

Fans target room where singer died

FANS of singer Chris Cornell have been calling the hotel where he was found hanged, attempting to book his room.

The Soundgarden singer, 52, died at the MGM Grand Detroit on Wednesday.

But though police have finished forensics work the hotel has refused to allow the room to be used.

Cornell's family have disputed a medical examiner's report that his death was a suicide.

His wife Vicky said: "I know he loved our children and he would not hurt them by taking his life."

She added he was slurring on the day he died and told her he had taken an anti-anxiety drug.

Cunard sorry after double bills blunder

CRUISE ship customers have been charged twice for their holidays due to a payments blunder.

Holidaymakers who had booked with Cunard, P&O Cruises and Princess Cruises discovered their payment cards had been debited a second time.

Cunard, which owns the cruise line brands, blamed a separate company that processes payments on its behalf.

It assured customers there had not been a security breach and said customer data was safe.

Cunard added: "We will be contacting affected guests and in the meantime we would like to apologise sincerely."

Coastguards save 2,000 sea migrants

RESCUERS pulled 2,121 migrants to safety from boats in the Mediterranean in a major operation early yesterday.

One body was also recovered by the Italian coastguard.

The huge effort means more than 45,000 migrants have reached Italy by boat from North Africa already this year, up more than 40 per cent on the same period of 2016.

A total of 1,222 people are known to have died on the perilous crossing, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

Migrants heading to Italy pay Libyan smugglers to organise their passage.



ATTACK SCENE Street lamp had been switched off

EXCLUSIVE BY EMILY HALL

A BRAVE teenager has told how she used her mobile phone to film a ruthless sex beast as he launched an horrific late-night rape attack.

The monster pounced directly beneath a street light that had been turned off to save cash as part of Tory austerity cuts.

It was only because 18-year-old Lillian Constantine was using her phone to light the way that she was able to hit "record".

In the dead of night, she managed to video the onslaught – the first time in British legal history that a victim's footage of an entire rape attack has been used in court.

The grainy, two-minute film nailed Ashraf Miah, 34, who was traced to a bolthole in London.

He was last month jailed for 13-and-a-half years and must serve a minimum of nine-and-a-half years.

HARROWING

In an amazing show of courage, the teenager today waives her right to anonymity to tell other sex crime victims to come forward.

She said: "It can be hard to fight off a grown man, but if anyone in my situation can grab their phone and try to capture them, you may have more of a chance."

"I'm glad I did it. If I hadn't it would have been someone else in the end."

Sentencing Miah at Canterbury crown court, Judge James O'Mahony said watching the "ruthless and determined" assault on film would stay with him for a "very long time".

He said: "In 13 years on the bench I have seldom heard a more harrowing incident of the brave victim screaming in terror and pleading for it to stop and the awful suffering she endured."

"If anyone needed a wake-up call as to just how horrific the offence of attempted rape is, then this was it."

Lillian was attacked near her seaside home in Ramsgate, Kent. She was distraught when she learned 124 "unnecessary" lights in the borough had been turned off from midnight to 5.30am to save Kent County Council £1million a year and cut carbon emissions.

Several other county councils have adopted the policy.

Lillian said: "The road has a lot of street lights but they had been turned off. There was a light right above where it happened, but it wasn't on."

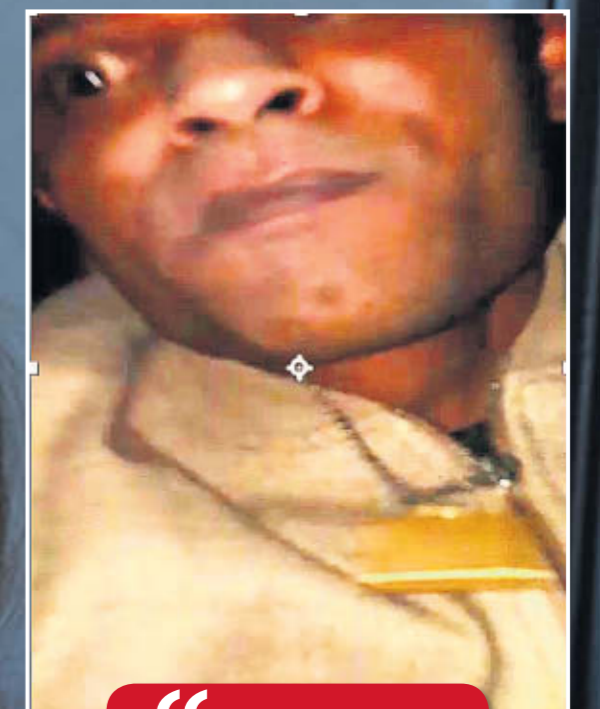
"If the lights had been on then I would have had loads of footage of him and it

JAILED Ashraf Miah was nailed by phone footage



I caught sex beast by filming attack on my phone

ORDEAL Lillian waived her anonymity and urged other sex crime victims to come forward



“ He started to tackle me to the floor... I shouted 'I'm filming you, I'm filming you' ”

LILLIAN CONSTANTINE WHO GRABBED VITAL FOOTAGE OF SEX ATTACKER, ABOVE



SUPPORT Mum Karen comforted daughter Lillian

Picture: PAUL DAVEY

would have been easier for the police. It would have also been a deterrent in the first place. I am angry about it.

