

# BOOKHAM JEWELLER'S RAIDED BY ARMED ROBBERS

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following the incident at about 1.00pm on **Saturday** 29th September when two men entered Christian Jewellers on the High Street and threatened staff with sledge hammers before leaving with jewellery and cash.

The offenders then fled the scene running down the alley way adjacent to the shop which leads to the car park where a car believed to be a black Audi driven by another man was waiting for them.

Anyone with information should contact Surrey Police on 101 quoting reference MV/12/3887 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## MEET OUR TEAM

Andy has been part of the Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd team since November 2010. Before joining our security wing, Andy served for over 12 years in the British Army where he was a Infantry Section Commander. Andy has operated in numerous countries including Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.



ANDY CLEGG

After his stint in the armed forces Andy worked as a close protection officer, protecting blue chip executives in Afghanistan. Andy is our principle operative at Hancocks Jewellers in Manchester, however you may see him at other venues from time to time.

Andy is a family man and when he is not on duty he likes nothing more than spending time with his loved ones. Andy is a keen swimmer and also enjoys competing in marathons.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd currently retains almost 40 operatives of the same high quality. **'Our strength is our people'.**

## HATTON GARDEN RAIDED BY POLICE



ON October 3rd 2012 Camden Police raided jewellery retailers in Hatton Garden. Police seized watches from several jewelers that were estimated to be worth £140,000.

The raids took place at midday and were carried out by more than 50 officers, as they executed warrants at seven businesses believed to have been involved in handling stolen goods. Police believe that a small percentage of jewellers in the area may be involved in handling property stolen in robberies or burglaries.

Camden Police seized more than 40 items of jewellery and watches. A 25 year old man was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd believe that the reason these raids were carried out was to close down outlets in the black market for these offenders by removing the sales value of stolen property, which means robbers find it difficult to make proceeds from their crimes.

## 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.

Probe Investigations UK Ltd

COMMERCIAL  
INVESTIGATORS  
& SECURITY  
CONSULTANTS

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2012

ISSUE 17

## WATCHES WORTH £500,000 STOLEN IN MANCHESTER SELFRIDGES RAID



**M**asked raiders made off with a £500,000 haul of luxury watches in an "audacious robbery" in front of shoppers at Manchester's Selfridges store.

The robbers struck at Selfridges in Manchester while the store was open and busy.

They entered the premises in Exchange Square wearing high visibility jackets and trousers shortly after 7.20pm on Thursday 13th September 2012.

Police said the three men smashed display cabinets using an axe and crowbars and stole 100 watches.

They escaped in a black Mercedes Benz driven by a fourth offender.

The car was found abandoned close to HMP Strangeways, a short time later.

Luxury watches including Audemars Piguet, Jaeger Lecoulre, Hublot and Cartier were stolen.

Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd believes this was a well planned and executed robbery as they were in and out the premises in under a couple of minutes.

The fact that this calibre of villain is prepared to commit such a despicable crime underlines the everyday threat jewellers face.

This is a prime example of criminals gathering information about shop premises. Through detailed pre planning and surveillance of target premises, the robbers can be in and out in a few minutes.

Anyone with information should call police on 0161 856 3240, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

## SO HOW DO ROBBERS CHOOSE TARGET PREMISES:

THERE are many factors that go into the criminal's choice of retail target.

- Robbers look for retailers that are not vigilant, look disinterested and sloppy.
- They look for retailers without any physical barriers to thwart any attempts, i.e unlocked doors, and no security guard presence.
- They look for weaknesses in staff that do not follow security procedures.
- Above all else, they favour easy, unobstructed access and exits.

Retailers that do address these factors have a far greater prospect of displacing the attention of criminals to premises that do not.

**DO NOT OFFER THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE.**

## JEWELLERS RAIDED BY TWO MEN IN EAST GRINSTEAD

AT AROUND 9.00am on 27th September 2012 thieves raided a jewellers in East Grinstead.

