

Child Abuse Allegations in North Wales - A Chronology -



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1931

Peter Norman Howarth born in Doncaster, Yorkshire

1940

On August 21, Bryn Estyn was acquired by a Board of Trustees following the decision to re-purpose the estate as a 'Home Office Approved School', taking in boys mainly from Merseyside and North Wales.

1943

On September 17, Bryn Estyn was officially opened as an Approved School. Mr. Harold James and Mrs. Eileen Bennett were appointed as school Headmaster and Matron.

1956

Gordon Anglesea joined the police force as a rookie following his demob from National Service.

1957

On July 3, an open air swimming pool was opened at Bryn Estyn Approved School by the Rt. Honourable Viscount Tenby, after being built in part by boys at the school under supervision by the teachers.

1965

Peter Howarth and Granville Bernard 'Matt' Arnold met at Ruskin College, Oxford, where Arnold worked as a part-time lecturer.

1966

Michael John Carroll (aged 18) was convicted of the indecent assault of a 12-year-old boy in his care at St. Edmunds Orphanage, Wirral, Merseyside.

Peter Norman Howarth started a teaching post at Axwell Park School, Gateshead, Northumberland, under the headmaster Matt Arnold.

1967

Gordon Anglesea started work as a police officer in Cheshire. He later resigned, following a marriage breakdown, and re-joined the Flintshire force.

Harold James Bennett and his wife retired from their posts as Headmaster and Matron of Bryn Estyn School after 26 years. They moved to Penley, a village on the Wrexham-Shropshire border. Mr. Bennett was succeeded by David Ursell.

1968

John Ernest Allen took out a 21-year lease on Bryn Alyn Hall, nr Llay, Wrexham, along with fifty acres of land, and opened to house 'difficult' children from 42 different local authorities.

1971

On March 15, an inquiry was held into a number of complaints against David Ursell, the headmaster of Bryn Estyn, regarding discipline at the school.

1972

David Ursell was suspended from his post of Headmaster, following the earlier complaints. His post being taken by 39-year-old Peter Burton.

1973

During March, Bryn Estyn Headmaster Peter Burton, along with his wife Marie, seven-year-old son Andrew David and the Deputy Headmaster of the school, were tragically killed in a road traffic accident near Crewe, Cheshire, while returning to Wrexham from Manchester.

During May, Granville Bernard 'Matt' Arnold, was made Headmaster of Bryn Estyn School, taking over from the acting Headmaster, Brynley Goldswain.

During September, Alison Taylor made Deputy-officer-In-Charge at Tŷ'r Felin, Bangor.

During October, Bryn Estyn Approved School was redesignated as a Local Authority Home With Education (CHE).

During October, Peter Norman Howarth appointed as Third-In-Charge Officer at Bryn Estyn.

1974

During February, Peter Morrison was elected as Conservative Member of Parliament for the City of Chester, following the general election held that year.

1975

Gordon Anglesea promoted to Chief Inspector, and was based at Ruabon, nr. Wrexham

1976

Gordon Anglesea moved to Wrexham, and later became responsible for the Bromfield district, which included the Bryn Estyn Community School.

Anthony David Taylor was convicted at Talgarth Magistrate's Court of two offences of indecent assault on boys at the Bryn Alyn Community. He was fined £20 on each offence.

On January 11, the body of 15-year-old Janet Coomis was discovered in fields near Gwynedd School in Flint. She had been raped, both anally and orally before being strangled. 18-year-old gypsy Noel Jones was convicted and duly imprisoned for twelve years for the crime.

On January 19, Peter Ashleigh Watts, aged 15, from Colwyn Bay on the North Wales coast, was on his way to Chester by train to meet a friend. He never arrived, and was found some hours later on a street near Euston Station in London, dying from serious internal injuries and a skull fracture. He was pronounced dead on arrival at a local hospital. It was noted that his clothing had been changed, appeared to not fit properly, and it was also discovered that his whole body had been scrubbed clean prior to his arrival at the hospital. The case was never solved.

1977

John Ernest Allen bought White Sands Hotel, which he ran for about six months intending it to be a training facility for older delinquent boys. It is later re-named Gwasted Hall, where he also lived.

Haydn Jones, Officer-In-Charge of Tŷ'r Felin, left, making Alison Taylor acting Officer-In-Charge. Nefyn Dodd (*Bryn Estyn 1974-1977*) was made Officer-In-Charge.

Darren Richard Laverty, aged 10, remanded to Tŷ'r Felin for 21 days, after

appearing at Holyhead Juvenile Court, where he had been charged with stealing cash from electricity meters, in and around the estate where he lived.

Gordon Anglesea married divorcee Sandra, following the breakdown of his own marriage to the mother of his two sons, following disquiet among his more senior colleagues, who were concerned about his use of a police house intended for married couples only.

Maurice Matthews appointed as Deputy Principal of Bryn Estyn.

On September 27, Steven Messham was sent to Bryn Estyn, where he was to spend the next twenty months.

1978

Gordon Anglesea sets up a Home Office Approved Attendance Centre, based at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Wrexham.

Michael John Carroll took up a post as Deputy-Officer-In-Charge of Angel Road Children's Home, Lambeth, London.

Robert Henry Chapman, aged 16, a former resident of the Bryn Alyn Community, fell to his death from a bridge in Wrexham.

Robert Arthur Smith, aged 16, also a former resident of the Bryn Alyn Community, took his own life by overdosing on prescription painkillers.

The Venture, originally 'Wrexham Adventure Playground Association' (WAPA) was established in response to an extremely high crime rate and a lack of facilities in Caia Park, Wrexham, the third largest council housing estate in Wales.

1979

David John Gillinson suspended from the Bryn Alyn Community staff on full pay, because he 'came out' as a homosexual.

Thomas Tyrell-Kenyon, the son of Lord Lloyd Kenyon, woke up in a room of the Crest Hotel in Wrexham's town centre, to discover that all his clothes and possessions had been stolen – by a teenage boy with whom he had been having sex with the previous night. This teenager, who was then two years below the legal age of consent, and was also supposed to have been in the care of the local authority. Kenyon reported the theft to the police, and not only named the boy he believed had robbed him, but explained quite openly why it was they were sharing a room that

night. Among the stolen items was, (allegedly) a cache of Polaroid photographs of Kenyon and the teenager, which were never recovered. A note written by the teenager's social worker recorded that the North Wales Police were well aware of "Homosexual Activities" between the teenager and Kenyon. The matter was investigated and the outcome was that the boy was convicted of theft and sent to a Detention Centre. Thomas Kenyon was not charged with any offence, and a number of photographs were destroyed by the police as procedure.

Steven Messham sent to Chevet Hey, and then to Glamorgan Farm School, Neath, South Wales.

During September, an 8-bed secure unit was opened at Bryn Estyn to restrict the movements of some of the more troublesome residents.

1980

Gary Cooke was convicted and imprisoned for a number of sexual offences against teenage boys.

On May 13, Mark Humphries, aged 15, sent to Bryn Estyn on remand, after being arrested for shoplifting, and after Humphries' family had been approached by social Services because paedophile Gary Cooke had paid Humphries to let him take indecent photographs of him. Following an appearance at Wrexham Magistrates Courts, Humphries was returned to Bryn Estyn on a Care Order. Alison Taylor begins a CQSW course at Wrexham University.

During September, Peter Wynne was sent to Bryn Estyn after already being in care from the age of eight.

Steven Messham left Glamorgan Farm School, when his Care Order expired on his 18th Birthday.

1981

Mark Humphries left Bryn Estyn, aged 16 years, 11 months.

During September, Darren Richard Laverty, aged 14, was placed at Bryn Estyn, where he quickly became the most despised resident that ever stayed there, being viewed by both staff and his peers as a 'manipulative, brutal and cruel bully'.

During October, Ex-Bryn Estyn resident Howard Hughes took a small boy into a derelict house, where he 'exposed himself and made indecent suggestions' before attempting to strangle his victim. Hughes was subsequently convicted of assault,

and placed under a two-year Mental Health Supervision Order, and committed under the Mental Health Act, to St Andrews Psychiatric Hospital, Northampton, followed by an extended stay at Garth Angharad Hospital in Dollgellau, a facility for the treatment of 'Mentally Abnormal' offenders. Garth Angharad was owned and run by Paul Hett.

1982

Alison Taylor started a 10-week placement at Bryn Estyn in March, where she made a congratulatory entry in the school log book upon completion in June. In August, she became Officer-In-Charge at Ty Newydd Children's Home, Bangor.

Brendan Randles remanded to Bryn Estyn, where he spent a total of four nights.

1983

Gordon & Sandra Anglesea's daughter Elizabeth, died of a heart condition aged 5.

Darren Richard Laverty, on June 6th, left Bryn Estyn, and transferred to Y Gwyngyll on Anglesey, where he spent fifteen months before moving into approved lodgings.

1984

On March 22, a light-bulb smashing incident, involving Peter Wynne occurred at Bryn Estyn, an event which was duly recorded in the school's log book

On May 23, Alison Taylor was called before a formal disciplinary hearing. She also made allegations that a boy was assaulted by a Tŷ'r Felin teacher.

During August, Bryn Estyn School formally closed following a Wrexham Council reorganisation.

During September, Alison Taylor called in the North Wales police in regard to an undisclosed 'injury' to a resident. A Detective Inspector Gregson concluded that the allegation is unjustified.

1985

Peter Davies, a former resident of the Bryn Alyn Community, is found dead at his home.

Matt Arnold was appointed to the Clwyd Panel of 'Guardian Ad Litem and Reporting Officers'.

During May, Darren Richard Laverty was formally discharged from care three months before his eighteenth birthday.

During November, a memo was circulated among staff in regard to Ty Newydd's 'imminent closure'.

Also during November, Graham Ennis, aged 15, was suddenly moved overnight from Queen's Park, Holyhead, Anglesey to Ty Mawr Approved School, near Abergavenny, South Wales, following an allegation that he had had sex with a young female member of staff, Jane Harkness.

1986

Michael John Carroll and his wife applied to Croydon Council to become foster parents with a view to adoption, of two young boys who had been on holiday with them to North Wales. During the application process, his previous conviction for indecent assault was discovered, he was, however, allowed to remain in his position as head of Angel Road Children's Home, Islington, London

An un-named female resident of Queens Park also claimed that Graham Ennis had sex with staff member Jane Harkness. Following a telephone call by Nefyn Dodd, Harkness was cleared.

During February, Alison Taylor took a new set of allegations to Wrexham Liberal Councillor Keith Marshall. The allegations were investigated by DCS Gwynne Owen and found Taylor's complaints, 'False or unsubstantiated'.

