

GOT A STORY?
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By **Steve Dew-Jones**
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A NEW music festival took over Shepherd's Bush on Saturday, with 30 bands attracting more than 1,000 fans to four local venues.

Guillemots, Peggy Sue, Fink and Cloud Control were just a few of the headline acts at the four sites – Gingitk, Shepherds Bar, The Goldhawk and St Stephen's Church – each of which is a short walk from Shepherd's Bush Green.

Organised by the Communion record label, which runs a venue in Notting Hill and was founded five years ago with help from Mumford & Sons' Ben Lovett, Bushstock aims to rival festivals in other parts of London, such as the Camden Crawl in the north and Stag and Dagger in the east.

"It's great for the area and gives the place a real sense of community," said Tom Aldridge, 23, a Shepherd's Bush resident and festival-goer.

"It's just like the other festivals I've been to, like Camden Crawl, Great

New festival goes west



■ **BUSHSTOCK:** (Main) Crowd's pack out Shepherd's Bar (top left) The Welcome Committee plays The Godhawk (photos by John Shepherd/Sheepdog) (clockwise from top left)

Escape in Brighton and Dot-to-Dot in Nottingham, where you're always on the move throughout the day, going from one venue to the next. It's a good set-up and it's slightly surreal to have it on my doorstep, but definitely nice."

Fellow fan Louise Grange, 36, who lives off Shepherd's Bush Green, said:

"We've had such nice weather that we've spent a lot of time sitting outside and not listening to music – if it had been pouring with rain we'd probably have seen a lot more bands."

"But all the bands we have seen have been great and it's nice to see inside some of these venues. I'd never

even been to Shepherds Bar before." Bushstock was originally planned for May 7 but was moved to June 4 after police advised against holding the festival on the same day as a football match between Leeds United and QPR.

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News in brief

Society's AGM

HAMMERSMITH: The Hammersmith Society's annual meeting takes place at Burlington Danes Academy, in Wood Lane, on Wednesday, June 22, at 7pm. Light refreshments are available from 6.30pm and all are welcome.

Open studios

HAMMERSMITH/BROOK GREEN: The studios of 55 painters, potters, printers, sculptors, photographers, jewellers, wood carvers and stained glass workers – including those of Hammersmith and Brook Green residents Noonie Minoque and Keith Davidson – will be open to the public between June 17 and 19. Visit www.artistsathome.net for details.

Benefits fraud

SHEPHERD'S BUSH: Ferideh Kazemzadeh, 39, of Uxbridge Road, was convicted of claiming nearly £30,000 in housing and council tax benefits from 2005, on the basis she was a single parent in receipt of state benefits.

But the Department for Work and Pensions found she actually lived with a partner who had a job earning more than the threshold of £16,000.

She was sentenced to six months in jail, suspended for two years. She was also told to do 150 hours' unpaid work.



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Friday, May 20, 2011

Fraudster is convicted

A woman who swindled Hammersmith & Fulham Council out of almost £15,000 has narrowly avoided being sent to prison.

Catherine Hennessy claimed housing and council tax benefit for a flat in Osram Court, Hammersmith, despite the fact that she was subletting the property and had purchased a home in Bognor Regis with the father of her children.

In September 2008, Hammersmith and Fulham Council's corporate anti fraud service received contact from the local Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) fraud office in Fulham who had information that Hennessy, 41, was living and working in the Bognor Regis area.

When interviewed under caution Hennessy admitted subletting the Osram Court flat that she was the social tenant of. She also admitted failing to declare changes that would affect her benefits.

Hennessy pleaded guilty to four charges of benefit fraud against Hammersmith and Fulham Council, four charges of benefit fraud against the DWP and a charge of fraud against the housing association.

On Tuesday, May 3, at Isleworth Crown Court, Hennessy was sentenced to three months in prison, suspended for two years. She was also told to do 150 hours of unpaid work to be completed within two years.

Cllr Greg Smith, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, said:

"Benefit fraud will simply not be tolerated in Hammersmith & Fulham. Our corporate anti fraud service work round the clock to catch benefit cheats and the message to anyone who is considering acting in such an unscrupulous fashion is that you will be caught and brought to justice. Subletting council and housing association flats has very serious implications, leaving people in temporary accommodation - when they could be settled in a social tenancy and we will continue to crackdown on this kind of behaviour."

In total, she dishonestly claimed £12,332 of housing benefit, £1,989 of council tax benefit and £6,665 from the Department for Work and Pensions.

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Jail for benefit cheat who bought a house

Fraudster claimed money was a family saving scheme

by **Adam Courtney**
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A BENEFITS cheat who bought a house using money he stole has been jailed for 22 months.

Ali Adan, 36, formerly of Coningham Road, Shepherd's Bush, was originally stopped for taxi touting in Stoke Newington in November 2009 but as police questioned him he let his car roll away, breaking an officer's finger.

He was arrested and bailed but then moved house. Police found he was claiming housing and council tax benefits while declaring he had no savings and was unemployed.

