

Man who fled here with young daughter is jailed

A FATHER who was wanted by police in Wales after fleeing here with his five-year-old daughter Molly has been jailed – having surrendered himself to authorities.

Brian Owens failed to appear in court in Wales last Friday when he was due to be sentenced for assaulting and sending an offensive or menacing message to his ex-partner.

Police in Wales said the 26-year-old, from Maes Cyttir in Holyhead, took a ferry here with Molly and a woman but returned to Wales on Monday and surrendered to officers.

He was yesterday jailed for nine-and-a-half months for assaulting his former partner.

By **Ali Bracken**
Crime Correspondent

Molly was returned to her mother upon Owens's return.

Owens's sister, Lisa Stewart, said yesterday: 'Police let Brian walk off [the ferry in Holyhead] in the end with Molly and hand her to her mum... Molly was heartbroken, so was Brian... Molly won't settle, she will want her daddy.'

A court in Caernarfon heard yesterday that Owens had been found guilty in his absence but had left the court before the matter was heard and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

The court heard that Owens had been verbally abusive to

his former partner, Jayne Debra Stowell, 39, who is Molly's mother.

It was heard that, in May and June this year, Owens assaulted Ms Stowell a number of times.

On one occasion, he grabbed her by the neck and 'squeezed her throat'. She fell to her knees on the floor and almost fainted, the court was told.

On another occasion, he hit her on her knee with a plate, prosecutor Rhian Jackson said.

The court heard that Owens had also threatened to kill Ms Stowell.

Sentencing Owens, bench chairwoman Fion Jones said: 'The offences are so serious that custody is inevitable.'

Dr Mark Dooley



MORAL MATTERS

A cup of tea, a smile... it's the small things that save lives

IT was a crisp, sunny morning as Daisy Shortt left for work. She smiled at her purple hydrangeas which were in full bloom. Smiling and talking to her plants was, she believed, the key to their happy growth.

Daisy lived in the suburbs but worked in the city. Each day, she travelled by train to her little café which she had bought with a modest inheritance. She ran the café with her sister Claire who spent the day baking bread, scones and pastries.

As she walked from her house to the train station, Daisy inhaled the fresh morning air. She loved nature, believing the world was a gift, not to destroy, but in which we should delight. For her, each step was a miracle – an expression of life in all its beautiful abundance.

She stood waiting for the train. Just then, an old man shuffled up and stood beside her. He wore a cap and an overcoat despite the sunny weather. Daisy smiled and said: 'Good morning! Isn't it a lovely day?' The man stared suspiciously at Daisy before muttering: 'As long as it doesn't rain.'

'Oh, I don't think it will,' she said, 'there isn't a cloud in the sky.'

'Do you live around here?' Daisy inquired. She could not resist conversing with strangers even when it was obvious they wanted to be left alone. She had learned that people often hid their troubles behind a mask of reticence.

'Yes,' the old man said, 'I have lived here all my life.' Daisy thought she saw tears in his eyes. 'Here it is,' she said as the train came into view.

The man sat down and Daisy took the seat beside him. Instinctively, she felt he had something to get off his chest. She introduced herself and he replied: 'I'm Tom, pleased to meet you.'

Daisy learned that Tom had recently lost his wife and that he felt he couldn't go on. 'I've never been alone and the solitude is killing me.' Daisy took his hand and said: 'Don't worry. You are always welcome in my café and we can go for walks in the local park. No-one can ever replace your wife, but you don't have to be alone.'

Tom walked with Daisy to the café, met Claire and drank a pot of

tea. As he got up to leave, Daisy said: 'Why don't we meet tomorrow evening for a meal and a walk?' Tom nodded and said: 'Thank you, Daisy.' Outside the café, he sobbed.

At lunchtime, Daisy usually went for a quick stroll. She loved walking through the streets, people-watching and admiring shop window displays. In the sun, the city was alive with commuters, buskers and tourists.

Daisy was enjoying the buzz when something caught her eye. Slouched on the pavement was a young girl begging with a plastic cup. She couldn't have been more than 15.

The girl was not asking for money, but simply kept her head bowed. Daisy knew there was nothing she could do except give the girl some help. She dropped a note into the cup.

About an hour before the café was due to close, a man in his 20s came in, ordered a coffee and sat in a corner. He took out an iPad and began to scroll. Daisy was cleaning the tables when she noticed that his hands were shaking.

ARE you alright, Sir?' she asked. 'Yes, of course, why do you ask?' he said with a bemused smile. 'Forgive me, I just thought there was something wrong.'

A few minutes later, the man gathered his things and stood up to go. Daisy went to his table, thanked him for his custom and handed him a leaflet. He put his bag on his back and walked out.

Daisy arrived home, smiled again at her hydrangeas, ate, read her novel and went to bed shortly after ten.

That night, Tom cried himself to sleep with tears of relief. By chance, a ray of sunlight had pierced his sorrow. Her name was Daisy.

Thanks to a stranger, a young homeless girl named Susan slept in a bed for the first time in months. The stranger had also smiled at her. That night, she resolved to go back home to her parents.

Ian saw no way out. Soon, it would all be over. Shaking, he reached into his bag and a leaflet containing a list of phone numbers fell to the floor.

That night, Ian spoke to someone who saved his life.

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WIN A PASS TO A FAMILY PREVIEW SCREENING OF THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE



To celebrate the release of this summer's nuttiest family adventure, *The Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature*, we have teamed up with Warner Bros. Pictures to send you and your family to a Special Family Screening at the ODEON Point Village on August 6th at 11am, ahead of its release on August 11th.

When the evil mayor of Oakton decides to tear down Liberty Park and build an amusement park in its place, Surly, Buddy, Andie and the rest of the animals are suddenly homeless! Surly tries to fight

back, but realizes it's not going to be easy.

The mayor has got an animal control squad patrolling the park... Precious has been kidnapped by the mayor's hyperactive daughter... And Surly has offended Mr. Feng, an adorable city mouse with deadly kung-fu skills.

Surly realizes that he has to put aside his differences with the animals and get everybody to work together in order to defeat the mayor, rescue Precious, and save Liberty Park... Before it's too late!

HOW TO WIN

Simply answer the following question:

***The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature* is officially released on August 11th, 2017**

TRUE OR FALSE?

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Lines close at midnight Wednesday 2nd August 2017. The winner will be contacted on Thursday 3rd August 2017. Prize is subject to availability with no cash alternative and is non-transferable and non-refundable. The CEO's decision is final. Entrants must be over 18. 1516 calls cost €1.52 per call. 0906 calls cost 60p. Messages from 57250 cost €2.50. SMS entry requires one message to be delivered. Standard network charges apply. BDC Helpline: 0818 28 66 00. Prize is as stated and non-transferable. ©2017 Warner Bros. Ent. All Rights Reserved