

Jailed: The middle class jobs who joined the Manchester riots

12:12, 24 AUGUST 2011

UPDATED 18:04, 21 JANUARY 2013

BY MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

A judge spoke of his surprise at the "width of society" which joined the Manchester riots as a string of middle class jobs were among the latest looters to be jailed for their parts in the disturbances.

The son of a wealthy businessman, a trainee teacher, a university student and the chef at celebrity haunt have been caged for their part in the Manchester riots.

The privileged backgrounds of defendants jailed yesterday brought shock to an experienced crown court judge.

The broad spectrum of society that convicted rioters and looters came from was an 'unpleasant surprise', the top judge said.



Those jailed yesterday included:

Michael Fitzpatrick , an 18-year-old heir to a doubling-glazing empire.

Trainee teacher Anthony Winder, a 38-year-old father-of-four. A court heard how he had built a ‘highly-respectable life’.

Sicilian Enrico Vanasco, a 25-year-old chef at celebrity haunt San Carlo. His barrister called him a ‘hardworking, honest member of society’.

English literature student Conrad McGrath, 21. He was described in court as a high-achiever.

Judge Robert Atherton, sentencing McGrath, said: “One of the features coming across in these cases, not only in Manchester but across the country, is the surprise at the width of society who have become involved in this.

“One would have hoped that someone who has had some of the advantages of life, no doubt by the efforts of his family and his own work, in gaining a place at a very highly-respected university, should not be involved in this sort of behaviour.

“I think this is a feature that has caused a great deal of unpleasant surprise.” The four were among 17 people jailed yesterday for taking part in the riots.

Enrico Vanasco , a 25-year-old Sicilian chef at celebrity Manchester haunt San Carlo, was jailed for 20 months for stealing a £300 camera from Jessops because he ‘needed a new one’.

He was linked to his crime by blood he left at the shop – which lost £10,000 of stock – after cutting himself. Vanasco, of Great Western Street, Moss Side, had watched the rioting on TV before deciding to head into town. Adrian Palmer, defending, said Vanasco, who admitted burglary, was a ‘hardworking, honest member of society who lost all sense of composure’.

Sentencing, Recorder of Manchester, Judge Andrew Gilbert QC said: “It’s a tragedy to see you in the dock – you’re a man with great skills that give pleasure to many people.”

Michael Fitzpatrick, 18, was sentenced to two years and four months after claiming he supported the riots as the ‘voice of the underclass’.

Fitzpatrick – the son of a wealthy double-glazing magnate, who lives in a £750,000 house in Worsley's Greenleach Lane – was an 'enthusiastic' participant in the disorder, the court heard.

He stole shoes from Foot Asylum in the Arndale Centre, looted vodka from a ransacked Spar, and swigged from champagne bottles burgled from Kro Bar in Piccadilly Gardens.

Fitzpatrick's appalled family – described in court as being of the 'utmost decency' – demanded he handed himself in. The teenager told police he thought it 'wasn't fair' that he worked for his family's firm but couldn't afford the things he wanted.

Judge Gilbert said: "I don't think I have dealt with a sadder case in a long time."

Trainee teacher **Anthony Winder** was jailed for two years after a failed attempt to swipe a crystal dog from the Swarovski store in St Ann's Square.

The 38-year-old Salford University graduate kicked and punched a cabinet. He admitted burglary with intent to steal.

The father-of-four was on a teacher training course at Edge Hill University, on Merseyside, when he became involved.

The court heard Winder, of Kersal Road, Prestwich, had overcome a drug addiction to build a 'highly respectable life' for himself.

Judge Robert Atherton said: "You should have been at the forefront of leading people away from such activities as you became involved in – now you have thrown away so much."

Thomas Downey – a drunk with 233 petty crimes to his name – had

planned to start a new life in Blackpool after he was released from Strangeways.

But just hours later he found himself embroiled in the riots. He helped himself to an early-hours snack at Krispy Kreme bakery, which had suffered £17,000 of damage hours earlier.

A worker boarding up the smashed windows was stunned to find Downey – blind drunk and dripping in blood – scoffing biscuits and swigging stolen Coca-Cola. Downey who admitted burglary, was sentenced to a year and four months in jail.