On July 22, Iain Muir, Deputy Headmaster of the Bryn Alyn Community, was convicted at Mold Crown Court, of unlawful sexual intercourse with a female under the age of 16, for which he was imprisoned for six months. The victim, was resident at Bryn Alyn for just over three years, and was fifteen years-of-age when she left.

On July 23, Adrian Birley told DCS Gwynne Owen he was not sexually abused. In October, DCS Gwynne Owen's report to the Crown Prosecution Service criticises Alison Taylor, and in December, Taylor is informally suspended by Gwynedd County Council.

Also during December, an un-named ex-care home resident makes more second-hand allegations of abuse, and DCS Gwynne Owen fails to substantiate any of those allegations as being true

1987

Allegations surface that Conservative Chester MP Peter Morrison joined a small group of MPs, including Michael Grylls, Neil Hamilton and Michael Brown, who took money from Ian Greer on behalf of third-party clients. During the later 'Cash for Questions' Inquiry, Ian Greer Associates admitted that Morrison received payments after Morrison ceased to be an MP. The Parliamentary Report in Hansard quotes Ian Greer as stating that he made "two commission payments, perhaps three, for client referrals" to Morrison between 1993-1994.

On January 13, Alison Taylor was officially suspended from duty, and on the 17th, Taylor told Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, that she herself, witnessed abuse in North Wales.

During March, David John Gillison was imprisoned for three-and-a-half years, for gross indecency against a boy in care in North Wales. Gillison was also prominent in the Chester branch of the 'Campaign for Homosexual Equality' (CHE).

During October, DCS Gwynne Owen submitted a second report to the Crown Prosecution Service in regard to Alison Taylor, which stated "There is every likelihood ... she will manipulate others in the future to make similar complaints".

During November, Alison Taylor was formerly dismissed by Gwynedd County Council.

1988

Gordon Anglesea promoted to the rank of Superintendent at Colwyn Bay.

On February 28, Alison Taylor wrote to the Health Minister Tony Newton, where she described, for the first time, a brutal assault she witnessed in 1980.

1989

Bryn Estyn re-opened as the 'Erlas Centre' and housed a number of educational and Wrexham Council departments.

During June, Yorkshire Television approached Alison Taylor with the intention of making a film about child abuse in North Wales. On the 12th September, Alison Taylor and Darren Richard Lavery were filmed extensively by Yorkshire Television.

During December, Peter Wynne attacked Darren Lavery at his squalid flat in Napier Square, Caia Park, Wrexham, with a large bladed knife, striking him three times

across the face. Lavery maintained that Wynne went there to 'kill him'. Wynne received six-months in prison, and Lavery allegedly received an undisclosed amount of compensation from the CICB.

1990

Michael John Carroll was sacked by Lambeth Council after it was discovered he had defrauded the council by spending £300 intended for Angel Road Children's Home on cigarettes and alcohol, while the children in his care were often eating out-of-date food.

During February, Yorkshire Television abandoned the Gwynedd Child abuse film, and opted for the Castle Hill documentary instead.

During June, an un-named female made allegations of abuse against Frederick Rutter.

On October 5, Stephen Norris pleaded guilty to acts of indecency against three boys in his care.

1991

Gordon Anglesea retired suddenly after 34-years police service.

Paul Eccles replaced Lynn Williams as Deputy-In-Charge of Gatewen Hall, Wrexham.

During January, Michael John Carroll, after it was no longer possible for him to work with children, bought the Hand Hotel, Chirk, near Oswestry, Shropshire for £725,000 and also a small antique shop near Wrexham.

On May 17, Yorkshire Television screened 'Castle Hill', a film about care home abuse.

On May 24, London-based Journalist Dean Nelson reported in the Independent newspaper on the suicide of ex-Ty Mawr resident Leslie Clements at Swansea prison.

During June, Alison Taylor took her allegations to Wrexham labour Councillor Dennis Parry. Parry and Councillor Malcolm King, who later hold a crisis meeting with the head of Clwyd Social services, John Jevons.

The following month, a 'Paedophile Ring letter' was sent to the North Wales Police

Chief Constable.

On July 30, Frederick Rutter was convicted of rape and indecent assault and imprisoned for 12 years.

On August 2, North Wales Police launched an investigation into care homes in Clwyd. Two days later, Darren Richard Laverty, allegedly tipped off by Alison Taylor attempted to make a formal statement, but inadvertently turned up at the wrong police station.

On August 8, Darren Laverty finally presented himself at the correct police station (Mold), and made a number of allegations he had not voiced previously. He told the police that Stephen Hasshim & Carl Holden were also victims of Peter Howarth. Laverty's statement was marked 'ST1', signifying that Darren Richard Laverty had become North Wales Polices' prime witness.

On August 20, North Wales Police trawled a complaint against Peter Howarth from Stephen Hasshim, who accused staff member David Birch of abusing him. In that first statement, Hasshim also claimed that when he was a resident at Bryn Estyn, he had been 'Gang Raped' by a group of other residents – one of whom, he alleged, was Darren Richard Laverty.

Wrexham Councillor Dennis Parry contacted the Independent newspaper in September, alleging a cover-up by North Wales Police. Also in September (12th), Peter Wynne told the police in a statement that he had encountered no sexual abuse: 'I enjoyed my time at Bryn Estyn'.

Three days later, North Wales police trawled an allegation against Peter Howarth from Carl Holden.

On September 19, Wrexham Councillor Dennis Parry met with journalist Dean Nelson at a London hotel.

On September 24, Stephen Hasshim made addition allegations, including an assault with 'a spiked dildo and a crowbar' against a number of Bryn Estyn staff members.

A HTV film was screened on the 26th September, outlining complaints about Nefyn Dodd, which were made by Alison Taylor and Darren Richard Laverty.

During October, Simon Birley told North Wales Police that he never experienced abuse during his time in care in North Wales.

On October 12, Dean Nelson travelled to Bangor to meet Alison Taylor at her home.

During November, Alison Taylor told journalist Dean Nelson that Peter Wynne was abused at Bryn Estyn, and Darren Laverty telephoned ex-Bryn Estyn staff member Paul 'Bicker' Wilson, and stated that 'he was out to get Howarth and Doddy'.

On November 6, Alfred James 'Jimmie' McAlpine, who ran the North West operation of the Sir Robert McAlpine Construction company, and was President of the Wrexham Golf Club, died at a Wrexham hospital, aged 83.

The following day, the Independent newspaper formally commissioned journalist Dean Nelson to report on the North Wales care home allegations.

On November 12, journalist Dean Nelson interviewed Paul 'Bicker' Wilson about Bryn Estyn, and two days later, the North Wales Police warned Alison Taylor about contacting witnesses. The next day, Peter Wynne told Dean Nelson that he was 'not sexually abused at Bryn Estyn' and Nelson noted, 'I do not believe him'.

On November 16, Simon Birley, who had been in contact with Alison Taylor, told journalist Dean Nelson that Peter Howarth abused him, and Peter Wynne, allegedly coaxed by Dean Nelson, also accused Peter Howarth of abuse.

In early December, the Independent on Sunday published an article about child abuse on North Wales, and North Wales police merged the Clwyd and Gwynedd child abuse inquiries.

Also in December, the Bryn Estyn 'Helpline' was set up, staffed by NSPCC workers, and Darren Richard Laverty and Peter Wynne launched a joint compensation claim, using the same Wrexham solicitor, Gwilym Hughes.

1992

Heath Kelvin Jones, a former resident of the Bryn Alyn Community, was found dead at his bedsit, from respiratory arrest due to solvent abuse. He was 18 years of age.

Barry Williams, a former resident of Little Acton Assessment Centre, Wrexham, was found dead in his flat, where he was living in squalor and poverty.

On January 22, Brendan Randles alleged abuse by an un-named man, and in his police statement, related to the North Wales Police, that while taking a shower at Bryn Estyn, Darren Richard Laverty and two other boys had 'Beaten him up' while being watched by a 'Grey-Haired man'. The next day, Randles also alleged that the same man took him to the secure unit and 'fondled him and tried to kiss him'.

During February, journalist Dean Nelson returned to North Wales in an attempt to find evidence of abuse against Gordon Anglesea. And on the 5th, he faxed a new

Peter Wynne interview to the Independent newspaper.

In early March, Darren Richard Laverty showed Brendan Randles a photograph of Gordon Anglesea, who Randles later named as his abuser.

On March 15, North Wales police arrested sixteen men and one woman in dawn raids in and around Wrexham. All but one of these people had once worked at Bryn Estyn. No child pornography was discovered in a subsequent search, and there was no evidence of a paedophile ring. By the end of that day, the police had no alternative but to release twelve of the sixteen people without bringing any charges. Of the four that remained – Stephen Norris, Peter Norman Howarth, Paul 'Bicker' Wilson and David Birch, only Norris made any admissions. During his police interview, Peter Howarth said that one of the people he believed had 'got it in for him', was Darren Richard Laverty. He stated that Laverty had telephoned him on two occasions, and had taunted him about the Bryn Estyn investigation. Laverty had asked if he 'was worried', and had then 'laughed down the phone at him'.

On March 24, an ex-Bryn Estyn resident told the North Wales Police that he was not abused while a resident at the home. The police returned three days later, and the ex-resident made an allegation of abuse against Peter Howarth.

Six days later, the North Wales Police visited Steven Messham at his home, where he made allegations in regard to indecent assault.

On April 1, Steven Messham's wife committed suicide, leaving him to care for their infant daughter.

During April, Adrian Johns, aged 32, a former resident of the Bryn Alyn Community, died along with Mabel Roberts, Paul 'Tony' Jones, Timothy Sharpe and Andrew Manners in a house fire in Brighton, Sussex. Two of the victims, AIDS Counsellor Mabel Roberts, aged 48, and Robert Manners, aged 29, died from multiple injuries after trying to jump from a window to escape the fire. Seven more people managed to escape by clambering down a drainpipe at the rear of the building. One of those, Timothy Sharpe, who was celebrating his 28th birthday, fell to his death after losing his grip on the window cill. Several people were impaled on the spiked railings as they tried to jump to safety from an upstairs window. Adrian Johns, and another man, Paul Jones, aged 33, remained trapped in the building and succumbed to smoke inhalation. Their bodies were so badly charred, that the only means of positive identification was by their dental records. The verdict of the subsequent Coroner's Inquest was one of 'Unlawful Killing'.

On April 23, Steven Messham made further allegations against Peter Howarth, and claimed that Howarth buggered him whilst he was confined to the sick bay at Bryn Estyn.

