

e six of his baby boy's ribs had home bugged by police

After she were carried out, and most were normal but he was found to have a fever and low haemoglobin. The baby's right thigh was still swollen. Because of the nature and extent of the injuries, police were called and Mr and Mrs Challis were arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm.

Miss Edwards said when the couple were interviewed, Mrs Challis denied the allegations and Mr Challis said nothing.

She said: "Police put a listening device in the Challis's home, and Mr Challis was heard to tell his wife he dropped the baby on the stairs the night before, and picked

him up twisting his leg and grabbing him."

"During conversations he said he should have done something about it, but the boy seemed unharmed, apart from what he described as clicking ribs."

She said doctors found the baby had six broken ribs and medical

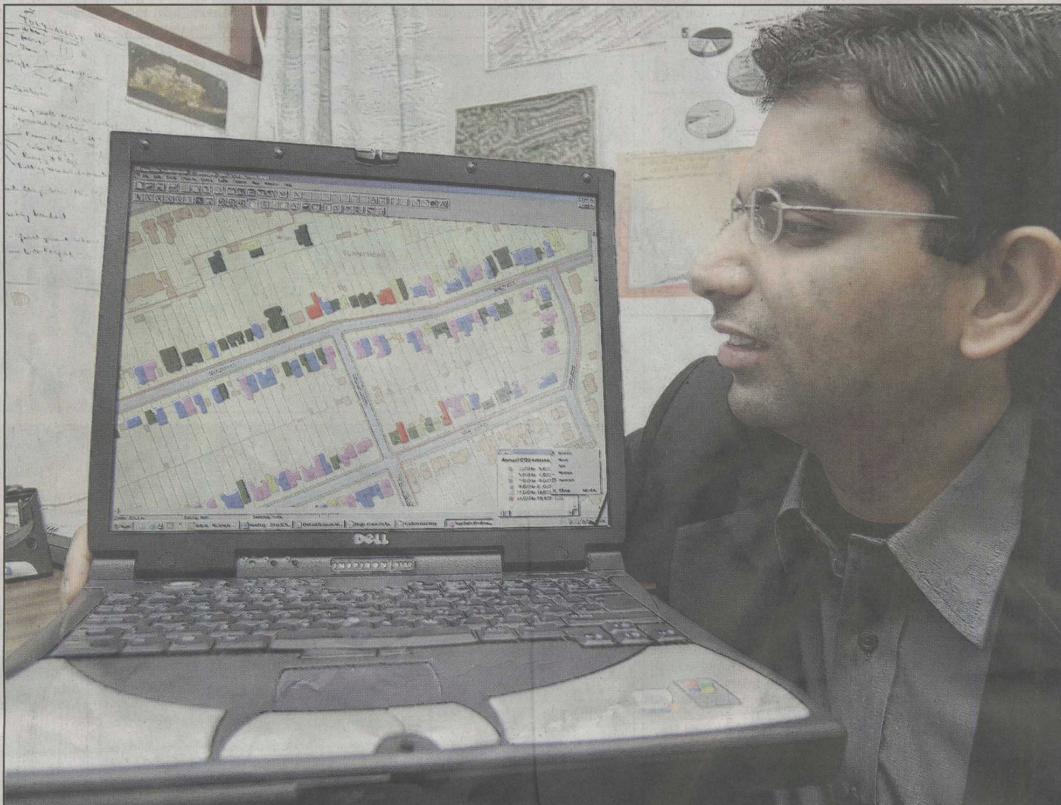
evidence said he had a fractured skull, but that could have been caused by birth trauma.

She said: "Mr Challis told social workers he dropped the baby on the stairs, but didn't say anything about grabbing him by his leg. He said he felt guilty about what had happened and

continued to feel guilty about it."

Terence Woods, defending said: "The defendant made an attempt on his own life while in custody."

The court heard the baby was subject to care proceedings in the family court. Challis was given a 12-month suspended sentence and a supervision order.



