

# The Borough Bulletin

News from the Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight  
preceeding  
28 June, 2010

## Families flock to police fun day

Thousands of visitors went to Mount Browne Police HQ on Sunday, 20 June, to see Surrey Police officers in action using Taser stun guns, get a close-up view of the Force helicopter, have their fingerprints taken, and watch the Police Dog Trials.

There were also opportunities to tour the Force Control Room and the Surrey Police Museum – which was fully booked within the first hour.

Youngsters became 'Junior Detectives', following clues to solve the case of the Chief Constable's stolen trousers, and they also enjoyed clambering over motor-bikes and police cars.

The Police Dog Trials were immensely popular as the dogs and their handlers were put through their paces to compete for a number of trophies including the Anna of Avondale trophy, named after Surrey's first police dog Anna.

This year the award went to PC Paul Barnham and Rex in their first year as competitors.

"We were absolutely delighted that the first Family Fun Day for many years proved so successful," says Assistant Chief Constable Jerry Kirkby.

Nearly £1,000 was collected for the Chief Constable's Charity, the Woking Hospice.



## Chime out for sneak thieves

Last Saturday, the *Daily Telegraph* reported that women visiting Wimbledon were being offered clusters of tiny bells to attach to the zips of their bags and purses. It's a brilliant idea, and one that could easily be adopted by ladies shopping in Guildford town, where pickpockets and dips are currently looking for opportunities to enrich themselves at others' expense.

## Watching the detectives

31 May to 13 June

There was an increase in personal robberies in the borough over the reporting fortnight, with three in the town centre and another two just outside.

Auto-crime increased slightly: while 'theft of' crimes dropped, the increase in the number of 'theft from' offences was enough to push up the overall total. One conclusion from an analysis of these crimes is that lady drivers shouldn't leave handbags or purses in the car, especially if parked in a rural beauty spot.

House burglaries dropped, and there was just one distraction offence where crook pretended to be a police officer. Other burglaries seem to indicate that laptop computers are very popular with thieves.

This being summer – and a warm one at that – the number of shed/garage hits increased significantly. In many of these, powered gardening tools were taken,

reflecting the seasonal nature of these crimes. Looking at the details suggests that it's a mistake to leave a wheelie bin where a thief can use it to climb easily over a fence.

Better news is that there was quite a large decrease in the number of criminal damage offences.

Even better news is that a group of men were stopped after being spotted towing a stolen Land Rover. Their car contained a suspiciously large number of catalytic converters, along with equipment that suggested they were going equipped to collect some more. Bye!

Finally, residents in Charlotteville have reported chalk markings outside their houses. These markings, historically linked to burglaries, may suggest a group of thieves has targeted the area – so extra precautions may be needed until the threat has passed.

- All the fun of the fair  
Ring those chimes  
Watching the detectives  
Roundup**
- Ash
  - Christchurch
  - Clandon and Horsley
  - Effingham
  - Friary and St Nicholas
  - Holy Trinity
  - Lovelace
  - Merow and Burpham
  - Onslow
  - Pilgrims
  - Pirbright
  - Send
  - Shalford
  - Stoke
  - Stoughton
  - Tillingbourne
  - Westborough
  - Worplesdon

# Crime round-up

Featuring a selection of crimes reported between Thursday, 3 June, and Thursday 17 June.

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 South

In an act of mindless vandalism, someone threw a bottle of Budweiser at a passing car in **Manfield Road** on Saturday, 12 June. The bottle smashed the rear window and landed on the parcel shelf. Adding insult to injury, it was an empty bottle. The next night, in **Kennet Close**, a Rover 75 was keyed.

### Ash Vale

On Thursday, 3 June, two men who were running away from police officers kicked in a side gate to further their escape across a suburban garden in **Springfield Road**. It didn't work: they were caught and arrested.

Then on Thursday, 17 June, police stopped a Renault Kangoo van in **Vale Road**, and when they looked inside they noticed a pile of chopped up copper cable. The two men in the van were promptly arrested.

Another example of the bizarre intentions that drive thieves: one of two large topiary swans was dug up from its pot and stolen from the back garden of a house in **Hutton Road** on Thursday, 17 June. If only they put as much effort into legitimate activities...

