



Bromley Borough Police

NEWS RELEASE

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Apollo reunites phone with owner

A mobile phone owner has been reunited with his phone thanks to the Apollo handheld scanner after officers recovered it from a youth arrested for a public order offence.

On 12 November at 1130hrs three youths were detained by PCSOs from Bromley Police's Safer Transport Team in Hayes Lane, Bromley. They were subsequently arrested for using words and behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress under section 5 of the Public order Act 1988.

Amongst the property recovered from the youths was a Samsung mobile phone. Using the Apollo hand held mobile scanner the mobile phone was checked and it showed that the mobile phone had previously been blocked and had been reported stolen by a male in St Mary Cray on 12 September 2009. Further investigation into the matter resulted in the 16 year old brother of one of the youths being arrested on 30 November on suspicion of theft by finding. The youth fully admitted the offence and was issued with a formal reprimand. The mobile phone has been reunited with its grateful owner.



PC Dave Catlow from Bromley Police's Safer Transport Team said: "The Apollo scanner gives us the opportunity to quickly identify stolen or misappropriated mobile phones and ipods, returning them to their rightful owners and holding those responsible to account. Criminals involved in dishonestly handling or acquiring such items will continue to be targeted - I want them to travel in fear of being stopped on our buses, as it is our priority to keep Bromley safe".

The Apollo scanner is a handheld scanning device which allows officers to check mobile phones, laptops, ipods and bikes within seconds to establish whether they have been stolen. The software instantly scans the IMEI barcode inside the back of a mobile phone, or registration number on other equipment, and then checks it against the National Mobile Phone Property Register (www.nmpr.com) to see if it is registered as stolen. It's ideal for officers on the beat, as it has GSM/GPRS EDGE, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth wireless communications. Its in-built high-performance imager provides sophisticated bar code scanning, as well as image and signature capture capabilities.