"It was ridiculous they weren't out to save money."

Lillian had been recording footage in bars as part of her media studies coursework. She had one glass of wine at about midnight and at 2am she and the friend she was working with called it a night.

Predatory Miah – who had already pestered one girl for sex that night – spotted Lillian in the Enoteca bar.

Her family home was just a short walk away but as

she made her way along a seafront road she saw Miah coming for her.

She said: "Out of the corner of my eye I saw someone. As soon as he touched me on the shoulder, that's when I started to record. Usually when I walk home I text people. It's also a source of light."

"He came up, asked me where I was going and I said I was going home."

SLAMMED

"And then he started to try to tackle me to the floor. It was like, arms round the shoulders, his leg trying to trip me up, anything he could to try and ground me."

"I had no idea why at first. The first thing that came into my head was he was going to mug me. I was screaming the whole time, 'I'm filming you, I'm filming

you. I'm going to call the f****g police, I'm filming you right now. You are not going to get away with this."

The noise woke residents and one slammed a door, which scared Miah off. Bruised and bleeding, Lillian managed to scramble the 30 seconds home.

Mum Karen – a local Labour councillor and magistrate – woke to her daughter's cries as she fell through the front door.

Karen said: "I realised the seriousness. It was instant. The state she was in, I thought 'This is a sexual assault'. My instinct was just to hold her."

Two male officers were sent to the scene because there were no women trained in dealing with sex assaults available. Lillian had to bag up her clothes and couldn't wash for a day as she awaited

an appointment at the sexual assault referral centre at Maidstone Hospital, almost 50 miles away.

Staff took hair clippings, fingernail samples, a swab and logged every cut and bruise. A DNA sample was obtained but no match was found on the DNA database. Later, Lillian had to have dozens of blood tests, a pregnancy test and HIV prevention medication that left her bedbound for a month.

But it was the two minutes and 47 seconds of footage shot on her Samsung phone that was to prove crucial.

Police managed to isolate a darkened still of Miah's features from the wobbling and dark film, which hauntingly documents Lillian's screams. Door-to-door enquiries in Ramsgate identified

him as Bangladeshi takeaway worker Miah, whose year-long work visa ran out a decade ago. Miah would only admit to attempted rape and Lillian couldn't face the uncertainty and cross-examination a full rape trial would bring.

The Constantine family now want a raft of measures to help boost rape conviction rates.

HALTED

They say first responders should always be female when the victim is a woman and that rape-trained officers should be available at all times.

More sexual assault referral centres should be available, regardless of whether a police complaint has been made, and a database should be created where

victims can report an attack anonymously.

Most importantly, they say any cuts to women's services should be halted.

Lillian, meanwhile, aims to get on with her life by heading to university in Manchester in September.

And in a plea to other victims, she added: "Don't put limitations on yourself because it's happened. It may be draining. It may linger, but it won't define you."

"I don't need to feel ashamed and neither should anyone else."

A Kent County Council spokesman said the authority had been "appalled" by

the attack. He said the council was converting 120,000 street lights to LED which would be left on all the time.

He added: "We did not switch off any street lights in town centres, areas with CCTV, known

anti-social behaviour areas, at busy junctions, roundabouts or sites with road safety issues."

"We met with Kent Police on a regular basis and they indicated there was no overall increase in crime since the introduction of part-night lighting."

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SADNESS Star Engelbert Hump hits a slump over star George

BY JANINE YAGOOB

CROONER Engelbert Humperdinck has spoken of his sadness at the loss of fellow star George Michael.

The singer worked with George, who died aged 53, and music icon David Bowie, who died aged 69.

Engelbert, 81, said: "I've worked with some great people and we've lost a few of those over the years."

"It's sad. David and George went too early. But when your time is up, it's up. You have to make the most of it until then."

"They made their mark on the world and hopefully so will I. Hopefully it doesn't call me too quickly. I'm not ready to go yet."

Engelbert, marking 50 years since his first hit record Release Me, said he will "never retire", adding: "Performing is who I am. I want to do it to the end."



POPULAR Greek breaks

Price war on jets to Turkey and Greece

BY STEPHEN HAYWARD

THE cost of flights to Turkey and Greece is plummeting for the half-term.

Airlines are in a price war as they take advantage of low oil costs by bidding to lure back families put off the destinations by terror fears and the refugee crisis.

Flights to Greek spots like Rhodes, Kos and Heraklion are 20 per cent cheaper than a year ago, with returns from £264.

And return flights to Turkish sites including Dalaman and Istanbul cost as little as £142 – nearly a third lower than a year ago, said cheapflights.co.uk.

Spokesman Phil Bloomfield said: "With the Costas and Balearics approaching capacity, with flights and accommodation at a premium, Brits are turning to the Greek Islands and Turkey for deals."