

# Suicide No14 in the town haunted by internet cult

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for their friends after decorating their home. Pals said Joel had gone to bed early but Angie carried on partying downstairs.

It was not until the following morning that he found her dead.

Yesterday Mr Williams posted a tribute to his fiancée on social networking site Myspace.

It reads: "Just a note to let you all know that at 1am Monday morning, life took away from us one of the kindest, sweethearted loving people we could ever have been blessed to know. I love angie and i always will. I love you baby. xxx"

Dedicated to "my poor lost Angie", it describes his mood as "lonely" and "crushed".

A close friend said Miss Fuller had attempted suicide before.

Sarah Shaw said yesterday: "She was working, looking after the house and I think everything got on top of her. She has tried to commit suicide twice in the past."

Miss Fuller, whose parents are Indian, worked for the Jaeger fashion chain at a designer outlet near Bridgend. But Joel was out of work and had been treated for stress and depression.

Mother-of-four Sarah, 32, said the couple "could be very lovey-dovey at times but they had a very volatile relationship where they could argue violently with each other".

But she said she was "shocked" at Angie's death. "They had just got engaged - and the future was looking good," she said.

Miss Fuller moved to South Wales two years ago from Shrewsbury in

## 'She had tried to commit suicide twice before'

Shropshire. Sarah said: "She met Joel on the day she arrived and fell very heavily for him. They were both on the rebound from previous relationships."

Shopkeeper Sam Naidu said: "She was a well-presented, well-spoken girl who popped in to get her groceries every week. I'm shocked that this has happened to her - she seemed so happy."

The house where she died was yesterday in darkness, with floral tributes left outside.

Angie's death came just days after the funeral of Natasha Randall, 17, who was found hanged at her home last month.

Natasha's death raised fears that suicide had become "cool" among the town's youngsters, as memorial web pages were set up where friends could post tributes and put a "virtual brick" in a remembrance wall.

Natasha's Bebo site featured a tribute to Liam Clarke, 20, who was found hanging in a park last December 27.

The suicides have been discussed by Welsh Assembly ministers. Welsh Secretary Paul Murphy has spoken about the deaths to Assembly First Minister Rhodri Morgan.

In a Commons written reply to Bridgend Labour MP Madeleine Moon, Mr Murphy said: "Such tragic incidences are of great concern and distress to me."

Bridgend's Suicide Prevention Strategy chief Dr Tegwyn Williams said he was stumped as to why



TRAGEDY: Angie, left, and devastated Joel, above. Her death was the 14th in a spate of hangings in Bridgend



## We're baffled why they do it

**RESIDENTS** in the old market town of Bridgend - full of happy, hard-working people - do not have a clue as to why it should be the suicide capital of Britain.

Shopper Kayrin Jenkins, 38, said: "It's full of life. I cannot understand what has gone on."

"It's a busy town, especially at weekends when all the youngsters are out drinking. We've all got plenty to live for."

The unemployment rate is below the national average and

the town centre is full of bustling bars and shops.

It has boomed during the last two generations, with many large companies like Ford and Sony moving in.

There is an attractive Bristol Channel coastline and a mix of urban and rural communities. The borough - population 128,000 - takes in the former mining valleys of Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore along with the affluent seaside resort of Porthcawl. Come Friday and

Saturday night, like any other town, Bridgend is taken over by young revellers filling the bars.

Easy access between the town and the M4 and a high-speed rail service to London means it has not suffered the industrial deprivation that blights other parts of South Wales.

It has a rich rugby heritage and its famous sons include Wales star JPR Williams and pin-up Gavin Henson, boyfriend of singer Charlotte Church.

the borough was experiencing a "suicide cluster" - despite the group sitting for more than a year.

At a recent meeting to discuss the problem Dr Tegwyn Williams said: "It is almost impossible to stop individuals from committing suicide."

"People kill themselves for millions of different reasons but the trouble is they do not reach out for

the help that is already there. Suicides happen in clusters. They have done over all times and all cultures. Why it is happening in Bridgend now no one understands."

He said a report commissioned in 2005 from academics at Glamorgan University concluded there was a problem within the area - though it was not known why. He said the

group had no idea of the number of attempted suicides in the area.

He said further training would be rolled out to help teachers and agencies recognise the dangers.

A mother of one of the dead youngsters pleaded with local authorities yesterday to take action to deal with the problems.

Violet Goodridge, 54, whose son

Luke, 20, was discovered hanged in his bedroom, said: "Something must be done to stop any more."

She said: "Luke's death has ripped the heart out of this family."

"We have no idea why he did it but I don't want any other family to go through what we've been through."

"He was hanging from the frame of a wardrobe we were getting fitted. He'd used a dressing gown cord. I had to cut him down. That image will stay with me for ever. I can only put Luke's actions down to a moment of madness because he had everything to live for."

All the 14 victims are under the age of 27 and many were known to each other.

The names of the others were Dale Crole, 18; David Dilling, 19; Thomas Davies, 20; Zachery Barnes, 17; Gareth Morgan, 27; James Knight, 26; Jason Williams, 21; Leigh Jenkins, 22 and Alan Price, 21.

Police last night said they had yet to find any link between Miss Fuller's suicide and the deaths of the 13 other young people.

A spokeswoman for South Wales Police said: "There are no suspicious circumstances and an investigation is being carried out on behalf of the coroner."