Guilty of cruelty to a pram!

RUARDEAN Village Hall became the Lord Mayor's Court on Saturday as residents stepped back in time to watch the trials of three parishioners.

The honorary office of Lord Mayor was filled by Neil Jones, of Varnister Road, who follows in the footsteps of his grandfather Kia Miles, appointed Lord Mayor in 1947.

The event was originally staged to provide some fun in the village, before the days of the carnival and is very much part of Ruardean's history.

The new carnival committee decided to re-enact the event for this year, with local councillor Reg Duberley agreeing to carry out the research. The evening was sponsored by his butchery business Duberley Bros.

"Elizabeth Mitchell was the first to face her charge for breaching national rules and doing her washing on a day other than St Munday. The Mayor dismissed her case and she was charged 75p costs," explained Reg.

Case number two was that of Constance Williams who was found guilty for entering the gents toilets. She was given a fine of £1.49 payable within three days.

Mr Ralph Cole, parish councillor and snow warden was charged for blocking in the new residents at Mountain View. He was ordered to buy the Lord Mayor a pint of beer at the Angel.

Last to face the court was paper lady Susan Marfell who was charged for blasphemy, bribing dogs with biscuits and cruelty to a perambulator after driving without a wheel! She was found guilty and fined £2.70 – costs included – to be paid within three days.

The committee now hope to make the event an annual one

"The evening was very well supported and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We raised £72 which will go towards next year's court," said Reg.





•*Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon Burge.*