

HUNGERFORD & LAMBOURN VALLEY

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Stalking charge is dismissed

A MAN accused of a serious stalking offence has had the charge dismissed.

But Charlie Pennington was nevertheless made subject to a restraining order.

At a previous hearing at Reading Magistrates' Court the 20-year-old, of Chilton Way, Hungerford, pleaded not guilty to pursuing a course of conduct which amounted to the stalking of Amanda Repton.

Specifically, Mr Pennington was said to have contacted her via Snapchat and Instagram, attended her workplace and home uninvited and loitered near The Hatchet pub in Newbury town centre when she was in attendance, repeatedly looking over at her, in Newbury between July 9 and August 15 last year.

Pennington spoke only to confirm his personal details and to plead not guilty to the single charge and the case was adjourned for a trial to be arranged.

Then, at the latest hearing on Wednesday, July 9, the prosecution offered no evidence and the charge was dismissed.

However Mr Pennington, who was legally represented by Elisabeth MacDermott, agreed to be made subject to a restraining order.

Under its terms, he must not contact Amelia Repton, either directly or indirectly.

In addition, he is forbidden from going to The Craven Arms in Enborne.

The order will last for three years.

Replacement home gets the go ahead

PLANNING chiefs have granted permission for a replacement village home.

The application was in respect of 2 Burfords in East Garston.

The village parish council had objected to the proposal, stating: "The property, although on a similar footprint, is doubling in size."

"If planning [permission] is granted it could set a precedent for other applications in Burfords, leading to overdevelopment of the cul-de-sac which is currently all small bungalows."

"This, in turn, removes a number of small, affordable houses in the village."

There were also 13 letters of objection from residents.

Nevertheless, West Berkshire Council's western area planning committee voted to grant permission.

Members had been reminded that planning policy "includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development which means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay".



Mannequins dotted along the roadside

Ref: 30-2425N



Dawn Wilson, parish councillor Alex Wolcough and Vanessa Dobson at Stag Hill

Ref: 30-2425K

Village's dummy run to slow down speeding cars

Child-sized mannequins dotted along road in Chilton Foliat after several near misses

MEET one village's unique method of controlling motorists' speed on their streets... the SAMs.

The acronym stands for Speed Awareness Mannequins and they are designed to look eye-catchingly like children.

Chilton Foliat resident Vanessa Dobson, who designed them, said villagers have long been concerned about vehicles speeding on Stag Hill.

She added: "It's unacceptable. 'We've got a primary school with 96 pupils and quite a few children live here.'"

The last straw for Mrs Dobson came a few weeks ago when her cat was struck by a vehicle.

She said: "He shattered his face and hips; he's still recovering."

After getting the idea for the SAMs, Mrs Dobson began collecting abandoned uniforms from lost property from the school she works at and filling them with soft plastics from her household recycling.

Already the figures have caused the traffic to slow.

Another resident, Dawn Wilson,



Vanessa Dobson with handmade 'red children' mannequin along the roadside in a bid to slow motorists down

Ref: 30-2425H

said: "If I step out on to the pavement and I'm not paying attention, at 30 miles an hour I might have a chance – but not if someone's doing 72."

"It's even worse at night; by the time drivers get to my house, they

see the national speed limit sign and speed up.

The issue is now on the radar of the local parish council.

Parish councillor Alex Wolcough confirmed that vehicle speed monitoring has been ongoing

“If I step out on to the pavement and I'm not paying attention, at 30 miles an hour I might have a chance – but not if someone's doing 72

since 2019, with a speed indication device in place.

He said: "The latest device went in earlier this year and we're collecting the data monthly and sending it to the police."

"The fastest recorded speed going down the road was 72mph."

He added that the data has been shared with Wiltshire Council in the hope of getting official speed detection measures authorised, which would allow the council to move ahead with volunteer training for a community speed watch programme.

In the meantime, residents continue their homemade efforts to make Chilton Foliat a safer place – one red SAM at a time.

Trainers' son cycles for injured jockeys charity

HERE'S Tom Dunlop, preparing for an epic, 2,600-mile charity cycle ride, visiting all 60 horseracing courses in the land.

The 19-year-old son of Lambourn horseracing industry stalwarts Harry and Christina Dunlop, aims to raise £60,000 for the Injured Jockeys Fund and Diverse Abilities.

While both charities are close to his heart, the latter is so as his mother's godson has Angelman Syndrome and attends the charity's day centre regularly, where a planned hydrotherapy pool could make a huge difference to his life.

Christina Dunlop said: "Tom is very dyspraxic and couldn't ride a bike until he was 12 years old."

Dyspraxia, also known as developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD), is a common disorder that does not affect intellect but can affect co-ordination and balance.

And it's not his first physical challenge – during the Covid pandemic he ran all the Lambourn and neighbouring gallops to raise £5,000 for the local Riding for the Disabled charity to help them feed their horses.

Mrs Dunlop revealed her son will take time on his route to make an annual visit to the graves of his grandparents, John and Sue Dunlop, and his late uncle Tim Dunlop, at Burpham Church in Guildford, Surrey.

Tom set off from Newton Abbott in Devon on Sunday, July 27, and aims to finish on Day 33 – Thursday, August 28, at Newbury.

He planned his route with the help of Goodwood steward Charlie Corbett, a member of Velocity Racing Syndicate, and trained with horserace industry luminaries Charlie Morlock and Chris Rutter.

The project van has been loaned



Tom aims to raise £60,000 for the Injured Jockeys Fund and Diverse Abilities.

by Rhonehurst Stables owners Jim and Claire Bryce.

Tom's effort? Visit www.givewheel.com/fundraising/7283/toms-big-bike-ride

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