

Man is cleared of Taff 'racist' rant at nightclub

By Carmelo Garcia

carmelgarcia@theforester.co.uk

A BLAKENEY man has been cleared of racially abusing Welsh bouncers by calling them 'Taffs'.

James Michael Davis, aged 24, of Meadow Grove, Blakeney Hill, appeared before Cheltenham Magistrates on Friday charged with racially aggravated harassment.

Davis, a lorry driver, had been ejected from Harry's Bar in Lydney by a Welsh doorman on January 25.

Police Constable Meredith, told the court that he was on duty with another officer, patrolling around Harry's Bar when the bouncers evicted Mr Davis.

He added that the pair pulled up outside the late night venue and it was at this time Mr Davis' brother Aaron Davis approached the police car and told the officers that there had been an incident inside the club.

Ms Pattison prosecuting, informed the court that it was at this point Davis said to his brother "You don't want to be speaking to those officers, do you?"

"I suppose you're f***ing Taffs as well," - neither of the officers were of Welsh origin.

After being asked to leave the area, Davis was arrested for public order offences.

Sam Parham, defending, asked Davis how drunk he was on the night.

Davis responded: "I certainly wasn't sober by

● THE term Taff, or Taffy, is often used to describe somebody from Cardiff, as the city is built around the River Taff and the saying dates back to the mid 18th century.

A number of poems from this era have anti-Welsh lyrics including 'Taffy was a Welshman'.

However, the image of thieving Welshmen seems had been forgotten by the 20th century, although the term 'Taffy' still applied to any Welshman.

any means. In a scale of one to ten, I was about seven. So I was quite drunk.

"Before the incident I was happy-go-lucky, there wasn't a problem but when I came out of the nightclub. I wasn't in the best of moods. I was angry. Upset I suppose. It's not like me to be like that. It was quite disgusting of me."

Mr Parham said: "At one point you said 'I suppose you're Taffs as well'. What does the word mean to you?"



JAMES Davis arriving at court.

Davis replied: "I deem it like I'm a Forester. There's no difference as me being called a Forester. I would say it is a pretty neutral word. I was quite upset and I didn't mean any harm or distress and not anything racial by any means."

Mr Parham said: "You were charged, not with the offence you were arrested for. How did you feel at the time?"

Mr Davis said: "I was quite shocked. I was amazed by it. I got upset by it."

Miss Pattison, prosecuting said: "It is possible that there were other people were present who could have been offended."

"Did Mr Davis use threatening, abusive insulting behaviour? He did use insulting words. He used the word 'Taff' meaning the Welsh along with insulting and abusive words. It was likely to have caused distress and this should be considered."

Mr Parham pointed out that Davis has admitted that he was drunk and has shown remorse for what was bad behaviour.

He added: "There is no evidence that the word 'Taff' was heard by anyone other than PC Meredith. The word was said and not shouted. The bouncers may or may not have or not been around. There's no evidence they were caused any offence."

After hearing the two-hour trial Jennifer West, chairman of the magistrates, found Davis not guilty of racially abusing the Welsh bouncers by calling them Taffs.

In a statement issued after the case, Davis' solicitors said: "It is important that those who have committed racially aggravated crimes are prosecuted - but equally important that those that have not done so are acquitted of crimes they did not commit."



THE High Street in Cinderford where a water leak remains unresolved.

No end in sight for Cinderford leak

NOBODY seems to know when Cinderford's longest leak will be fixed.

The leak which is coming from private land off the High Street behind the building, currently used by the constituency office for the Forest of Dean Member of Parliament, has been ongoing for years.

The leak is particularly hazardous for bikers and motorists during the winter months when the water covering the road freezes.

Keith James, former greengrocer, said: "I understand that roots have got inside pipe work in the garden, which has caused it to crack and collapse."

"It should be as simple as digging down and moving the things but nobody seems to want to take responsibility."

"The water board used to get phone calls all the time, but it was nothing to do with them. Severn Trent have inspected it many times as have other firms and other bodies and yet it still continues to leak."

"It's been going on for I don't know how many years now. One winter they had to keep salting the pavement because of the freezing at night."

Brian Watkins, local highways manager at Gloucestershire County Council said: "We are continuing with our investigations and are considering the most appropriate form of action to take in order to resolve this issue."



CHILDREN and staff from Coalway Early Years celebrate the centre's new layout and improved facilities with a fun day.

Improved safety at early years centre

COALWAY'S Early Years centre held a pre-term fun day to show off the improved safety measures that had been carried out over the summer months.

Among the improvements is the creation of a new entrance to the centre so that parents no longer have to cross the infant school's playground.

A number of other changes have also been made to the overall layout of the site, which now includes an additional piece of land to enlarge the centre's outside play potential. The site now has fencing around its perimeter.

Anna Mapps, centre manager, said: "We

always hold a fun day in September so that the children can get used to our staff and we get to know them and their families.

"We are a charitable organisation and everything we make is ploughed back into the centre."

"But for a major project like this totalling around £25,000 we had to seek grant funding and Coalway Early Years acknowledge the financial support of Coleford Town Council and Gloucestershire County Council and donations from Travis Perkins, Forest Products and the Suntory organisation."

Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Paul Spiller feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money,

although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the industry as a whole." Cloudy2clear service the Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury & Forest of Dean areas and

Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success.

"The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and

family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of time is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged up give Paul a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



STEAMED UP DOUBLE GLAZING?

Don't replace the Frames... just the Panes!

**Broken or Damaged Windows?
Faulty Hinges, Handles or Locks?
Want The Latest Energy Saving Glass?**

**All Glazing Backed By Our
5 Year Manufacturers Guarantee**

cloudy2 CLEAR
WINDOWS
REPLACING YOUR FAILED DOUBLE GLAZING

Priority Freephone
0800 61 21 118
www.cloudy2clear.com

...we make saving money perfectly clear..