

Accused man admits having sex with victim in the hours before her death but denies her murder

B-test 'trapped prostitute's killer'

Alexandra Wood

A ROUTINE breath test trapped a killer months after he had dumped the body of a prostitute in the River Humber, a court was told.

Samantha Class's battered body was found washed up on the shores of the river, close to the Humber Bridge. She had been violently assaulted and strangled with a cord, flex or wire.

The death of mother-of-three Samantha Class, 29, known to

clients as "Little Sam", sparked the largest inquiry of its kind in the history of Humberside Police.

No arrests were made until nine months later, when Gary Allen, 28, was breathalysed over a driving matter and a sample of saliva taken for DNA tests.

The sample matched that of a person who had had sex with Ms Class before her death, Sheffield Crown Court was told.

Allen, of Coltman Street, Hull, denies a charge of murder.

Peter Collier QC told the jury that all sides agreed that Allen was one of her customers in the hours before her death.

He said: "The prosecution say he took her somewhere, where it isn't known, and they had sex."

"Either in the course of or afterwards, something happened, something went wrong and he ended up beating her and strangling her."

Mr Collier said a black Ford Escort car belonging to Allen, which he drove on the night Ms Class died,

was destroyed just three days later. It was taken to a vehicle dismantler and "smashed and crushed into a block".

The place where Ms Class's body was thrown into the river was remote, with access down a small country lane.

Mr Collier added: "It just so happens to be a place where Gary Allen had spent some months living during his teenage years and would know this isolated area very well."

Allen admitted to police that he

had met Ms Class in the hours before her death but said he had gone straight home after having sex with her.

His flatmate, Sean Brady, told officers that Allen had got up early the next morning, something he considered most unusual, and had gone to the launderette to wash some clothes.

"He only washed his own clothes and when Sean asked him why he hadn't taken any others he said, 'I forgot', said Mr Collier.

Another friend noticed a plaster across some of the knuckles of Allen's right hand, which he said had been injured while closing his car door.

Allen later told police that he had been planning to scrap the car for some months and had then got rid of it because he had heard of Ms Class's death on television and did not want to be asked embarrassing questions about his involvement with her.

The hearing continues today.



Samantha Class: Found battered and strangled.

£20,000 LABOUR OF LOVE FOR YORKSHIRE MAN WHO IS STIRRED BY DEVOTION TO SCREEN'S SUAVE SECRET AGENT



Oh, oh, no!
He's all over
the place...

Maggie Stratton

MOST women would give their right arm to find the suave, seductive secret agent 007 in their home.

But shipping manager Silvana McKell is simply sick of finding him in the bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, in fact round every corner of her house at Oakworth, near Kettlewell.

With a 3,000-piece collection of James Bond memorabilia her 34-year-old husband Stuart is, she says, the country's "rarest secret agent".

She moaned: "It started off as an interest and then a hobby but now it's an obsession. It's a good job I love him so much."



Obsessed. Above, Stuart McKell with Bond items. Right, Stuart with wife Silvana and replica gun. Below, a model of Bond's car and Oddjob from Goldfinger.

"He's got more toys than anyone I know - most of his friends are about 4ft tall and under the age of eight. I don't mind though really, we've had some nice days out - at toy fairs."

Stuart, a sales rep, became obsessed with 007 10 years ago.

He said: "I went shopping in Leeds with my wife and got so bored that I went wandering

off and passed a model shop."

"It was then that I spotted a gold Corgi in the window and thought 'Great, that's the same model as mine', so I bought it and from then on I was hooked."

"I am mad on James Bond and won't stop until I have every bit of merchandise going. One or two people think

that I'm a bit sad but, on the whole, most of them are right up there behind me. Especially when they hear how much money I've spent."

"My mum took me to see a double bill of Goldfinger and From Russia With Love when I was seven years old. I think it was my birthday because when we came out of the cinema she bought me the toy

silver Corgi Aston Martin which Sean Connery had used in the film."

Stuart is now a regular at toy fairs and exhibitions, where he picks up James Bond gadgets and meets like-minded people.

His collection, worth £20,000, includes replica Bond cars, caps, lighters, Bond beer cans, razor soundtracks and posters. In

his spare time he plays James Bond computer games or watches the old classics on video.

He said: "Even though I have been doing this for almost a decade, most of my collection is from the 1960s era so it is quite nostalgic to me - especially as I was born in 1965, the same year that my favourite film, Thunderball, was released."

"We are grateful that his work has played such a large part in attracting thousands of visitors to the 1853 Gallery at Salts Mill each year, helping to regenerate the area and to establish Bradford firmly on the cultural map."

The Freedom of the City of Bradford was last granted to Baroness Castle three years ago and prior to that to author JB Priestley in 1973.

Artist Hockney to receive the Freedom of Bradford

Maggie Stratton

BRADFORD'S most famous living son, artist David Hockney, is to be granted the Freedom of the City.

Hockney, who was born in Bradford in 1937, now lives in California but has retained strong links with his home city.

Bradford Council decided to bestow its highest honour on the artist in recognition of his "outstanding contribution" to the city.

Most notable is his link with the Silver family who own and run Salts Mill in Saltaire, where the 1853 Gallery houses Europe's largest collection of Hockney's world-admired work.

Yesterday Hockney, who was in London completing work on a series of drawings of National Gallery attendants, said: "I am very happy and very, very touched. It is my town, I spent 20 years of my life here and it coloured everything. I didn't expect it, but I am very, very proud."

The artist was also offered free transport around his home city by



bus company First Bradford after Hockney asked: "Will I be able to travel on the buses for free?"

Brought up in Ecclehill, David Hockney was one of a family of seven. He and his brother Paul, a former Lord Mayor of Bradford, won scholarships for Bradford Grammar School.

After leaving school he went to the city's art college and then to the Royal College of Art, London.

The leader of Bradford Council, Ian Greenwood,

praised Hockney's role in putting the city on the map.

He said: "David Hockney is probably Britain's most famous living artist as well as being Bradford's most famous living son, so I am delighted we will be able to honour him."

"He is someone who is very much an inspiration for others. He came from an ordinary working-class background and has become an international celebrity because of his huge talent, ability and

versatility as a painter, printmaker, photographer and designer."

"We are grateful that his work has played such a large part in attracting thousands of visitors to the 1853 Gallery at Salts Mill each year, helping to regenerate the area and to establish Bradford firmly on the cultural map."

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Supermarket issues lasagne alert

SUPERMARKET chain Tesco has warned customers to return three of its lasagne brands - because they could be contaminated with metal shavings.

A spokesman said the shavings

were found in the manufacturing area of a plant - and the three types of lasagne were being recalled as a "precaution".

Customers who have bought Tesco Lasagne 350g, 700g, 990g;

Tesco Mega Value Lasagne 600g or Tesco Healthy Eating Lasagne 350g with "display until and use by" dates of January 16, 17 and 18 should return the product for a full refund.