

The Borough Bulletin

News from the Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight
commencing
11 February, 2008

Surrey Trading Standards refreshes Guildford's 'No Cold Calling' zones

The Guildford 'No Cold Calling' Zone was launched over two years ago. Since then, it has grown steadily and now covers approximately 9,000 homes.

Firstly, Surrey Trading Standards would like to thank all residents for contributing and supporting the zone in your area; and secondly, to bring the campaign and its aims to the front of everyone's mind at this time of year.

Historically, Trading Standards often sees a rise in the levels of doorstep crime as rogue traders take advantage of poorer weather to try and obtain money by working on people's homes.

Also, an important part of the No Cold Calling campaign is the evaluation process, which helps us to see if the zone has had any effect of reducing the number of callers, and whether the residents in the No

Cold Calling Zone feel safer as a result.

With this in mind, a questionnaire has been sent to all residents in the No Cold Calling Zones. It would be extremely helpful if you could complete and return this by the end of February 2008.

If you have any questions about the survey or the No Cold Calling scheme, please contact Sue Tyrrell on 01372 371797.

The survey pack also included a No Cold Calling sticker that you can place on the outside of your front door - if you don't already have one.

And remember, please do not deal with any unsolicited callers at your door.

Amir Ali



Paving the way to trouble

Cold-callers come in all shapes and sizes, and among the most pernicious are the firms that offer to carry out building work at an astonishingly low cost. In such cases, what you see is not necessarily what you've got.

One such firm recently block-paved the driveway of a house in Merrow after cold-calling on the owner, a middle-aged lady. The price quoted for the job was £4,000 - more than £3,000 less than other quotes she'd had.

The owner did the right thing, however, and called Surrey Trading Standards, which advised her to have nothing to do with cold-calling tradesmen.

Despite this, she went ahead after checking their website, where she spotted a friend's driveway in a photograph posted on the site. Of course, she contacted her friend, who confirmed that the trader had



indeed done her driveway - and she was impressed with it.

So has she got the pukka paved driveway she wanted? Apparently - but she has no idea what lies beneath the neat brick blocks. And if it turns out, after a few heavy showers, that they are laid on shifting sands, she will have a great deal of trouble getting compensation (in any form) from the builders.

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Why? Because the address on the website (Unit 5, Ash-bridge Park Industrial Estate, Aldershot, Hants, GU1 4TH) doesn't exist.

The post code is in central Guildford (Bedford Road car park, near enough), and there is no such place as Ash-bridge Park Industrial Estate - Trading Standards suspect that the address may allude to Ash Bridge Travellers' Site at Aldershot Road in Ash.

Moreover, the address that the firm's representative quoted to her - not in Ash - appears to be another travel-

lers' site located off the northbound carriage way of the Milford Bypass.

Now, it may be that the firm has done a good job and the newly laid paving will last many years. Only time will tell.

But whether it does or not, Surrey Trading Standards strongly advise against dealing with cold-calling contractors, because neither an authentic-seeming address nor an impressive website guarantees that the trader is genuine.

Crime round-up

Featuring a selection of crimes reported over the fortnight preceding the publication date.

Surrey Police would greatly appreciate any information about these crimes. To contact the Police Crime Reporting Centre, phone 0845 125 2222 (and please tell them you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch). Only dial 999 when you have a genuine emergency requiring the police to attend, such when as a crime in progress or someone is in immediate danger.

Ash

There has been quite a bit of criminal activity in Ash over the past fortnight, kicking off in **College Road** on Thursday, 31 January, when a detached bungalow was burgled. The thief prised open a uPVC double-glazed window at the back of the house, then searched all the rooms. He got away with a flat screen TV, some watches and clocks, and a wooden jewellery box.

Two detached bungalows were burgled in **Culverlands Crescent** on Friday, 1 February and Tuesday, 5th. In the first, the burglar got in through an insecure rear uPVC patio door but, after searching the place, left without taking anything. On the Tuesday, the thief got away with some jewellery belonging to the elderly owner.

A bit earlier -- on Wednesday, 30 January - three or four boys wearing jeans and bomber-style jackets knocked off one of the globe-shaped path lights in the **Station Road** East housing estate. When confronted by a local, they got on their bikes and rode off, pausing only to throw the globe back at the irate pursuer.

A Mazda 323 stolen from **Star Lane** on Wednesday, 6 February, was later found burnt out at a public car park near to a beauty spot between Elstead and Puttenham.

Finally (for Ash) two cars, a Volkswagen Golf and a Citroen Saxo, were damaged in **Murrell Road** on Tuesday, 29 January, and a third was hit by a thrown rock on Wednesday, 30th. A Honda Accord was attacked in **Ash Hill Road** on Monday, 4 February.

Ash Vale

In an attempt to steal whatever was inside, a Mercedes van was broken in to in **Cuthbert Road** on Monday, 4 February.

Bellfields

Houses in **Oak Tree Drive** were targeted by burglars on Sunday, 27 January and 3 February. In the first incident,

an unattended detached property the thief (or thieves, more likely) got in by smashing a top fanlight above the locked main window. They went on to remove a copper water tank and the header tank from the loft before leaving - and leaving running water behind them.

