

Woman attacked by her grandson

AN 87-year-old grandmother was attacked in her own home by her alcoholic grandson who caused her a broken pelvis and left her in such pain that she was crawling around the property on all fours.

Exeter Crown Court heard how Mary Monger tried to hide from her grandson, 41-year-old Sean Monger, in the lounge of her home but he forced the door open sending her flying across the room.

Prosecutor Emily Pitts said the victim did not realise how seriously injured she was at the time. She asked Monger to leave but he demanded £5,000 from her, despite having £100,000 in his own bank account.

The badly hurt pensioner managed to struggle to the bank and withdraw the £5,000 which was then paid directly into Monger's account.

Prior to attacking the 87-year-old Monger had shouted and sworn at her, then called her a 'f..... witch with funny hair'. He said: 'Why don't you just lie down and die?'

Miss Pitts said after three weeks Ms Monger, who was crawling around her home on all fours because of the pain, went to the doctor to seek treatment and it was discovered that she had a broken pelvis.

She refused to stay in hospital. She asked the doctor to get her grandson help for his alcohol addiction, but the doctor reported the matter to the police which led to the defendant being arrested.

When he was interviewed he accepted his grandmother's account of what had happened.

Mitigating, Les Smyth said Monger had been raised by his grandparents from an early age. He had then worked for Sony for 16 years before being made redundant and that had started his decline into alcohol abuse.

He had sold his home in Aylesbury and moved back to live with his grandparents but his grandfather had died shortly after his return.

Since he had been in custody, his grandmother had written him seven letters. In them Ms Monger said she loved him very much and she had forgiven him. She said she did not want him punished but to be helped with his alcohol addiction.

Ms Monger said in one letter: 'I hope the court will take this into account, otherwise everything I have been through will be for nothing.'

Mr Smyth said Monger had been on a detox programme since he had been in custody, and had been trying to deal with his alcohol abuse.

Defence counsel said at the time of the attack Ms Monger was trying to keep her grandson away from more alcohol. She was happy to have him back living with her but not until he had addressed his drink problem.

Monger of Barnsley Drive, Teignmouth, pleaded guilty to unlawfully wounding Mary Monger in November last year and was jailed for ten months.

Passing sentence, Recorder Michael Fitton QC told Monger: 'Under the influence of drink you behaved in such a manner as to push your grandmother out of the way to get more drink. This was reckless aggression accompanied by unpleasant and hurtful verbal remarks. The result was that she broke her pelvis but she acted with courage and a strong personality and still wanted to help you.'

'She has asked the court to deal with this matter in a way that allows you to get further help and support. But this is so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified. That is despite the plea from your grandmother.'

TJ MACLEOD



GLAD TO BE BACK: The Louly motors back into Teignmouth harbour, 50 years after her launch from Morgan Giles boatyard.

Cruiser returns after 50 years



SHE may be getting on a bit now, but Louly still drew admiring crowds when she cruised into Teignmouth.

One of the famous Monaco luxury craft built at the now long gone and greatly missed Morgan Giles boatyard, she made a brief visit on Saturday to celebrate her 50th birthday, and moored a few yards from the old yard, now the site of flats.

It was a nostalgic homecoming that attracted hundreds of onlookers, including many workers from the yard. Some were able to have a close up look around on board, including the mayor of Teignmouth, Cllr Vince Fusco who welcomed Louly back, and many others admired the still sleek old lady from the shore. Hundreds of photos were taken.

The visit was arranged by the current owner, Derek McClarron of Torquay, who said he was amazed at the reception.

'It went very well indeed, and there were a lot of happy faces. It brought back memories for a lot of people.'

'Unfortunately there was not time to chat in detail to everybody, and I want



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to come back to Teignmouth for a longer stay, when everything can be a bit more relaxed.'

Mr McClarron spent years and thousands of pounds on restoring Louly, which was rotting away in a Totnes boatyard, unloved and uncared for.

The wooden cruisers were much sought after by wealthy owners in the 1960s, and were often seen at exotic harbours around the Mediterranean.

Built of wood and with a strong resemblance to the wartime MTBs that Morgan Giles produced, the craft are a huge attraction wherever they moor.

One person who was especially thrilled, was Michelle Thomas of Newton Abbot, the daughter of the last owner of the yard, Michael Morgan Giles.

She remembers watching Louly being launched when she was a 15-year-old girl, and said seeing her again was very emotional.

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EMOTIONAL: Michelle Thomas pictured with owner Derek McClarron.

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