



Scammers target council tax to commit fraud

The Council is warning residents to be on their guard against a scam offering council tax refunds in an attempt to get bank account details.

Scammers pretending to work for the Council are phoning residents and claiming they are from its council tax section. They inform residents that they have overpaid their council tax before requesting bank details with the promise of a refund for the alleged overpayment. The resident is given another number to call which informs them that they need to pay an administration fee to get the refund.

Cllr Warwick Lightfoot, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Finance said:

"You should never give your bank details to anyone who calls out of the blue claiming to be a member of our staff.

"The Council would never ring a resident to ask for their bank details to issue a refund. If an overpayment had been made, and a refund due, we would either refund the money directly if it had been paid by direct debit, or send a credit notice to the bill payer's address."

Any concerned residents should call the council tax team on **020 7361 3005**.

You can also report fraud direct to the council on **020 7361 2777** or by email investigations@rbkc.gov.uk



Civilian bravery helps nab jewellery thief

Following a smash and grab robbery on a jewellers in Kensington, four men have been jailed for a total of 27 years.

On the morning of Thursday 14 October 2010, six men riding on high powered motor cycles and carrying sledgehammers, attempted to rob jewellers Ernest Jones on Kensington High Street.

The pillion passengers smashed through glass display cabinets and stole 26 Rolex and Longines watches valued at around £155,000.

To try and intimidate the public and stop the traffic, they circled their bikes outside the shop, revving the engines.

As the robbery was in progress, one of the gang stayed outside the shop, acting as 'look-out' and waved his sledgehammer at passers-by to make sure they stayed back.

A member of the public tried to intervene, causing Dominic Charles to drop his weapon and flee on a motorcycle. As the other would-be robbers attempted to get back on their motorcycles, passers-by managed to pull Emilio Aristides off his bike and hold him down until police arrived.

Alfie Atherton, Dominic Charles and Charles Knight were then arrested in nearby Holland Park after abandoning their motorcycles.

The other two suspects, who rode a silver Street Triple R bike, have yet to be caught.

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If you would like to provide feedback on Safe please see contact details on page 8.

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All four men pleaded guilty to robbery after appearing at Kingston Crown Court on Wednesday 2 February 2011.

Alfie Atherton, 18, of Saxon Road, E3, was sentenced to four years, Charles Knight, 20, of Crowland Road, N15, was sentenced to eight years, Dominic Charles, 22, of Girdlestone Walk, N19, was sentenced to seven and a half years and Emilio Aristides, 21, of Camden Road, NW1, was sentenced to seven and a half years.

Detective Superintendent John O'Leary, of the Flying Squad, said:

"I would like to express my gratitude for the bravery of the members of the public who intervened. Their actions and those of local officers from Kensington and Chelsea have led directly to this criminal gang being convicted."

"Whilst we would always urge people not to put themselves in danger, I can only applaud the actions of those who intervened whether directly or by filming events."

Two suspects still haven't been caught and police continue to appeal to anyone with any information to contact Barnes Flying Squad on **020 8247 4804**, or if you wish to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Violent robber gets caught by DNA

A 19 year-old man has been sentenced to four-and-a-half years for a violent robbery.

The court case followed an incident in which a 42 year-old man who was watching television at home in Barby Road, W10, heard his front door being forced open. Three men then entered the man's living room and demanded money.

Armed with a kitchen knife from the victim's kitchen, one of the suspects threatened the man and demanded to know where his safe was.

The suspects forced the man to hand over his Rolex watch, worth £15,000, and £200 cash from his wallet. The three men also stole a MacBook laptop and the keys to the victim's car, which was later recovered in Ealing, undamaged and with the knife inside it.

One of the suspects, Sean Fitton, was later identified from DNA traces in the car. Fitton, aged 19, was sent to a Young Offenders' Institute after he was convicted of burglary at Isleworth Crown Court on 25 February.

DC Claire Jacobs, from Notting Hill Burglary Squad, said:

"This was a callous attack on a man in his own home. I hope this sentence will reassure the public and the victim that justice has been done."



Report it! Don't ignore it

The Eyes and Ears for Reparation scheme involves young people from the Council's Youth Offending Team going out into the borough every week and reporting issues such as graffiti, fly-tipping and unsafe street furniture to the Council's Streetline service.

Eyes and Ears gives youngsters an insight into how crime and antisocial behaviour affects the community and encourages them to be more civic minded.

