

# Thieves caught on camera

**POLICE have been using 'covert vehicles' to entrap hapless car thieves in Blackheath.**

Police pinpointed vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour as the problems blighting the area after meeting residents.

Sergeant Chris Nicklin said: "Officers from the Blackheath

neighbourhood team are working hard to identify vehicle crime offenders and bring them to justice.

"The neighbourhood team has also used covert 'Capture Cars' that appear normal, but actually have recording equipment inside.

"This means that when the cars are attacked by criminals, the offence is recorded and a

quick identification of the offender is made."

The problem of anti-social behaviour caused by youngsters drinking alcohol is also being clamped down upon across Blackheath.

Sgt Nicklin said: "The local licensing officer has been visiting licensed premises and stressing the responsibility they have with regards to not

supplying alcohol to underage people.

"Patrols have now been increased and officers will be targeting known offenders in a bid to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.

"Officers have recently received reports of anti-social behaviour being caused in Blackheath town centre.

"The neighbourhood team

will be focusing efforts in this area to detect and deter suspected offenders during the winter months."

The police are also tackling booze-fuelled teenage shinners in Britannia Park after complaints from residents.

Sgt Nicklin added: "Recently, a large number of youths have been gathering in and around Britannia Park causing anti-social behaviour.

"Police, PCSOs, street wardens and park wardens have begun a highly visible patrol strategy around the park in order to disrupt these gather-

ings, confiscate alcohol and reassure the public.

"Officers are working hard to deter and reduce anti-social behaviour in Britannia Park."

He added: "The neighbourhood team is working closely with a number of partner agencies to patrol the park, and Youth Services are also offering positive activities for young people on a weekly basis."

Residents discussed the latest issues with police at the Neighbourhood Forum meeting last night (Wednesday) at Blackheath Methodist Church, High Street.



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Saeed Chafekar, manager of the post office, said: "We have had lots of feedback about people complaining about

having to pay £1.80 at cash-points in local shops so we thought we would install one in the shop.

"There is not a free cash machine for quite a distance from Windmill Hill so hopefully people will make use of it."



## Firm to star in ads for IT giants

A Halesowen company has been chosen by computer giants Microsoft to feature in its new advertising campaign.

Simon Washbrook (*above*), Director of Alkaline Design and Marketing, will appear in a video which he hopes will put his company in the limelight throughout the business world.

He said: "It is an amazing opportunity to be partnering

with Microsoft on this campaign – and especially to know that it will help make a difference to so many small businesses, who often struggle to meet sales targets and then don't have time to work on their business."

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