

# Charity begins abroad for Oscar-tipped Mirren



Helen Mirren: No luggage

AS ONE of Hollywood's most respected actresses she has a wardrobe crammed full of glamorous and expensive red carpet outfits.

But when it comes to going on holiday, Helen Mirren is more bag lady than leading lady.

While most other actresses travel with trolleys of designer luggage, the 61-year-old claims that she doesn't take a single suitcase, preferring to shop in charity shops when she reaches her destination.

Despite regularly turning up to premieres in designer outfits worth thousands, she told Good Housekeeping magazine: 'If I'm travelling somewhere particularly hot or cold in the world, I don't take any clothes with me.

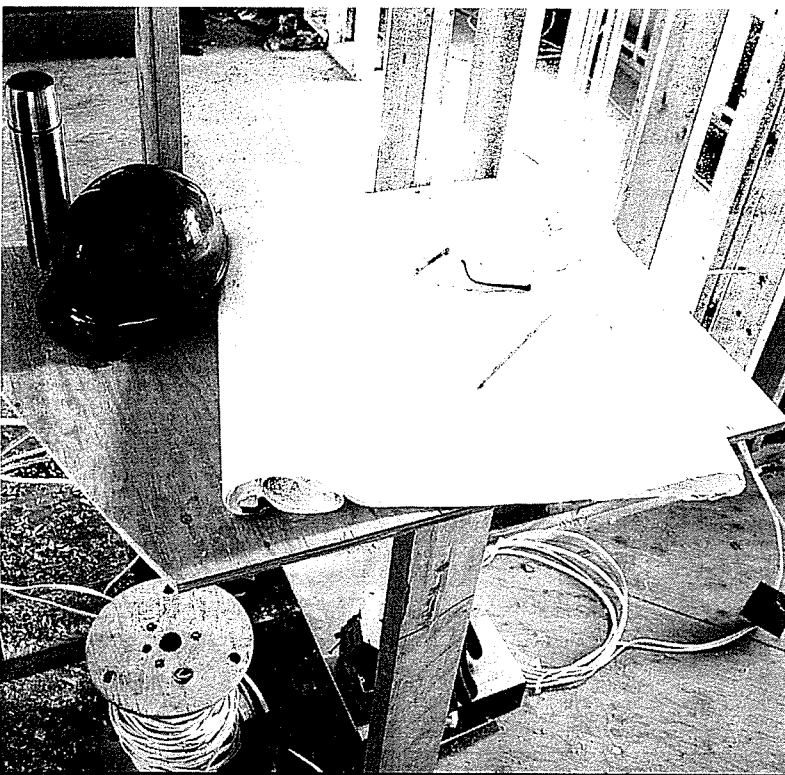
At the airport I ask the taxi driver to take me to the nearest charity shop where I'll buy what I need for the trip.

'When it's time to come home, I take them back to the shop. That way I don't have to haul luggage around with me.'

She insisted she even bought her character's clothes in second-hand shops. 'The clothes have a history that helps me get into the character,' she said.

Miss Mirren added that she rarely goes shopping and only buys items that are hugely discounted.

Her role in *The Queen* has won her Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild best actress nominations and she is hotly tipped to be nominated for an Oscar.



The Irish Daily Mail is now accepting planning applications for the following councils

- DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL •
- SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL •
- FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL •

For more information or to place an application please contact: 01 637 5915

# Daily IRISH Mail

# 'Someone and told

From Page One

decide not to join her fellow pilgrims that day? Was it, as has been suggested, because her arthritis had flared up?

● If her arthritis was so painful, how did she walk three kilometres to where her body was found?

● What was the big row about involving one of her closest friends shortly before she died?

● Why did she go out, leaving her cash, cigarettes and medication behind?

● If she died where she was found just 3km from her guesthouse, why did an extensive police search using tracker dogs fail to find her?

Mrs Brady's sisters believe someone may have abducted her and dumped the remains of her body there recently.

