

Create your **own** photo book

No set up fees or minimum order.  
Sell Worldwide




Create & print your own book **now**

# NORTHAMPTON Chronicle & ECHO

[jobs today](#) | [property today](#) | [motors today](#) | [local pages today](#)

Site Web

Search

enhanced by 

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sport](#) | [Community](#) | [Your say](#) | [Newspaper](#) | [Health Info](#)

[Saints](#) | [Cobblers](#) | [Steelbacks](#) | [Chron Comment](#) | [Family Announcements](#) | [Public Notices](#) | [Free Ads](#) | [Book An Ad Online](#) | [Letters](#) | [Features](#) | [TV & Leisure](#) | [Hot Jobs](#) | [News](#) | [Image E-mag](#) | [Your Northampton](#) | [Video](#) | [Education](#) | [Business](#) | [Crime Map](#) | [Make Us Proud](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [The Guide](#) | [Weekend Life](#) | [Film Northants](#) | [Postcards From The Park 2008](#) | [Email news alerts](#)

Tuesday, 23rd December 2008

▼ [News](#)

- [Local News](#)
- [Your Letters](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Around the county](#)
- [Business News](#)
- [Your pictures](#)
- [Chronuser](#)
- [Film Northants](#)

▼ [Sport](#)

- [Football](#)
- [Cobblers](#)
- [Saints Rugby](#)
- [Steelbacks](#)
- [Silverstone](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Sports Columnists](#)
- [Other Sport](#)

▼ [Community](#)

- [Postcards From The Park 2008](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- [Lost Friends](#)
- [My Home Town](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Obituaries](#)

▼ [Entertainment](#)

- [Free games](#)
- [Weekend Life](#)
- [The Guide](#)
- [Days Out UK](#)
- [Video archive](#)
- [Reader Travel](#)
- [Advertising Features](#)
- [TV & Leisure](#)

▼ [Services](#)

- [Classified Property](#)
- [Items for Sale](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Property](#)
- [Motors](#)
- [Hotel Search](#)
- [Million Pixel](#)
- [Homepage](#)
- [Unique Today](#)
- [e-Edition Orders](#)

## Drugs middle man jailed for three years

Published Date: 23 December 2008

By Rob Middleton

A drug dealer who acted as a middle man and supplied crack cocaine and heroin to an undercover policeman has been jailed for more than three years.

Gerald Benjamin, 40, of Grafton Street, Semilong, was sentenced at Northampton Crown Court after being arrested during Operation Metro.

The test purchase operation employed two officers to pose undercover as drug addicts and target heroin and crack cocaine dealers in Northampton town centre.

Benjamin admitted 10 charges of supplying quantities of the two class A drugs on five separate occasions between July 16 and July 28.

The court heard that on every occasion, Benjamin had used the undercover officer's mobile phone to place a call to buy the drugs before collecting them from a car near Marriott Street, Semilong, in Northampton. On every occasion he asked the undercover officer for a small "slice" of the drugs he was supplying as payment.

Benjamin, who was hoping to start a business as a guitar teacher, supplied the drugs which ranged in quantities up to 0.27g of crack cocaine and 0.14g of heroin.

Passing sentence, Judge Richard Bray said: "You were supplying heroin and crack cocaine which are two of the most dangerous drugs being supplied on the streets and are responsible for a great number of deaths in this country."

Judge Bray sentenced Benjamin to three years and three months for each offence, to run concurrently.

Tracey Townsend, 25, was arrested during the same operation when she acted as a runner for Patrick Francis, 43, who was previously jailed for three years and four months.

Jamie De Burgos, prosecuting, said the test purchase officer Jo had called Francis on August 13 asking to buy drugs.

She was directed to go to the bridge near to Northampton railway station when



Drug dealer Gerald BenjaminSubmitted picture

ADVERTISEMENT

- [Email a friend](#)
- [Print article](#)
- [Increase text size](#)
- [Decrease text size](#)
- [Be the first to comment on this article...](#)

More News

- [Vandals target Northampton's Christmas trees again . . .](#)
- ['It is unpopular but it is right' says Northampton regeneration chief](#)
- [Drugs middle man jailed for three years](#)
- [Electrical fault may have caused blaze at garage in Spencer, Northampton](#)
- [Drugs smuggled into Woodhill prison in child's painting](#)
- [Woman remanded over 'murder' in Northampton](#)
- [Carols from Northampton Saints and neighbours](#)
- [Rate of robbery is falling in the west of Northamptonshire](#)
- [Overstone pub closes doors days before Xmas](#)
- [Television licence evaders warned of fines](#)
- [Northamptonshire youngsters' card designs are flown around the world](#)
- [Bands hold memorial concert for Beccy, 18](#)
- [Parents unhappy with academy plan](#)
- [Wild and Woolly for Boxing Day](#)
- [Shoebboxes to travel across world](#)

[More News >>](#)

Features

[Order a Photo](#)

[Hot Jobs](#)

[Direct Delivery](#)

[Book an Advert](#)

 [What's this?](#)

Townsend turned up and supplied a single deal of heroin.

Townsend, of St George's Street, Semilong, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs and was given a two-year community order with 12 months of drugs rehabilitation.

Judge Peter Morrell said: "Take advantage of this order.

"A lot of public money is being spent in order to get you off drugs."

Page 1 of 1

Last Updated: 22 December 2008 8:56 PM

Source: Northampton Chron & Echo

Location: Northampton

Bookmark:

[Del.icio.us](#)

[Digg](#)

[Facebook](#)

[reddit](#)

[StumbleUpon](#)



Comment on this Story

Please note that your e-mail address may be used by one of our journalists to contact you for further information.

Name :

Location :

Comment :

[Preview Comment](#)

[Post Comment](#)

 [RSS Feed of this article's comments](#)

Delivery formats: [RSS](#), [Atom](#), [Javascript](#) & [Email](#)

Ads by Google

[drug abuse rehab](#)

The Only Drug Addiction Center In Central London. Enquire Today!  
[www.NightingaleHospital.co.uk](http://www.NightingaleHospital.co.uk)

[Drug Treatment](#)

Free & Confidential Advice On UK Drug & Alcohol Rehab Clinics  
[www.WayAheadRehab.com](http://www.WayAheadRehab.com)

[Online Drug Abuse Courses](#)

Large Selection of Distance Learning courses. Enrol Online Now  
[www.elearnuk.co.uk/OnlineCourses](http://www.elearnuk.co.uk/OnlineCourses)



Weekend Life



Term Time



The Guide

Today's Vote

Do you think NBC is showing strong leadership over Sixfields and the Market Square?

Yes

No

[Vote Now >>](#)

Featured Advertising

[Save money on your utility bills](#)  
phone 0800 279 4058

[Learn new skills with a range of home study courses from the Home Learning College](#)

[Broaden your horizons, view training courses in your area](#)

[Contact us](#) | [Help](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) |

[Archive](#) | [Our sister newspapers](#) | 

All rights reserved ©2008

Johnston Press Digital Publishing

Sister Newspapers:

**TELEGRAPH** **Citizen**

northantset

Milton Keynes



This website and its associated newspaper adheres to the Press Complaints Commission's Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about editorial content which relates to inaccuracy or intrusion, then contact the Editor by clicking [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied with the response provided then you can contact the PCC by clicking [here](#).

**C4S**

[cashback4shopping.net](http://cashback4shopping.net)

Go shopping...

