

WHAT A TEAM  
Lewis with firefighters  
Lee Wilkinson, Mark Pilling  
and Mike Clinch



# My heroes! Little Lewis in playground drama

- Six-year-old gets stuck in climbing frame
- Firefighters cut him free with crash gear

PAUL BRITTON

A DAY out playing in the park turned to disaster for schoolboy Lewis Gilbert - after firefighters had to cut him free from a climbing frame.

The six-year-old got his leg trapped between metal bars when he slipped. Neighbours rushed to the scene and tried to free Lewis with butter and washing-up liquid. But he was stuck fast and they eventually had to call 999. Firefighters used heavy-duty cutting equipment - usually reserved for road-traffic crashes to prize the bars apart. They gave the brave little boy a fire hat to wear - and now he can't stop talking about his new-

found heroes. Dad Dave Gilbert, 28, told the M.E.N: "It was just unfortunate. "Lewis loves the park and goes quite a lot. "He was trapped just below the knee and was very swollen. "He was a bit scared and shaken-up when he got home but he is fine. "We just want to thank the firemen for doing a fantastic job. "One of the firemen put his helmet on to Lewis's head as they got him out.

"Now he loves the fire service and can't stop talking about what happened." The drama unfolded at Limefield Park in Middleton as Lewis played with a friend and his mum. The little boy, a pupil at Boarshaw Primary School, was stuck for 20 minutes as firefighters rushed to the scene from Blackley fire station. Crew manager Mike Clinch said: "His legs were trapped in the climbing frame.

"He was stuck fast from the knee and it was obviously hurting him. "He was in pain and distressed. "We had to use our cutting equipment that we usually use for road traffic collisions to prise the bars apart but it was fine in the end. "We were happy to help." Dave, a plasterer who lives on Kingsley Road, said: "Lewis is fine now - and it won't stop him going back to the park."

## Woman punched in face in bus attack

A MAN was arrested after punching a fellow bus passenger in the face during an unprovoked attack. The 52-year-old man, who has not been named, hit beauty clinic manager Katie Hughes as she sat on the number 86 bus bound for Chorlton. Minutes earlier he had got on and sat next to her as the bus waited in Piccadilly Gardens. As she chatted to her boyfriend on the phone, he accused her of saying that he smelled bad. When she denied it he pushed her against the window before punching her, splitting her lip. Terrified fellow passengers banged on the bus window to attract police officers' attention after the attack just after 5pm on Sunday. Katie, 28, from Hulme, said: "This man was massive and nearly crushed me when he sat down. I was talking to my boyfriend and said something like 'the bus smells really bad'. He asked if I was talking about him and I said no, but he pushed me against the window. Then he punched me in the mouth. "I can't believe that a man would do that to someone so much smaller than him." Police confirmed a 52-year-old man had been arrested on suspicion of assaulting both a passenger and a police officer and remains in custody.

## ► Cannabis man hit with fine

A MAN caught with cannabis in his car was fined £130 when he appeared before magistrates in Manchester. Jamie Garside, 25, of Thirlmere Close, Stalybridge, pleaded guilty to drug possession. He was ordered to pay £85 court costs. Kerry Bell, prosecuting, said police had decided to search Garside's car after seeing him parked up on Ashton New Road. They found a quantity of cannabis in a snap bag on the dashboard.

## Visit your GP on the web in NHS technological revolution


PATIENTS will be able to hold online consultations with doctors as part of plans to technologically revolutionise the health service. Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, medical director of the NHS, said IT will 'completely change

the way we deliver medicine' making access to GPs at any time a reality and giving patients the ability to talk to specialists anywhere in the country. The health expert said he was looking at using online services such as Skype to make the NHS

more convenient for users. "I am looking at how we can put levers into the system to encourage doctors to do online consultations," he said. "Once you have online consultations, it breaks down geographical boundaries. It opens

up the spectre of 24/7 access." Doctors leaders and patient groups warned the internet should not become a means to cut access to GPs or transfer out-of-hours care to overseas call centres, but admitted budget cuts could force the NHS to

rethink the way services are provided. Katherine Murphy, from the Patients Association said patients would 'embrace' the proposals 'in the right setting'. She added: "There is scope for initiatives like this."




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