13.10.2022

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Erthygl i'r Wasg **Press Release**

Heddlu De Cymru ar drywydd llofrudd o 1979

Gan ddefnyddio technegau modern gwyddoniaeth DNA mae Heddlu De Cymru ar drywydd llofrudd sydd wedi llwyddo i osgoi cael ei ddal ers dros 40 mlynedd.

Ar brynhawn Gwener, y 5ed o Hydref 1979 fe ddiflannodd gyrrwr tacsi o Gaerdydd. Roedd Jack Armstrong wedi ymateb i alwad i gasglu teithiwr o ardal Fairwater yn y Brifddinas ond toc wedi un y pnawn oedd y tro diwethaf i unrhyw un glywed gan Jack.

Dyma ddechrau ar un o'r ymchwiliadau mwyaf erioed ar y pryd i Heddlu De Cymru ond methodd eu hymdrechion gyda'r achos yn parhau'n ddirgelwch am dros 40 mlynedd.

Ond nawr ma tîm newydd o dditectifs ac arbenigwyr fforensig yn ail edrych ar dystiolaeth yr achos ac mewn rhaglen ddogfen arbennig ar S4C ar 25 Hydref cawn fynediad egscliwsif tu ôl i ddrysau caeedig yr ymchwiliad. Mae **Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong** yn dilyn y tîm wrth iddyn nhw geisio dod o hyd i'r llofrudd.

Mae'r ditectif Huw Griffiths yn gweithio yn Uned Adolygu Troseddau Difrifol Heddlu De Cymru ac yn benderfynol o gael cyfiawnder i deulu Jack Armstrong.

"Oedd e tua un o'r gloch ar ddydd Gwener, 5 Hydref ac roedd galwad ffôn i Castle Cabs yng nghanol Caerdydd i ofyn am dacsi," meddai Huw. "Roedd dyn wedi rhoi ei enw fel Mr Williams - roedd e'n gofyn am dacsi o Fairwater yng ngorllewin Caerdydd i ardal y Bontfaen."

Yn hwyrach y noson honno, fe gafodd yr heddlu eu galw i ardal Treoes, pentref bach tu allan i Benybont - bron i 20 milltir o Gaerdydd. Roedd trigolyn o'r ardal wedi ffonio i ddweud bod car wedi cael ei adael ar lôn ddiarffordd. Tacsi Jack Armstrong oedd y car.

Meddai Huw: "Pan ddaeth yr heddlu - roedd e'n amlwg bod rhywbeth difrifol wedi digwydd - roedd gwaed yn y tacsi ond dim sôn o Jack. Felly'r cwestiwn mawr oedd 'lle oedd Jack?'."

Yn yr oriau ar ôl marwolaeth Jack, gwelwyd dyn gan lygad dystion, yn glanhau tu mewn i'r car. Cafodd y dyn yma ei ddisgrifio tua 20 mlwydd oed.

Meddai Huw: "Felly, os ych chi'n gwneud y maths, mae siawns da bod y dyn yma dal yn fyw. Da ni'n gwybod bod y dyn yma wedi bod yn beryglus iawn yn 1979 - beth arall mae'r dyn yma wedi gwneud yn y deugain mlynedd ddiwetha'?"

Ar ôl tridiau o chwilio'n fanwl, cafodd corff Jack ei ddarganfod gan aelodau o'r cyhoedd ar dir comin ger y Bontfaen, ychydig dros bum milltir o leoliad y tacsi.

Mae merch Jack, Jean Heath, yn croesawi’r gwaith newydd ar achos llofruddiaeth ei thad a’n dal i gofio’r ergyd echrydus yn 1979.

Meddai Jean: “Fe es i mewn i sioc i ddweud y gwir. Oedd rhaid imi gael *injection, sedative* oherwydd fe oeddwn ni yn dioddef gyda trawma. Os gallen nhw ddarganfod beth yn union ddigwyddodd, galla i roi nhad orffwys yn iawn.”

Deugain mlynedd yn ôl, roedd tystiolaeth llygad dystion yn allweddol i’r ymchwiliad ac mae datganiadau’r tystion hynny dal yn bwysig i’r tîm sy’n ail-edrych ar dystiolaeth yr achos.

Ond yn ôl Huw, gwaith fforensig yw’r allwedd i ddatrys yr achos hwn. Mae Uned Adolygu Troseddau Difrifol Heddlu De Cymru eisoes wedi llwyddo i ddatrys achosion hanesyddol eraill trwy ddefnyddio technegau fforensig modern ar hen dystiolaeth.

Meddai Huw: “Mae technegau DNA wedi datblygu gymaint dros y deugain mlynedd ddiwetha', mae siawns go dda gyda ni i ddweud yn gwmws pwy oedd wedi lladd Jack Armstrong.”

