

BRAVE SISTERS OPEN UP ON LIFETIME OF SEXUAL ABUSE

We had a life of pain, terror and brutality, but finally our voices are heard

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN BREEN
Crime Editor

THREE brave sisters who suffered years of horrific abuse by their evil uncle and grandfather have opened up on their "lifetime of pain".

Rachel Hunt, 47, along with her siblings Ann Marie, 45, and Janice, 42, waived their right to anonymity after their twisted uncle Gerard Towers, 63, was caged for ten years at the Central Criminal Court in Dublin last month.

Rachel told The Irish Sun on Sunday: "That animal subjected my sisters and I to a life of sheer terror, pain and brutality but our voices have now been heard and we have justice."

Vile Towers - who once worked as a caretaker at a primary school in Dublin's north inner city and was first accused of abuse in 1996 by another parent - received the huge prison sentence after pleading guilty to a staggering 262 charges.

They included the rape and sexual assault of Rachel and also the sexual assault and indecent assault of her younger sisters on multiple occasions between 1983 and 1996.

Although Towers is now languishing in the Midlands Prison in Co Laois, the three survivors of the monster - who all had to undergo therapy to help them cope with their trauma - have broken their silence in the hope of encouraging others to come forward.

The siblings, from Sheriff Street in north inner city Dublin, embarked on their quest for justice despite facing verbal abuse on the streets and online taunts from the paedophile's supporters.

Rachel - who suffered from sepsis, an eating disorder and lost three stone due to the stress caused by her nightmare - was first abused by grandfather Eddie Towers between the age of seven and 11.

Once that sicko's abuse stopped due to a house move, she was then targeted by her depraved uncle Gerard.

He used the properties where he lived at 49 Sean O'Casey Avenue and St Laurence Mansions to abuse all three of the innocent children.

The sicko - who operated by giving his victims sweets and money as part of his plan to "normalise" the abuse - would then go on to rape and sexually assault her until she was 13.

But now the siblings have helped convict "opportunistic sexual predator" Towers - who was classified as "high risk" by the probation service after a pre-sentencing assessment - they have vowed to rebuild their lives.

They made the promise after it emerged the sadist is suspected of attacking at least EIGHT other women during his reign of terror in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

Brave Rachel said: "My one wish and something that I prayed for was that someone would come in and save me, but nobody ever did - I had to do that for myself as an adult.

"I feel the sickness is the price I am paying for what happened to me - not being able to tell anyone for all these years. I will always stand strong and proud, and I will never back down from the truth and justice I deserve for what I went through as that scared child.

"The heavy chains I carried for all of these years are no longer mine to carry and never were what was done to me was pure evil. There are no words in the dictionary to describe what he did to me."

Rachel added: "I know for a fact there are other victims out there and it's never too late for them to come forward. I am so proud of my two sisters for standing up to a monster and to all of those who never believed us - shame on them.

"I can't thank my husband Mark, members of the community, my family and my two sisters enough for helping me through this nightmare. The One in Four support group were also amazing and I can't thank them enough.

"That animal will always be Predators... Eddie, left, & Gerard

Towers deserves to rot in hell



BRAVE BATTLE
Ann Marie, Rachel & Janice faced vile abuse as they took on their evil uncle

LONG FIGHT FOR JUSTICE
Ann Marie, left, and Rachel with a photo of themselves & sis Janice during childhood hell



EVIL GRANDPA AND UNCLE HORROR REIGN

a danger to children and thankfully now he's in a place where he can't prey on innocent kids - he deserves to rot in hell."

Ann Marie - who was the first targeted by Towers when she was just seven and continues to suffer from panic attacks - said she had lived in a "prison cell" until her decision to speak out.

She said: "I was a child and this abuse became a normal part of my life.

"I was too young to speak out then but now I have played a part in exposing a monster and paedophile. I often wonder how an adult could have done that to their own niece - he's nothing more than pure evil.

"Since coming forward, it has been the toughest three years of my life and I've suffered flashbacks, nightmares and sleepless nights.

"I have to show my kids to always stand up and protect themselves - only now I am learning to believe in myself and want to learn how to start to feel safe.

"Without the support of my two beautiful sisters I don't think I would ever have got through this. Their strength has given me a reason to go on and my heart is so heavy for what they went through.

