

ARMED ROBBERY AT DUDLEY TOWN JEWELLERS

TEN thousand pounds worth of jewellery has been snatched during a terrifying armed robbery at a Dudley Town Jewellers.

The jewellery was taken from the shop counter of John Hollins Jewellers in Wolverhampton Street, just before 3.00pm on Monday 2nd April 2012.

Two men burst into the store armed with shotguns. The offenders were described as white and in their early 20's. No one was injured during the incident and no shots were fired.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd advise 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 may later become relevant in the course of an investigation. Police or security presence deters criminals.



DARING RAID ON JEWELLERS IN SOUTHERN IRELAND

THREE men were arrested on 10th April 2012 after a substantial amount of jewellery was stolen during a daring armed robbery in Carlow.

At 10.30am three men ran into Bramleys Jewellers on Dublin Street armed with what appeared to be a handgun, a mallet and pepper spray.

The raiders threatened sales assistants and members of staff who were working in the rear offices and used what appeared to be pepper spray on one staff member who later received medical treatment in hospital as a result.

The trio stole a substantial amount of jewellery from the shop before making their escape in a Fiat Punto.



SHOW HIGH VALUE GOODS AS FAR AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE AS POSSIBLE AND PREFERABLY ONE PIECE AT A TIME

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Left to right:
John Farrington Company Director (Legal Support Services)
Terry Marnick Senior Investigator
Peter Farrington Managing Director (Investigations and Security)
Dave Dalzell Operations & Admin Manager
Paul Campbell Company Director (Security Services)

Our small, tight knit team works well together. Each of the management team has a clear understanding of each other's role in order to provide support as required.

Additionally, our team coordinates our field force of surveillance operatives, investigators and security operatives across the UK to ensure that we deliver our highest standards on time, every time. Should you require advice in respect of dishonesty issues, debtors and court proceedings, we'll do our best to help you.

The team ethic of Probe Investigations (UK) Limited has been vital to our success. We extend this to our clients and as we have often said, it is always our intention to work **with** clients and not just **for** them. Remember we are only a phone call away.

Probe Investigations UK Ltd

COMMERCIAL INVESTIGATORS & SECURITY CONSULTANTS

NEWSLETTER

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ARMED ROBBERY IN LEIGH

Robbers armed with a sledgehammer stole jewellery from a pawnbrokers in Leigh. It happened at the Harvey and Thompson store on Bradshawgate at about 5.20pm on 12th April 2012.

Staff were locking up at the end of the day when three men wearing helmets and balaclavas arrived on a motorbike.

One of the men remained with the bike while the other two got off and used the sledgehammer to smash a glass panel in the door, given them access to the store. Once inside they then smashed the jewellery cabinet and stole thousands of pounds of jewellery.

Staff inside the shop managed to set off the smoke cloak, which forced the gang to leave through the smashed door and back onto the bike, which drove off towards Lord Street. The bike was later found abandoned on Old Mill Lane.

It is believed from there the gang got into a Transit van which was last seen driving towards Leigh Road.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd believe the method of this robbery suggests this was carefully planned by the offenders who had arranged for a second getaway vehicle to confuse pursuers. Given they also



had access to a sledgehammer, the people responsible are calculating, dangerous and ready to use violence. Smoke cloak can be used to disorientate offenders and induce them to flee the scene.

PROBE STAFF COMMENDED BY CROWN COURT JUDGE

IN February 2012, His honour Judge Brown commended our directors Peter Farrington and Paul Campbell during the sentencing of a defendant Andrew Cook.

Cook appeared before his honour judge brown at Liverpool Crown Court. Cook, a prolific burglar and convicted drug dealer was caught red handed in the small hours while burgling a premises in Liverpool during August 2011.

Our directors responded swiftly to an alarm activation and through their observations, realised that a neighbouring building was being burgled. They duly pursued and detained Cook before handing him over to the police.

PROBE INTO LEEDS

PROBE Investigations (UK) Ltd is happy to announce their first steps into Leeds, we are delighted to continue our good relationship with the Cottrills group.

