

# SPALDING Guardian

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## Teenagers' car plunges into drain

# The great escape ...

Reporter: TRACEY GRAY

Four Spalding teenagers had a miraculous escape when the car in which they were travelling somersaulted and ended upside down in a deep drain.

Mr Dennis Lawson, of the Pumping Station, Pinchbeck Marsh, heard the crash as he was gardening outside his home.

quite deep and the car was upside down on its roof.

Mr Lawson said that the boys were taken to his home and dried off before being taken to hospital for treatment to their cuts.

### SQUEALING

"I was in the garden and I heard the car coming round the bend with the brakes squealing. Then I heard a crash and my son came running over to tell me that the car had gone into the river."

One of the youngsters seemed to be trapped so I went to call for the emergency services. Meanwhile my son Richard had helped them to safety.

"I was amazed that they escaped unhurt. The drain is

Fortunately the windscreen shattered and the boys were able to climb to safety.

The accident happened on Monday evening at Pinchbeck Marsh and the car — a Ford Escort was completely submerged in the Blue Gown outfall — with only the wheels showing above water level.

The youngsters — all from Oakley Drive — managed to get out of the windows and swim to safety.

Driver Robert Taylor (18), of number 10, his 11-year-old brother Richard with friends David Pulford (15), of number 12 and Robert Ferraro (11), of number 23 all escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

## Bomb at bee factory

Bomb disposal were called to the beet factory in West Road, Spalding, on day after a maintenance worker found a bomb one of the fuses.

The experts — from Royal Army Ordnance Corps — took all the precautions — but it was out to be a practice.

Mr Ron Lamm, shift supervisor, said Tuesday's bomb was second within a three period.

"Both of them came on lorry-loads of beet Holbeck Marsh. I'm not dangerous but it's quite a shock to me," said Mr Lamm. The second bomb was discovered by maintenance worker Mr John Wa as he was clearing fuel.



## PUPILS EARNED THEIR SWIM

Pupils at the Pele school at Long Sutton really enjoyed their swimming pool during this week's heatwave.

For money to keep the pool open — £1,143 — was raised by the youngsters themselves who took part in a sponsored definitions competition earlier in the year.

Headmaster Mr Herbert Garrett explained that the county council no longer funds swimming pools and so the Pele

school decided to raise cash each year to keep the pool open.

The open-air pool is open or six weeks each year and some pupils use it three or four times a day by taking advantage of it before school, during lunchtimes and after school as well as games lessons.

"It costs about £224 a week to operate so we are trying to make as much use of it as possible," said Mr Garrett.

# YOUTHS DENY MAKING UP ALLEGATIONS

Spalding police constable John Bates — charged with indecently assaulting young boys — has been described by a police inspector as "a first-class leader and scout organiser".

Insp Keith Woods, also an administrator of scouts, told Nottingham Crown Court that 35-year-old Bates had devoted a great deal of his spare time to scouting.

Bates, of 75c Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, is charged with 11 offences of indecently assaulting boys aged between 11 and 15, and four of committing serious sexual offences with three boys, aged 12 and 14. He has denied all the charges.

Allegations that Bates had been interfering with some of the boys were brought to Insp Woods' attention.

The court heard on Monday that Insp Woods asked if he could have a word with Bates. Bates said: "I haven't laid a finger on these boys."

When Insp Woods told him the facts would be reported, Bates is alleged to have said: "That will mean a move, but I was thinking of asking for one anyway."

### REASSURED

A Spalding youth told the court how Bates, who was his scoutmaster, constantly reassured him about their sexual relationship.

The youth, now 17, said he was surprised and shocked when Bates made approaches to him at his flat in Gore Lane, Spalding.

"I was alarmed, and at first I tried to stop him doing it. But he said I was to relax, and not to struggle," the youth said.

"He tried to justify it by saying that if both parties enjoyed it and were willing, there was nothing wrong with it. He would argue against my reluctance."

Another youth, a former Ketton scout, told how Bates unzipped his sleeping bag and indecently assaulted him one night after they had been working to convert an old bungalow into a scout hut.

Both youths denied suggestions by Mr Brian Smedley, QC, defending, that they had made up the allegations against Bates.

Dr Alexander Walton, of Spalding, carried out medical examinations on four boys. In three cases, he discovered evidence to suggest that serious sexual offences might have taken place.

### SEX FILMS

Pc Ernie Marriott, stationed at Spalding, told how he became a friend of Pe Alan Bradley. Pc Marriott borrowed three sex films from the other officer, and they were also loaned to Pc Fred Collins and Bates.

On Tuesday, Detective Chief Inspector Bob Warner told the Judge, the Hon Mr Justice Park and the nine-man, three-women jury, how he and Detective Chief Superintendent Ray Moyses had met Bates at Spalding police station on June 10, last year.

They later went to his home in Pinchbeck Road, where they looked round and took away 34 sex books and magazines, and a few loose glossy magazine pages depicting group sex between men and women.

Det. Chief Supt Moyses told Bates he was being suspended from the police force immediately, and took possession of his warrant card, pocket book and locker keys. The two officers asked

Bates about the allegations made against him by the boys, and Bates is alleged to have admitted indecently assaulting three Spalding boys.

Speaking about one boy.

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## £3,000 fire damage to bungalow

Firemen arrived in the nick of time to save a bungalow in Bicker from being completely gutted by flames on Wednesday evening.

Fire broke out at Mr Jack Camplin's home in Drury Lane, as he was burning paint off the caves with a blow-lamp. Damage estimated at £3,000 was caused.

Mr Camplin, a bus driver telephoned the fire brigade and appliances were sent from Kirton and Billingborough, who prevented the fire spreading into the bedrooms and living room.

Neighbours quickly helped Mr Camplin carry furniture outside he said: "The firemen did a very good job. I had just had a new roof on the bungalow and I had only been working out there for about five minutes."

## Co-operative suggestion to re-open cinema

The former manager of the shutdown Gemini Cinema in Spalding has hopes of taking over the business and re-opening the cinema himself.

Mr Doug Westmacott, who has managed the London Road premises for over seven years, said he wants to open the building again for the sake of Spalding film-lovers.

And he suggested a co-operative of local people might be one way of getting the cinema back on its feet again.

"If the people of the area are interested in the cinema being maintained in Spalding, then perhaps they can in some way help," he said.

"If people are interested in forming a co-operative and offering financial help, then by all means they should get in touch with me."

The Gemini's twin cinemas closed suddenly last week, failing to re-open after the customary Wednesday break.

And last weekend a spokesman for Axholme Cinema services, which used

to run the Gemini, said the firm had gone into voluntary liquidation.

Mr Westmacott said on Wednesday that a meeting of creditors to appoint a liquidator would be held at Blackstone, Doncaster next Friday (July 15), and that he would be attending.

He called for the help of local people, both with finance and with offers of support.

"When it comes down to it, if more people had attended the cinema in the past, the situation would not be as it is now."

"As soon as you say you are going to close a cinema everyone is up in arms. But the simple logic is, if you have a shop and you are losing money, you can only afford to lose money for a short period of time. It's the same with a cinema."

He added: "I am not solely interested for my own personal gain. I am trying to re-open it for the benefit of people in the area, so they don't have to go to Bourne, Peterborough or Boston."

Mr Westmacott said he was unable to comment further until after next Friday's meeting.



### Weather

Continuing warm over the weekend, with some sunshine but also further showers. Winds light and variable. Max temp 24-26C (77-79F), min 13-16C (55-61F).

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