# Unsolved murder of Amy Davis continues to haunt Coventry more than 80 years on



The unsolved murder of Amy Davis, a Coventry pub landlady, continues to haunt the memories of the local community more than eight decades after the brutal crime took place. Davis's body was unearthed in the bath of the Ring O'Bells pub in Hillfields on the morning of October 25, 1945. The peaceful town was shaken when the cleaner found the 68-year-old's lifeless body, with her head covered in blood. Initial investigations led detectives to consider robbery as the motive, as cash and jewellery had been reported missing. Despite interviewing over 1,500 individuals during an exhaustive investigation spearheaded by New Scotland Yard, no charges were ever brought, leaving the case a poignant reminder of unresolved grief and unanswered questions.

Witness testimonies have played an essential role throughout the investigation. More than 1,500 people were interrogated in the immediate aftermath of the murder, yet the leads fizzled out without any discernible suspect. The investigation was reopened in April 2013, prompted by renewed public interest and with exhibits from the Coventry Police Museum examined meticulously. However, after sifting through his vast case files, Inspector Simon Astle of the West Midlands Police’s cold case team concluded that the original efforts of the police had covered as much ground as possible, despite the advancements in forensic methods since the time of the crime.

The Ring O'Bells pub persevered for a short while after the murder, reopening nearly immediately before its eventual demolition in 1970. In a curious twist, more than 40 years after the incident, the Coventry Evening Telegraph received letters from two individuals claiming knowledge about the killer. One writer, asserting they had known the identity of the murderer since childhood, stated: “I found out when I was 11 years old and have kept the secret since,” yet, frustratingly, this information did not lead to any actionable evidence.

In the years leading up to 2020, Detective Chief Inspector Alastair Orencas from West Midlands Police reaffirmed a commitment to revisiting the investigation. He acknowledged the bleak reality that those involved—both victims and potential witnesses—may no longer be alive. However, he remained optimistic that if fresh information surfaced or new investigative opportunities emerged, the team would pursue them vigorously.

The case's enduring mystery is perhaps emblematic of a wider trend within true crime narratives in Great Britain, where unresolved murder cases often capture public interest and spawn numerous theories and discussions. Interestingly, the Ring O'Bells pub's storied past is sometimes overshadowed by tales of alleged hauntings, with accounts of ghostly figures believed to wander the once-bustling establishment—a topic that evokes both curiosity and sorrow within the community.

As the 80th anniversary of Amy Davis’s death looms, her story remains one of unspeakable loss and unresolved tensions, a ghost not just of the pub but of the city itself. The search for justice continues, reminding us that while time may offer distance from a crime, it often does little to heal its scars. If history has taught us anything, it is that the echoes of the past can linger much longer than any physical structure.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/killing-hillfields-pub-landlady-remains-31692878> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/murder-coventry-pub-landlady-remains-17695226> - This article discusses the unsolved murder of Amy Davis, a Coventry pub landlady, 75 years after her death. Her body was found in a bath at the Ring O'Bells pub in Yardley Street, Hillfields, on October 25, 1945. Despite extensive investigations, including interviews with over 1,500 people, the case remains unsolved. The pub reopened weeks after the murder but was eventually demolished in 1970. In 1988, two letters were received claiming knowledge of the killer, but neither identified the culprit. A 2013 review of the case yielded no new information.
3. <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/exclusive-hillfields-murder-mystery-solved-3313806> - This article reports on new developments in the 70-year-old murder mystery of Amy Davis. A woman provided new information to police about the brutal killing of the pub landlord in October 1945. The 68-year-old's body was found by a cleaner in the Ring of Bells in Yardley Street, Hillfields. Despite extensive investigations, the killer was never found. The new information prompted Inspector Simon Astle from West Midlands Police's cold case team to review the murder, with case files obtained from the Metropolitan Police and a display on the murder at Coventry Police Museum sent to officers.
4. <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/hunt-goes-clues-solve-70-year-old-4707596> - This article details the ongoing efforts to solve the 70-year-old murder of Amy Davis. Police are gathering evidence to track down exhibits from the original investigation. Amy Davis was bludgeoned to death in a Hillfields pub in 1945. Hundreds of people were interviewed, but the landlady's killer was never found. Now, after new information emerged, West Midlands Police's cold case team is reviewing the murder. Detective Constable Jula Dawson, involved in the review, mentioned the challenges of locating documents from the original investigation nearly seven decades ago.
5. <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/century-ago-coventry-city-250-3047546> - This article provides historical context about Coventry's pub scene, noting that a century ago, the city had 250 pubs. It mentions the Ring O'Bells in Yardley Street, Hillfields, as one of the notable establishments. The pub is remembered as the scene of Coventry's most famous unsolved murder, where the battered body of landlady Amy Davis was found lying fully clothed in her bath on the morning of October 25, 1945. The pub had been ransacked, and cash and jewellery were missing. Police interviewed 1,500 people, but the killer was never found.
6. <https://www.historiccoventry.co.uk/history/on_this_day.php?show_src=y> - This page from Historic Coventry lists significant events that occurred on specific dates in Coventry's history. On October 25, 1945, it notes that Amy Davis was found murdered at the 'Ring of Bells' pub in Hillfields, a mystery still unsolved. The source is listed as the Coventry Evening Telegraph, Monday 10th August 1970. This entry provides a historical reference to the tragic event, highlighting its lasting impact on the community.
7. <https://yourparanormal.com/ghosts/ring-o-bells-pub/> - This article explores the haunted history of the Ring O' Bells Pub in Hillfields, Coventry. It recounts tales of ghostly encounters, including sightings of a 'Sad Cavalier' named Edward, believed to be the son of Lord Stannycliffe from the 1600s. The pub is said to be haunted by the spirit of Edward, who has been seen by the landlord and his family, both inside and outside. The ghost can also be heard as footsteps and strange noises. It has been known to place a hand on a person's shoulder - when they turned around, nobody was there.