



Garrett Lane

## Teenager threatened people with machete

A teenager has been arrested after threatening people with a machete.

Police were called to Garratt Lane in Earlsfield at around 4.40pm on Monday to reports of a 19-year-old man threatening people with a machete.

Officers from the Violence Suppression Unit and emergency response arrived at the scene where the man ran away from them.

As officers chased him he was seen to throw away the weapon. Shortly after he was detained and arrested for possession of an offensive weapon, possession with intent to supply a class-B drug and affray.

About £4,000 in cash, cannabis and the machete were also seized.

The man remains in police custody.

A female was also arrested at the scene on suspicion of affray.

## Samuel's growth drug makes him a busy bee



Samuel Gray

A boy is realising his dream of becoming a bee-keeper after taking part in a drug trial at Evelina London Children's Hospital.

Samuel Gray has achondroplasia, a rare genetic condition which causes dwarfism. It particularly affects the growth and development of long bones in thighs and upper arms.

About one in 25,000 people are born with achondroplasia.

While it leads to short stature, it can also cause health complications such as spinal cord compression, sleep apnoea, bowed legs, a curved lower spine, ear infections and breathing problems, all of which often require surgery to treat.

Samuel has twin 12-year-old sisters and a six-year-old younger sister, and is an avid bee-keeper after getting a hive and bees for his ninth birthday.

Samuel's mum Kristina said that since he started taking the drug in January 2018, he has grown 50 per cent faster than expected for a child of his age with achondroplasia, and is now enjoying running his own bee hive and playing football.

Mum-of-four Kristina said: "We joined the trial not so much for Samuel's growth as for the potential health benefits."

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# Man given two years to live is still going strong decade later

BY TOBY PORTER

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A grandfather who was told he had just two years to live nine years ago has paid tribute to the team at Guy's and St Thomas' caring for him.

Gary Hooker, 65, from Grove Park, was diagnosed with stage four prostate cancer in 2011.

But almost 10 years later, thanks to joining a "life-changing" clinical trial at Guy's and St Thomas', Gary has shown he is a true survivor and has become an inspiration to others with prostate cancer.

He now takes part in countless events around the world to share his story.

He also competed in the first ever Oncology Games in 2018 and won two bronze medals, raising money for Guy's and St Thomas'.

Gary said he was eternally grateful to the team at Guy's.

He said: "If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here. There's nothing better I can say than that. They've got me through so much over the years, including more recently providing so much support when I was shielding at home due to coronavirus.

"They call to see how I am and if there is anything I need, and I know if I have issues I can pick up the phone. They are unbelievable, like a second family."

Gary was diagnosed with cancer in January 2011 after having a routine chest X-ray for a chest infection.

He was shocked to be told he had suspected secondary cancer in his lungs, and was later diagnosed with prostate cancer which had spread to his bones.

He said: "I can still remember the feeling of devastation sitting on my bed and I had to phone my wife Jackie and tell her the news.

"But the next day the team at Guy's informed me that there were lots of treatments available including hormone therapy, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and clinical trials."

At the end of 2011 he was told about the international PREVAIL trial, which Guy's and St Thomas' was participating in.

It measures the success of a drug called



Gary Hooker, also inset, with his youngest grandson, Tommy



enzalutamide, which works by blocking testosterone which feeds the cancer, against a placebo.

Gary said: "I decided to sign up and that turned out to be the greatest decision of my life - I'm still on the drug now.

"My health and energy improved and my cancer became stable. It's meant I can look forward to life and make plans.

"I never thought I'd live to meet my three grandsons, who I adore. They keep me going, along with my wife, who has been my rock, and my four children who are so proud and supportive of me.

"I like to share my positive attitude with other men. I was diagnosed at stage four and the cancer had spread, but I like to go out and say it's not the end of my life. I live with cancer and I respect my cancer. As long as I can get along with it, I won't let it spoil my future for as long as I can."

To highlight the work Gary has done, staff from Guy's and St Thomas' nominated him for two WEGO Health Awards in the healthcare collaborator and patient leader hero categories.

He was also nominated by other people in three additional categories - lifetime achievement, best in show: Twitter, and advocating for another.

While he wasn't a finalist, Gary, a former school premises manager, said: "I'm completely honoured to have been nominated for the awards."



Chloe White with husband Phil White and Edith, three, Adelaide, seven, and Liiana, seven months.

The families of 77 children born with congenital heart disease (CHD) have joined together to create a touching video tribute to raise more than £10,000 to support the hospital that cares for their little ones.

The two Cardiology Kids #1in100 music videos feature photographs of 77 children, who were born with a form of CHD and cared for by Evelina London.

They feature the song I Am Home by artist Byron Gold, featuring acappella group Stratford East Singers.

The appeal is named #1in100 because roughly one in every 100 children is born with a form of CHD.

After so many families came forward wanting to support, two videos were made.

By showing photos of their children, the families hope to raise awareness of the incredible work done by the cardiology team at Evelina London, while raising money which will go towards specialist cardiac equipment.

The Cardiology Kids #1in100 appeal is raising money for the Children's Heart Fund, which is part of Guy's and St Thomas' Charity.

Money raised will go directly to the cardiology department at Evelina London, as well as ECHO, a charity which supports children and young people with heart conditions and their families who've been treated by Evelina London.

Seven-month-old Liiana is one of the children featured in the videos. Liiana was just 12 days old when she had to have her first operation after being born with the rare condition Scimitar syndrome.

Liiana was born with her some of her pulmonary veins, which brings oxygenated

blood into the heart, attached to the wrong part of her heart, which causes poor oxygen delivery to the rest of the body.

He was also born with a hyperplastic right lung (a small right lung) and her collateral artery was also taking too much blood to her lung, resulting in severe pulmonary hypertension (high blood pressure in the blood vessels that supply the lungs).

At 12 days old, Liiana underwent her first surgery in which a coil was placed around her artery to close it off and reduce the amount of blood that is taken to the lungs. She will require a major open heart surgery when she is around three years old.

Liiana's mum, Chloe White, from Bromley, said: "In the short time that Liiana has been part of our lives, Evelina London and ECHO has been a huge part of hers."

While Liiana was in hospital, the nurses also made sure to look after Chloe's other daughters, seven-year-old Adelaide and three-year-old Edith by reading stories, explaining to them about Liiana's treatment and involving them in her care.

Chloe said: "The nurses were so aware of Adelaide and Edith and made sure they felt involved. It made what was such a stressful time that little bit easier.

"All of the staff have been so amazing. They're so professional but at the same time caring and reassuring.

"We were blown away with how they treated us."

The #1in100 appeal has already raised more than £10,000.

To support the campaign, go to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=IAm1in100withCHD&pageUrl=1>.