Yesterday, Mr Brady said the news meant that the family would at last be able to come to terms with Winnie's death and bring her body home to Dublin to lay her to rest.

But one of the woman's sisters, Bernie Shevlin, 53, hit out at the Department of Foreign Affairs for failing to inform her that a body had been found, claiming that she was told about the discovery by a stranger on the street.

Her comments, however, are at odds with Mr Brady, who said he couldn't praise diplomats enough for keeping in touch with him.

On the day Mrs Brady went missing she had decided against joining her fellow pilgrims on an excursion due to her painful arthritis.

But when her friends returned to meet her at about 2pm, a receptionist told them she had left the premises at around 1pm. Her passport, cash, cigarettes and medication

## Possessions left in room untouched

remained untouched in her room, and she had made no withdrawals from her bank account.

Mr Brady, from the Kibarrack area of north Dublin, said the Department had informed him of the discovery of a body on Sunday.

'I heard that they found the body. They weren't sure if it was Winnie or not. They were doing the post-mortem during the night and said that as soon as they get the details they would get in touch with me,' he said.

'Yesterday morning the Department of Foreign Affairs were on to me and told me that they were nearly 99 per cent sure it was Winnie. The only identification was what she was wearing - her rings and that. When he [the official] mentioned the rings, they were the rings she had on her. Now I've just got the dental report and that's been faxed over to them.'

He said that 'there were no words that could explain the feelings' he had felt during Winnie's disappearance.

'There are people in similar circumstances, and well, I pity them. I really do. My heart goes out to them. At least I have closure now and maybe I can rest easy now, knowing that I am bringing her home.'

When asked what he thought had happened to his wife, he said: 'I'd be only speculating. I can't really tell. Until they give you the full details I won't know.'

He said she had been 'grand' before she left and 'really looking forward' to the pilgrimage.

'There was nothing wrong with her except the knee, she had arthritis in the knee. That really was her only complaint otherwise she was grand.'

'After five days over there she just disappeared and hasn't been seen

## Unfolding mystery: Timeline of events

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2006**  
Grandmother Winifred Brady travels with nine friends to Medjugorje.

**MIDDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
Mrs Brady's group attend a mountain-top Mass, but she remains behind at hotel due to pain from arthritis in her leg.

**2PM, SEPTEMBER 6**  
Mrs Brady is spotted leaving her hotel for a walk.

**4.30PM, SEPTEMBER 6**  
A woman matching Mrs Brady's description is seen not far from hotel. Witness tells Bosnian police that the woman was extremely disorientated.

**MIDNIGHT, SEPTEMBER 7**  
Group realises Mrs Brady is missing and the alarm is raised. Her money, passport and medication are all left behind.

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
Garda Tom Daly, attached to the EU police mission in Bosnia, heads the search operation assisted by sniffer dogs and an elite Bosnian police unit.

Mrs Brady's husband, Stephen, travels to the region. Five other family members travel to Bosnia in the next few days.

The nine women in Mrs Brady's group return to Dublin.

**OCTOBER 20**  
Mrs Brady's family say they believe she is dead and that 'something sinister' happened to her. They announce plans to raise €50,000 to hire a private detective.

**JANUARY 8, 2007**  
Police in Medjugorje discover a body less than three kilometres from the hotel where Mrs Brady was last seen.

**JANUARY 9**  
Stephen Brady travels to Medjugorje to identify the body. Officials from the Irish Embassy in Ljubljana, Slovenia, also travel to the area.

since. We went over the first time around September 6 and stayed there a few weeks. But there was nothing we could do, we searched along with the search team but nothing came out of it.'

Mr Brady said when he returned to Ireland after the search he 'really thought she would be alive'.

