

## BRIEFING

## Five charged over disturbance

FIVE men from Newmarket have been charged in connection with a disturbance at a house last year that left three men injured.

Violence broke out at the house in Wellington Street, Newmarket, on August 18.

The five were charged yesterday by Suffolk police and are now due to appear at Bury Magistrates' Court.

Abdul Haq, 26, of Birdcage Walk, Zeeshan Kazmi, 21, of Queen Street, and Ali Azhar, 32, of Park Lane, have all been charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Saeed Ahmed, 38, of Queen Street, has been charged with aggravated burglary and two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

All four are due before Bury magistrates on February 2.

The fifth man, Mohammad Saleem, 25, of Lowther Street, has been charged with aggravated burglary and two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He is due before Bury magistrates on January 25.

## Brickwork damaged

Ornamental brickwork on a boundary wall at an address in Bredfield Street, Woodbridge, was damaged at about 8.50pm on Saturday.

Police are keen to trace a group of seven youths – thought to be aged in their mid to late teens who were seen entering the driveway at the property and throwing gravel at each other. Anyone with information is asked to telephone Pc 1551 Wilkinson on 01473 613500.

## Wiper blades stolen

Thieves have taken the wiper blades from the windscreen of a car parked in a village.

The silver Ford Mondeo had been left on the driveway of a house in Fingal Street, Worlingworth, and the blades were stolen at some point between 10.30am on Friday and 9am on Monday. Any witnesses are asked to telephone Sergeant Jon Eaves on 01284 774100.

## Workshop is raided

A red coloured petrol powered chain saw and a bench mounted sander were stolen from a workshop in the back garden of a home at Romany Road, Oulton Broad, between 1pm on Sunday and 9.30am on Monday.

It is thought two people would have been needed to move the sander – and that a vehicle would have been needed to transport it. Anyone with information is asked to telephone PCSO Quantrill on 01986 835300.

## TV aerials are stolen

A television aerial was stolen from the wall of the May Centre in Common Lane, Beccles, between 4pm on Sunday, January 3, and 4pm on Saturday.

Police are also investigating after the theft of another aerial from club premises at The Common. Anyone with information is asked to telephone Sgt 1218 Howell on 01986 835300.

# Car demolishes garden wall after collision

A COUPLE yesterday told of their shock after a car ended up in their front garden following an accident.

Andrew and Julie Bagley, who live on the corner of Freehold Road and Crabbe Street in Ipswich, were left shaken after a collision between two cars ended up with one of the vehicles crashing through their garden wall.

Firefighters from Colchester Road Fire Station and Princes Street were called to the incident at 4.33pm yesterday after reports of a two-vehicle collision.

After arriving on the scene, crews worked to make the area and the vehicles safe.

Police were also called, after the crash between a black Ford Fiesta and a red Peugeot,

caused the destruction of a family garden.

The accident, which took place on the junction between Kemball Street, Freehold Road and Crabbe Street, left both drivers suffering from shock.

Julie Bagley, who was at home with her sons when the incident happened, said: "It was such a massive shock because all I heard was this massive bang.

"I got up and looked out of the window and just saw that this car had come through the wall and I could see the poor little driver's face – I was so worried."

"I was just really concerned that someone was hurt

– but luckily both the ladies involved were fine and that's the main thing."



**AFTERMATH:** The car which ended up in a garden after an accident in Freehold Road, Ipswich, yesterday

Photograph: ALEX FAIRFULL

# Mill could be restored to its former glory

**PROJECT:** Council receives proposal for conversion to home

Ref - slb 010 sproughton mill 1

By Craig Robinson

AN HISTORIC water mill looks set to be restored to its former glory.

Babergh District Council has received fresh proposals to convert the Grade II listed Sproughton Watermill, near Ipswich, into a residential property.

Although a scheme for the 19th Century building has already been given the green light developers want to slightly alter the plan – which requires new consent.

Owner Richard Howard has now tabled proposals with the district council for conversion of the mill into a single residential property, including the erection of a footbridge over the river, new vehicular access and internal alterations.

Mr Howard, managing director of Fastracker Development in

Ipswich, said: "We already have full planning permission for it to go ahead – we want to make it into a house. "Hopefully we will be starting in March. It's a very exciting project – the property has a lovely aspect and it is one of the more interesting buildings on the edge of Ipswich."

The present water mill dates from about 1820 after being rebuilt by millwright Sir William Cubitt.

A few years ago it was the centre of a dispute between a previous owner and Babergh District Council, which was forced to step in and carry out repair work to the building. Peter Wells, a partner with architects Barefoot and Gilles, said: "The mill has a colourful planning history. Babergh District Council ended up owning the mill and it was bought by our client for his own private residence.



**NEW HOPE:** A planning application has been submitted to convert Sproughton Watermill into a residential property

Photograph: SARAH LUCY BROWN

"We already have permission to convert it, including listed building consent. However, we now want to do something slightly different to what has been approved so we have to re-apply for permission.

"Hopefully we should start work in around three months time so that it is ready for Christmas or early next year."

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# Banned disabled man drove at 70mph

A WHEELCHAIR-bound man who drove at speeds of up to 70mph in his high performance BMW as he tried to lose a police car that was following him has been jailed for six months.

Robert Hubert, 29, of Kesgrave, near Ipswich, was left paralysed from the chest down in a motorcycle accident in 2006 and had bought his powerful BMW with some of his compensation money, Ipswich Crown Court heard.

On November 23 last year a policeman in a marked car saw Hubert driving along Landseer Road, Ipswich, at speed and gave chase with the blue

lights on his car flashing, Jade Martin, prosecuting, said.

The police helicopter, which had been assisting in a separate incident, had sight of the BMW and when the police car was unable to catch up with it the helicopter tracked its path along Bixley Road and Foxhall Road before it turned into Dobbs Lane and finally came to a halt in the driveway of a house in Ashdale Road, Kesgrave.

Miss Martin said a police officer who had been waiting in the area saw the BMW travelling at 70mph in a 30mph zone and followed it into

Ashdale Road where it was doing 60mph. After his arrest Hubert said he had panicked after seeing the police car in Landseer Road because he was a banned driver and feared he was going to be arrested.

He said he thought his high performance car would be able to lose the police vehicle and he admitted he had driven dangerously.

Hubert, of Ashdale Road, Kesgrave, admitted driving while disqualified, dangerous driving and driving without insurance.

Jailing him for six months and banning him from driving

for 12 months, Judge John Devaux said Hubert had five convictions for driving while disqualified. "Your disabled condition hasn't prevented you from reoffending," he said.

"This was prolonged bad driving over five-and-a-half miles. Some of it was cross-country and some in built-up areas," he added.

Roger Thomson, for Hubert, said his client had been left with a broken back after the 2006 accident. "It may be that having a large car was one of the ways he has tried to compensate for what happened," he said.