

# Court: Young drug dealer's body damaged by ketamine

Judge takes pity on 22-year-old after hearing of health problems caused by addiction

**A JUDGE took sympathy on a drug dealer whose ketamine habit had wrecked his health.**

Corey Braybrooke appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, October 29.

The 22-year-old, of Park Avenue, Thatcham, was spared imprisonment partly because of his candour concerning the physical damage his addiction had done.

Serena Lit, prosecuting, said plain clothes officers noticed Braybrooke cycling at Jubilee Lake in Thatcham, which, she said, was known to police as a drug dealing area.

There, they saw Braybrooke passing a packet to another male, the court heard.

After the exchange, Braybrooke sped off on his cycle.

Officers managed to catch the

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other male, who confirmed he had just bought ketamine from Braybrooke, said Ms Lit.

When they finally caught Braybrooke there was more ketamine in his jacket plus £30 in cash, the judge was told.

Braybrooke was arrested and his home address searched, where they found more than £500 in cash and ketamine with a street value of almost £600, Ms Lit added.

Braybrooke admitted possessing the Class B-controlled drug with intent to supply it on May 18 last year.

He has six previous convictions for offences including possessing cannabis with intent to supply it and drug-driving, the court heard.

Kelly Purcell-Chandler, defending, handed the court a letter from Braybrooke's GP outlining the health problems the drug had caused him.

She explained that her client had been dealing to fund his addiction.

The judge, Recorder John Ryder KC, described ketamine as "a pretty unpleasant drug".

He told Braybrooke: "You're very young and have got yourself into a mess, and not just physiologically, because of ketamine abuse. "However I've been very impressed by your pre-sentence report.

"You've been not only co-operative but quite strikingly honest.

"It seems to me that, though serious, the public interest – which is obviously pre-eminent – and your own is best served by [a non cus-

todial sentence]."

Judge Ryder again highlighted the damage the drug had done to Braybrooke, stating: "The medical consequences, I've read about – I don't propose to repeat them in public."

He added: "In my opinion you deserve the opportunity, now you're maturing, to rehabilitate yourself – and, indeed, I've every confidence that you will do so.

"Your candour makes a refreshing change, if I may say so."

Judge Ryder made Braybrooke subject to a 12-month community order with the requirement that he complete up to 20 rehabilitation activity requirement days.

He also ordered Braybrooke to pay a statutory victim services surcharge, plus £150 costs.



## New cricket nets at Kennet

**PICTURED left, Kennet Leisure Centre's indoor cricket nets have been upgraded following a grant from the council.**

Thatcham Town Council awarded a £1,500 grant to help upgrade

the indoor cricket nets for the community.

The new and improved nets will make a huge difference to local clubs, schools and community groups.

It will also help provide a top-quality space for indoor cricket training in West Berkshire.

Previously, Thatcham Town Cricket Club had to travel across the district for out-of-season practice, but now their players, coaches, and other young cricketers can enjoy modern, local facilities.

## Two boys attacked in park after man assaulted the day before

**TWO boys were taken to hospital after being attacked in a Thatcham park on Wednesday last week.**

Thames Valley Police are appealing for witnesses following two assaults, which both occurred in Thatcham last week.

The first took place on Tuesday at approximately 7.30pm in Church Lane where a man – who is currently unknown to the police – was assaulted.

The second incident was on Wednesday at around 5.30pm in the park at Kennet Heath, where the two boys were assaulted.

They were treated in hospital and have since been dis-

charged.

Police say four arrests have been made and their investigations are ongoing.

Investigating officer PC Shannon Mackley said: "We understand the concern these incidents have caused within the local community and are treating both assaults seriously.

"We are actively pursuing all lines of enquiry and would urge anyone who witnessed either incident, or who may have information that could assist our investigation, to come forward.

"Even the smallest detail could prove vital.

"To reassure the public and

support community safety, we will be increasing high-visibility patrols in the areas.

"Officers will be engaging with residents and are available to speak with anyone who has concerns.

"If you saw anything suspicious, or have CCTV, doorbell or dash-cam footage from the area, please check it – it could be vital to our investigation.

"Anyone with information is asked to contact us on 101, quoting reference 43250552898, or report it online via the Thames Valley Police website.

"Alternatively, information can be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

## 2nd Thatcham Scouts celebrate 70th birthday

**PAST members and supporters of Thatcham's 2nd Scout Group are invited to celebrate its 70th birthday this month.**

On Saturday, November 29, starting at 2pm until 4pm, there will be a birthday celebration for the group at the Scout HQ on Memory



Field.

Leaders are inviting supporters to find out about the group's history and share

some birthday cake.

The group was started in December 1955 for boys who could not take part in the first group because they did not have a registered religion.

In 1956 the group found their home on the Memorial Field and have stayed there ever since.

## Machine fire at industrial building in Colthrop

**FIREFIGHTERS were called to a blaze in an industrial building in Colthrop on Thursday last week.**

They were alerted to the incident in Gables Way at 1.42am.

Upon arrival, crews found that the machinery fire was

already out.

Firefighters used extinguishers and isolated the machine to make the scene safe.

## THATCHAM

Keeping in touch

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

**n**ewburytoday.co.uk

## Sunday road closures

**WITH Remembrance Sunday this weekend here are a reminder of the road closures affecting Thatcham.**

Thatcham's annual service will take place this Sunday with hundreds of parade participants taking part and many local residents paying their respects on the day.

The parade will form in the Kingsland Centre car park from 10am and vehicle access to the car park will be limited from this time until 10.30am.

If you are intending on driving and parking in the Kingsland car park to shop at Waitrose or other shops in town, it is recommended you wait until after 10.30am when the parade will have left.

The parade will be visible from the Broadway and High Street from 10.30am as it progresses to the Parade Ground.

A rolling road closure of the Broadway and High Street will mean possible delays for people travelling during this time.

Between 10.30am and 10.45am and estimated times of 11.20am and 11.45am access through the town should be via Lower Way and The Moors.

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