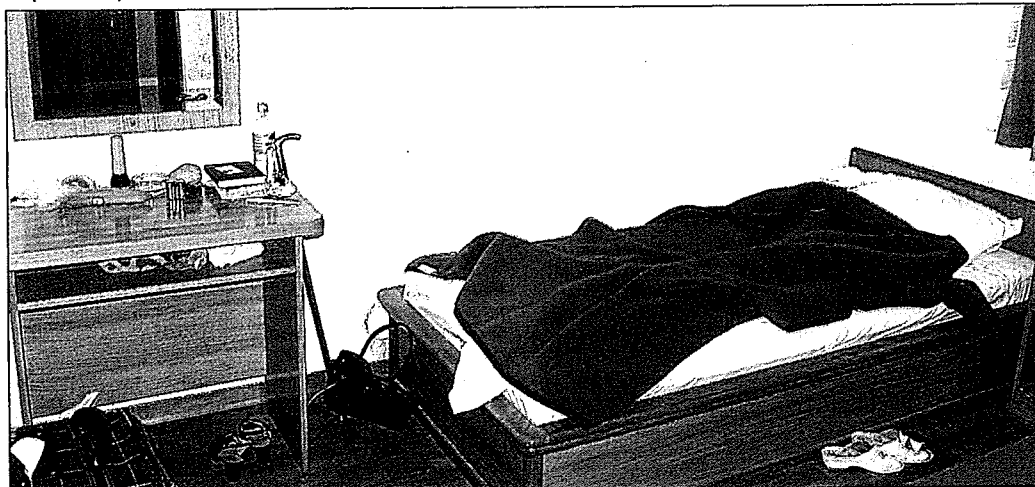
And had hoped that his wife had fallen, hit her head and lost her memory.

'That's what I was hoping for and hoping she would come home,' he said. He could not praise the

# stopped me in street me my sister was dead'



Stephen Brady with his wife Winnie: He said yesterday: 'At least I have closure now and I may be able to rest easy knowing I am bringing her home'



Untouched: Room 102 in the Medjugorje guesthouse complete with Mrs Brady's possessions on the dressing table

Department of Foreign Affairs enough. 'They've been very, very good to me. During the time she was missing, they were in touch with me all the time and kept me up to date with everything that was happening.'

But yesterday Mrs Shevlin said she and her only remaining sister Dolores Flynn, 54, had been told about the discovery by a stranger on the street.

She said she was also furious that the Department had failed to keep in contact with them

since September 16 last in relation to Winnie's disappearance. She said they had asked the Department to keep them informed due to a breakdown in communications with Stephen.

She told the Irish Daily Mail last night: 'Stephen rang me this morning at 11 o'clock but I'd already found out from a stranger on the street at 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoon that Winnie's body had been found.' She added: 'We don't know why he's being like this. It

was like he was the husband and we shouldn't be interfering with them.'

'We are Winnie's family, her flesh and blood and we have a right to know what is going on with our sister.'

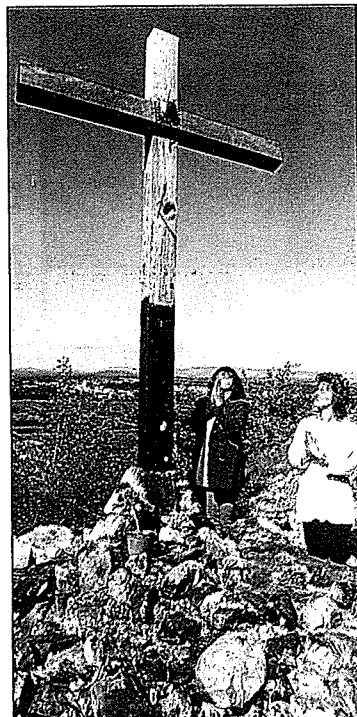
But a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday: 'The Department's normal practise is to liaise with the next of kin, which in this case is Stephen Brady. And beyond that it is up to the family to liaise with each other.'

It is understood that Winnie is the seventh person to have disappeared in the region since 1981.

In October Mrs Brady's sisters insisted that her disappearance was 'not an accident'.

Mrs Flynn said: 'My sister and I believe that something sinister happened to Winnie.'

'We only found out recently that she had a big row [with one of her closest friends]. It was a serious argument. We think something bad happened to her.'



Holy site: The Bosnian 'Mountain of Visions'