

'Appalling injuries' to Sugababes boyfriend

by Lindsey Eudo-Mitchell

THE former boyfriend of Aldershot-born Sugababe, Amelle Berrabah, had to undergo five hours of emergency surgery after an attack outside a pub, a court has heard.

Freddie Fuller, 27, suffered "appalling injuries" to his arm and leg during an attack involving a sharp weapon on Christmas Eve 2007. Winchester Crown Court heard on Tuesday.

Michael Butt, prosecuting,



Jimmy Wenman

said: "Freddie Fuller spent the Christmas of 2007 in Frimley Park Hospital receiving life saving surgery."

He said injuries, which included a six-inch cut to his elbow, a partially severed thumb and a cut on his head, were the result of a "viscous and sustained attack with a serious weapon".

Fuller also sustained a cut to his left leg during the attack in Heathlands Street, Aldershot.

Mr Butt said the doctor who performed the surgery "took the view that the blow to the left elbow would have taken considerable force and was consistent, he said, with an attack with a sharp bladed weapon."

Stills from CCTV footage of the attack showing a man in a beige top and Mr Fuller in a dark top were handed to the jury.

Mr Butt said a witness who lived above the Queen Victoria pub, watched the man in a beige top hitting Mr Fuller with a weapon as he lay "scrunching his legs up into a ball".

She heard Fuller asking the man in the beige top to stop and get an ambulance but the attack continued, the jury heard.

Mr Butt said: "She shouted out 'stop or I will call the police'. That didn't seem to have any effect on beige top who continued to attack dark top.

"The Crown's case, as I have said, is that it was the defendant, Jimmy Wenman, who attacked Freddie Fuller."

Wenman denies wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The jury heard CCTV footage and an expert comparison of the images with footage of Wenman, of Rectory Lane, Bentley, when he surrendered to Aldershot Police station on Boxing Day are being used in the case.

There is also evidence about a mobile phone, thought to belong to Weman and used the vicinity of the attack.

Mr Butt said CCTV showed "a light spot" believed to be an illuminated phone screen.

In evidence, Natalie Baldock, a 28-year-old chef who watched the attack from her lounge window above the pub, recalled seeing the attacker "switch on his phone" causing it to light up.

She said: "I heard shouting coming from outside. It was just after 9pm. I was watching TV and wrapping the children's Christmas presents.

"I went to the window, opened the window a bit wider, and looked out to see one gentleman running down under the window towards Heathland Street.

"The man in the dark top was in front of the man in the light top. They were shouting. "The man in the dark top

went to run round (a van) and as he came behind the van he slipped over and the man in the light top bent over and started to hit the man while he was on the floor.

"I couldn't see what he used but it wasn't his hand. He had a weapon in his hand but I couldn't see what it was."

She said the attacker hit the other man, who was "scrunched up into a ball", about six times.

Ms Baldock said: "The shouting that happened while the man was being struck was 'I'm going to kill you'. It came from the man in the light top."

Leeroy Bredwood, a door supervisor at the pub on

Christmas Eve, saw Mr Fuller walking toward him holding his left arm with his right, limping and calling out to him.

Mr Bredwood said: "After he was calling my name requesting help I sort of went out to him. On the way back I noticed there was a trail of blood behind him."

He said there was "quite a lot of blood" and Mr Fuller's arm looked "like a leg of lamb had been chopped" with "blood pumping out".

He said: "The cut was clean and you know, well, I know, it was done by like a cleaver or something."

The trial continues.



Amelle and Freddie Fuller pictured at the St James Hotel in London in January.



Ellamay doesn't let her skin condition get her down, say family members.

Raising awareness of rare skin condition

WHEN Liz and John Dale found out they were expecting their first child, they thought they were going to have a bouncing bundle of joy with rosy cheeks and soft pinky skin.

But a day after Ellamay was born her skin started to "peel like a snake".

Frightened and horrified about what was happening to their little girl, the couple, of Manor Way, Bagshot, turned to doctors for help and answers.

But the professionals were stumped and it was only after a trip to Great Ormond Street Hospital a few months later that Ellamay was diagnosed with nonbullous congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma (NCIE).

Only one in 300,000 children are born with the genetic condition, that forces the skin to scale and flake away.

Skin can become dry and hard, leading to chapping and cracking, which can be very painful.

Those with the condition are known as Collodion babies. They are born with an extra layer of skin which sheds.

Underneath, the baby will either have normal skin or have NCIE. The condition can vary depending on the child.

Ellamay has a mild form of NCIE but it still causes her pain, Mrs Dale said. She will have it for the rest of her life.

As a result of her dry and hard skin, Ellamay cannot sweat, which leads to her body becoming too hot.

She has to be covered in cream to keep the skin hydrated and Mr and Mrs Dale take a spray bottle of water wherever they go.

Mrs Dale, a psychiatric nurse, described it as Ellamay looking "sunburnt", which has led to nasty comments being made in public.

"When she was a baby we would get some horrible words thrown at us," Mrs Dale, a psychiatric nurse, said. "People would say we've left her out in the sun and allowed her to get burnt. And when you're a new parent that can really hurt. But as she has got older, people are more inquisitive and ask questions.

