

# The Borough Bulletin

News from the Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight  
preceeding  
15 June, 2009

## Watching the detectives

Vehicle crime has been noteworthy over the fortnight, mainly because of a large increase in thefts from cars - in particular, of catalytic converters, with vans most often targeted - and outbreaks of licence plate thefts: two sets of stolen plates were later used on cars that drove away from petrol stations without anyone paying.

Police advise van owners to park their vehicles out of sight - and preferably in a garage - to prevent catalytic converters and tools being stolen.

However, while house burglaries have dropped, there were a few incidents where thieves took garden tools from a shed and used them to break in to the house... so it's worth storing those spades and shovels where a thief can't easily get to them!

And while this is the peak season for garage/shed burglaries, the number is lower this fortnight, although Ripley is something of a trouble spot. Strimmers, lawn mowers and other expensive garden equipment are most often taken, and Surrey Police strongly recommend that owners security-mark their property so that (a) it's easier to get a conviction when a thief is caught, and (b) they get their stuff back!

Finally, the number of bicycle thefts has been unusually high: leaving a bike unattended is just an open invitation to a thief, and chaining the bike is not wholly effective: a solid D-lock securing the bike to an immovable object is the by far the best method to stop someone riding (or walking) away with your bike.



SAFER GUILDFORD  
a partnership approach

## Crime round-up

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.

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

### Ash

#### Ash Green

Searching for spare parts, someone stole the indicator lights from a Vauxhall van parked in **Ash Green Road**, on Friday, 29 May.

#### Ash South

Precious metal prices remain high, which would explain why, overnight on Friday, 29 May, someone cut the catalytic converter from underneath a Vauxhall Astra van in **Loddon Way**. More prosaically, the front number plate was unscrewed from a Honda Accord in **Underwood Avenue** on Sunday, 31 May.

As well, the two rear tyres of a Renault Laguna were punctured in **May Crescent** on Sunday, 7 June.

### Ash Vale

It was a bad fortnight for criminal damage to cars in the Vale. In **Frimley Road** on Sunday, 31 May, three different cars were hit - a Vauxhall Corsa, a Peugeot 205 and a Ford Fiesta - and on the same day, a Volkswagen Golf was damaged in **Vale Road**. Unfortunately, there are no suspects in these incidents.

### Ash Wharf

A semi-detached house in **Ash Hill Road** was burgled overnight on Sunday, 31 May. The thief got in without causing any damage, and drove away with the owner's BMW 320 using the car key he'd found in the house.

### Watching the Detectives

#### Crime Roundup

- Ash
- Christchurch
- Clandon and Horsley
- Friary and St Nicholas
- Holy Trinity
- Lovelace
- Merrow and Burpham
- Onslow
- Pilgrims
- Pirbright
- Send
- Shalford
- Stoke
- Stoughton
- Tillingbourne
- Tongham
- Westborough
- Worplesdon

In the same street a few days earlier, on Friday, 29 May, the catalytic converters were cut off two cars - a Fiat Scudo and a Rover 620 - and the next night in **Longacre**, on Saturday, 30 May, a Ford Fiesta lost its cat converter.

*Three men are thought to have been involved in the Longacre crime; one was wearing a black hooded top and black tracksuit bottoms with three white stripes down the side of each leg. The second wore a grey hooded top and the third also had on a grey hoodie over dark blue jeans. Thin stuff, but if it the descriptions ring any bells, please let the police know.*

On Monday, 1 June, another catalytic converter was stolen from a Kia Sorento in the car park of the Dover Arms in **Guildford Road**, and in **Longacre** on Sunday, 7 June, someone removed a side window and a plastic tail light lens from a Citroen Despatch van.

Also, fences were damaged in **Ash Close** on Saturday, 30 May; and in **Shawfield Road** on Thursday, 4 June.

### Christchurch

A busy, opportunistic thief hit four cars - two BMWs, a Range Rover and an Audi - in **Abbotswood** on Monday, 8 June. All were unlocked and parked on driveways, and the thief got away with satellite navigation sets, MP3 players, loose change and a well-stocked purse.

### Clandon and Horsley

#### East Horsley

A shed in the back garden of a large detached house in **Pennymead Rise** was burgled on Friday, 29 May. The thieves (probably professionals) took a lawn mower, a hedge trimmer and a roll of lead.

Then on Friday, 5 June, the licence plates were nicked from a Toyota Yaris in **Kingston Avenue**; and in **Heatherdene** and **Northcote Crescent**, on Thursday, 11 June, a Vauxhall Astra van and a Ford Transit were damaged.

#### West Clandon

During the day of Saturday, 30 May, large detached house in **The Street** was burgled: the thief used a spade he found in an unlocked shed to force open a window, but was then scared off by the alarm system blaring in his ear.

