

# NEWSLETTER

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## HUNT FOR CHORLEY JEWEL THIEVES CONTINUES

**D**etectives are hunting armed robbers who tied up a woman in her home on 13th December 2011. Three men entered through the front door of the house in Worthy Street, Chorley and used tape to tie her hands and feet. Tape was also placed across her mouth.

The men made demands for money and jewellery and one of them threatened the victim with a knife.

Police are keen to trace a Nissan Serena, in ocean blue colour, which came from the direction of Buchanan Street. Officers have also been contacted by a woman who spotted a mid-sized van parked outside the victim's address.

The driver was believed to be a man in his 40's and at the time he was on his mobile telephone. Police believe this man may have vital information that could help identify the robbers, who escaped with a large amount of jewellery.

Police are urging anybody with any information about the robbery to contact them on 101. **Or alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

This kind of attack is increasing. Criminals target affluent areas around the country and seek out weak security arrangements in homes. It is important that if you carry or wear expensive jewellery to be aware of your surroundings, and remain cautious. Criminals often carry out surveillance against target premises.

**It is important that you report anything suspicious to the police immediately.**



**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime

### LIVERPOOL BEAUTICIAN HAD KNIFE HELD TO NECK IN £6,000 JEWELLERY RAID

ON Christmas Eve 2011 a gang of masked thugs held a knife to the throat of a young lady from Liverpool as they plundered £6,000 worth of jewellery in a terrifying raid in Liverpool.

The mum of one was working in her salon, The Studio, on County Road, Walton, when the three crooks struck.

The 29 year old has asked not to be named as she feels she was deliberately targeted by the group. The group were all wearing black tracksuits and scarves covering their faces, and were aged between 15 and 19.

The gang took the woman's £2,000 Rolex watch and a ring worth £4,000.

Criminals do select specific targets for a variety of reasons. There are steps that can be taken to deter them from targeting you. As always, we will be pleased to offer you our advice.

# JUSTICE SERVED

**FOUR** members of a Bolton armed robbery gang who used extreme violence are facing jail after they admitted their parts in a series of raids including a £30,000 raid in which one dressed in a burka tricked their way into a jewellery shop.

Three of the gang, Faheem Kola, Mohammed Khan, Babar Khan, and Rias Atcha all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to robbery.

Each member of the gang has admitted to taking part in at least one of the three robberies – the jewellery shop raid at Muzzafer's Jewellers in Brougham Street,

Burnley, a robbery at a house in Ellesmere Road, Morris Green, Bolton, and another raid at a house in Fairfield Drive, Burnley, in which £3,000 worth of cash and jewellery was taken after a 74 year old man and a 63 year old woman were threatened and assaulted with a gun and an axe.

Atcha, aged 20, of Burwell Close, Great Lever; Kola, aged 19, of Willows Lane, Deane; Mohammed Khan, aged 26, of Mancroft Avenue, Daubhill; and Babar Khan, aged 25, of Jasmine Court, Great Lever, will be sentenced on March 30 after the preparation of pre sentence reports.



## ARMED THUGS POUNCE ON SOUTHALL JEWELLERS

**ARMED** robbers broke a man's jaw and held another man at knifepoint before making off with gold from a jewellers in Southall.

The Flying Squad is investigating the incident, which took place at about 7.35pm on 5th December 2011 at Euro Fine Jewellery in The Broadway.

Several people were on the premises when the gang struck.

One victim went to the back door of the shop when he was confronted by one of the robbers, who was holding a hammer. They ran back to the front of the store and ran out the door to a neighbouring shop, where police were called.

Another victim was chased by a suspect wearing a balaclava and holding a knife, while two other people sought after safety by locking themselves in a bedroom and toilet.

Two people were in the workshop below the shop and were confronted by the suspects, who demanded the keys to the safe.

One victim was then taken at knifepoint and suspects ordered him to tell them where the gold was kept.

The safe was broken into and a quantity of gold was stolen, though the value is not yet known. The thieves escaped from the premises as soon as they heard police sirens approaching.

Officers arrived and two suspects, aged 27 and 38, were arrested following a pursuit. They are currently remain in custody.

Police believe that a total of five suspects were involved in the robbery.

