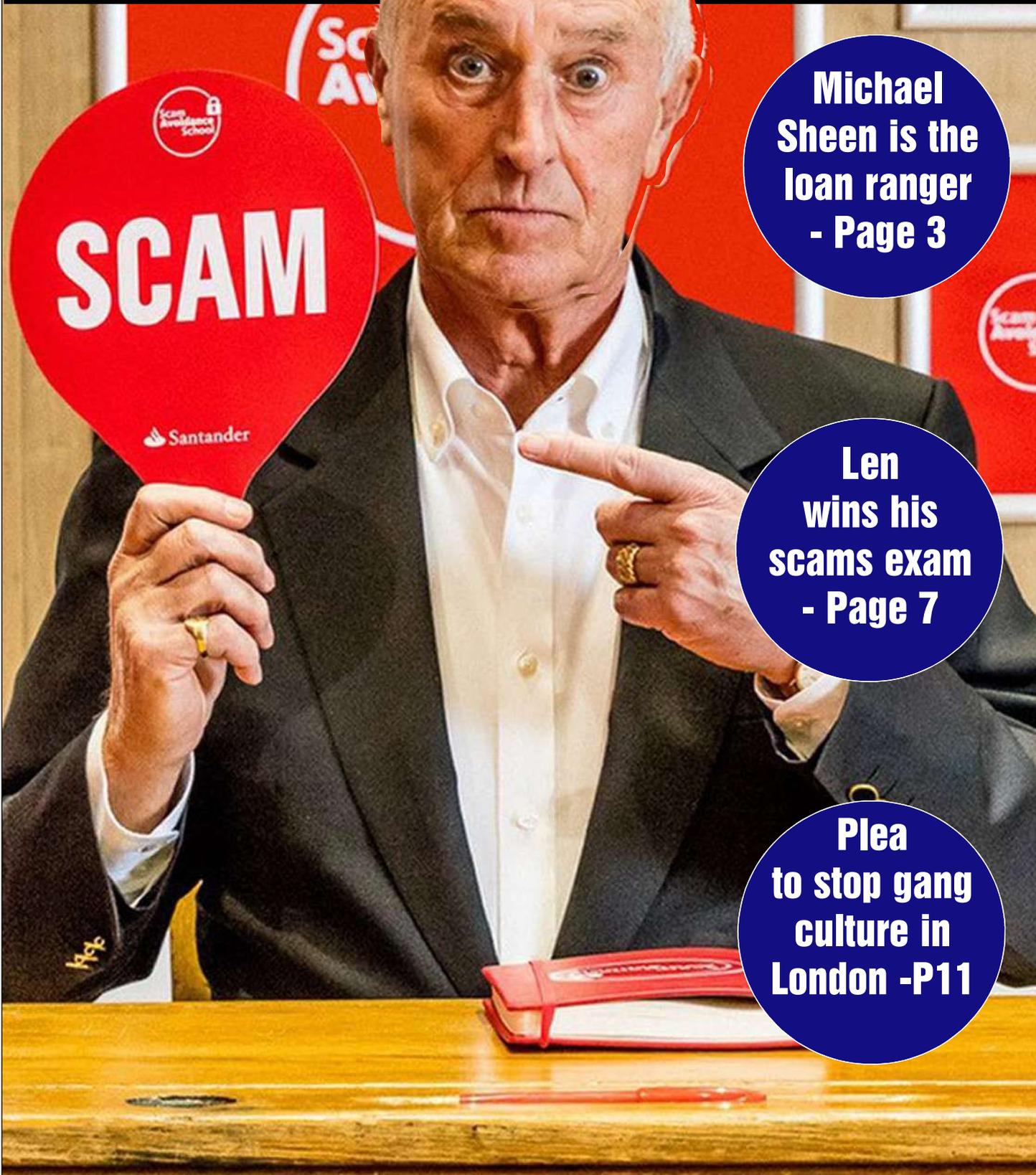


LONDON



COMMUNITY WATCH MAGAZINE

April 2018



Michael Sheen is the loan ranger - Page 3

Len wins his scams exam - Page 7

Plea to stop gang culture in London -P11

You need to make a transfer to a safe account

Please confirm your online banking code

Just for security reasons...

I'm one of your suppliers

We've detected fraud on your account

I'll need your card details

Please confirm your account password

Tap your PIN into the phone

I'm a police officer

Your payment hasn't gone through

I'm calling from your bank

Your payment is overdue

Do you know who you're talking to?

Fraudsters are scamming businesses over the phone

Fraudsters are targeting organisations to deceive staff into revealing company financial information or transferring money to an account owned by the fraudster.

The fraudster poses as someone from a bank or building society, the police or an existing supplier. They attempt to obtain the organisation's financial information such as bank account details, or try to get a member of staff to alter bank payee details for regular payments or transfer funds to a 'safe' account meaning funds are sent direct to the fraudster's bank account.

Remember:

- Criminals may already have basic information about you or your organisation in their possession. Do not assume a caller is genuine because they have these details or because they claim to represent a legitimate organisation
- If you are suspicious, don't be afraid to terminate the call or say no to requests for information. Do you really know if the caller is genuine?
- It takes two people to terminate a call. Fraudsters can keep your phone line open by not putting down the receiver at their end. Use established contact details that you are holding on file
- Caller display IDs can be manipulated to disguise the real origin of call. You can call them back using an independently verified number
- If you are unsure about providing information requested by a caller, review your organisation's policy on what information you should or should not provide to a caller, including to those calling from within your organisation

For further advice and guidance visit www.financialfraudaction.org.uk



Financial Fraud Action UK
Working together to prevent fraud



Grenfell heroes on the run to raise funds

A GROUP of 18 London firefighters who were among the first to attend the Grenfell Tower blaze last June are running the London Marathon this month in a bid to raise vital funds for groups supporting local people affected by the fire. They are also fundraising for the Fire Fighters Charity, which continues to provide physical and psychological support to the firefighters who attended the blaze.



Moped thugs jailed

THREE men responsible for a series of motorcycle thefts and moped-enabled knife-point robberies in central London have been sentenced to a total of over 20 years' imprisonment.

Full story at goo.gl/fcn1XH

Visit goo.gl/cgw91o

Sheen the loan ranger tackles the toughest role of his long career



Michael Sheen outside 10 Downing Street when he portrayed Prime Minister Tony Blair and, right, as Sir David Frost

HE is best known for his portrayal of Brian Clough, David Frost and Tony Blair. He has played the title role in Hamlet and received a Golden Globe for his performance in the Showtime television drama Masters of Sex.