The two men made off with a quantity of jewellery after smashing the window of Majors Jewellers in London Road with sledgehammers. They then made their escape in a dark unknown vehicle.

The description of the offenders is they were wearing dark clothing and had their faces covered.

"Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101, or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Probe Investigations UK Ltd  
COMMERCIAL INVESTIGATORS & SECURITY CONSULTANTS

Association of British Investigators  
Ex. Police in Industry & Commerce  
World Association of Detectives  
National Association of Retired Police Officers  
Professional Investigators Network

Peter Farrington, Managing Director & Member of ABI, EPIC, WAD, NARPO, UKPIN

**Offering a Complete Range of Investigative Services  
Locally, Nationally and Internationally**

Well Established Network of Proven Operatives  
Specialists in Covert Surveillance and Undercover Infiltration Operations  
Discreet High Level Security Services  
Competitive Fee Structure and Prompt Completion of Assignments  
References Available on Request  
Polite, Friendly Service  
Professional, Capable, Reliable

**OUR REPUTATION IS EVERYTHING**

Fax: 0845 520 7778 TEL: 0845 520 7777 www.probeuk.com

Head Office:  
The Lodge, Edwards Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L24 9HW  
E-mail: enqs@probeuk.com

Midland Office:  
43 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5LS  
E-mail: midlands@probeuk.com

# CHRISTMAS APPROACHING; ARE YOU PREPARED?

WITH the Christmas season rapidly approaching and on top of the current economic climate everybody is confronted with the same problem. 'Crime'.

In times when recession reigns crime increases. The luxury goods that people crave are no longer accessible but are always desirable. Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd expect that Xmas 2012 will be another testing time for many retailers as demand soars

However do not worry; we at Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd are here to help. We can help bear the weight of Christmas footfall without overlooking security issues. We can deploy an experienced operative to your premises who

## FESTIVE REMINDER

ALTHOUGH Christmas is weeks away, historically October, November and early December see dramatic increases in crime.

Criminals seek to sell stolen commodities on the black market in time for Christmas. It is therefore essential that 'you' as retailers remain on high alert in months preceding the festive period.

'Tis the season to be jolly, but it is also the season to be wary of thieves, pickpockets and other holiday grinchies'.

With an increased flow of stock moving from manufacturers and in-between branches leading up to Christmas will inevitably mean more opportunities for criminals.

For criminals it is the same risk for greater gain during this period of the year.



can release your staff to focus on sales rather than be sidetracked with security issues! Remember your security is always our main concern.

We appreciate that the jewellery trade calls for the highest levels of discretion and customer service and there is no place for 'bouncers' in this environment. Our staff are handpicked. You can be sure they are smart, welcoming and professional.

**If you are thinking of strengthening your security arrangements over the festive period or over high footfall days, then call us now to discuss, don't leave it until its too late**

## TOP TIPS OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD

- Be particularly cautious about locking doors and window displays when showing jewellery, even for short periods.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings. Remain focused.
- Goods in transit are always best to be locked in your vehicle's boot. Keep your vehicles' doors and windows locked. Also have your keys readily available in your hand before reaching your vehicle.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and vary your banking times.
- Make sure your security CCTV systems are fully operational.
- Ensure you take break periods in order to keep alert. When you are tired you make mistakes.

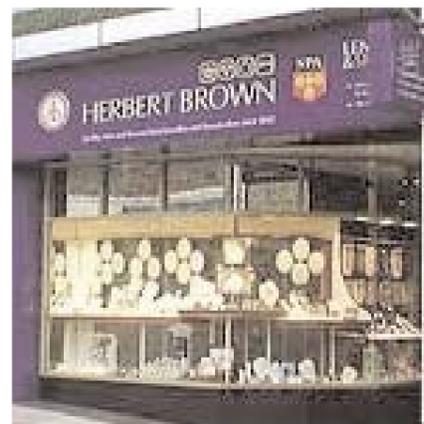
**We are here to help in any way we can. You are welcome to call us 0845 520 7777.**

## HERBERT BROWN TARGETED

A JEWELLERY thief has been jailed after he fled from a branch of Herbert Brown wearing a necklace he asked to try on.