Mae tystiolaeth yr achos, gan gynnwys dillad Jack, wedi eu storio’n ofalus gan yr heddlu am dros bedwar deg mlynedd ac mae’n bosib bod y llofrudd wedi gadael olion DNA wrth iddynt ymosod ar Jack - dyna beth yw gobaith yr arbenigwyr sy’n gweithio ar yr achos.

Gwyliwch **Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong** ar nos Fawrth 25 Hydref am 9.00 i ddarganfod mwy am yr achos hwn ac am waith diflino Heddlu De Cymru i ddod â chyfiawnder i deulu Jack Armstrong.

Yn ogystal â chlywed gan ferch Jack, Jean Heath, clywn hefyd gan sawl un sy’n cofio’r achos gan gynnwys aelod o’r Uned Adolygu Troseddau Difrifol Gerry Blake a weithiodd ar yr achos yn blismon ifanc, llygad-dystion o’r cyfnod a’r newyddiadurwyr David Williams o Wales Today a Menna Richards cyn-ohebydd gyda Newyddion BBC Cymru.

Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong
Nos Fawrth 25 Hydref 9.00, S4C
Isdeitlau Saesneg
Ar alw: S4C Clic, iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill
Cynhyrchiad ITV Cymru ar gyfer S4C

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Erthygl i'r Wasg **Press Release**

South Wales Police on the trail of a murderer from 1979

Using modern scientific DNA techniques, South Wales Police are on the trail of a murderer who has escaped capture for more than 40 years.

On the afternoon of Friday, 5 October 1979, a taxi driver from Cardiff vanished. Jack Armstrong had answered a call to pick up a fare from the Fairwater area of the capital city and shortly after one o' clock in the afternoon was the last time anyone heard from Jack.

This was the beginning of what was at the time, one of South Wales Police's biggest investigations but their efforts were unsuccessful and the case remained a mystery for 40 years.

But now a new team of detectives and forensic experts are re-examining the evidence, with a special documentary on S4C on 25 October offering exclusive behind the scenes access to the investigation. **Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong** (The Murder of Jack Armstrong) follows the team as they try to find the murderer.

Detective Huw Griffiths works in South Wales Police's Major Crime Review Unit and he is determined to get justice for Jack Armstrong's family.

"It was about one o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, 5 October and there was a phone call to Castle Cabs in the middle of Cardiff asking for a taxi," said Huw. "The man gave his name as Mr Williams – he asked for a taxi from Fairwater, in the West of Cardiff to Cowbridge."

Later that evening, police were called to the Treoes area – a small village outside Bridgend – nearly 20 miles from Cardiff. A resident from the area had called to say that a car had been left on a secluded road. The car was Jack Armstrong's taxi.

Huw said: "When the police came – it was obvious that something serious had happened. There was blood in the taxi and there was no sign of Jack. So the big question was – where was Jack?"

In the hours after Jack's death, eye witnesses saw a man cleaning the inside of the car. This man was described as around 20 years old.

Huw said: "So, if you do the maths, there's a good chance that this man is still alive. We know that this man was very dangerous in 1979 – what else has this man done in the last 40 years?"

After three days of intensive searching, Jack's body was found by members of the public on common land near Cowbridge, just over five miles from the location of the taxi.

Jack's daughter Jean Heath welcomes the new work on the case of her father's murder and she still remembers hearing the shocking news in 1979.

"I just went into shock really, you know. I had to have an injection, a sedative because I was just traumatised. If they can find out exactly what happened, my father can be put to rest properly," said Jean.

Forty years ago, eye-witness evidence was key to the investigation and those testimonies are still important to the team who are re-examining evidence from the case.

But according to Huw, forensic work is the key to solving this case. The South Wales Police Major Crime Review Unit has already succeeded in solving historical cases by using modern forensic techniques and old evidence.

Huw said: "DNA techniques have developed so much over the last 40 years. So there's a really good chance that that we can find out exactly who murdered Jack Armstrong."

Evidence from the case, including Jack's clothes have been carefully stored by the police for more than 40 years and it's possible that the murderer left traces of their DNA when they attacked Jack – and that is the hope of the specialists working on the case.

Watch **Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong** on Tuesday 25 October at 9.00pm to find out more about this case and about South Wales Police's tireless work to bring justice to Jack Armstrong's family, especially his daughter Jean who speaks about her father and the pain she still feels after his death.

During the programme we see the complicated and detailed work behind looking for DNA traces. But what will be the result for Huw and the team? Will forensics and DNA help catch Jack Armstrong's murderer?

We also hear from several people who remember the case including a member of the Major Crime Review Unit, Gerry Blake who worked on the case as a young police officer, eye witnesses from the time and journalists David Williams from Wales Today and Menna Richards, a former reporter with Newyddion BBC Cymru.

Llofruddiaeth Jack Armstrong
Tuesday 25 October 9.00, S4C
English subtitles available
On demand: S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms
An ITV Cymru production for S4C