



TRIAL: WOMAN 'KNEW NOTHING OF DRUGS'

Cocaine, heroin seized in parcels

A hospital catering assistant became embroiled in a multi-million-pound drug smuggling racket by receiving deliveries at her home, a jury heard.

Consignments of class A drugs from America, Brazil and Pakistan were cunningly disguised in parcels.

Addressed in false names, some packages were delivered by courier to Fatoumata Agunbiade's flat in Norfolk Street, off Hinckley Road, in Leicester's West End, it was claimed.

In all, nearly 10 kilos of cocaine worth £2.5m and almost £100,000 worth of heroin were seized from intercepted packages.

Agunbiade (24) claimed she knew nothing of the drugs and only agreed to accept parcel deliveries for her friend and ex-lover, John Uche Williams, because she was doing him a favour. She said he had assured her there was nothing "dodgy"

by **SUZY GIBSON**

COURT STAFF

about the packages and she had trusted him. London-based Williams (30) is accused of playing a key role in the plot.

Philip Gibbs, prosecuting, said: "Williams arranged for packages to be delivered to addresses other than his own, for obvious reasons, including Norfolk Street in Leicester.

"Agunbiade was a willing and knowing assistant to Williams."

It is alleged that she enlisted her friend, Elias Ebai (31), of Lauder Close, Sin Fin, Derby, to deliver parcels by car to Williams in London.

All three deny conspiracy to import heroin and cocaine between September 2008 and May this year.

Mr Gibbs told the jury that in March a Brazilian package addressed to John Smith at the Norfolk Street flat was intercepted by customs officers and found to contain 781 grammes of

81% pure cocaine with a street value of £250,000.

On April 22 a package marked "laser toner" from California, addressed to John Smith at Agunbiade's home, was intercepted. It contained eight commercially sealed laser printer cartridges, containing 3887.8 grammes of cocaine with a street value of more than £1m pounds. It was repackaged minus the drugs for a "dummy" delivery by a police officer.

During surveillance, by coincidence, a DHL employee tried to deliver two parcels to the Norfolk Street flat, but no-one was in. They turned out to contain heroin with a street value of £96,300.

Agunbiade claimed that Williams had previously paid her £300 for receiving a parcel on his behalf.

Mr Gibbs said: "Agunbiade would claim to be an innocent dupe. The Crown say she wasn't."

The trial continues.



PICTURE: ANDY BAKER

SIGN OF THE TIMES: The confrontational spelling mistake in Epinal Way, Loughborough

No duels please, it's a spelling error

KNIGHTS in armour will no longer be congregating in the middle of a road to do battle.

A council sign which used to read "duel carriageway" has been taken down after one of the Mercury's eagle-eyed photographers spotted it.

The sign, which should read "dual carriageway", is located in Epinal Way, Loughborough,

between the hospital and the fire station.

A Leicestershire County Council spokeswoman said: "The sign has been taken down and we will replace it as soon as possible with one with the correct spelling.

"There are thousands of road signs across Leicestershire and errors are unusual."

Earlier this year we reported on the misspelt road marking "Residents Olney" in Lexham Street, in Belgrave, Leicester.

In 2005, the county council got their German lingo mixed up when a sign welcoming visitors landing at East Midlands Airport was spelled "Willkommem", instead of the correct "Willkommen".

NATIONAL SHED WEEK

The race is on to win the coveted Shed of the Year competition, which will be held in summer 2010 as part of the fourth National Shed Week.

Organised by the internationally famous readersheds.co.uk, National Shed Week (which runs from July 9) will be the first national celebration of our cornerstones of British life. It also celebrates the sheds with buildings far afield as the UK, New Zealand and

The 21st century shed in many shapes serves many purposes - pub sheds, sheds for even Tardises - increasing number of office sheds catering to increasing demand for work from home. As a place for a slice of freedom and a spot to indulge yourself, there's simply nothing that can touch it.

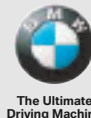
"Every shed is unique," says head sheddies Uncle Wilco from readersheds.co.uk. "The traditional shed found on allotments and in back gardens has been a second home to generations of men and women. The previous three Shed of the Year winners have been very diverse, from a Roman temple shed, to an octagonal pub shed and last year's winner, a cabin on stilts.

The competition also tries to give something back to the shed community. This year the official charity of Shed Week is Bletchley Park, home of the World War 2 code breaking huts.

If you are a sheddies with a great shed and think you can compete with the previous winners, why not share it now at www.readersheds.co.uk



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