"I also want to thank my four amazing daughters - the strength they have shown me kept me going on days when I wanted to give up."

And Janice - who was abused by the fiend between the ages of seven and 16 - said she is still haunted by the abuse "every single day."

She added: "I still have vivid memories of being abused in the house I grew up in. It was part of my everyday life and still is. Every opportunity he had he abused us - aiding him was a constant battle.

"What happened to me has had a major impact on my health. I have always had problems with my breathing and with my stomach.

"I have always had problems with my breath from my asthma and suffered a lot with pneumonia to this day. This has destroyed my family. I now want a happy and normal life for myself, my partner, my son, my parents, my two sisters, my brothers and my close friends.

"Their support has given me the courage and strength to see that I deserve to be happy.

"I want to live my life. I want to believe in myself. It was extremely hard speaking out but we did it and were completely vindicated. I would also like to thank my son, my partner and my best friend Michelle Byrne who has been amazing to all of us."

Cops couldn't charge their grandfather as he died in 1998 but concluded that had also abused them.

Following Towers' sentence on November 14, Rachel paid tribute to the Garda investigation team, run by Sgt Michael O'Donnell and Det Sgt Shane Noone from Store Street Garda Station. She told us: "I can't thank them enough - they were with us every step of the way.

"It's important for other victims to realise that help is there and they will be treated in a very professional and sensitive manner."

BRAVE SURVIVOR'S BID TO HELP OTHERS LIKE HER



Question... O'Dowd

TD seeks low-cost retrofit of gaff loan

By MARK MAY

A TD has called for new low interest loans for people to retrofit their homes, adding that fitting heat pumps in older pads is "a waste of time". Fergus O'Dowd quizzed Environment Minister Eamon Ryan in the Dail this week after he was contacted by people who invested in retrofits and now can't pay their bills. Ministers set a target of upgrading 500,000 homes to a Building Energy Rating of at least B2 by 2030. But retrofitting a home can cost €70,000 before grants.

Heat pumps offer a more eco-friendly way to heat homes. However, the pad must be airtight and well-insulated for it to work efficiently.

Since 2017, nearly all new houses in Ireland come with a heat pump. But Fine Gael's O'Dowd says the Government must point some people in another direction.

He told The Irish Sun on Sunday: "We need other solutions that allow people to retrofit their homes. I am getting complaints from people who have installed heat pumps and cannot pay the electricity costs. "Heat pumps are great for new builds, but if you have an older house, then forget about it. You're wasting your time as the costs are astronomical to bring it up to the standard required. It doesn't make financial sense to a lot of people."

"I had a builder looking at my own house advising against one because it's too old. So people need to know there are other ways to retrofit your house, not just the heat pump."

Minister Ryan said the State plans to offer low cost loans but EU issues are holding things up.

But Mr O'Dowd told us: "Perhaps he could accelerate the process."

Drug raid gear find

A CAMPERVAN, watches and designer handbags were among a haul seized by cops following a raid on a drugs gang.

Officers conducted a multi-agency search targeting serious crime and the sale and supply of drugs at Stockhole Lane, in north Dublin, on Friday.

Watches, designer clothing, a campervan, a low-loader truck and €15,740 cash were found during the operation.

"One man, aged in his late 30s, was arrested during by gardai for obstruction and has since been released.

He will appear before the Criminal Courts of Justice on July 7.



Tormentor... evil husband Mark

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN BREEN
Crime Editor

A BRAVE mum of four has revealed how her twisted ex-partner threatened to pour boiling water over her as he forcibly removed her eyelash extensions.

It's just one of the many horrifying incidents of domestic abuse that Louise Jackson, 42, suffered during her relationship with evil husband Mark, from Clondalkin in Dublin.

But the Kildare woman's nine years of terror are now at an end after the coward, also 42, was jailed for five years by Judge Martin Nolan at Naas Circuit Court last Thursday.

The former ice cream van man, who made a grovelling apology to the court, received the sentence after pleading guilty to coercive control. Other charges including two brutal assaults, threats to kill, cruelty and criminal damage were also taken into account by the judge.

Following his conviction, Louise waived her right to anonymity to reveal how she tried to take her own life in 2020 due to his sustained campaign of intimidation, beatings and psychological torture.

