



Royal Pavilion & Museums

# **Operation Stanford**

## **Police Statements**

**Year 5 & 6**

**CLASSIFIED**

## OFFICIAL POLICE DOCUMENT

**Case Report:** Manor Murder

**Officer Reporting:** P.C. A. Cuff

### **Statement:**

We were called to Stanford Museum at Preston Manor at 1:30pm after a body was discovered in the front porch. It appeared to be a male of average height and build. There was no blood on the scene but after an examination it was discovered that he had a wound on his head and a heavy candlestick was lying next to the body. On examination of the candle stick there is only half a thumb print that we are currently investigating.

Having interviewed all those present at the Museum at lunchtime, we concluded that William Barrow the Gardener had motive and the means to commit murder.

His alibi could not be proven to be true. He claims he had been visiting his fiancé at the local Preston Park Train Station but we cannot contact her to confirm this. There was no one else at the station.

We also located his wheel barrow left suspiciously close to the Museum entrance, where the body was discovered.

**Signed:** P.C. Andrew Cuff



## Mr William Barrow Gardener

“I was all hot and sweaty but I wasn’t running away from the murder like the police thought!

I was running to catch up to Phyllis, my fiancé at Preston Park Station.

She was unexpectedly off to Scotland to visit her poorly mother and I wanted to give her the brooch I had brought her before she left.

I left my hat and my boots outside the front door in a hurry as I had been digging up carrots for the visiting Restorer all morning.”

[Next room is the North West Guest Bedroom](#)

**SUSPECT NO.1**



**NAME:** Mr William Barrow

**AGE:** 30

**OCCUPATION:** Preston Manor Gardener

**CRIMINAL RECORD:** Scrumping apples at age 12 from an Orchard.



## Mr Albert Boffin Curator

“I came to the Manor at about 11:50am; I had a meeting with the handyman at lunchtime to discuss plans for a new display case. I said hello to William Barrow then went straight to the workshop.

I love it at the Manor with all these beautiful objects, I often wish I could take them home.

The Handyman and I talked about the cabinet and then I helped him wax a chair while we chatted.

We heard the noise in the house we ran to the door, when I unlocked it the Restorer was lying dead on the porch. He had one of our candle sticks next to him.

I recognised it as one from the Morning Room but as I ran in to check I almost knocked over Mrs Banks who surprised me in the door way”.

[Next room is the Drawing Room](#)

## SUSPECT NO.2



**NAME:** Mr Albert Boffin

**AGE:** 37

**OCCUPATION:** Curator of Preston Manor

**CRIMINAL RECORD:** None



## Mrs Robyn Banks Visiting Journalist

“I was on my usual weekly visit to the Museum. I am writing about it for the local paper. I know a lot about antiques so enjoyed visiting the Museum and looking at all the lovely things.

When the building closed at lunchtime I made myself a cup of tea and hid in the Morning Room. I know I’m not supposed to be in there during lunch but it was cold outside.

From the window I saw the Gardener running towards the station with a large bag.

I fell asleep and was woken up to hearing a fuss in the entrance hall. I went to investigate and I saw the Visiting Restorer dead in the porch.

He had been hit with a heavy object. I immediately rang the Police. I didn’t go anywhere near him.

No, I did not notice that one of the candle sticks in the Morning Room was missing!”

[Go to The Macquoid Room](#)

**SUSPECT NO.3**



**NAME:** Mrs Robyn Banks

**AGE:** 59

**OCCUPATION:** Visiting Journalist

**CRIMINAL RECORD:** Petty Theft (1922)



## Mr Andrew Lofthouse Handyman

“I was in the workshop all morning making a new display case for the new Museum. I had promised the Curator I would talk to him about it at lunchtime.

I used to be the Chauffer here when the Stanford’s owned the manor, now I am only the Handyman, I liked being a chauffeur I felt more important. At 12’o’clock I saw the Gardener who was in a hurry going toward the station.

I had been waiting outside the workshop for the Curator and when he arrived. He ended up staying for longer and we chatted while waxing chairs.

We both heard a fuss from the Entrance Hall and ran to see what was happening! I took off my gloves to feel his pulse.”

**The next room is the Morning Room**

**SUSPECT NO.4**



**NAME:** Mr Andrew Lofthouse A.K.A 'Lofty'

**AGE:** 44

**OCCUPATION:** Preston Manor Handy-Man

**CRIMINAL RECORD:** None



## Ms Nell Polish Cleaner

“I arrived as usual in the morning and picked up my keys, I have ALL the room keys.

I cleaned the Morning Room that day and I remember dusting the candlestick at about 10’o’clock.

The Restorer helped me with my feather duster. He was much taller than me you see helping me reach up high.

At 12 o’clock I went to have lunch with the Gardener, as usual, but I saw him leaving. He shouted something about meeting Phyllis at the Station to give her a brooch.

Because it was a lovely day I ate my lunch outside in the garden.”

**The next room is the Cleves Room**

**SUSPECT NO.5**



**NAME:** Miss N. Polish

**AGE:** 28

**OCCUPATION:** Cleaner at Preston Manor

**CRIMINAL RECORD:** None