

Camera shy

June 2009

Newsletter



Cottages in Ampthill

This issue features some scenes from Ampthill in Bedfordshire, which has five cameras and is a little over 15 miles distant from the control room.

ATM Crime

A dramatic car chase by the police, in which two men were caught and arrested, was the result of a controller noticing some suspicious activity on the part of a male who got out of the passenger door of a car parked near the ATM cash machine outside Barclays Bank in Knebworth. The male did not withdraw any money but appeared to be trying to attach a device, which got dropped on the floor and then re-attached. The controller advised the police who arrived on the scene and gave chase to the men who tried to escape in their car.

In another incident in Letchworth reported by the police, a loop had

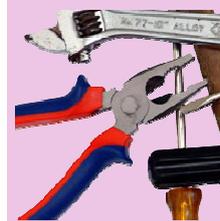
been put in a bank's cash point ATM machine. Cameras were used to search the area, but the loop had been removed from the machine by this time.

Many crooks have moved on from plastic loops and are using increasingly sophisticated gadgets to obtain your card details including pin-hole cameras stuck onto machines. They might be sitting in a car nearby with a laptop computer linked to the camera, where they can see the images of their victims' cards and the ATM keypad. One piece of card crime prevention advice given by the police is to use your free hand to cover the PIN pad to prevent anyone seeing your PIN as you key it in. There is more advice at:

www.cardwatch.org.uk

Good Engineering!

The Partnership's cameras have been maintained by the same small team of engineers for some years now. They work closely with our controllers to keep the cameras in working order and repair any faults that develop. One of those engineers went the extra mile at the beginning of June. While he was at one of our camera locations he spotted a very distraught woman, who it transpired had lost her 10 year old child. The engineer phoned the control room and the controllers began a camera search for the child using the description given to them by our engineer. The child was located by this team effort, which also involved a Police Community Safety Officer who finally found the child in a nearby Tesco's store.



Questions or ideas? E-mail: CameraShy@SQ4.org.uk



A street scene in Amphill, Bedfordshire

Diabetic in Danger

The control room's radio links enable CCTV controllers to work closely with other services including the Police Community Safety Officers (PCSO's). When a controller noticed a male slumped over on a bench in Queensway Stevenage he contacted the police control room and a PCSO found the man, who appeared to be diabetic. An ambulance was called and attended to the man, who was taken to hospital.

Working Together

Communications between the CCTV control room, the police and the retailer's network led to the arrest of a drunk driver in Hitchin. The police requested CCTV to look out for a silver car being driven on its wheel rims in Hitchin, in the early hours of the morning. Next, the control room received a call from a Public House in Hitchin, outside which the car had stopped. A female driver was identified and the police were informed and arrived at the scene to arrest the drunken driver



In another incident in Hertford, the control room received a "PubWatch" call when a male who had been ejected from a pub for being drunk and abusive had returned .

He was abusive to the staff again, before being finally ejected once more. The controllers then heard on AirWaves, that a male matching the description given by PubWatch was being abusive in one of the restaurants in St Andrews Street, where he flashed one of the female staff before leaving.

This drunkards path was then monitored to another public house and then on to the Café Rouge, where he was refused entry. His final move was on to the Hertford House Hotel where the police stopped and arrested him.

Affray in Baldock

An Airwaves radio message reported a male fighting in the White Horse pub in Baldock. The man had to be restrained before being arrested by police for criminal damage and harassment. The man was of very large build and police van had to be requested to convey him safely from the scene.

Airwaves

The Airwaves Radio System is a sophisticated communications system for the emergency and other public safety ('blue light') services. The system's unique, multi-functional



handset can double as a digital radio and mobile phone in one - and will also function as a data terminal. Officers can also talk directly to each other without the need to pass messages via the police control room.