Conrad McGrath, an English Literature undergraduate at Aberystwyth University, was jailed for 16 months for looting booze from Tesco Express. McGrath, of Burton Street, Heaton Norris, Stockport, had been warned by his mother not to go into town on August 9.

But after an afternoon spent drinking and watching rioting on TV he headed for the city centre.

Dan Gaskell, defending, said it was difficult to reconcile McGrath's actions 'with everything that he's managed to achieve' academically.

Trainee bricklayer **Lloyd Coudjoe**, of Quenby Street, Hulme, tried to loot alcohol from the same Tesco Express store. The Salford College student, 20, admitted burglary and was sent to a young offenders institution for 16 months.

David Swarbrick, 25, was stopped by police who noticed a bulge under his jacket.

He was found to have been hiding bottles of Oil of Olay he had taken from a looted branch of Quality Save.

Swarbrick, of Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, told police who arrested him: “It’s no big deal – it’s only a bit of moisturiser.” He admitted burglary and was jailed for 12 months.

Dane Twemlow , 28, of Westwood Avenue, Little Hulton, was arrested as he tried to run across the A6 at Broad Street, Salford with a looted 32in TV he had found in a ginnel. He was jailed for 14 months after admitting handling stolen goods.

A man caught watching a looted TV when police raided his home was spared jail – while the woman who gave it him was locked up for two years and eight months.

Kieran Phillipson, 46, was spotted lugging the television set – taken from Cash Generator at Salford precinct – into his flat at Mulberry Court. Police found the device plugged in and switched on in the living room.

Phillipson was given a 12-month suspended sentence after admitting handling stolen goods.

He identified **Gemma Booth** as having given him TV.

Booth, 26, of Plane Court, Salford, later admitted burglary and handling stolen goods in connection with a stolen laptop she said she found in a bush.

A man who threw bricks at cops, then asked them for help for a cut finger, has been locked up for four years and eight months after admitting burglary charges and violent disorder.

Hassan Halloway, of Bennett Street, Crumpsall, went into town to go the gym. When he found it was closed the 39-year-old threw himself into the rampage, ‘orchestrating’ a mob of 30 thugs goading police at Dale Street and handing out looted booze to fellow rioters.

Halloway threw bricks at officers, dogs, and a van, although all of them missed. He also burgled two bottles of wine from the Blue Parrot bar on Portland Street, stole cigarettes and booze from a branch of Spar, helped himself to chocolate and crisps in Quality Save and took more booze from Marks and Spencer.

He was arrested after asking police for medical assistance. Later on he told them that he had wanted to experience 'lawlessness'.

Ryan Kaputla, of Shackleton Court, Newton Heath, admitted burglary and was jailed for two years. The 21-year-old stole wine from Tesco on Princess Street.

His lawyer, Rob Kearney, claimed there were 'discrepancies' in the amount of jail-time being handed out in other cities.

And Richard Littler – defending **Nina Yavarianfar**, 26, caught in the same Tesco after binging on super-strength lager – said that while deterrent sentences were required, the city had previously prided itself on passing 'creative sentences' that gave defendants a chance to beat drink and drug problems.

Judge Gilbert said he was not aware of any inconsistency – and said sentences should be longer against the backdrop of mob disorder.

He gave Yavarianfar – of Seymour Road, Crumpsall – a ten-month suspended sentence after she admitted burglary.

Road builder **Lee Gargan** was high on a cocktail of drink and drugs when he threw rocks at riot police in Salford.

The 30-year-old, of Camp Street, Higher Broughton, admitted violent disorder and has been jailed for 20-months.

Marvin Gigger, 41, swiped £70 of cigarettes from Snaith's newsagents at Cooper Street. Gigger, of Himley Road, Clayton, was seen climbing out of the shop through a shattered pane of glass. He was jailed for 14 months after admitting burglary.

Alcoholic **Paul Anthony Matthews**, 43, of Debenham Avenue, Newton Heath, walked up to riot cops and told them he had stolen booze from the raided Spar shop at Piccadilly Gardens, and had damaged cars and raided other shops. He admitted burglary and received a ten-month jail sentence.

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