

Pictures: ROBERT VIGLASKY, BBC



BODY BEAUTIFUL: Beatie, right, admires Aidan's toned torso in Poldark, above

I gasped at the sight of Poldark

By Pam Francis

THE actress who plays Poldark's maid in the hit BBC series told how she was left gasping when she first caught sight of Aidan Turner's toned torso.

Beatie Edney, 54, plays housekeeper Prudie Paynter in the show, which begins its third season on BBC One next Sunday.

She recalled meeting him in the make-up bus where he was shirtless and said: "I just gasped. He and I had just been having a conversation about actresses and how people objectify how they look."

"He said, 'You've just done the same thing to me.' But he did look good."

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Killer Gilroy loses latest appeal battle

By Greg Christison

THE killer who murdered office worker Suzanne Pilley seven years ago has lost his latest legal battle to have his conviction overturned.

David Gilroy, who has always maintained his innocence, was jailed in March 2012 for life for murdering his former lover and work colleague and dumping her body, which has never been found. The ex-Royal Navy technician, who cheated on his wife with Suzanne, 38, appealed to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC) in January 2015 after previous bids to challenge his conviction were rejected.

Gilroy, now 54, claimed he had suffered a miscarriage of justice but it has now emerged that the commission has completed its review and has closed the case.

Gilroy's family said they were "shocked" by the decision, accusing the SCCRC's analysis of falling "far short of a full and fair investigation" into the detail of the case.

Suzanne, who had ended her affair with Gilroy, vanished on her way to work in central Edinburgh in May 2010.

The jury in Gilroy's trial heard he was driven by jealousy and had embarked on a series of acts to cover up his crime.

Police believe he killed Suzanne in their office basement before driving to Argyll and dumping her body in a forest after laying a false trail of his movements.

Specialist search teams failed to find any trace of her remains.

Gilroy was jailed for a minimum of 18 years. Wife Andrea, who stood by him throughout, released a family statement outlining reasons



GUILTY: Killer David Gilroy and his victim Suzanne Pilley



for his SCCRC application when it was launched in January 2015.

It said the inquiry would look at "the gathering of evidence, disclosure practices, non-disclosure of evidence, evidence not used by the defence team at the trial, evidence not available at the trial, and trial and appeal procedures".

It added: "The family remain supportive of David in his work to bring to the attention of the justice system the significant flaws in the case brought against him. He has spent nearly three years in prison wrongly convicted of a crime. The

family is concerned at the time it is taking to get recognition of what they believe to be a serious miscarriage of justice involving faults by all parts of the justice system."

In February last year, judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh refused an application from Gilroy to let him access CCTV evidence in connection with his appeal.

Reacting to the SCCRC decision, the Gilroy family claimed evidence against him - involving a dog handler who searched Ms Pilley's workplace at IML in the city's Thistle Street - was "unreliable" and should not have been put before a court. They said: "For the time being David will not now have the chance to have this properly re-examined in a court."

The family also said that Gilroy's defence case was inadequate, claiming "50 per cent of what could have been put to the court in his defence did not come before it."

"He attempted to show this in his application and many of the questions raised have had no real answers from the Commission."

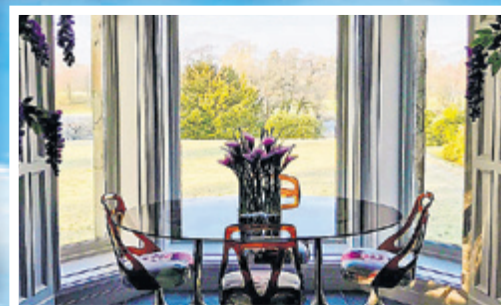
The statement claimed there were "errors, misunderstandings" in the Commission's 200-page report. It added: "The thing is there will be no closure on this case until the police are faced up with looking in a different direction for the answer as to what happened to Suzanne Pilley on 4th May 2010."

"We will now consider what else we can do to support David in his quest to clear his name."

Gilroy could ask for a subsequent review of the case by the commission but only if, for example, new evidence came to light.

The SCCRC was yesterday unavailable for comment.

Millionaire bidding to be first clan chief since 1682



A MILLIONAIRE landowner has launched a bid to become the first chieftain of a Scottish clan in more than three centuries.

John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan, who owns the Cambusmore Estate near Callander, Perthshire, has petitioned the Court of the Lord Lyon for the title of the Chief of Clan Buchanan.

Should he succeed, he would be the first man to hold the position officially since the death of John Buchanan in 1682.

The 17th century chieftain died without male heirs and never finalised arrangements for the title to pass on to the descendants of his daughter.

Sir Walter Scott later cited Francis Buchanan of Arnprior - who was executed for high treason for his role in the 1745 Jacobite uprising - as being the Buchanan leader, although it was never officially proven.

Some of the clanfolk have campaigned for their chief to be re-established but so far no candidate has been able to clearly demonstrate their hereditary right to the claim.

However, Mr Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan,

By Paula Murray

58, has now turned to the heraldic authority for Scotland to establish his position.

The court announced: "A petition at the instance of John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan of that ilk and of Arnprior (formerly John Michael Buchanan-Baillie-Hamilton of Arnprior), chief of the name and arms Buchanan etc, has been presented in the Court of the Lord Lyon, Scotland, craving matriculation in his name as Chief of the Name and Arms of Buchanan."

It adds that anyone wishing to respond to the claim or indeed petition for the title themselves should contact the Lyon Clerk within 42 days.

The Oxford graduate and father-of-four said: "I am afraid I am a little constrained by what I can say. The matter is in the hands of the Lord Lyon Court so it is something I can't comment on."

"It has been 300 years since there was a

chieftain at Clan Buchanan and, yes, I am keen. The notice period is 42 days but I'd not be surprised if that got extended. Anybody who has a claim will have to declare themselves and the Lord Lyon can decide on the matter.

"Unless somebody turns up and says, 'I've got a claim' - I'm not expecting it, but it is possible that somebody will come out of the woodwork and say, 'I've a claim but I need three months to write it up' - all we can do now is to wait and see."

Elizabeth Roads, Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records, said: "In a case such as this, where no one has recorded the principal coat of arms of the name for a very long period, any petition to do so must be advertised so anyone else who thinks they may have a better claim has the chance to come forward."

"Inevitably, when the direct line of descent has not been maintained, there may be several people who understand that they stand in a more senior position to other claimants. This is an unusual case in the sense such a long

VENTURE FORTH: Mr Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan, right, lives at The Gart, above and inset. The Buchanan of that ilk coat of arms, left inset

time has passed without anybody going for that title.

"That is why it is being advertised because there may be people out there who we don't know anything about but may feel they have a better claim. But we don't know if anyone else will enter."

Lloyd D Gibson, president of the Clan Buchanan Society International based in North Carolina, wished Mr Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan the best of luck.

He added: "We applaud Mr Hamilton for his actions and energy - it takes a huge effort to do what he has done - but we, as the Executive Council of Clan Buchanan Society International, have no comment at this time."

"We wish all the best for Mr Hamilton in this endeavour."



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