A week later, another allegation against Bryn Estyn staff was made by an ex-resident following a visit by North Wales Police.

On May 5, Brendan Randles named his assailant as being Peter Howarth, and also alleged rape by Howarth and another un-identified man.

Three days later, Darren Richard Lavery admitted helping Brendan Randles make allegations of abuse, and made a further admission of showing Randles a photograph of Gordon Anglesea.

On June 18, journalist Dean Nelson elicited a number of vague allegations of abuse from Mark Humphries. The next day, Nelson showed Humphries a photograph of Gordon Anglesea, who then alleged that both Anglesea and Peter Howarth abused him while he was at Bryn Estyn.

Ten days later, after being re-interviewed by journalist Dean Nelson, Mark Humphries added rape to his earlier allegations of abuse against Gordon Anglesea and Peter Howarth.

On August 18, Mark Humphries was interviewed by the North Wales Police in London, when he stated that he was sent to Bryn Estyn during the summer of 1976, and that he had spent four years there. He also claimed that he had been abused by Gordon Anglesea during his second Christmas there.

Two days later, Steven Messham called the North Wales Police to complain that he was being harassed by journalist Dean Nelson. He also stated that 'at no time did Gordon Anglesea ever sexually abuse me'.

On August 24, Steven Messham travelled to London and met journalist Dean Nelson at his flat..

The following month, the Observer newspaper published an article in which Darren Richard Lavery appears to admit participating, along with others, in the rape of a young female care home resident.

On September 3, Steven Messham made another complaint that he was being harassed by journalist Dean Nelson, but the following day, contacted Nelson and alleged that Gordon Anglesea sexually abused him. Five days later, Messham made new, even more serious allegations to the North Wales Police.

On September 11, Steven Messham swore an affidavit prepared by the journalist Dean Nelson, but the Independent on Sunday newspaper declines to publish the story.

Two days later, the North Wales Abuse story was published by the Observer newspaper on its front page.

Also in September, the journalist Dean Nelson, seeking a 3rd allegation against Gordon Anglesea, interviewed Peter Wynne, with Alison Taylor present, who acted as a 'memory prompt'.

On September 17, Mark Humphries and Steven Messham accused Gordon Anglesea of child sexual abuse on live television. The programme is watched by another ex-Bryn Estyn resident, who then telephoned the BBC, who then visit the ex-resident at home a few days later.

On September 30, the BBC filmed the ex-Bryn Estyn resident accusing Gordon Anglesea of sexual abuse.

1993

Thomas Tyrell-Kenyon, the son of Lord Lloyd Tyrell-Kenyon, 5th Baron Kenyon, died of HIV/AIDS aged 39. Kenyon had drifted into the low life of Wrexham, where he made his home. He drank with, and mixed socially with a group of people who were constantly in and out of prison, and was known to have hung around the red-brick public toilets by the King Street bus station in the town centre.

During January, Scallywag Magazine published allegations of child sexual abuse in regard to Tory Lord Alistair McAlpine, Derek Laud and Gordon Anglesea. Also in January, Peter Wynne told the North Wales Police of a visit by Alison Taylor and journalist Dean Nelson, and Satirical magazine Private Eye, publicly named Gordon Anglesea as a paedophile, and alleged a North Wales Police cover up.

On February 11, the North Wales Police interviewed Alison Taylor about Peter Wynne, on suspicion of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

During March, the Crown Prosecution Service dropped the case against Gordon Anglesea, who proceeded to sue HTV, the Independent and Observer newspapers, and Private Eye magazine.

On March 15, the Crown Prosecution service concluded that 'reliance ought not to be placed on Steven Messham's evidence for the purpose of prosecuting any alleged abuser'.

During April, Nefyn and June Dodd were arrested by the North Wales Police, and later released without charge.

On May 13, Steven Messham threatened to sue Private Eye magazine. He demanded £60,000 in compensation.

Three days later, Lord Lloyd Tyrell-Kenyon, aged 75, died at Reddington, Shropshire following a long illness. He was Deputy Lieutenant for Flintshire in 1948, an officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and a commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1972. He was a provincial Grandmaster for the North Wales Freemasons. He was buried on the 23rd.

During June, Steven Messham had a meeting with Private Eye editor Ian Hislop, in which he demanded a new car.

On September 22, Stephen Norris pleaded guilty to the charges of assault and the buggery of 6 boys.

1994

Angus James Wilson, the co-founder of Scallywag magazine, died in an accident on the island of Cyprus.

During January, after a long battle with drugs and alcohol, Peter Wynne was found dead after hanging himself from a door at his bedsit in Wrexham.

The Crown Prosecution Service declined to bring Steven Messham's allegation of sexual abuse against Peter Howarth to the charging stage.

During March, Clwyd County Council commissioned the independent Jillings Report, which was undertaken by a panel headed by a former director of Social services with Derbyshire Council, John Jillings. The panel, consisted of Jillings, Professor Jane Thunstall and Gerrilyn Smith, was met with considerable opposition. It was believed that 130 boxes of material handed over by the council to the police, were not made available to the panel.

On April 1, Brendan Randles was found dead at his Wrexham flat. The cause of death being recorded as 'Gross abuse of Alcohol'.

On May 26, Alison Taylor compiled a statement for the libel trial of Gordon Anglesea.

On June 9, Granville Bernard Arnold died of an 'unspecified blood disease' which was mentioned in the Jillings report, along with the unsubstantiated concern that the 'abusers put their victims at risk of a sexually-transmitted disease'.

On June 13, the trial began at Chester Crown court of Peter Norman Howarth and

Paul 'Bicker' Wilson on sexual abuse charges.

During July, Richard Williams was found dead in a car aged 18, he had taken his own life. He was alleged to have suffered abuse while in care in North Wales.

On July 18, Peter Norman Howarth was found guilty of child sexual abuse and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Paul Wilson was acquitted of all charges.

On October 31, Steven Messham refused to give evidence at Gordon Anglesea's libel trial at the High Court in London, unless he was paid to do so.

During November, Craig Wilson, a former resident of Bryn Estyn was found dead at the age of sixteen. He had taken his own life by way hanging himself.

On November 7, Private Eye magazine payed Steven Messham £4,500 as a full and final settlement of his claim.

A week later, the libel trial of Gordon Anglesea opened at Court 13, the Royal Courts of Justice.

On November 28, Paul 'Bicker' Wilson pleaded guilty to three counts of physical assault.

On December 6, the jury at the libel trial of Gordon Anglesea returned a verdict in his favour.

1995

On January 12, David Birch was acquitted of two charges of sexual abuse.

During February, the trial of John Ernest Allen on sexual abuse charges began, but he went missing during the trial, during which time, Lee Johns (Homburg), aged 37, an ex-resident of the Bryn Alyn Community was found dead.

On February 2, Mark Humphries committed suicide by way of hanging himself from the stairs outside his Wrexham bedsitter, after being seen drinking heavily in the town earlier that day.

A week later, John Ernest Allen, of Bryn Alyn Hall, Llay, Wrexham, was convicted of indecent assault against six former residents of the Bryn Alyn Community. He was sentenced to six years imprisonments.

During May, the Welsh Office appointed Nicola Davies QC to conduct a separate investigation and to examine the need for a full judicial inquiry into alleged child

abuse in North Wales.

On May 21, Simon Birley took his own life, by way of hanging himself from a tree in Wrexham.

On July 13, Sir Peter Morrison, former Conservative MP for Chester, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Personal Press Secretary, died in London, aged 51.

During December, Nicola Davies QC, decided that a judicial inquiry into allegations of child abuse in North Wales was not in the public interest.

1996

Tony Wallis, a former resident of Bryn Estyn, was found dead at his home in Wrexham.

Pentre Saeson became 'Prospects for Young People' – housing Mentally Ill children aged 8-21, and was run by Stephen Elliot.

On February 22, Clwyd County Council received the completed Jillings Report and sought legal advice. By March 26th, the Council had accepted the legal advice given to them and made the decision not to publish the report.

On April 1, Clwyd County Council was dissolved.

On April 7, and using a leaked report of the Jillings Report, the Independent newspaper ran a campaign to push for a full public inquiry into child abuse in North Wales.

On April 13, BBC Radio suggested that child abuse in children's homes 'may be the norm rather than the exception'. Four days later, Welsh Secretary William Hague announced the North Wales Child Inquiry.

During July, ex-Bryn Estyn resident Howard Hughes (Born 9th June 1965), was sentenced to life imprisonment for the rape and murder of 7-year-old Sophie Hook at Llandudno on 30th July 1995. Hughes was convicted only on circumstantial evidence, and some doubts exist as to the safety of the conviction.

On October 26, eighteen families were left homeless after a fire at a Chester warehouse engulfed their houses. Eight people were taken to hospital and more than 100 residents of Lightfoot Street in the city, were evacuated as the blaze destroyed a Pickfords storage facility on the neighbouring Hoole Bridge Industrial Estate. It was speculated that the storage facility held records connected to the Bryn Estyn and Bryn Alyn Community.

1997

Bryn Alyn Hall, Llay, Wrexham closes.

On January 21, the North Wales Child Abuse Tribunal , chaired by retired High Court Judge Sir Ronald Waterhouse, began sitting at Ewloe, Flintshire.

Also in January, Sir Ronald Waterhouse was interviewed on BBC2's 'Newsnight' by journalist Rosie Waterhouse. Ms Waterhouse had previously raised the possibility that a significant number of allegations of child abuse in North Wales, had been fabricated in order to obtain compensation payments.

On April 24, Peter Norman Howarth died of a heart attack at HMP Wakefield.

1998

Ken White and David Evans open a nursery on Bryn Alyn land.

A report claimed that Sir Peter Morrison had been arrested at a public toilet at Crewe Railway Station, but had allegedly been let off with a caution.

On May 7, The North Wales Child Abuse tribunal held its last hearing.

A week later, ex-Bryn Estyn resident Darren Richard Laverty became the first person to be charged in the UK, under newly-introduced 'Stalking' laws, following his arrest for distributing 400 leaflets alleging that a man living in a North Wales village was a 'Paedophile'.

1999

Robert John Kirkham, from Old Colwyn, was convicted of sexual offences against a teenage boy. He was imprisoned for twelve months.

On September 30, the completed Waterhouse Report was handed to Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague.

2000

On February 15, The North Wales Child Abuse Tribunal Report was publicly published as 'Lost In care'.

The following day, there was massive coverage of the Waterhouse Report in the

national press, much of it featuring Darren Richard Lavery and Alison Taylor. The latter's vindication by the Waterhouse Report was also widely reported upon.