Not content with stealing a hubcap, a criminal threw black gloss paint over both the driver's and passenger doors of a car parked in **North Road** on Tuesday, 15 June.

A brick was thrown through the bathroom window of an unoccupied ground floor flat in **Sycamore Drive** on Thursday, 17 June, in what may have been a half-hearted attempt to break in.

### Ash Wharf

A thief who tried to steal scrap metal from the back of a house in **Ash Hill Road** on Wednesday, 9 June didn't count on a robust response from the home owner, who noticed what was going on.

The thief ran away, the owner ran after him, and eventually caught up. Then the police arrived and the scrap metal merchant was left to contemplate his errors while banged up in a police cell.

Apparently, a passing motorist, with his wife and family in the car, stopped to steal a tax disc from a parked Daewoo Matiz in **Hillside Road** on Sunday, 6 June.

*The tax disc lifter was described as a man of Arabic or Middle Eastern appearance, aged in his late 40s, about 5ft 6in tall with a medium build. His wife was in the front of the car and three boys aged about three, eight and in the mid-teens were in the back.*

Then, on Wednesday, 9 June in **Ash Hill Road**, a thief siphoned fuel from the petrol tank of a parked Citroen Zara Picasso.

## Christchurch

A Ford Focus – silver, like most of them! – was broken into in **Maori Road** on Friday, 11 June, and a small black makeup bag was nicked from the passenger's seat.

Late at night on Sunday, 13 June, a Fiat Punto was the only vehicle in the Guildford Lido car park in **Stoke Road**. Then someone smashed the offside front window with a rock, rifled through the glove box, and stole a state-of-the-art mobile phone, a music player and the owner's driver's licence.

## Clandon and Horsley

### East Horsley

A picky thief forced open the kitchen window of a detached house in **Guildford Road** on Saturday, 12 June. Although they triggered an alarm, they made a careful search upstairs and down, finally leaving with two laptop computers and a netbook.

Why picky? Because he ignored two iPods and their sound docks. He also left a wall-mounted, 26" flat-screen TV, but that may have been a lift to far.

## Effingham

There was a curious burglary in **Effingham Common Road** on Monday, 7 June. The thief, or thieves, cut the padlock securing a chain around metal farm gates, then moved a VW Golf that was parked in front of a garage – without entering the car.

Then they smashed the wooden garage doors to bits, took a number of items from inside, piled them up outside... and left them there. They also stole the keys of a Ford Escort that was parked in the garage – but not the car. Very curious indeed.

## Effingham Junction

The thief who broke in to an Audi A4 Avent parked in **Forest Lane** on Monday, 7 June cut off a metal mobile phone holder, damaging the car stereo in the process, and also stole a satellite navigation unit from the glove box.

## Friary and St Nicholas

Houses undergoing renovation are a popular target for thieves. One such, a six-bedroom, detached four-story home in **Guildown Road** was targeted on Sunday, 6 June, and lead, copper piping and tools were stolen.

In **Sycamore Road**, on Friday, 11 June, the target was a garden shed behind a detached house. The crook removed the door hinges to get inside, and got out with a specialised mountain bike.

A woman left her handbag on a chair in a seating area inside The Friary in **North Street** on Thursday, 3 June. But when she went to pick it up, it was gone.

Summer typically sees a number of thefts of plants and plant pots: so it was that, in **Markenfield Road**, on Sunday, 13 June, someone stole a phormium plant (New Zealand flax) and its terracotta pot.

A Yamaha scooter was pinched from the driveway of a detached house in **Josephs Road** on Thursday, 10 June, and the next night, in **Chertsey Street**, a selection of CDs was taken from a locked Vauxhall Corsa hatchback after a criminal smashed his way in.

An unusually large number of cars were damaged in Friary and St Nicks during the reporting period: on Tuesday, 8 June, a BMW 123 was hit in **Bedford Road** (not the multi-story carpark); on Sunday, 13 June, a VW Golf was keyed in **Nettles Terrace**, another Golf was hit in **Recreation Road**, and an Alfa Romeo Brera coupe was keyed and had its spoiler broken off in **George Road**.