In fact, he had 13 bankaccounts, of which he had declared only two to Hammersmith and Fulham Council.

He had built his savings over a long period, moving thousands of pounds through his accounts.

It was also found that money withdrawn from his account was

paid into an account in the name of his brother. Officers finally caught up with him in Liverpool in March this year.

When confronted by officers he pretended to be his brother and was found to have keys that were for another Liverpool address in his brother's name, bought shortly after Adan had paid £29,000 into his bank account.

Adan was arrested and brought back to Fulham and was subsequently charged and remanded in custody.

He claimed the laundered money in his accounts was not his and that he was holding it for family members as part of a Hagbad, a traditional Somali savings scheme used by the family so that his brother could buy a house.

On Wednesday, September 21 at Isleworth Crown Court, a jury found Adan guilty of laundering money obtained through criminal conduct.

He was sentenced to eight months for the benefits fraud, a further six months for the money

laundering and six months' imprisonment for actual bodily harm on the police officer.

He was given a further two months' imprisonment for taxi touting and breaching his bail. The sentences will run consecutively.

He was also disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Detective Sergeant Simon Rogers, from Hammersmith and Fulham's Drugs and Payback Unit, said: "This is a fantastic result, which once again highlights the effectiveness of the Payback Unit working in tandem with the Drugs Squad and Corporate Anti Fraud Service.

"The tenacity, commitment and determination displayed by my officers throughout this complex investigation was exemplary.

"This should send a clear message that benefit cheats in Hammersmith and Fulham will be pursued and brought to justice."

A confiscation order was issued in an attempt to recover the £26,000 Adan managed to accrue in benefits.

Daisy Trust celebrates 30th anniversary



■ **LANDMARK:**
Pepita Stonor, Frances Stainton and Sandy Cahill at the Daisy Trust fair. Contributed

A FULHAM charity celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Hurlingham Club as more than 100 people enjoyed a gift fair with a live jazz band.

The Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, Frances Stainton, opened the proceedings for the Daisy Trust alongside Sandy Cahill, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Hammersmith and Fulham.

The Daisy Trust raises money to give in grants to charities and voluntary organisations.

Representatives of more than 70 businesses from across the country set up their stalls at the club, in Raneleigh Gardens, on Monday, for the trust's major fundraiser of the year.

The participating companies donated a percentage of their takings on the day to the charity.

"This is a truly special day for the

Daisy Trust as it celebrates its 30th anniversary after going from strength to strength," said Mrs Stainton.

"Today sees the largest fair ever to take place and personally I think it is a wonderful opportunity for me to get a head start on buying my Christmas presents."

Entertainment in the evening was provided by the Simona Bibi Jazz Trio.

The trust's chairwoman, Pepita Stonor, said: "I would like to thank all the stallholders, the Hurlingham Club and everyone who supported us on this most special of days as we celebrate a huge landmark for our organisation."

The charity has previously donated money to the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation and Volunteer Reading Help. For more information, go to www.daisytrust.org.

MS RUBINA MALLICK
DOB 23/10/54
114 FARM LANE
FULHAM
SW6 1QH

A joint investigation between the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBH&F) established that Ms Mallick held savings in excess of £100,000 which she had not declared to the DWP or the local authority.

Ms Mallick was interviewed under caution by investigators from LBH&F and the DWP. During the interview Ms Mallick was shown copies of her own bank statements showing the capital in excess of £100,000. Ms Mallick maintained that the money was not hers, but belonged to two of her sisters following the death of her father.

Ms Mallick was also shown a copy of her father's will, which showed that she was a recipient to 25% of the estate which was in excess of £300,000. Despite this, she continued to maintain throughout the interview that the savings in her bank accounts did not belong to her.

The joint investigation established that Ms Mallick was overpaid Council Tax Benefit totalling £4113.53 and Income Support totalling £5681.05.

Ms Mallick was charged with offences under section 111 of the social security Administration Act and pleaded not guilty at West London Magistrates Court on 06/05/09.

On 30/11/09 a trial took place and Ms Mallick was found guilty on all counts.

On 03/12/09 Ms Mallick was sentenced to a 12 months community punishment order and was required to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £500 costs.

MS TRACEY GIFFEN
DOB 10/08/57
2 GRANVILLE PLACE
FULHAM
SW6 2HB

Following a referral from a Housing Benefit assessor an investigation by CAFS established that Ms Giffen was in receipt of benefit while not declaring income from full-time employment.

She was in receipt of Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Income Support under the name Tracey Giffen while at the same time and was working as a driver for the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham since 2003 under the name of Tracey Irvine.

She had used her correct National Insurance number (NINO) for her benefit claims but had altered her NINO by one digit on her employment application form.

As a consequence of Ms Giffen's dishonest actions, the investigation established that Ms Giffen had been overpaid Income support of £27,057.73 , Housing Benefit £187.29 and Council Tax Benefit £57.33.

