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Monday December 23 2024 €2.60

SOCCER PULLOUT

SIXY FOOTBALL

TOTTENHAM.3
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DUNPHY EXCLUSIVE

SEE PAGES 40&41

HIT & RUN VICTIM HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH

PAGE SIX

UNITED RED AND BURIED

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MAN UNITED.....0
BOURNEMOUTH.3

MISSING SCHOOLBOY EXCLUSIVE

KYRAN MUM: GO AWAY

■ Nicola DONNELLY

THE mum of Kyran Durnin didn't have anything to say about her son's disappearance when approached by *The Star* over the weekend.

Dayla Durnin remained tight-lipped after she was asked a number of questions in the English town of Ipswich on Saturday.

No comment on son as we talk to Dayla in UK

TIGHT LIPPED: Dayla Durnin in Ipswich on Saturday

PAGES 4&5

QUESTIONS: (l-r) Dayla with male companion, Kyran, and our reporter Nicola talks to Dayla



PICS: Humphrey Nemar

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MUM WON'T COMMENT WHEN

ASKED ABOUT MISSING KYRAN

Suspect received death threats before his suicide

BY JOHN KIERANS

A SUSPECT in the murder of Kyran Durnin - who took his own life last week - had received a number of death threats.

Anthony Maguire was told his home would be burned down if he didn't leave Drogheda, Co Louth.

The windows of the property were smashed before he died last week.

One neighbour said: "Anthony was a gentle giant and he was told his house would be torched if he didn't leave the area."

"He was very upset and worried about his children. He loved those kids."

During intense questioning by gardai, Maguire insisted he had nothing to do with Kyran's disappearance and death.

But a woman he knew told detectives Kyran vanished while he was being looked after by Maguire. She also claimed he provided a child who he pretended to be Kyran for meetings with social workers.

PLAYDATE

He denied any involvement in providing the decoy child and claimed the youngster was on a playdate with the woman's other children when he was brought to a Tusla meeting.

A Garda source said: "The woman threw Anthony Maguire under a bus. He was adamant he was not involved in Kyran going missing or his murder."

"We believe he did get involved in the use of a decoy child pretending to be Kyran for the social workers."

"The use of this child was discovered by gardai and not Tusla as has been previously stated."

"It was us who discovered Kyran had been effectively missing for over two years and raised the alarm bells, not the social workers."

"What we are dealing with is a tragic and shocking case."

"We are going through every moment of Kyran's life from the day he was born and have spoken to numerous family members and other relatives who were involved in his life at different stages."

"We know when he was much younger he was looked after by another person for over a year."

"The alarm was raised about the risk to the children by somebody known to them when they lived in Dundalk but there was no intervention."



INTERVIEWED Anthony Maguire outside Drogheda Garda Station

"Kyran's disappearance could have been avoided and he'd be alive today."

Gardai conducted an intense search at Maguire's house while he was being questioned but found no evidence of a body. He did not give any explanation to detectives about what he believed happened to Kyran before he died or leave any clues about his whereabouts.

His heartbroken family have co-operated with gardai and told them all they know.

The mother of Maguire's children died from an overdose in 2019.

Another neighbour said: "He believed he was being blamed online by the whole of Drogheda for Kyran's murder when it had nothing to do with him."

"Now we have two people dead and one body still missing."

"There are people who know what happened to the little fella and yet they are still covering it all up."

EXCLUSIVE

BY NICOLA DONNELLY in Ipswich



THE mum of Kyran Durnin did not want to speak about her son's disappearance when asked by *The Star*.

We approached Dayla after we discovered she had been living in Ipswich, England, for the last couple of months.

Our exclusive photos of the 24-year-old, which were taken on Saturday, mark the first time she has been pictured since the search for her son was upgraded to a murder probe.

Kyran, who was six years old when he was last seen in June 2022, is presumed dead.

A major Garda investigation has been underway since October in a bid to find out what happened to the young boy.

We also understand this is the same town where Dayla moved to at the end of August when she and her son were reported missing.

Shortly afterwards, gardai in Drogheda upgraded Kyran's disappearance to a murder investigation.

