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by TASHA KOSVINER

WELCOME to the latest innovation in the fight against street crime – a belt that resembles a pair of knickers.

Two Haggerston-based designers have come up with an innovative way to keep your possessions safe when out and about – and it's not just a pile of old pants.

Adam Thorpe and Joe Hunter have developed the stealth belt that includes loops where you can tuck a mobile phone, credit cards and cash to keep them away from the prying eyes of muggers.

The belt is part of a new range of crime-busting garments developed by the duo with the help of Stamford Hill-based college professor, Dr Lorraine Gamman.

"I'm running a research project called Design Against Crime Research Initiative," said the Glaserton Road resident, who works at the prestigious art college, Central St Martin's.

"I wanted to develop a range of garments that helped protect people against street robberies. I came up with the brief and did the research and then approached Adam and Joe to develop the products."

She got the idea for the Karrysafe range after watching two kids snatch a friend's mobile phone while they were having a cup of coffee.

"It's really annoying if somebody takes your stuff," she said. "It seemed good to work on something that was going to help the public in that way."

The Karrysafe range also includes a Phone-safe wristband, which lets you store your phone and use it while it is still attached to

Do not get it *knicked*

Designers have crime in the bag with their ideas

your wrist. There is also a bag, the Karrysafe Screamer, which literally screams when people try to snatch it.

The products have been welcomed by Hackney police.

"Any suggestions to try and help make people safer is always going to be a good idea," said Det Chief Insp Jim Sirrett. "The bag, in particular, sounds like the most sense to me."

However, he stressed that "even in Hackney", which has a notorious problem with street crime, there were still only 10 muggings a day.

"We don't want people to have an exagger-

ated view of how likely you are to get mugged," he said.

Adam and Joe, whose design company, Vexed Generation, is based in Andrews Road, consulted a personal safety instructor, who helped test the products by demonstrating how muggers snatch people's belongings.

Their products are on sale at Selfridges in Oxford Street and at Fonehouse stores. The nearest store to Hackney is in Liverpool Street.

You can also buy the products, and get advice about keeping your belongings safe, by visiting the website at www.karrysafe.com.