

The Highthorpe Herald

Murder Special!

Gruesome murder of Roy O'Leary, a village mourns!

Roy O'Leary, 76, who lived at Albion House, Highthorpe, was a very wealthy man, having inherited family money and made more through wise investments. He had three grown-up children: Gillian (a sculptor, married to motorcycle dealer Alan Trode), crime novelist Regina (married to Cornelius Khan, an accountant), and young Corey, who is a naturalist. Two years ago O'Leary married a much younger woman, Janis, a former model and actress. It is generally believed that there is some tension between Janis and her stepchildren.

Horror

O'Leary was found dead in his study at 6 pm yesterday, stabbed several times in the chest with his own paperknife (which was left on the scene, but had been wiped clean of fingerprints). There was a look of horror on his face. The body was found when the family servant Atkins, who also lived in the house, came in to the study with the tea that O'Leary had earlier requested to be made for him at that time.

Heated lunch

O'Leary had seen all the people named above at lunch, between 1 and 3 yesterday afternoon, after which he announced that he was going to his study to rewrite his will. (Rumour has it that the lunch was a rather heated affair.) All remained at the house throughout the afternoon. Atkins was stood on duty outside the main door to O'Leary's study all afternoon, and reports that no-one entered or left the room. It does, though, also have patio doors leading onto the garden, which were normally kept locked. They can be opened with a key (held by O'Leary) from the outside, or a handle from the inside. They are shut simply by being pulled or pushed.

Lack of will

Although O'Leary said that he was going to be rewriting his will, and he was found seated at his desk with writing materials out, no will has been found at the scene.

Lady Henrietta Crane – twenty years on

It's now two decades since the death, by poisoning, of beloved local landowner Lady Henrietta Crane. A suspect was arrested at the time, but the murder charges against them were dropped, for lack of evidence – and since then, the police investigation seems to have been completely moribund.

Will Lady Henrietta's shocking death ever be avenged? It seems unlikely, now that so much time has passed since the event.

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