



Diamond-dealing couple jailed for money laundering

By Janet Maitland

A local couple have been jailed for laundering millions of pounds for organised crime gangs. Danny Koort and Jeanette Rosen, of Willifield Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, ran a legitimate diamond-dealing business but used it as a cover to launder the money.

Police found detailed diaries of their deals in their home suggesting that they may have laundered up to £53million from January 2013 to November 2014. Their customers were given code names in the diaries such as Champagne, Caviar and Cristal. Then Rosen, acting on Koort's behalf, took part in a series of street exchanges with couriers to transfer the massive sums of cash.

First arrest

An accomplice, Andrew Russell, was arrested in July 2014 with £198,000 in cash in a holdall in his car. He had been under surveillance at a meeting at an Essex hotel where he collected a large bag before buying a holdall from Argos and filling it with the cash.

Phones and forgeries

Police closed in on the couple themselves when they arrested Rosen a few months later car-

rying just short of £170,000 in a bag in a central London street. Police searched her office where they found 235,000 Euros and £17,165 in sterling. They also discovered 10 pay-as-you-go mobile phones in her black Mercedes car, nine with code names written on them, and a bag of counterfeit notes in the home she shared with Koort.

Impact on criminal gangs

"Money launderers are integral to organised crime," said DC Mark Edwards. "Stopping operations like Koort and Rosen's, where funds were laundered on an industrial scale, inflicts massive damage on serious organised gangs."

Koort, 52, was jailed for 11 years at the Old Bailey on 28 October. Rosen, 49, was given ten years. Andrew Russell, 54, from Ongar in Essex, was jailed for four years.



Lizzy and Patricia get busy at the Wooden Spoon and Apron Club

Cook and eat in company of others

Do you feel you need a new repertoire of recipes? Or maybe you are a confident cook who would simply like to share your love of food with others and meet new people? EFAB's shared cookery sessions teach new and exciting recipes as well as offering a sociable environment in which to eat a delicious meal together afterwards.

The Wooden Spoon and Apron club have been running successful cooking sessions throughout 2016 and are returning on Thursday 19 January 2017 for a set of six sessions, with cuisines ranging from European to Indian, Persian to Vietnamese plus more, with sessions led by an

experienced home cook and capable helpers who want to share their skills with others.

As well as great food, the main emphasis is on having fun and socialising, with participants preparing recipes together in pairs or threes, and then eating the whole meal together at the end of the session.

can put your name down for future courses.

Anyone can participate, from beginners to more experienced cooks, and those attending in the past have said it is a really enjoyable way to learn a new recipe and try some delicious food in good company. To sign up for the sessions, email woodenspoonandapron@gmail.com.

Thursday treats

The sessions are taking place on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, and £40 for all six sessions covers all ingredients, the meal and recipes to take away. There will be further sessions throughout the year. If you are unable to attend the first sessions, you

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Pressing issue of dry cleaner's past

By Nick Allan

Has there really been a dry cleaner located at 196 High Road since 1955? Well, that's what the current owner of HR Dry Cleaners thinks.

"I know my Uncle Hasam had a dry cleaning business here in 1986 which my father Sal took over in 1992 when I started my apprenticeship, but I'm sure my uncle said there was a cleaners here even before him," Hussein Hussein told *THE ARCHER* as he prepared to open his completely refurbished dry cleaners.

Hussein and his wife Emel, who took over the premises completely from his father in 1996, are in the final stages of a six-week refurbishment of the premises that will feature 'state of the art' dry cleaning machinery to speed up the cleaning process, reduce costs and be more environmentally-friendly.

Hussein added: "The equipment I have installed uses a different process from that typically used by dry cleaners, doing away with much of the need for harsh chemicals and providing a superior, gentler finish to the clothes with less of the associated odours."

The shop, now called HR of East Finchley, aims to continue serving the local community with all types of cleaning including repairs and, with a

new 'pressing machine', expert shirt laundering. Hussein commented: "With many loyal and longstanding customers, we have always found the community of East Finchley to be special; perhaps it's why we've been around for so long."



Blue badge blitz

Barnet Council staged a two-day crackdown on disabled parking badges being used fraudulently, resulting in 17 cases of misuse and 13 being seized across the borough.

Spot checks were carried out on 103 blue badges being displayed in parked cars in and around Finchley Central, Temple Fortune, Mill Hill and Burnt Oak. The drivers caught misusing badges could now face prosecution.

Blue badges can only be used by the named badge holder, or by a person who has dropped off or is collecting the holder from the place where the vehicle is parked. It is a criminal offence for anyone else to use a blue badge in any other circumstances. To report a fraud, call the fraud hotline 020 8359 2007 or visit www.barnet.gov.uk.



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