The next night, a Ford Focus was keyed in **Nettles Terrace**, and the driver's side wiper of another vehicle was twisted off in **Lawn Road**.

### Holy Trinity

Displaying the ingenuity of a chimp harvesting ants with a twig, a thief used natural tools to steal from a detached house in **Cline Road** on Wednesday, 9 June.

Noticing that a downstairs sash window was on the latch and open by about four inches, he ripped a branch off a nearby tree, then tied a twig to one end (with a piece of pink fabric, no less) to create a crude hook. This he used to reach through the gap and retrieve his "ants", which in this case was a handbag. He also managed to reach through the gap and take a laptop computer from the sill.

Summer brings out the dips and sneak thieves, and this year is not different. In the **High Street**, on Sunday, 13 June, an adept dip pinched a card wallet and cash from the cardigan pocket of an elderly woman who had just used an ATM. And on Tuesday, 15 June, in **North Street**, another thief – or possibly the same one – took an iPhone from the internal pocket of a large bag that a woman was carrying on her shoulder.

Back in **Cline Road**, a thief nicked CDs, a leather briefcase and other items from the glovebox of a Renault on Thursday, 10 June.

The same night, a satellite navigation system was pinched from a Mercedes C180 parked in **Echo Pit Road**, and on Wednesday, 16 June, in **Hunter Road**, a – shall we say, "differently motivated" thief – stole a pair of steel capped boots, a yellow high visibility jacket and a white hard hat from a parked Honda Accord.

And in another addition to the catalogue of slightly bizarre incidents, two teenagers were seen trying to break in to Porsche 911 in **Beech Lawn** on Thursday, 17 June. One was wearing a white hard hat (aha, so now we know, perhaps)... and other, somewhat desperately, had a stocking over his head. Somewhere in this sorry tale there is a comedy waiting to be written.

### Lovelace

#### Ockham Common

To a thief, anything that looks like an opportunity is worth taking. So the crook who smashed car the rear window of a Ford Fiesta parked in **Old Lane**, on Monday, 7 June, took a look under a pile of bags, and found a digital SLR camera.

### Ripley

In **Polesdon Lane**, on Thursday, 3 June, a passing villain smashed the front nearside window of a Volkswagen Golf and got away with some sports equipment and clothing... including one (yes, that's '1') shoe. Another crook who broke in to an Alfa Romeo convertible in **Newark Lane** on Saturday, 5 June managed to get away with a handbag containing the owner's credit cards.

### Wisley

Two cars had their number plates removed while in the car park at **Wisley Gardens** on Thursday, 10 June.

### Merow and Burpham

#### Burpham

It's handy to be able to walk directly from the kitchen to the garage... but it's also useful for thieves, who can come the other way if the outer door is left unlocked. That's what happened at a detached house in **Weylea Avenue** on Tuesday, 15 June.

After strolling through the garage door and into the kitchen, the thief pinched some jewellery, two digital cameras, a cheque book... and a lawn mower from the garage.

### Bushy Hill

A dodgy Yale lock was no obstacle to the burglar who forced it open to get into a first floor flat in **Great Goodwin Drive** on Monday, 14 June. After a hurried search, he left with a games console and a mobile phone.

A group of what the crime reports calls "young persons" aged between 15 and 17 set fire to a rubbish bin in a children's playground in **Bushy Hill Drive** on Wednesday, 16 June. They stayed for a while to admire the blaze, but ran off when the police arrived.

### Merrow

On Thursday, 3 June, a thief was driving around in his white and grey Ford Transit pickup, spotted an exercise bike outside the front of a house in **Oakley Dell** and took it away. And no, we don't know why the bike was at the front.

The same day, someone stole a black wheelie bin from outside a large detached house in **Fairway**. In this case, we do know...

In **Trodde Lane**, on Tuesday, 8 June, a thief smashed in a shed door and stole a powered lawn mower. Then, in the unlocked detached garage, he found two petrol-powered hedge trimmers, a generator, a trolley car jack and a tool chest.

As well, a wooden fence around the front garden of a house in **Clayhanger** was damaged on Sunday, 6 June.

### Onslow

Tools were nicked from one of a block of garages in **Benbrick Road** on Friday, 4 June, and on Sunday 6th, two children's micro-scooters were taken from outside a house in **Manor Way**.

