



# IRISH DAILY Mirror

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## Gun seized as gardai foil Kinahan hit squad

SEE  
PAGES  
6&7



## Corrie gets sixty!

SEE PAGE 16

# SICK BLACK WIDOW WALKS FREE

BY EMMA McMENAMY

**EVIL** [Black Widow] Catherine Nevin is a free woman and will likely never see the inside of a prison again.

The 65-year-old, jailed for paying a hitman to murder her husband Tom in 1996, walked out of Dublin's Dochas Centre last week.

She is believed to be suffering from a brain tumour and is undergoing treatment.

A source said: "Before being given temporary release Nevin was a thorn in everyone's side. She was never an easy inmate."

SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

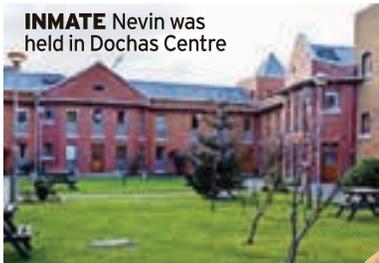
**CANCER  
FIGHT**  
Catherine  
Nevin was  
freed from  
Dublin jail  
last week



VICTIM Tom Nevin was killed in 1996



Husband killer Nevin gets temporary release as she battles brain tumour

**SICK****BLACK WIDOW IS OUT****INMATE** Nevin was held in Dochas Centre

BY EMMA McMENAMY

**NOTORIOUS murderer Catherine Nevin is a free woman after being granted full-time temporary release from prison.**

The 65-year-old Black Widow, who is battling cancer, walked from Dublin's Dochas Centre at the end of last week.

One of Ireland's most infamous female inmates, she was convicted of hiring an assassin to kill her husband in 1996.

While Nevin will be under strict release conditions, sources said it is unlikely she will ever see the inside of a jail cell again.

She is receiving treatment at Dublin's Mater Hospital for a brain tumour and it's believed that is one of the reasons behind her temporary release.

It is understood the move was approved by the parole board and sanctioned by Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan.

The source said: "She is still believed to be undergoing cancer treatment and is not doing too well health-wise.

"Before being given temporary release Nevin was a thorn in everyone's side.

"She never stopped moaning and was more cantankerous than ever.

"Nevin was never an easy inmate and was seen by other prisoners as a bit of a s\*\*t stirrer.

"Inmates would say she was nice to your face but then once your back was turned would start making up lies and try and get you into trouble with other prisoners.

"Nevin worked in prison library. In the last few months she was becoming more of a recluse and was only ever seen with two other inmates if any at all.

"She spent the vast majority of her time in her room. Nevin has been granted full-time temporary release which means that unless she breaks one of the conditions laid out in her parole she will remain a free woman.

"She has an addiction course under her belt but due to her poor health it's not known whether she will take up working or volunteering in that area."

While Nevin was handed a life sentence for the murder of her publican husband Tom in 1996, she was given temporary release on a

**RELEASED**

Nevin on prison release in 2015

# NEVIN FREED AFTER 17 YRS

Woman who hired hitman to kill her husband is treated for brain cancer

number of occasions last year. In 2015, the Irish Mirror tracked the murderer down as she attended an addiction course in Inchicore, South Dublin.

It was the first time she was seen out of prison unaccompanied.

Nevin walked through the city centre to Dorset Street where she waited alongside other members of the public for the No13 bus before attending the course at the Oblates.

Following the crime that shocked Ireland, she was charged with her husband's murder in 1997.

After a gripping 42-day trial the jury deliberated for a record five days before Nevin was sent down in April 2000 for paying a hitman to murder Tom in their home at Jack

White's bar in Wicklow on March 19, 1996. She was also convicted and handed a seven year-term for soliciting William McClean, Gerry Heapes and John Jones, to kill Mr Nevin.

The person who actually pulled the

trigger has never been brought to justice.

There was no physical evidence linking her to the killing and her guilty conviction was based largely on the evidence given by the three men she

## Timeline of a slaying

**March 19, 1996:** Publican Tom Nevin is shot dead at his home at Jack White's Inn, Ballinapark, Co Wicklow.

**April 1997:** His wife Catherine Nevin is charged over his murder.

**February 2000:** The trial against Catherine Nevin begins. It was the second time the case was heard after an earlier trial collapsed.

**April 2000:** Tom's wife Catherine Nevin begins mandatory life sentence after being found guilty of her husband's murder.

