Llanegitho home blazes after drum of fuel left in bedroom in arson attack

Meibion Glyndwr link ruled out

By Peter Roberts

The police and the Llanegitho couple whose luxury home was set alight by a drum of fuel left in a first-floor bedroom are discounting the theory that the fire was the deliberate work of Meibion Glyndwr arsonists.

"I personally don't believe it was Welsh nationalists. I think it was something more localized than that," Rowland Parsons, who moved into the area 12 years ago, said on Monday morning.

He and his wife, Olga returned to their home - Derwyn Fach alongside the B4412 road near a mile east of Llanegitho - on Friday afternoon after going away in their touring caravan for the night "to get us away from the telephone".

When they arrived back they discovered evidence of a break-in at the rear of their home and the act of opening the back-door was believed to have fanned the fire already smouldering in the bedroom.

Mr. Parsons was born in Cardiff and brought up in Barry and a week before the fire he had appeared on BBC Wales's "Week In, Week Out" programme which highlighted the difficulties in the Welsh language in Llanegitho and other rural areas of Wales.

The programme also revealed Mr. Parsons was publishing his own English local newspaper "Llanegitho Times". He said it came out fortnightly and the current edition was the thirteenth.

"It deals with items of local interest and I run it more as a hobby than anything else. The

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A Dyfed-Powys Police "Scene-of-crime" officer from Carmarthen (left) and a Home Office forensic scientist from Chesham examine the plastic drum recovered from the first-floor bedroom at the Parson's home.

Sgt. Ian Rees, of Lampeter, and Inspector John Williams, Aberystwyth, at the front of the Parsons' home near Llanegitho.

Mr. Parsons at Derwyn Fach soon after the discovery of the fire on Friday afternoon.