



## Shotguns seized in raid on Strawberry Vale Estate

By Janet Maitland

Officers from the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team arrested a 54-year-old man during a dawn raid on the Strawberry Vale Estate in late December. Officers seized not only nearly £7,000 in cash and a quantity of drugs, but also four shotguns.

The arrest followed a long investigation into a spate of thefts that had been taking place on a weekly basis from cars at the Islington and St Pancras Cemetery.

"This is a despicable crime which preys on people when they are at their most vulnerable," said Sergeant Lee Benham. "When visiting



Police arrest man in connection with theft from cars at Islington and St Pancras cemetery. Photo: Sgt Lee Benham

the cemetery to pay respects to lost loved ones, the last thing you need is to get back to your car to find your valuables stolen.

"We are pleased with this arrest, and the fact that we were able to seize four shotguns from the property was an added bonus."

## Bike thief makes clean getaways

By Janet Maitland

**Police have issued a warning to anyone trying to sell a motorcycle, following a series of thefts.**

In December, a local man went to Aylmer Road, N2, to meet a young man who had expressed an interest in buying his Suzuki GSXR1000 motorcycle. The victim allowed the suspect to take the bike for a test drive but he didn't return.

The same thing happened to a victim who went to Toyne Way, N6, with his Yamaha YZF R1 and to another man who met

the suspect in Grand Avenue, N10, to sell his Yamaha R6.

Police believe the offences are linked, although different methods are used. One man took his Yamaha YZF R1 bike to Stormont Road, N6, and started it so that the supposed buyer could hear it was working, but the 'buyer' simply got on it and rode off.

Another man met the suspect in Hanover Road, N15, to sell his Yamaha YZF R1 and left the engine running while he went to get the log book. When he got back, the bike had gone.

### Check identity

"We strongly advise anyone selling a vehicle privately through a newspaper or online to be cautious," said DC Dave Williams, of Haringey's Motor Vehicle Team. "Ask the potential buyer to bring their driving licence and insurance certificate showing they are insured to drive your vehicle, and then check that the picture on the licence is that of the person you are dealing with and keep a note of their name and address."



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## Keep your sat nav safe

By Sergeant Lee Benham

**Most car break-ins are smash and grabs and satellite navigation systems are a prime target. Even if you hide your sat nav in the glove compartment or under the seat, you are still at risk.**

When thieves see a mount or charger, or even a mark on the windscreen where your device was mounted, they know you've got a sat nav and where it's likely to be hidden.

To reduce the risk of theft, always remove the sat nav, including the cradle, and wipe tell-tale signs off the windscreen. If you have to stop during a trip, lock it away in the car boot or carry it with you, and always take it indoors at the end of the journey.

Keep a record of your serial number and store it separately from the vehicle. Registering it on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) greatly increases the likelihood of catching the thief and recovering your property.



**Protect with a password**  
The data in most sat navs can also be protected with a unique password known only to the user. Satnav suppliers have confirmed that, should a device with an installed password be stolen, the only way a thief can access the programme is by returning it to the company. Changing the memory card will not suffice, nor will trying to re-register the unit online. The password effectively renders the sat nav useless to anyone but the owner.

*The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. Phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email [EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk), or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.*

## New strategy to cut crime on buses

By Janet Maitland

**Travelling to Muswell Hill on the 102 bus recently, I had a shock when I suddenly noticed myself on the newly-installed TV on the lower deck. All of London's 8,000 buses are now fitted with CCTV cameras, as part of the Metropolitan Police Transport Operational Command Unit's strategy to drive down crime and the fear of crime.**

The strategy involves real police as well as technology. Reassurance Teams now patrol inner London buses, hopping from bus to bus to deter people from fare evasion, pick pocketing and anti-social behaviour. Safer Transport Teams have a similar role in outer London.

"The Reassurance Teams have a vital role to play in detecting and deterring anti-social behaviour and crime on and around the bus network,"

said Steve Burton, Director of Community Safety, Enforcement and Policing. "Their work has already made an impact with positive feedback from the public."

Figures for the first quarter of 2008/09 show that the Reassurance Teams have contributed to a 13.6% decrease in bus crime. The biggest decreases have been in Camden (35.7%), Islington (29.9%), Hackney (25.4%) and Westminster (21.4%).

## Do you want a younger body?

**A television production company is looking for people in north London to take part in a second series of the BBC3 show *Make My Body Younger*.**

The show is designed to shock young people into changing their dangerously over-indulgent lifestyles. Each week it takes one person and finds out what damage their excessive lifestyle is doing to their looks and body.

Production company TwoFour is looking for 18 to 30-year-olds who are living life to excess whether it be alcohol, junk food, weekend drug-taking or simply burning the candle at both ends.

To find out more, call 01752 727488 for a confidential chat or email: [makemybodyyounger@wofour.co.uk](mailto:makemybodyyounger@wofour.co.uk)

## East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

**Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am**

For more information  
please contact the Church Office  
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

**Visitors always welcome**