Residents can report any area that has a problem with graffiti and fly-tipping by emailing **communitypayback@rbkc.gov.uk** outlining the issue, the location, name of the road or street, along with any photographs and contact details.

The issue and location will then be added to a list of areas that can be checked by youngsters and visited regularly.

Safe is going digital

All future editions of the Council's Community Safety newsletter, **Safe**, will be published as an e-newsletter as part of the Council's ongoing efforts to give residents better value for money. This replaces the print copy that was previously distributed to subscribers across Kensington and Chelsea.

Safe keeps residents up-to-date on key issues about how the Council and police are tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in the borough. You can sign up for an electronic copy of Safe at **www.rbkc.gov.uk/communitysafety** or send your name and address to **commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk** with 'Safe e-newsletter' in the subject line.

If you would like to find out more contact the Community Safety Team on **020 7795 6660** or **commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk**

Cadets lead the way

Youngsters from the Kensington and Chelsea police cadets were recognised for their hard work at an annual awards ceremony held at the Territorial Army Centre in Kensington.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, presented awards to the cadets and congratulated them on their dedication, as proud parents and police officers looked on.

Alfie Bance, aged 15, received two awards for cadet of the year and most improved cadet of the year. He was recognised for turning his life around since joining and for his dedication. Most committed cadet went to Robert Vera, 17 and Ashley Young, 18.

Team of the year went to nine youngsters, who finished third in the national Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) Iron Team challenge in October last year. The challenge included camping out during the coldest nights.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, said:

“The youngsters have really come a long way since they joined a year ago. I was really pleased to be able to mark their achievements and reward them for all their hard work and commitment.”

PC Jayne Richardson, VPC Coordinator, said:

“The award night was a reward to the police cadets for giving up their spare time and volunteering every week.

“The cadets are truly outstanding, although the unit has only been running for around 18 months, they have significantly improved and many are evolving into mature

young people and learning to work as a team.

“This was shown in the last competition at the Iron Team Challenge in Surrey, whereas last year they came in the last few, this year they came third and just missed out by one point on second place. The cadets deserve to be recognised in this way and for all their commitment.”

The VPC's youth engagement programme is run by the Metropolitan Police Service and provides young people in London with vocational and employment opportunities along with the chance to expand their learning through a wide range of activities whilst encouraging active citizenship.

The scheme supports 14 to 19 year-olds and helps to divert youngsters away from crime and antisocial behaviour as well as preparing them for further education and employment.

The cadets meet every Thursday from 7pm to 9pm, at the Territorial Army Centre in Adam and Eve Mews, off Kensington High Street.

For more information, contact PC Jayne Richardson **020 8246 0667** or email **Jayne.s.Richardson@met.police.uk**

Royal Borough cyclists reminded to be safe and be seen

Cyclists joined Council staff and Campden Safer Neighbourhoods Team for an awareness day in Holland Park on Wednesday 16 February, aimed at raising awareness amongst cyclists of blind spots on Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV).

Cyclists were offered the opportunity to sit in a lorry to experience the driver's viewpoint.

The Council's cycling champion, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, said: “Even the most road-aware cyclist will probably never have seen what a cyclist looks like in the mirror of a HGV and, more importantly, when they don't appear at all because they are in a blind spot. This event gave cyclists a chance to brush up on the basic rules of the road and see things from a different perspective.”

In an attempt to reduce accidents caused by collisions between cyclists and HGVs the Council runs a number of cycling safety initiatives which includes free cycle training for anyone who lives, works or studies in the borough.

For more information call **020 7361 3628** or email **road.safety@rbkc.gov.uk**.

To find out more about cycling safely in London, please go to **www.tfl.gov.uk/cycling**

Drug dealer sent to jail

A 29 year-old North Kensington man has been jailed for three years after the police caught him dealing drugs.

Shawn Alloway, from Lancaster Road, W11, was seen handing over six wraps of heroin to Hugh Green, aged 59, also from Lancaster Road, W11. Both men were arrested at the scene.

Alloway was charged with possession with intent to supply a class A drug and Green was charged with possession of a class A drug.

At Isleworth Crown Court on Friday 11 March, Alloway received a three-year jail term and Green was fined £100.

Cracking down on vehicle crime

According to recent Metropolitan Police data, theft from motor vehicles in the borough has been reduced by ten per cent compared with last year however, theft of vehicles has gone up by 4.2 per cent.

The police continue to target car crime in the borough with extra patrols around hot-spot areas as well as providing crime prevention advice to victims and reminding motorists to remove all valuables from their cars.