But actor Michael Sheen is cutting back in his acting career to take on the toughest role of his career - as a loan shark crusader.

Sheen is turning into a modern-day superhero and has launched a campaign against high-interest credit providers, like Wonga and BrightHouse, and back street loan sharks by working to find fairer

alternative sources of credit.

The passionate Welshman has set up the End High Cost Credit Alliance, a campaign group of politicians, charities and tech companies he has brought together, working to promote more affordable ways of borrowing money.

His dedication to tackling problem debt has been inspired by witnessing difficulties faced by friends in the Welsh town of Port Talbot where he grew up, a region struggling with the decline of the local steel industry.

Sheen wants to analyze the flaws of universal credit, discuss the shortcomings

of the government's welfare reform programme and focus on ways to reduce household debt levels.

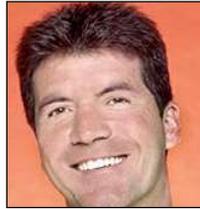
He is enraged by curtailment of government crisis loans and by the spread of chronic debt but he is also exceptionally well-informed about the subject and passionate about finding ways to improve things.

Sheen has just finished a five-year stint in Los Angeles, where he acted in Twilight and took other roles that allowed him to be close to his daughter studying in the US.

Continued page 4

Simon Cowell targeted by fraudsters...again

SIMON Cowell is the target of an online scam claiming he invested £500,000 in a fake wealth creation scheme – the second time the same conmen have targeted him in a year. Users who followed a Twitter link were taken to a web page quoting Simon as a supporter of the project. A spokesman for Cowell said the matter has now been put in the hands of his lawyers.



Jail for lorry driver

LORRY driver David Robert Hastings, 45, of Manor Road, Mitcham, who ran over and killed an elderly pedestrian while using his mobile phone has been jailed for four years at the Old Bailey.

Full story at goo.gl/HWGqfW

Full story goo.gl/KMtzKy

From page 3

Since she started college, Sheen has been able to spend more time in the UK, relocating to Port Talbot, where he has been confronted daily by the problems associated with spiraling household debt.

“I’ve become increasingly aware of friends and family dealing with being in debt ? with overdrafts, credit card payments, pay day loans, home credit,? he said.

“It’s a really hard subject to talk about but I’ve had friends breaking down in tears talking about how it is affecting their relationship, their self-esteem, their children’s lives. It touches buttons about your own sense of dignity and pride.

“People often say: Well if someone can’t afford something, they shouldn’t?t be paying for it?. But people have told me in order to travel to a job interview, I had to get a bit of credit, or my child has a disability, in order to cover just basic needs I have to go into debt.

“More and more this is about people needing to pay for basic needs.”

As he points out, three million UK households are paying more than 25% of their income to creditors ? representing 10 million people, or more than 10% of the population.

Although he hasn’t had personal experience, he is aware that it’s something that cuts through society.

“if you’ve ever gone into overdraft situation and you’re not sure you can come out of it, you’re already dealing with stress,” he added.

Initially he wondered if he could spend some of his savings on buying back bad debt to wipe it out. Inspired by John Oliver, the host of the US chat show Last Week Tonight, who bought back nearly \$15m (£10m) worth of medical debt on his show, forgiving the debts of about 9,000 people. But that proved too complex.

His campaign group’s manifesto promises: ‘We will back fair finance providers, equipping them with the resources to compete and win against high-cost credit providers.’

He hopes to be able to raise awareness about not-for-profit loan organisations,

like Moneyline, Scotcash, or Street UK.

Sheen is using a significant amount of his own money to fund the campaign, and hopes to unlock donations from other philanthropists. He will continue acting, but will make this project his priority when he isn’t working, and hopes to be involved in working on debt for the long-term.

My leverage depends on me having both money and profile, so there’s no point giving up my access to both of those things. It’s about finding a balance.?

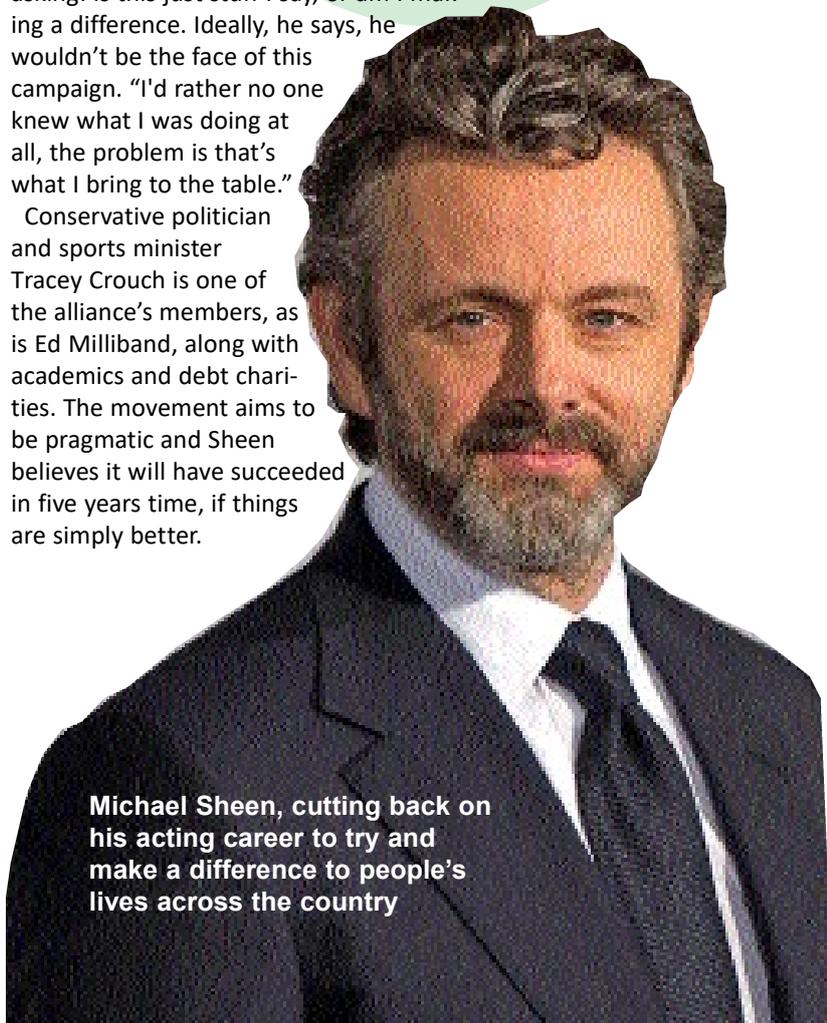
He recognises that there may be cynicism about the capacity of a Hollywood star to bring about change in this incredibly complex area.