On April 11, Alison Taylor was presented with a Daily Mirror 'Pride of Britain' award at a ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel, central London, which was attended by the Labour Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

On October 8, BBC1 transmitted a horrifying drama 'Care', which centred around abuse in a Welsh Children's Home. The film went on to win a series of awards, including the Cologne International Film Festival gold for the best single drama, a BAFTA Award and the Prix Bologna in 2001. It attracted an audience of 4 million and generated 6000 telephone calls.

On December 5, Football Manager Dave Jones was acquitted of all charges of Paedophilia and Child Abuse at Liverpool Crown Court, after the trial collapsed following witnesses failing to turn up to face claims that they had fabricated their allegations, in order to gain compensation payments.

2001

The position of Wales' first Children's Commissioner was created.

During February, the North Wales Police were called in to investigate the running of NORWAS (North Wales Abuse Survivors), a charitable organisation set up using public money to help people who were abused in Children's Homes in North Wales. Steven Messham, the groups chairman, was arrested and questioned over the alleged theft of the charity's assets.

On August 2, mystery surrounded the death of Gary Cowell, aged 31, who was found dead at his home in Queen's Avenue, Connahs Quay. Gary was a Bryn Estyn resident between 1977 and 1980, and claimed that he had been beaten and abused during his time there. The Post Mortem examination showed Mr. Cowell had been a very fit and healthy man at the time of his death. However, toxicology test results had surprised the Pathologist Dr. Anthony Burdge, as they showed four times the lethal dose of the drug Methadone. The family and friends of Mr. Cowell stated that he was a keep fit fanatic who would run every day, swim, visit a gym regularly, and was extremely particular about everything he ate, and they had never known him to take any drugs at any time, apart from 'Body Building Supplements'.

2002

Oxford-based author Richard Webster successfully defended a libel case brought by Alison Taylor in regard to a newspaper article. An out of court settlement was

agreed upon.

On April 10, Steven Messham appeared in court in Wrexham accused of theft, deception and false accounting. Messham was charged over the theft of £27,000 worth of assets from NORWAS, an organisation set up to help child abuse victims in North Wales. Thousand of pounds of public money was raised to help establish and run the charity, of which Mr. Messham was Chairman.

2003

A judge threw out 44 sexual abuse charges against John Ernest Allen, ruling 'because of publicity and time lapse, Allen would not have been able to face a fair trial'.

2004

Journalist Angus Stickler publicly criticised for interviewing Steven Messham on Radio 4, without disclosing that Messham was facing charges of defrauding a charity he ran for abuse victims of Children's Homes in North Wales.

2005

Author Richard Webster's seminal , 722-page book, 'The Secret of Bryn Estyn' was published by Orwell books to critical acclaim.

During January, Steven Messham was acquitted of five counts of false accounting at Chester Crown Court. He admitted, however, concealing £40,000 in savings, which he had been awarded to him as compensation for alleged abuse – when he made claims for Income Support and Housing Benefit. He insisted he had not intended to be dishonest.

2007

During January, Christopher Geoffrey Davies, aged 32, was imprisoned for 9 years at Caernarvon Crown Court for the rape of a child, and making a false statement to obtain a passport. Davies, an ex-policeman from Northop Hall, Flintshire, was at the time working as a bodyguard in the Middle East, was convicted of plying a 14-year-old girl with vodka, before raping her.

2009

On October 10, Christopher Geoffrey Davies, aged 34, won leave to have his case

investigated by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, following a top judge's ruling. Davies had previously been found guilty of raping a 14-year-old girl, and imprisoned for 9 years following a trial at Caernarvon Crown Court. His lawyers told three judges sitting at London's Criminal Appeal Court that information had come to light since the trial, that raised concerns over the safety of the guilty verdict. The court heard that one of the jurors may have been a police officer serving in the North Wales force – where Davies had been formerly employed – and that he could have been working in the section dealing with allegations of sexual abuse made by children. Mr. Justice Sweeney, sitting alongside Lord Justice Maurice Kay and Mrs Justice Slade, agreed the information merited further investigation, and adjourned Davies' conviction appeal until an inquiry by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) had been carried out.

2010

On November 25, Stephen Wynne, the older brother of ex-Bryn Estyn resident Peter Wynne, who suffered from Bipolar disorder, took his own life aged 44. He was buried alongside his brother at Wrexham Cemetery. His book 'A Migzie's Tale', was published later that year, in long verse form, which describes his long personal battle with his condition, and contained a chapter about his brother's alleged abuse at Bryn Estyn, and his suicide in 1994.

2011

During June, Richard Webster, the author of 'The Secret of Bryn Estyn' died after suffering sudden heart failure at his Oxford home. His website richardwebster.net remained online and contains a large selection of his written work.

2012

Operation Yewtree launched to investigate claims against Sir Jimmy Savile and a number of other celebrities. Former Bryn Estyn resident Steven Messham appeared on the BBC's 'Newsnight' programme, claiming that the Waterhouse Inquiry only scratched the surface of the child abuse that occurred in North Wales.

During October, Rod Richards, a former MP and ex-leader of the Welsh conservatives, implicated Sir Peter Morrison (1944-1995) in the North Wales Child Abuse scandal. Richards claimed that Morrison and another un-named high profile Conservative politician, were named in documents as being regular and unexplained visitors to the care homes involved in the allegations.

On November 2, Steven Messham appeared on the BBC 'Newsnight' programme alleging that he had been sexually abused by 'hundreds of men' including a senior

Conservative politician.

The next day, an ex-care home resident named Sir Peter Morrison on Channel 4 News as a person he saw leaving the Bryn Alyn home near Wrexham. Ex-Bryn Estyn resident Alun Leyshon stated on the BBC that he was taken from Bryn Estyn, and abused by 'people of influence', and hinted at a 'Masonic' connection.

The following day, Darren Richard Laverty appeared on social media using the pseudonym 'Ryan Tanner'. He began a long-running campaign of online verbal abuse against Steven Messham and other ex-care home residents.

Also in November, Anne Clwyd MP called for the legal archive of the Jillings report to be published, claiming that she had been shown a copy of the report in 1994: 'I would say please get the Jillings Report published because it shows ... rape, bestiality, violent assaults and torture, and the effects on these young boys at that time cannot be under-estimated'.

'Operation Pallial' was set up by Conservative Home Secretary Teresa May, amid concerns that previous investigations into historic child abuse were not thorough enough.

On November 7, the Telegraph newspaper reported on an unsubstantiated story, that boys were molested to entertain Jimmy Savile at the Bryn Estyn Community School. One boy, known as 'Ben' claimed that Savile would regularly visit the care home with his brother in a chauffeured limousine. The claim first emerged in the Sun Newspaper earlier that day.

On November 9, Steven Messham made a televised public retraction of his earlier allegation, and offered a public apology to ex-Conservative Party Treasurer, Lord Alister McAlpine.

The next day, George Entwistle, the Director General of the BBC resigned.

On November 12, a 50-year-old former resident of Axwell park School, Gateshead, spoke out for the first time about the ordeal he was subjected to while at the school, where he alleged that Peter Norman Howarth operated a 'Flat List' system, that would see favourite boys singled out for late-night 'counselling' at Howarth's home, where they were made to wear only pyjamas.

The next day, Steven Messham appeared on the BBC Wales 'Week In, Week Out' programme, and made a plea for more historic victims of child abuse to come forward.

On November 14, Steven Messham was apparently driven 'close to suicide' by

Darren Richard Lavery on social media. According to the 'Slog' website, "from sources close to Steve to the Slog at 1.19am today: Steven has named Darren Lavery, it seems this guy wants him to shut up and accuses Steve as being on the take and loves the media spotlight".

The next evening, Channel4 News screened an interview with ex-Bryn Estyn and Bersham Hall resident 'Michael', who described being taken from North Wales to 'sex parties' in and around London.

On November 17, Operation Pallial was set up to examine specific and recent allegations of historic child abuse in North Wales, received information from 105 victims that had not come forward previously.

2013

On January 14, a 71-year-old man from Ellesmere Port, Cheshire became the first person to be arrested by Operation Pallial.

On April 29, Operation Pallial announced that 160 new claims of historic abuse had been reported, and victims had identified 84 people as being responsible for attacks between 1963 and 1992. The complainants, almost all of them men, and were aged between 7 and 19 at the time of the alleged offences. 16 of the alleged perpetrators were named by more than one person, and six were believed to have still been alive.

During April, John Ernest Allen was arrested by Operation Pallial at his home in Ipswich.

On June 13, a document believed to be a highly confidential report into child sex abuse in North Wales was listed on internet auction site eBay. The Jillings Report – which focused on allegations of abuse within council care systems in the 1970s and 80s – was compiled in 1996 but has never seen the light of day. The report was listed on eBay but the auction website was able to cancel the listing before a sale could take place. A spokesman for eBay said: "We were made aware of concerns regarding this item and took swift action. The transaction was cancelled and no sale took place. We take the safety of eBay very seriously indeed, and do not allow the sale of items of this nature." North Wales Police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) said it was up to the council's legal team whether a criminal investigation was launched. Gareth Owens, head of legal and democratic services at Flintshire County Council said: "The council was aware of the listing which was highly insensitive and inappropriate. There is a moral issue over whether any person should potentially profit from the sale of this document. I made representations asking for it to be removed and was given assurances that it would be and that the transaction would not be allowed to go through." The item received bids of £164 before being removed, and the seller, 'elvislav' listed as being in

Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, United Kingdom, could not be contacted for comment.

On July 19, a 72-year-old man was arrested by Operation Pallial.

Five days later, another un-named man, aged 61 from Chester, Cheshire was arrested by operation Pallial

On July 31, John Ernest allen was charged with 22 indecent assaults, and one offence of gross indecency, which was alleged to have taken place between 1968 and 1989 at the Bryn Alyn Community, near Wrexham.

On August 23, a 63-year-old man and a 60-year-old woman were arrested at Seaford, Essex by Operation Pallial.

During September, a 59-year-old man from Lancaster, Lancashire and a 61-year-old man from Beeston, Nottinghamshire were arrested by Operation Pallial.

During October and November, a 53-year-old man from Connahs Quay, Flintshire, and a 66-year-old man from Sussex, a 62-year-old man from Mold, Flintshire, a 65-year-old man from Cardiff, and a 69-year old man from Maidenhead, Berkshire wee all arrested by Operation Pallial.

2014

On January 16, ex-North wales Police Chief Gordon Anglesea was arrested at his home near Colwyn Bay by Operation Pallial.

