deems them no longer a threat to society. When released a ten year licence period will be imposed.

Nimoh was given a sentence of nine years imprisonment.

NORTH HERTS

Operation Matte

Operation Matte was the murder of John Finney from Northaw in February 2008. His body without head and hands was found on March 14, 2008, in Ickleford. Norman Jones and Joseph Jones were convicted of murder and given prison terms of 33 and 30 years respectively.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND ROBBERY CONSPIRACY

Op Saltus

This was a series of armed robberies and attempted robberies at Argos stores across the South East of England during 2007 and 2008.

- * 26 year old Hugh Atkins from Willowsfield Close, Plumstead, London, received 11 and a half years
- * David Bailey, who is 26 years old and from Queensbridge Road in London received 12 years
- * 26 year old David Degannes from Thrifwood, Silverdale, London, received 15 years.
- * 19 year old Samir Smith from Willowtree Way, Thorton Heath, Surrey received 10 years imprisonment.
- * 23 year old Marcelino Gomes from Norfolk Close, East Finchley, London, received 11 years imprisonment.
- * 24 year old Michael Baiden from Morris Stephany House, Knights Hill, London received a total of 10 and a half years imprisonment.

Detective Superintendent Mick Hanlon, who is in charge of the Major Crime Unit said: "With the two forces working together, we have been able to deliver an efficient and resilient policing service to communities in both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and achieve some outstanding results.

I am very proud of all the officers and staff and thank them for all their dedication and hard work."

Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, Stuart Nagler, said: “This was the first joint Major Crime Unit in the country and Hertfordshire’s first significant collaboration venture with Bedfordshire. In the two years since it was set up, it has achieved some impressive results and has brought enormous benefits to both forces, removing many violent and prolific criminals from our counties. The Unit has also set the standard for other joint working and our congratulations go to all who have contributed to its success.”

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, added: “Members of the public repeatedly tell us that they want assurance that criminals are being locked up for their crimes. These results show that the investment in the Major Crime Unit has led to a great many serious and violent criminals being locked up for a very long time, making the two counties safer as a result. These sentences are illustrative of the outstanding policing delivered by the Major Crime Unit.”

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