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1ST CLASS PROTECTION

1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

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E-SCOOTER & PEDAL BIKE CRIME

E-Scooters have been shrouded in controversy for a while, mainly because of the danger of riding them; one high profile story last year told of an e-scooter causing the death of 35-year-old YouTuber, Emily Hartridge, in a road traffic accident. However, this is not the only reason for skepticism towards this increasingly popular mode of transport.

Nearly 300 robberies, assaults, thefts and other crimes have been carried out by people on electric scooters in London in the past four months, police have revealed. The Met's Chief Superintendent Simon Ovens said officers had seized hundreds of e-scooters modified to reach 40 to 70 mph in a new crackdown.

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He warned muggers are switching to them instead of cycles and mopeds because they are fast, silent and unregistered.

Privately owned e-scooters remain illegal on London's roads and pavements, with riders at risk of a £300 fixed penalty notice and six points on their driving licence if stopped by police.

The Metropolitan Police saw the number of moped crimes fall from 15,168 between December 2017 and November 2018, down to 8,721 in the 12 months after. This was largely due to Operation Venice, a crackdown that saw the use of controversial tactics including knocking suspects off mopeds.

But the Metropolitan Police said that in the year to February 9, it recorded 2,325 robberies where the suspect was riding a pushbike, up from 1,380 the previous year. And the City of London Police recorded 169 bicycle-enabled robberies in 2019, compared to just 58 on mopeds.

The Met has launched a new three-month crackdown called Operation Gilera. It will see officers on both motorbikes and pushbikes on patrol in hotspots including Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea.

Detective Chief Inspector Shaun White said: "This operation has been set up as our response to tackle, arrest and prosecute those who think that they can use push bikes to rob pedestrians going about their daily business.

"The suspects are using the same tactics that criminals were using in the summer of 2017, when we saw a peak of moped-enabled crime, prompting us to launch Operation Venice.

"Venice had significant successes and, as such, it appears criminals now think that they can use pedal cycles instead to evade police. They are wrong."

Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea collectively saw 352 offences in the year to February 9, nearly double the 180 recorded in the previous year. The force's Central North area, covering Camden and Islington, saw an increase of 70.5 per cent to 689 offences, up from 404 the previous year. (March report)

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BURGLAR-PROOF YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

There are more burglaries in the winter months than in the summer. With the clocks turned back and nights drawing in earlier it unfortunately means households are more likely to be burgled.

Theft insurance claims increase by 34 per cent during the winter months, research from Co-Op Insurance has revealed with bonfire night alone seeing an increase of 42 per cent in burglary claims, according to Aviva Insurance.

Protecting gateways

To discourage unwanted visitors away from your home, use a high security anti-cut weatherproof padlock 45mm, which is cut-resistant with the strength to resist access from intruders as well as having an anti-pick system which has a five pin mechanism to stop burglars trying to pick their way in.

Alternatively, a Master Lock pro-series weather tough shrouded 55mm padlock is a very heavy duty lock that features a hardened iron shroud which protects the shackle from bolt-cutter attacks.

Sensor Lights

Lights at the front, side and rear of your home can act as a good deterrent to night time thieves as they will be seen should they intrude and, if you have an external camera, they will also be recorded committing a crime. Opt for an LED, motion-sensor flood light for an energy saving solution without compromising on the strength of the light

Smart Tech

With 89% of ex-burglars admitting they would be deterred from targeting a smart home, according to research by Co-Op Insurance, you may want to install a Ring doorbell or other motion-sensor camera. coupled with strong outdoor light, this should be a strong deterrent.

Keyless Entry

A keyless lock allows users to unlock their door either by using a Pin code, key card, key tag or remote fob, or even from their smartphone. This is great for large families, shared households or apartment buildings, as it can be used by as many as 20 users at once with a mix of codes, key tags and cards.

Another option is to install a bluetooth enabled fingerprint and touchscreen keyless smart door lock, which is a five in one keyless entry lock. Users can use their fingerprint to get in, a code, their smartphone, a key or even 'knock to open', which means someone entering just has to knock on their phone screen four times to gain entry.