The next day, Lord Alistair McAlpine, Baron McAlpine of West Green, died in Italy at the age of 71.

On January 19, Operation Pallial identified 37 alleged child abuse suspects.

During April, 62-year-old Kenneth Wheatley, was found dead beside a railway line near him home in Barnsley, Yorkshire, following his arrest by Operation Pallial the previous day.

During May, 62-year-old Richard Vevar from Tanyfron, Wrexham, and 72-year-old Peter Steen from Wrexham were arrested by Operation Pallial.

On June 6, Darren Richard Lavery was arrested at his home in LlanfairPG, Anglesey for Harassment, Theft and a Public Order Offence. 54-year-old Marc Norry from Connahs Quay was charged with historical sexual abuse, along with a 62-year-old man from Wrexham. 63-year-old Mark Grainger AKA Gary Cooke from Leicester was charged with three counts of indecent assault and two counts of buggery. 71-

year-old David Lightfoot from Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, was charged with three counts of indecent assault, and one count of attempted buggery. 69-year-old Edward Huxley from Maidenhead, Berkshire was charged with two counts of indecent assault. Keith Stokes, aged 61, from Farndon, Cheshire was charged with three counts indecent assault, three counts of gross indecency, one count of buggery, and one count of attempted buggery.

On June 10, Robert John Kirkham, aged 64, from Llys Colwyn, Old Colwyn was jailed for ten years for the rape and indecent assault of a teenage boy in 1996. The offences were carried out in the Wrexham area.

On July 7, The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in England and Wales, was announced by Conservative Home Secretary Teresa May. The inquiry was established to examine how the country's institutions handled their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse. The next day, Baroness Butler-Sloss was appointed Chair of the inquiry.

Six days later, Baroness Butler-Sloss stood down from the Chair of the IICSA, following pressure from victim's groups, after it was revealed that her brother had been Attorney General, when some offences being examined by the inquiry, were alleged to have taken place.

On July 24, Darren Richard Laverty pleaded guilty to a Section 5 Public Order Offence (Threatening Behaviour) at Llandudno magistrates Court, and received a fine and a twelve-month Conditional Discharge.

On July 30, Barry Strevens, a former bodyguard to conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, claimed that he had warned her that Sir Peter Morrison allegedly held sex parties with underage boys. Strevens said that despite passing on the allegations to Thatcher, she later promoted Morrison to the position of Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party. The Prime Minister's personal secretary, Archie Hamilton, reportedly took notes of what had been alleged.

On August 21, Kelvin Horriban, aged 62, from Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and Keith Evans, aged 70, from the Rhosrobin area of Wrexham, were arrested by officers from Operation Pallial. Horriban also faced an additional charge of assault.

One week later, Wrexham Councillor Malcolm King, was stripped of his executive financial role on Wrexham Council after making 'Serious allegations without evidence to support them.

On September 5, Conservative Home Secretary Teresa May announced the appointment of Fiona Woolfe, CBE, to lead the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

On September 10, Darren Richard Laverty was arrested at his home on Anglesey for continuing to harass people, and issuing threats on the internet. He was later released without charge.

On October 6, the second trial of John Ernest Allen on charges of historic sexual abuse, began at Mold Crown Court.

On October 22, 74-year-old Peter Steen appeared at Wrexham Magistrates Court, charged with physically assaulting a teenage boy in the 1980s. This was the eighth charge he faced following his arrest under Operation Pallial. He was released on bail to appear at Mold Crown court one week later.

On Halloween, Fiona Woolfe became the second head of the governments Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) to be forced to quit over links to key figures in the scandal – just one half hour after the Home Office had said that they had 'full confidence' in her. Ms Woolf announced she was stepping down, after it emerged that she failed to declare that she lived on the same street as lord Leon Brittan and his wife, and had attended five dinner parties with the former Conservative Government Minister.

On December 1, John Ernest Allen was sentenced to life imprisonment at Mold Crown Court, with the recommendation that he serves at least 11 years.

2015

On January 3, Fresh allegations emerged about ex-Chester MP Sir Peter Morrison. The Metropolitan Police were said to have investigated claims made in the Daily Telegraph, that a 14-year-old boy from Sussex was sexually assaulted by the MP..

On January 29, Dennis William Jones, aged 65, and Aileen Jones, aged 62, from Seaford, East Sussex, were charged with offences related to two boys, both of whom were under 16 years of age, between 1975 and 1980.

On February 4, Dame Lowell Goddard, a New Zealand High Court Judge, was appointed as the third Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

On February 11, Ex-Bryn Estyn resident and Wrexham Councillor Andrew Keith Gregory, appeared before Wrexham Magistrates charged with assaulting his ex-partner. He pleaded not guilty, and a trial was scheduled for 1st April, at Mold Magistrates Court.

On March 25, Dennis and Aileen Jones appeared at Wrexham Magistrates Court to

face allegations that they mistreated two young boys, between 1975 and 1980. The couple denied the charges, and the case was referred to the Crown Court at Mold.

On April 1, Ex-Bryn Estyn resident and Councillor Andrew Keith Gregory, was cleared of assaulting his former partner during an argument at the home they shared in Wrexham.

The next day, David Challenor, aged 54, an ex-social worker, was formally found not guilty at the Crown Court at Mold, Flintshire, after being accused of a historic sex offence, dating back to the 1980s. Mr. Challenor always denied the allegation of indecently assaulting a boy at the Bryn Alyn Community. The Judge halted the trial at the end of the prosecution case, due to the shocking state of the identification evidence that had been presented to the court.

On June 5, according to the Daily Post, two former residents of the Bryn Estyn Community Home, who alleged that they were abused there, said that they do not want to see the building demolished. Keith Gregory and Daren Richard Laverty insisted they wanted to see the building preserved, and used for a positive purpose. Mr. Gregory said "It is a very beautiful old building, there is nothing wrong with it, and I would not like to see it knocked down". Mr. Laverty, who said that he stayed there for two years, said, 'over the years, thousands of boys passed through the main doors. Many of those boys have fond memories of their time there. Indeed, if Bryn Estyn hadn't existed many would have been sent to South Wales far away from their family and friends.' Wrexham Councillors were considering whether to demolish or sell the building due to financial constraints.

On June 10, the trial of seven men charged with historical sexual and physical abuse, began at the Crown Courts at Mold. Marc Roy Norry, aged 55, from Hamilton Road, Connahs Quay, Flintshire, Gary Cooke, also known as Grainger, aged 64, of Leicester, David Lightfoot, aged 72, a Wrexham publican in the 1980s, from Parklands View, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, Keith Stokes, aged 62, a former haulier and abattoir manager, from Quarry Hill, Farndon, Cheshire, George Neil Phoenix, aged 63, of Windsor Road, New Broughton, Wrexham, Edward Julien Huxley, aged 70, from Lower Road, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire, Roger Owen Griffiths, aged 76, of Coed Efa Lane, New Broughton, Wrexham, all denied the charges.

On June 26, Roger Griffiths, aged 76, from New Broughton, Wrexham was acquitted at the Crown Courts at Mold, Flintshire, of two charges of indecent assault. Retired teacher and former children's home owner Griffiths, who said during the trial that he had never met the complainant, and accused him of lying in order to gain compensation, put his head in his hands and shook with relief, following his acquittal.

On July 9, retired North Wales police chief Gordon Anglesea, from Old Colwyn, was charged with sexually abusing three boys. He was charged following six allegations of sexual assault and buggery, and two of serious sexual assault, between 1979 and 1987. He was granted unconditional bail, and was not expected to go to trial until September 2016.

On August 27, a 75-year-old man, was arrested by officers from the National Crime Agency in Wells, Somerset on suspicion of a serious sexual assault against a child aged between 11 and 12 years old. The offence is alleged to have been committed against a boy between 1979 and 1980.

On September 25, Gary Cooke, aged 64, was imprisoned for 14 years for the sexual abuse of five boys. David Lightfoot, aged 72, was imprisoned for ten years for nine offences of sexual assault, and three serious sexual assaults. Edward Julien Huxley, aged 70, was imprisoned for 4 and a half years, for two counts of indecent assault. Marc Roy Norry, aged 55, was imprisoned for 11 years for five counts of indecent assault, and one serious sexual assault. George Neil Phoenix, aged 63, was imprisoned for three and a half years, for one count of sexual abuse.

Four days later, Richard Dafydd Veyvar, aged 64, was cleared at Mold Crown Court of all charges relating to allegations of historic sexual and physical abuse. He denied that he incited a boy to indecently assault another boy at Gwasted Hall, the home of John Ernest Allen, the owner of the Bryn Alyn Community. He also faced a separate charge of physically assaulting ex-Bryn Alyn resident Stephen Fong, aged 51, between 1978 and 1980. He was cleared on all counts.

On November 4, ex-North Wales Police Chief Gordon Anglesea, was charged with a further three offences of historic child abuse, bringing the total number of charges against him to 10. The charges were: 'Two indecent assaults and one serious sexual offence against a boy aged under the age of 16'. The offences are alleged to have taken place between 1982 and 1983. He was scheduled to appear in court on 17th November.

On November 17, Gordon Anglesea appeared at the Magistrates court in Llandudno, who committed the case to the Crown Court at Mold, Flintshire, on the 20th November. In a short hearing, Mr. Anglesea spoke only to confirm his name, his address and his date of birth. District Judge Gwyn Jones remanded Mr. Anglesea on conditional bail, and he must reside at Gwynant, Old Colwyn, and not to approach the complainant directly and indirectly.

On December 14, Peter Steen, aged 76, at Mold Crown court, sitting at Chester, was found not guilty of eight counts of historical physical abuse and cruelty against two children at Bryn Alyn Hall and Gatewen Hall in Wrexham, between 1978 and 1992. There were three more verdicts waiting to be returned at the end of court business

that day.

The following day, the remaining three charges against Peter Steen were returned as not guilty. His solicitor Chris Saltrese, said that there had been a grave miscarriage of justice, and blasted the Operation Pallial investigation. The jury in the case spent 11 hours and 52 minutes deliberating before indicating that their discussions could not take them any further. The National Crime Agency stated that 134 complaints remained under active investigation.

2016

On January 12, the trial began of Keith Alan Evans, aged 71, and Kelvin Horriben, aged 63, at Chester Crown Court, sitting at Mold. The men were charged with child cruelty of six boys and one girl at the Bryn Alyn Community, between 1976 and 1983, and Horriben faced a second charge of assault, occasioning actual bodily harm against a boy. Both men pleaded not guilty.