Our newest team member Kenny Allan is our principal operative deployed at Rolex at Prestons. The new 'Rolex at Prestons' store is only the third shop dedicated to the prestigious watchmaker in the UK.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd are keen to forge strong relationships with neighbouring retailers in Leeds City Centre, with the view to sharing information in the fight against crime. If you have any concerns, or just need some security advice do not hesitate to give us a call on 0845 520 7777.

ARMED GANG JAILED FOR CONGLETON JEWELLERY ROBBERY

ARMED robbers who smashed their way into a jewellers and threatened shoppers with a sledgehammer and an axe have been jailed. One of the masked raiders dragged an elderly lady out of her car in a desperate attempt to escape, after brave members of the public tried to stop the original getaway vehicle.

Jailed: Nathan Boyle, Gary Parkinson, Jason Yendall, and Garet Hayes targeted Browns Jewellers in Congleton. (pictured right). The gang are from Salford, in illustrating that criminals are prepared to travel to commit crime.

The robbers managed to grab five high value watches after smashing the window of Browns of Congleton Jewellers, but their haul was later recovered.

The gang were jailed for a total of 19 years yesterday at Chester Crown Court, and the judge instructed that commendations be awarded to the shoppers that intervened.

The offenders targeted the High Street showroom at 12.30pm on 25th November 2011. Four staff members and a customer fled into the back room as the robbers used weapons to smash their way into display cabinets and snatched five Raymond Weil watches worth several thousand pounds. As they ran towards their awaiting Seat Altea members of the public intervened, including a



retired policeman who chased the robbers and was threatened with an axe and lump hammer, and a postman who was struck with a sledgehammer.

Two motorists attempted to block the getaway cars exit, and the robbers attacked one of the vehicles with weapons. The offenders managed to bail out of the Seat and into another vehicle a Citroen. However police who were checking Automatic Number Plate Recognition saw the Seat and Citroen travelling into Congleton earlier that day.

The Citroen was stopped on the A523 towards Macclesfield by police and all of the brazen offenders were arrested.

Justice Served.

NORTHALLERTON RAID

AT 4.00pm on 7th June 2012 shoppers in a market town were shocked after axe wielding robbers ran riot in a Northallerton Jewellers.



The raid occurred at Bradleys The Jewellers by two men both wearing black balaclavas, brandishing axes. It is believed they escaped with a substantial amount of jewellery, before driving off in a small red van.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd believe that these audacious and often very violent attacks are on the increase as modern criminals carry out extensive research to

target premises. We must prepare ourselves for these sort of repeat offences across the UK. Remember to exchange information and keep records of anything suspicious.

MASKED MEN RAIDED NELSON JEWELLERS

ON 16th March 2012 four masked men raided a jewellers in Nelson. The raid occurred at 2.50pm at the City Gold Store on Manchester Road.

They smashed their way in but then left without taking any property and got into a getaway car. Shortly afterwards, five arrests were made in Greater Manchester and they were then transferred to Lancashire to be interviewed by detectives investigating the incident.

The offenders were pursued out of the shop by two members of staff before they made their escape in a getaway vehicle.

Detectives are continuing their investigation into this matter.

TOP INTERNATIONAL JEWEL THIEF ARRESTED

A HEAD figure of the world renowned jewel thieves the 'Pink Panthers' was arrested on 8th March 2012.

Mitar Marjanovic was arrested in Rome after two men connected to Marjanovic committed a bank robbery and dropped stolen items which contained Marjanovic's fingerprints.

On 14th March 2012, three more members of the gang were arrested in Athens, Greece. Two of the three male Serbians, aged 20 and 36, were arrested while carry out pre planned surveillance on a jewellers. Patrolling police was prompted to question them due to both men wearing wigs. The two men fled and the 36 year old fired a gun at a police officer seriously injuring him during the pursuit that followed. Both men were arrested and led the police to also arrest a 43 year old Serbian female.



PINK PANTHERS – A BRIEF HISTORY

PINK PANTHERS is the name given by Interpol to an international jewel thief network, named after the Pink Panther series of crime comedy films.

