

# The Borough Bulletin

News from the Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight  
preceeding  
13 July, 2009

## Surrey Police put the public first

In June 2008, Surrey Police introduced the Surrey Public First Discretion Project to reduce the burden of centralised targets. This encourages officers to use their professional judgement to resolve minor issues, giving them extra time to prevent and tackle those crimes that matter most to the community.

As a result, serious crime across the county has fallen dramatically. Annual crime statistics show an 11.9 per cent reduction in serious acquisitive crimes such as burglary and vehicle crime, while serious violent crimes, ranging from wounding to murder, also fell by 26.9 per cent.

Local people have responded positively to the new policing style, and the most recent British Crime Survey results show that 61 per cent of residents have confidence in local policing, up from 59 per cent last year.

Victims' satisfaction also increased, with more people completely, very or fairly happy with how crime was dealt with, especially when minor issues were

resolved locally - for example through shoplifter bans, prompt compensation for criminal damage, and face-to-face or written apologies - rather than using traditional methods like cautioning or warnings.

"We are lucky to have such a committed and capable workforce, and we are extremely grateful to them for their efforts.

"Surrey Police Authority puts the priorities of local people at the top of its agenda, not the pursuit of arbitrary numerical targets," says Peter Williams, Chairman of the Surrey Police Authority.

"Each year, we consult widely to find out what people think the police should focus on, and we use this information to help us produce the Local Policing Plan that the Chief Constable must work to. [These] findings show that this approach has made a real and positive difference in Surrey."

*To read this report in full, click on the link in the email.*



## Watching the detectives

According to a recent newspaper report, the recession has prompted an increase in burglaries throughout the country, however Guildford is shown, in a recent Endsleigh Insurance survey, as the fourth safest town in terms of being burgled.

House burglaries increased slightly, with one distraction burglary in Guildford Park. That area, along with Onslow and the near fringe of Park Barn, may be suffering because of their proximity to the station. One simple precaution that householders can take is to make sure small, valuable items such as laptop computers, mobiles, satnavs, iPods etc are not left lying around overnight. Take them to bed if you can't think of a better place to secrete them!

Moreover, thefts of tools, electrical garden equipment etc continue at a relatively high level - so lock your sheds and garages!

As well, there is the seasonal event in which stone or concrete statuary going missing. These are organised crimes - no one casually tucks a two-foot high concrete eagle under his arm and walks off with it.

Lastly, there have been several reports of 'handy men' trawling for gardening work: these may or may not be trustworthy... and that's the point: would you really want to employ someone you neither knew nor trusted? As well, distraction burglars sometimes pose as tradesman looking for work. Avoid them on both grounds.

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# 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 the 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

### Ash Green

Someone broke a window in a car parked in **Hazel Road** on Saturday, 27 June.

### Ash South

Burglars sometimes disable a house alarm system, but rarely steal it. One did, though, from outside a flat in **Greyhound Close** on Wednesday, 2 July.

Both the driver's side doors of an unattended Suzuki Swift were keyed while it was parked outside the One Stop shop in **Ash Street** on Monday, 29 June; and in one of the more bizarre crimes reported by the Bulletin, someone put several shots from an air rifle through a paddling pool that was hung out to dry in the rear garden of house in Ash Church Road on Tuesday, 30 June.

### Ash Vale

Early on Sunday, 5 July, a man walking along **Wharf Road** was robbed by two criminals who took the man's watch and his wallet, which held about £30 and a number of bank cards...and some cigarettes. This is a rare type of offence fortunately.

*One of the robbers, who walked off laughing, was a white lad aged about 19, some 5ft8in tall, and wearing blue jeans and a black hoody. His accomplice was around 6ft2in, with brown hair.*

A tradesman's tools were stolen from his Vauxhall Combi van while it was parked in **Vickers Road** on Wednesday, 8 July, and three hubcaps were pinched from a Ford Mondeo in **Maple Close** on Wednesday, 1 July. The Sunday before, 28 June, a Mini's windscreen was smashed in **Frimley Road**.