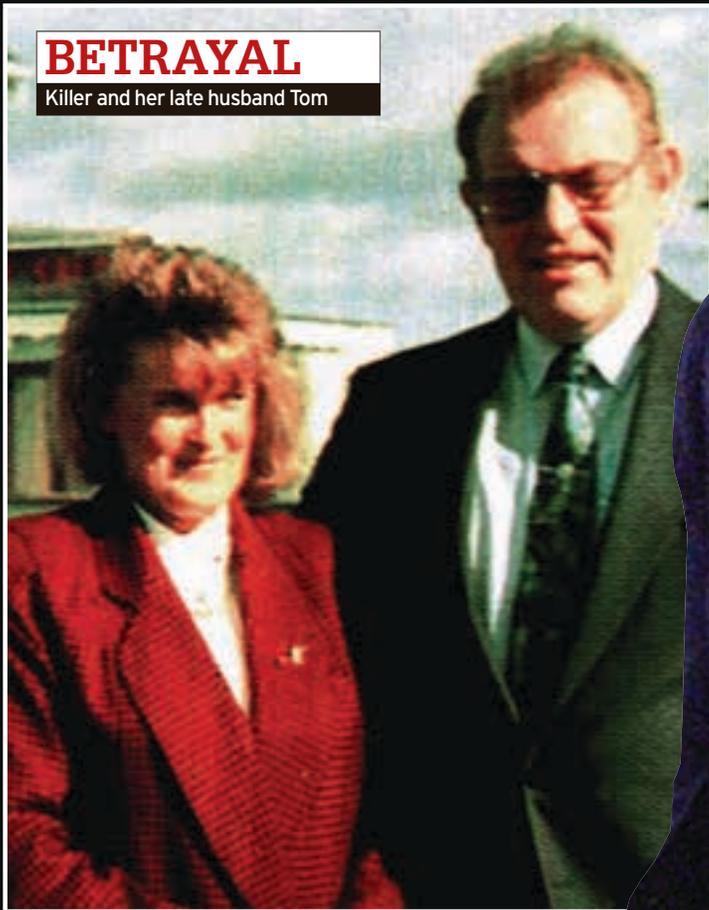
**November 2010:** Nevin loses her appeal against her conviction.

**April 2015:** The 65-year-old experiences her first taste of freedom after being granted TR to attend an

# OF PRISON ON PAROLE

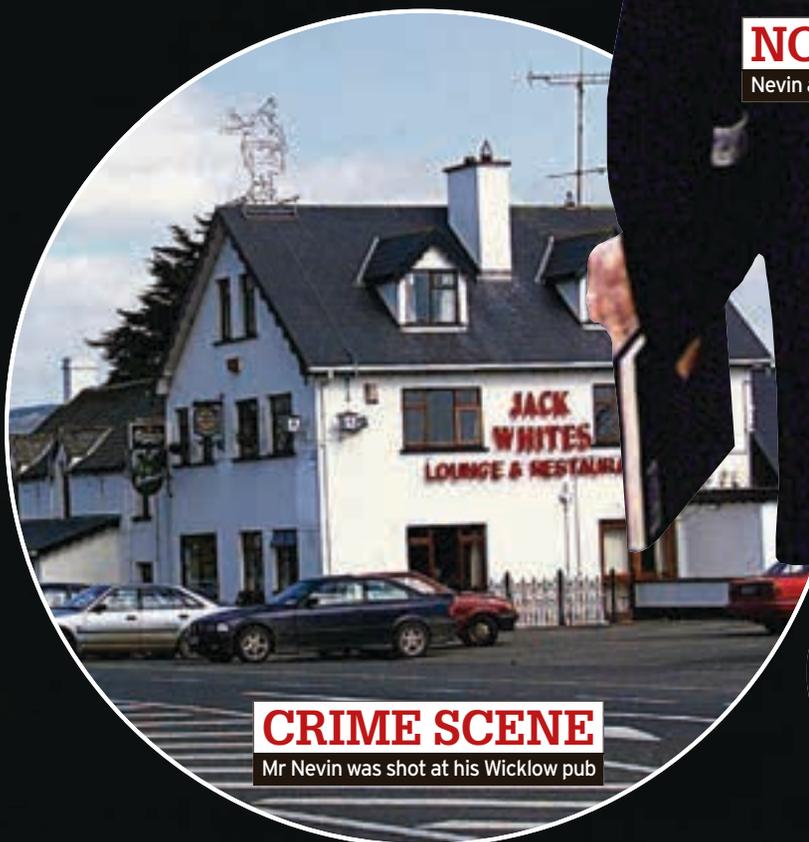
## BETRAYAL

Killer and her late husband Tom



## NOTORIOUS

Nevin at her murder trial in 2000



## CRIME SCENE

Mr Nevin was shot at his Wicklow pub

solicited. Despite her conviction Nevin has never taken responsibility for her role in the brutal murder and is also still fighting for a share in his substantial estate.