It is absolutely right that people should be suspicious. We should always question people’s agendas. People should be asking: Is this just stuff I say, or am I making a difference. Ideally, he says, he wouldn’t be the face of this campaign. “I’d rather no one knew what I was doing at all, the problem is that’s what I bring to the table.”

Conservative politician and sports minister Tracey Crouch is one of the alliance’s members, as is Ed Milliband, along with academics and debt charities. The movement aims to be pragmatic and Sheen believes it will have succeeded in five years time, if things are simply better.



I have had friends breaking down in tears talking about how it affected their relationship their self-esteem, and their children’s lives.



Michael Sheen, cutting back on his acting career to try and make a difference to people’s lives across the country

£20,000 reward for help in cabbie murder

A REWARD of £20,000 is being offered by the Met Police for information on a murder that took place on December 3, 2016. Cab driver Carl O'Brien (right) was attacked on a communal stairwell of flats at Vanguard Way, Wallington. He was taken to hospital later that day after losing consciousness but sadly died two days before Christmas.



Prison for acid attack

A TEENAGER who attacked six men with a corrosive substance in Newham, Islington and Hackney was sentenced to 10 and a half years' imprisonment at Wood Green Crown Court.

Read more at goo.gl/PQb7V8

Visit goo.gl/SSD9Co

TWENTY years ago Bexley decided they wanted to launch a neighbourhood watch even though they realised that reaching everyone in the borough was going to be a huge task.

But this is a significant year for Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association as they celebrate their 20th anniversary.

And they can look back with pride on what they have achieved over two decades.

From the early days when they had just a few members, the number of street Coordinators has now grown now to over 1,200 covering over 42,000 homes in the London Borough of Bexley.

They also have a pro-active team of office volunteers and committee members who give up their valuable leisure time these are some of the things the do;

- 1) Give talks to other groups
- 2) Attend various meetings
- 3) Produce the member's quarterly newsletter
- 4) Write the NW column for the Bexley Magazine
- 5) Collate a weekly information report from Police teams/residents and members to inform Coordinators of crime taking place in their wards.
- 6) Help out in their busy office
- 7) Arrange fund raising events
- 8) Put up street signs right across Bexley
- 9) Distribute new member packs to homes across the Borough
- 10) Improve communication and improve computer systems
- 11) Meet the public from our stands which we have at the various events in Bexley during the spring, summer and autumn and indoor events during the winter.
- 12) Warn residents of crime in their covered area and meet with local police team members known as DWO's (Dedicated Ward Officers)
- 13) Support our membership offering assistance where needed
- 14) Complete our Associations annual returns and keep accurate accounts

Beley NHW is now well known across the Borough with a 100% (or very nearly)



Watch members and police at the launch of their successful BikeWatch scheme

Happy 20th birthday as Bexley watch celebrates

cover in several wards and we continue to work with ward police team members to expand our membership.

Burglary statistics support that for every three burglaries two are in roads with NO neighbourhood watch cover.

The Watch Coordinators are also able to alert residents quickly, most having a email network system and some with their own newsletters.

NHW covered roads also have better community spirit with many neighbours looking out for each other especially the more vulnerable residents.

Bexley's main aim is to increase awareness about home security as many of the burglaries committed are because front and back doors have not been double locked, and that no effort has been paid to make a property look like it has somebody in, even when people are out, at work, or on holiday.

Coordinators also work to reduce vehicle theft and theft from vehicles, as well as to work with shops to reduce

shoplifting and other crime around shops such as the distribution of counterfeit notes.

Their Houndwatch scheme urges dog walkers to report anything untoward they may see from fly tipping to drug dealing.

Bexley though are not resting on their laurels and are looking to recruit in all wards in Bexley but especially in Lesnes, Crayford, Northumberland Heath, Cray Meadows, Colyers, Erith & Thamesmead wards where since Christmas burglary has been particularly high.



London round-up



Detectives investigating DNA links to 30 year old murder of Debbie Linsley

THE investigation into the murder of 26-year-old Debbie Linsley 30 years ago remains open, with detectives exploring ways to identify the suspect using DNA evidence.

Debbie, from Bromley but living and working in Edinburgh at the time of her murder, was stabbed to death on the 14.16 train from Orpington to London Victoria on Wednesday, 23 March 1988.

She boarded the train at Petts Wood in south-east London and entered an old fashioned compartment with room for six people and doors at each side of the carriage.

The train arrived at platform 2 at Victoria railway station and at around 14.50hrs, her body was discovered on the floor by British Rail staff.

Debbie, who was working as a hotel manager in Edinburgh, had been to visit her parents and brother Gordon in



Debbie Linsley

preparation for his wedding a few weeks later.

The murder weapon is believed to have been a knife measuring between five and seven and a half inches. It was not recovered.

Since the murder, over 1200 statements have been taken and more than 650 people have been eliminated as potential suspects, but unfortunately enquiries have not led police to a suspect and no one has been arrested as part of the investigation.

Detectives have a full DNA profile of the suspect - Debbie fought off her killer during the attack and traces of blood belonging to someone other than Debbie were found at the scene - and detectives are pursuing familial DNA searching.

The current investigation is being led by A/DI Susan Stansfield of the Met's Special Casework Investigation Team - part of the Homicide and Major Crime Command which investigates unsolved, historical cases.

Anyone with information is asked to call 020 7230 4294 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Sex abuser is jailed

A MAN has been jailed for 20 months for the historic sexual abuse of a child.

Lawrence Graham, 53, of High Road, South Woodford was sentenced last month at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

The incidents of abuse involved a then nine-year-old girl; and took place between 1976 and 1977.

Graham was sentenced for two counts of indecent assault, contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 1956. He received 20 months for each count; to run concurrently. He pleaded guilty to both counts.

Men treated like slaves

A GANGMASTER who treated seven men like slaves after they were recruited to work in London from Romania has been sentenced to seven years in jail.

David Lupu 29, of Lindley Road, Leyton, was found guilty of seven charges of holding a person in slavery or servitude after a five-week trial at Inner London Crown Court.

Detectives from the Met's Modern Slavery and Kidnap Unit began an investigation on 3 September 2017 after two Romanian men walked into Forest Gate police station and reported how they had been treated like slaves after coming over to the UK to work in the construction industry.

The men said they had come to

London after being promised a wage of £50 a day for work and a good standard of living accommodation.

In reality, when the men arrived in the UK they were taken to a property on Lindley Road in Leyton, where they were housed in poor, cramped conditions and their movements were monitored and controlled by Lupu.