### Ash Wharf

Another robbery, this time in **Cross Road**, on Saturday, 27 June. A young lad on his BMX bike encountered five other boys, one of whom who threatened him before riding off on the bike.

*One of the assailants was described as a white boy aged 15 or 16,. He was wearing a black hoodie and blue jeans, accessorised by some 'bling'... aka gold jewellery.*

In what may have been an attempt to burgle the place, the front door of an occupied semi-detached house in **Longacre** was damaged on Friday, 26 June; and the licence plates were taken from a Honda Civic while it was parked in **Guildford Road**, opposite The Nightingale, on Saturday, 27 June.

## Christchurch

Overnight on Friday, 26 June, someone made a determined (and successful) attempt to damage a side fence in **Nightingale Road**. We may never know what the fence did to him.

## Clandon and Horsley

### East Horsley

A hungry - and thirsty - thief broke in to a garage attached to a house in **Meadow Way** on Monday, 29 June (the garage door was unlocked) and stole a selection of frozen food and a bottle of wine.

### West Horsley

Using a dark-coloured permanent pen, a criminal artist left his marks on a Ford Fiesta and a VW Golf that were parked outside a house in **School Lane** on Friday, 26 June.

## Effingham

Even children's gardening tools can be useful to enterprising burglars: that's what one used to break in to a garage in **Beech Avenue** on Saturday, 27 June. In the event, though, he found nothing to steal.

## Friary and St Nicholas

Chaining your front door is all very well: better to lock it as well. The owner of a two bedroom semi-detached house in **Markenfield Road** failed to do this, allowing a burglar to reach in and unhook the chain on Wednesday, 1 July, and steal cash and jewellery.

Quite a few cars were damaged around Friary and St Nicks over the fortnight. On Saturday, 27 June, in **Martyr Road**, someone burned a hole in the roof of an Audi TT convertible with a cigarette; a Ford Fiesta was keyed in **Denzil Road** that day; a Volkswagen Golf got the same treatment in **Farnham Road** the next day, as did a Ford Focus in the **Ladymead** retail car park on Thursday, 2 July; and on Tuesday, 7th, someone smashed the front passenger window of a Suzuki Swift in **Farnham Road**. No Peugeot 306 was harmed in the writing of this fortnight's crime reports, however.

## Holy Trinity

There was a rare robbery on Saturday, 11 July. Two men were accosted as they walked along **London Road**, and one had his mobile phone and wallet stolen.

However, this is the season for 'dips' and other opportunistic criminals to take advantage of people lulled into carelessness by the summer sun (well, what there is of it!). In the **High Street**, on Friday, 26 June, a woman left her handbag momentarily unattended, and lost her purse containing cash, coins and various cards.

In **Beech Lawn**, there were two separate incidents. On Monday, 29 June, power tools were nicked from the garage of an unoccupied, large detached house; and on Thursday, 2 July, another house was burgled after the thief smashed a conservatory window.

What would you do with a collection of narrow boat lanterns? That's a question for the thief who stole three from a boat moored near **Millbrook** on Friday, 3 July.

As well, a BMW 3 Series parked outside Mappin and Webb, in the **High Street**, was damaged on Thursday, 2 July.

## Lovelace

### Burnt Common

A number of power tools were stolen from the garage behind a house in **Burnt Common Lane** on Friday, 26 June; and the next day, in what may have been an attempted burglary, someone smashed the window of a shed behind a house in the same road.

## Ripley

A man left his wallet concealed in his Isuzu Trooper while it was parked by the lake at **Polesdon Lane** on Monday, 29 June. A thief found it, though. Same location, a few days later, on Monday, 6 July, a satellite navigation unit was nicked from the glove box of a locked Vauxhall Corsa.

