

REMORSE: MAN 'EXTREMELY ASHAMED' ABOUT HIS BEHAVIOUR

# Having indecent photos of kids 'was obsession'

Police found a man had downloaded more than 118,000 images of indecent pictures of children on his computer, a court heard.

Christopher Williamson also shared some of the photographs with other internet users.

The 57-year-old pleaded guilty to seven counts of making indecent images, by accessing them from websites, and admitted two offences of distributing them, between January 2005 and October 2008.

Victoria Rose, prosecuting, said that police went to Williamson's home in Pevensey Avenue, Evington, Leicester, and seized his computer equipment.

In total, he had accessed 117,950 images and 13 movies, at level one, the least serious category, and 68

by **SUZY GIBSON** COURT STAFF

images, and a movie clip, at level two. They consisted mainly of girls in swimming costumes, or scantily clad, in provocative poses.

They ranged from age nine to 17. Ms Rose said that a copy of an on-line conversation about abusing a child was also recovered.

She said the defendant had also used a facility whereby internet users could access each others computers to share images.

**"You have no real idea of the gravity of your offending, but work with a sex offender programme should address that."**

Judge Michael Pert QC

"There was evidence indecent images had been distributed," she told Leicester Crown Court.

In interview, he accepted he had downloaded images of youngsters of 10-years-old and upwards.

Williamson was placed on a two-year community order, with supervision, and will have to undergo an internet sex offender programme.

He was banned indefinitely from working with children and a sexual offences order was imposed, to enable any future internet use to be monitored.

Judge Michael Pert QC said: "I think what you've done is vile.

"I find myself in a dilemma. If I were to send you to prison you would serve a matter of weeks. Although that would be extremely unpleasant for you, it wouldn't afford enough time for any work to be done with you to prevent this from happening in future.

"You are a denier and have no real

idea of the gravity of your offending, but work with a sex offender programme should address that."

He said it was in society's best interests for Williamson to face up to, and deal with, his problem.

Maxine Krone, in mitigation, said: "He pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and has no previous convictions.

"The offences occurred over a long period and although there are a large number of images they are mainly at level one and there's nothing higher than level two (out of a range of five levels of seriousness).

"He collected images on his computer and became obsessive."

"He's extremely embarrassed and ashamed about his behaviour and doesn't understand it himself as to why he got involved in doing what he did.

"He's willing to confront the issues that led to this offending."

## WEATHER

### Leicestershire Today

Outbreaks of rain clearing. Brighter later. Gentle winds. High 4C (39F).

Today PM  **3**

**Leics facts**  
Max temp: 6.7C (44F)  
Min temp: -4.4C (24F)  
Pressure: 990mb  
Rain: 3.8mm (0.15in)  
Wind: NW (max 13mph)  
Sun: 3.2 hours  
Up to 5.30pm yesterday

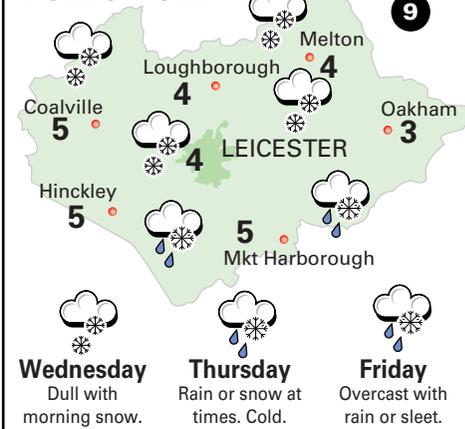
Tomorrow AM  **1**

**Tomorrow**  
Dry and bright, but the threat of snow showers at times. Gentle south-westerly winds.

### Sun and Moon

Sun sets tonight 5.33pm  
Sun rises tomorrow 7.07am 

### Leicestershire Tomorrow



## Opportunity to get share of £20,000

GROUPS could qualify for a share in a £20,000 fund to make their communities safer.

Neighbourhood Watch is urging people in Harborough district to come up with ideas.

Projects which could qualify for Home Office funding include new equipment for a youth club, producing a safety newsletter for a street or village or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on March 10.

Applicants will also have the chance to have a short video film made to promote their idea.

The videos will be screened at an event hosted by Neighbourhood Watch and the Harborough District Community Safety Partnership at the Angel Hotel, Market Harborough, on Tuesday, March 23.

Winners will be decided once all videos have been viewed.

For information, contact Marion Lewis on 0116 222 2222, extension 3871. You can also e-mail:

enquiries@leicestershirehw.com

### Your news counts

HAVE you got a story for us? We are interested in hearing about your news and events. If you know about something that you think will be of interest, please contact us on 0116 222 4241 or by e-mail at:

newsdesk@leicestermercury.co.uk



PICTURE: MATT SHORT / 206487-3

JOIN IN: Fitness instructor Leona Shepherd at the Race for Life launch in Humberstone Gate, Leicester

## Sign up to enjoy some fun on the run

AN AEROBICS display and dance routine in the city centre helped launch this year's Race for Life appeal.

The display, in Humberstone Gate, Leicester, on Saturday, was aimed at encouraging more women to sign up for the fund-raising runs which take place at Leicester's Western Park and Loughborough University in June and July, to support Cancer Research UK.

Last year, thousands of women

took part in the county, raising more than £600,000.

A warm-up, aerobics session and dance display entertained shoppers. Cancer Research area events manager Victoria Meikle said: "We had 10 volunteers performing a warm-up and a dance group came along who will be supporting us at the fun run on the day."

Leicestershire & Rutland Sport were offering free on-the-spot health checks and giving out in-

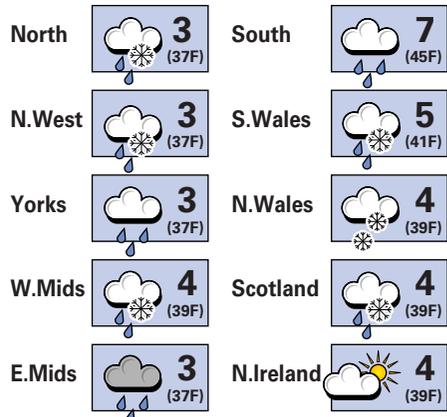
formation about community fitness schemes.

Jo Newberry, physical activity development officer, said: "We are supporting Race for Life as part of our aim to get more people to take up physical exercise."

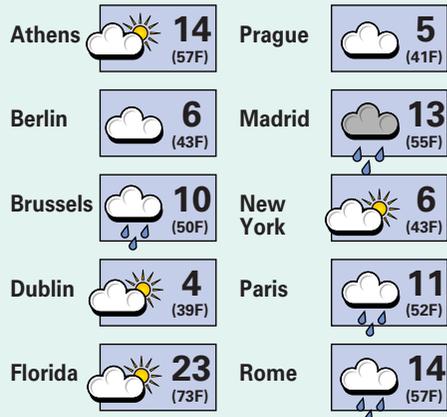
Women were also being encouraged to sign up for the fund-raising runs at a stand in Highcross, Leicester, during the weekend.

For details or to sign up, visit: [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org)

### Britain Today (Max)



### The World Today (Max)



Information supplied by: **MeteoGroup**

### local weather forecasts

for a detailed 5 day forecast for **leicester** 0905 168 0601  
the weather for your holiday destination 0905 168 0604  
Calls cost 50p/min from a BT landline. Other networks may vary.

Leicestershire seven-day forecast: 09068 181939  
World weather forecast: 09068 360399  
Calls cost 60p a minute at all times