# Elderly man robbed of £950 winnings moments after Ladbrokes gamble in King’s Lynn



An elderly man in King's Lynn recently fell victim to a brazen theft, losing nearly £1,000 just moments after celebrating a significant gambling win at a Ladbrokes betting shop. The incident occurred on May 21, when the 80-year-old from Congham had successfully collected winnings totalling £950 following bets on three horse races.

According to the victim, as he gathered his money from the counter, a man approached him, remarking on his luck. Subsequently, as he turned to leave, he felt a hand in his pocket, only to discover a theft had taken place within mere seconds. Despite the swift actions of another customer who attempted to apprehend the thief, the assailant made a hasty escape. The victim expressed the emotional toll of the incident, noting, “It was two weeks of my pension money, which is what hurts the most.”

This incident underscores broader concerns regarding safety and crime in the area. Reports indicate that the suspect may have lost a significant sum—around £2,000—on gaming machines prior to the theft, suggesting a desperate motive for the robbery. Norfolk Constabulary has acknowledged the situation and is actively conducting investigations.

The vulnerability of the elderly, particularly in instances of theft, has been highlighted by various incidents across the region. For example, in another case reported in early May, two teenage boys were sentenced to youth custody for robbing an 82-year-old widow in Suffolk. This tragedy unfolded when the pair broke into her home, leading to her death just days later, illustrating the severe consequences such crimes can have on vulnerable individuals.

Furthermore, King's Lynn faces specific concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and safety for its residents, particularly the elderly. Norfolk Constabulary’s ongoing priority is tackling youth-related disturbances, with measures including intensified police patrols aimed at curbing crime in local communities. The police's heightened visibility in areas known for recent incidents may help to reassure the community, particularly elderly residents who may feel increasingly at risk.

In related events, a history of violent crimes, including armed robberies at local bookmakers, has raised alarm. Reports from December 2024 documented an armed robbery at a Ladbrokes store where staff were threatened with a firearm. Such incidents add to the urgency for enhanced protection measures for vulnerable community members, including safeguards for the elderly, who often represent some of the most at-risk individuals during such occurrences.

As authorities continue their investigations, community members are encouraged to remain vigilant, and any witnesses to the recent theft are urged to come forward with information. The impact of these crimes extends beyond financial loss; they instill a sense of fear and insecurity in communities, particularly among the elderly, who often rely on their modest pensions for daily living.

Norfolk Constabulary's efforts may prove crucial in restoring a sense of safety, but community vigilance and cooperation are equally important in these troubling times.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25194896.pensioner-nearly-1-000-stolen-ladbrokes-kings-lynn/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25194896.pensioner-nearly-1-000-stolen-ladbrokes-kings-lynn/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2025-05-09/teens-sentenced-for-robbing-vulnerable-pensioner-who-died-days-later)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/norfolk/news/news/2025/march/appeal-after-robbery-in-kings-lynn/), [[4]](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/norfolk/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk/terrington/news/our-priorities)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.wisbechstandard.co.uk/news/22657453.police-issue-cctv-image-offender-thought-involved-armed-robbery/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/24164027.deaf-norwich-pensioner-robbed-300-home/), [[7]](https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/teenager-arrested-for-knifepoint-robbery-of-pensioner-9091923/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25194896.pensioner-nearly-1-000-stolen-ladbrokes-kings-lynn/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/norfolk/news/news/2025/march/appeal-after-robbery-in-kings-lynn/> - On 5 March 2025, Norfolk Constabulary appealed for information regarding a robbery that occurred in King's Lynn on 28 February 2025. The incident took place at a cash point on St Faith’s Drive in Gaywood around 1.15am, where the victim suffered an injury to his hand, and a quantity of cash was taken. A man and a woman were arrested on 2 March 2025 in Gaywood and have since been released on conditional bail until 23 May 2025. The police are seeking witnesses or anyone who may have seen or filmed the incident. ([norfolk.police.uk](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/norfolk/news/news/2025/march/appeal-after-robbery-in-kings-lynn/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2025-05-09/teens-sentenced-for-robbing-vulnerable-pensioner-who-died-days-later> - On 9 May 2025, ITV News Anglia reported that two teenage boys were sentenced to youth custody for robbing an 82-year-old widow, Joy Middleditch, in Pakefield, Suffolk. The boys, aged 16 and 17, were originally arrested on suspicion of her murder after she died two days following the robbery. The court heard that the boys entered her bungalow in the early hours of 25 March 2023, took cash from her handbag, and left her lying on the floor for over 10 hours. The 16-year-old admitted burglary and was found guilty of robbery, while the 17-year-old was found guilty of both robbery and burglary. Both received two-year detention and training orders. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2025-05-09/teens-sentenced-for-robbing-vulnerable-pensioner-who-died-days-later?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/norfolk/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk/terrington/news/our-priorities> - As of 6 March 2025, Norfolk Constabulary's King's Lynn and West Norfolk area team reported on their priorities, including tackling youth-related anti-social behaviour and vehicle-related anti-social behaviour across west Norfolk. Actions taken include regular high-visibility foot patrols in Downham Market town, evening patrols in Emneth village, speed checks in the town centre and rural villages, and targeted action against anti-social behaviour involving vehicles. ([norfolk.police.uk](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/norfolk/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk/terrington/news/our-priorities?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.wisbechstandard.co.uk/news/22657453.police-issue-cctv-image-offender-thought-involved-armed-robbery/> - On 23 December 2024, the Wisbech Standard reported that police released a CCTV image of a man believed to have been involved in an armed robbery at a Ladbrokes store in King's Lynn. The incident occurred on 21 December 2024, when a man wearing a balaclava entered the store shortly after 7pm, threatened staff with a gun, and made off with a quantity of cash. The three staff members were left shaken but uninjured. Detectives hope the release of the image will help identify the offender or jog the memory of anyone who may have spotted someone matching the description in the area. ([wisbechstandard.co.uk](https://www.wisbechstandard.co.uk/news/22657453.police-issue-cctv-image-offender-thought-involved-armed-robbery/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/24164027.deaf-norwich-pensioner-robbed-300-home/> - On 18 November 2021, the Eastern Daily Press reported that Thomas Ladbrooke, 21, was convicted of robbery after he befriended a profoundly deaf 72-year-old pensioner and threatened him with poles, demanding money. Ladbrooke also took the man's mobile phone and filmed part of the incident. The victim handed over £300 in cash before attempting to leave his house to get help. Ladbrooke was not present during the trial and is in hospital under section 48 of the Mental Health Act. ([edp24.co.uk](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/24164027.deaf-norwich-pensioner-robbed-300-home/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/teenager-arrested-for-knifepoint-robbery-of-pensioner-9091923/> - On 29 November 2019, the Fenland Citizen reported that a 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of robbing a woman in her 70s at knifepoint in Somers Road car park in Wisbech. The suspect stole her bag after brandishing a knife. Officers located the boy at his home address the following day, and he was arrested on suspicion of robbery. A 15-year-old girl was also arrested but has since been released under investigation. ([fenlandcitizen.co.uk](https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/teenager-arrested-for-knifepoint-robbery-of-pensioner-9091923/?utm_source=openai))