In addition, property was damaged in **Georgelands** on Friday, 26 June; in **Newark Lane** on Tuesday, 30 June; and in **Wentworth Close** on Friday, 3 July.

## Merrow and Burpham

### Burpham

A house was damaged in **London Road** on Friday, 26 June, and the front number plate was pinched from a Nissan Primera in **Guernsey Close** on Sunday, 5 July.

### Merrow

Unusually, a Transit van in the park-and-ride in **Epsom Road** was broken into on Thursday, 9 July, and a number of power tools were stolen. The day before, Wednesday, 8th, French doors at the back of a house in **Merrow Street** were damaged in what could have been an attempt to break in.

## Normandy

### Wyke

An unlocked shed door - the door actually left open - a passing thief, and two BMX bikes disappeared from behind a house in **Wyke Avenue** on Saturday, 27 June.

## Onslow

A young and somewhat brazen young woman burgled a house in **Guildford Park Road** on Wednesday, 1 July. She simply walked up the path to the kitchen door, which was open, walked in and helped herself to the purse she found in a drawer. On her way out, she met the elderly female occupant - who apparently wasn't aware she'd been robbed - and asked her "Are they in, next door?" before wandering off.

*This burglar was a white woman about 26 or 27 years old, with blonde, collar-length hair and a "proportionate build". There was nothing distinctive about her, although she wore a white baseball cap, a pale coloured t-shirt... and shorts. Despite the shorts, she had an English accent.*

Quite a large assortment of garden tools - a chainsaw, two hedge cutters and a leaf-blower - were stole from a shed adjoining a house in **High View Road**, on Monday, 6 July. Some five days later, overnight on Saturday, 11 July, an unoccupied house in **The Oval** was burgled. The thief crouched down and reached up through the cat flat... and found the key still in the door. So simple! Letting himself in, he picked up a TV, a music player, a laptop computer, a camcorder and a camera... then let himself out through the back door - leaving the key in the lock.

Same street, two days later, and a lawnmower was pinched from a garage left open. The thief also took the padlocks that should have secured the doors!

In **Crossways**, on Monday, 29 June, the window of an Audi TT coupe was smashed, and in **Poltimore Road**, on Saturday, 4 July, a Vauxhall Corsa was damaged in an attempted theft.

## Pilgrims

### Shackleford

A girls' Raleigh all-terrain bicycle was nicked from the shed behind a cottage in **Hurtmore Bottom** on Saturday, 27 June.

## Pirbright

At Stoney Castle camping ground, **Stanley Hill**, on Wednesday, 8 July, someone stole an unhappy camper's motorbike. The next night, the lock on a shed in **Rowe Lane** was forced, and a petrol-powered lawnmower removed.

## Send

### Send Marsh

There was a very nasty incident on Sunday, 5 July. Three men accosted and viciously assaulted a man walking in the park between **Tuckey Grove** and **Linden Way**, robbing him of... £5.

A Swift Challenger caravan was towed away from its parking spot in **Kevan Drive** on Thursday, 2 July; and on Saturday, 11 July, an ornamental stone statue of three rabbits was taken from the front of a house in Linden Way.

### Send

A detached house in **Broadmead Road** was hit on Sunday, 12 July, the burglar (who got in through the wooden conservatory doors at the back) stole laptop computer.

## Shalford

### Chilworth

Two large granite balls, placed either side of the driveway leading to a large house in **Oak Lane**, were taken away in an organised theft on Wednesday, 8 July.

About a week before, overnight on Thursday, 2nd, white gloss paint was thrown over a Land Rover Discovery parked in **Hornhatch**.

## Stoke

### Stoke

It looks like someone tried to steal a Nissan Almera from **Weyside Road**, overnight Saturday, 27 June. But, unable to hot-wire the car, he pinched the CD player instead.

### Slyfield

A thief made a double hit at a house in **Woking Road** overnight on Wednesday, 1 July. He found some power after breaking in to a locked shed, and then smashed his way in to a Peugeot HDI van, where there were more tools.