"She told The Irish Sun on Sunday: "There was a time when I loved my husband so much - before he became a master of manipulation and a monster."

"I still can't believe he once threatened to pour boiling water over my head if I moved when he was pulling out my eyelash extensions, just because I was running a few minutes late. This is the type of terror I lived under for nine years.

"Looking back, I didn't even realise the extent of the abuse. I was very much brainwashed as well.

"He just wore me down physically, mentally and emotionally - he made me feel I was nothing without him.

"I tried to take my own life on one occasion because I just couldn't take any more but I am here now and continuing to fight for a better future for my children."

Louise added: "There were other times when I thought, 'If he kills me, what will happen to my children? Who will look after them if he goes to prison?' I used to worry my kids would find me dead one night.

"I chose to do this alone - I made the decision to go through the legal process because I didn't want others suffering the harassment and the threats. He was a dangerous man.

"A lot of the abuse, I didn't even realise it was abuse. And a lot of the time I felt as if I deserved it. This is the way your mind works. Everything is twisted. He beat me black and blue and I was crushed.

"I tried to make a peaceful home and pray that things would improve, but in the end I just gave up. I had



I tried to take my life on one occasion because I couldn't take any more

Rebuilding her life... Louise has started a course at college and, below, our coverage of beast's sentencing



to come forward to protect myself and my children.

"I wasn't even allowed to be with my mother alone in the hospital before she passed away and he had me detached from reality."

Louise's family finally became aware of her trauma when she was attacked by Mark on October 12, 2019. On that occasion, her family had to be informed because of the serious injuries she had sustained.

Following the assault, Louise and her children were then brought to a women's refuge centre as the Garda investigation got under way.

Another assault included him attacking her on the Blessington

Road in front of her children. Over the coming months, the brave mother and her children had to stay at different locations as Mark continued to threaten her, intimidate her and harass her, despite being the subject of court barring orders.

She also spent time with the Peter McVerry Trust as she continued to recover from her terrifying ordeal.

During his reign of terror, Mark used many forms of coercive control. This included bombarding her with mobile phone calls if she was running late, interrogating her for hours, banning her from seeing male doctors, cancelling medical appointments, taking images of her in her

underwear without her consent and orchestrating a smear campaign against her from his prison cell.

On one occasion, he rang her 64 times because she was late returning home. The coercive control also involved him humiliating her, laughing at her, threatening her family and threatening to kill her if she left.

Other forms of torture included intimidating her outside the court, threatening to spray-paint her mum's home after she died, damaging her car and pouring milk on her.

The physical attacks also included beating her with a brush, choking her and kicking her repeatedly in the back garden of their home. Other

forms of torture included stopping her from taking showers and preventing her from joining loved ones on special family occasions.

Louise spoke for the first time about her abuse in the hope of encouraging other terrified women to break their silence.

"And she also urged women to be "mindful" of the early signs of coercive control.

She said: "Coercive control can come into anyone's life and before you know it, it has full control and has consumed you."

"If I hadn't spoken out or contacted the Gardai no one would ever have known my story. We



Waiving anonymity... Louise tells Irish Sun's Stephen Breen about her nine-year ordeal

Monster husband threatened to pour boiling water on me MUM-OF-4 REVEALS HORROR OF ABUSE

need to educate people about the dangers of coercive control.

"I don't know where I got the strength but it's important to come forward and report everything. I just want to give hope to others.

"Women are being pushed to breaking point and we need to end the stigma and shame associated with these awful crimes."

Now that the coward is behind bars, Louise's focus is on building a life for herself and her family. As part of her efforts for a brighter future, she has also undertaken a new course at college and is back working.

She added: "I won't waste my life

and I am determined to build a brighter future for my children.

"I have wasted so much of my life in fear. My life was on hold but not anymore. There are no winners in cases like this - especially where children are involved."

And the brave mum also paid tribute to Det Garda Louise Long and the investigation team at Naas Garda Station.

The investigation was run by Det Garda Long, Garda Lorna Flynn, Garda Karen Tuohy and Det Sgt Gearoid McCarthy under the command of Supt Oliver Henry.

The coercive control victim added: "Det Garda Long was my

light at the end of the tunnel. The Gardai left no stone unturned when investigating this case.

"I felt heard for the first time because I had been previously disappointed with the judicial system because of the vast amounts of time he had been breaching the barring orders.

