

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Bury Times

READ BY 61,419 EVERY WEEK (PRINT AND ONLINE) *P2

Thursday, December 26, 2013

BT burytimes.co.uk

£1

WEEKEND WEATHER Windy with blustery showers **Max: 7 Min: 4**

INSIDE TODAY

Weekend 12 super pages of leisure & lifestyle

INTERVIEW **A change of direction for Julie**

FASHION **Style tips from Rebecca**

WALK **Take a stroll that's 'shore' to please**

Plus much, much more!

IT'S THE SEASON TO BE GIVING



Michelle and Reece Longden and Christine Turner, back, who gave money to help replace stolen Christmas presents

Money given to replace family's stolen gifts

By TUI BENJAMIN
tui.benjamin@nqnw.co.uk

A FAMILY whose presents were stolen discovered the true meaning of Christmas when residents gave money for them to replace the lost gifts.

Mum-of-two Michelle Longden and partner Leon Cowley, were left heartbroken after

burglars snatched thousands of pounds worth of presents and valuables.

Thieves looted the couple's Vernon Street home and ripped the wrapping paper from presents for sons Reece, aged nine — who has special needs caused by congenital myotonic dystrophy and hydrocephalus — and Connor, aged 15. The

burglars found the gifts hidden in Michelle's room and snatched valuables from around the house.

Since the family's plight appeared in the Bury Times, the family has been "humbled" by donations from readers, neighbours and the Bury delivery office where Leon works.

CONTINUED ■ 2

1000's of Appliances at amazing prices!

A massive choice of Fridges, Freezers, Cookers, Washers & Dryers!

Shop Instore or online via our website.

0% APR AVAILABLE **FREE DELIVERY** **SAME DAY DELIVERY!** **FREE EXPERT ADVICE ON EVERY PURCHASE**

Christmas Opening Times

Christmas Eve	9am - 3pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	10am - 5pm
Friday 27th	10am - 5pm
Saturday 28th	10am - 5pm
Sunday 29th	11am - 4pm
Monday 30th	10am - 5pm
New Year's Eve	10am - 5pm
New Year's Day	Closed
Thursday 2nd	9am - 7pm

CK SHOWROOM: Elton Fold Mill, Harvey Street, Bury, BL8 1FZ
email: sales@ckha.co.uk | www.ckha.co.uk | T: 0161 763 4146

*0% APR subject to status. Free delivery on instore purchases. *Subject to volume and area restrictions.

Home Appliances: **Hotpoint ZANUSSI AEG BOSCH BEKO INDESIT STOVES (bellini)**

KITCHEN & BEDROOM

JANUARY SALE

PLUS **FREE FITTING**

Free Dry Fit
Includes Granite Worktops

This **£15,720** High Gloss Kitchen **NOW £7,860** YOU SAVE **£7,860**

OFFER INCLUDES: Quality "Rigid Built" Units (Not Flat packs) Bosh oven, Ceramic hob, American Fridge/Freezer, Sink & Tap, 30mm Granite worktops. **NO HIDDEN EXTRAS!** DESIGNED, DELIVERED & FULLY FITTED*
*FREE DRY FIT! (Plumbing & Electrics subject to survey)

Full Project Management and Building Work Available

We are confident that we can beat any "Like for Like" written quote by at least 10%. BRING IN YOUR QUOTE!!

OPEN 7 DAYS (except 25th Dec)
FREE no obligation planning & design service

Bury: 0161 341 0484
ALL OUR LINES OPEN UNTIL 9PM
Bullfinch, 01204 271700, Black Office, Gateway Hill, Garston Rd, Farnworth, BL8 4QT
Leigh, 01524 259 047, 46-48 Mill Coppice, Widdow's Mill Street, Leigh, WN1 1QJ
Widmore, 01625 531 911, 101-103 New House, 10 Macdonald Rd, Widmore, SK9 1RQ

CARRINGTONS YOUR KITCHEN & BEDROOM

THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT FACTORY SHOWROOM OF ITS KIND IN THE NORTHWEST - 30 DISPLAYS IN FULL ROOM SETTINGS

IN THIS WEEK'S

Bury Times

PARKING Good Samaritan is shown no mercy as she has to pay parking fine despite coming to the rescue of an elderly shopper. **PAGE 5**

