# King’s Lynn woman jailed for tipping elderly man dies after release in complex tragedy



Amy Kirkbride, a 29-year-old woman from King's Lynn, has recently died after a series of distressing events that began with her sentencing in July 2023 for tipping a vulnerable man out of his mobility scooter. The man's fall occurred when Kirkbride approached him for money, and upon his refusal, she aggressively lifted the front of his scooter, causing him to topple backwards. The victim, in his 70s, sustained a minor arm injury and required hospital assessment, but fortunately recovered without more severe consequences.

Kirkbride was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison and ordered to pay £100 in compensation after being arrested shortly after the incident. The ramifications of her actions extended well beyond her incarceration, with a complex interplay of personal issues possibly contributing to the tragedy that unfolded shortly thereafter. Following her release, Kirkbride's health declined significantly, leading to her tragic death from multi-organ failure attributed to a traumatic head injury and polytrauma.

An inquest into her death is pending, with Norfolk Coroner's Court indicating that various reports are still being compiled. Area Coroner Yvonne Blake noted, “We are waiting for various decisions to be made in regard to reports, so we are not yet ready.” The court sessions have brought to light the troubling pattern of violence against vulnerable individuals, particularly the elderly.

This incident is part of a concerning trend. Just a few months prior to Kirkbride's sentencing, another individual, Gary Hammond, was also sentenced for a related crime involving the assault of an elderly person in his mobility scooter on the same day. Hammond received a community order for his actions, highlighting a growing awareness of targeting vulnerable populations.

In a separate but equally alarming case, Kimberley Ann Hawkins was sentenced to six and a half years in prison for her role in a mobility scooter theft that ultimately led to a man’s death. In January 2023, Hawkins assaulted 63-year-old Neil Shadwick during a botched robbery, which resulted in his abandonment in perilous conditions. Such incidents raise troubling questions about societal support for those at risk and the systemic issues surrounding mental health and aggressive behaviour.

As tributes pour in for Kirkbride, friends remember her for the joy she brought to their lives, a stark reminder of how complicated individual circumstances can be. While some may feel the need to assign blame, the reality is that an understanding of the broader societal issues at play is essential for preventing further tragedies—whether through improved mental health resources or enhanced protections for the vulnerable.

The community response and judicial outcomes from these incidents will likely pave the way for discussions surrounding vulnerability, mental health, and community safety in King's Lynn and beyond. For those affected, the emotional and psychological aftershocks remain potent reminders of the fragility of life and the complexity of human interactions, especially in moments of desperation.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25196404.lynn-woman-jailed-tipping-man-mobility-scooter-dies/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2023-07-12/woman-who-tipped-vulnerable-man-out-of-mobility-scooter-is-jailed)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25196404.lynn-woman-jailed-tipping-man-mobility-scooter-dies/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/man-sentenced-after-tipping-pensioner-out-of-mobility-scoote-9338202/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-04-25/woman-admits-taking-mobility-scooter-and-assaulting-man-before-his-death), [[6]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2024-08-29/woman-stole-mans-mobility-scooter-and-left-him-to-die-in-6c-temperatures)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25196404.lynn-woman-jailed-tipping-man-mobility-scooter-dies/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2023-07-12/woman-who-tipped-vulnerable-man-out-of-mobility-scooter-is-jailed> - Amy Kirkbride, 29, was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison and ordered to pay £100 in compensation after tipping a man in his 70s out of his mobility scooter in King's Lynn. The incident occurred on 8 July 2023 when Kirkbride approached the man for money; upon his refusal, she lifted the front of his scooter, causing him to fall backwards. The victim sustained a minor arm injury and was hospitalised for checks. Kirkbride was arrested shortly after the incident. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2023-07-12/woman-who-tipped-vulnerable-man-out-of-mobility-scooter-is-jailed?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-66190497> - Amy Kirkbride, 29, was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison and ordered to pay £100 in compensation after tipping a man in his 70s out of his mobility scooter in King's Lynn. The incident occurred on 8 July 2023 when Kirkbride approached the man for money; upon his refusal, she lifted the front of his scooter, causing him to fall backwards. The victim sustained a minor arm injury and was hospitalised for checks. Kirkbride was arrested shortly after the incident. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-66190497?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/man-sentenced-after-tipping-pensioner-out-of-mobility-scoote-9338202/> - Gary Hammond, 46, was sentenced to a 24-month community order after tipping a pensioner out of his mobility scooter in King's Lynn. The incident occurred on 8 July 2023 when Hammond and his partner, Amy Kirkbride, approached the man in his 70s for money. Upon his refusal, they tipped the scooter backwards, causing the man to fall and sustain a minor arm injury. Hammond pleaded guilty to assault by beating, common assault on an emergency worker, and using threatening words to cause alarm or distress. ([lynnnews.co.uk](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/man-sentenced-after-tipping-pensioner-out-of-mobility-scoote-9338202/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-04-25/woman-admits-taking-mobility-scooter-and-assaulting-man-before-his-death> - Kimberley Ann Hawkins, 41, admitted to taking a man's mobility scooter and assaulting him in Stroud before his death. The incident occurred on 22 January 2023 when Hawkins approached Neil Shadwick, 63, in a Tesco car park. After he was unable to withdraw money for her, she stole his scooter, dragging him along the ground until he let go. Shadwick was found unresponsive and later died in hospital. Hawkins is due to be sentenced later in the year. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-04-25/woman-admits-taking-mobility-scooter-and-assaulting-man-before-his-death?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2024-08-29/woman-stole-mans-mobility-scooter-and-left-him-to-die-in-6c-temperatures> - Kimberley Ann Hawkins, 41, was sentenced to six and a half years in prison after stealing a vulnerable man's mobility scooter and leaving him to die in freezing conditions. The incident occurred on 22 January 2023 when Hawkins and Neil Shadwick, 63, went to two cash machines to get money. CCTV footage showed Hawkins riding on Shadwick's lap to the ATM before leaving him to die in temperatures between -4°C and -6°C. Shadwick was found unresponsive and later died in hospital. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2024-08-29/woman-stole-mans-mobility-scooter-and-left-him-to-die-in-6c-temperatures?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/23/woman-arrested-after-man-dies-in-suspected-mobility-scooter-robbery> - A woman was arrested after a man was killed in the suspected robbery of his mobility scooter. The victim, believed to be in his 60s, was found unresponsive in the car park of a Tesco superstore in Stroud shortly before 6am on Sunday. Police arrested the female suspect, from Stroud, on suspicion of his murder and robbery. The man was found without his mobility scooter. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/23/woman-arrested-after-man-dies-in-suspected-mobility-scooter-robbery?utm_source=openai))