Car used as a weapon

A MAN who attempted to use his car to carry out a violent assault has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

Woolwich Crown Court heard how Shaquille Wokoh, 24, from Croydon, deliberately mounted the pavement and drove at pedestrians in an attempt to do serious injury.

The jury had unanimously found him guilty of attempted grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, dangerous driving and assault by beating

Wokoh was sentenced to: six years for GBH; 18 months for dangerous driving; and, three months for assault by beating - all to run concurrently.

Detective dismissed

A DETECTIVE sergeant jailed for 16 counts of theft after stealing cash seized from people travelling out of Heathrow Airport has been dismissed from the Metropolitan Police Service.

A special case hearing was held for Detective Sergeant Michael Harrington, a financial investigator at Heathrow Airport, to answer allegations that his conduct amounted to a breach of standards of professional behaviour in respect of discreditable conduct, duties and responsibilities and honesty and integrity.

DS Harrington, who did not attend the hearing, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years imprisonment at Southwark Crown Court having previously pleaded guilty to 16 counts of theft of cash (around £75,000) from people travelling out of Heathrow Airport.

Child sex offender

AARON St Omer, 32, of Woodford Green, Essex, has been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment, with four years extended licence due to 'dangerousness'.

He was found guilty of the following offences by Snaresbrook Crown Court:

- Arranging/facilitating the commission of a child sex offence (Sexual Offences Act 2003)

- Supplying class A drugs
- The possession with intent to supply class A, B and C drugs
- The possession of an offensive weapon

St Omer was using online communication to get hold of a 12-year-old girl to rape and torture.

Telephone Preference Service fraud alert

FRAUDSTERS are cold-calling victims, falsely stating that they are calling from one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They call victims claiming to provide a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring service, which includes barring international call centres. During 2017, there were 493 Action Fraud Reports relating to this fraud.



Big Mac and Mozart

CLASSICAL music is being used to combat crime at the Shepherd's Bush branch of McDonald's which no tlong ago faced closure by police because it had become a meeting place for undesirables.

Read more at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Visit goo.gl/fXy6j1



Len joins up to the Santander Scam Avoidance School

King of the ballroom Len waltzes through school to beat fraudsters

LEN Goodman, the former ballroom champion and Strictly Come Dancing judge, knows what it's like to be hit in the pocket by scammers.

His daughter-in-law lost £16,000 and it made Bethnal Green born Len realise how easy it was for people to be duped.

And to make sure that the elderly and the vulnerable are protected from fraudsters Len, who runs a dance school in Dartford, Kent, signed up for a unique school.

Seventy three year old Len was signed up as an ambassador for Santander's SAS

scheme – Scam Avoidance School...and waltzed through the test.

Last month all 806 Santander branches across the country, including Essex, ran hour-long free lessons during the week and customers over 60 could just walk in and take part in a 45 minute workshop to help them spot the tell-tale signs of a scam that could leave them out of pocket.

Fraud is a big problem in the UK. According to stats from Financial Fraud Action UK, in 2016 £2million was lost EVERY DAY to scammers behind a host of sneaky schemes.

Len explained: "It seems like scammers are everywhere today, using all kinds of sneaky tricks to scam us over 60s – whether it's with emails, cold calls or even at the cash machine. But enough is enough.

"People of my age – we've got to have our wits about us, be more aware and more alert to scams so we can quickstep our way around the dangers and keep our bank accounts safe."

While Santander focused on the plight of older people falling prey to wily scammers, it may be younger people most at risk.

Turn to page 8

Sex crimes against kids soar by 30%

THE number of child sexual offences in London rocketed by 30 per cent to more than 1,000 crimes last year, new figures reveal today. Statistics show there were 1,200 offences of child sexual exploitation in the capital in 2017 - compared to 922 crimes in 2016. The figures were released as Barnardo's launched a pilot scheme to help child victims of sexual exploitation in London.



Asylum seeker attack

A GANG who launched a violent and unprovoked attack on Kurdish-Iranian asylum seeker Reker Ahmed have been jailed. Ahmed suffered a fractured spine, bleed on the brain and facial fractures.

Full story goo.gl/DZj5Se

More at goo.gl/nnQmKG

From page 7

Figures released by fraud prevention service Cifas last month revealed serious concerns about the number of under 21s being conned by scammers.

For example, identity fraud cases involving those under 21 rocketed by 30% in 2017, while there was also a 36% increase in cases of young people being used as money mules.

This is when a person allows their bank account to be used to help move criminal funds, and is a form of money laundering. It's a serious crime too, carrying a maximum prison sentence of 14 years.

Chris Ainsley, Head of Fraud Strategy at Santander's UK, commented: "Our SAS has been developed to address the fact that more needs to be done to help older people who may be vulnerable to falling victim to fraudsters and scammers.

"Our research has given us important insight into what really worries them, and of course our own data provides a picture of the kind of scams that they are falling for.

"We believe that education and public awareness is absolutely key to tackling what is currently one of the biggest threats to the security of people's finances.

"We hope that with a little bit of scam-avoidance knowledge, our over 60 pupils can feel empowered to stop scammers in their tracks."

Simon Dukes, chief executive of Cifas, says: "It is critical that we take every opportunity to educate young people on how to protect themselves from being either fraud victims or fraud perpetrators."

This follows a study last year from think tank Policy Network, commissioned by Royal Bank of



Len checks out an ATM machine to see it has been tampered with by criminals

Scotland, which found that those aged 18-24 are disproportionately more likely to fall victim to scams online.

This may seem surprising - after all this is the generation that has grown up with the internet and so may be expected to be pretty tech savvy.

However, there are concerns that this familiarity with the internet has led to complacency, with young people playing fast and loose with their personal details online.

Scammers don't care about the date on your birth certificate - they just want your cash. Thankfully there are plenty of simple steps you can take to keep their grubby hands at bay.



People of my age have got to have their wits about them and be alert to scams

Len Goodman

Keep safe when withdrawing cash

Here are some tips from Dr Paul Seager, fraud expert and psychology lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire:

- If in doubt, hang up - if you get a phone call out of the blue promising you some killer investment, then alarm bells should definitely go off. Don't worry about hanging up; it's not being rude, it's being safe.
- Curiosity killed the cat - don't play along with someone you suspect is a scammer, thinking you can outwit them. Just say no and remove yourself from the situation.
- Think twice before a status update - be very wary about the information you share on social media, while you should also never give personal or security information to someone who contacts you out of the blue whether by email, over the phone or face-to-face.
- Don't rush - if someone is putting you under pressure to make a quick decision on something, for example some form of investment, don't let them rush you. Put them off and get a second opinion from someone you trust.
- ANYONE can be a victim - nobody, whether young or old, is immune to being scammed. So always be on your guard.