Anyone with information which could assist officers are asked to call 101, or alternatively Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Offences of this type are not committed on the spur of the moment, they are planned. It is important to take steps to disrupt that planning or to deter the offenders by displaying high levels of vigilance and/or robust security provision.

## ARMED ROBBERS STORM READING JEWELLERS

**MASKED** robbers armed with sledgehammers took gold from a Newtown jewellers then torched their getaway car in a nearby housing estate.

The raid took place at 1pm on Wednesday 8th November 2011. The thieves stormed Kaushal Jewellers, on the corner of Orts Road and Cumberland Road. The four thieves took an undisclosed amount of jewellery and fled in a green Audi A4. A car, believed to be the Audi used in the robbery, was later found ablaze in Amen Coner, Binfield, Bracknell, at around 1.25pm.

In recent months shops and jewellers all over Reading have been hit by robbers and thieves:

A group of robbers broke into MZ Jewellery in Cholmelery Road, Newtown, on Monday 29 August 2011.



A gang tried to steal from James Bloor jewellers in Tilehurst on Wednesday October 19th 2011.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd advises all jewellers to contact the police or security providers in the event that you suspect your store is being observed. Any unusual incidents should always be reported as they later become significant in the subsequent investigation.

## SCAM ALERT

**THE PROBE OFFICE** was contacted recently regarding a scam that had been circulating around the UK.

**THE BBC HAS ISSUED A WARNING.** The scam email which claims to be from the Daytime Television programme called "Heir Hunters" is being used to obtain personal information.

The email prompts users to respond with personal information such as full name, date of birth, address and telephone number.

A warning posted on the BBC website reads: "We have been informed that someone has been sending out emails purporting to come from the Heir Hunters programme and referring to this website"

"Please be aware that these emails have no connection with the BBC or Flame Television, the makers of Heir Hunters, and you should ignore them. You should not reply to them and if you believe that persons are attempting to deceive you with a view to monetary gain, then you should contact the police"

# LOCAL BUSINESSES HELP THWART ARMED ROBBERY

**ARMED ROBBERS** dragged an elderly woman to the floor and stole her car in a desperate attempt to escape police after a botched jewellery shop raid on 25th November 2011.

Shoppers looked on in horror as three men wearing balaclavas and armed with baseball bats battered the front display windows of Browns of Congleton at 12.30pm.

After managing to punch three holes in the windows of the shop the three men ran off when a shop worker opposite was heard calling for police help through the town centre radio system. The three men ran two their getaway vehicle which was nearby, however the car was blocked in by

two motorists. The robbers were unable to manoeuvre their vehicle away from the crime scene and they ended up crashing the green Seat Altea into an electricity box on the pavement.

The robbers began wielding their weapons towards passersby as they made their escape on foot. The four men then ran up Moody Street and approached a red Nissan Micra, they began to pull a elderly woman in her 70's out of her vehicle and made their escape.

The Cheshire Police helicopter was called in. Four men were later stopped and arrested 12 miles away on the A523, heading towards Macclesfield.



Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd believes that the quick mindedness, vigilance and bravery of local residents and businesses were the ultimate downfall in the obtuse robbers attempts. Remember we're all in this together.

## HUNT FOR LYNN JEWELLERY SHOP ARMED ROBBERS



**POLICE** are hunting three armed men who carried out a frightening daylight robbery on the Francis Wain jewellery shop in Lynn on the morning of Tuesday 31st January 2012.

A sledgehammer was used to smash the main window of the Norfolk Street shop and expensive items were grabbed from displays before the robbers made off in a silver Mercedes people carrier.

Reports suggested the suspects might also have had firearms.

One elderly woman, who had collapsed through shock or been knocked over during the incident, needed medical attention from a paramedic on a bicycle, who was one

of the first to arrive at the scene afterwards.

The two men who jumped out of the vehicle wore ski masks and white boiler suits.

A Norfolk police statement said: "Three men were in the vehicle at the time and a window of the jeweller's was smashed, with various items of value taken. It is thought firearms of some description were seen with the suspects."

About four months ago, the same Francis Wain shop was the scene of an audacious theft when a man snatched a diamond ring worth nearly £100,000 and ran off with it.