You can help protect your vehicle by following these tips:

1. Don't leave items on display in your vehicle
2. Portable satnav devices should be removed when the vehicle is parked and any sign that they have been used removed from the inside of the car
3. Keep your car keys with you when you visit a petrol station or go shopping
4. Don't leave your car keys on view at home where they can be reached through the letterbox
5. Consider fitting anti-theft security systems e.g. steering wheel lock
6. Consider getting good quality, locking wheel nuts fitted
7. When parking at home, always use your garage if you have one, and lock both your vehicle and your garage. If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place
8. If you have a motorcycle or scooter with a parking permit then use the ground anchors provided at the designated parking bays across the borough. Residents can apply for a free motorcycle parking permit
9. Use a secure motorcycle or scooter cover to reduce the temptation to steal your vehicle
10. If you have a residents permit for your vehicle, for a discounted fee you can park in Hornton Street Car Park when you go away for long periods

If you would like further advice on keeping safe from vehicle crime, please contact the Community Safety Team on **020 7795 6660** or email **commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk**

Crime prevention advice can also be found on the Metropolitan Police website **www.met.police.uk**

In the event of an emergency always call 999, for all other calls to the Metropolitan Police please call **0300 123 12 12**.



By the way...

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Do you need a Garden Guardian?

Garden Guardians are now available in the borough to help older people maintain tidy and secure gardens.

Volunteers are helping Age Concern Kensington and Chelsea to provide the service, which also includes supplying and fitting free door chains and spy holes as well as taking care of the garden.

Sixty Plus works closely with police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams to make a real difference for a number of elderly and vulnerable residents in the borough.

To find out more contact Martin Burke or John Nugent on **020 8969 9105**.

Learn more about your Community Safety Team

If you want to find out more about what the joint Council and police Community Safety Team is doing to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the borough, get crime prevention advice on how you can protect yourself and your home, and find out what is happening in your neighbourhood, find all this and more on the Council's website **www.rbkc.gov.uk/communitysafety**

You will also find information on how to contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team, copies of **Safe** as well as latest community safety plans and residents' views on how the police and Council are tackling crime in the borough.

There is information about getting involved with the Community Police Engagement Group or volunteering as an Appropriate Adult to support vulnerable people who have been arrested by the police.

To find out more visit **www.rbkc.gov.uk/communitysafety** or call the Community Safety Team on **020 7795 6660**.

Think before you give

'Don't give to beggars' is the message the Council is sending out to residents and visitors to Kensington and Chelsea.

Begging is an offence and creates a negative impression for visitors and there is evidence that money gained from begging is used to fund drug and alcohol misuse.

Of the beggars contacted on the streets by the Council's Street Population Service in 2010, all were found to be using drugs and/or alcohol.

The team helps rough sleepers access housing, health, mental health and drug and alcohol treatment to help them move away from the street and into independent living.

For further information or to report a beggar contact the Council's Social Inclusion Team on **020 7361 3021** or email **SIT@rbkc.gov.uk**

If you do wish to give money, please donate to organisations who work with vulnerable and homeless adults, such as:

Broadway Homelessness Support

020 7710 0550

www.broadwaylondon.org

Look Ahead Housing and Care

020 7937 1166

www.lookahead.org.uk



NO-ONE BENEFITS FROM
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

When you give money to a beggar you are more likely to be feeding their **drug or alcohol** habit than buying food

Helpline: 020 7361 3021

METROPOLITAN POLICE
Working together for a safer London

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

HEROIN HABIT TO FEED



You can donate to these charities who work with and support rough sleepers and single homeless people in Kensington and Chelsea

Broadway 020 8735 5812
www.broadwaylondon.org

Look Ahead Housing and Care
020 7937 1166 **www.lookahead.org.uk**



Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Safe features a regular snapshot of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams' work as well as local ward priorities that residents feel most concerned about.

The teams are dedicated to responding to local issues and concerns, and providing neighbourhood policing to help keep local people safe.

If you have any crime or antisocial behaviour concerns, or if you want to find out more about what the teams are doing in your area, you can visit your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team at one of their regular drop-in surgeries.

Alternatively contact your local Kensington and Chelsea Safer Neighbourhoods Team. Details and dates can be found at www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

In the event of an emergency always dial 999, for all other calls to the Metropolitan Police Service call **0300 1231212**.

