

Hilda Murrell: 'Trying to bring the truth to the surface' BBC Wales Live

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- *Corresponding from* BBC Wales Live
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"I sometimes feel that I know Hilda Murrell very well - here we are 40 years since her murder and still talking about her. Her name and everything she did before she was killed comes to the surface once again to remind you that someone has killed a special woman."

In 1984 the anti-nuclear campaigner Hilda Murrell was murdered and her body was found in a forest on the outskirts of Shrewsbury three days after she disappeared.

More than forty years later questions are still being asked about the 78-year-old woman and what exactly happened to her on that day in March 1984.

With some suspecting that the secret services were involved in her death, there is a new program on S4C [Who killed Hilda Murrell?](#) looking into his story.

One who worked on the story at the time for the Wales This Week program is the journalist David Williams, he spoke to Cymru Fwyw.

He said: "It's 40 years and the thing that struck me looking back is that nothing much has changed."

David remembers the police response to the murder: "The big question was why did the police take 3 days before going to look for Hilda?"

"The police knew that the car was almost on its side in the ditch the first day. Did they say that they drove a policeman to the house and that he found the door open and the light on but nothing wrong.

"What they were saying was that someone had broken into her house and whoever was responsible put her in their own car, put a hat on her head and drove her through town, past the police station and out into the country and took her out of the car and took her across a muddy field in the middle of the day, into the forest and left her to die of the cold.

"We had interviewed the man who owned this land and he was in the woods with his dog on the day the police said the body was there. He denied there was a body there and said he and his dog would have seen it.

"If all that is true, where was Hilda Murrell for two days? And that's where we started the whole story.

"When I look back, I still don't think the police answered those questions.

"If the police didn't want to bury the story they put a sort of *delay* on the whole thing and didn't move as you would expect the police to move when a woman was 78 years old and her car was left out in the country.

"You then have to think - were they under some kind of pressure from God and whose men not to do what they should do?

"And this is where the *conspiracy theories* begin."

Conspiracies

Although a man called Andrew George is now in prison for the murder of Hilda Murrell, there are a number of theories about her death. Former Member of Parliament Tam Dalyell claimed that the secret services were involved in the death and her family say in the program that one of Mr Dalyell's sources was a famous and experienced former MI6 officer.

Hilda Murrell's nephew, Commander Robert Green, worked in the Navy, with some claiming that he was involved in the sinking of the Belgrano (*the Argentinian ship that was sunk by a British submarine in 1982*), but Mr Green says that he was not part of that decision.

The program also discusses the possibility that the secret services are investigating Hilda because she is an anti-nuclear campaigner as she was at the time writing a paper for a public inquiry into the development of the Sizewell B nuclear power station.

So what is David's theory?

He said: "I'm not a *conspiracist* as a journalist, but something has happened here especially when you put into the *mix* Robert Green who was a commander in the Royal Navy at the time of the Falklands war.

"Was his name coming into the frame - at the time people thought he was responsible for leaving secret papers in the house of his aunt Hilda Murrell. He has denied this all along.

"If someone deserves credit for keeping the story alive, he and his wife should get that credit. They are still trying to bring the truth to the surface with this."

Prison

Twenty years after Hilda Murrell's murder and with the help of DNA technology developments, Andrew George was arrested for her murder and sentenced in 2005 to at least 13 years in prison. He remains in prison to this day.

Andrew George was 16 on the day of Hilda's murder and some, including her family, have raised questions about his guilt.

David said: "Andrew George is denying that he killed her - I believe him. If that is true this man has been in prison for 20 years and they have refused him parole two or three times.

"Andrew George has admitted that he was at Hilda Murrell's house and I believe him when he says there were other people there. I don't believe he drove her through town. Was he 16 years old - couldn't he drive.

"If he is telling the truth and there are other people in the house they know the truth.

"Then someone else is responsible. The big question is who and that's where the story explodes *into* all kinds of conspiracies.

"I think one person knows what the truth is, and that person is Andrew George. He knows."

West Mercia Police have received a request for a response from BBC Wales Live.

Watch [*Who Killed Hilda Murrell?*](#) on S4C with the second part on 29 October at 9.00 or both parts are available on BBC iplayer.