

## CSI Brockwell Greenhouses

You are about to be asked to help solve a mysterious death. The chalked body outline on the tarmac (Exhibit A) is believed to be that of Mr Jacques Bertillon, renowned French forager and proponent of wild food.

A number of clues have been found at the scene of the death and in the surrounding area (a list of the various exhibits is included below) and you have also been provided with a bundle of papers including the abbreviated autopsy report, statements from various witnesses and a copy of the label believed to come from Exhibit E.

Your task is to review all the evidence and construct a plausible sequence of events leading to Mr Bertillon's demise. You should look at all the evidence including witness statements and visual clues and use the knowledge you have acquired in studying 'plants for food' to help you construct the chain of events.

### List of exhibits

- Exhibit A: chalked outline of Mr Bertillon's body in the location where it was found.
- Exhibit B: remains of campfire.
- Exhibit C: the deceased's foraging sack plus contents (one head of garlic, garden fork, crumbs of soil and two small amphibians).
- Exhibit D: empty snail shells and fungal fruiting bodies, various, found scattered around the campfire.
- Exhibit E: empty bottle found in Park litterbin, see Witness Statement C for further details.
- Exhibit F: fragments of label from Exhibit E above.

### Bundle of papers

- A. Preliminary autopsy report
- B. Extract from notebook of PC Williams
- C. Witness statement from Andy Chapman, Community Gardener at BPCG
- D. Witness statement from Peter Carter, Park Manager of Brockwell Park
- E. Witness statement from Sarah Hogarth, jogger in Brockwell Park
- F. Summary of witness statements from various BPCG volunteers
- G. Copy of full label from Draza Forte (believed to be the chemical contained in Exhibit E: awaiting laboratory confirmation)

## **Doc. A: Preliminary report from post-mortem examination of Jacques Bertillon**

Examination carried out by: Dr N.Shah, Department of Pathology, King's College, London

Date of examination: 15 November 2012

The deceased was a Caucasian male of European extraction in his mid-30s. He was fit and of previous good health at the time of his death. Skin on his face and hands indicated an outdoors lifestyle. He was not a smoker and only a moderate drinker.

Time of death was between 10 and 11pm on the evening of 14 November.

Location of death was as found. There is no evidence that the body was moved to that location after death.

Cause of death was respiratory failure. There is also evidence that Mr Bertillon suffered a number of convulsive fits during the hours preceding his demise and he had sustained head injuries consistent with banging his head on the tarmac during these convulsions. He appeared to have been clutching his stomach at the time of death. There was evidence of vomiting and diarrhoea although most of this was washed away by the heavy rains on 15/11. There is no evidence of violence or third party involvement.

Toxicology report indicates an unusual concentration of Methiocarb (a common agricultural and horticultural molluscicide) and allicin (a natural sulphur compound found in all members of the onion family) in the stomach of the deceased. The stomach was full and he had eaten supper around 2 hours before the estimated time of death.

The only other points to note are that Mr Bertillon appeared to have traces of blood on his clothes consistent with dissecting small mammals/amphibians before his death (tests will confirm which species) and his jacket was covered in slime trails.

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## **Doc.B: Notebook entry from the notebook of PC Williams**

Incident ref: BPCG/unexplaineddeath/Nov2012/1

I received a call from one Andy Chapman on the morning of Thursday 15 November at about 8.30am reporting finding a body at Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses. I attended the scene at around 8.45am where I found the body of a deceased male in his 30s. He had obviously been dead for several hours. The deceased was found lying as indicated with a hessian bag to his right-hand side. On examination, this bag was found to contain evidence that the deceased had been harvesting crops from the Community Greenhouses and collecting amphibians. I also found evidence of culinary activities and a campfire plus a number of empty snail shells and fungi were found nearby alongside some unidentified blue pellets.

I alerted the appropriate authorities and proceeded to interview potential witnesses.

## **Doc. C: Witness statement from Andy Chapman, Community Gardener at BPCG**

I have been employed at the Community Greenhouses in the role of Community Gardener since June 2012.

On Wednesday evening I worked late at the Greenhouses after the volunteer gardeners had gone home. There were a few tasks that I wanted to get done while I was on site on my own and unlikely to be disturbed. I finally locked the gate at about 6.30pm and went home to browse through some seed catalogues looking for things to grow that won't appeal to slugs and snails.

I arrived at work at around 8.10am the next morning and found Mr Bertillon's body shortly afterwards when I went to make a cup of coffee. I called the police immediately and they arrived soon thereafter.

I recognised the deceased. Over the past year or so we have had several run-ins about him 'foraging' our crops and lighting fires on our site. I hadn't seen him for a few days prior to finding his body.

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## **Doc. D: Witness statement from Peter Carter, Park Manager**

Mr Bertillon was well known to Park staff. He was a frequent visitor to Brockwell Park and we had often had words about his foraging activities. I last saw him on the evening of his death at about 7.15pm as he was slipping around the fence of the Community Greenhouses. I tried to shout to him to ask what he was doing and whether he had permission from Andy to be on site out of hours but he didn't hear me and as it was late and pitch black by that stage I didn't investigate further. I had been at a Friends of Brockwell Park meeting and was keen to get home: it had been a long day.

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## **Doc. E: Witness statement from Sarah Hogarth, frequent jogger in Brockwell Park**

I was jogging around the Park on Thursday morning and I was running up the hill towards the Community Greenhouses at about 8.20am when I almost collided with Andy, the gardener. I said 'Hello' as I do most mornings but he didn't reply, I'm not even sure whether he saw me. He seemed flustered and a bit preoccupied so I slowed my pace to check that he was OK. He was carrying a bottle or something under his arm. He walked rapidly to the litter bin outside the Temple and dropped the bottle in. Then he turned round and walked back to the Community Greenhouses. As he approached the Gate he took his mobile out of his pocket and started to dial a number. I suppose that would have been somewhere around 8.30ish.

I was starting to get a bit cold by that stage and as Andy had disappeared through the gates to the Greenhouses I picked up my pace and continued my run.

## Doc. F: Summary of witness statements from various BPCG volunteers

'I'd known Jacques for years. He was a frequent visitor to the Community Greenhouses but I hadn't seen him around as often of late. To be honest, I don't think he and Andy got on too well. Jacques had been reprimanded for harvesting our crops and he was quite fed up about it.'

'It was only fair of Andy to stop him taking all our veggies. After all, it's not exactly foraging is it? And our crops have been so poor this year. It's been a difficult growing season with all that rain and all those slugs and snails. You should see the size of some of them. We had a lot of damage to our crops at the beginning of the season. Mind you, it had seemed to get a bit better of late. I've been finding a lot of dead slugs and snails about the place. And a few frogs, birds and hedgehogs too now I come to think of it.'

'Yes, it has been a bad year for slug and snail damage. Mind you I guess that's what you get when you garden organically.'

'I've seen Andy and Mr Bertillon have a few rows on site. Mind you I've seen Andy have a few rows with other people too. Sometimes I'm not sure he really gets what we are trying to achieve here. I mean, I'm sure he's a good gardener but he doesn't seem completely onside with the whole organic thing. A bit old school with the chemicals if you know what I mean.'