



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Rhyl thief jailed over Christmas for his 321st offence.

Dec 28 2009 by Dan Beavan, Daily Post

A THIEF was behind bars again on Christmas Day – the **14th time in the last 15 years** he had been in jail for the festive period.

Prolific shoplifter David Archer, 54, of Princess Road, Rhyl admitted stealing two bottles of whisky worth £25 from a store at Abergele on December 23 at a special court on Saturday.

**David Mainstone, prosecuting, told magistrates at Llandudno Archer had 320 previous offences.** Archer had been found in Marine Drive, Abergele by police with the whisky.

*"The security tags were still on the bottles. CCTV footage from the store showed Archer in the drinks aisle some 30 minutes before he was found,"* said Mr Mainstone.

**Andrew Hutchinson**, who was defending Archer, said: *"What can I say about David Archer that many of my colleagues haven't said previously?."*

Jailing him for one day, deemed served as he had already spent three days locked up in the cells, bench chairman **David Subacchi** said: *"You have a horrendous record, especially for this sort of offending."*

Archer was also ordered to pay **£85 costs**. The court heard he had a reputation for stealing charity boxes for which he was given an Asbo. He had been jailed in October for trying to steal a collection box.

**The PPP comments ... This story tells us much about our failed Criminal Justice system. The sentence is a joke for a man with his record. Obviously he prefers to celebrate Christmas in jail at our expense. It also tells the criminals that shoplifting is seen as a minor offence against our hard pressed retailers, already fighting the recession and ever rising costs and taxes. The UK has one of the highest prison populations, coincident with the highest level of re-offending. Obviously prison is generally not an incentive to go straight. Another insult to all those who work tirelessly for charity is to equate the theft of charity boxes to an ASBO. His tally of 320 crimes must have cost tens of £100s in legal expenses and Police time. No doubt he lives on other state benefits from which he is unlikely to pay the £85 costs.**

**The current Dec. 2009 overview shows that Britain has 1.6million hardened criminals committing dozens of offences every year,**

**The total, based on unpublished Home Office research, represents a leap of 410,000 in the number of so-called 'active' offenders regularly inflicting misery.**

**When the Government last produced an estimate - in Lord Birt's Reducing Crime Review - he said there were 1.19million such criminals, committing an average of 58 offences a year.**

**These include muggings, burglaries and shoplifting.**