■ Revolutionary... Dr Rajat Gupta with his computer mapping system

Order no: 401709. Picture: J Barry Johnson

Oxford academic's system leads way in battle against energy waste

Computer helping to cut out carbon

By Rosalind Miles

THE world's first computer mapping system which identifies the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by individual buildings could be used to show which ones are wasting heat.

DECoRuM, a GIS (geographical information system) programme, developed by Dr Rajat Gupta, a research fellow at Oxford Brookes University's architecture department, produces a map of the city highlighting emissions from homes and businesses.

It works by feeding information, such as how many storeys and the number of windows each house has, (which was gained by Dr Gupta by simply looking at

properties from the outside) into the system to calculate an estimate of how much electricity is used and, therefore, how much carbon is being emitted.

The technology could be used by the city council to target Oxford's most energy-inefficient residents.

Dr Gupta, who has been commissioned by the council to make a climate change action plan, said: "DECoRuM extends the analysis of carbon dioxide emission to individual buildings and can work to make cities more sustainable. I hope it can help us avoid the worst impacts of climate change and help with the survival of mankind."

Susanna Pressel, a committee member, said: "Thanks to this GIS system we would be able to put pressure on landlords and individual home owners to reduce the amount of heat which is lost from their homes."

The city council already uses GIS systems to monitor pollution and for planning purposes but it cannot detect the heat given off by individual buildings.

The environmental scrutiny committee has agreed to ask its executive board to get a quote for the system, which Dr Gupta estimates would cost between £30,000 and £40,000. It also decided to ask

the board to do an audit of its own buildings and to set aside funds to educate the public.

Dr Gupta surveyed 318 houses in North Oxford using the DECoRuM mapping system. He chose the area because a survey found that residents there were most receptive to using green energy.

Daniel Dubin, 66, who lives in Victoria Road, said: "This house was built without insulation before the First World War.

"If you were building a new house, you could incorporate all the insulation systems straight away at relatively minimal cost."

"But if you have a house like this it's impossible to deal with it — you would have to remove all the floor boards, take every wall down, put a new roof on."

"If the research shows my house is leaking a huge amount of heat, I'd say 'tell me something I don't know'. I can't insulate this house properly."

Derek Wareham, who is retired and also lives in Victoria Road, said: "I have roof insulation and a couple of insulating jackets around our hot water tank, but this is an Edwardian house with nine inch brickwork, so full insulation is not practical and would be too expensive."

Library may move to Ruskin College

AN OXFORD library branch which the elderly and disabled find difficult to use could move to a shared site with an Oxford college.

Bury Knowle Library, in Headington, which has steep steps that make it almost impossible for people to access if they are in wheelchairs and have walking difficulties, could share a building with Ruskin College.

Headington resident Nicholas Newman, who recently launched a campaign to raise funds to pay for a ramp for the disabled, welcomed the news.

Mr Newman said: "We have found the building is unsuitable for a ramp to be installed."

"The current Headington library building is inadequate in meeting community needs. It is simply too small and too difficult to adapt."

Audrey Mullender, principal of Ruskin College, said Ruskin College was staying at its Headington site in Dunstan Road and was looking to develop its library facilities.

He said: "We are thinking about whether there could be some overlap with the public library in Headington and potential for the two to combine. At the moment it is no more than an informal discussion, but it is an exciting option."

Richard Munro, head of cultural services for Oxfordshire County Council, said: "We are acutely aware of the problems the building presents and we have for some time been actively looking for a place for an alternative facility."

"A joint library is one of the options we have been discussing with Ruskin College. The key thing with the library is identifying funding to do it and finding an appropriate location."

"The opportunity for a building of the size needed in Headington is quite limited. The Ruskin option is a front-runner, but we don't want to get anyone's hopes up."

Princess Royal visit

THE Princess Royal is to visit Wallingford on December 20 to mark the end of the town's celebrations marking the 850th anniversary of the granting of its charter.

While she is in the town the princess will present the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the organisers of the Elizabeth Coach.

That award was given in May for the coach's work for the disabled in Wallingford, taking them on outings and holidays.