Around the same time, an unoccupied semi-detached house in **Epsom Road** was hit: the entry method was through the kitchen window. The thief found and took away a large-screen TV, a laptop computer, two smart phones, a games console, and about £50 in change. He also found the key to the Volkswagen Golf parked outside, so he stole that too.

Back in **The Street**, on Saturday, 30 May, the passenger-side window of a Peugeot 206 was smashed, and on Saturday, 6 June, someone broke the Yale lock off the door of a garage attached to a detached house.

### Friary and St Nicholas

When the weather is warm, we drive with a window down... but it's important to remember to wind it up when leaving the car! The owner of Ford Ka forgot this elementary precaution when he/she parked in a **High Street** car park on the evening of Friday, 5 June, and returned to find his/her iPhone missing..

*Guildford police would like to know more about the group of five or so white boys, aged 16 to 20, very rowdy and possibly drunk, who were in the area at the time.*

The list of criminal damage to cars in Friary and St Nicks is a long one, this fortnight: a Peugeot 306 In **Woodbridge Road** on Saturday, 30 May (kicked as it was moving); another Peugeot 306 in **Bedford Road** car park on Monday, 1 June; yet another Peugeot 306 (is there someone out there who really doesn't like them?) in **Gordon Court**, on Friday, 5th; and (for a change, at last!) an Audi A4 convertible in **Josephs Road** on Sunday, 7th.

### Holy Trinity

During the early hours of Sunday, 7 June, a thief climbed through the dining room window of a four-bedroom semi-detached house in **Warren Road**. He made a leisurely search of the place, carefully looking into drawers and cupboards downstairs before checking the bedrooms upstairs (the crime report does not say whether the house was occupied). All told, he got away with a wallet, a Rolex watch, about £230 in cash, and two sets of car keys.

The first of this fortnight's odd crimes was in **Pewley Hill** on Wednesday, 10 June, when two chickens were stolen from a hutch in the back garden of a detached house: two others were left behind.

A Renault Laguna parked in the station car park in **York Road** was damaged on Wednesday, 10 June, and houses or property were damaged in **Abbot Road** on Tuesday, 9th June and in **Great Quarry** the next day.

### Lovelace

#### Ripley

A two-storey, four-bedroom detached house on the **High Street** was burgled on Tuesday, 2 June. The thief went around the back and broke into an attached summer house, stealing a laptop computer. He also took a large tent from the shed in the garden.

#### Burnt Common

A Citroen Burlingo was broken into in **Burnt Common Lane** on Tuesday, 9 June, but nothing was stolen.

### Merrow and Burpham

#### Burpham

Going in and out through a side gate between a block of garages and a house in **Elder Close**, a thief stole a pair of sun loungers on Tuesday, 2 June.

Then overnight on Friday, 5 June, a thief broke in to a Vauxhall Insignia parked near the Anchor and Horse-shoes pub in **London Road**, and pinched a laptop computer and case, a satellite navigation set and an mp3 player.

## Merrow

A petrol-driven lawnmower was pinched from the shed behind a house in **Fairway** on Wednesday, 3 June, and on the 9th, another shed in **Little Warren Close** was hit, but nothing was stolen. On the 8th, however, both licence plates were taken off a Citroen Saxo parked in **Downside Road**, and in **Tychbourne Drive** overnight on Wednesday, 10th, the tyres of a Volkswagen Golf were vandalised.

## Onslow

After finding the front door unlocked, a drunk decided to burgle a house in **The Oval** on Sunday, 31 May. Unfortunately (for him), he woke the owner, who was sleeping upstairs. Guess where he slept it off.

Another thief, (possibly also under the influence?) stole a 14in concrete statue of entwined ducks from the doorstep of a house in **Ashenden Road** on Sunday, 7 June, and in **Poltimore Road**, on Thursday, 11 June, three young men broke in to a shed and pinched a petrol-driven power tool.

*The three were all white lads aged in their 20s: one was wearing a white t-shirt.*

As well, a Toyota Avensis parked in **High View Road** was damaged on Tuesday, 9 June.

## Pilgrims

### Shackleford

An unlocked garage near a house in **Hurtmore Road** provided easy pickings - petrol-driven lawn mower - for a burglar on Wednesday, 3 June.

### Puttenham

Two cars – a Citroen C5 and a Chrysler Grand Voyager – were keyed while parked in **The Street** on Saturday, 30 May.

## Pirbright

In broad daylight, two men drove a van (white, with a grey stripe across the back doors) up to a pair of gates in **Aldershot Road** on Thursday, 4 June, climbed over them into the field beyond, then man-handled a drum holding about 15 litres of red diesel back over the gates and into the van.

A few days earlier, on Sunday, 31 May, a double glazed window in a bungalow in **The Green** was smashed.

## Send

### Send

How about this one? Someone stole a heavy, metal 4ft-long wheelchair ramp from outside a bungalow in **Send Marsh Road** on Monday, 1 June. There really are some detestable people out there...

