

>> IN BRIEF

**Bread buyout**

BAKERY Warburtons is selling its factory in Newport to rival firm Brack's, the company has revealed. Back in September, Lancashire-based Warburtons had revealed that the plant could close, but Brack's has now announced that it is interested in taking over the site in Rogerstone.

**Ward has closed**

A WARD has closed at a hospital in North Wales under the terms of a £48m development project. The ward at Llandudno Hospital was closed to consolidate the loss of 20 beds across three wards. A spokesperson said patient care was not affected and the move would allow the redevelopment to get under way. Plans include additional operating theatres for day surgery and a "modernised" outpatients' department.

**Oil leak probe**

ENVIRONMENTAL chiefs have launched an investigation into an oil leak in a West Wales river. Environment Agency Wales said the leak in the River Teifi in Cardigan had come from a pipe near a road bridge in Cardigan, with inquiries centring on an industrial estate. The agency wants businesses and residents to check for leaks. Adam Thompson, who is leading the investigation for the agency, said: "It isn't necessarily causing serious environmental damage, but it is not pleasant for local people or for the wildlife there."

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WALES | fire up

>> Alan Jones  
PICTURE: PETER BOLTER ©



# STORY OF MY HELL IN JAIL

**HELD at gunpoint five times, locked up in 16 prisons at home and abroad, two failed jailbreaks, befriended by psychopaths and caught trafficking drugs - his life reads like the plot of a thriller movie.**

But for one Welshman, these are the experiences he is reliving as he finally tells the tale of his extraordinary life.

Former international drugs runner Alan "Dogs" Jones - so-called because he is never seen without his Sealyham Terrier, Dylan, at his side - has decided to pen his autobiography three decades after serving a jail sentence in North Africa and Spain for smuggling cannabis.

by **CIARAN JONES**

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The 68-year-old, who has spent nearly 10 years in prison overall, today reveals to Wales on Sunday how he went from being a talented schoolboy rugby player in the Valleys to carrying hash worth up to £90,000 across Europe and Africa in the 1970s.

He said it has taken him almost 30 years to write about his experiences because of the traumatic memories of fellow cons committing suicide and older inmates raping younger prisoners while he was being held in Spain.

"There's a couple of reasons

## Ex-drug trafficker relives exploits for autobiography

it has taken until now," Alan said. "One reason is that I find it difficult to put my thoughts on paper. One or two things that happened in the story are very, very hard to talk about."

After being sent down at 16 for stealing petty cash and alcohol from a solicitors' office in Pontypridd, Alan and his friends were sent to an adult prison for a fortnight.

He said: "That was horrible. We were 16 in Cardiff Prison as there were no facilities for young offenders, so we were put in with all the cons. If they had released me after two or three days I'd never have committed another crime. But as time goes on you settle down."

It was later on in his sentence at Hollesley Bay Borstal he befriended Edwin Bush - who was later executed for murder.

Alan, who lives in Treherbert, said he

was "very shocked" when he heard his pal was a killer.

"I got friendly with him," he said.

Following a four-year stretch for stealing two cars and a safe from a garage in Rhondda Valley, two acquaintances Alan made in prison got back in touch to offer him a job - as a drugs runner.

"On my release from my four-year sentence I lived with my brother Norman and his wife, and I was just driving taxis round in the Pontypridd area," he said.

"I met my two friends and we started talking. They asked if I'd be interested in smuggling hash, cannabis."

"I'd gone through two marriages and lost my children. I was really down so when the opportunity to travel abroad to Europe, Scandinavia, and Morocco came up, I was thrilled. There were risks but they made it more exciting."

But he was caught carrying 60lb of weed in Morocco in July 1978 and was thrown into Los Rosales pris-

on. Just weeks after arriving he staged his first escape attempt, trying to blow up the prison kitchen as a diversion. Shortly afterwards, he led 10 other prisoners in an escape attempt - and received a savage beating.

He said: "After the first [escape] attempt obviously they couldn't trust me, or the other Europeans as well. They put us all in a dormitory mainly for the Spanish lads. It was from there that we planned another escape."

"We had collected quite a few sheets and blankets - enough to make a rope. My friend went up on the wall and got shot at. He fell over the other side of the wall and all hell broke loose."

"We rushed back through the bars. Minutes after that the door burst open and in came the guards. They had a good idea that it was us. They took everybody out down to the patio and lined us up. There was one Spanish guy pointing the finger at me. He made me the ringleader, which I was. They surrounded me with rifle butts, truncheons and dogs and then beat the s\*\*\* out of me."

He was moved around prisons on the Spanish mainland during his seven-year sentence, which he saw reduced after he took on the role of psychiatric nurse to criminally-insane patients in Carabanchel prison, Madrid. Alan administered medication to the prisoners.

One of the killers housed at Carabanchel was Manuel Dolgado Villegas, convicted for murdering eight people and also said by Spanish police to have practised necrophilia on his victims.

"I got the shock of my life when I found out how many people he killed," said Alan.

Following his release in February 1982, Alan returned to Britain. But it is only now - after 28 years of stability with partner Susan Bibey - he has felt it possible to sit down with co-author Anita Child and write No Half Measures. The book is as yet without a publisher. "Seeing the book on the shelf would be a dream come true," Alan said.

**WHO IS ALAN 'DOGS' JONES?**



- Born in the Llewellyn Arms Hotel, Pentre, on April 19, 1942
- Ran away to London aged 15 but returned to Wales
- Sent to borstal with two friends, aged 16, for burglary
- Later spent four years in Bristol prison for stealing cars and a safe
- Began smuggling cannabis worth up to £90,000 from Morocco to Norway in 1975
- Caught in Ceuta, Morocco, in July 1978 in possession of 60lb of

- dope, and imprisoned in Los Rosales jail
- Sentenced to seven years in June 1979 after two failed escapes
- Began working as a psychiatric nurse in a Madrid prison in 1980
- Earned time off his sentence for completing work, and released from prison in February 1982
- Worked as a taxi driver, builder, painter and decorator and park warden following his release, before deciding to write his autobiography, aged 68

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