Ms Giffen was interviewed under caution by Investigation officers from the LBH&F and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) ON 24/10/07. Ms Giffen gave a no comment interview.

Ms Giffen was charged with offences under section 111 of the social Security Administration Act and the matter was initially heard at West London Magistrates Court on 09/09/09. Ms Giffen elected for a crown court hearing.

Ms Giffen pleaded guilty to all charges on 09/10/09 and was sentenced at Wimbledon Crown Court on 18/12/09 to 52 weeks imprisonment suspended for two and a half years. She was ordered to pay costs totalling £750 to be paid within 3 months.

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Father and son jailed following multi-agency investigation

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A father and son have been jailed for a total of 30 months for possessing thousands of pounds, believed to be the profits of drug dealing.

54 year-old Lucky Ubiribo, of Margaret House, Hammersmith W6, and 33 year-old Demis Ubiribo of Norbrooke Street, W12 were sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court on 25 July 2011, following a 12 month investigation by officers from Hammersmith and Fulham Drugs Squad, Payback Unit and the local authority's Corporate Anti-Fraud Service.

At an earlier hearing, Demis Ubiribo had pleaded guilty to possession of two separate amounts of cash, totalling £2161.98, which he admitted was criminal property. He received two nine month prison sentences to run consecutively and a confiscation order.

Lucky Ubiribo pleaded guilty to possessing £7000 cash, which was said by the prosecution to be the profits of Demis' drug dealing. He was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for possession of criminal property.

He received a further 12 months imprisonment to run consecutively for a separate conviction for possession of criminal property involving a fraudulent notice on the internet in 2008 advertising a shipment of scrap metal for sale. A Chinese company paid Lucky a \$34,000 advance fee for this shipment, which never arrived.

Lucky Ubiribo also received a three month concurrent sentence of imprisonment for possessing a false driving licence. He also pleaded guilty to benefit fraud. However, no separate sentence was given.

Lucky Ubiribo's two wives, Gladys and Joys Ubiribo also faced criminal charges. 51 year-old Joys Ubiribo pleaded guilty earlier this year to benefit fraud and received a 40 hour community order with a 30-day activity requirement. Gladys Ubiribo, aged 50 years, pleaded not guilty to fraudulently claiming £28,000 of housing benefit. She was found guilty at trial and will be sentenced in early September.

Confiscation investigations have now commenced in respect of Lucky, Joys and Gladys to establish how much they have benefited from crime and how much they can pay back.

In August 2010, officers from Hammersmith and Fulham Drugs Squad carried out a raid at the home of Demis Ubiribo, who had been jailed in 2005 for possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Police seized several thousand pounds in cash along with several false documents in the name of his father, Lucky. Demis Ubiribo was arrested on suspicion of money laundering.

A simultaneous raid was carried out at Margaret House, Queen Caroline Street, W6. £7,000 cash was seized and Lucky Ubiribo was arrested on suspicion of possessing criminal property

Further investigations found that the £7000 cash seized during the raids was contaminated with high levels of cannabis and heroin.

In December 2010, whilst on bail for money laundering, Demis Ubiribo was stopped by police in his car late at night. He ran away but was detained and found to be in possession of another £1000 in cash.

Following a thorough multi-agency investigation, it was established that Lucky

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Ubiribo had two wives and families, one living in Margaret House, W6 and the other in Norbrooke Street, W12. He had married both women in Nigeria and had children by them both.

The investigation showed that Lucky had falsely declared to the local authority that he only earned £3800 a year. Gladys was accused of not revealing that Lucky had lived with her till 2010 when it is thought he had been there since as early as 2005, as bank accounts and businesses were registered there during the period mentioned.

Between December 2010 and January 2011, Lucky, Demis, and Lucky's two wives Gladys and Joys Ubiribo were all charged with conspiracy to launder money. Lucky and Demis Ubiribo were also charged with possession of criminal property. Joys Ubiribo was also charged with housing benefit fraud. Lucky and Gladys Ubiribo were charged with benefit fraud.

Due to the seriousness of this case, Demis and Lucky were remanded in custody because of the perceived risk of them absconding.

Detective Sergeant Simon Rogers from Hammersmith & Fulham's Drugs Squad said: "This was a very complex and protracted investigation which took place over a 12 month period. For years the family instilled fear amongst the community and rival criminals portraying themselves as untouchable. In these fiscal times they bled the benefits system while leading a lavish lifestyle dealing drugs and laundering the profits. This investigation highlights the level of criminality that the Drug Squad & Payback Unit are continuing to target in the stance against drug supply on this borough.

"I would like to personally thank both departments for all the hard work, determination and professionalism displayed throughout this enquiry. "

Detective Sergeant Richard Gilbert from Hammersmith & Fulham's Pay Back

Unit said: "The multi-agency approach has brought this case to a successful conclusion. The sentences reflect the courts' attitude to money laundering. My unit's work continues into the finances of Lucky and Joys to ensure that they are made to payback their benefit from crime. Demis has already lost his unlawfully earned cash."

2/8/2011 RG

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