PPI complaints end 29 August 2019. What will you do?

Visit fca.org.uk/ppi
or call 0800 101 88 00



FCA FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY

Rogue landlords to be hit in the pocket

ROGUE landlords who leave tenants living in appalling conditions will have to bring their homes up to scratch or pay tenants back up to a year's rent under new measures passed by Hackney Council. Powers signed off by the cabinet last month mean the landlords of more than 1,500 properties across the borough will need a licence requiring the homes to be of acceptable standard.



Scooter safety scheme

"LOCK, CHAIN AND COVER your scooter to make it less visible to thieves" is the message of the Met's new campaign urging riders of scooters, motorcycles and mopeds to use extra security.

Read full story at goo.gl/TeJzyN

Visit goo.gl/EEd6Pc



“

We have seen a rise in the number of ski chalet fraud reports over the last two years.”

Action Fraud

Ski lovers are on a slippery slope

IF you're planning a last minute skiing holidays then, Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) are warning of the threat posed by fraudsters.

In 2017, victims of ski chalet fraud lost a total of £231,875 to fraudsters. This is an average of £2016 per person and an eight percent increase on the year before.

Reports show that fraudsters are selling bogus ski chalet holidays to unsuspecting victims who are paying large deposits for a property. Once they make the payment they never hear from the property agent again.

In some instances, victims will turn up in the mountains to find their chosen chalet does not exist or is being used by other holidaymakers.

The vast majority of people who go on winter sports holidays have a trouble free experience, but for some, problems can occur.

Holidaymakers booking their flights, transfers and chalets online through separate suppliers are particularly vulnerable to offers that on the surface appears great value for money, but in reality are a scam.

Head of Action Fraud, Pauline Smith, said:

"We have seen a rise in the number of ski chalet fraud reports made over the past two years and the impact of falling victim to this type of fraud can be far greater than the financial loss,

"People can end up missing out on a well-deserved break and left with feelings of distrust which may stop them from booking online in the future. We hope that by raising awareness, people will feel better able to protect themselves

"We recommend that you are thorough when researching a last minute holiday and that you book directly with an airline or hotel, or through a reputable agent.

"When deciding to deal directly with a property owner or letting agent, be sure to ask them questions about the booking, room, location and area.

"We urge anyone who believes they have been a victim of fraud to report the incident to Action Fraud."

Minimise the risks of falling victim to ski holiday fraud:

■ **Do your research:** Don't just rely on one review - do a thorough online search to check the holiday company's credentials. If a company is defrauding people there is a good chance that consumers will post details of their experiences, and

warnings about the company.

■ **Stay safe online:** Check the web address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name – such as going from .co.uk to .org

■ **Pay safe:** Be cautious if you're asked to pay directly into a private individual's bank account. Paying by direct bank transfer is like paying by cash – the money is very difficult to trace and is not refundable. Wherever possible, pay by credit card or a debit card.

■ **Check paperwork:** You should study receipts, invoices as well as terms and conditions. Be very wary of any companies that don't provide any at all.

■ **Look for the logo:** Check whether the company is a member of a recognised trade body such as ABTA. If you have any doubts, you can verify membership of ABTA.

■ **Take out travel insurance:** Always make sure that you have adequate insurance in place. This can be brought directly from an insurance broker or the travel company.

■ **Get free expert advice:** For further advice on how to stay safe when booking or researching travel online, go to Get Safe Online.

People have suffered an injustice

“Faced with these very serious allegations it’s clearly important they are thoroughly investigated. What we have to avoid at all cost is that those people who have already suffered an injustice - suffered a loss, sometimes catastrophic loss as a result of banking malpractice at RBS - then suffer further loss if there is malpractice in the action to recover losses.”



Government alerted

MP Norman Lamb has written to Nicky Morgan, (left), chairwoman of the Treasury Select Committee, asking her to look at the case to get justice for the thousands of investors.

MP Norman Lamb, below

See below

Where has our money gone to?



THIS is the exclusive up-market area of Eaton Square, Belgravia, where wealthy Irish businessman Gerard Walsh lives and where properties sell for up to £6 million and over.

Sixty year old Walsh was celebrated as something of a hero by thousands of investors when he set up the RboS Shareholders Action Group and began legal action against the banking giants for tempting them into buying shares during the notorious Fred Goodwin era.

The Royal Bank of Scotland eventually agreed a £200 million pound settlement last year and it seemed a triumph for thousands of small investors over a ruthless and oppressive bank.

But, a The Mail on Sunday investigation has discovered investors are still waiting for their money. And there are troubling questions surrounding the action group itself.

The newspaper has revealed that Gerard Walsh, named as a fraudster by Jersey’s Royal Court – is trying to claim for himself millions of pounds through a secretive company

Lawyers say they have uncovered 90 million ‘phantom’ shares that formed part of

the action group’s claim, but never actually existed. This would have inflated the claim.

Now, MP Norman Lamb has written to Nicky Morgan, chairwoman of the Treasury Select Committee, asking her to look at the case and the Ministry of Justice and Financial Conduct Authority have been made aware of the situation.

Mr Lamb said: “Faced with these very serious allegations it’s clearly important they are thoroughly investigated.

“My acute interest is in securing justice for the victims of banking malpractice, and I am really concerned to hear of these allegations.

“What we have to avoid at all cost is that those people who have already suffered a loss, sometimes catastrophic loss as a result of banking malpractice at RBS, then suffer further loss if there is malpractice in the action to recover losses.”

London law firm Signature Litigation, which is handling the case, blames the RBS Shareholders Action Group and its co-founder Gerard Walsh, who it described as a ‘proven fraudster’

Lawyers have a number of concerns about the action group. These include questions

about a contract to pay £20 million to a company called Evalusafety.

The shareholder action group blames Signature Litigation for delays in making payouts to investors. It has lodged a complaint about Signature with the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

The SRA said: “We are aware that a complaint has been made and will assess it before deciding on any next steps.”

A spokesman for Signature Litigation said: “The Action Group company is not our client and has not shown us the complaint, which it has confirmed is not on behalf of any claimant.

“We view it as a bogus stunt from Mr Walsh and his associates. He is a proven fraudster who has been the main force behind its activities and dealings with us.”

Walsh duped the Nolan family – who run a haulage business in the UK and Ireland – in a multi-million pound investment scam. They were awarded £15 million damages by a judge.

Walsh was also stripped of an honorary fellowship awarded by Cardiff University after he promised a £2.5 million donation that never materialised.