"She looks red and dry and it can be quite noticeable."

As a result, Mrs Dale has started an awareness programme at Little Grove Pre-school in Bagshot, where Ellamay attends.

She has sent a flyer to parents, explaining her daughter's condition and intends to do the same thing whenever Ellamay starts a new school.

Mrs Dale said: "We want to raise as much awareness as we can. Anything we are doing to help, we notify parents so they can get involved. It's helped her a lot in school and it will hopefully help her as she gets older. Raising awareness is very important to us because there are children out there who have the condition much worse."

Ellamay's grandmother,

Yvonne Peet, said the four-year-old copes with the condition like a grown-up.

Mrs Peet, of Hawkes Leap, Windlesham, said: "It mainly affects her face although the rest of her body is very dry. When she was born her skin just peeled away like a snake shedding its skin.

"It was an extremely worrying time, because no-one knew what it was and therefore couldn't do anything about it.

"Her skin tends to come off in quite big lumps at the moment but she deals with it really well. She doesn't cry and it doesn't get her down.

"She's now at the age where she can talk to people about it and explain she has a skin condition when people ask."

To raise awareness about NCIE, Ellamay and her family will be taking part in the British Skin Foundation's Walk for Skin event on May 10.

The three-mile trek will be around Kensington Gardens and all the funds the family raises through sponsorship will be shared between the foundation and Ellamay's chosen charity, Ichthyosis Support Group.

The group helps families with the condition to have respite care and fun days out.

Mrs Dale said: "It's a very rare genetic condition so we just want to raise as much money and its profile as possible."

To sponsor Ellamay and her family visit www.justgiving.com/ellamaydale

Teenager jailed for pensioner sex assault

A TEENAGER who broke into a "vulnerable" pensioner's home and sexually assaulted her has been jailed.

James McCormick-Sivyer entered the 70-year-old's home in Farnborough at about 5am on January 1 after drinking 15 cans of Stella and whiskey.

The victim saw him on the landing, causing him to flee.

However, he returned and pushed her to the floor and got on top of her.

Winchester Crown Court heard how McCormick-Sivyer "fumbled with his groin" while removing the woman's underwear and touched her.

Before leaving he warned her not to call the police.

The 17-year-old admitted burglary and assault by penetration at an earlier hearing. On Monday he was sentenced to two and a half years in a young offenders' institution.

Judge Patrick Hooton told McCormick-Sivyer he had to be punished for committing a terrible crime despite defence lawyer Robert Pawson telling the court of his previous good character and his remorse.

The court heard that McCormick-Sivyer, of Barrie Road, Farnham, slashed car tyres and ran windows while walking around Farnborough in a drunken state in the early hours of New Year's Day.

He wanted to steal some

property, prosecutor Edward Phillips said, which is why he entered the woman's house.

He entered the victim's house and went upstairs. She was awake and saw him which caused him to run off.

"He left as soon as she alerted him but he returned to dissuade her from calling the police," Mr Phillips said.

"She went downstairs and was near the back door which flung open. He grabbed her and pushed her to the floor. He held her down and she struggled. He kept saying 'come on, come on'."

The victim thought she was going to be raped or killed, the court heard. A neighbour heard

the victim screaming and shouting and called the police.

In interview, McCormick-Sivyer said he had not planned the attack and did not know why he did it. In transcripts of his interview read to the court, he said: "I felt wrong. I can't explain the feeling. I felt wrong.

"If I was not drunk I would never have done anything like that — it's just wrong."

Mr Pawson said that while it was an "unpleasant attack on a vulnerable woman", his client was drunk, not thinking straight and there were no weapons involved.

"He tried some back gates and the first one that opened was the complainant's," the

lawyer told the court. "It was unsophisticated and unplanned. As soon as she said stop he stopped. There is more to this young man. He knows that what he did was wrong. It was totally out of character."

Judge Hooton told the defendant: "There are all sorts of things that have been said which makes it sound not so bad but what you did was awful."

"What do I say to a lady of 70? You attacked her in her home because you had too much to drink. You must have frightened her so much. I accept you pleaded guilty and stopped when she said stop but I cannot over look this."

Fined over cannabis

A MAN who grew cannabis in his home told the court the plants were given to him by a friend.

Steven Sutton, of West Road, Farnborough, appeared at Aldershot Magistrates' Court on Thursday last week where he admitted producing four cannabis plants.

The 56-year-old was visited by police on April 1 after they received information that he had the plants. The officer found four plants, a fan, and a lamp at his home and was told a man had brought them to Sutton's home.

Alex Lloyd, defending, said that four weeks earlier one of Sutton's friends brought the plants round after he was kicked out of his partner's house. He said Sutton was a cannabis user who suffered from arthritis.

Sutton was fined £100 with a £15 victim surcharge.

They ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the plants.

Sex charge is denied

A MAN has denied sexually touching a young girl.

Steven Birch, 50, of Burley Way, Blackwater, appeared at Aldershot Magistrates' Court on Thursday April 16.

The case has been sent to Winchester Crown Court where Birch will appear on June 16.

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