

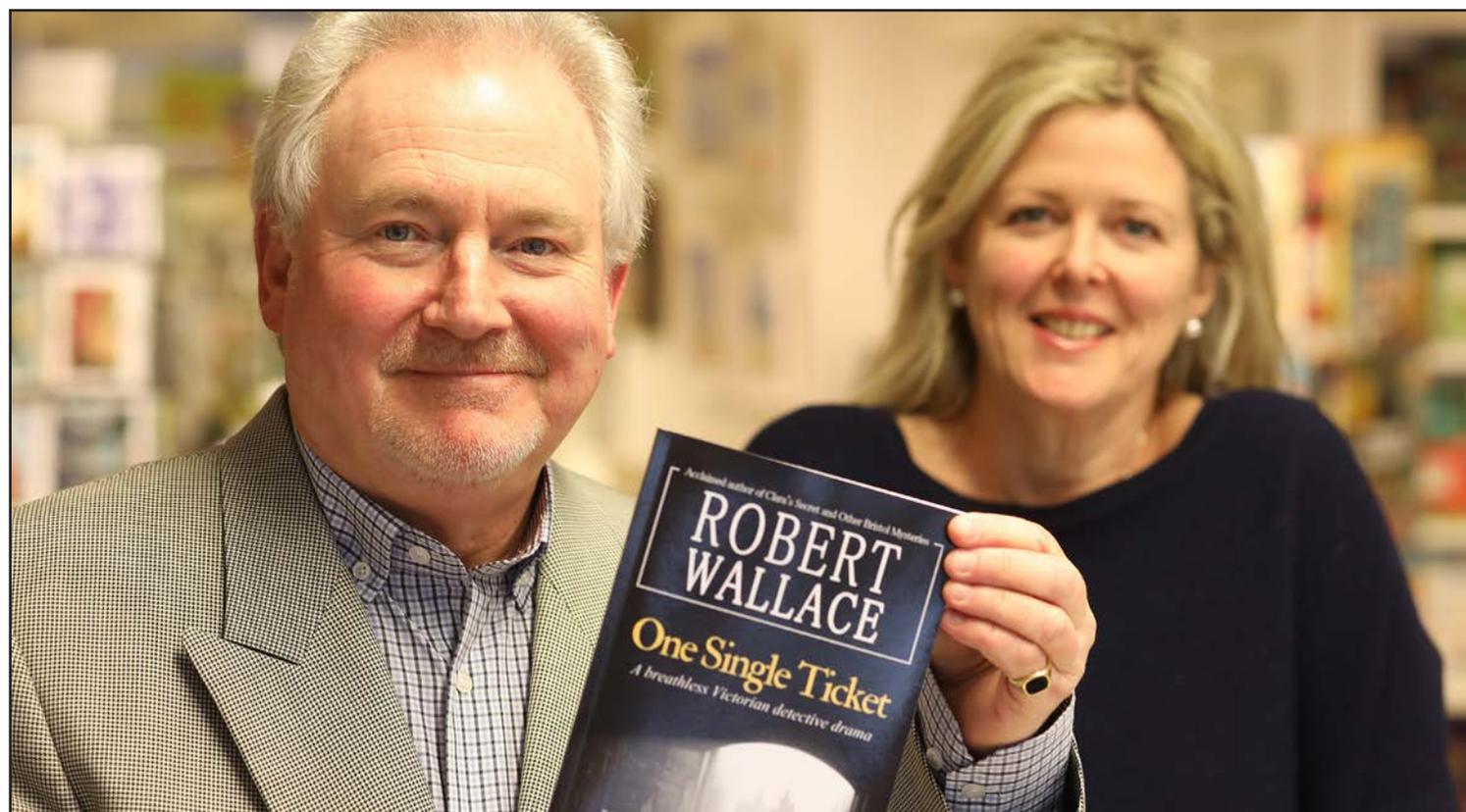
## Teenage thug avoids jail

A TEENAGER has avoided jail despite attacking council workers and destroying equipment. Ross Hallas admitted two counts of assault and one count of criminal damage at Colchester Magistrates' Court. During the incident, the 19-year-old destroyed computers, doors, equipment and other fixtures and fittings at a building owned by Essex County Council. Magistrates handed Hallas an eight week jail sentence but suspended it for a year due to his vulnerability. Hallas, of South Street, Colchester, must carry out 100 hours of unpaid work. He must also pay £200 to one of the employees he assaulted, £100 to another and £700 to replace the items he broke.

## Baby surgery clarification

WE would like to clarify a detail in the story relating to the trailblazing surgery of an unborn baby at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. The article said surgeons removed the unborn baby from Bethan Simpson's womb to carry out treatment for spina bifida, however, the baby was operated on while she was still in the womb. We apologise for the error

## TWISTING VICTORIAN YARN ON TRACK AND HITS BOOKSHELVES



■ Novel - author Robert Wallace with his book in Caxton Books with owner Judith Charlesworth

A TWISTING Victorian yarn set against the backdrop of a failed yet monumental engineering plan is the latest work of a successful writer. After attempting to write a 2,000 word newspaper piece on

revered 19th century engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Robert Wallace, of Frinton, realised there was just too much material to limit the story to such a length. He said: "I got to 3,000

words and I hadn't even got to his history with Bristol - I realised it would not be possible. "But I had become so invested in it, I found it fascinating and couldn't let

it go." Brunel's Vision: One Single Ticket is a Victorian drama combining fact and fiction. It is available on Amazon and from Caxton Books, in Connaught Avenue, Frinton.

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# Health boss's plea to nurses: 'Don't leave after Brexit'

By ANDREA COLLITT  
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HEALTH leaders in Colchester and Tendring have pleaded with European workers to stay in the United Kingdom for the sake of the NHS. Nearly 300 non-British nurses have left Colchester General Hospital since the Brexit referendum in June 2016. The call comes as Brexit looms this March 29. Bosses including Nick Hulme, chief executive of the trust running Colchester and Ipswich hospitals, say the contribution of employees who originate from outside the UK is strongly valued. Mr Hulme said: "Wherever you sit about your views on Brexit, the one thing we absolutely know is we simply could not run health and social care services or indeed the voluntary sectors without the support from our colleagues from Europe. "I want to be clear as a key employer, employing over



■ Plea - Nick Hulme

10,000 people in the local system we welcome your contribution. "We encourage you to stay, we want you to continue to give the best you can for local people and we will continue to support you to do that. "Please recognise the important contribution you make." The hospital trust is in the Suffolk and North East Essex

Sustainability and Transformation Partnership which issued the plea. Mr Hulme added since the Brexit referendum "many people who originate outside the UK have been anxious about the future and perhaps have felt they are not welcome to work here. This is certainly not the case". Since the Brexit referendum, 480 non-British registered nurses have left the trust. Of these, 270 worked at Colchester Hospital. In comparison, 256 non-British nurses left Colchester Hospital in the three years beforehand. Lisa Llewelyn, director of Nursing at the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We value our workforce and want it to be inclusive of all nationalities and would strongly encourage employees within the health and care system to apply for either settled or pre-settled status once we leave the European Union."