

This document has been written as a result of feedback by various people who have used the SAV resource.

Some comments from young people have asked why Lloyd's friends did not fight back.

This brief document explains in more detail what happened to Lloyd on the night of the incident and attempts to give an explanation for the reactions by Lloyd's friends. This document is based on the court case.



The night of the assault

On September the 25th 2005 Lloyd attended a friend's birthday party. Towards the end of the party around 12am Lloyd and a group of friends decided to head home to a friend's where they had planned to spend the night. Before they left they helped clean up the venue which resulted in them leaving later than expected approximately 1am. As they left the venue another group of young lads were leaving a pub 5 minutes from where Lloyd had spent the evening, they had been drinking heavily all day. Unfortunately their paths met when Lloyds group of friends were only 5 minutes from their destination. Although the two groups walked straight past each other one of Lloyds friends asked a member of the other group if they had been at the party which resulted in abusive language and Lloyds friend being punched. As Lloyds friend ran off the youth that attacked him shouted for his friends to come back and help fight which they did. As Lloyds friend noticed this he told the rest of Lloyd's group to run. As Lloyds group started to run one of the aggressors picked up a wooden parking sign which was laying on the grass verge. As Lloyd was the slowest to run he received a blow to the back of the head with the wooden sign. In court we heard that he was hit so hard there were pieces of flesh and hair embedded in the sign. Lloyd was hit again with the sign as he lay unconscious on the ground, the aggressor 'wielding the sign as if using an axe' according to a witness statement. Another attacker joined in and the aggressor group stamped on Lloyds head and kicked him in the face 'like a footballer taking a penalty shot.' (Crown prosecutor, 2006). One of Lloyd's friends returned to stop Lloyd being hit a third time with the sign by bear hugging the aggressor. A third attacker joined in to remove Lloyd's friend and prevent him from intervening again.

The attack lasted no more than about 5 minutes in which time Lloyd was beaten so severely he died with multiple brain haemorrhages and multi organ failure.

Why didn't Lloyd and his friends fight back?

The attack happened so quickly and unexpectedly that by the time Lloyd's friends had stopped running and looked back the attack was half way through, as they had run they were a fair distance away and by the time they had returned they would have been too late to save Lloyd regardless. The friend that returned was closest and could get there quickly. None of Lloyds friends were used to violence and aggression and panicked not knowing what to do. They had never seen this sort of violence before and were shocked. Some hid, some tried to go back, one did and another two called for the police and ambulance. Lloyd's friends did what they could. Some young people ask why they didn't do more. Well put yourself in their shoes. They are not used to this level of violence, had never seen it and by the time they had truly realised what was happening it was too late. If they had been closer or were used to fighting then they may have reacted differently but we will never know.



Looking back

Hindsight is a wonderful thing. Lloyd's friends put themselves through torture everyday thinking what they could have done differently.

Court

The trial took place the following year. Lloyd's family and friends sat and listened to the horrific events that took place that night for three weeks. The jury cried during the opening statement and when sentencing was passed. Lloyd's parents said they had gone from organising an 18th birthday party for their son to arranging his funeral. The three defendants were tried for murder. After the full week it took for the jury to make their decision, two were found guilty and one innocent. Murder is a life sentence but all those convicted are given a minimum sentence. After they have served this minimum sentence they can be eligible for parole. Andrew Betty was given a sentence of 13 years and Jay Wall was given 12 years.

We hope this document can help inform teachers further about the events that took place that night and give an insight into the reactions of Lloyd's friends. We have learnt that many questions are asked following the film, some of which are difficult to answer if you do not know the full story.

If you find more questions arising that are not answered here or on the website please email us at info@sav-ed.co.uk.