



Loud and clear: The Hope North London team

Thanks for a grand night out

The Archer tea towels that we sold for children's charities a few years ago are now collectors' items... but they are still helping good causes. With the last remaining cash raised from the sales, we recently made a donation to Hope North London, which provides activities for young people and their families.

Hope North London's Jamie Fletcher told us: "Thanks to the donation from The Archer, we were able to take our Thursday night youth group bowling. Fourteen young people attended and enjoyed a game of bowling along with a platter of food. It was great for the young people on the estate to get out of the area, enjoy a fun activity, and finish off with a nice meal."

Motorcyclist dies in collision

By Janet Maitland

A 25-year-old man has died after his motorbike collided with a van on A1 Falloden Way, just past the traffic lights at Brookland Rise, NW11. Emergency services rushed to the scene at about 4pm on Wednesday 8 August.

The victim has been named as David Szadowki who was originally from Poland but was living in Hendon. His next of kin have been informed.

The 27-year-old driver of the van was arrested at the scene on suspicion of death by careless driving and also failing to appear in court for an unrelated matter. He has been released under investigation in relation to the collision.

Local resident Brian Ingram arrived at the scene shortly after the accident happened. He said: "The motorbike had hit the side of the van which was turned sideways to the road. The rider had also been hit by his own bike which had fallen on top of him. When I arrived the van driver and his passenger were just standing by the van. They did not run."

Anyone with any informa-

tion is asked to call the Serious Collision Incident Unit on 020 8991 9555. You can also contact police via Twitter @MetCC, quoting CAD 5084/8AUG.

What's being done to tackle thieves on mopeds?

Moped-enabled crime has been a significant problem in Muswell Hill and East Finchley in the last 12 months and the police have had to devise new ways to combat the scourge. Here, PC Matt Fletcher of Haringey Proactive Investigation Unit describes a typical shift.

The first thing we do when we begin a shift is to review the latest intelligence update on moped crime across the borough. This is key because it is how we work out what to do with the rest of our time.

Searches

We might start by executing a search warrant at a suspected moped thief's address based on information we've received over the past few days. Phones are one

of the primary targets for moped enabled theft so if we can recover these at an address and they are traceable back to a crime then it is a great result for us.

If this throws up some further leads we could then launch an investigation into a new series of mobile phone snatches. This can be painstaking work but these are rarely one-off incidents, so the important thing is to try to link these events as we can then

piece together evidence from different incidents.

Spraying

Maybe we will next do some covert patrols around traffic pinch points. We always have forensic tagging spray at the ready. It can be sprayed on riders that are suspected of being involved with crime as they go past and it remains on their clothes and skin for weeks. If we later catch up with the rider, the unique formula of each spray can allow us to link them to the offence.

Updating

Afterwards perhaps we will pause to check in with the central team that oversees moped crime. This helps us to get an idea of trends across London and how this crime type is developing. This allows us to continually improve our approach.

Recovering mopeds

As we draw towards the end of the shift, we could find ourselves responding to members of the public to recover any dumped mopeds. If we can get these seized and off the streets then they can't be used to commit crime.

For all that hard work it's good to see some results. On one of the warrants we recently conducted in Haringey we recovered 30 phones with an estimated retail value of £20,000 along with £2,000 cash. The male at the address was arrested and later deported as a result.



Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Cash machine scam

Do look carefully at the slot area on cash machines before you put your card in. If it doesn't look right don't use it and call police on 101. We've been getting reports from folk being approached at cash points that have been tampered with. Criminals offer to help you retrieve your card from the machine. But the 'help' is usually asking you to enter your PIN again, which means that the slot on the machine now has both the card and a record of your PIN, which the criminals retrieve once you have left the scene.

We no longer have banks with internal cash points on the High Road, but you can withdraw cash from your bank account at the Post Office counter. Another safe way is to ask for cash back when you do your supermarket shop or buy petrol.

Number plate theft

Criminals use number plates to swap between vehicles of the same make, to try and prevent detection should a witness get

a registration number. If you own a BMW, Audi or Mercedes, especially a black/dark one, you are more likely to be targeted for number plate theft. Halfords sell anti-theft bolts for number plates for about £6. You can also get them online.

Phone scam

A local resident recently received a phone call from a man with a South African accent who said he was from ACC (or a similar sounding name) asking if they had 'received a refund' regarding their bank charges. "Apart from never incurring bank charges and requesting the caller to delete my number from their records and hanging up on him, I decided to inform you in case there have been other incidents," he told us.

Please be aware of this ruse and do not give out any personal information or engage with the caller in any way. Just hang up.

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