The silver chain, worth a substantial amount of money was stolen by David Shubrook. The sales assistant helped him put on the chain just before he sprinted out of the premises in King Street, South Tyneside. Shubrook took a metro train towards Newcastle however he was arrested at Simonside train station after police halted the train and arrested him.

Shubrook has pleaded guilty to theft and asked for three other thefts committed since July 1st 2012 to be taken into account as well. Shubrook admitted that he was responsible for the spate of snatches at Herbert Brown premises and said that he wanted money to buy drugs.



# HAMMER-WIELDING MOTORBIKE RAIDERS STRIKE AT WILMSLOW JEWELLERS

**SMASH and grab motorbike raiders struck at a Prestons Diamonds (formerly known as Cottrills) in Wilmslow stealing Rolex watches valued at thousands of pounds**

Four men wearing black motorcycle helmets broke into Prestons Diamonds on Water Lane at about 10.30am on Tuesday 14th August. They used one of the bikes to barge the security door, before one of the offenders used a sledge hammer to smash the glass.

Both passengers then stormed into the shop and attacked the Rolex display case. They took a large amount of watches before staff at the showroom activated the smoke cloak device which filled the showroom with thick smoke. However, the damage was already done. The two men were forced out of the shop and fled towards the A34 on the back of the two waiting motorbikes.

Luckily none of the staff were injured in the incident, however some staff were left shaken.

This style of offence is now rapidly increasing within the criminal fraternity as retail jewellers are seen as an alternative target to cash in transit vehicles which have become increasingly secure thanks to police initiatives. We have spoken before of displacement and this yet another example of it.

Criminals of this calibre use motorbikes to frighten victims and passers by as the extreme noise created by



these highly powered motorbikes can confuse anybody's senses. Motorbikes are useful in escapes as they can overcome the obstacle of pedestrian areas and make quick getaways more accessible.

Motorcyclists can also hide their identities with the use of helmets. Therefore during getaways they can remain covert to the unsuspecting public.

Those with information should contact DC Jim Bowbeer at Wilmslow CID on 101 quoting incident number 251 of August 14 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 55 111.

## EDINBURGH JEWELLERY SNATCH

**LIME BLUE Jewellers in Edinburgh was the subject of an attack as robbers left with thousands of pounds worth of rings.**

A male believed to be in his 20's entered the George Street store on 27th September 2012 at around 1.00pm and asked a female shop assistant to see a number of rings in a display cabinet. Once the cabinet was opened and the rings offered for view, the male snatched the goods and ran out of the unlocked door.

The male is described as white, 5ft 6ins, short dark spiky hair and was wearing a dark blue jacket, jeans and white trainers. The male made his getaway in a green Vauxhall Omega.

**Probe Investigations (UK) Ltd advice: How Can We Deter Snatch Thefts?**

Most snatch thefts are opportunistic. Criminals sometimes act of the spur of the moment when they see weaknesses in security provisions. Here are a list of measures that could aid your security arrangements.

- Always seat suspicious individuals with their back facing the exit and as far away from the exit as possible. Position them in seats that do not afford the view of the exit and which allow good CCTV coverage.

- When showing stock to customers try showing brochures first if you are unsure of the individual's intentions
- Demonstrate watches by displaying them on your own wrist.
- If you are showing high value pieces of jewellery make sure that your security operative is aware of the risk and implement your own internal operations procedure.
- Code words could be used to alert other staff members to potential difficulties. These should be simple and easy to remember. Ensure that the security operative is aware of these arrangements.
- Keep a careful note of the items you have chosen to demonstrate and make sure they are returned to the correct place once you have finished.
- Agree a minimum staffing level for your shop during the course of business hours.
- Do not leave equipment, stock, keys, alarm fobs, information, personal property, or any item that may become a makeshift weapon.
- Keep showcases locked and check that the locks are secure when closing them.