

No apparent motive for double stabbing at flat after evening of drinking and smoking cannabis

# Friend guilty of a 'savage and unprovoked' murder

by JOE COOPER

A MAN who killed his friend by stabbing him 29 times will be sentenced today (Friday) after being found guilty of murder.

Bradley Wood, 25, had been friends with the victim, Lee Jay Hatley, since they were teenagers.

But in June, he unleashed a knife attack described as "savage and unprovoked" at a flat in Baxter Road, Canonbury, after an evening of drinking and smoking cannabis.

The Old Bailey was told how Mr Hatley, 29, a father-of-one, was bleeding severely and about to lose consciousness when he told police that Mr Wood had stabbed him. He died in hospital later that day.

Wood had pleaded guilty to manslaughter but denied murder and attacking Mr Hatley's friend, Lauren Egan-Perkins, who suffered a stab wound to the neck. A



Bradley Wood had known victim for 15 years



Victim Lee Jay Hatley. Left, floral tributes left after his death in June

jury rejected his defence after a five-day trial.

Prosecutor Duncan Atkinson, QC, said both Mr Hatley and Ms Egan-Perkins had noted some concerns about Wood as he "started to talk of how Hatley enjoyed a better life than his own, because he had been in foster care and prison". It was felt that Wood was "jealous".

Wood claimed in court that it was Mr Hatley who had "flipped" after he picked up knife and jokingly threatened to slash the tyres of his bike.

He told the court: "He was aggressive. I remember him trying to reach for the knife. I pushed him back. He grabbed my head and pulled me forwards with my head

down. At that stage we started scuffling."

He claimed that he did not mean to hurt Mr Hatley and, after fleeing the scene by bike, later handed himself into police. The jury took eight hours of deliberation before finding him guilty.

Angela Moriarty, reviewing lawyer at CPS London Homicide, said:

"The victims had been socialising with Wood. Lee Hatley had known Bradley Wood for 15 years.

"Lee Hatley was subjected to a savage and unprovoked attack by Wood, who had armed himself with a knife. Having repeatedly stabbed Lee Hatley, Wood then attacked the female victim, who had

been asleep in bed. She sustained wounds, including to her neck."

She added: "Thankfully, she survived to give evidence at the trial that ultimately convicted Wood. There was no apparent motive for either attack.

"I hope this conviction provides some comfort to Mr Hatley's family and friends."

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Whellams, of the Homicide and Major Crime Command, said: "This was a brutal murder, and an attack which left a young woman seriously injured.

"I hope the verdicts provide some comfort to Mr Hatley's family, and to the young woman seriously assaulted by Wood."

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## Father Ted star to switch on lights

THE name of Archway's new square will be announced at the Christmas lights switch-on event on Sunday, while an actor from a popular sitcom will help switch on the festive lights in Finsbury Park today (Friday).

Pauline McLynn, who plays Mrs Doyle in *Father Ted*, will be there at 4.45pm alongside other actors from the nearby Park Theatre. Celebrations will start at 3.30pm in Fonthill Road.

Voting for the name of the new square in Archway – created after the area was pedestrianised earlier this year – closed in October.

The short-list chosen by the council included Navigator Square, Orchid Square, People's Place, Telford Square and Tolhouse Square. Each name mirrored the people or groups of people who once called or still call Archway their home.

Events will start from 1pm and there will be street performers, raffles and rides for children.

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