

BRIT CAGED FOR CELEB HACK JOB

A BRIT behind the hacking of celebrity Twitter accounts including Kim Kardashian has been jailed in the US. Joseph James O'Connor, 24, also known as Plugwalk Joe, pleaded guilty to a string of cyber crime offences, including aiming to hijack over 130 accounts in a massive Bitcoin scam, cyberstalking and extortion. He was sentenced to five years and ordered to pay £635,000 for cyber crimes, says the United States Attorney's Office in the southern district of New York. Three other men have been charged over the scam. US Assistant Attorney-General Kenneth Polite Jr said: "He harassed and extorted his victims, causing substantial harm."



SCAMMED: Kim

Rail raiders on the rise

A TOTAL of 18,517 trespassing incidents were reported on railways in the last year.

The figure is 14% above pre-pandemic levels and a fifth involved children, said British Transport Police.

Paid leave staff boost

CURRYS will give paid leave to staff having fertility treatment or going through gender re-assignment.

It will also offer premature birth support under the new measures agreed with its employee forum.

CARING STAR PRAISES CORRIE BURNS SCENE AND HELPS THOSE IN JAIL

DIVERSE: As well as her charity and TV work, Katie has moved into publishing



Picture: ZAK WALTON

Katie on mission to aid prisoners

TV presenter Katie Piper has praised shows such as *Coronation Street* for showing physical differences, 15 years after she suffered an acid attack.

But Katie admits she didn't watch the episode where Ryan Connor was burned as she has "first-hand experience".

Over the past few months, viewers have seen Ryan struggle to come to terms with his scar after evil Justin Rutherford threw acid at him.

Corrie consulted her burns charity the Katie Piper Foundation, and Katie believes it's a big step forward in acceptance of physical differences.

She says: "We let them talk to our psychotherapist, and two of our burns survivors who were victims of acid attacks were consultants."

"I didn't watch the episode myself just because I don't really need to, first-hand experience and all that. But I think what's great compared to when I was burned 15 years ago is you can see representation not just of burns but of all visible differences, size, shape, ethnicity, in all kinds of programmes, advertising and social

media. Anything that makes this more mainstream and normalises it, so that when you see someone that looks different you won't react in a shocked way is surely a positive thing. "That wasn't around when it happened to me."

Katie's gritty new documentary series *Jailhouse Mums* continues tomorrow. It sees her visit mothers in some of the toughest US jails.

But the Loose Women star reveals she has already been volunteering in prisons in the UK for the past few years.

Katie says: "I just really get on with the women. They are interesting people with interesting stories and some of them are a good laugh as well. They all watch Loose Women."

"I started going in and doing workshops around different subjects - confidence and self-esteem."

"Then I found I was doing practical workshops as my original background was a beautician."

"I started doing nails and hand massage and I became good friends with some of the women."

Katie believes you can't judge women who have ended up behind bars. She adds: "I think it's

EXCLUSIVE
by NADINE LINGE



GRITTY: Corrie's Ryan scarred and Katie's children's book. Right, with Gorka Marquez on *Strictly* in 2018

sad to write off a whole population.

"Prison isn't full of Myra Hindleys."

"The larger part is people just like you and I, but they may have fallen on hard times or not had the same start

in life.

"Life might have unravelled and mental health might have unravelled and that could happen to us in the future."

The 39-year-old, whose ITV breakfast show has just returned for a second series on Sunday, has also launched an exciting new publishing project called *The Unseen*.

Former *Strictly* star Katie has already penned autobiographies, self-help books and even her first children's book and now wants to help others outside the public

eye tell their stories. The mum-of-two says: "On my podcast and with my charity I hear all these different stories which would often make a good book."

"So I spoke to my publishers about it and set up my own imprint called *The Unseen*, publishing other people's stories."

"They're not celebrities, they're people who have faced adversity, life-changing things."

Katie's first author is Ellie Goldstein who has Down's Syndrome, recently made the cover of *Vogue* and has fronted campaigns for Gucci and Adidas.

Katie has also signed model Livi Deane - who lost her eye to cancer as a child and now lives with a prosthetic. Livi has also appeared in *Vogue*.

There's also Sophie Lee, a fire dancer who sustained burns in a freak accident when an air-con unit blew flames back into her face.

Katie would like to expand the titles, adding: "If that goes well hopefully I can open it up to more people."



● **Katie Piper's *Jailhouse Mums* airs Wednesdays on W at 10pm. Catch up on UKTV Play. Her breakfast show airs Sundays at 8.30am on ITV1.**



BONDING: Katie chats with one pregnant inmate



HANDS ON: With a baby and helping some of the female lags

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