VIPS Players from Bury FC spread some Christmas cheer with a visit to a centre catering for disabled children. **PAGE 6**

TRAMS Persistent fare dodgers on the Metrolink line, with fines totalling more than £16,000, are brought to book. **PAGE 7**

CAMPAIGN Bury actress stars in a new anti-smoking campaign urging parents not to light up in the confines of their car. **PAGE 12**

TRIBUNAL A solicitor who served as a Bury district judge has been struck off the register after a tribunal hearing. **PAGE 25**

Rammy & Totty

DOODLEBUG On Christmas Eve, 1944, Tottington residents were devastated to become victims of Hitler's silent killer. **PAGE 18-19**

Business

GROWING Baby Moves is anticipating a prosperous new year as it moves to a new base in Tottington. **PAGE 20**

Opinion & Letters

TRANSPORT Thanks for a balanced analysis of the HS2 debate. **PAGE 21**

Clubs

ALPINE GARDENERS The chairman pats members on the back for keeping the club at the forefront of the local gardening scene. **PAGE 22**

Motors

PAGE 35

Classified

PAGE 42

Sport

PAGE 44

CONTACT US

NEWS STORIES: 0161 797 0365

FAX: 01204 537427

EMAIL: burynewsdesk@burytimes.co.uk
burysport@burytimes.co.ukEditor: Ian Savage
News editor Steve Orrell 01204 537 274
Picture desk: 01204 537 265
Web editor: 01204 537 258
Sport: Claire Cameron 01204 537 295Display advertising 01204 537 201
Jackie McMahon 01204 537 200
email: jackie.mcmahon@nqnw.co.uk
twitter: @mackyjackyLisa Akroyd 01204 537399
email: lakroyd@nqnw.co.uk
Steve Coffey 01204 537208
email: steve.coffey@nqnw.co.uk
twitter: @stevecoffeyClassified advertising 01204 522 333
email: classified@burytimes.co.uk
Motors (classified) 01254 298 009
Motors (display) 01254 298 349
Newspaper sales 01204 537 288
Promotions 0845 313 9463
(calls charged at local rate)

Source: Opportunities to see Bury Times inc. Radcliffe Times - JICREG data as at Oct 2013, Omniture 26wk avg 2013

SOLDIER

'Our son Lee united country'

Stepfather: He's been taken into everyone's hearts

By STEVE ORELL
steve.orell@nqnw.co.uk

THE family of murdered Lee Rigby said the young soldier's horrific death had united the country and he had been "taken to everybody's hearts like a son".

His mother Lyn and stepfather Ian spoke in the aftermath of Michael Adebolajo, aged 29, and Michael Adebowale, aged 22, being convicted at the Old Bailey of Fusilier Rigby's murder by running him down in a car and then hacking him to death.

Mrs Rigby said he wanted to join the Army since he was four, achieving his ambition by going on to serve with the 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

"There was never any other career he wanted to do. Always the Army was number one and he followed his dream and obviously I supported



Fusilier Lee Rigby

Lee's decision as that's what he wanted to do. And we backed him all the way to get him into the Army," said Mrs Rigby.

Having served in Afghanistan, she was relieved when he came back to the UK, and later took up a recruiting post based in London in 2011.

"I thought he'd be safe. You rest up easy - they're not in the war zone and back home, doing a job

that he loved doing. Nothing ever enters your head."

Stepfather Ian Rigby said he believes that his stepson's death had brought people together.

"He's become a figurehead to unite the country and bring people back together," he said.

"We've met such good friends, incredible friends out of nowhere that took us into their homes and brought us in with their

families." Mr Rigby added: "It shocked the nation and it made Lee part of everybody's life, not just ours."

"Lee was taken to everybody's hearts like a son."

The funeral for Lee, who came from Middleton, took place at Bury Parish Church where people in their thousands lined the streets to pay their respects.

The trial had heard how British Muslim converts Adebolajo and Adebowale had lay in wait near Woolwich Barracks in London on May 22 and picked the 25-year-old to kill after assuming he was a soldier because he was wearing a 'Help for Heroes' hooded top and was carrying a camouflage rucksack.

Neither Adebolajo nor Adebowale had been able to offer any real defence for the barbaric attack during their trial, which was beset by legal delays.

