

NEWS

Two set for court over 'person in road' robbery

TWO men have been charged with robbery over the theft of a car from a good Samaritan who pulled over to help a person lying on a country road.

They are Thomas Cawley, 29, and Tristan Sheppard, 21, both of Turner Lane, Boughton. Two 26-year-old men arrested earlier in relation to the incident, which took place on the A614 on Friday, August 11, have been released.

Police said a woman was driving her car along the A614 at around 12.20am when she saw someone lying in the middle of the road. She stopped to call an ambulance but was dragged out of her car and the vehicle was then stolen.

Sheppard is due to appear on September 18 at Nottingham Crown Court.

Cawley is due at the same court on September 28.

Police appeal as slasher attacks pub marquee

POLICE want help in tracing the vandal who slashed a pub's marquee.

It happened at the Old Volunteer, in Burton Road, Carlton, between 6pm on August 30 and 7am the following day.

Police say the marquee was most likely cut with a knife

or sharp tool.

A spokesman for the Gedling police beat team said: "If anyone can provide information about the offender, please call 101 and ask to speak to the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team or private message the team on Facebook."

Michael Knowles at Sherwood Observatory. PICTURE: MARK FEAR



Globetrotting hobby eclipses all others

By ISAAC ASHE isaac.ashe@nottingham.post.com

WHEN it comes to unusual hobbies, one Nottinghamshire astronomy enthusiast's obsession leaves most people in the shade.

Michael Knowles, 59, has just returned from a meticulously-planned trip to America to see his seventh total solar eclipse.

His passion for witnessing total eclipses was sparked in 1999 after a snap decision to head to Cornwall. He has since been to Turkey (2006), China (2009), Australia (2012), Indonesia (2015) and on board a boat in the Norwegian Sea (2015).

The landlord, of Kirby-in-Ashfield, said: "I've always had an interest in astronomy since the moon landings when I was a child - it did spark an interest in me.

"There was an eclipse in Cornwall back in 1999 and I thought I'd go and have a trip down. Unfortunately, it was raining that day. But, having said that, it was an experience. The occasion gripped me. I was hooked. I thought I'd look up where the next one was. That was in Turkey, and I've chased seven now."

But with 14 US states enjoying a view of the "Great American Eclipse" on August 21, and 11 of them - including Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois,



Michael Knowles setting up in Idaho to photograph the eclipse and, below, one of his pictures of the phenomenon.



Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina - witnessing totality, choosing where to get the best view on this trip was harder than ever. In the end, Mr Knowles, a member of Sherwood Observatory, in Sutton-in-Ashfield, settled on the remote Menan Buttes, in Idaho, with the shelter of the Rocky Mountains helping to provide clear skies for the

rare celestial event. "The site was a volcanic area about a two-hour drive from Idaho Falls," he said. "There were hundreds of people but it was the perfect spot to concentrate on the eclipse and not get bothered by anything but the rattlesnakes. "It was spectacular. Each eclipse is different from every other one. With the volcanic landscape of

plumes 800 feet high, it was quite surreal to look at, like you had been put on a different planet."

The next total eclipse will be in 2019 in Chile - and though he's not yet sure whether he will try to go, it will clearly be hard for Mr Knowles to stay away.

He said: "Whatever circumstances are going on in your life, it shows the fragility of the human race to see the moon moving across our star, blocking out the sun which life depends on. It's hard to put into words. It puts a different perspective on everything. That's what the attraction is for me - it puts everything on the back burner."

The next total solar eclipse in the UK will not take place until September 2090.

However, there are still some partial solar eclipses to look forward to a little nearer than the US:

■ August 11, 2018: A very small partial eclipse on the northern coast of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland.

■ June 10, 2021: A partial eclipse across Britain, ranging from 50 percent in northern Scotland to 30 percent in south-east England.

■ October 25, 2022: A partial eclipse across Britain with north-east Scotland.

■ August 12, 2026: An eclipse which is total across Iceland, the Atlantic Ocean and Spain.

IN THE DOCK

MAGISTRATES' COURT CASES

**CITY:** Fallon Hudson stole more than £65 of cosmetics from Wilko in Lower Parliament Street.

Twenty-two-year-old Hudson, of Birchover Road, Bilborough, pleaded guilty to theft. She was conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and costs of £40.

**NETHERFIELD:** Lorraine Hutchinson shoplifted from B&Q.

The 49-year-old, of Greenwood Road, Bakersfield, stole £49.77 of items at Victoria Retail Park, on January 23. Her haul included a Telamon outdoor sensor light. She was fined £40 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £30 and costs of £85.

**CITY:** Rhys Sewell, 18, of Kings Road, Newark, admitted stealing from stores in the intu Victoria Centre.

On March 14, he took nearly £50 worth of clothing from Superdry, in the upper mall; a tracksuit from Footastylum; and a holdall from Sports Direct.

He also stole an Adidas tracksuit, worth nearly £60, from Sports Direct in Kings Road, Newark, on March 10.

Sewell was ordered to do 80 hours of unpaid work in 12 months and was fined £85 and ordered to pay £85 to fund victim services.

**BULWELL:** Neil Kelsell, 53, of Dove Street, Bulwell, stole nearly £8 worth of cheese from Heron Foods on July 18.

He also pleaded guilty to going into B&M Bargains when he was banned by a criminal behaviour order.

Kelsell was conditionally discharged for six months and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £85.

**HYSON GREEN:** Mohammed Awees, 44, of Bridlington Street, pleaded guilty to driving in an Audi A4, in Bridlington Street when he had 60 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, over the limit of 35, on July 7.

Awees was banned from driving for three years, fined £120 and ordered to pay £30 towards victim services and costs of £85.

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