



'Cowardly' career criminal jailed for string of beauty salon robberies

By Janet Maitland

A man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for robbing women at knifepoint in shops and beauty salons across north and east London, including one in East Finchley.

Kevin Brandy, 50, from Wandsworth, admitted ten counts of robbery and 13 counts of possession of an offensive weapon between March and May 2018. The judge at Wood Green court added an extended licence period of five years to Brandy's sentence, calling him a 'cowardly career criminal.'



Jailed: Kevin Brandy

One of the robberies was at Nail Studio Designs on the High Road late one afternoon in early May. Brandy broke into the shop wearing a mask and brandishing a knife, forcing the young member of staff and two clients into the back of the shop and stealing a handbag, a mobile phone and £20 before making off on a motorbike driven by an accomplice.

At a beauty salon on Holloway Road, then stole £80 from the till. At a nail bar in east London he frogmarched a woman with a young baby at knifepoint to the back of the shop and stole £120 from her. He held a knife to the neck of a customer at a hair and beauty salon in Ever-sholt Road NW1 and stole £100 from another.

"This man inflicted serious trauma on his victims," said DC Angus Handley. "He deliberately targeted shops with female staff and customers."

When Brandy was arrested he had three Stanley knives in his possession.

Brandy pointed a knife at the stomach of a pregnant victim

World-class acts at Arts Festival

Congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who run the annual East Finchley Arts Festival for another bustling and rewarding 11 days of music, art and film at All Saints Church, Durham Road, and at the Phoenix Cinema. *Archer* photographer Mike Coles captured many of the acts who performed over the last few days of September and the start of October and put together this photomontage for us.

This is what happens when you leave leaves

Many of our side roads have a number of plants thriving at the kerbside and at pavement edges. It seems that last year's uncollected leaf fall has made good bedding for them as well as providing a resting place for a variety of litter.



Plants growing in the uncleaned gutters Photo Mike Coles

In the event of a heavy downpour, will this cause a blockage to street drainage or will a load of plants and litter be washed down the drains?

This would be ludicrous since, during the first week of October, there was the rare sighting of tankers clearing drains in the locality. If this year's leaves are left to pile up, how much bigger will the problem be in future?

Interestingly, you can tell which borough you're in when walking between Muswell Hill and East Finchley just by looking at the state of the roadside, thanks to the very different street cleaning regimes of Haringey and Barnet councils.

At the time of going to press, Barnet Council had begun to remove the growth from some roadsides, but many still remained to be cleared.

A new leaf

Barnet Council is to plant 4,500 trees over the next five years to add to the 30,000 street trees that it currently manages. Populated areas with little tree cover will be made a priority for tree planting to reduce urban heat build-up and sun exposure for residents, along with major roads like the A1 and North Circular where trees will help to counter the effects of air pollution. Old trees in parks and near schools will also be replaced.



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