

Hackney Gazette

Thursday May 1, 2014

70p

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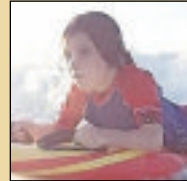
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**Esme rides on
crest of wave**

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E-cycle thief asks owner for charger

Dopey robber's request puts electric cycle dealer hot on his trail

by Alisha Rouse
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A dopey bike thief stole a £2,500 electric bike – then unwittingly called the owner for help recharging it.

Ben Jaconelli's locked Go Cycle was stolen in Kingsland Road, Dalston.

But after contacting police, Mr Jaconelli, 30, who has just opened a shop on Old Street roundabout and runs the electric bike website Fully Charged, received a call from a man asking for a charger for a Go Cycle.

Realising it was for his bike, Mr Jaconelli, of Kingsland Road, jumped into action.

He said: "I'm the authorised dealer for Go Cycles in the area so the thief called me, unaware that it was my bike."

Army truck

"He asked for a charger for a Go Cycle and I knew straight away it had to be the thief. I took down as many details for him as possible and then set about tracking him down. One of the guys at our warehouse has an old Army truck so we piled into that and turned up at his house."

"He was out, but his bemused mother was in and she got straight on the phone to her son to demand to know why he wanted an electric bike charger."

"A minute later he called me and asked why I was at his house and I said 'you stole my bike.' He hung up and 20 minutes later the bike arrived at the warehouse in a taxi."

The details have been passed on to police who are investigating links to other missing bikes in East London.

Mr Jaconelli added: "There is a such a close network of dealers and I had alerted them all to the theft. Even if he did not ring me, I would have found out about it pretty quickly."



Swap dole for dough

A micro-bakery that provides artisan bread is looking to help steer young people away from violent crime. De Beauvoir's The Dusty Knuckle Bakery, says bread-making is the ideal craft to inspire a young workforce.

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