

# Boy lost sight in one eye after 'attack'

A TEENAGER told a court he lost sight in his left eye when a man hit him on the head with a stick.

The 17-year-old told Bristol Crown Court yesterday that he had walked from Weston-super-Mare pier to find his friends at Uphill one night in April last year, after drinking two litres of cider – about three-and-a-half pints.

When he found them, he said, two men who had approached his friends attacked him.

Benjamin Littlewood-Hillsdon, 34, a qualified but non-practising doctor working as a manager for North Somerset Primary Care Trust, and his

brother-in-law Jamie Moore, 23, both of Berkeley Crescent, Uphill, have pleaded not guilty to attacking three lads.

Both men deny causing actual bodily harm to two boys and they further deny causing grievous bodily harm with intent to a third lad.

Yesterday, the 17-year-old said one of the men asked him what he was staring at and then the smaller man swung a stick straight across his left eye.

He said: "I felt pain; I was in a lot of pain. I bent over and then the other male started hitting me in the back of the head and the back."

The lad described how, initially, he

wasn't able to move and he was in a daze, but he managed to get himself up and an ambulance was called, which took him to hospital, where his wound was cleansed and he received stitches to a cut.

He said: "I can't make out anything with my left eye and the doctors said I won't regain full sight."

George Threlfall, defending Littlewood-Hillsdon, asked the boy if he had been drinking that night and he said he consumed two litres of cider over four hours and considered he could handle his alcohol.

The case continues.



**Outside court:** Benjamin Littlewood-Hillsdon yesterday

# Sickening failure for arty trio on space trip

A BRISTOL artist tried to create a work on a cosmonaut training aircraft nicknamed the "vomit comet" – but had to give up because of nausea.

Luke Jerram, a sculptor and installation artist, was attempting to create a live tribute to people killed after plunging from the World Trade Center during the September 11 terror attacks of 2001.

But his zero-gravity project was cut short after he became too ill to continue and had to be strapped to a chair.

Another artist was also taken ill, as was a cat involved in a "performance art" experiment to see if it could catch a mouse in zero-gravity.

The aircraft made 10 flights involving steep dives – during which those inside experience simulated weightlessness for 23 seconds at a time – before landing back at Moscow's Star City cosmonaut training centre.

Every time the plane climbed out of a dive, the artists experienced short periods of double gravity, during which they felt twice their weight.

While on board, artist Lyn Hagan filmed the predator-prey reactions of a live cat and mouse in zero-gravity conditions.

Nasser Azam, the other of the three artists on board, said both the cat and Hagan became sick after about three loops of the plane, which cut the piece short.

He said the cat was a "lot more scared than the mouse was" but neither animal was injured.

Eight additional artists were scheduled to take part in the flight, but they opted out for various reasons.

The results of the trip – including Mr Azam's paintings and a film of the flight – will be on show at London's County Hall Gallery in October.

To order this picture, log on at [www.thisisphotosales.co.uk](http://www.thisisphotosales.co.uk) or call 0117 934 3091 and quote SeftonParkMeeting080708PB-014



**Well-attended:** Last night's parent meeting at Sefton Park junior school to discuss the proposed closure and merger of the infant and junior schools

# Parents hit out at school merger plan

## £7m project to build all-through primary

**PARENTS** and neighbours have hit back at the city council's plans for a £7 million primary school project at Sefton Park.

The council wants to merge the popular and successful infant and junior schools into an all-through primary school. Its intention is to remodel the existing school buildings and demolish the 150-year-old Ashley House and scout hut to create a new school for 630 children aged four to 11, plus a nursery.

But some parents are unhappy at the proposal to increase the size of the school from two forms of entry to three, while people living near the site are concerned about an increase in traffic and parking problems.

Opponents say the council should stick to a plan agreed in 2006 but abandoned last year for a 210-place Brunel primary school in the grounds of the City of Bristol College in Ashley Down Road to meet the demand for places in the area.

**by Vicki Mathias and Linda Tanner**  
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About 50 parents, residents and users of the scout hut held a meeting at Sefton Park junior school last night to air their concerns.

Parents were concerned that an amalgamated and expanded Sefton Park would be too big for the pupils to be taught at current standards, and were worried about children being at the school while construction work is taking place.

Users of the scout hut have been warned they could lose their base as part of the scheme, and parents of children who do not attend Sefton Park school, but do use the hut, are concerned about the impact on the area if the expansion goes ahead.

Gwinear Lloyd, 42, a part-time teacher and mother of three, who

lives in Williamson Road, helped organise the session. She said: "I don't understand why they aren't building a school at Brunel. No one is doubting there is a huge demand for places and there has not been extra provision."

"It's going to cost more to put an extra 210 places here than to build the new school."

Merriel Waggoner, 41, a full-time mum, of St Werburgh's, has a child in the reception year.

She said: "A lot of the quality of this school will be lost the bigger it gets."

"Children mix in the playground with children of different ages; with three school forms it that going to happen?"

"Can we fit an extra 10 per cent in and keep the quality of what is going on here? I don't think we can."

Martin Terry, 40, a microelectronic design engineer, with a daughter at the school, said: "My

daughter does very well here. She has a very good environment to interact with friends in the local area at a local school with the things that go with that. It seems they want to expand one and take part of the environment away."

An online petition has been launched by the parents on the city council website and during the meeting people were encouraged to submit their feedback on the review.

The city council says its revised proposals, unveiled following its review of all 110 primary sector schools, will be most beneficial for children. It says larger, all-through primary schools offer the best opportunities for pupils and staff.

Consultation has begun on plans to merge the Sefton Park schools.

The Sefton Park scheme could be under way within two years.

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