

# John Taylor: Murder of Leanne Tiernan



# Who is John Taylor

- Many people viewed him as a normal guy
- However, he had personal problems with his marriage and their 2 children
- Got divorced and lived alone
- Always had a passion for hunting
- Found pleasure in inflicting pain, torturing, and stabbing small animals



# Murder of Leanne Tiernan

- Date of Disappearance and Murder November 26, 2000
- Became the largest West Yorkshire investigation
- More than 1,000 properties were searched, a 3-mile stretch of canal was drained and rubbish collections were halted
- Family made public appeals and police released an e-fit of a man seen walking a dog around the area at the time



# How was the victim found?

- Body found 8 months later on August 18, 2001 by a local dog walker in Lindley Woods where she died of strangulation
- When she was found she had a black plastic bag over her head, held in place with a dog collar, with a scarf and cable tie around her neck, and cable ties holding her wrists together. Body was wrapped in green bin liners tied with twine



# Evidence

**Dog Collar-** Police tracked down the supplier who had computerized records and found that a man named John Taylor had bought many of those collars

**Twine-** Tracked back to the supplier in Devon where they only produced one batch of that twine since it was an unusual type; bought by John Taylor

**Cable Ties-** These ties were specifically used by the company “Royal Mail”, which was the parent company of John Taylor’s employers called “Parcel Force”

# Hair analysis

- Strands of hair was found on the scarf
- However, there was not enough sufficient DNA in the roots to conduct a DNA profile
- However, the scientists found very small amounts of DNA in the hair shaft and used mitochondrial DNA testing to match it to John Taylor.



# Pollen Analysis

- Found different types of pollen in Leanne's nasal cavity, skin, and matched with the pollen found in John Taylor's garden
- Inferring that Leanne was at John's house



# Dog DNA Profiling

- Dog hair was found on Leanne's body
- Scientists in Texas produced a partial dog DNA profile
- First time a British murder investigation had used dog DNA profiling
- However, they were unable to link the hair to John's dog since it had died





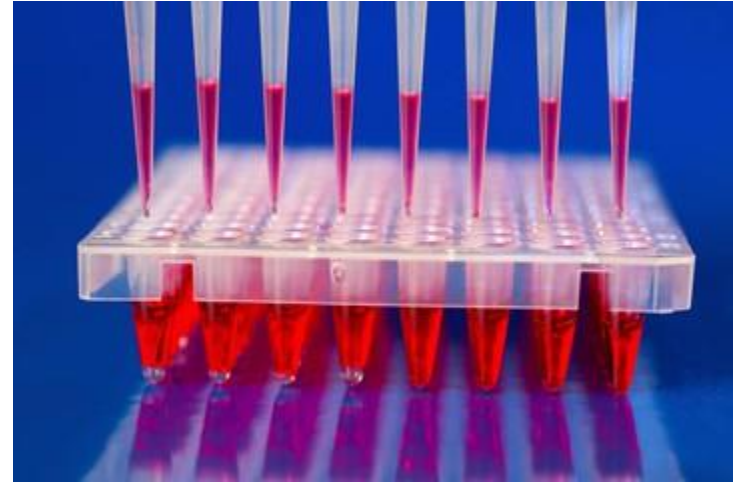
# Carpet fiber analysis

- Scientist found a strand of pink carpet fiber on Leanne's clothing
- John tried to burn the carpet but some carpet fibers were found attached to John's house



# DNA Analysis

- Bloodstains were found under the floorboards in John's house
- The blood was analyzed and matched Leanne's DNA



## The Arrest:

- John Taylor was arrested on October 16, 2001 outside his home



# Trial

- John's trial was in 2002 at the Leed's Crown Court
- He was represented by defense lawyer Graham Stowe Bateson
- Despite all the evidence against him, John only admitted to kidnapping Leanne, but not killing her
- He said that she had fallen off his bed and banged her head. believing she was dead, he had lifted her using the scarf that was around her neck and buried her in the woods



# Prosecutor

- Prosecutor Robert Smith stated that it wasn't certain whether or not she had been sexually abused. However, the motive for sexual gratification was there
- Examination on Tiernan's body had concluded that the degree of decomposition was not consistent with burial in the ground for many months, as Taylor had suggested.
- The judge therefore concluded that he had kept the body for some time in his deep freeze, perhaps as a trophy or to avoid detection, before burying it in the woods.



# Guilty or Innocent

- On July 8, 2002 showing no emotion John pleaded guilty to kidnap and murder of Leanne
- Sentence to two counts of life imprisonment



# Crime Timeline

**26 November 2000** - Leanne Tiernan disappears from Houghley Gill at approx 5pm.

**1 December 2000** - Leanne's mom makes her first public appeal on the news about Leanne's disappearance.

**21 December 2000** - Police make an appeal on the National and local news, saying that a man with a dog was seen nearby to the time and place where Leanne disappeared.

**18 August 2001** - A local dog walker discovers Leanne's body in woodland in Leeds called Lindley Woods.

**16 October 2001** - Taylor arrested for the abduction and murder of Leanne Tiernan.

**8 July 2002** - Taylor pleads guilty to abducting and murdering Leanne. He is found guilty and is sentenced to two life sentences.

# Technology

- If advance technology was around maybe they could have found fingerprints on the the collar, trash bags, and etc and search for it on the fingerprint database that we have now days.
- Overall, the forensics scientist did a great job of gathering the evidence from hair, pollen, and DNA analysis



# My Opinion

- In my opinion he was definitely guilty as all the evidence pointed towards him. The items she was buried with all pointed towards John and the evidence of fibers and DNA found in his house also proved him to be guilty.
- If I was there to investigate I would have probably done the search for her body differently looking in different areas and using search dogs to try to find her

## **Work Cited:**

<http://www.exploreforensics.co.uk/forensic-cases-murder-leanne-tiernan.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1338234/Police-plead-for-help-as-missing-girl-is-found-strangled-in-woods.html>