On January 26, a number of MPs voiced their concerns about what redactions may be made to the long-awaited Macur Report, which was an examination of the Waterhouse Report into child abuse in North Wales.

Three days later, Robert Siddall, aged 59, of Llanbedrgoch, Anglesey was imprisoned for three years and four months for making, possessing and distributing indecent images of children.

On February 4, Kelvin Horriben, aged 63, was cleared of assault and child cruelty following a trial at Chester Crown Court sitting at Mold. His co-defendant, Keith Alan Evans was found not guilty of four charges of child cruelty, and a verdict could not be reached on a further two charges before the court was adjourned for lunch. After the court was reconvened that afternoon, the jury returned a majority guilty version on a single count, which related to an offence committed against one boy. Sentencing was adjourned until the week commencing March 14.

On February 17, Darren Richard Lavery was arrested and charged with contempt of court at Wrexham Magistrates court, after making a series of 'malicious and disgusting' Tweets, prior to, during and following the sentencing hearing, of a man, Lavery had badgered the police and CPS to prosecute for a 'Malicious Communication' against him. Mr. Lavery was removed from the court in handcuffs, and taken to Wrexham Central Police Station, where he was charged and held in custody until the end of court business. After being brought before District Judge Gwyn Jones, he received a 'severe ticking off', and Mr. Lavery apologised profusely, adding somewhat meekly, that he was 'an extremely stupid man', and would at once comply with the judges instruction to immediately cease his unwarranted attacks on the convicted man. A number of handwritten notes that

were taken during the hearing by both Mr. Lavery and his wife, were seized by the North Wales Police and ordered to be destroyed.

On February 29, the trial of Aileen and Dennis Jones, from Seaford, East Sussex over accusations of abuse against two boys under the age of 16, between 1975 and 1980, began at Mold Crown court sitting at Chester, and was expected to last two weeks.

On March 10, Aileen and Dennis Jones, at Chester Crown Court, were found not guilty of child cruelty charges. Mrs. Jones, who was awarded an OBE in 2014 for her work as head of Southdown Housing Association, said, 'Of all the things we could have been accused of, it was the worst in the world – murder would have been lesser. This case should never have gone to court. All the evidence that contradicted the prosecution evidence was ignored.' Defending the case cost the couple their jobs, as well as £100, 000 in legal fees. Mr. Jones said, 'The main allegation was being made about 1973 to 1974, when we lived in Brighton and York, and two years before we even moved to North Wales. A simple check of out tax records would have shown where we were working at the time'. Mrs. Jones went on to say, 'Children have been, and are still being abused, but false accusations, and especially historic false allegations, divert resources away from keeping children safe today, and undermines child protection. People who have been genuinely abused are further damaged by those who make false allegations'.

One week later, Keith Alan Evans, aged 71, convicted the previous February of a single count of child cruelty against a young boy, was sentenced to eight months in custody, suspended for a year. He was also fined £500 and ordered to pay £500 in compensation to the victim. Evans was the seventh person to be convicted and sentenced following investigations by Operation Pallial.

A redacted version of the long-awaited Macur Report was finally punished in March, which found, 'no reason to undermine the Waterhouse Inquiry findings.' The report is soundly criticized by the NSPCC, who's Welsh Chief Des Mannion said it, 'revealed barely anything'. Keith Gregory, an ex-Bryn Estyn resident, who said that he had been contacted by many distraught abuse survivors, who were upset by the findings, also blasted the report claiming, 'It is a whitewash, a complete cover-up and has been a complete waste of time. All the court documents from the Waterhouse Inquiry were shredded, and it was said to have been human error. What the survivors are saying, is that this was supposed to have been a survivor-led inquiry, so why weren't they consulted? We feel like we have been kicked in the teeth and there is a general feeling of 'here we go again'. We have lost 13 to suicide and I just hope that people remain strong now and that we carry on with the battle'.

On April 19, Roger Griffiths, aged 77, an ex-headmaster of Gatewen Hall, which was part of the Bryn alyn community, was jailed for 9 months following a trial at Caernarvon Crown Court. Griffiths pleaded guilty to the possession of 51 extreme

pornographic images, following an investigation by the National Crime Agency.

On April 21, Darren Richard Laverty was suspended from the Twitter social platform, for the 'Targeted Harassment' of a number of people, including journalists, survivors of childhood abuse, and a number of child abuse charities.

On May 11, Neil Charles Owen, aged 47, of Fford Talargoch, Prestatyn, was imprisoned for ten years, and placed on the sex offenders register for life, for a series of sex offences against a number of children.

On June 12, Barry John Hopcutt, aged 59, from Macclesfield, Cheshire, was imprisoned for seven years at Caernarvon Crown Court, after befriending families holidaying at an Anglesey Caravan Park, in order to sexually abuse young girls.

Also that day, Roger Canton, aged 68, of Tower View, Wrexham, was imprisoned for seven years, for a number of sexual assaults at a swimming pool, which took place in 1996. Canton had a previous conviction from 1979 for indecent assault upon another girl in a swimming pool at the Northgate Arena in the city of Chester, Cheshire.

On June 23, Stephen Giles Tippitt, aged 46, from Uplands Avenue, Connahs Quay, Flintshire, was imprisoned for four years at the Crown Court at Mold, Flintshire, for carrying out a number of sexual offences against children. He was placed on the sex offenders register for life.

In July, Darren Richard Laverty was arrested at his home in LlanfairPG, Anglesey by the Metropolitan Police. His computer equipment and five mobile phones were seized and removed from his property to be forensically examined. After being questioned under caution for a number of offences, he was released on police bail, while further investigations were carried out.

On July 20, the investigation into allegations of abuse in the North Wales care system, stopped investigating new accounts from survivors. Operation Pallial, initially began their inquiries in November 2012, with 340 people making contact. Eight men have been convicted, including care home owner John Ernest Allen, who was imprisoned for life in 2014. North Wales Police were going to continue investigating allegations, but only those made after 31st August. Operation Pallial, which was operated by the National Crime Agency, remained active, supporting survivors through trials and offering advice in relation to 27 suspects. While this work was expected to last many months, a dedicated team at north Wales Police will deal with all new allegations.

On August 4, Dame Lowell Goddard resigned as Chair of the IICSA. The Conservative Home Secretary Amber Rudd, accepted the resignation.

On August 11, Prof. Alexis Jay, was announced as the 4th Chair of the IICSA. Three days later, Darren Richard Lavery launched an online 'Go Fund Me' campaign, in an attempt to raise £100,000 that he claimed was to 'Sue The Observer/Guardian group of newspapers'. Lavery claimed, '24 years ago (September 1992) the Observer printed a dishonest and serious libellous story about me. The article has been photographed and uploaded to the internet, and used by various disgusting trolls to try and discredit my standing as a father, husband, and anti-abuse campaigner.'

On August 19, Darren Richard Lavery, aged 49, was formally charged with 'Stalking, involving serious harm and distress', under the Protection from Harassment Act, of a female journalist, following his arrest in July, and the subsequent investigation by the Metropolitan Police, and was confirmed by the Crown Prosecution Service. He was due to appear at Wimbledon magistrates Court, London on September 21.

On August 24, Arwel Roberts, aged 63, from Queens Road, Greenfield, Flintshire, a retired Paramedic, was imprisoned for 16 years at Mold Crown Court for a string of sex offences, including the rape of a child.

On September 1, Darren Richard Lavery was taken into police custody following an early morning raid at his home on Anglesey. He was arrested by North Wales Police on behalf of the Merseyside force on suspicion of stalking a woman from the Liverpool area. Local reports stated that the front door of his property was 'rammed off its hinges' when the early morning search warrant was executed. During the raid, a small amount of cannabis was discovered by officers and Mr. Lavery was also arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled drug. He was released from custody three days later.

On September 5, the jury was sworn in at the Crown Court at Mold, at the start of the trial of 78-year-old Gordon Anglesea. The ex-North Wales Police Superintendent faced four charges of historic sexual abuse, involving two complainants. Judge Geraint Walters said that although the trial would be listed for six weeks, he expected that it would take less time than that. Seven men and four women, with two spare female jurors, for the initial stage of the trial were selected. The judge then asked the jury to return to court on Tuesday September 13, where the trial proper was expected to get underway. Mr. Anglesea was charged with two counts of indecent assault and serious sexual assault on one man, when he was a teenager, and indecent assault on a second complainant when he was a teenager.

On September 21, Darren Richard Lavery appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates Court, London, charged with 'Stalking, involving extreme fear and distress', to which he pleaded not guilty. He elected to be tried at Kingston-Upon-Thames

Crown Court on 18th October. He was released on conditional bail, which stipulated that Mr. Lavery cannot enter the City of London except to attend court, and not to contact the female journalist concerned.

On October 18, Darren Richard Lavery appeared at Kingston-Upon-Thames Crown Court for a direction and case management hearing, and pleaded not guilty to a charge of 'Stalking involving extreme fear and distress'. He was released on conditional bail, and the scheduled trial was expected to last 3-4 days.

Three days later, Ex-North Wales Police Chief Gordon Anglesea, aged 79, was convicted of historical child sex offences by jury, following a trial at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. He was convicted of one charge against one boy, and three indecent assaults against another. Addressing Mr. Anglesea, Judge Geraint Walters said, 'there can only be one sentence, and that is a prison sentence'. Mr. Anglesea was also found not guilty of an alternative charge of serious sexual assault, and was granted bail until November 4, when he was to be sentenced.

On November 4, Gordon Anglesea was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in total, for three sexual assaults on two teenage boys. He was sentenced to two years on one count, and six years on two counts to run concurrently. Journalist Ian Hislop told the BBC that the Police Federation were considering financing Mr. Anglesea's appeal.

On November 18, the Shirley Oaks Survivors association (SOSA) formally withdrew from the IICSA. 'Our decision to pull out of the Independent Inquiry into Childhood Sexual Abuse (IICSA) should have come with regret, but we are sad to say that the only emotion we feel is relief. Now our members do not have to relive their worst nightmares in this stage-managed event, which is now being contrived in such a way, that it enables the guilty to wash their dirty hands, while the establishment pats itself on its back'.

On November 30, the North Wales Police launched an investigation into historical sex abuse in youth football. The force said that they had received a number of reports in regard to no-recent sexual abuse within a football setting. The NWP joined other forces across the United Kingdom, including the neighbouring Cheshire force, to examine claims made by several former players. In total, eleven separate police forces were looking into allegations, in what the Football Association Chairman Greg Clarke, described as the 'biggest crisis he had ever seen face the game.