There was also an unusually lengthy catalogue of criminal damage to vehicles, the past fortnight: a Peugeot 306 parked in a disabled bay had the driver's window smashed in **Send Marsh Road** on Saturday, 30 May; someone fired ball bearings through the windows of another Peugeot in **Broadmead Road** and a Citroen Espace in **Send Road** on Saturday, 6 June, when the rear window of a Mazda was smashed in the same road in the same street.

And in **Send Road** the day before, Friday, 5th, the double glazed bay window of a semi-detached bungalow was smashed.

## Shalford

### Chilworth

Two unlocked cars, an estate and an MG sports car with a window wound down, were parked on the hardstanding of a garage block in **Hornhatch**, on Monday, 1 June. Someone came along and picked up two sets of keys from the MG's passenger seat, wound the window up and locked the car. Then he drove away in the estate.

### Compton

There was a spare parts theft in **The Street** on Wednesday, 3 June: the front bumper, with a chrome nudge bar, fog lights and registration plate, were stripped off a Land Rover Defender parked on the drive of detached house.

## Stoke

### Bellfields

A burglar tried very hard to break in to a locked garage in **Hazel Avenue** on Thursday, 4 June. First, he took down a security light, then unscrewed the outside door handle, but couldn't get inside.

In **Fir Tree Road** the day before, Wednesday, 3rd, June, a Rover ZR was pinched from a residents' car park: it was later found on a farm track, burnt out.

Bending back the top of the passenger door a thief got in to a locked Peugeot 105 parked in **Rowan Close**, on Monday, 8 June. He got out with the car's CD player.

### Slyfield

Beware leaving house keys within reach of a cat or dog flap! That's how a burglar got in to an end-of-terrace house in **Woking Road** on Friday, 29 May. Once inside, he closed all blinds and curtains and jammed the lock on the front door. At leisure, he then searched the house, eventually leaving with a laptop computer, a Nintendo Wii and a Wii Fit mat and its accessories... and a wicker-work stool.

Number plates were stolen from a Ford Ka parked in **Waterside Road** on Friday, 5 June, and from a Vauxhall Corsa in the same street the next day.

## Stoughton

A detached house in **Worplesdon Road** was burgled on Wednesday, 10 June - the thief got away with cash and car keys. In the same road a few days earlier, on Friday, 29 May, a garden shed being used as an office was hit, and a week later in **Henderson Avenue**, two expensive bicycles were pinched from a locked, wooden garden shed after the door was jemmied open.

A passer-by, possibly, punched off the wing mirror of a Volkswagen Golf in **Fentum Road** on Saturday, 30 May, and a CD player, satellite navigation unit and a tool box were nicked from a Proton Persona parked in **Spring Court** on Monday, 8 June.

## Tillingbourne

### Albury

The rear window of a parked car was smashed by a ball bearing in **Shere Road**, on Saturday, 6 June.

### Peaslake

Someone went on the rampage on Saturday, 6 June, smashing the windows of two BMW 320s in **Pond Lane**, and a Toyota Yaris and a Ford Transit in **Peaslake Lane**.

### Shere

Sometime during the day, on Thursday, 4 June, a thief broke into a garage in the grounds of a detached house in **Hound House Road**, and stole a ride-on lawnmower.

## Tongham

A garden shed in **Manor Road** was burgled on Monday, 8 June, when the thief removed the padlock and stole some fishing equipment.

## Westborough

### Park Barn

A garden shed behind a house in **Pennymead Rise** was burgled on Saturday, 30 May (the loot included baby things, a strimmer, a broken-down lawn mower, and a kid's bike), and another strimmer were pinched from a shed in **Foxburrows Avenue** on Sunday, 7 June.

Then there was a bit of criminal damage to cars: a Renault Clio's tyre punctured in **Linkway** on Saturday, 30 May; the wing mirrors of a Mini Sprite knocked off in **Roundhill Way** on Sunday, 7 June;

### Westborough

In **Northway**, on the Stoughton side of the A323, both the front and back number plates were unstuck from a parked BMW on Friday, 29 May.

## Worplesdon

### Chitty's Common

A Volkswagen Golf parked and unlocked in **Park Road** on Friday, 5 June, with a satellite navigation set in the glove box: not for long.

### Wood Street

A man threw two unspecified garden ornaments at a mid-terrace two-bedroom house in **St Albans Close** on Saturday, 6 June, damaging tiles and a window. Why? We may find out if he's caught...

### Fox Corner

When someone smashed the offside front window of a Mazda in car park at **The Fox**, he set off the alarm. But when the owner came running out, the attacker had gone.

## 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').

### Contacting the Watch Manager

If you have concerns about crime and disorder in your area, or want to report suspicious activities, you can contact the Neighbourhood Watch Manager by phone on 01483 653014 or by sending an email to [WSGfordNeighWatch@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WSGfordNeighWatch@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

### Contacting Crime Stoppers

You can also report confidential information (and perhaps claim a reward) by calling Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111.