

# Mystery of mustard coloured Jaguar

A mustard-coloured Jaguar car was parked very close to the door of Susan Christie's flat the night she was last seen, a stranger who visited her block of flats that night told the Supreme Court.

He said he recognised the curve of the boot lid, because several of his friends had Jaguars.

He said the paint was shiny and well polished.

The witness, Gregg Baird (40), said he was visiting a couple who lived above Mrs Christie's unit.

They had contacted him through a swingers' magazine, where he published an advertisement with his picture and phone number.

He said he had originally told police that the car was white or pastel-coloured and like a Cortina.

But when Jaguar was mentioned by a prosecution lawyer at Mr Christie's first trial, he had a flashback.

"I saw in my mind a picture of the rear boot lid of a Jaguar," he said.

"In my mind's eye it was a Jaguar with a similar colour to mustard."

He said he was 95% sure it was a mustard Jaguar.

He said that his evidence about the Jaguar was more positive at this week's trial than at Mr Christie's first trial in 2003.

Since then, he had not been contacted by anyone from Mr Christie's defence team.

Mr Baird also told of thumps he heard coming from below his hosts' unit during the night.

Another Jaguar sighting at the flats was described by another witness, a UWA student studying for exams on the top floor of a front unit.

Eleanor Young (23) said her desk overlooked Currie Street.

In the weeks before Mrs Christie disappeared, she had noticed an unusual car in the street.

"I can only recall one time," she said.

"I noticed it because it was a different car in the street.

"I would describe it as a yellow or gold colour."

Ms Young said she did not mention the car until asked about it by a prosecution lawyer outside the court at Mr Christie's first trial.

"I had no idea what relevance it would be," she said.

## Key 'kept in flower pot'

Susan Christie was lax about her home security, according to accounts by her first husband Ian Ure and a boyfriend, Subiaco council employee Dennis Austin.

Both said she kept door keys hidden outside her homes.

Mr Austin told the court she kept a key in a pot planter outside her door.

He said he often rebuked her because when someone knocked

on the door she would call out "come in" without checking to see who it was.

An upstairs neighbour said she found a set of Mrs Christie's keys in the front garden of the units in Currie Street, Daglish, and returned them to her.

Mr Austin and the neighbour both told the court they did not have keys to the flat and did not enter it alone after Mrs Christie's disappearance.



Gregg Baird leaves the Supreme Court.

## The short, the fat and the ugly ...

Susan Christie's habit of inviting taxi drivers into her flat for sex and a lover's bust-up gave the Supreme Court an insight into the way she treated some men.

A taxi driver called as a witness said he had told her he was a Muslim when she asked why he had a full, black beard.

When she invited him inside, he said his religion would not permit it.

She became abusive and began screaming obscenities and racist remarks at him in the carpark behind the units.

Neighbours gave evidence that they heard her shout: "Go back to where you came from, you Taliban c--."

One of her regular lovers gave evidence that two weeks before she disappeared, he arrived as arranged at her flat to find a man with his jeans down.

"Susan told me to get going and abused me," the lover said.

She had shoved him out the front door, pushing him so hard he fell over, he said.

He agreed that she had shouted at him that he was "short, bald, fat and ugly".

Tom Percy QC, for Rory Christie, asked him if this made him angry and upset.

"No," he said. "I am short, bald, fat and ugly."

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