As well, two cars were stolen - a Volkswagen Golf from outside the Craggy Island indoor climbing centre in **Moorfield Road** on Thursday, 2 July; and a Peugeot 206 from the car park of the Stoke and District Club in **Bellfields Road** on Friday, 10 July.

There was an attempt to steal a Renault estate in **White-more Road** on Monday, 29 June, and in **Groom Walk**, overnight on Wednesday, 1 July, garden power tools were pinched from the back of a Citroen Berlingo van. Also, someone smashed a window in a Renault Laguna while it was parked in **Woking Road** on Wednesday, 1 July.

## Stoughton

For some reason, an arsonist lit a small fire behind a veterinary surgery in **Worplesdon Road** on Monday, 29 June.

In an overnight burglary on Thursday, 9 July, a thief got into a three-bedroom detached house in **Belmont Avenue** and stole a wallet, an iPod and car keys. Outside, he unlocked the Mazda 323 parked on the drive and removed a satnav set, a CD player... and the parcel shelf.

And in **Little Street**, on Friday, 10 July, someone ripped off the rear windscreen wiper from a BMW 525d.

## Tillingbourne

### Gomshall

Several windows of a house in **Goose Green** were smashed for no apparent reason on Thursday, 9 July.

### Little London

A double garage with up-and-over doors was broken into in **Hook Lane** on Sunday, 5 July, but nothing was nicked.

### Peaslake

There is a popular spot in **Pond Lane**, where people park their cars while they walk their dog(s). The usual advice is - don't leave your valuables in the car... otherwise a thief could well come along and remove them. Which is what happened to a lady who parked there on Sunday, 28 June.

### Shere

An unlocked garage in **Upper Street** was a gift to the thief who stole a lawn mower on Friday, 26 June.

*This burglar was spotted as he left: a skinny white lad about 18 years old with blonde hair. Not much to go on, unfortunately.*

## Westborough

### Park Barn

A man walking along **Foxburrows Avenue** on Monday, 6 July, was stopped by three robbers, one of whom produced a flick knife. Not surprisingly, the victim handed over his laptop computer and the contents of his pockets, after which the crooks ran off.

*The three men involved were all black and aged between 18 and 30 years. Two of them were wearing jeans and black polo shirts: the other male had on black Nike Air Max joggers and a black Nike Air Max hoody. At least one spoke with a London accent. Did anyone see these three, anywhere around town on the 6th? Any information could help police catch up with these dangerous criminals.*

A female Harlequin rabbit was stolen from the hutch behind a house in **Woodside Road** on Wednesday, 1 July. Another rabbit, type not known, was left behind.

Two men riding a moped along **Chapel House Close** were stopped by police on Friday, 26 June because they weren't wearing hard hats. Then, when they were unable to prove that the bike belonged to one of them, they were arrested.

Apart from that, two other vehicles were stolen during the fortnight: a Renault Laguna from outside the shops in **Southway** on Tuesday, 7 July; and, on the same day, a Vauxhall Vectra from the grass verge in **Dunmore**.

## Worplesdon

### Fox Corner

A Renault Megane was damaged - rear windscreen smashed - in **Fox Corner** on Saturday, 27 June.

### Jacob's Well

Both the front and back plates were taken from a Citroen Saxo parked in **Stringers Avenue** on Sunday, 28 June, and on Thursday, 9 July, the same thing happened to a Renault Clio in **Queenhythe Road**.

### Normandy

A mobile (but not moving) home on Chapel Farm caravan park, in **Guildford Road**, was burgled on Saturday, 27 June. The thief climbed in through a window, and got away with a satnav set, a mobile phone and some cash.

A couple of days later, Monday, 29th, two two-foot high concrete statues of eagles were pinched from a driveway in **London Road**.

## Getting in touch

### Contacting the police

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 the 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').