

ADAMS went behind the scenes to witness their pioneering work first-hand and find out the secret to their success

ERA OF SURGERY



Consultant surgeon Mr Mohammad Abu Hilal, right, and his team perform keyhole surgery on a patient's liver at Southampton General Hospital.

THOSE WHO HAVE BENEFITTED:

Pat Marshall

One patient who has benefitted from the specialist skills of Mr Hilal and his team is Pat Marshall, who feels she has been given a new lease of life.

The 61-year-old travelled from the Isle of Wight to have the right half of her liver removed, after her skin cancer spread, causing five tumours to grow in her liver.

Pat said: "Thanks to the pioneering surgery I had at Southampton I am now able to live my life and get on with things I enjoy, like gardening and swimming."

"I was so relieved when I was told they could do it by keyhole surgery because the recovery is so much quicker and I didn't have to worry about having a scar."

"I was in and out of hospital within six days, eating normally and getting on with my life. Even after two days I was up and walking, which I can hardly believe, considering I'd just had half my liver removed."

"I can't thank Mr Hilal and his team enough."



Anne Bailey

Not content with leading the way in keyhole liver surgery, Mr Abu Hilal also boasts the biggest series of laparoscopic pancreas surgery in the country.

Ann Bailey, from Romsey, was one of his patients after doctors discovered a cyst on the tail of her pancreas.

The 61-year-old has been so impressed by the ground-breaking work done by Mr Abu Hilal that she is now trying to raise funds for his research foundation to ensure others can benefit from this minimally invasive surgery.

Ann said: "It was so big that it was life-threatening but thanks to the amazing treatment I received from Mr Hilal I am still here today."

"When I went down for the operation they were still not sure they could complete it with keyhole but the first thing I saw when I woke up from my operation was Mr Hilal standing at the end of my bed, with his thumbs up."

"I am so thankful they were able to do it because if they would have opened me up, I would have been out of action for a year and would have had a huge scar, which would have been terrible."

"On the outside there was hardly any evidence of it at all. It is hard to believe it was possible."

"I feel very lucky to live here because had I lived somewhere else, surgery via keyhole may not have been possible."



Security TV captures embraces

A JUDGE who saw security camera coverage of a middle-aged man embracing and kissing a girl, told him: "You are lucky it didn't go any further."

David Cooper, 47, had met the girl and two friends as they were shopping and she asked for a cigarette.

Prosecutor James Newton-Price said they were invited to go back to his flat. Though she was 14 and living in foster care, she said she was 16 and a willing partner.

There, he plied them with drink.

Southampton Crown Court was shown footage of Cooper embracing, kissing and stroking the 14-year-old on the ground floor of the flats.

Cooper, of Dumbleton Towers, admitted sexual activity with a girl. He received a six-month suspended sentence, an 18-month supervision order, and placed on the sex offenders register for five years.

He was also banned from contacting girls by text or electronically and allowing them into his flat.

Man cleared of wounding

A MAN has been acquitted of violence in a row over a £200 debt at a Southampton house.

It took city crown court jurors about two hours to acquit Vytautas Mickus of wounding Sikander Abbas with intent and wounding.

It was alleged that Mickus, 47, of Brintons Road, had stabbed Mr Abbas in the arm and inner thigh but the defendant claimed Mr Abbas had attacked him and the injuries happened as they struggled.

Drugs charge woman bailed

A WOMAN has appeared in court accused of possessing drugs with intent to supply in Winchester.

Lisa Marie Ahmed, 33, is alleged to have had 32 heat-sealed packages of crack cocaine and 143 similar packages of heroin at a house in Longfield Road, Winnall on October 28.

Ahmed was remanded on bail to Winchester Crown Court on April 14.

A contempt of court order was imposed by Basingstoke Magistrates Court preventing the publication of her home address.

Raider targeted neighbours

A SOUTHAMPTON man broke into the home of two neighbours to steal TVs, the city crown court heard.

Kenny McPherson, 29, of Dunbar Close, Southampton, admitted two burglaries and was remanded in custody for reports. He returns to court on May 3 when he will also be sentenced for shoplifting.

Museum to close during week to save money

A HAMPSHIRE museum is to close during the week to save money.

The Westgate in Winchester will only open at weekends, on special occasions or for pre-arranged school visits from April 1.

The measure has been taken to save money at the council which is battling a £2m funding shortfall and

plans to cut 70 posts by 2013.

A city council spokeswoman said initially the plan was to close the museum, in the High Street, for good but the council recognised that would be a step too far.

Iain Patton, chairman of the City of Winchester Trust, said: "It is a pity to restrict access to a significant tourist attraction, especially one

enabling people to have a view of the High Street and the proximity of St Giles Hill. Has the question of asking for volunteers been explored?"

The Westgate became a debtors' prison in the 17th century. Its displays include historic weights and measures and it has fine views from the roof.

Classical night

A NIGHT of easy listening classical music will be performed at Abbey United Reformed Church in Romsey on Friday.

The performance will get under way at 6.30pm and will include Trio Musica Viva and Joseph Little on cello.

The performance is free to attend and refreshments will be served in the interval.

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