On December 9, Darren Richard Lavery was charged with a second count of stalking females. He was bailed to appear at Wimbledon Magistrates Court, London, on January 2017.

On December, 13, Welsh language channel S4C, screened 'Cam-Drin Plant: Y Sy'n

Llad', the story of child abuse in North Wales, seen through the eyes of journalist David Williams. Alison Taylor, Steven Messham and Daren Richard Laverty feature in the programme.

Two days later, convicted paedophile Gordon Anglesea died after being admitted to the University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital with 'Pneumonia and a life-threatening lung condition'. A Prison Service spokesman said, 'HMP Rye Hill prisoner Gordon Anglesea (dob 28/03/1937) died in hospital today (15th December) at around 9.30 this morning. As with all deaths in custody, the Independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsmen will investigate'.

On December 30, the Venture Youth Centre at Caia Park, Wrexham, was scheduled for closure in March 2017, following the loss of its funding.

2017

On January 1, Robert John Kirkham, aged 66, died in HMP Fazakerley on Merseyside. Convicted of murder in the 1980s, he had been in prison since 1999, when he had been convicted of the sexual assault of a young boy. He was ordered to serve the remainder of his prison term for murder, from which had been earlier released in 2011. In 2013, a new victim came forward to claim that he had been raped and sexually assaulted by Kirkham in 1996.

On January 9, the crematorium at Colwyn Bay was packed as the funeral of 79-year-old disgraced former police officer Gordon Anglesea, of Old Colwyn took place. Former police officers, Rotary Club members and Methodist Church colleagues were among the congregation for the 30-minute service, which was conducted by the Rev. Judith Holliman. Following Mr. Anglesea's trial at Mold Crown Court, his defence team had sought leave to appeal against his conviction, prior to his death from pneumonia. At the service, his son, who read the eulogy, said that they 'believed in him, right to the end'.

Two days later, Darren Richard Laverty appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates Court, London, on a second charge of stalking an un-named woman. He pleaded not guilty, and the case was committed to the Crown court at Kingston Upon Thames, for trial. Mr. Laverty was released on bail on the condition that he did not enter the City of Liverpool.

On January 25, it was reported that the widow of Gordon Anglesea would get half of his Police pension following his death. Police chiefs had been seeking advice over whether any, or all of the 79-year-old's pension should be forfeited following his conviction for historic child sex offences. He died before any agreement could be reached with the Home Secretary.

On January 27, an inquest into the death of convicted Old Colwyn murderer and paedophile, Robert John Kirkham at Liverpool, recorded that he had died at HMP Fazakerley on Merseyside, from 'Metastatic Renal Cancer'. Verdict: Natural Causes.

On February 17, the trial of Darren Richard Lavery, on two separate stalking charges, was adjourned until 19th June. He denied all the charges.

On February 25, Andrew and Jane Kershaw formally withdraw their support for the IICSA.

On April 2, Wrexham (Smithfield) Plaid Cymru Councillor, and ex-Bryn Estyn resident Keith Gregory, was forced to stand down after nine years, following a serious and long-standing illness.

On April 19, Neil Geraint Mark Davies, aged 40, from Empress Way, Wrexham, was imprisoned for six years at Mold at the Crown Court at Mold, Flintshire, for the 'repeated and aggressive' abuse of a young girl.

On May 5, Malcolm King retains his Wynnstay (Wrexham) Council seat for the Labour Party.

On May 26, the Crown Prosecution Service, unexpectedly dropped the stalking charges against Darren Richard Lavery. A statement from the CPS stated, 'Following a review of additional evidence received from the police, we have concluded that there is no longer a realistic prospect of conviction, and we will not be pursuing the case' – SOURCE Daily Post.

Three days later, Darren Richard Lavery claimed online that he had been granted 'Core Participation Status' on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. He stated on Twitter, 'I am now a core participant of the IICSA. I will be giving oral evidence as and when required. Lots of paperwork gone in already #bringiton.

On June 13, Phil Frampton of the 'Survivors of Organised and Institutional Abuse' (SOIA), formally withdrew his support of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

On July 13, Stephen Hough, aged 53, was convicted at the Crown Court at Mold, Flintshire, of the rape and manslaughter of 15-year-old Janet Commins, in Flint during 1976. His sickening crime was finally unearthed after 40 years, when advances in forensic science meant that his DNA profile could be established from samples taken from the teenagers body. 59-year-old Noel Jones, who was originally convicted of the crime, and subsequently served six years of a twelve-year sentence.

On July 26, Daniel Sanders, from Wrexham, a former tennis professional, was

imprisoned for six years at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. The 42-year-old, who now lives in Somerset, 'criminally abused his position of trust'.

On August 11, Bryn Davies, aged 70, appeared at Llandudno Magistrates Court after being arrested in Malta, and extradited to the UK. Mr. Davies appeared in court accused of the sexual abuse of 11 children. He was a former deputy principal of the children's home at Ystrad Hall, Llangollen. He was arrested by officers from Operation Pallial, and a trial was scheduled to begin at the Crown Court, mold, Flintshire, on 8th September.

On September 15, the cost of Operation Pallial – the police investigation into historic allegations of child abuse – had risen to £4.3 million. The figure, which was obtained by the website 'Rebecca', under a Freedom of Information request. Was the total at the end of March. A further £1,2 million has been earmarked for 2017. The inquiry, carried out by the National Crime Agency, on behalf of North Wales Police, was largely underwritten by the government. The UK Home Office has paid 85% of the cost – leaving the North Wales Force with a bill of £671,000. An additional £278,000 has been spent by the National Crime Agency.

On September 20, Michael John Carroll, aged 69, was arrested at his home in Shropshire and released on bail. Carroll was accused of sexually assaulting two children in the early 1980s.

On October 13, Mark Grainger's (AKA Gary Cooke) plea hearing at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire, went ahead despite his not attending as it was believed he was unwell.

On November 23, Lewis Edwards, aged 18, from Wrexham, was imprisoned for four years, following being convicted of posing as an American Teenage Dance Sensation online, in order to persuade girls as young as ten, to carry out sex acts while he watched.

On November 27, former mineworker, Paul Hignett, aged 62, of Station Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham, was imprisoned for 11 years for a string of sex offences, dating back twenty years, when he was in his mid-40s. He was convicted of 12 charges of indecent assault by a jury at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. Hignett was also placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life, and made subject to an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

On December 5, an amended version of the Macur Report was published, containing previously redacted material information that ex-North Wales Police chief Gordon Anglesea was being investigated by the North Wales force, with a view to prosecution. The persistent claims from witnesses, that 'an incriminating image that showed Mr. Anglesea being involved in illegal sexual activity had existed, and

were subsequently destroyed, according to the Crown Prosecution Service who decided against it', according to the amended report.

2018

On January 18, Michael John Carroll was cleared of the historical sex abuse of a young boy at a Wirral orphanage. Mr. Carroll had been due to stand trial, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to pursue the allegations, and a judge at the Crown Court in Liverpool, formally entered not guilty verdicts on the three charges.

On February 7, Robert Anthony Davies, aged 52, of Box Lane, Borrass, near Wrexham, was described as having 'a degree of IT skill which he used to hide much of his online activity', was imprisoned for 45 months at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire, for what Judge Niclas Parry said, was, 'a disturbing and unhealthy sexual interest in female children, which extended to an interest in the violent abuse, rape and torture of youngsters'. Police investigations said that the number of messages on Mr. Davies' computer, far exceeded anything they had encountered previously.

On March 28, Mark Grainger, also known as Gary Cooke, appeared at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire, via video link from Wakefield Prison. Grainger faced charges of the sexual abuse of a young boy in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He pleaded not guilty to all charges, and was remanded in custody.

On April 10, Steven Hankers, aged 32, of Johnstown, Wrexham, who hacked hundreds of home cameras in order to spy on people having sex, and getting undressed, was imprisoned for six years at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. He was caught when police investigated him over allegations he incited children to perform sexual acts.

On July 12, Darren Richard Laverty published a letter from solicitors Imran Khan and partners on his personal blog, which stated, 'It has been brought to our attention by our client, that publications and statements have been made on Twitter.com, and continue to be made, which suggest or infer that he was involved with the sexual abuse of children, when this is completely false, but which appear to be disseminated with the purpose of harassing, abusing and otherwise humiliating him. We enclose an assortment of such content which has been published on your platform. It is well-known that our client is himself a survivor of sexual abuse, and it could not be more seriously harmful to him as a campaigner and champion of the rights of survivors of sexual abuse, when such false allegations are made of him. Indeed, our firm acts for Mr. Laverty in his capacity as a victim in the ongoing Independent Inquiry into Childhood Sexual Abuse ('IICSA').

A letter which, in part, directly contradicts what Mr. Laverty has himself stated publicly, on several occasions, including an instance online on 2nd March 2016, at 4.54, in a Tweet to @GhandisOBlocked: 'I'm not a survivor or victim of

sexual abuse, just institutional failings and individual assaults by social workers'.

In a public retraction in the Daily Mail newspaper, dated Thursday, February 17, 2000, which stated: 'YESTERDAY in late editions of our article on the Lost In Care report into the abuse of children in care, we said that Darren Laverty had been sexually abused. Whilst Mr. Laverty claimed that he had been beaten and abused in care in North Wales, at no time was he sexually abused. We apologise to him and his family for the distress caused by us saying this'.

On May 5, 1997, another retraction was published in a different newspaper, 'We have been informed by Mr. Darren Laverty, who wished to point out, that, contrary to any implications that might have been taken from an article published on 26th September, 1996, he did not suffer sexual abuse whilst in care. Mr. Laverty started a campaign to help victims of abuse in North Wales, and points out that he has not named anyone as a sexual abuser who has not been convicted. We regret any inconvenience caused, and are happy to clarify the position'.

On July 27, David Daniel Hayes, a suspected child abuser who was one of Europe's most wanted fugitives, was arrested in the south of Spain. Mr. Hayes boarded a plane from Liverpool to Amsterdam in May 2015, and had disappeared. North Wales Police had made a number of appeals – most recently in June – before Europol revealed that the Spanish civil Guard had taken the 39-year-old former press officer from Anglesey, into custody.

On September 10, a 64-year-old man pleaded guilty to abusing a boy under 16 in a case which dated back to the 1970s. Graham Joseph Stridden, from Fleetwood, Lancashire, admitted serious sexual assault and two charges of indecent assault. The offences took place between June 1973 and December 1974, when Stridden was in his late teens. He had been due to stand trial at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. A number of other charges will now lie on file. Judge Rhys Reynolds bailed Stridden, while a pre-sentence report is compiled. He said a custodial sentence will be inevitable.