They each are responsible for what has been termed some of the most "glamorous robberies" ever, with their crimes being thought of as artistry. They have targeted several countries.

Some law enforcement groups suspect that the group is responsible for over 320 million pounds in bold robberies in Dubai, Switzerland, Japan, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain and Monaco.

Interpol has said it believes the group of about several

hundred thieves come from Serbia. However, other sources say the gang is suspected of having only 60 members, around 30 of whom are thought to be from Montenegro. Many of the gang are believed to be former soldiers with violent pasts. They are thought to be fluent in many different languages and possess many passports.

Some of their most notorious robberies include the robbery of Harry Winston Jewellers in Paris, on 9th December 2008. The thieves escaped with more than 70 million pounds worth of jewellery.

We don't consider crime to be glamorous!!

SMASH AND GRAB GANG JAILED

A GANG of six men from Newham have been jailed for their part in a series of smash and grab raids across East London.

They all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal from jewellery premises while a seventh admitted one count of robbery.

At the Old Bailey, Gary Jones, 24, was sentenced to five years; Oscar Mukasa, 22, to four and a half years; Daniel Gloria, 23, four and a half years; Redae Hiwot, 25, two years; Kennedy Serunjoji, 23, two years and Gerard Walters, 22, two years. Raymond Kwarting, 21 received three years four months for the single count of robbery.

On 22nd August 2011, a robbery took place at a jewellery shop, Gold Box, in Green Street, Upton Park. A

suspect duped staff into opening the entrance door by asking for the time. Then two hooded suspects ran into the shop, pushed a member of staff aside, leapt over the counter and stole gold jewellery with a value estimated to be £90,000.

One of the suspects, Kwarting, was detained by members of the public as he fled the shop, which led to the recovery of £60,000 worth of jewellery. Detectives from the MPS Flying Squad began an intelligence gathering operation, code named "Saipan", to identify other gang members.

On 20th September 2011 a smash and grab raid took place at Harvey & Thompson Pawnbrokers, High Street, East Ham, where suspects used sledgehammers to smash the display

front window, and steal jewellery valued at £11,000.

Already being watched by detectives, Hiwot and Serunjoji were arrested in Custom House with more than £1300.00 cash each.

Enquiries identified a third smash and grab at Lasani Jewellers in Pashet Grove, Upton Park. Shortly after enquiries led to other gang members being identified and arrested.



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MIDAS JEWELLERS MANCHESTER TARGETED

MIDAS JEWELLERS on King Street Manchester were the target of a motorbike driven raid.

On 23rd May 2012 as two males dressed in black clothing pulled up outside Midas jewellers on powerful motorbikes armed with axes. They entered the premises through the front door and helped themselves to several items of jewellery. One of Probe operatives was on duty at Boodles which is situated opposite and quickly alerted the police and simultaneously secured Boodles. Our operatives in the area were able to help the police in their investigations. The enquiry continues.

Criminals of this calibre use motorbikes to frighten victims and passerby as the extreme noise created by these highly powered motorbikes can confuse and surprise anybody's ear drums. The use of motorcycles can overcome the obstacle of shops located in pedestrian areas, and are made more accessible for quick getaways. Motorcyclists can also hide their identities with the use of helmets. Therefore on getaways they can remain covert to the naked eye. These type of raids are becoming more prevalent with more targeted attacks in the North West.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd believes that this case highlights the benefits of having guards situated at prestigious showrooms.

These sort of hardened criminals always weigh up the risk against the prize. The presence of our team of guards in this area is a show of strength and deterred the criminals from attacking other jewellers also manned with our team of guards on duty. The guard situated outside the showroom acts as a major deterrent whilst also acting as an early warning system for suspicious vehicles and persons. This is a great example of how our guards work together cohesively and are adept at spotting unusual activities early.

This begs the question what can we do as retailers to protect ourselves from these sort of attacks?

