



Sentences: Judge Tom O'Donnell said delivery men are "entitled to go about their lawful business"

second was struck on the side of his head.

It was accepted by Detective Garda Fergal Hanrahan that neither of the accused men had assaulted the victims but he said they were present with another man - Mr X - who did.

Imposing sentence, Judge Tom O'Donnell said pizza delivery men are "entitled to go about their lawful business and should not expect to be attacked" in the

months suspended while William Dundon received a four year sentence with the final two years suspended.

Another woman - Kathleen O'Sullivan, aged 23, of Taylors Cross, Fedamore - who pleaded guilty to theft charges was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with the entirety of the sentence suspended.

The fourth accused - Mr X - is currently before the courts awaiting trial.

Voyage of discovery for history making bowsprit

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THE BIGGEST bowsprit - spar extending from the vessel's prow - made in Limerick in the last hundred years has left these parts on the back of a lorry.

But next year it will be seen to full effect on the AK Ilen in the estuary. The boat was sailed to the Falklands by Conor O'Brien, a Limerickman and the first Irishman to circumnavigate the globe, in 1927. Some seven decades later Gary MacMahon, a Limerick sailor, flew to the Falklands and purchased this piece of living history, Ireland's largest original wooden sailing ship, with a capacity of 43 tonnes.

Since then thousands of hours have been invested to restore the ship to its former glory. The project has also seen the birth of the Ilen School & Network for Wooden Boat Building in the LEDP, Roxboro.

The vessel is being patiently restored in Hegarty's boatyard in Old Court, near Baltimore in Cork, with materials transported from Limerick, after being crafted by skilled tradesmen and younger recruits who are learning this forgotten skill.

The bowsprit was accompanied by the mainmast, spars and other

finely crafted elements of rigging on board the Ilen.

One of the directors of the boat building school, Br Anthony Keane, of Glenstal Abbey, said: "We have cast our best bread upon the water. But all, hopefully, will return to Limerick when our ship comes in in September 2017, the bowsprit foremost."

"She will salute Foynes, and stay for a moment off Loughill to greet Ministers Michael Noonan and Patrick O'Donovan who make all things possible, as well as to pay respects to her original master, the circumnavigating Conor O'Brien."

Robert Small, formerly of the ESB, directed the logistical and safety aspects of the potentially hazardous operation.

"The bowsprit is 32 feet in length and has a weight of over a quarter of a ton. The timber is Douglas Fir heartwood.

"The function of the bowsprit is to effectively lengthen the vessel and to offer a point of anchorage at its tip to the forestay of the forth'd mainmast, well forth'd so that the stay is at an effective angle.

"It also helps generate the fore-triangle within which flying jibs and staysails are raised. Further, it allows the nimble and fearless the possibility of walking out over the water ahead of the ship," explains Br Anthony.



Take a bow: Robert Small and Gary McMahon with the 32 foot long bowsprit made in Limerick PICTURE: MIKE COWHEY

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