

BEWARE OF DEBIT CARD SKIMMERS

It is now 20 years since the debit card was introduced in the UK. Since its introduction by Barclays in 1987, the debit card has transformed the way we pay for goods and services. There are 41 million debit card holders in the UK today (84 per cent of the adult population) with 68 million debit cards in circulation.

Although CHIP and PIN has helped in the battle against card fraud, taxi drivers should take extra care with their debit and credit cards, especially when re-fuelling their taxis. The editor of Taxi Globe, Sandie Goodwin, was shocked recently to find her bank account had been drained by someone in Cape Town South Africa. "This was despite the fact the debit card was still in my possession and always had been," said Sandie. The bank continues to investigate the fraud and have said that in probability the card concerned had been skimmed at a petrol station.

Criminals are still targeting cards with the aim of copying the magnetic



stripe data. They use this data to create counterfeit magnetic stripe cards that can potentially be used in countries that haven't upgraded to chip and PIN. This has caused the increase in fraud abroad losses over the last 12 months.

A number of measures are currently in place to tackle card-not-present and online fraud, such as an automated cardholder address verification and card security code system, and MasterCard SecureCode and Verified by Visa (www.mastercard.com/uk/securecode and www.visaurope.com/verified). The banking industry is working on the next generation of fraud prevention solutions to help tackle fraud in non face-to-face transactions (i.e. e-banking and internet and telephone shopping).

When you are using a credit or debit card, make sure the card is always in your sight and put your spare hand across the terminal to ensure no-one can see your PIN.

NEW CLOCK TICKS IN CITY OF LONDON

A rare, new public clock has been unveiled by the Lord Mayor John Stuttard. The "wandering hour" Newgate Street Clock has a two-metre diameter dial and is reckoned to be the only clock of its kind in the world. It is the first time in 12 years that a public clock has been installed in the Square Mile.

The clock is situated 200 metres from St Paul's Cathedral, opposite the Stock Exchange. The construction of the clock coincides with the 375th anniversary of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and so bears the Company's arms in its dial's centre. The project is part of the City of London's Street Scene Challenge and horologist Joanna Migdal was enlisted to design the clock and raise funds to cover its costs. The design draws its inspiration from the work of Joseph Windmills, a 17th century clockmaker whose first workshop was at the junction of Newgate and St Martin's le Grand in the City. The wandering hour dial was devised for domestic clocks in the mid-17th century and immediately adopted by a few leading London makers. In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the design was adapted for use in a few exclusive London-made pocket watches, including a group by Windmills. The hour numerals pass in turn across an aperture in the upper part of the circular dial, pointing as they travel, to the minutes. As a new hour rises, so the old one sets. It has a stainless steel dial, makes use of modern technology, such as LEDs and GPS signal correction and is wind and weather-proof.

David Poole, Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, said: "This is an outstanding opportunity for the Company to commemorate its 375th Anniversary. The role of the Company and the craft of clockmaking have changed over the years but we can today feel justifiably proud of both the design and manufacture of this unique timekeeper." The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers was founded in 1631 to regulate and encourage the art and mystery of watch and clock making and its related skills. The Company still includes a majority of members who are involved in horology and through its Museum and Educational Trust it maintains the Clockmakers Museum and Library, next to the mediaeval Guildhall.



HEATHROW CABBIE CHARITY CLIMB

Heathrow cab driver, Ian Hay, has raised over £2000 for the British Heart Foundation by scaling Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. This is highest freestanding mountain in the world and the highest peak in Africa.

Ian, who received an award from the BHF in March, plans further charity raising events in the future.



He sends his grateful thanks to all the cab drivers at Heathrow who supported him.

Get your money out! He's coming round again.....