Think about the planning process of the criminal. They don't just turn up and carry out a crime with at least some thought beforehand. It is everybody's responsibility to make it difficult. We have to demonstrate that we are alert and prepared. If you have a guard in place you have to demonstrate that you are alert and prepared.



Being sloppy or lazy sends out a message. Our guards are dressed smartly and act professionally at all times. This conveys a message to the outside criminal fraternity that they are being careful and very aware of any unusual activity. You, the retailer though can demonstrate that you are careful and alert in the following ways.

- Follow procedures correctly – make sure you know them.
- React to any suspicious incidents.
- Play a part in the team effort against crime - ask questions, make suggestions.
- Advise your colleagues appropriately.
- Be prepared to challenge people.
- Be discreet and observe confidentiality at all times.
- Make sure that all of your tools are in working order. (alarms etc)
- Communicate with our neighbours – they will look out for you.
- Encourage visits from the Police/CSO's – they are a free deterrent.

All these things will help get the message across to prospective offenders that you and your colleagues are 'switched on' and are difficult to handle. They may then turn their attention elsewhere.

Anyone with any information should call Bolton CID on 0161 856 5740.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd advise all jewellers to contact the police or security providers, in the event that you suspect your store is being observed. Pay particular attention to the presence of motorcycles, especially smaller models in the vicinity of showrooms.

STAFF TIED UP AND GAGGED IN £600,000 JEWELLERS RAID IN LONDON

THIEVES ATTACKED two shop workers before stealing Asian jewellery worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Detectives are hunting two men who ransacked more than 500 items worth about £600,000 from the Aron Jewellers, In High Street, East Ham, East London.

The suspects tied up and gagged a woman and elderly man who work at the store as they spent almost half an hour emptying display cabinets of bracelets and rings.

Aron Jewellers specialise in Asian jewellery and many items are purchased by clients specifically for Asian weddings.

The two men visited the shop at about 11.30am on Tuesday 29th May 2012. They were allowed access through the security door by a female staff member.



PRESTON JEWELLERY STORE RAID

A JEWELLERY STORE in Preston was subject to a shocking daylight raid on 26th April 2012.

Police are now appealing for information after two men, who were not thought to be armed, walked into Sohum jewellery store on Meadow Street, Preston at around 3pm, tied up the owner and his family in the back room and left with thousands of pounds worth of jewellery and cash from the till.

After committing the robbery, the men took off in a black car. They were described as white and wearing all black clothing.

The public are now being asked to come forward to help with the investigation, and anyone with any information should call police on the new non-emergency number 101, or pass their information to the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or on-line at Crimestoppers-uk.org.

The female staff member recognised the men as they had visited the shop the previous day and left a £20.00 deposit on a gold chain. The suspects asked to view another item of jewellery in a display cabinet before one of the men jumped over the display counter and grabbed the woman by the neck, causing the woman to pass out. On hearing the female woman's scream an elderly staff member ran to see what was occurring and he was then thrown to the floor by one of the suspects. Both victims then had their hands and feet tied up and the woman had duct tape put over her mouth.

The suspects are described as both Asian males, possibly from Pakistan between 30-40 years of age. It is believed the men could have been in the area for about half an hour waiting for staff to replenish the displays with jewellery, which is kept in the safe overnight.

SECURITY AWARENESS HANDBOOKS



PROBE INVESTIGATIONS (UK) Ltd has produced a handbook for retail jewellers. The handbook is intended to raise awareness and encourage staff to think ahead and consider all available options in the event of an emergency.

We encourage all of our customers to pay close attention to security procedures.

As always, our advice is free. If you have any questions or concerns that are security related we welcome your call.

BOLTON JEWELLERS RAIDED

ROBBERS armed with machetes burst into Midas Jewellers in Crompton Place at 1.50pm on Friday 22nd June 2012.

They stole a substantial amount of jewellery after they threatened staff and ordered customers to lie on the floor.

One of the men was wearing a motorcycle helmet whilst the second man wore a balaclava. The men stole handfuls of diamond rings. The owner of the shop was pushed over and threatened as they left the premises.