A passing patrol spotted a man "known to the police" (as the saying goes) riding a mini-motorbike in **Bray Road** on Monday, 14 June.

He rode off when they tried to stop him, nearly skittling a passing pedestrian. In that situation, the patrol decided not to pursue him but, keeping an eye out as the drive around, they spotted him running across a nearby park. Reinforcements were called, and soon after he was arrested on suspicion of stealing said mini-motorbike.

In **Stag Hill**, on Sunday, 6 June, a thief pinched a laptop computer from the back of a car in the cathedral car park, and on Wednesday, 9th, both the front and rear number plates were taken from a Ford Fiesta in **Ridgemount**.

The next day, in the car park at Tesco in **Ashenden Road**, thieves got away with the catalytic converters from a pair of Iveco vans.

Cars were damaged in **Guildford Park Avenue** on Thursday, 3rd, and Saturday, 5th June, and in **Windsor Close** on Saturday 12th, while someone threw a brick through the front door of a house in **Madrid Road** on Thursday, 17 June.

### Pilgrims

#### Seale

Are thieves getting more desperate? Or simply more reckless? Certainly, the two men who took the metal guttering from a house in **Seale Lane** on Friday, 11 June were taking a bit of the chance.

Earlier in the month, on Monday, 7th, a gate and a garage belonging to a house in **Littleworth Road** were damaged in what was probably an attempted break in.

### Pirbright

A man finished mowing his front garden **Vapery Lane** on Thursday, 17 June, headed back to open the garage to put away the mower... and when he turned back an opportunistic thief had nicked it.

### Pirbright Camp

A sat nav unit left on the front windscreen of a car parked in **Mainstone Crescent** was an obvious temptation for a thief on Monday, 14 June. He also took a golf clubs and caddy from the boot.

### Send

There were three shed/garage burglaries around Send over the fortnight. In the first, in **Send Road** on Thursday, 3 June, the thief (or thieves) easily got into the back garden and the shed, and got away with two road bicycles.

The second was in **Potters Lane** on Friday, 4 June. An unlocked side gate let the thief (or thieves) into the back garden, with the result that two bicycles went missing from the insecure garden shed.

It was a similar story on Monday, 7 June in **Broadmead Road**, where a garage door was left unlocked. In the incident, a specialised lady's mountain bike was taken but a man's bike left behind. A number of power and hand tools were taken from a second garage.

After smashing the front nearside window of a locked Ford car in **Tannery Lane** on Sunday, 6 June, a thief picked up a lady's handbag from the passenger seat.

### Shalford

#### Shalford

A spare parts theft or a revival (or sorts) of the Beastie Boys craze for VW badges? Either way, someone took the Ford badge from a Focus parked in **Station Road** on Friday, 4 June.

### Stoke

#### Bellfields

There was an attempted distraction burglary in **Cedar Way** on Monday, 7 June. The would-be thief claimed to be a police officer – he had a fake ID card – but the elderly resident turned him away.

*The fake cop was a white man about 6ft tall, aged in his early to mid twenties. He was clean shaven with short, mousey blonde hair – but swarthy looking – and wore a brown long-sleeved jumper over black trousers and shoes.*

A three-bedroom semi-detached house in **Blackberry Close** was burgled on Saturday, 12 June. The crooks got in through an unlocked gate onto the back garden, then kicked in the bottom wooden panel of the kitchen door. They left a while later with two TV sets.

Elsewhere around Bellfields, someone damaged the driver's side wing mirror of a Honda Civic in **Weyside Road** on Saturday, 12 June; and in same street, the next day, same thing happened to a Vauxhall Corsa.

In **Lime Grove**, what the police report describes as "a football-sized object" was kicked through a double-glazed uPVC window on Sunday, 13 June, and in **Cypress Road**, a garage door was damaged on Monday, 7 June in what was probably an attempt to force the door.

### Slyfield

A burglar struck in daylight on Wednesday, 16 June, breaking in to a semi-detached house in **Old Farm Road** after forcing the back gate. Two laptop computers and two mobile phones were stolen.