Businesses backing Mayor's acid charter

TOWER Hamlets mayor John Biggs (right) has been drumming up support for his acid charter by signing up more than 100 businesses who pledge not to sell corrosive products to anyone under 18 and will demand proof of age from anyone who looks under 25. Tower Hamlets had the second highest rate of acid attacks in London in the past three years, with 98 offences.



£100,000 burglary spree

TWO men have each been sentenced to six years in prison for burglary offences in Waltham Forest, Haringey and Enfield that is believed to have netted them around £100,000.

Full story goo.gl/t7kB4d

Log onto goo.gl/hfky9S

THE City of London Police has expanded an innovative scheme that will introduce emergency trauma pack training to police officers in the Square Mile.

Sixty officers in total from the City of London will be trained to use the kits which will be stored at various locations across the City. Each pack is filled with specialist medical equipment to treat casualties in the event of a terrorist attack or major incident.

The locations of the packs are plotted on a map so that the police control room are able to make use of the packs in the event of a major incident.

The initial trauma pack scheme was launched last year. There are now almost 100 bags in various premises around the City and staff at all of these premises have received training in how to use them.

The kits contain around 40 items including face masks, batteries, ice packs, goggles, adhesive dressings, eye pads, and more.



'Help us stop the gang culture'

GANG violence has become an epidemic in London with 16 youngsters stabbed to death in January and February alone.

Many of those deaths were linked to gang crime and now Commander Jim Stokley - head of the Met's response to gang crime - talks about the ongoing work to manage the threats posed by gang violence.

He said: "This year violent crime, and its fatal consequences, has often been in the headlines for very real and sadly obvious reasons.

"The statistics speak for themselves, but those statistics represent young people - much loved sons, brothers, friends. We must never forget the human tragedy and cost.

"Broadly speaking, half of all gun crime is linked to gangs and around 20% of knife crime is too.

"The gang violence matrix is an intelligence tool that the Met uses to understand the threat of violence posed by gangs and also importantly to gang members.

"It really can save lives. We build a picture

based on intelligence - from police, our partner agencies, and from Londoners - our communities.

"The matrix is then used to target activity to reduce the risks of violence posed by or threatened against our young people. That can be any number of things from diversion schemes, including help with employment, to enforcement activity.

"I know that some people have been critical of the matrix and that is why it's important that we take every opportunity we can to explain what it is, and what it isn't.

"In the aftermath of the London riots of 2011, the Met realised that we did not understand as we should have which of London's young people were in gangs and which areas of London they were linked to.

"Since then we invested a lot of time in understanding who is likely to be a victim, or aggressor, or both.

"We use a very strict criteria - the threshold for including a person on the matrix is high; only where we have at least two corroborated pieces of tested intelligence are

people included. Inclusion is kept under constant review and whilst about 3,500 people are currently included, since 2012 over 4,000 people have been removed.

"This is often for very positive reasons: they have left the gang lifestyle; been successfully diverted from crime.

"In some cases, where we have the right level of evidence, they have been deported. But sadly there will be some who have died, including being murdered.

"The Met is determined that we will play our part in making sure our young people know they have choices, they can get support to turn away from gangs, that our intelligence is for their protection from harm as equally as it is for enforcement.

"What we want is to do all we can to stop young people from joining a gang in the first place. Londoners can help us - we all have a part to play.

"If you know of a youngster at risk of being drawn into a gang, or who is already part of one, please tell us."

Home and away



Fake whisky crackdown

MORE than 60 legal battles to protect Scotch whisky from unscrupulous counterfeiters are being fought around the world.

For the first time in its 106-year history, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has revealed the scale of its efforts to tackle fake products that cost genuine, home-grown brands millions of pounds in lost revenue each year.

The SWA revealed that it routinely hires private investigators to help identify the sale of counterfeit whiskies and gather evidence against those behind the scams.

In addition to scouring the internet for evidence of fakes, the SWA uses trusted investigators to carry out surveillance operations.

Kenny Gray, senior legal counsel at the SWA, said hundreds of reports of fake whisky are being investigated at any one time.

Clergy on theft charge

A GROUP of Catholic clergymen including a bishop have been arrested in Brazil, accused of embezzling £426,000 of church donations, funeral fees and fundraising cash found hidden behind a false wall.

The Bishop of Formosa, Jose Ribeiro, alongside five priests and three lay people were detained in prison in Goiás charged with stealing over two million reais (£426,000) from church funds.

When police raided one of the priests' homes, officers prised open a false wall in to find some £19,200 stored in plastic bags and hidden away.

The money was allegedly stolen over a three-year period from tithes, donations, fundraising events and from fees collected for ceremonies such as baptisms and weddings.

That's a close shave

A SELF-made Chinese businesswoman, originally handed the death penalty for cheating investors out of millions, has had her sentence reduced again to a 25-year jail term.

In 2007, Wu Ying was convicted of cheating investors out of 380 million yuan (\$60 million) from May 2005 to January 2007 in lending scams. Two years later, she was sentenced to death.

Her case had sparked heated public

Art case collapses because fakes were real

ONE of the biggest art fraud cases of recent years collapsed after a German court ruled that a collection of paintings worth up to £2.8m seized by the authorities as suspected forgeries is almost certainly genuine.

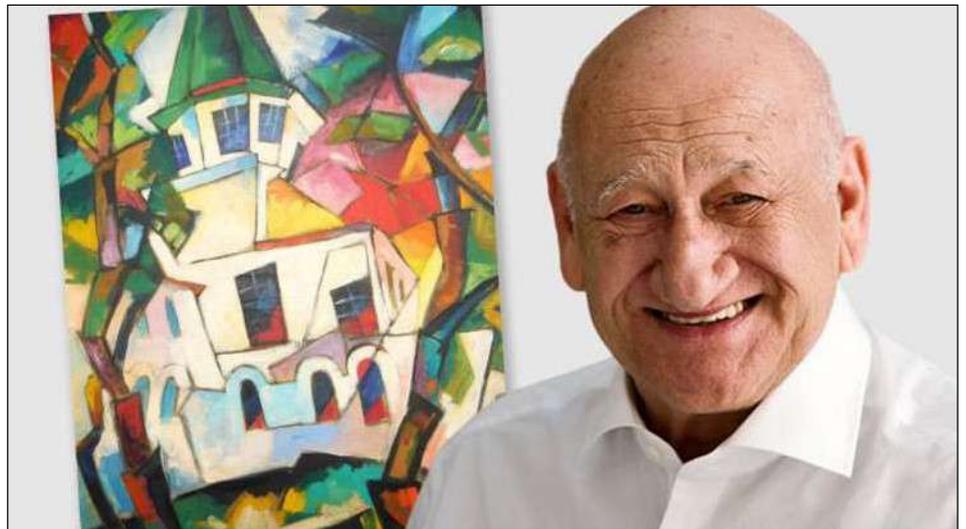
Itzhak Zarug, a 70-year-old Israeli art dealer who was arrested by German police and held for three years on charges of running an international fraud ring was cleared of all charges.