On September 22, Geoffrey Ian Robinson, aged 57, a former British Transport Police officer, pleaded guilty at Wrexham Magistrates Court, to possessing 10 child abuse videos and images. Robinson was found with the images at his property in Gwersyllt, Wrexham, and sentence was deferred until 18th October.

On October 3, Huw Meurig Jones, aged 70, appeared at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire, charged with 13 counts of sexual abuse, committed between June 1975 and October 1976. It was alleged that he abused one boy at a secure unit at an assessment centre in Wrexham, where he worked as the deputy superintendent, and another at his flat in Colwyn Bay, where he worked as a social worker on an intermediate programme. The two complainants first made allegations against Mr. Jones in 1992, following a major inquiry, but no prosecution was forthcoming. Following a review of earlier decisions by Operation Pallial, Mr. Jones was charged.

The alleged offences occurred at the Little Acton Assessment Centre in Box Lane, Wrexham. Mr. Jones denied all the charges, and the trial was expected to last a week.

On October 16, William James Devereux, aged 69, of Pont-Y-Capel Lane, Gresford, Wrexham, went on trial after being arrested in September 2014. Devereux was accused of putting a shotgun inside a teenagers mouth in 1990, cutting his lip and knocking out three of his teeth, at Wilderness Farm, which adjoined the Bryn Alyn Community, in Llay, near Wrexham. Mr Devereux denied the charge and a trial was set to be held at the Crown Court, Caernarvon in November.

On October 18, a British Transport Police officer, who downloaded the 'most serious kind' of child sexual images, used shredding software to try and hide his crimes, a court heard. Geoffrey Ian Robinson, aged 57, of Hardwick Drive, Gwersyllt, Wrexham, was sentenced to a 12-month prison term, suspended for two years, as well as a rehabilitation order and 200 hours of community service, by Judge Timothy Petts, at the Crown court, Mold, Flintshire.

On November 4, Timothy Mark Williams, aged 54, of Fford Cwstenin, Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, was imprisoned by Judge Huw Rees at the Crown Court, Caernarvon, for 12 years, after admitting sexually assaulting three girls. In addition, Mr. Williams was handed an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order, and must sign the Sex Offenders Register for life. At a prior hearing, Mr. Williams had admitted 23 charges of abuse, which occurred during the 1990s and 200s, on three girls who were aged under 13 at the time.

On November 8, Christopher Griffiths, previously known as Christopher Davies, aged 43, a convicted child rapist, was imprisoned for nine years in 2007, was jailed for a further eight months at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. Mr. Griffiths was imprisoned after admitting seven counts of breaching the requirements of the Sex Offenders Register. An investigation showed that between June 2017, and July 2018, Mr. Griffiths, an ex-North Wales Police officer, from Vaughan Way, Connahs Quay, had changed his name, obtained a passport in the new name, and travelled to Dubai and Mauritius, failed to register a new address, and had obtained a bank card and a credit card without registering the changes with the police.

On December 6, John Anthony Delaney, aged 33, from Wrexham, and John James Purcell, aged 31, from Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, were found guilty of rape and the sex-trafficking of under-age girls from a care home in Wrexham. A third name – Todd James Wickens, of Homestead Lane, Wrexham, was found not guilty. One of the offences related to allegations that Delaney and Purcell took a girl to the Dene Hotel in Chester, Cheshire, where she was raped by several unknown men. The victims were two girls at a home for 'cared for' children in the Wrexham area.

On December 11, Darren Richard Lavery announced on his personal blog, that he was withdrawing from his position as a 'Core Participant' of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), citing: 'The evidence I have seen thus far, has shocked and disappointed me to the extent of becoming distressed, upset and angry. The procedural mechanics of the IICSA have failed in all respects. It seems to me that no-one will benefit from being a CP unless you have something to hide from the public, or unless you are a lawyer who's attached oneself to the inquiry.'

Frankly it's a sickening sight, and I regret ever getting involved. Furthermore, the refusal of the IICSA to investigate the media's role in my case evidences a refusal to see the truth of how they treated me as a victim of child abuse. The very fact that a fabricated document the Observer newspaper and North Wales police concocted in order to try and discredit me (by alleging I took part in a gang rape at the age of 11) was ignored, is enough to ensure myself that the truth was never going to be part of this inquiry. The final straw was the refusal by the IICSA to pay expenses for victims to attend the hearings when their evidence was presented'.

A week later, Darren Richard Lavery, in a comment made on the 'Barth's Notes' website, stated in response to a question about his 11th December blog post: 'I doubt you have any friends. Just for the record the IICSA don't even know about the article you numpty [sic]', which directly contradicted his own statement on his personal blog, which read: 'The very fact that a fabricated document the Observer newspaper and North Wales police concocted in order to discredit me (by alleging that I took part in a gang rape at the age of 11) was ignored

2019

On January 15, Graham Stridgeon, aged 64, had his prison sentence increased after it was referred to the Court of Appeal in London, for being unduly lenient. Mr. Stridgeon was originally sentenced in October 2018 to three and a half years imprisonment at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire. The Court of appeal increased the sentence to five years and ten months, with an extended license period of three years. While in his teens, Mr. Stridgeon sexually abused a fellow resident at the Bryn Alyn Community, 40 years previously, when the victim was under fifteen years of age.

On February 1, Noel Jones, aged 61, had his conviction for the manslaughter of 15-year-old Janet Commins, from Flint, quashed at the Court of appeal.

Also that day, John Ernest Allen, aged 77, made an appearance at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire via a live video link from custody, where he was already serving a lengthy prison sentence for the sexual abuse of boys at the Bryn Alyn Community. He faced a total of 21 charges, to which he pleaded not guilty. Judge Rhys Rowlands adjourned adjourned the case for trial, which was scheduled to take place in October or November, and is expected to last five weeks.

Also, Darren Richard Laverty, aged 51, pleaded guilty at Salisbury Magistrates Court, Wiltshire, to malicious communications, after 'sending an offensive message' to an un-named female barrister. He was sentenced to a Community Order of 80 hours unpaid work, a victim surcharge of £85 and costs of £85. The Crown Prosecution Service dropped a previous charge against Mr. Laverty, for the stalking of two females on May 26, 2017.

On February 8, Leszek Markowski, aged 44, was jailed for eight months for eight months at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire after being caught in possession of thousands of indecent images of children and extreme pornography. Mr. Markowski downloaded 4,766 images and films over an 11-year period

On February 17, Merfyn Jones, aged 52, of Rowden Street, Shotton, Flintshire, was imprisoned for 17 years for a campaign of sexual offences. Jones had denied 13 offences of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault against four complainants when they were children, dating back to the 1990s. He had been unanimously convicted by a jury at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire in December 2018. Judge Rhys Rowlands said that Jones continued to deny the offences, and had shown no remorse.

The next day, Kevin Poole, aged 65, of Gloucestershire, collapsed in the dock following being cleared of abusing children in Wrexham during the 1990s. After the jury returned a verdict of not guilty on all counts, Mr. Poole collapsed, hitting his head. The court was cleared and the Welsh Ambulance Service was called as he lay prone on the floor. The complainants in the case, who were men in their 50s, had alleged that Mr. Poole, a former care worker at the Bryn Alyn Community had sexually touched them and taken photographs.

On March 12, Huw Meurig Jones, aged 69, of Penybryn, Old Colwyn was found guilty at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire on ten counts of sexually abusing boys. Mr. Jones was found guilty of indecency with a child and indecent assault against a male person – a former resident of the Little Acton Assessment Centre, Wrexham in the 1970s. He was also convicted of indecent assaults on a male person and a serious sexual assault against a boy in his care in Colwyn Bay in the 1970s. All the offences occurred between June 1975 and October 1978. Judge Niclas Parry sentenced him to nine years imprisonment.

The next day, Darren Richard Laverty removed both his online personal blogs and his social media accounts.

On March 26, David Daniel Hayes, from Llanrwst, Conwy, a former Bangor City Press Officer, who had previously lived in Buckley, Flintshire, and had been arrested by Spanish police in the City of Grenada where he had been teaching English under

an assumed name. Hayes appeared at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire, after being found guilty on February, of 12 charges, including child rape, sexual assaults against children and inciting them to engage in sexual acts. He was sentenced to 23 years imprisonment by Judge Rhys Rowlands.

On April 11, Peter Booth, aged 74, of St Andrews Avenue, Llandudno was imprisoned for seven years and four months after pleading guilty to four charges of causing or inciting the sexual exploitation of a child under 13, by paying to watch the live abuse via Skype. He had also admitted charges of possessing indecent images of children, having extreme pornography and the distribution of such images.

On June 6, a member of the Coldstream Guards encouraged a 14-year-old girl to drink cider before he sexually assaulted her as she slept in the back of a car in North Wales. Jordan Davies, aged 19, also met another girl aged 14 at the time, in a hotel in the Loughborough area, with the intention of having unprotected sex with her. Davies, from Pwlllelli, but whose address was the Victoria Barracks, Windsor was sentenced at the Crown Court, Mold, Flintshire to four years youth detention..

On July 26, Wrexham-born Carl Beech, sentenced to 18 years imprisonment at Newcastle Crown Court, on 12 counts of perverting the course of justice, fraud, four counts of possessing indecent images of children, and one count of voyeurism. He was also given a two month concurrent sentence for breaching bail when he absconded to Sweden. The 51-year-old, previously known only as a pseudonym 'Nick', was found guilty on Monday, following a trial that lasted 10 weeks. He was convicted of making a number of false allegations - in which he accused and establishment group of abusing, kidnapping, torturing and murdering boys in the late 1970s and early 1980s - which led to a multi-million pound Scotland Yard inquiry, that ended without making a single arrest. Beech claimed the abusers included the former prime minister Edward Heath, D-Day veteran Lord Brammel, the former home secretary Leon Brittan, and the ex-Conservative MP Harvey Proctor. Others that Beech accused, were the former head of MI6 Sir Maurice Oldfield, the Labour Peer Greville Janner, and the former head of MI5, Sir Michael Hanley. He also fraudulently claimed £22,000 in compensation for his fictitious claims of abuse, using some of the money to put down a deposit on a Ford Mustang. Beech also admitted hoarding hundreds of child abuse images, and secretly filming a teenager using the toilet in a separate case, and fled to Sweden before being captured and brought back to the UK. Beech showed no emotion following the sentencing, and Justice Goss commented: 'I'm quite satisfied that you are an intelligent, resourceful, manipulative and devious person.'