SPOTTED

When spotted over the weekend, Dayla was wearing a white body warmer, grey top and green trousers, strolling through Ipswich hand-in-hand with a male companion.

She blended in with Saturday afternoon shoppers and Ipswich Town and Newcastle United fans who were heading to Portman Road for Saturday afternoon's Premier League fixture.

As the pair strolled towards the entrance of the stadium for the match, we approached her for a comment about the search for Kyran.

After identifying ourselves, she quickly turned away and

tried to cover her face.

Dayla told our reporter: "I'd appreciate it if you would go away from me. Thank you," while her friend added: "Leave her alone."

When pressed again for a comment, Dayla and her companion quickly moved to the ticket queue to get inside the stadium.

While she didn't want to speak to us, the two of them stopped at a burger van and chatted to other people.

Earlier, we reported how gardai probing the murder of missing Kyran haven't ruled out making more arrests despite the death of one of the main suspects last week.

Anthony Maguire took his own life in Drogheda last Tuesday, with fears he may have taken the secrets of what happened to Kyran to his grave.

Sources say investigators are planning fresh dig after Christmas as the search for the youngster's whereabouts continues.

Officers have already carried out searches at a number of properties in Co Louth



TIGHT LIPPED Mum Dayla in Ipswich on Saturday

Pictures: HUMPHREY NEMAR

over recent months.

In addition two people have been arrested and questioned about the missing child. A source said: "Gardai still have other people of interest who may have information on what happened to Kyran."

"There is likely to be more arrests after

Christmas and a fresh dig."

Maguire, who took his own life in Drogheda, left a note - but it made no reference to the boy.

He was cremated at a private funeral service at Dardistown Cemetery on Saturday.

A source said: "The hope was he would have left something about the boy."

Gardai believe Maguire, who was 36, played a direct role in duping authorities into believing that missing Kyran was in fact alive.

It's claimed he facilitated in having a "decoy" child brought before authorities in Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, earlier this year.

However that raised suspicions

'I'd appreciate it if you'd go away from me'

■ Schoolboy's mother doesn't want to speak about son's case

■ She attends soccer match in UK while with a male companion



SAYING NOTHING Dayla Durnin with male companion and, below, our reporter speaks to her



MOUTHFUL Time for a quick bite before match kicks off

with authorities who reportedly communicated those concerns to gardai who later launched the murder inquiry.

It is understood Maguire knew the boy but insisted to neighbours and friends he had nothing to do with the child's disappearance.

Kyran's grandmother Rhonda Tyson was reportedly recorded by the BBC saying she last saw him alive on August 28.

She claimed he stayed in her house in Drogheda, Co Louth, with his mother, her daughter Dayla, who had been sleeping on the couch.

She alleged the next day both mother and the child were gone and Dayla left a note for her saying she

needed to get away for a few days.

But her account is totally at odds with the view of gardai who believe Kyran has been dead for the last two years.

Officers are not only trying to solve the young boy's suspected murder - but are also determined to recover his remains in the hope whoever buried him may have left evidence behind.

FOCUS

A source told us: "There is also a focus on getting his body back so he can be given a Christian burial."

But sources conceded the death of Maguire made an already complex case even more challenging.

One insider said: "It is the last thing

the team needed.

"But the investigation will not be derailed by it."

Maguire was arrested on Thursday, December 12, on suspicion of murder, before being released without charge the following day.

Gardai also carried out what they termed an intrusive search at his home in Beechwood, Drogheda, including deploying a cadaver dog, but no trace of Kyran was found.

We photographed Maguire outside Drogheda Garda Station just after he was released from custody.

It is understood he stayed quiet during questioning and gave gardai no clues as to what happened to little Kyran.

His arrest came 24 hours after a woman had also been arrested and released without charge.

The woman, who has denied any involvement in Kyran's disappearance, had previously implicated Maguire.

Officers are now set to probe his final movements and dealings before he took his own life on Thursday.

His violent past was also of concern to officers and we revealed on Tuesday that he was handed a suspended sentence in 2020 after he was found guilty of assaulting a woman in July 2017. And at the age of 22 Maguire was before the courts over criminal damage at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda where he became agitated and smashed a window after having a row with his girlfriend.

MYSTERY Kyran Durnin is missing, believed dead