# Whetstone man given restraining order after threatening upstairs neighbour with arson



David Martin, a resident of Whetstone, has found himself entangled in serious legal troubles following a series of alarming incidents involving threats against his upstairs neighbour. The man, who reportedly has a history of alcoholism exacerbated by personal tragedy, was convicted of harassment after making violent threats that left his victim feeling unsafe in her own home.

According to reports from Leicester Magistrates' Court, Martin, who has 15 prior offences to his name, has allegedly been a source of continuous distress for the victim, who resides above him in the same block of flats on Elizabeth Gardens. On February 27, during one particularly aggressive episode, Martin called out to her from outside her window, shouting menacingly, "I'll burn your flat with you in it." This outburst occurred while the woman was babysitting her grandson, illustrating the dangerous environment created by Martin's actions.

The prosecutor, Tracy Lovejoy, highlighted a troubling pattern of harassment that had persisted for months. The victim, in her statement, expressed how her quality of life had dramatically deteriorated since Martin moved in below her. “I enjoyed living here until David moved into the ground floor," she lamented, detailing how his behaviour—blaring music and throwing food from his window—only heightened her anxiety. The victim also noted incidents where Martin would leave flowers on her doorstep following his outbursts, a perplexing gesture that further underlined the unpredictability of his actions.

Martin's behaviour is reflective of broader issues surrounding mental health and substance abuse. His legal representative, Jagvir Sangherra, attributed much of Martin's distressing conduct to his struggles with alcohol following the death of his wife. While acknowledging the impact of bereavement and alcohol misuse, Sangherra stated that this should not excuse Martin's actions. He expressed hope for Martin to seek help as part of his rehabilitation. The court ultimately imposed a community order including six months of alcohol treatment, alongside a £50 fine and a £114 victim surcharge.

Harassment cases like this are not isolated. They often resonate with broader societal concerns about domestic safety and the challenges faced by victims when navigating the legal system. The judiciary’s response to such matters has been a focal point in discussions about effective measures to protect victims and enforce compliance with restraining orders. In this instance, Martin was also subjected to a 12-month restraining order, prohibiting him from any further contact with his victim, reflecting the court's recognition of the seriousness of his threats.

This case resonates with other similar incidents reported in the Leicester area, including one concerning a man who faced consequences for ongoing harassment despite a non-molestation order in place. Such examples highlight the complexities surrounding the enforcement of legal protections and the urgent need for ongoing support for both victims and those struggling with issues that often lead to such confrontations.

While Martin has expressed remorse, the legal repercussions of his actions serve a dual purpose: they aim to hold individuals accountable for their behaviour while simultaneously offering a pathway to recovery, thus underscoring the intricate balance of justice in cases of harassment rooted in personal tragedy and mental health crises. As the community remains vigilant, this case serves as a reminder of the importance of supportive measures for those affected by alcohol misuse and the risk it poses to societal harmony.

### Reference Map:

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066), [[3]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/fatal-attraction-couple-warned-stay-4165494)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066), [[7]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/criminals-who-lost-liberty-in-july-8649323)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066), [[3]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/fatal-attraction-couple-warned-stay-4165494)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/drunk-neighbour-threatened-set-grandmothers-10163066> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/named-shamed-20-leicester-criminals-3795172> - This article lists 217 criminals dealt with by Leicester courts in 2020, including individuals convicted of various offenses such as threats to blow up a man's home over a £20,000 debt. The piece highlights the range of criminal activities addressed by the courts during that period, providing insights into the types of cases handled and the legal outcomes.
3. <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/fatal-attraction-couple-warned-stay-4165494> - The article discusses a case where a 47-year-old man, David Martin, was given a shorter sentence after assaulting his 22-year-old girlfriend. Despite a non-molestation order, Martin continued to contact the woman, leading to further legal action. The piece sheds light on the complexities of domestic violence cases and the challenges in enforcing protective orders.
4. <https://magistrates.blogspot.com/2021/02/> - This blog post provides an overview of disorderly behavior as an offense under the Public Order Act 1986. It details the legal definitions, potential defenses, and penalties associated with such behavior. The post serves as an informative resource for understanding the legal framework surrounding public order offenses in the UK.
5. <https://www.hucknalldispatch.co.uk/news/crime/reports-from-the-courts-the-latest-cases-from-mansfield-magistrates-courts-4071708> - The article reports on recent cases from Mansfield Magistrates' Court, including individuals convicted of theft, driving offenses, and harassment. It provides details on the sentences handed down, offering insights into the types of cases processed by the court and the legal consequences faced by the offenders.
6. <https://far-rightcriminals.com/category/racially-aggravated-harassment/> - This section of the website focuses on cases involving racially aggravated harassment, detailing incidents where individuals have been convicted of such offenses. It provides summaries of specific cases, including the circumstances and legal outcomes, highlighting the severity and legal repercussions of racially motivated harassment.
7. <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/criminals-who-lost-liberty-in-july-8649323> - The article highlights several individuals who were jailed in July, including Keith Dhlodhlo, who was sentenced for threatening to kill his ex-partner and her family. It provides details on the offenses committed, the sentences imposed, and the impact on the victims, offering a glimpse into the judicial process and the consequences of such crimes.