"Det Long gave me hope and it's important for victims to realise that help is out there and they will get there in the end."

Louise also thanked the

Sentence... Judge Nolan

Director of Public Prosecutions, Women's Aid, the Peter McVerry Trust, her children's school, Victim Support and Tusla for their support as she continued her quest for justice.

Supt Henry said: "Any person who is subject to abuse in the home should speak to a family member, a friend, a support group or An Garda Stochana.

"I would like to compliment the divisional protective services unit on their excellent work."

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STRICTLY EXCLUSIVE

HELEN'S SECRET DANCE GONG

COP WHO FOUND BODIES



EXCLUSIVE
ASHLEY STALKER NICKED

SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

Haunted by murder of Chadha boys

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN BREEN, Crime Editor
A RETIRED garda says finding two murdered boys in the boot of evil dad Sanjeev Chada's car "is one of the worst things" he ever had to deal with.
Ex-cop Brian Kilkelly discovered the bodies of brothers Eoghan, ten, and Ruairi, five, in July 2013.
He said: "It's a sight that will never leave me."
Full Story — Pages 6 and 7



Tragic boys . . . Brian, right, found the bodies of Eoghan and Ruairi



CHILLING DISCOVERY IN KILLER'S CAR

LEO'S TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL COLLINS

LEO Varadkar will today pay tribute to Michael Collins for giving Ireland the "freedom to find our own path to it" on the centenary of his death.

By ROISIN PHELAN

The Taoiseach will address commemoration events at the roadside ambush site in Co Cork where he lost his life. Tomorrow marks 100 years since Free State leader Collins was shot dead at Beal na mBlath

with mystery still surrounding who pulled the trigger that day. In his speech, Leo will say: "This is a painful site of memory for so many connected with Michael Collins. It is a place of death, forever associated with a senseless killing in an unnecessary war in which brother turned brother."

The Fine Gael leader describes the historic figure as both an "idealist and a realist".

He'll say: "Michael Collins never intended his legacy to be the last word on Irish freedom. Instead, he gave us the freedom to find our own path to it."

"On the centenary of his death, we pay tribute on behalf of a grateful nation and join together to say, 'Thank you'. His life was Ireland. His legacy is Ireland too."

Thanks... Varadkar and, right, Collins



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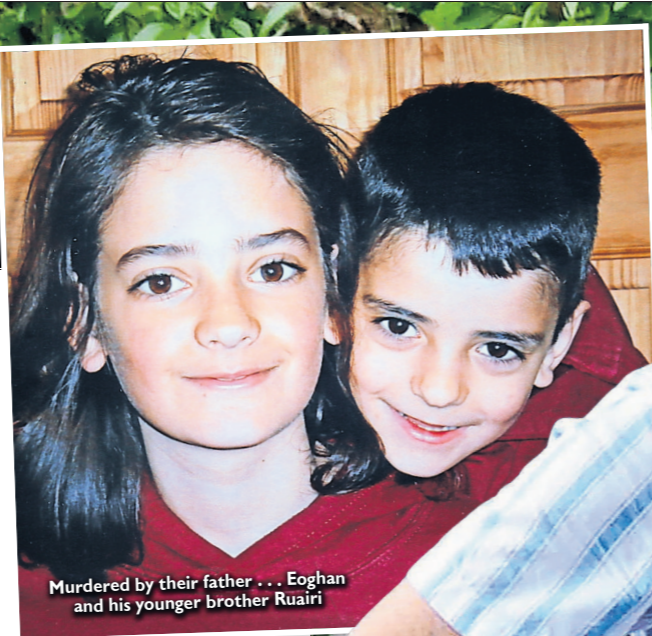
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CLEAN AIR... IT'S WHAT WE DO!



MY CHADA



Murdered by their father... Eoghan and his younger brother Ruairi

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN BREEN
Crime Editor

EVIL killer Sanjeev Chada was "calm and calculated" when the bodies of his two kids were found in his car's boot, an ex-cop revealed.

Former garda Brian Kilkelly, 58, who discovered Eoghan, ten, and five-year-old Ruairi lying side by side, also told how the monster said "you can see what I did" when asked why he had murdered his sons.