A man was spotted climbing over the fence around a commercial property in **Moorfield Road** on Saturday, 12 June, and when the police arrived they found he had on a head torch, a pair of glove and a hooded mask.

Technically, this is called “going equipped for theft”, and that’s what he was arrested for.

### Stoughton

There was a daylight burglary at a four-bedroom detached house in **Stoughton Road** on Monday, 7 June. First, the burglar forced his way into the shed, where he found a claw hammer – which he then used to prise open the wooden-framed kitchen window.

After searching the house, he left with a couple of game consoles laptops, jewellery and a mobile phone.

Burglars are very good at spotting weaknesses that will let them break in to house. One such is an air vent above a closed but unlocked window. This was demonstrated on Monday, 7 June in **Cumberland Avenue**, where a thief stood on an upturned bucket, knocked out the vent, then reached through to open the window.

Once inside, he dead-locked the front door, and made a leisurely search, eventually leaving with a laptop computer and an external hard drive. Curiously, he left behind a roll of cash – and a chocolate bar that he’s taken from the fridge.

Not far away, in **Mandeville Close**, a three bed-room semi-detached house was burgled on Sunday, 13 June when a criminal used a tool of some kind to force the front door. In the hall, he found a handbag, but left the bag and its contents on the front lawn. But he also found the key to the home owner’s Audi A4 convertible, and he drove away in that.

The burglar who robbed a house in **Tarragon Drive** the next night had no problem getting in, simply walking through the unlocked back door into the lounge, where he found (and took) a games console.

Then on Tuesday, 15 June, at the back of a house in **Grange Road**, a thief unscrewed a shed door and then rode away on a BMX bike.

Going back to the night of Sunday, 6 June, a Yamaha motorbike was nicked from the open driveway of an occupied semi-detached house in **Byrefield Road**, and a Volkswagen Touran was damaged in **Burden Way**.

### Tillingbourne Sutton Abinger

A garage attached to a house in **Horsham Road** was burgled on Wednesday, 9 June after one or more crooks smashed the door window. He – or they – got away with a leaf blower, a lawn mower and some tools.

### Gomshall

Fences and benches in the playground in **Goose Green** were damaged on Saturday, 12 June.

### Westborough

A young thief removed the front wheel of a bike that had been left outside a house in **Weston Road** on Sunday, 6 June. But he was spotted by the bike’s owner who, not unreasonably, asked for his wheel back. He had to duck when it was thrown at him.

A woman taking her two children to school had her purse stolen in **Southway** on Monday, 7 June. Somehow, the thief unzipped her handbag, removed the purse (which happened to have £400 tucked away inside it), and re-zipped the bag without her noticing a thing.

A moped, left out overnight in front of a house in **Foxburrows Avenue**, was stolen on Tuesday, 8 June, and a Peugeot 306 estate was pinched from outside a house in **Southway** on Sunday, 13 June. The thief abandoned it later after he collided with other traffic.

Someone jacked up the side of a Ford Escort van in **Broomfield** overnight on Monday, 14 June, and stole the two wheels. Back in **Foxburrows Avenue**, a Metro was damaged on Friday, 11 June, and the windscreen of a Toyota Corolla was smashed in **The Spinney** on Saturday, 12 June;

Also, houses or property were damaged in **Pond Meadow**, on Monday, 7 June and in **Applegarth Avenue** on Wednesday, 9th.

### Woodbridge Hill

A side alleyway between two houses let a thief into the garden of a house in **Beckingham Road** on Sunday, 6 June. He left the same way with a men’s mountain bike that he’d taken from an unlocked shed.

### Worplesdon

#### Chitty's Common

An opportunistic thief got away with a garden strimmer from an unlocked shed in **Ecob Close** on Saturday, 12 June, but in **Keens Park Road** the same day, a crook had to break in to another shed before stealing on a push bike and a mini-moto.

### Normandy

Overnight on Saturday, 5 June, a thief stole a petrol lawn mower from under the carport of a house in **Glaziers Lane**, and a Kia Rio was nicked from a public car park in **Hunts Hill** the same day.

### Fairlands

A Ford Mondeo was keyed while it was parked outside the community centre in **Fairlands Avenue** on Sunday, 6 June.