CRIME, THE RECESSION AND RETAIL BUSINESS

CRIME IS EVER PRESENT but like inflation, unemployment, productivity and every other variable, it is up and down. There are a number of influencing factors in this:

PROSPERITY

When employment levels are high and / or inflation is low, crime is low. Usually law abiding people source goods from legitimate suppliers as they can afford to. When unemployment and / or inflation are high, then the black market thrives to meet the demands of people with less money to spend. Crime feeds the black market.

Prosperity among targets and potential victims also creates problems. This leads to feelings of resentment, of justification in the crime – “They can afford it” ,” They’re insured”. Similarly, while potential victims prosper, they feel less guarded, more relaxed and in effect make themselves more complacent and therefore vulnerable.

BANKNOTES, MONEY AND LEGISLATION

The reduction in hard cash due to electronic exchanges has hit criminals hard. Cash is now transferred under heavy guard. It is well protected. Opportunities to steal large amounts of cash are limited. This leads criminals to turn their attention to other types of crime, or other commodities. The increase in fraud through computer misuse has swelled enormously in the past decade and of course jewellery is the ‘new cash’ and robberies at retail jewellers are rising rapidly.

Legislation often comes after the event. Restrictions on banking, cash handling, solicitor’s activities and travel have all hampered criminals. As always, they just bounce back with ever more innovative or daring styles of crime.

TRENDS

Styles of crime are like fashions. They come and go. Certain types of offences are ‘in vogue’ at particular times. This may be because of market demands or ‘new’ techniques become available to criminals. Included in this is peer group pressure. Never underestimate the power of this among the younger criminal fraternity. What seems to us to be crazy, unnecessary, or extreme is to some criminals a form of excitement, a way of proving themselves to their peers? Again, trends come and go through different generations, different parts of the world.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY RESPONSES

Criminals are met head on by those that seek to protect

potential victims. Such deterrents are effective but generally serve only to displace criminals. Remember, crime is ever present. It moves about. Fitting a burglar alarm may prevent a crime at your house, but not your neighbour. It is the target or the victim that changes in this scenario.

CRIMINAL COMPETITION

Crime is a business and there are fierce competitors. There are levels and divisions that change continually. The effect of this is that some strata of criminals are forced out of particular areas of crime and into others depending on whom / what is dominant at any ever given time. Of course, criminals develop too and always seek to engage in lower risk / higher gain crime and leave confrontational, high risk, high effort crimes to younger generations or less able criminals.

As former police officers, we have watched criminals come and go. We have arrested them, interviewed them, visited them in prison and have got to know how they think. They are people and have human needs and emotions just like we do except they cross a line that law abiding, honest people are not prepared to go beyond. Some people cross back and forth over that line, depending on the circumstances of the day.

THE AFFECT OF RECESSION

The recession today is a big problem for retailers. Customers cannot afford to shop like they did previously or they may be reluctant to spend and prefer to save their money, fearing they may rely it on it in the future. At the same time, they may turn to alternative suppliers – the black market to source the same goods at much cheaper prices. The black market is a serious competitor to retailers.

There is a whole chain, starting from the bottom. Low paid and unemployed people are more inclined to turn to the black market. Their spending being removed at the bottom end of the chain then has an impact further upwards, and sideways.

Criminals are themselves hit by recession and may turn to crime as a means of ‘earning’ a living. They may also be driven by a new demand.

SECURITY GUARDING

Our guards provide an obvious deterrent to would be criminals. We simply cannot measure how many crimes have been stopped just by our presence. Lots we would expect.

There is a misconception that security guards deter customers. This simply isn’t true. Spending power is a

factor and in the present recession, customers are looking for bargains more than ever before. Competition is fierce. Particular showrooms, products and pricing structures might be daunting to average shoppers; the core market.

Security guarding is very necessary and should also be seen a positive enhancement. The feedback we receive confirms that guards provide a welcome to customers, make them feel safe and add an air of prestige to the showroom they are deployed to.

Although times are hard for everybody and trade is slower than we would like, **our personal security remains the top priority** if we seriously intend to keep criminals at bay.



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