St Charles ward update

Priorities

1. Youth antisocial behaviour
2. Burglary
3. Youth engagement

Ward update

Reported incidents of antisocial behaviour have reduced in the ward, however, this is still a priority for residents, and officers continue to carry out regular patrols in hot-spot areas.

During February, officers carried out a series of targeted patrols on the Dalgarno, Balfour and Burleigh estates.

This was a response to concerns raised by residents about the behaviour of a group of local youths in the area who had reportedly been intimidating residents, smoking cannabis and tampering with mopeds in the car parks.

The team also conducted patrols in and around Bassett Road, Oxford Gardens, St Quintins Avenue and Barlby Road, helping to identify any unlocked or unsecured properties that were at risk, as well as offering crime prevention advice to residents.

During the course of their patrols officers stopped a total of 33 people and although no arrests were made, during the course of the operation there were no reported incidents of burglary, vehicle crime or antisocial behaviour.

For more information about
Safer Neighbourhoods Teams please visit
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods



Community event

When: Saturday 18 June from 12pm to 5pm

Where: Little Wormwood scrubs, Dalgarno Gardens, W10

For more information telephone **020 8721 2785**
Email **StCharles.snt@met.police.uk**

Brompton ward update

Priorities

1. **Theft from motor vehicles**
2. **Bag theft and pickpockets**
3. **Street drinking**
4. **Youth engagement**

Ward update

Officers carried out a series of patrols in and around the Brompton Road area in the run up to Christmas and New Year to combat illegal street gamblers. During the operation a street gambler was caught and arrested. Mr Krzysztof Prokop, aged 28 from Walthamstow, E17 was charged on 14 December with illegal street gambling and was ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid community work.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team has been carrying out patrols in hot-spot areas to tackle car crime. Officers are also working with car parking management team NCP, and have more officers patrolling Pavillion Road. Permanent NCP security staff has been stationed at Cadogan Square.

Officers are warning motorists not to leave valuables in cars with the help of crime prevention information boards which were placed in car crime hot-spot areas.

Checks continue to be carried out on cars where valuables can be seen. In the run up to Christmas the Safer Neighbourhoods Team worked alongside the Town Centre Team to provide more patrols in key hot-spot areas as well as visits to both NCP car parks in the ward, where there have been issues with car crime.

Drop-in surgery

When: Wednesday 11 May from 12.30 to 2.30pm

Where: Pavilion Road Safer Neighbourhoods Team Base, SW1X OES

Street briefing

When: Thursday 19 May from 1 to 2pm

Where: Hans Place, SW1X

For more information telephone **020 8721 2738**
Email **Brompton.snt@met.police.uk**

Get involved!

Some dates for your diary...

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of **Safe** and if you have any content suggestions, please contact the Editor via email at commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk

The Community and Police Engagement Group

The Community and Police Engagement Group (CPEG) is an important link between the public and police, giving local people the opportunity to have their say about crime in the Royal Borough.

All CPEG public meetings start at 6pm and include refreshments.

Date	Venue
Thursday 23 June	London Lighthouse, Lancaster Road, W11 1QT
Wednesday 21 September	St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, SW3 6NH
Monday 17 October	Post-Carnival meeting London Lighthouse, Lancaster Road, W11 1QT
Tuesday 29 November	AGM meeting at Unitarian Church, Notting Hill, W8 4RT

Please check the group's website for further details of the venue, themes and speakers for the meetings: www.rbkc-cpeg.org.uk

CPEG is looking to engage with local people as widely as possible, including those with specialist community knowledge. Anyone who would like to become more actively involved in policing and the community is welcome to get in touch with the CPEG by emailing CPEG@rbkc.gov.uk

Alternatively, why not attend a public meeting and speak to the chair and others involved with CPEG?

2011 Census

You can help fight crime by making sure you fill out your Census

Once every ten years, everyone is to help get a 'snapshot' of the UK's population. This is called the Census. It is the only time that every person and household is counted right across the country.

The Census is used to make important decisions about the funding and provision of local services such as community safety and the police to help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in the borough.

By Sunday 27 March 2011, every household should have received a Census questionnaire. This can either be completed and returned by post, or completed online.

If you haven't filled in your Census form yet, it's not too late. You are required by law to complete a Census questionnaire, but more importantly if you don't, your local area could potentially not get the funding or services it deserves.

For details, and to watch our films with local residents, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/census

For more information about Census in general visit www.census.gov.uk or if you have any questions call the Census helpline on **0300 0201 101**.