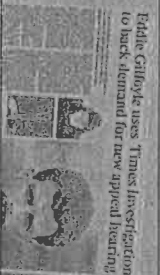


June 12, 2010
Apology casts new doubt over husbands' murder



August 12, 2010



December 23, 2010

Gilfoyle is silenced as price of freedom

March 23, 2011



Gilfoyle finally gets to condemn cover-up that cost him 18 years

OCTOBER 2

1912 Today Sunday 11.15
 come cascade she
 Eminent to Street
 Bubbler
 19 Went to Cadbury with
 Bobbing, Cool Monday Paula,
 Ally. More like's brace, park
 blouse, park jumper.
 1974 to school then went to hundo
 above house. Went to Marks
 we got a job at Juice.
 house. Copied off other job.
 1981 came down in morning he had falling
 in front back. looked after race
 went shopping same Saturday.
 went to Mrs. Swift's garden.
 1982 to work. Had to go to Manor Kel
 to give a statement of Mark.
 he has been charged with murder.
 Main came to pick me up at
 the house. He has raised me up at work.

Mystery of the metal back box that held vital clues to her state of mind

Dominic Kennedy

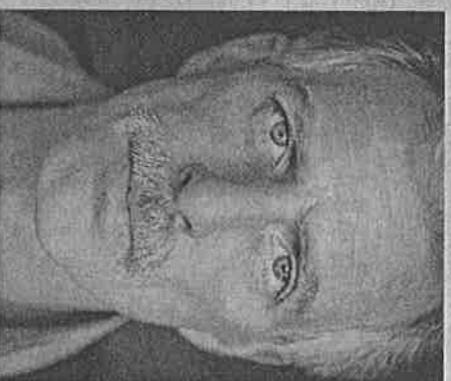
The box containing Paula Gilfoyle's diaries and mementoes was presented to Eddie Gilfoyle's defence team by Merseyside Police in August 2010, but its provenance remains a mystery. Merseyside Police conducted the investigation into Mrs Gilfoyle's death in 1992, resulting in her husband's conviction for murder at Liverpool Crown Court in 1993. But the box had an exhibit-type label on it from Lancashire Constabulary.

This neighbouring force had been invited by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) in 1994 to review the conduct of the murder investigation. Lancashire Constabulary seized some exhibits from the Merseyside force and recategorised them.

It is unclear whether the box was seized by Lancashire detectives during a search of Mrs Gilfoyle's home during their 1994 inquiry or whether the box was evidence that had already been in Merseyside's possession and was relabelled.

The box remained undisclosed throughout Gilfoyle's unsuccessful appeals against conviction in 1995 and 2000.

The mood changed after the events of June 2010. In one of his first acts, the newly appointed Attorney-General, Dominic Grieve, QC, had to apologise to MPs after Parliament was given the wrong information about the Gilfoyle case. The Crown Prosecution Service had drafted a deficient answer for the Solicitor-General, Vera Baird, about the disclosure of evidence in the Gilfoyle prosecution. The CPS apologised to Mrs Baird. In a statement it added: "Should there be



Eddie Gilfoyle, paroled a year ago, continues to protest his innocence

any further queries or requests for clarification, the CPS will try to deal with them as quickly and comprehensively as possible."

Two months later, Matt Foot, Gilfoyle's solicitor, found himself in Merseyside at the invitation of the CPS to see more police exhibits. The box was produced.

Merseyside is saying nothing by way of explanation, pointing out that the Criminal Cases Review Commission is considering the conviction. When *The Times* asked Lancashire Constabulary about the box, it referred the paper to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, which said that its predecessor, the PCA, had only supervised the Gilfoyle review and would not have possessed exhibits.

The relevance to the fairness of Gilfoyle's trial of material that explains Mrs Gilfoyle's personality is hard to exaggerate.

"Paula's state of mind was one of the

Those ready to end it all often learn from others. Did Paula?

David Canter
 Commentary



The ability of people to keep their innermost thoughts hidden from those around them is surely something that juries ought to be reminded of in cases where a death could be suicide or murder. But in 1993, when Eddie Gilfoyle was convicted of the murder of his wife, Paula, no such guidance was given.

The judge noted that 14 witnesses had seen Paula in the weeks and days before her death and she had seemed her usual bubbly self. She was 8½ months pregnant when her body was found hanging in her locked garage and all her friends said that she was looking forward to the birth, so would never have killed herself and the baby.

The court chose to accept the public face of Paula as seen by friends and relatives, however, rather than try to ascertain whether there was something that she was hiding. The new evidence that has become

Missgivings and police blunders at death scene

Behind the story

Eddie Gilfoyle was wrongly convicted and revived when David Canter, the criminal profiler who helped to convict him for murder, wrote in *The Times* that he now believed that he was innocent (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Research into the difference between real and false suicide notes persuaded Professor Canter that Paula Gilfoyle's was genuine. Prosecutors had claimed that Gilfoyle had tricked his wife into writing the note, pretending that he needed it for a course on suicide in his job as a hospital orderly. *The Times* has challenged the safety of the conviction.

The newspaper discovered notes from a Gilfoyle was tricked into writing a suicide note



Leading article, page 2

principal issues in the case," Lord Justice Beldam wrote when rejecting Gilfoyle's first appeal in 1995. In 2000 the Court of Appeal upheld the Crown's position that Mrs Gilfoyle's suicide note had been "false, completely out of character and did not represent her true state of mind."

Over the years appeal judges had been clearly impressed by the evidence of Mrs Gilfoyle's sunny nature. Repeatedly rejecting her husband's protestations of innocence, the judges kept sending him back to prison, accepting the Crown's case that she was too exuberant and happy to take her own life.

The discovery of a padlocked box containing her diaries, and the treated possessions that she kept until her dying day provides a disturbing insight into what mattered to her most.

The newly found diaries record that she once took an overdose after an argument with a boyfriend and blamed him for her self-harm.

Her adolescence was marred by the trauma of an intimate engagement with an older teenage boy. This first love was a suicidal young man who repeatedly threatened to take his life. He had sex with another girl then murdered her.

Far from ending the relationship, Mrs Gilfoyle bought him a wedding ring while he was in jail serving a life sentence. Without any squeamishness, she collected his bloodstained clothes from the police station. She also collected, cut out and kept the distressing press newspaper coverage of his conviction and suicide attempts.

A later boyfriend, whom she dated in her 20s, sent her a note threatening suicide and she carefully preserved this, with her other keepsakes, until the day she was found hanging.

available in a locked black metal box provides an insight into Paula's character that was not available at the original trial or in Eddie's two appeals. It shows that in a private letter to Paula, a partner wrote: "The only time I see you happy is when your friends are around when they call you're a different person."

It was known at the trial that her teenage boyfriend had killed a girl, and it was claimed that Paula had got over this and expunged him from her life. But the tokens in the box show she had kept in a relationship with him.

The proposal at the trial was that Eddie had dictated the suicide note found in Paula's handwriting. The way the note had absolved Eddie from any culpability was taken as an indication of why he had dictated it in that way. In Paula's secret box, however, was a suicide note in which a previous partner had said: "don't blame yourself" — words repeated in Paula's suicide note. Research shows that people who kill themselves learn from other suicides. Was this something Paula had learnt to write from the note that she had carefully preserved? Professor David Canter is director of the International Research Centre for Investigative Psychology at the University of Huddersfield