The jury took little more than an hour to convict them of murder.

They will be sentenced at a hearing next month.

ALLEGATIONS

Sex quiz link to tram station death

A MAN found hanged at Whitefield Metrolink Station had been quizzed 24 hours earlier by police over rape and sex assault allegations, The Guide can reveal.

The 69-year-old, whose name has not been formally released, was found dead by horrified commuters who were making their way to work at 8.25am on Thursday, December 12.

His body was seen by hundreds of people, including distraught schoolchildren, who were offered counselling as they arrived for class, or sent home due to their distress.

The day before the incident, the

man, who is from Tameside, was arrested by Greater Manchester Police and taken to a station for questioning.

Police say the man was arrested on suspicion of rape and sexual assault. He was interviewed about the allegations and then allowed home.

He had been ordered to return to the station to answer bail at a future date.

The circumstances surrounding the incident were referred to the police watchdog, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), as a matter of routine.

A Greater Manchester Police

spokesman told The Guide: "On Wednesday December 11, a 69-year-old man from Tameside was arrested on suspicion of rape and sexual assault. The man was bailed pending further enquiries."

"Due to previous police contact with the man involved, a referral was made to the IPCC. As such, it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage."

Because of the IPCC investigation, an inquest into the man's death has yet to begin.

An inquest at Bury and Rochdale Coroners Court is due to be opened early in the New Year.

SEX TRIAL

Stars' dad thanks jurors after acquittal

THE father of former footballers Gary and Phil Neville thanked a jury after being cleared of sexually assaulting a woman.

Neville Neville, aged 64, of Larkfield Close, Greenmount, admitted engaging in a "sexual encounter" with the middle-aged complainant, but said it was consensual.

The woman told a jury at Bolton Crown Court that he drunkenly forced

himself on her. But Neville, who had strenuously denied the accusation, bowed his head as the woman foreman delivered the verdict after a 75-minute deliberation at the end of the four-day trial last Thursday.

He breathed a sigh of relief and mouthed 'thank you' in the direction of the jury.

Neville's sons Gary and Phil were in court when their father was cleared,

and he hugged his legal team as he left the dock.

Asked for a comment outside the courtroom, Neville said: "I can't say anything right now. Maybe later."

Neville was accused of sexually assaulting the woman after a night out in Greenmount on March 23, when she had offered him a lift home because it was snowing.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said

Neville had kissed her in a "forceful" way, and put his hands up her shirt and down her trousers.

Neville, a former Bury FC director, had told the court that he "did not imagine for one moment" that the woman would make a complaint against him after the incident. He added: "I have got the most wonderful family in the world and I made a major error. You cannot even say it was a mistake."

GIFTS

Michelle: 'Amazing. We are so humbled'

FROM 1

Michelle said: "It is truly amazing. We feel so humbled there are brilliant people out there who wanted to help us out."

Teaching assistant Michelle, aged 32, and postman Leon, aged 34 were not able to claim on home insurance for any of the items stolen.

Michelle said: "What has really got me is people are donating from their own pockets when it is Christmas for them as well. These are just really nice people who work hard for their money and are willing to help somebody out."

Bury Times reader Christine Turner, of Chesham Road, said: "My husband Glenn and I both read the article and thought we would like to give something to this family to help brighten up their Christmas."

Michelle has also been approached by Heywood-based charity Trewan Sands Children's Trust with the offer of a free family holiday next year.

Michelle added: "The boys are excited for Christmas now because they know things are getting sorted. And they are over the moon about the prospect of going on holiday - it is something we have not been able to do for a few years."

Louise Dawson from Trewan Sands Children's Trust said: "I wanted to offer Reece and his family something to look forward to."

FAILED RAID

Attempted jewel theft

POLICE are hunting two masked men following an attempted smash and grab at a Ramsbottom jewellers on Monday.

They threw a brick at the armour-plated window of Greenlees in Bolton Street but it failed to smash.

The offenders fled to a car which sped off.

Owner David Blackledge said: "We heard a massive bang and thought there had been an accident. We then saw an enormous brick on the pavement. "A lady told us she'd seen two masked men."

Police say the men made their escape in what is believed to have been a silver vehicle.