The court ordered that Mr Zarug be returned all but three of his collection of 1,800 Russian modernist paintings, which were seized by police in 2013.

In a deeply embarrassing judgement for the German authorities, the court ruled that a five-year international investigation had found no evidence to back claims the paintings were forged.

Mr Zarug personally built up one of the world's leading collections of Russian avant garde paintings by hunting down lost works in eastern Europe after the fall of communism.

Conservative German estimates put the value of the collection today at €750m (£660m) but experts say it could be worth as much as \$4bn (£2.8bn) if the art market accepts that the paintings are genuine.



Itzhak Zarug with one of his many genuine works of art

debate over China's fundraising system, which outlaws all forms of private lending, though some thought the original sentence was too harsh.

After a retrial in 2012, her sentence was reduced to death with a two-year reprieve. The sentence was then commuted to life imprisonment in 2014.

The Zhejiang native opened a hair salon in 1997 and later became the president of her own investment firm Bense.

Sunk by bitter rivals

CAMBRIDGE may have beaten Oxford in the boat race but now they have smashed by their bitter rivals...in the technology field.

Oxford University's quality of data protection is far better than Cambridge's, according to a leading cybersecurity firm.

RepKnight searched the dark web and found more than twice as many stolen Cambridge email addresses as Oxford email addresses.

As part of their campaign to raise awareness of hacked credentials, the firm scoured the dark web for stolen Oxbridge email addresses using their monitoring tool Breach Alert.

They found around 400,000 stolen addresses with the cam.ac.uk domain, and less than half that number with the ox.ac.uk domain.

The addresses were found across numerous dark web sites that serve as warehouses for stolen information. Collectively, those warehouses store "more than five billion stolen, leaked or hacked credentials."

Kensington probe new Grenfell fire fraud

KENSINGTON Council is investigating claims that a well known cash for crash fraudster used the Grenfell Tower disaster to claim more than £1million in aid and a new luxury flat for 15 members of his family. It has since emerged that only four names are believed to appear on the agreement for the flat despite numerous members of the Naqshbandi family claiming to live there.



Watch robbery appeal

DETECTIVES appealing for information after a man was robbed at gun point have released an image of the unique expensive watch that was stolen in Croydon last month.

Read more at goo.gl/2wKvzr

Visit goo.gl/wSt3S3

Tooting team scoop top Met award



PC Keith Palmer's courage and his dedication to duty in confronting a vicious terrorist is testimony to the bravery shown every day by our police.

Amber Rudd

BIG salute this month to the Tooting Safer Neighbourhoods Team who have been crowned London's team of the year.

The team won their trophy at the annual Met Excellence Awards held at Tooting Town Centre last month.

It was the first time in awards history that Londoners were given the opportunity to vote in two categories, the Safer Neighbourhoods Team of the Year and Special Constable of the Year.

Tooting, who were presented with their award by Mayor Sadiq Khan, were nominated for their efforts in tackling anti-social behaviour, drugs and knife crime and their work to resolve community tensions during the Muslim festival of Ashura.

Tooting was experiencing a drug and anti-social behaviour problem, which escalated into gang and youth violence.

The team identified eight gang members from a rap video posted on YouTube and they were prosecuted for 33 offences, including drug supply and pos-

session of weapons.

To target drugs and knife crime, the team executed more than 50 warrants and carried out numerous weapons sweeps, which recovered more than 100 knives and weapons, and more than £150,000 worth of drugs.

When community tensions and disorder arose following the local mosque's ban on the practice of self-flagellation during the Muslim festival of Ashura, the team arranged visits to the mosque.

During these visits, they addressed the thousands of worshippers who come to Tooting each year to participate, explained the ban and the mosque's desire to increase family attendance.

They also identified those intending to break the ban and supported the mosque in getting more than 30 injunctions against them.

As a result of the team's actions, attendance increased by 30 per cent, no-one broke the ban and the team received the Community PEACE award.

Scooping the Special Constable of the

Year Award was Shane Clarke, a Special Police Sergeant based in Barnet.

Shane volunteers on average 48 hours a week on top of working full time as a postman. He also manages the development of all the borough's special constables and trains new recruits.

It was an emotional moment at the ceremony when PC Keith Palmer was honoured with the Bravery of the Year award for his courageous actions outside the Houses of Parliament on March 22 last year when he sacrificed his life to protect his colleagues and members of the public.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said of the award: "PC Keith Palmer gave his life to protect the public. His courage and dedication to duty in confronting a vicious terrorist is testimony to the bravery shown every day by our police, who work so hard to keep us safe.

"It is absolutely fitting that PC Palmer and the outstanding bravery he showed have been honoured in this way."

“I am doing everything to be tough on crime”

“As Mayor, I’m doing everything possible in London not only to be tough on knife crime, but tough on the causes of knife crime too. City Hall has stepped up where the government is letting our young people down. We are providing unprecedented additional funds to the Met police, driving forward a full and comprehensive Knife Crime Strategy.”



Award for Trust

THE Flavasum Trust has been given £14,016 to deliver awareness-raising workshops to 4,000 pupils in 20 London schools in areas worst affected by knife crime.

Sadiq Khan’s pledge, see below

See below

Last month we highlighted how knife crime had got out of hand in London. Now Mayor Sadiq Khan has pledged funds to tackle the growing problem on the capital’s streets and promises to be tough on knife crime.



Khan’s cash to tackle knife crime

NINE community and grassroots anti-knife initiatives across London have received a share of £250,000 from City Hall as part of the Mayor’s comprehensive strategy to tackle violence and knife crime across the capital, with a further £1.15m to be awarded later this spring.

The successful groups work with young people to help prevent and protect them from knife crime.

They include a boxing club in Brixton, music training in Hackney and Tower Hamlets, and support activities in Croydon, Southwark, and Lambeth.

The funding is part of Sadiq Khan’s

comprehensive Knife Crime Strategy published in June 2017, which included a £250,000 Knife Crime Community Seed Fund. Since then, Sadiq has provided an additional £1.15m for these projects through his new Young Londoners Fund, taking the total to £1.4m.