The second house, a four-bedroom detached property, was hit a week later. The thief got in through a dog flap and left with various items.

In between -- on Tuesday, 29 January - a semi-detached house in **Juniper Close** was burgled overnight. After forcing the wooden back door, the thief left with items of jewellery, credit cards and cash.

On the vandalism scorecard, a bus shelter in **Fir Tree Road** was trashed on Monday, 4th.

Burpham

The front window of a house in **Burnet Avenue** was smashed by a thrown projectile on Wednesday, 30 January, while a Toyota Corolla was damaged in **Gosden Hill Road** on Wednesday, 6 February, and a BMW 335 parked in **Clay Lane** was 'keyed' on the following night.

Charlotteville

There was quite a bit of unwanted excitement in Charlotteville, recently. On Tuesday, 29 January, a Volkswagen Beetle was stolen from the garages in **Shalford Road**, and the following day white paint was thrown over a Ford Focus at the junction of **Jenner Road** and **Harvey Road**.

Things got far more lively on Thursday, 7 February. A man stalked down the middle of **Great Quarry**, shouting and lashing out at passing vehicles. He then attacked the drive of an MG ZS, throwing as plastic water bottle at the windscreen followed by a punch to the driver's head. Going to the back of the MG, he kicked the bumper off its mounting. He was still shouting and striking out at passing vehicles when the police arrived.

Chilworth

A ground-floor flat in **Hornhatch** was burgled on Sunday, 3 February. The thief took a selection of gold rings ... and some food.

Clandon

In daylight on Friday, 1 February, one or more people smashed the front passenger windows of four cars in the station car park and got away with several items, the most expensive of which was a car stereo.

Guildford

A three-bedroom house in **Nightingale Road** was burgled on Thursday, 7 February. After smashing several windows, the thief finally got in through the double-glazed French doors at the back. The haul comprised a small amount of jewellery

Earlier, on Monday, 28 January, local residents called the police when they spotted five people vandalising one of a row of terraced houses which are unoccupied and awaiting redevelopment in **Queens Road**. There was also an incident of criminal damage in **Farnham Road** on Tuesday, 5 February, when the fence at the back of a block of flats was smashed.

As well, cars were damaged in **Woodbridge Road**, on Sunday, 27 January and Saturday, 2 February.

Horsley

There were a string of burglaries in Horsley over the fortnight.

While the owners were out, a bungalow in **Shere Road** was hit on Saturday, 2 February, and several small items were taken. A large detached house in the same road was burgled on Tuesday, 5 February. The thief climbed on top of a wooden pergola to reach a bedroom window, which was forced to let him in to steal three jewellery boxes.

A 14th century house in **The Street** had been burgled earlier, on Friday, 1 February. The thief got away with a large quantity of jewellery, a couple of expensive watches and some handmade table silverware. Fortunately for the owners, he - or they - ignored the keys to two expensive cars that were parked in the detached garage.

Lastly, two large houses in **The Warren** were hit on the same day -- Tuesday, 5 February. In one, the burglar got away with an amount of local and foreign cash after forcing a ground-floor window. In the other, a downstairs double-glazed window was prised open, allowing the thief inside. Searching carefully, he found and removed a sizable swag including a TV hard drive recorder, an expensive portable stereo, a selection of jewellery, watches, camera equipment, a laptop computer and a large, expensive handbag. Curiously, the handbag and laptop were left behind.

Merrow

A Nissan Micra was keyed in **Cross Lanes** on Sunday, 27 January, and the following evening someone kicked in

the wing of a Renault Scenic in **Four Acres**.

Normandy

Two burglaries took place in Normandy on the same night, Thursday, 31 January. One was in **Flexford Road**, where the internal lock on a back window was prised open. After getting inside the house, the thief left with a flat screen TV.

That same evening, in **Glaziers Lane**, a burglar simply pulled open the French doors at the back of the house (how many times do the words "French doors" appear in these reports?) to get inside and steal jewellery and various electrical items.

Ockham

Two saddles and a bridle were stolen from the boot of an old insecure Ford Escort hatchback parked at riding stables in **Old Lane**, on Tuesday, 5 February.

Onslow

A reasonably quiet fortnight in Onslow. The windscreen of a Renault Espace that was parked on the driveway of a semi-detached house in **The Crossways** was damaged on Thursday, 31 January, and a mobile phone and a black leather handbag were stolen from an unsecured Vauxhall Corsa as it was parked outside the Astolat in **Old Palace Road** on Friday, 1 February.

Park Barn

Over the fortnight, Park Barn suffered the usual crop of damage to vehicles and property. On Wednesday, 30 January, house windows were smashed in **Park Barn Drive** and **Roman Farm Road** and, in what appears to have been an attempted break-in, the front door of a flat in **Southway** was also damaged.

The following Saturday, 2 February, a fence was damaged in **Cabell Road** and a window smashed in **Pond Meadow**, and on the 5th, someone broke into a Volkswagen Transporter in **Homestall Park** and trashed the interior without stealing anything.