The Picchiotti white gold ring, with a large emerald-cut diamond, surrounded by baguette diamonds, was stolen on October 6 as the man was being shown a couple of items by an assistant.

**Anyone with information should contact Lynn CID on 101 or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.**

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OFFER A COMPLETE RANGE OF  
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES  
CALL 0845 520 7777**

## CCTV APPEAL AFTER ARMED ROBBERY AT LEICESTER JEWELLERS

**POLICE** have released CCTV footage after an armed robbery at a jewellers in Belgrave Road, Leicester, which took place on 30th January 2012. The raid happened just after 6pm at Ram Jewellers.

Four people forced their way through the locked shop door, smashed display cabinets inside and stole a quantity of jewellery.

All four people who were wearing masks then left the scene in a silver Peugeot 306 with a vehicle registration number beginning with W. The car was later found abandoned near Cossington Street recreation ground.

Officers want to speak to anyone who has information about the incident, and anyone with any information should ring 101.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd encourages all security operatives to perform external patrols at regular intervals. It is vital these patrols are carried out regularly in order to assess any threat that may be present and also to provide a visible security presence in the vicinity of the showroom.

# CROSS-DRESSING ARMED ROBBER IN WEST HAM JEWELLERY STORE RAID

**SEVEN men, one wearing womens clothing, smashed their way into an Upton Park store and stole £460,000 worth of jewellery.**

A male customer was also attacked during the robbery at Lasani Jewellers in Plashet Grove.

One of the robbers is described as a white male wearing a black wig, a black ladies coat with a grey fur lined collar, black tights and black slip-on flat shoes.

The owners of the family-run jewellers had "buzzed" a male through the front door of the premises at 5pm on November 21st 2011, when a further six quickly ran in behind him and started to smash the second security door which leads into the shop.

Once inside, one of the gang sprayed some gas in the direction of one of the owners and the male customer.

The robbers then began smashing all of the glass display cases with an axe and sledge hammer. It is thought the customer was kicked, punched, and hit with a sledgehammer.

One of the men stayed outside the premises and kept watch. He was seen on CCTV throwing a petrol bomb onto the pavement, which caught fire.

Meanwhile inside gang members loaded all of the gold they had collected into holdalls and fled towards Park Road, dropping a plastic bag which had two homemade petrol bombs inside.

No arrests have been made.

Anyone with information should contact (020) 8345 4255 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The fact that this calibre of villain is prepared to commit such violent and despicable crime underlines the everyday



threat jewellers face. This is an example of criminals gathering information about shop premises.

**If you are thinking of strengthening your security arrangements, then call us now to discuss 0845 520 7777.**

## ARMED ROBBERY ON DONCASTER JEWELLERY SHOP

**ON Thursday 24th November 2011, axe wielding robbers ransacked a town centre jewellery shop stealing thousands of pounds worth of items in a shocking raid.**

Terrified staff hurriedly locked up their shops in the Frenchgate Centre after two men riding a black Triumph motorbike and both wearing crash helmets, raided Bell Brothers.

Eye-witnesses said the rider circled outside the luxury jewellers on a black bike as his pillion passenger burst into the St Sepulchre Gate store in Doncaster town centre.

The man threatened staff with an axe before making off with



thousands of pounds worth of goods including Rolex watches.

The robbery happened just before 9.30am as staff opened up for the day.

Detectives have revealed they believe the raid was an organised robbery, possibly carried out by men from London.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the police on 01302 385135, or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

**Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd work closely with police forces in gathering and circulating significant information to assist in the thwarting and detection of such incidents. No arrests have been yet made, but the search continues.**

### Meet Our Team: MICHAEL OWEN



**MICHAEL is a very popular security operative and currently performs his duties at a jewellery retail showroom in Manchester. Michael is an experienced guard who is seldom flustered.**

Michael served six years in the Cheshire Regiment of the British Army. During his time in the forces he toured Northern Ireland, Iraq and Kuwait among other places.

One of our showroom managers commented recently "Michael definitely should be your Guard of the Year". This shows how Michael is appreciated in his current role through his professionalism and demeanour.

Michael is a football enthusiast, and is an avid supporter of Liverpool Football Club.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd is delighted to receive such feedback about individual team members and is, of course, very proud of all our guards, every one of which is top quality.