The first nine projects to benefit are:

- **Croydon BME Forum** - £49,736 to deliver training and support to five grassroots organisations who provide activities for people affected by knife crime in Croydon, reaching at least 60 people
- **Somali Relief and Islamic cultural centre** - £6,337 to deliver five community

consultation events for 100 Somali parents and young people in Southwark to raise awareness of knife crime

■ **Hammersmith and Fulham Anti-Tribalism Movement** - £31,173 for the Anti-Tribalism Movement to work in partnership with Council of Somali Organisations, delivering the ‘Quit Knives Saves Lives Desistance Programme’.

■ **Mancunian Way** - £8,650 to deliver an outreach project from a community centre reaching around 100 young estate residents engaged in or at risk of knife crime in Hackney

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MOPAC contribution is a positive step

“These small charities and organisations face many challenges and are often run by volunteers and goodwill. It is positive that MOPAC recognises that community organisations are well-placed to tackle knife crime and has made funding available to support a range of services and interventions in priority areas across London.”



Jail for knife attack

COLLINS Adesoji and Bujawne Brooks (left) have both been jailed for thirteen years for two serious knife attacks that were committed within an hour of each other.

Rosie Tharp, London Community Foundation

Full story goo.gl/umHAcq

From page 14

- **Dwaynatics CIC** - £49,780 to provide boxing and health activities to 192 young people in Lambeth and run a series of knife crime workshop,
- **The Flavasum Trust** - £14,016 to deliver awareness-raising workshops to 4,000 pupils in 20 London schools in areas worst affected by knife crime, including Newham, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets.
- **Raw Material Music and Media Education** - £34,498 to support 50 young people in Brixton who are offenders, or are at risk of offending, to engage in creative activities and training and employment workshops over 40 weeks
- **WISE Youth Trust** - £20,000 to deliver workshops, music production and digital media skills courses for 150 young people in Hackney and Tower Hamlets
- **ML Community Enterprise** - £32,664 to deliver a therapeutic support project for 24 young male and female victims of crime and violence in Lambeth,

During the development of the Mayor’s Strategy and his new anti-knife crime campaign, ‘London Needs You Alive’, many of the young people consulted said they want to be engaged with by people from their communities who they know and trust, and who have experienced some of the same issues and challenges around knife crime.

With that in mind, the community funding has been boosted to £1.4m by the Mayor’s Young Londoners Fund, created by Sadiq to support education, sport and cultural activities for young people to help tackle knife crime and youth violence, which has been rising across the country since 2014.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said “As Mayor, I’m doing everything possible in London not only to be tough on knife crime, but tough on the causes of knife crime too. City Hall has stepped up where the government is letting our young people down.

“We are providing unprecedented additional funds to the Met police, driving forward a full and comprehensive Knife

Crime Strategy and our new Young Londoners Fund will help many young people to thrive, prosper and make the right choices to avoid being sucked into a life of crime.

“Prevention is the most effective tool we have, and with the funds announced today, these community and grass-roots projects will be able to help root out violence within our communities and give more young Londoners the skills, support and aspirations they need to turn away from crime and fulfil their potential.”

Pastor Lorraine Jones, Dwaynatics, said: “We are thrilled and extremely excited to have been granted funding from the Mayor’s Community Seed Fund.

“This funding will go directly towards our new Errol Christie Awards initiative which will tackle the issues surrounding knife crime through a number of workshops, supported by sports programmes through boxing from which Dwaynatics was founded.

“The legacy of my son Dwayne Simpson lives on”

The Mayor’s Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) will work with the successful bidders to provide mentoring and support, and to assist in building relationships with Safer Neighbourhood Boards. The Knife Crime Community Seed Fund is being managed by London Community Foundation.

Rosie Tharp, London Community Foundation, said: “We are delighted that MOPAC has committed funding to support the voluntary and community sector to respond to knife crime.

“These small charities and organisations face many challenges and are often run by volunteers and goodwill.

“It is positive that MOPAC recognises that community organisations are well-placed to tackle knife crime and has made funding available to support a range of services and interventions in priority areas across London.”



Pastor Lorraine Jones whose Dwaynatics group will put their funding towards the Errol Christie Awards initiative to tackle knife crime

Police on standby to prevent election fraud

SPECIALIST anti-election fraud training will be given to 620 Tower Hamlets police officers ahead of next month's local elections. The Met, The Electoral Commission and council officials are looking to avoid a repeat of the 2014 vote, which was marred by the illegal and corrupt practices of disgraced former mayor Lutfur Rahman. Signatures and date of births will be closely monitored



Blocking scam calls

TALKTALK have taken action to stop users being plagued by scam calls by introducing Callsafe. The service is free to customers and works with all TalkTalk landline phones.

Read more at goo.gl/SvPNed

www.talktalk.co.uk



Left: Student Martine Vik Magnussen and, right, Farouk Abdulhak, who is wanted in connection with her murder 10 years ago



Murder suspect hiding in the Yemen

DETECTIVES have launched a tenth anniversary appeal to convince Farouk Abdulhak that he should give himself up and stand trial for murder.

On March 14, 2008, the partially concealed body of 23-year-old Norwegian student Martine Vik Magnussen, was found in rubble in the basement of flats in Great Portland Street, Westminster

Within hours, Abdulhak flew out of the country and has since been hiding in the Yemen, shielded by friends and family.

To mark the anniversary, police have released CCTV footage showing Abdulhak, with Martine as they both left Maddox nightclub in Mayfair.

This footage captures her out celebrating end of term exams, appearing happy and relaxed in the early hours of March 14, 2008.

A post-mortem examination gave cause of death as compression to the neck. She had also been raped.

An inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court on November 24, 2010 recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

An investigation was launched by detectives and Farouk Abdulhak identified as a suspect; he had fled the UK to the Yemen within hours of Martine's disappearance.

Despite extensive efforts and numerous appeals by detectives over the last decade, he continues to refuse to return to the UK.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Partridge, of the Homicide and Major Crime Command, said: "A decade on and our ambition remains the same - to obtain justice for Martine.

"With this CCTV now in the public domain, our hope is that the case will not fade from public attention, keeping the spotlight firmly focused upon Farouk Abdulhak.

He fled to another country in the pur-

suit of continuing with his life and today he remains sheltered and protected in the Yemen.

"For ten years this person has been avoiding our requests to return to the UK and assist the investigation.

"We have reached an important milestone, therefore this is the right time to once again appeal personally to Abdulhak to return to the UK.

"He was a guest in our country when the murder of Martine occurred and I believe the responsible thing to do is return.

"If he thought that this case would diminish, or that his wanted status would change over time, then this year's anniversary demonstrates our resolve and that of the Magnussen family to continue to seek justice for Martine."

Anyone with any information can contact the incident room on 020 8358 0300 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.