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Man jailed for murder bid at 'old haunted mansion'

A 38-year-old man is jailed for a bid to murder a woman, after she was found dead in her home.

The 38-year-old, who had health-care workers do not know by how long he had been in the country, was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

It was in October 2008 that the accused took a woman, 40, and attempted to stab her in the back of the head at Longlands in the Cotswolds area of Wiltshire. But the victim escaped the attack and managed to escape to a nearby residence where she called for help. She was taken to hospital, but died of her injuries.



Longlands House, Great Brighthelm in Great Brighthelm, Wiltshire.

accused man from the 18 months to 18 months in prison and will be sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Other details of the case are available on page 10.

... (text continues) ...

... (text continues) ...

Some shaken

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OPINION / NEWS

ADOLESCENTS often kill because they fail to grasp the outcome of the violence they are fed as entertainment but, halfway between childhood and adulthood, they also succumb to the same passions that prompt their elders to kill.

This is what occurred in Seseña (Toledo) on March 30 when a 14-year-old killed her classmate, Cristina Martin de la Sierra.

Spanish law stipulates that as a minor the presumed killer's name cannot be revealed but some of the media have not hesitated to identify her first name as Chanel. She was taken into custody on April 3, claiming ignorance of Cristina's disappearance and misleading the police as to her possible whereabouts.

When the 13-year-old victim's body was located that same day at the bottom of a pit in a disused gypsum works on the outskirts of Seseña, Chanel confessed, surprising police with her absence of remorse or feelings of

guilt. Psychologists were also taken back by her 'cold and haughty' manner as she explained that she rang Cristina shortly before 11am on March 30 and they agreed to meet at the gypsum factory.

The encounter was arranged to settle differences which, according to mutual friends, focused on a boy Chanel regarded as her boyfriend and who had added his name to Cristina's Tuenti social networking account as a 'friend'. Chanel herself supplied no specific reason for their quarrel but said Cristina used to pick on her and scorn her Cuban origins.

The two girls quarrelled violently in a repetition of a similar falling-out months earlier and Chanel confessed that she beat Cristina about the head with what pathologists believe could have been a rock, a wooden stake or an iron bar. She then seemingly pushed her into the pit where she was later found and threw down stones to cover the



By ANNIE MAPLES

The Inside Story

The troubled girl

body. The autopsy revealed that Cristina actually bled to death because of a wrist wound that was not life-threatening in itself, and which investigators believe was inflicted with a knife, cutter or possibly a sharp stone.

Cristina, described by a boy who knew her as 'bossy', did not belong to a gang, declared her parents who are convinced that Chanel did not act alone.

According to Jose Javier Polo, the fiscal (public prosecutor) assigned to the case, there is only one person implicated in the killing 'but that does not mean that there could not be more'. Polo also expressed 'grave unease' caused by internet disclosures of Chanel's name and photos from her now-closed

Tuenti page. These were given in a Facebook homage to Cristina entitled 'Cristina Martin de la Sierra. Justice for this angel', which Polo said infringed the suspect's right to privacy and image protection. Some of the messages called for lynch-mob revenge and Chanel's image was by no means enhanced by photographs of herself and others that she had chosen for Tuenti, with Goth and 'emo' tendencies.

Although these are looks emulated by countless young people, Chanel's messages of 'Kill me' (in English) and 'Your freedom starts where mine ends' depict a troubled girl.

Many Spaniards as well as Conservative politicians are



Cristina Martin de la Sierra.

demanding an amendment to the Ley del Menor (Young People's Law) so that serious offenders are sent to adult jails on reaching 18.

The government has no plans for changes in the law and psychologists warn against changing it while emotions run high following any violent crime committed by a minor.

BENALMADENA

A night's entertainment for a good cause

A MUSICAL spectacular called 'Stage to Screen and something in between' an evening of West End musical magic is being held on May 22 at 8pm at the Moonlight bar, Sunset beach club, Benalmadena.

The event is in aid of Tomas Leighton, a little boy born with cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

The two main artists are Ricky Lavazza and Maxine Warner. Also present to help you dance the night away is DJ Ollie James. Darren Fawthrop, who years ago was a regular on TV with Britains strongest man will also be doing a sponsored bike ride convoy with a big group of Harley Davidson riders to be present on the night.

Tickets cost only 10 euros each, and will be limited as the venue holds only 300 people. There will be fantastic raffle prizes including a weekend



stay at a country retreat.

All proceeds raised on the night go to the Tomas Leighton Care trust fund which will help towards all the continual treatments and towards future stem cell treatment.

For information and tickets call 645 145 177 or 628 562 580.



MARBELLA

Positive vibes at the Gratitude Art launch

GRATITUDE ART was launched at the Bookworld España in Guadalmina, Marbella. The event brought together people of different ages and cultures all curious about how to improve their lives.

The first fifty people had the chance to write their wish on a sticker and send it out into the universe on a helium balloon.

Gratitude Art is the brainchild Line Lyster, who creates a range of gifts, canvases, greetings cards and mugs that relate to the law of attraction and the power of positive thought. www.gratitudeart.com

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