The 'anti-peep' password system allows the user to type in any number of random digits which will still grant them access as long as the one correct password is embedded in the longer set of numbers.

Practical advice when away from home

- Cancel mail deliveries.
- Leave lights on a timer.
- Ask a relative/friend to check on property.
- Install a smart alarm or cameras that can be remotely accessed and controlled.
- Keep all windows shut and locked.
- Don't 'check-in' or post images with location tags on social media.



WEAPONS CRACKDOWN

The Met was praised today by the Home Secretary after removing nearly 200 weapons from the streets and making more than 1,000 arrests in a week as part of a nationwide crackdown on knife crime.

Priti Patel said the results showed the Met's "determination to confront this threat head on" as Scotland Yard described the extent of the seizures, which include 58 other offensive weapons, as "staggering".

It added that the success will have saved lives but warned that further enforcement action would remain necessary as it strives to reduce the number of young Londoners being killed and injured with knives.

Announcing the outcome of the crackdown, which was part of the nationwide anti-knife crime Operation Sceptre, the Met said that there had also been 564 seizures of drugs and associated "illegal items", and 2,900 weapons sweeps in public places.



FOOD BANK AID

In November we were pleased to support **Food Bank Aid: North London**, an organisation set up in April earlier this year by Naomi Russell. The group describe themselves on their Facebook page as 'volunteers collecting and delivering much needed food and household goods for North London food banks' and have drop-off points at a large number of locations across North London and Herts.

The 1st Class Protection team collectively contributed five boxes of essential food and cleaning supplies, which will go to help those who have been hardest-hit by the pandemic. It was a joy as ever to help our North London community in this way.



LOCAL CRIME

Attempted Rape East Finchley

At around 17:30hrs on Wednesday, 7 October a 15-year-old girl was walking home from school. As she approached an alleyway off The Causeway, N2 she noticed three males who were smoking.

The males followed her before grabbing her and holding her against a wall. One of the males sexually assaulted her and then pulled his trousers down. The attackers were disturbed by a man and they ran off down the alleyway.

The man walked the girl to East Finchley station where he saw her onto a bus. Police need to speak to him as he could hold vital information to help identify those involved – he is described as a white man, aged approximately 40, of slim build and wearing sports trousers. He was carrying a blue bag and looked like he may have been going to the gym.

The suspects are described as black males, aged in the mid-to-late teens and wearing black school trousers. Suspect one is of slim build, with black plaits in his hair, approx. 5ft 11inches tall and wearing a navy blue Nike coat. Suspect two is of slim build, with black wavy hair, approx. 5ft 7inches tall and wearing a black Nike coat. Suspect three is of chubby build, with dark curly hair, approx. 5ft 7inches tall and wearing a black Nike coat.

N2 Knife-Point Robbery

A man has been convicted of a knife point robbery on a lone woman, as she walked home in the early evening after going out to do some food shopping.

The victim was walking from Queensway to St Petersburg Place in Westminster in March. As she made her way along Moscow Road, she became aware she was being followed and stopped to let the man go past.

The man then pulled a ten inch knife from his waist band and made a stabbing motion. He said: "Give me your wallet."

The terrified woman got hold of her purse, containing cash, credit cards and a driving licence and threw it on the floor, before the suspect picked it up and ran off.

He was tracked down to a nearby McDonalds in Shepherd's Bush, and was later identified as Mark David Larkin, also known as Curran.

Detectives were able to capture CCTV of Larkin following the woman and also traced images of him with the stolen property. Larkin, 50, (2.11.70), of no fixed address, was convicted after a six day trial at Southwark Crown Court. The judge ruled the crime fell into the highest category. On Monday, 2 November, he was sentenced to six years for the robbery, plus 18 months for possession of the knife. Larkin also pleaded guilty to three counts of fraud.

GET SOCIAL



We are on Instagram!

Why not follow us for more regular news and updates? [@1stclassprotection_uk](https://www.instagram.com/1stclassprotection_uk)

From the team at 1st Class Protection, we wish all of our customers a happy and safe holiday season!