Pirbright

There was a daylight burglary in **Whites Lane** on Monday, 4 February. After trying to force open the heavy wooden front door, the assailant smashed a small window in the front door, reached inside and -- voila - there were the front door keys hanging on the back of the door. The thief tried to lift a large flat-screen TV but couldn't manage it. Upstairs, though, he found a laptop computer.

Two days later, a five-bedroom detached house on **The Green** was burgled. The thief simply smashed the window of a downstairs bedroom, reached in and lifted a jewellery box.

Ripley

Was this a grudge being settled? On Monday, 28 January, someone put screws into the tyres of several cars parked in **Dorton Way**.

Send

One day -- Tuesday, 5 February - three burglaries. One was a daylight job in **Potters Lane**, where an unoccupied four-bedroom house was hit. The thief just tossed a paving slab through a patio door - crude but effective, you'd have to say - but was unrewarded because there was nothing in the house worth stealing.

Another was in **Wharf Lane**, where several items were taken after a bungalow was broken into, and the last was in **Vicarage Lane**, again in daylight, when jewellery, cash, games consoles and a TV were taken from an unoccupied detached house. In addition, a hoodie about 5ft 10in, aged around 20 years and wearing a black top with a gold logo and white trousers punched the wing mirror off a Toyota Yaris in **Send Road** on Saturday, 02 February.

Shere

A couple of thieves went to a lot of trouble to steal saddles and bridles from an isolated farm in **Hook Lane**, overnight on Tuesday, 29 January. After breaking into the tack room and selecting the loot, they used a trolley to transport the loot out of the outbuilding and down to the far end of the livery yard.

Having damaged a trolley wheel along the way, the load was shifted into two wheelbarrows to move it down an uneven dirt track to the end of the property, where there was a three-foot metal fence. Faced with this obstacle, they lifted the saddles, bridles and one wheelbarrow over the fence and pushed the lot through another field before reaching a road.

Slyfield

In **Woodlands Road**, on Thursday, 31 January, someone knocked wing mirrors off a Vauxhall Corsa and a Ford Ka.

Stoughton

House burglaries - there were a few. One was in daylight in **Brittens Close** on Tuesday, 29 January. A single-glazed wooden-framed window at the back of a large detached house was levered open and a laptop computer and an iPod were stolen - but items of jewellery were left behind.

Thursday, 31 January saw two incidents, One was overnight in **Harts Gardens**, where closed but unlocked patio doors let a thief into the house while it was occupied. This didn't stop the thief getting away with a sports bag, compact discs and a hi-fi system. The same night in **Teviot Close**, two lads tried to break into a house but failed, then climbed back over the six-foot fence they had scaled to get onto the property.

One was described as 18 years old, slim build and about 6ft tall, wearing a dark, soft possibly fleecy coat. He had cropped dark hair, but it was longer on top. The second was 18 to 20 years old, of slim build and about the same height. He wore an olive green bomber-style jacket and had cropped mousey-blond hair and, possibly acne.

A Kawasaki KMX motorbike was taken from **Worplesdon Road** on Monday, 4 February, and a few days earlier, on Wednesday, 30 January, both number plates were stolen

from a Vauxhall Corsa in the same street.

The most curious incident of the week was also in Stoughton. It involved a man who went to a detached house in **Waltham Avenue** on Thursday, 31 January and damaged three 6ft high slatted fence panels; uprooted three solar lamps and smashed one of them; knocked bricks out of a brick-built barbecue; and took garden tools from the shed and left them scattered about the garden. What on earth was that about? We'll probably never know.

Tongham

Criminals continue to come up with new and even more despicable ways to separate elderly people from their money. On Wednesday, 30 January, a con man convinced an elderly lady that he had carried out repairs to the roof of her house in **Poyle Road**. He then drove her to the Aldershot post office, where she withdrew £250.00 and gave it to him.

This low-life was a white man about 5ft tall with sandy short-cropped hair and a chubby build. He was in his early 50s and wore dark clothing with a blue baseball cap. Please, if anyone saw this odd couple that day, perhaps in the street at Aldershot, let the police know about it.

Elsewhere around Tongham, a Suzuki Vitara was stolen from the roadside in **The Cardinals** on Monday, 4 February. In the same street, a large group of youths aged 12 to 16 years, most of them dressed in black, damaged one of two cars parked on the drive of an unoccupied mid-terrace house.

Westborough

In Westborough, houses or other property were damaged in **Linkway** on Monday, 4 February and Wednesday 6th. A Skoda Felicia was also damaged in the same street on the 6th, and the previous night someone tried to steal a Ford Transit flatbed in **Stoney Brook**.

Wood Street Village

In **Frog Grove Lane** on Tuesday, 29 January, the PVC double-glazed door of a an occupied semi-detached house was smashed.

Worplesdon

One of the wing mirrors of a car parked in **Montgomerie Drive** was broken off on Saturday, 2 February.

Getting in touch

Contacting the police

The police should be your first point of contact if you have information about a specific crime or incident. You can phone the Police Crime Reporting Centre on 0845 125 2222. Please tell them you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch. If you wish to trace the progress made following your call, ask for the collar number of the officer you spoke to, or request an ICAD number (a reference number beginning with 'P').