At the time of the trial the judge

overseeing the case had to order all media to stop reporting on her appearance and what clothing she was wearing.

Tom's death was initially investigated as a pub raid which had

## that shocked Ireland

addiction course in Inchicore, Dublin, unsupervised.

**November 2016:** Nevin reportedly diagnosed with a brain tumour and begins treatment in hospital.

**August 2017:** Nevin was granted permission to argue in the Supreme Court that her conviction for killing her husband doesn't prove that she did it.

She was making the argument as part of her fight to lay claim to her late husband's €1million estate.

**August 2017:** At the end of last month, Nevin was released under full time TR and is now a free woman. Unless she breaks her parole conditions it's very unlikely she will ever see the inside of a prison again.

gone tragically wrong.

Just last month, Nevin was granted permission to argue in the Supreme Court that her conviction for killing her husband doesn't prove that she did it.

She was making the argument as part of her fight to lay claim to her late husband's €1million estate.

The High Court previously decided she should not benefit from his death

## Cynical liar who blackened name of decent man

BY **STEPHEN McDERMOTT**

CATHERINE Nevin was jailed for life 17 years ago in a case that gripped the nation.

Born Catherine Scully in 1950, she met Tom Nevin who was five years her senior in Dublin in 1970. The pair married in the Italian capital Rome in 1976.

Ten years later, the couple opened Jack White's Inn, in Ballinapark near Brittas Bay in Co Wicklow.

On 19 March 1996, while he was counting the day's takings, the 54-year-old was killed after he was blasted with a nine-bullet shotgun by a still unknown assailant.

At her trial, Nevin alleged she was asleep at the time, but was woken by an unknown person who threatened her with a knife and demanded jewellery from her.

It was also claimed IR£13,000 and their car was stolen.

Nevin told the trial she and her husband were both very happy but also testified he was in the IRA.

However, she claimed she did not tell gardai her husband was a member of the Provos because to do so would have risked bringing the wrath of the IRA down on her.

In evidence, the jury was told the pub was used to hold republican fundraising events and Sinn Fein members were employed on the door.

After a sensational 42-day trial which had the country gripped, Nevin was convicted of her husband's murder and soliciting three men to have him killed.

The Black Widow has never admitted her role in the murder and three appeals to have her conviction overturned all failed.

but her legal team have argued her criminal conviction should not be taken into account.

She sold the bar in 1997 for IR£620,000 before she was arrested, with the proceeds of the sale frozen.

Other assets that have been in limbo since include two properties in Dublin, IR£78,000 in insurance money and IR£197,000 in cash.

Tom's siblings have been trying to block Nevin from getting anything and are seeking damages for their brother's wrongful death.

The inheritance claims, which began in 1997, had been put on hold while the killer's numerous criminal appeals were taking place.

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CRITICISED Leo Varadkar

## Varadkar: No regrets over my Di tweet

BY **FERGHAL BLANEY**

TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar has defended his Princess Diana memorial tweet.

He was accused of crass insensitivity for recalling the 20th anniversary of her fatal car crash last week, while failing to mention the deaths of two homeless people.

Speaking on TV3, Mr Varadkar said: "Most reasonable people – particularly anyone who's on Twitter – will understand that what you may tweet on any day is not a reflection necessarily of your responsibilities.

"Today I had a Cabinet meeting – it's the most important thing I will do today, dealing with 20 or 25 different items.

"I don't think whether I send out a tweet about it is all that relevant."



VISIT First couple & Charles

## President & Charles tour stately home

BY **CONOR RIORDAN**

PRESIDENT Michael D Higgins has joined the Prince of Wales in celebrating 10 years since the royal helped secure the future of an 18th century stately home.

Mr Higgins and the First Lady were greeted by Charles on the steps of Dumfries House in East Ayrshire yesterday.

Included in the itinerary was a viewing of the Grand Orrery, a mechanical model of the solar system built around 1758.

During their visit, the guests heard about the significance of building on the talents of young people from under-privileged backgrounds.

The estate attracts around 24,000 people to the 2,000-acre estate, which employs 150 staff.