In his first ever interview about the horrific double murder, he gives an extraordinary insight into Chada's warped mind just a few minutes after he crashed his car into a wall on an isolated road in Rosbeg, Westport, Co Mayo, on July 29, 2013.

Mr Kilkelly - who retired from the force after 30 years' service on the first anniversary of the boys' deaths - told how he will never forget the brutal murder of two innocent kids. He said: "I thought I was going to a traffic accident but when I opened that boot and saw those two boys lying there - it was just awful."

"It was one of the worst things I have ever had to deal with and as a family man myself it was particularly hard. It's a sight that will never leave me."

"But when I was there my instincts kicked in and I knew I had to do everything I could to assist the investigation team."

"When I asked him what happened under caution he spoke about his actions and when I asked him why, he replied 'money'."

"He also told me he loved the boys so much and I also got the sense he had realised the severity of his actions. I also remember him being very calm when he answered any questions - in a concise manner."

Mr Kilkelly added: "He also told me where he had murdered his children and also how it had been the following morning after they had gone missing. I later interviewed him about the notes I had taken about our interactions and there was no change in his views."

"As a father, my main question is how could someone do such a

terrible thing to a loved one? "Nothing can ever justify what he did to those poor children and I will continue to pray for them."

Mr Kilkelly also spoke about his decision to leave the force on the first anniversary of the murders.

He told us: "I didn't get the shock of what I witnessed that day until afterwards and the case did focus my mind on calling time on my Garda career. I had been to a number of traumatic incidents during my career and I just thought it was the right time to leave."

"I don't regret making the decision to retire and every time I hear about



Investigation... Garda Kilkelly at scene in July 2013

MURDER HORROR



One of the worst things I've had to deal with

Nothing can justify what he did to his sons

I hope some day I can meet their mum

Can't forget horrors he saw... ex-garda Brian

Opening the boot to find those boys was just awful, the case has never left me

the case it comes back to me. This is a case that has never left me.

"What I have been through is insignificant to what the mother of those poor children has been through and I hope some day I can meet her."

And the retired officer also encouraged Ireland's frontline responders and emergency service personnel to seek help when dealing with traumatic incidents. The Co Mayo man added: "I had support from my great wife, family, colleagues and friends and it's important not to bottle things up."

"It's important for people to realise that behind the uniform are human beings. No amount of training can prepare you for what I witnessed that day."

The boys' mum, Kathleen, also paid tribute to Brian for the profes-

sionalism he showed after opening the boot of Chada's car.

She said: "I can only imagine what Brian saw that day and it must have been horrific for him but these were my babies."

"He thought he was only going to a traffic accident. My heart breaks for him and to use the words 'horrific' and 'my babies' in the same sentence is very tough."

"It must have been extremely difficult for him when he opened the boot but also in his dealings with Sanj. He must have been

shocked but then his professional instinct must have kicked in as he recorded notes to assist the criminal investigation. I would have no problem in meeting Brian and maybe someday this will happen."

As part of our new revelations on one of Ireland's most notorious child killers, we also reveal how Kathleen now believes the killer used "coercive control" during their marriage.

Kathleen added: "As time goes on I can see subtle forms of coercive control during our time together."

"He may have been a loving

father and husband on the outside, but on the inside he was plotting to kill his family."

"On the two occasions I told him I was pregnant, he didn't talk to me for days and I think this was because he was no longer in control and now had responsibilities."

"Looking back I didn't recognise my own value in our relationship. I saw him as the brighter, more academic one. I would have put myself down."

"But now I can see I was actually the stronger one. I should have given myself more credit."

"Looking back Sanj never gave me credit, he allowed me to feel lesser than him, I know better now."

My memories are often a contradiction of happy times where I thought Sanj loved me and our boys against now knowing that he

had thoughts of killing us all. How is that love?"

Garda Representatives Association President Brendan O'Connor also praised Mr Kilkelly for sharing his harrowing story. He said: "This tragic incident outlined by Brian shows the extreme trauma front line responders are often exposed to."

"This type of trauma can impact hugely on the mental health and resilience of members."

"For any member exposed to such trauma, it's important to reach out to your colleagues for support through the peer support network and the confidential counselling service available to all members."

Chada is currently serving a life sentence at Dublin's Arbour Hill Prison after his conviction in 2014. stephen.breen@the-sun.ie



Da... evil Sanj

Mum... Kathleen