

Community order for assault on woman

A MAN has been made subject to a restraining order after assaulting a woman.

Martin Pearcey appeared for sentencing at Reading Magistrates' Court on Thursday, July 3.

At a previous hearing the 46-year-old, of Bath Road, Thatcham, had admitted assaulting Kathy Jury by beating her in Thatcham on October 29 last year.

Magistrates adjourned for pre-sentence reports.

At Thursday's sentencing, Pearcey, who was legally represented by Robert Jacques, was made subject to a 12-month community order.

In addition, he was ordered to pay £85 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge.

Next, Pearcey was required to complete 100 hours of unpaid community work.

Finally, Pearcey was made subject to a restraining order forbidding him from contacting his victim either directly or indirectly and not to go to a specified road.

The order will last for two years.

Digital screen will boost communication

New installation will provide regular updates in town centre

By BETHANY SIRIANNI
newsdesk@newburynews.co.uk
@newburytoday

A NEW digital screen has been installed to bring community updates and important notices to Thatcham residents and visitors.

The screen has been installed in Thatcham Broadway by Scion Communications.

It was funded by Community Infrastructure Levy which ensures that any development directly benefits the community.

Thatcham mayor Petra Pemberton was present to see the new noticeboard in action and welcomed its installation, saying: "This digital noticeboard is a fantastic addition to our town centre, ensuring residents and visitors can easily stay up to date with what's happening in Thatcham."

The screen will display information about upcoming town events, local initiatives, key information and more.

Thatcham Town Council says it is supporting its commitment to improve its communication with residents, while reducing paper waste and embracing new technology.



Mayor Petra Pemberton at the unveiling of the digital screen with Scion Communications managing director Dean Caplin

It also forms part of the council's continued work to improve the Broadway area, so that the town centre remains vibrant and welcoming.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Broadway and take a look at the

new screen, which will be regularly updated with information relevant to the community.

If you are interested in advertising on the screen, email enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

THATCHAM

Keeping in touch

Have you got a story?
Contact our Thatcham reporter MIREK GOSNEY on (01635) 886637 or email: mirek.gosney@newburynews.co.uk
Twitter @mgosney_nwn



News updates from Thatcham are now available online throughout the week. Go to newburytoday.co.uk and select the district pages

newburytoday.co.uk

Teenager assaulted by gang in alleyway

THAMES Valley Police are appealing for witnesses to an assault in Thatcham.

A boy was assaulted by a group of individuals in an alleyway off Mount Road at around 6pm on Sunday, July 13.

The teenage victim attended hospital for treatment but has since been discharged.

The offenders are described as a mix of males and females aged between 12 and 18.

Investigating officer PC Shannon Mackley, of Thatcham's Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "I am appealing to anyone who may have witnessed this incident.

"You can make a report online or by calling 101, quoting reference 43250352155.

"Alternatively, for anonymity, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."



Gerry on the climber



Lisa on the rower



Tony on the rower

Users give new exercise machines a workout

NEW powered-exercise therapy equipment has been installed at West Berkshire Therapy Centre in Thatcham.

The state-of-the-art machines are designed to help users maintain their mobility, strength and independence.

They were funded through a grant from the Berkshire Community Foundation, the Berkshire Nurses and Relief in Sickness Trust and Tesco Stronger Starts.

Among the first to try out the new machines was client

Gerry, who immediately took to the 'climber'.

"The electronics are clearer than on the older machines," he said. "This machine helps me to strengthen my legs and arms, and I can exercise both at the same time."

The next-generation 'rower' has also proved a winner.

Client Tony said: "I like that I can use both arms and legs at the same time. I can give it a good strong push and pull. It's stable and I can feel my muscles work."

West Berkshire Therapy Centre was set up more than 10 years ago with support from a wide range of donors.

It provides support for those affected by Parkinson's, MS, stroke, fibromyalgia, pain, rheumatism, arthritis, cancer, sight loss, post-operative recovery and many other conditions.

Clients come from West Berkshire and North Hampshire and as a charity, there are no set charges for sessions, but donations are welcomed from users.

Suspended sentence for prolific shoplifter

A SERIAL shoplifter has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Rebecca Smith appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, July 2.

The 38-year-old, of The Haywards, Thatcham, admitted

stealing spirits worth £122 belonging to Waitrose in Reading on March 7.

She further admitted stealing whiskey worth £20 from the same store on March 4.

She has numerous previous convictions, the court heard.

Smith, who was legally represented by Adonis Daniel, was sentenced to four months imprisonment, suspended for a year.

In addition, Smith was ordered to pay £85 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge.

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