

No drugs ... but Amy drank herself to death in binges

AMY WINEHOUSE drank herself to death. That was the ruling of a coroner's inquest into the death of the Grammy-winning soul singer, who died with empty vodka bottles in her room and lethal amounts of alcohol in her blood.

Coroner Suzanne Greenaway gave a verdict of death by misadventure yesterday, saying the singer suffered accidental alcohol poisoning when she resumed drinking after weeks of abstinence.

She was more than five times the British drink-driving limit.

She said: "The unintended consequence of such potentially fatal levels (of alcohol) was her sudden and unexpected death."

Amy (27) had fought a very public battle with drug and alcohol abuse for years, and there had been much speculation that she died from a drug overdose.

But a pathologist said the small amount of a drug prescribed to



STAR: Grammy award-winner Amy (right) died from drinking. Her dad Mitch (left) was at the inquest

help her cope with the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal had nothing to do with her death.

Instead, a resumption of heavy drinking killed the singer, best-known for her tall beehive hairdos and Grammy-winning album *Back to Black*. A security guard found the star dead in bed at her London home on July 23.

"She's made tremendous efforts over the years," said Dr Christina Romete, who had treated Amy. But "she had her own way and was

very determined to do everything her way".

Amy gave up illicit drugs in 2008, but had swerved between heavy alcohol use and abstinence for a long time, Dr Romete said.

The singer had resumed drinking in the days before her death after staying away from alcohol for most of July. Dr Romete said she had warned Amy of the dangers of alcoholism.

"The advice I had given to Amy over a long period of time about all the effects alcohol can have on the system included respiratory, depression, heart, fertility and liver problems, and death."

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Inhibitions are reduced ... then it poisons you

ALCOHOL is a depressant. First, it reduces inhibitions, a familiar characteristic of inebriation. Then, as the level of alcohol in the blood rises, it becomes a poison.

At five times the legal limit for driving, Winehouse had drunk enough alcohol to kill her. At such levels, it interferes with the heart-beat, breathing and gag reflex. About 500 people are admitted to hospital each week with alcohol poisoning and there are around 150 deaths a year. People die from heart attacks, because they stop breathing or because they inhale vomit into their lungs. Alcohol causes vomiting, which can be life threatening if the gag reflex isn't working. There is no minimum dose for poisoning.

— JEREMY LAURANCE

IN BRIEF

Teen loses bid to stay in care

A VULNERABLE girl taken into the care of the HSE after arriving here alone from the Congo has lost a High Court action seeking the health services to continue to fund her care after she turned 18.

The girl was 16 when she arrived in Ireland in 2008 and remained in the care of the HSE until June 2010.

Mr Justice Paul Gilligan refused to grant orders quashing the Health Service Executive's (HSE) decision to cease providing the girl's care.

The girl's application for asylum status was refused and her application to remain on humanitarian grounds is being reviewed by the Minister for Justice.

Yemeni women in veils protest

HUNDREDS of Yemeni women set fire to traditional female veils in protest at the government's brutal crackdown against the country's popular uprising.

The demonstration, a symbolic Bedouin appeal for help, came as clashes in the capital Sanaa and another city killed 25 people.

Women in Yemen have taken a key role in the uprising against President Ali Abdullah Saleh's authoritarian rule.

Mexico tourists flee hurricane

TOURISTS fleeing Hurricane Rina crowded Cancun's airport, even as the cyclone lost some of its punch on a course for Mexico's resort-studded Caribbean coast.

Lines snaked to the ticket counters at Cancun airport as airliners bound for Canada and Europe waited in pouring rain.

Rina was forecast to remain a hurricane as it sweeps along Mexico's most popular tourist destinations Cancun, Cozumel and the Riviera Maya today.

Giant painting to fetch €2m

A GIANT painting by a Russian artist will be auctioned in New York City in aid of a Boston museum.

The Pearl Mosque At Delhi painting, about 13ft high and 16ft wide, was painted by Vasili Vasilievich Vereshchagin between 1876 and 1879 and shows men kneeling at a mosque.

It's being offered by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston on November 1 at a Sotheby's auction of Russian art and has a pre-sale estimate of US \$3-5m (€2.1m-€3.5m).

I stole car used in postman's shooting

THEFT: Gardai said his DNA was in getaway vehicle

By Andrew Phelan

A DUBLIN man has pleaded guilty to stealing the car that was allegedly used in the shooting of innocent postman Robert Delany three years ago.

Robert Gaynor (21) admitted taking the Honda Integra from a car dealership shortly before the shooting.

The car is alleged to have been the one used in the shooting in Tallaght.

Gaynor had his case adjourned for sentencing when he appeared in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court. No other charge was brought against him.

WINDOW

Mr Delany was shot in the head at his home at Russell Rise, Tallaght, on October 22, 2008, as he looked out of an upstairs window.

He was rushed to hospital but was left in a vegetative state from his injuries.

The 29-year-old was allegedly targeted by a gang after he tried to stop someone being beaten up outside a pub in Tallaght.

The chief suspect in the shooting has since died. He is believed to have been recruited



BLASTED: Robert Delany

to carry out the attack on the innocent father-of-two who intervened in a pub row.

Mr Delany was sprayed in the face with shotgun pellets as he leaned out of his bedroom window and fell back into his apartment.

The gunman and an accomplice escaped and a car used by them was later found by gardai.

Garda technical experts later forensically examined the car, and it is alleged that DNA matched that of Robert Gaynor.

Gaynor, of Berryfield Drive in Finglas, was charged with stealing the Honda Integra from Francis McCann Car Sales, Naas Road in Clondalkin.

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