

## Benefit case to be heard

A WOMAN accused of fraudulently claiming benefit over eight years has appeared in court.

Susan McCluskey is alleged to have failed to tell Basildon Council she was living with her husband and that he was employed.

McCluskey, 57, of Walnut Close, Laindon, faced nine counts of failing to notify Basildon Council of a change in circumstances and two counts of making a false statement to obtain benefit.

She was released to appear at Basildon Crown Court on Friday, March 2.

## Crown date over knife

A MAN accused of brandishing a knife has appeared in court.

Adetokunbo Oredein, 19 of Pugh Place, Stanford-le-Hope is alleged to have had the six-inch kitchen knife at Ramos Cafe in St John's Way, Corringham on January 7.

Oredein faced a charge of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and using threatening or abusive words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

He will appear at Basildon Crown Court in February.

## Academy's charity cash

PUPILS from The Gateway Academy, in Tilbury, raised more than £500 for Little Havens Children's Hospice.

The school's Blue College held a charity dinner, and organised a wishing well for people to donate loose change.

They handed over a cheque for £567 for the hospice to Thurrock mayor Charles Curtis, who is supporting the charity during his term.

## Remember Holocaust

BASILDON residents can remember victims of the Holocaust by signing a special book of remembrance on Friday.

The book will be in the reception area of the borough offices, in St Martin's Square, from 9am to 5pm

**BASILDON Council will hold its first full council meeting of the year on Thursday, February 2. It will start at 7.30pm in the St George's Suite, Basildon Centre, St Martin's Square, Basildon.**

# 26-year-old tried on expensive watch then went to leave the shop Thank you for the £8k Rolex, I'm off!

A MAN who grabbed an £8,000 Rolex from a jewellers and then told staff "thank you, I'm off", has avoided jail.

Phillip Confrey, who has a string of previous convictions for burglary and theft, walked into Ernest Jones at the Eastgate shopping centre, Basildon, on November 10 last year.

He asked to try on a Rolex Submariner watch, worth £8,110.

Staff in the store, noticing

By GINA MARDEN

Crime reporter

gina.marden@nqe.com

Confrey's "nervousness", immediately became suspicious.

They called Eastgate security staff and asked them to monitor the situation.

Security guards at the centre immediately made their way to outside the jewellery shop.

Meanwhile, inside the store Confrey, 26, of Elsam Close,

Basildon, tried on the watch.

He told staff his dad was going to buy it for his birthday, but as soon as he put it on he said "thank you, I'm off" and tried to flee the store.

But the waiting security guards grabbed Confrey before he could even leave the shop and detained him until police arrived.

Praising the actions of his security staff, Eastgate Centre manager Ian Clark said: "Our security officers' vigilance ensured they

were able to respond and detain the culprit, which ultimately led to a satisfactory outcome."

Confrey, who suffers from mental health problems and was sectioned shortly after his arrest, admitted attempted theft and was given a 12-week jail term suspended for a year at Basildon Magistrates' Court.

He was also ordered to attend probation appointments for 12 months and was banned from entering the Ernest Jones store.

## PUPILS IN PINK SUPPORT DAISY



■ Pretty in pink – Daisy Palmer, centre, with other pupils at Great Berry Primary School

Picture: MAXINE CLARKE BA53861\_02

HUNDREDS of school children dressed up in pink and raised £470 for the Daisy Palmer Trust.

The pupils at Great Berry Primary School, in Langdon Hills, paid £1 to wear something pink for the non-uniform day and support their classmate, Daisy Palmer, eight, who suffers from chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, meaning her digestive system doesn't work.

Daisy is a pupil at the school, and she was delighted when she saw the effort her classmates had gone to on Friday.

Her mum, Tracy Palmer, 40, of Burr Close, Langdon Hills, said: "Daisy was amazed with how everyone looked. Pink is her favourite colour

and she wore a special sash for the occasion.

"Everyone in the school got together for a special assembly and the event was fantastic.

"We are so grateful to the school for all they do for Daisy."

Sue Pipe, headteacher of the school, added: "The school was a sea of pink for Daisy and she had a lovely time. She had a special place to sit and all the children, teachers and even the cleaners who came in at 5am were dressed in pink.

"Lots of children also made cakes and sold them throughout the day."

To find out more, log on to [www.daisypalmer.co.uk](http://www.daisypalmer.co.uk)

## Become a hospital governor for area

RESIDENTS have been invited to stand as governors of Basildon and Orsett Hospitals.

The board of governors keeps a check on the general performance of Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which oversees both hospitals.

They also act as an voice for the community.

The board is made up of 27 public governors who represent different areas, including Thurrock, Basildon and Brentwood. There are a further nine members of staff and 14 appointed governors, from other organisations

connected with the hospitals.

People can attend the board's meeting on Monday, at 2pm, at Brentwood Council Chambers, off Ingrave Road.

Anyone who is interested in standing and wants to know more can attend further briefing sessions on Monday at 4pm at Brentwood Council Chambers, following the meeting.

There is another on Thursday, February 2, at 6pm at Basildon Hospital's Education Centre, off Nether Mayne.

For information call 01268 598975 or e-mail [foundation@btuh.nhs.uk](mailto:foundation@btuh.nhs.uk)

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BIRKETT LONG SOLICITORS